



Newsletter



- **Headmaster's Message**
- **Deputy Head News**
- **Dates for your Diary**
- **Notices**
- **MFL News**
- **Sports News**
- **North Cestrian Handbook for Parents & Carers**
- **Uniform**
- **World Book Day**
- **Maths - PI Day**

## Headmaster's Message



The Department for Education has produced a document 'Working Together to Improve School Attendance'. (WTISA) It's 67 pages long. Much is common sense but really offers nothing new to solve the issue of the rise in school absenteeism. This is a national trend and shame. In 2018-19 national secondary school absence rate was 5.5%. Today it is 9.3%. At NCS it is 7.1%. The connection between attendance and attainment is clear: on average, pupils with higher rates of attendance gain higher rates of attainment. There is an even sharper trade-off for those with high absence rates and grades 5 and

over: a higher absence rate appears to significantly reduce the number of higher grades attained. Apart from the impact on academic achievement, absence from school is closely associated with extra-familial harms. 83% of knife possession offenders had records of persistent absence from school. Children missing education can act as a vital warning sign to a range of safeguarding issues. Once a parent enrolls their child in a school, they have a legal obligation to ensure they attend each day. Only exceptional circumstances warrant a leave of absence which means... "it is unlikely a leave of absence will be granted for the purposes of a family holiday". (Item 30, WTISA) This is because school attendance is important for the well-being of each child. Please support school in encouraging your child to attend each and every day: point out the benefits. I honestly believe we have a happy school where children can feel safe, learn effectively, and grow as young people – what's not to like?

A letter has been sent to all parents outlining our expectations and processes.

### **Loreto**

We continue to lobby for support and funds to allow North Cestrian to develop school places and facilities on all or part of the land adjacent to us on the Loreto Prep site. There are obvious commercial interests in the site but our case is strong and we remain hopeful to achieve a legacy for young people in this part of Trafford.

### **Data Sharing**

Like most schools in the area, we are part of a protocol that allows us to share relevant data with appropriate third parties to support the local authority's legal obligation to 'assist, encourage and enable young people aged 13 to 19 (and young adults with a learning difficulty and/or disability up to the age of 25) to participate in education or training. In other words, we may legally share information that facilitates this process, while complying with the structures of GDPR. In practice this means we pass on data about pupils' progress and destinations to the local authority so they can track their employment or training status up until they are 19 (or 25 as above).

### **Staffing**

We welcome Mr Manley and Ms Williams to North Cestrian. Both colleagues will supplement our cover team of teachers currently just Mr Bateman. As the national figures tell, recruitment in the teaching profession is increasingly difficult and it was nigh on impossible to provide supply staff to cover teachers who were on training or trips. Mr Manley and Ms Williams bolster our numbers, provide greater continuity as they get to know our pupils and The Cestrian Way, and additional duty around school.

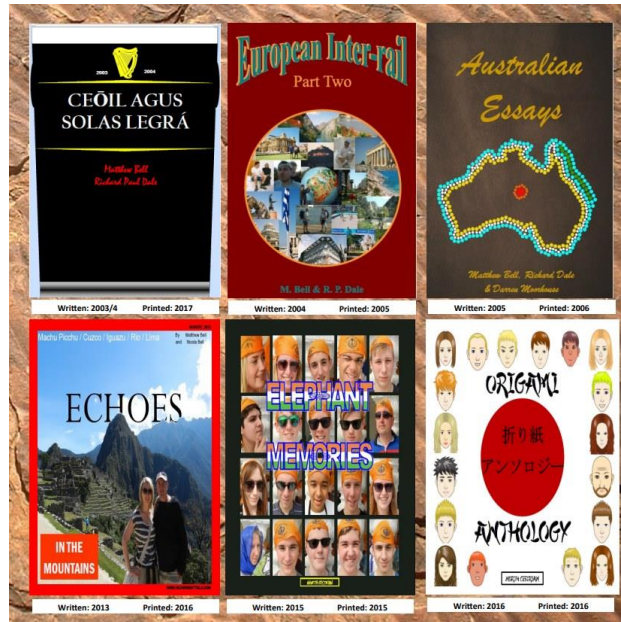
### **Staff News**

I'm sure all will be delighted to hear that Miss Connell is now the proud mum of a baby boy. We send them all our love and best wishes.

## Deputy Reflections



Take the opportunity to read the Family Handbook, you will find the link in Dr Askey's section. It is simply the best way to ensure the triangle of strength between pupils, parents, and school. It will answer questions and point the way to even greater enjoyment, engagement, and progress.



1 - My briefings next week to the school celebrate the amazing NCS Culture Day. Culture is a major constituent of your character and your character development. The most significant passion and purpose in my character development is transformational education and this is linked to travelling around the world and experiencing the myriad of different cultures. These images show some of the sixteen books I have written showcasing my love of culture.

How lucky I feel that such amazing cultures are part of our daily life at North Cestrian and I can share the experiences with fantastic pupils. Take a look at the photos which tell the story of the day!



































- See if you are on the [character news](#)
- Check out the latest [character development opportunities](#) or continue to build your [character bench mark certificate](#).
- [You can Nominate a Pupil for their Character Development here.](#)
- Pique your interest for the [cultural capital](#) and [send in your reflections](#)

**Date for your diary - Character Education at North Cestrian parents evening - Thursday 29th Feb, 7pm.**



2 - When does purposeful meet generosity of spirit?

**Altrincham vs. Cancer Day – Thursday 29th February 2024**

*On 29/02/2024, during Year 9 PE lessons and Year 10 Wellbeing lessons, our students will be running or walking 5 kilometres at the school fields in aid of The Christie Hospital. We at North Cestrian are proud to support such a wonderful cause and hope that all our participating students will be able to raise funds to be donated.*

*Any funds raised will be greatly received and can be collected on the day in cash or donated on [www.justgiving.com/altrinchamvscancerinyourtime](http://www.justgiving.com/altrinchamvscancerinyourtime)*

*Please use the sponsorship form overleaf to keep a track of your fund raising! For more information about the day please visit <https://visitaltrincham.com/event/altrincham-vs-cancer-2024/>*

## Dates for your Diary

### Key Dates

**Advanced Notice:**

- Thu Feb 29th                      Character: Parents’ Information Evening
- Thu Feb 29th                      Altrincham vs. Cancer Day
- Thu Mar 7th                        TAPAS Evening
- Thu Mar 7th                        World Book Day
- Mon Mar 11th                      Start of Ramadan

Mr Millard and his Executive Chefs  
present an evening of



# SPANISH TAPAS

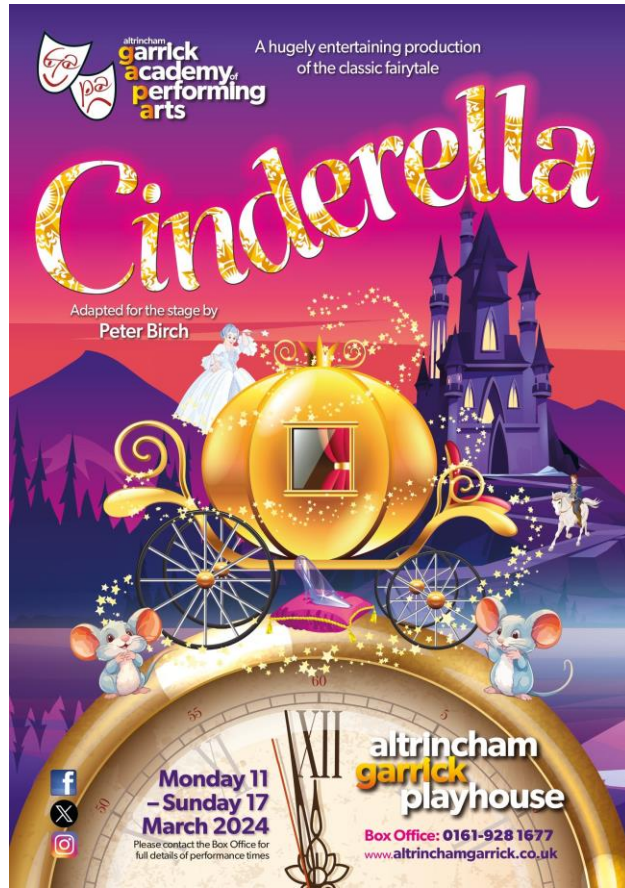
THURSDAY  
7th March 2024  
7 - 9pm



Tickets via [pmx.parentmail.co.uk](http://pmx.parentmail.co.uk) at a cost of  
£25 Adults and £12.50 for children, this cost  
includes your meal; there is a licensed bar  
available at an extra cost.



3 - Spanish Tapas - Hola!



4 - Aidan F (Y8) is building many aspects of his character through his work with the Altrincham Garrick Theatre. So, if you would like to see the Cinderella show then check out the tickets here [Cinderella - A GAPA Spring Pantomime | Altrincham Garrick](#) . If you would like to get involved in any aspect of performance then please contact Aidan or the theatre, there is also voluntary work available - all great to build your character benchmarks with!

## MFL









## COMING SOON

- **Years 7-10** - Interim Assessments and feedback are underway and we ask all students to share results with parent s/ guardians

- **Year 11**— Mocks starting 20th Feb 2024
  - advice for Listening and Reading ( all Languages) make sure your revision is across the whole of the topic areas; use KAs online and the revision booklets on Teams; access the exam boards’ past papers.[GCSE Learning and Revision | GCSEPod](#) is also good for Spanish resources
  - Advice For writing—best thing is to go to past papers practice on AQA websites here : [AQA | GCSE | Spanish | Assessment resources](#)
  - We will use the speaking marks we did in January—but the real speaking test will be scheduled in the weeks following the Easter holidays—start revising as soon as possible! Ms Hayes is running P7 lessons Gold Week Thursday for extra practice.
- **Carnivals** are big at this time in Spanish speaking countries— it’s a time to be excessive and bold before the quieter introspective period of Lent. Take a look at some of the pictures: Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Cadiz featured here!
- **Cultural Capital Opportunities**
  1. Research a Spanish / Hispanic carnival and produce a short article on it in English or Spanish
  2. Ks3 Karaoke Club—see Mrs Jones (L10)for details
  3. Mrs Collins (L11) is running a National Translating Competition - see her for details if you are interested in this
  4. TAPAS Evening— Thursday 7th March 7pm. Thank you to all our volunteers to be Spanish speaking —if you would like to be involved, please get you parents / guardians to email Ms Hayes at [c.hayes@northcestrian.co.uk](mailto:c.hayes@northcestrian.co.uk) to give permission and consent. Further information will follow and we hope to have our training on afternoon of 7th March.

## Sports News



**FREE TABLE TENNIS OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL**

This is taking place at 'Ping! Hub' in the Great Northern Warehouse, Manchester until the end of February. Everyone welcome. All equipment is provided.

**Girls PE: dates for the diary**

**NETBALL**

Thursday 29th February Year 9 Trafford Netball Tournament at Stretford Grammar.

Thursday 7th March Year 8 Trafford Netball Tournament at Stretford Grammar.

Thursday 14th March Year 7A Trafford Netball Tournament at AGGS.

Tuesday 19th March Year 7B Trafford Netball Tournament at AGGS.

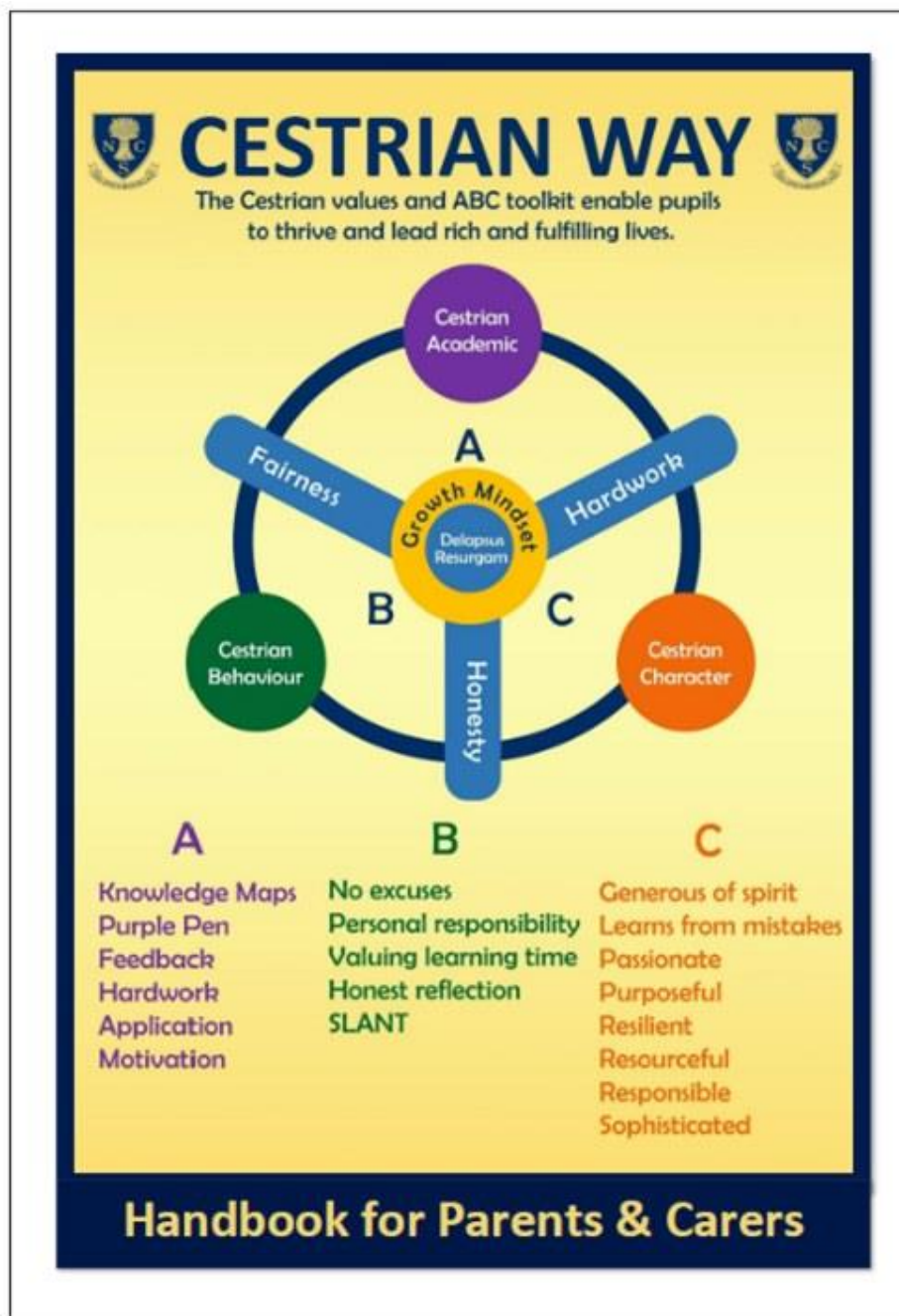
**BASKETBALL**

Wednesday 6th March Years 7 & 8 Trafford Basketball Tournament at Altrincham College.

Wednesday 13th March Years 9, 10 & 11 Trafford Basketball Tournament at BTH.

Mrs Lawson

## North Cestrian Handbook for Parents and Carers.



We are pleased to launch our **North Cestrian Handbook for Parents and Carers**.

We hope that you find it useful. It is aimed at parents new to the school, but also a great reference document for all our Cestrian families. [HANDBOOK](#)

The Handbook is full of our key Cestrian Way documents, links to the school website, and provides some of the rationale and procedures that parents may not be fully aware of. The document is hyperlinked to aid your navigation.

Many thanks to the group of parents who gave their time to read the drafts and sent their ideas.

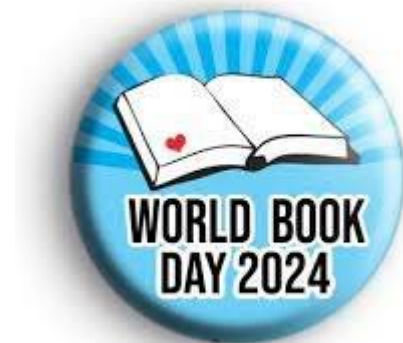
Dr S Askey

## UNIFORM

We believe that a school uniform supports a community spirit and sense of belonging. Given this, it would be unfair if some pupils were allowed to flout the regulations while others make every effort to wear the full uniform with pride. Consequently, staff are vigilant about the way school uniform is worn and we believe the vast majority of pupils and parents support this ambition.

Thank you for your support in providing the correct uniform for your children which includes grey trousers or a grey pleated skirt. Please ensure makeup, false nails, nail polish and inappropriate jewellery is not worn. This includes badges of any kind that have not been issued by school. Smart appearance is expected at all times. This applies on the way to and going home from school, school trips, in lessons, between lessons and break times and especially assemblies and the like.

## World Book Day



### Theme: Gothic Horror

We will enthusiastically celebrate World Book Day at NCS through the following events:

**Costumes** - as ever, this is hotly anticipated. What will Mr Bergin dress as this year?

Pay £2 on Parentmail for the opportunity to dress as your favourite Horror character. How many Frankensteins and Draculas will we get? Funds raised go to ACEF and our own Literacy projects.

There will be a breaktime judging and costume clinic for those who want to improve their look.

**Storytelling** - at both lunchtimes on the day, spooky tellings of the competition stories and others.

One student story (from the Horror competition) will be told through the day in instalments, by class teachers.

Miss Johnson is leading the **Academic briefings** that week which will be based around the Big Read text challenge she gave them in September - and she will also award prizes from the Horror story competition. The Cestrian lesson will be a debate on a key theme from each text, and all students will get handed the **WBD book voucher**.

**English lessons** - expect lessons on classic Gothic Horror like Poe, Stoker, Shelley et al.

We are looking forward to a really exciting day celebrating reading!

Any questions, please do contact Miss Johnson.

## Pi Day is approaching!



The Maths Department has been reminding pupils in Maths lessons about upcoming pi festivities. These are to recognise pi as a particularly famous maths number relating to circles, 3.14... (thus the timing of the celebration on 3/14). Here is a summary of Pi Day events to help students prepare, ideally with parent support.

We will again host our **pi recital competition** on 14th March during both KS3 and KS4 lunchtimes. This is a great opportunity for pupils to set themselves targets to learn as many decimal places of pi as they wish and work towards targets set. They can then build on their own personal targets and achievement going forward. All pupils are also welcome to compete against others with those reciting the most decimal places of pi winning prizes.

We will also have a **bake sale**. We invite students to bring pies (either home-made or shop-bought) or cakes decorated to celebrate Pi Day. These treats will then be sold during break and lunch with proceeds going towards ACEF. So the fun of our Pi Day bake sale can also provide maths equipment to children in a poor area of Nairobi, improving their education and opportunities.

**Cultural capital opportunities** and rewards are also on offer with students being invited to create a pi poster showing interesting facts about pi including its history and applications.

Pi Day activities will also take place during Maths lessons on Pi Day and during the week.

We invite pupils to be **passionate** and **purposeful** as well as **generous of spirit** with our Pi Day opportunities.

## Contact Us:



School Office - 0161 928 1856

Email - [office@northcestrian.co.uk](mailto:office@northcestrian.co.uk)

REPORT AN ABSENCE TO - [absence@northcestrian.co.uk](mailto:absence@northcestrian.co.uk)