



# NCS NEWSLETTER

10th May 2024

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## Headmaster's Message



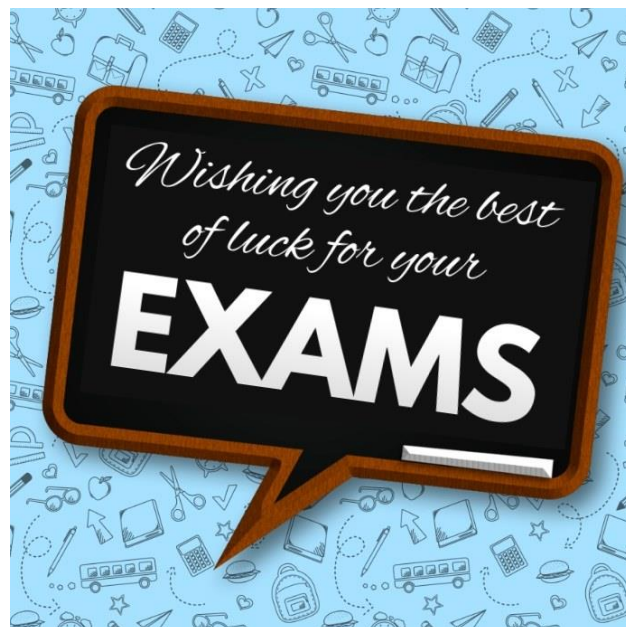
In the 1970s there was a TV sitcom called Citizen Smith, starring a young Robert Lindsay as the eponymous “urban guerrilla”, in Tooting. Frustrated by what he saw as the world’s unfairness, he would exclaim, “Come the revolution...”. I suppose we all feel at some time the desire to rub things out and start again. Some independent schools are doing away with GCSEs all together by setting their own internal examinations before matriculating to their own sixth forms. There is a wider question about the purpose of GCSEs, given that education and training continue until children are 18/19 years old. Why put

children through exams only to do the whole thing again two years later? There's food for thought. There are many things as a (head)teacher I would change to the education system. I'd like to think North Cestrian is a small instrument in bringing about change, admittedly sometimes standing on the shoulders of giants. Our mobile phone approach is gaining traction to be mandatory; more schools are moving to knowledge-based curriculum, based on research-led cognitive science; our Personal Development programme and Character Development are being used as templates in other schools; the Cestrian Way (ABC) chimes with the approaches adopted by other schools. Nevertheless, schools are hidebound by structures outside their control. Funding is always an issue and difficult choices have to be made. Thresholds of support from external agencies are getting higher and higher. Social media is unfettered and leads to all sorts of issues that schools have to pick up the pieces from. And yet expectations grow year on year: performance measures increasingly look to Grade 5 and not Grade 4 at GCSE as the pass to be obtained, schools should be consistent in approach yet meet individual needs; education performs social, health, financial, spiritual functions for pupils and often their families too. This is not a whinge. I am passionate about the power of schools and education to transform young people. But sometimes and often outside of our control, we lack the instruments to deliver what we'd like.

### **Year 11 Examinations**

GCSEs and other formal exams are now taking place. That such assessments are taking place so early in the year reflects the very broad curriculum we and schools up and down the country are offering, meaning scheduling is very hard. All children have been issued with individual timetables: please ensure your child gets quality sleep, a suitable place to study if on study leave, a sensible revision schedule and has the right equipment and does not enter the exam hall with any prohibited items – clear pockets out!

We wish our pupils every success.



## Pupil Success



Congratulations to Kehan C (*pictured*) who achieved FIRST PLACE in three categories of the European Wushu Championships held in Stockholm earlier this month. He is now qualified to take part in the World Championships in Brunei this September. Wushu is a Chinese martial art akin to Kung Fu.

### Advanced Notice

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Fri 24/5                 | School breaks for half-term                  |
| <b>Mon 3/6</b>           | <b>School resumes half-term</b>              |
| <b>Tue 11/6</b>          | <b>Year 10 Parents Evening (On-line)</b>     |
| <b>Sun 16/6-Thu 20/6</b> | <b>Barcelona trip</b>                        |
| <b>Wed 19/6</b>          | <b>INSET (School Closed to pupils)</b>       |
|                          | <b>PTFA Meeting - 1900-2100 Head's Study</b> |

## Deputy Reflections



This week saw the series of assemblies and lessons on the importance of community service and voluntary work. These are at the heart of the human character trait - generosity of spirit.

I suspect that everyone of us adults have an extensive range of generosity of spirit examples that we deploy on application forms and in interviews. But, people do this as it is a natural human thing, it helps our wellbeing as we help others. It helps our community progress as we share some time, expertise, and hard work for the benefit of some cause beyond, or greater than, ourselves.

I have set the To Do List on every pupils Arbor Assignments.

1. Update your Character Benchmark Certificate here - [character bench mark certificate](#)
2. Your example could be something you already do or something you plan to do after research the Arbor Assignment.
3. Your example could be in school litter picking, Kindness Club, reading mentor, numeracy mentor, character mentor, Food Bank, Duke of Edinburgh
4. Your example could be outside of school - I have sent 8 links to local ideas on the Arbor Assignment.
5. You could always come up with your own idea.

As adults we know that these examples started when we were young, at school. But sure enough as these things are who we are.. our character... we achieve more significant and more recent examples. For instance, my school-age litter picking, became university-age Museum Guide, became today's junior football coach.

- 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](#)

## GCSE TIMETABLE

**Study leave for all pupils begins on Monday 13th May** – Y11 pupils should only attend when they have an exam. Pupils MUST SIGN IN and OUT of school for each session.

**Morning exams** – be in school for 8.30am, exams need to start at 9am. Pupils will be able to leave after their exam.

**Afternoon exams** – be in school for 12.30pm, exams need to start at 1pm. Pupil will be able to leave after 2.30pm.

Official leaving and farewell celebrations will take place after the geography and physics exams on June 14th.

Please note - Foundation Level Biology Paper 2 is PM and not AM as was originally stated on pupils' timetables.

ARBOR GUIDANCE [CLICK HERE](#) for Mrs Reedy's tutorial



Welcome to the MFL DEPARTMENT



- We hope to foster a community of confident communicators who feel at ease wherever they may be in the world and show respect for other cultures and their languages.
- We want to nurture pupils who make connections between other languages, who are not afraid to make mistakes and are willing to “have a go” out of respect for themselves, and other people.
- We want all our pupils to know that through learning a foreign language they have the ability pick up others and that their knowledge is never wasted.

This term we have covered lots of exciting topics. Year 7 have been learning to talk about their family and saying what different places have. We are really proud of the high standard of work being produced by our Year 7s. Many award points have been handed out for Prep+ and extended writing tasks. These can be viewed in L11. We encourage you to apply the vocabulary you are learning in class to your speaking and writing tasks as often as possible.

Year 8s continue to build on the general language skills of phonics, vocabulary and grammar. They will be starting their assessments very soon, so remember to start your revision early, focussing on the prep vocabulary you have been getting wrong.

Year 9s are moving into topic areas that combine GCSE topics with studies of a range of authentic short stories. Reading authentic texts gives students the opportunity to be autonomous in their learning.

Years 10 + 11 are busy honing their GCSE skills and have been working hard in readiness for their GCSE exams. First Spanish exam will be on the 4th June! The MFL department wishes you all the very best. All we want you to do is to try your best—we can't ask any more!

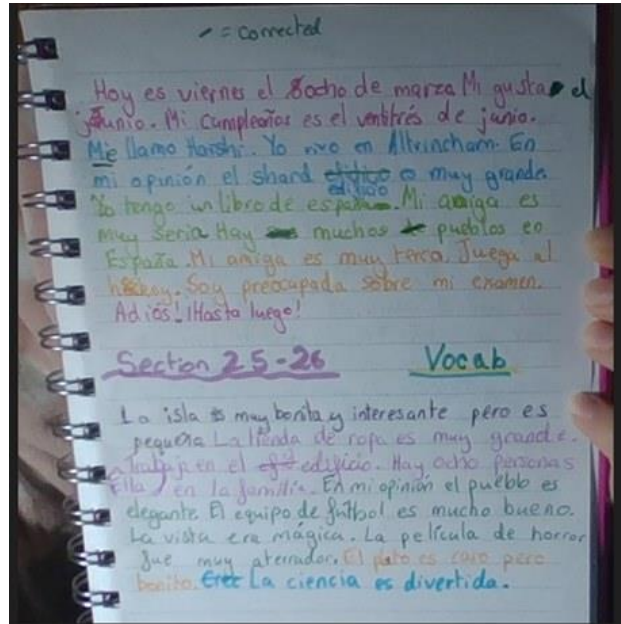
## Prep+ Reading and Anthea Bell Prize.



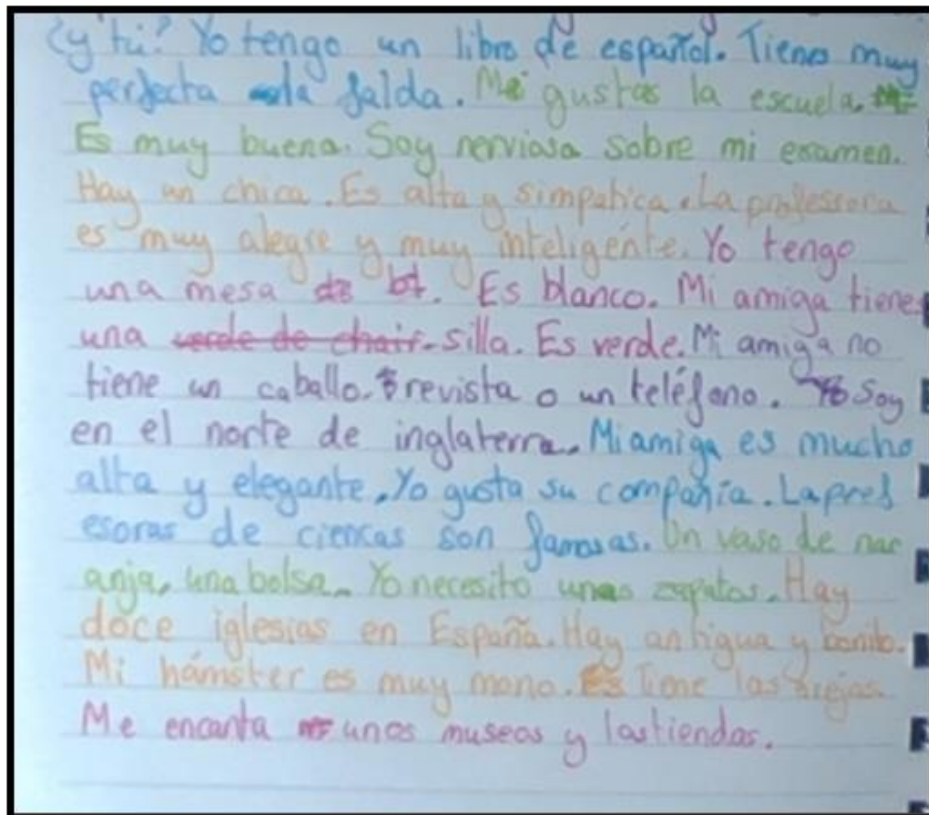
I have been extremely pleased with the Anthea Bell/Young Translators' Club attendees. This is a fantastic opportunity for anyone with an interest in translated fiction. Club attendees have reported an increase in confidence when completing Prep+ and are learning how to use colligations to truly understand how a verbs works. This is an example of a pupil in Year 7 who has applied many new words to her Prep+ and has shown outstanding grammatical ability in written production.



"A translator is an advocate and an ambassador".



1 - Anthea Bell - Young Translators Club



2 - Anthea Bell - Young Translators Club

Do you have a love of learning Spanish? Would you like to deepen your interest in translated fiction whilst also meeting new friends? Are you looking to show evidence of your resilience in Spanish and a passion to improve your translation & interpreting skills? Then the Anthea Bell Prize/Young Translators Club is the perfect choice!

If you would like further information, please speak to Mrs Collins in L11.

The Club runs at the following times:

**Blue Week: Tuesday (13:15-13:40)**

**Gold Week: Monday (13:15-13.40)**

## Year 9 Trip - BARCELONA BECKONS!

**16th-20th June 2024**

A selection of Year 9 students will soon be travelling to Barcelona. You will all be lucky enough to enjoy the beautiful Park Guell/Barcelona Aquarium, Las Ramblas and the exciting Museo de Ciencias CosmoCaixa!

We look forward to hearing all your wonderful stories and remember to speak lots of Spanish!



3 - Park Guell



4 - Museo de Ciencias



5 - Las Ramblas



6 - Park Aquarium

We would like to see more of our students getting involved in the many opportunities offered by the Department. If you have not yet completed a cultural capital opportunity, why not have a go this term?

We would love to hear about a holiday in a Spanish speaking country or even make us laugh by learning some jokes in Spanish!

We can't guarantee that we'll laugh, but you will get points!



7 - Spanish Culture Club

# Karaoke



## SPANISH

'Club Karaoke'  
Wed KS3 Lunchtime  
L10  
Señora Jones



Nationally recognised award certificate when you get 100 points. Challenges carry 5 or 10 points. See Newsletter every week for the links



## SPANISH Languages Challenge

Small challenges that reward you for going that extra mile – showing passion and sophistication

9 - Languages Challenge



Calm your mind and come to the Mindfulness Through Art Club!

KS3

Monday Gold Week  
3.30-4.20pm

Monday 13th May: Marble Art  
Monday 3rd June: Flower Lanterns  
Monday 17th June: Painting Trees  
Monday 1st July: Painting Bubbles  
Monday 15th July: Draw Your Breath

Contact Us:



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