



NCS Newsletter

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22nd March 2024

In This Issue...



Headmaster's Message



What does the word 'pragmatic' mean? Most readers will have a good sense of its meaning. Something to do with 'realistic', 'down to earth'. When our pupils come across such words, their teachers have to ensure students have a proper grasp of the words' meanings. This means teaching a well-crafted definition rather than a vague notion. Furthermore, pupils have to fully understand subject 'command' words: these are words typically used in assessments to gauge understanding. Words such as 'explain' has a different meaning to 'discuss'. Finally, subjects often have their own specialist words or words that

have a specific meaning when used in that subject. In my own subject of Economics, the word 'demand' has a very specific meaning. In Chemistry, ammonium is different to ammonia. Promotion of literacy in schools is more than just reading for leisure – important as that is. At NCS we use the acronym ERIC. This has two interpretations: Everyone Reads In Class. So we encourage all pupils to read out loud to develop their confidence. ERIC also means: explain, retrieve, infer, challenge. In so doing we build the level of literacy sophistication. Do join us in this drive to improve our pupils' literacy skills.

Academy Learning

Twelve Year 9s took part in Academy Learning's 'Challenge' event at Abbey Gate College this week. (In the photograph with Julie Arliss, the course lead.) The course covered topics as diverse as Genetics, Ethics, Plato and Science versus Religion. Academically rigorous, it was good to see and hear our pupils fully engaged in team discussions with pupils from other schools from the northwest (eg Stonyhurst College). A special mention to Oliver P who took to the floor to argue against the motion that science had replaced religion.



1 - Challenge Event Team



Advanced Notice

Term ends **Thursday 28th March 3.20pm**. The day will also be **non-uniform**. As usual, clothes should be sensible and appropriate for a working environment – modest and safe. The headmaster's word on this is final and pupils may be sent home to come back in suitable clothing. Pupils electing to wear their own clothes must pay £2.00 via Parentmail please. All funds will go to the PTFA.

The day will end with Honours Assembly where we acknowledge pupil achievements for the term.

Tue 26th March Arbor Parent Workshop 6.30pm, Vanstone Hall

Thu 28th March Term Finishes 3.20pm (not noon)

Mon 15th April Summer Term begins

Tue 23rd April Year 7 Parents Evening

Wed 24th April PTFA 7-9pm

NOTE school year 2024/25 Start Dates:

Term begins: Year 7 Wednesday 4th September 2024

Term begins: Rest of School: Thursday 5th September

Year 8 & 9 (P1)

Year 11 (P2)

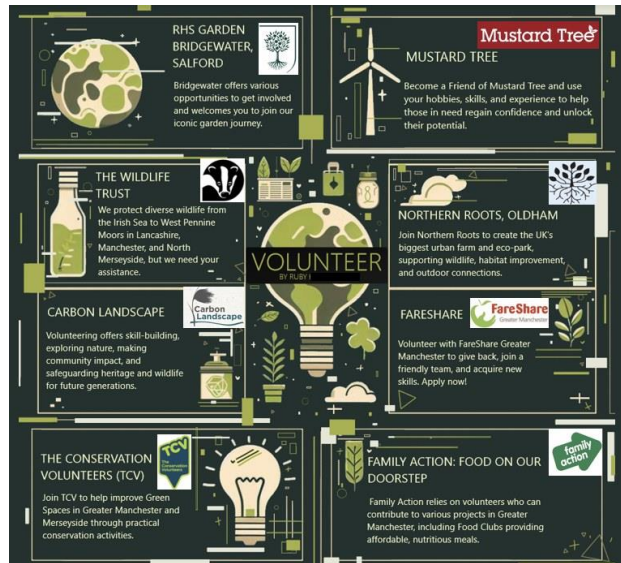
Y10 (P3)

Deputy Reflections



This week Ruby H (Y11) is our guest pupil article writer. Throughout her five years at North Cestrian, Ruby has taken many and varied character development opportunities furthering her education, experience, and public speaking. She found a focus of showcasing the voluntary work and community service elements that are on offer to pupils and how such experience forms an impressive part of a CV, application, and interview. Pupils will be guided through the presentation in assemblies after Easter as they look for opportunities which match their passion and purpose, complete the Duke of Edinburgh (volunteering section), or add to their Character Benchmarks Certificate.

Lots of staff highlight their own complex career paths, the ups and downs, twists and turns, to pupils to inspire aspirations and, indeed, resilience. Almost all of the staff have significant voluntary work and community service on their journeys. Pupils should see if they can find the teachers (posters) who have (or are): community rugby league coach, fundraiser, karate club treasurer, helping primary school pupils with reading, cutting the graveyard grass, exhibition guide at Manchester Museum of Science and Industry, supporting the line gang with PFPE equipment, Christmas homeless charity volunteer, University Outreach Officer, Hockey coach, preparing food for families during Covid, leader of cubs, and fundraiser for ACEF.



3 - To see the full presentation with links to the opportunities - [Voluntary Work Community Service.pdf](#)

Second reminder to complete the parent voice: which clubs / societies / groups your child is part of beyond their school life. We could support their development by bringing those skills to the fore in school, by providing space to lead, and of course highlight the many and varied rich and fulfilling lives that might motivate others to follow you!. Please complete this Form Questionnaire with some details.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=BMpVtRm7BkGSpgMFydIHTQXATWouq4hJi0G5-4C8dedUNEo5RFpQSk1RMEtHM0dTQ09JODI4SkpMUC4u>

MR CLIFFE ALREADY COLLECTS YOUR SPORTS CLUBS INFORMATION SO THINK BEYOND SPORT CLUBS IN THIS FORM QUESTIONNAIRE.



4 - QR CODE LINK TO THE questionnaire FOR EVERYONE!

- 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](#)

Dates for your diary

- **Year 7 Parent consultation Evening 23rd April** – online via School Cloud. Further information will follow shortly about appointment bookings.
- **Year 10 Mock Examinations – 16th – 25th April** Parental permission forms for study leave will be sent to parents next week.
- **Year 11 Examination Preparation week** – 7th-10th May* see below.
- **Year 11 Study Leave** starts on Monday 13th May Parental permission forms for study leave will be sent to parents next week.

Revision Support

- Check your Tracker – NCS Revision Strategy pages 22-23; Tips and ideas pages 30-33.
- Make a plan you can stick to - <https://getrevising.co.uk/planner>
- Use revision time wisely. Every hour should have 4 parts: Learn it - Test it - Review it – Plan to fix it!
- [Distractors](#) – put mobile phones, music and devices away.
- Look after your brain! - Get 8 hours sleep, keep hydrated, don't overdo the snacks and never skip meals.
- Use the feedback from your teachers – What are you good at? (revise less), What needs to be improved? (revise more), What do you really struggle with (get help before your revise!).
- [Find strategies that work for you](#) – combinations of activities work best e.g. Flashcards, online quizzes, past paper questions, brain dump/mind maps, video-notes-questions-corrections – video again – retest. Teach it to someone else – working in pairs for quizzing and peer teaching works if you stay on task!
- NEVER – just reading and highlighting, NEVER learning mark schemes!
- How can parents help? [Read more here](#)

7 Ways That Parents Can HELP

A Parent's Survival Guide to Revision
by @inner_drive | www.innerdrive.co.uk



- 1 Have high expectations and provide plenty of support**
Both are needed to help your child improve, perform and develop resilience
- 2 Help them work smarter**
Not all revision techniques are equal. Spacing out their revision and quizzes are better than cramming and highlighters
- 3 Cope well with their setbacks**
There will be highs and lows. How you react to their lows will impact how many highs they have
- 4 Minimise distractions**
Provide a revision area with minimum distractions (this include mobile phones!)
- 5 Rise and dine**
Make sure they eat breakfast. It plays a big role in concentration and memory
- 6 Regular bedtimes and lots of sleep**
If they sleep right, they will think right the next day
- 7 Avoid cabin fever**
Encourage them to get fresh air each and every day

FEATURED DEPARTMENTS

**Check
this out**

A large, light blue starburst graphic with multiple points, centered behind the text 'Check this out'. The text is in a bold, black, sans-serif font and is slightly tilted upwards to the right.

Computing



Anumana Code Club

Anumana Code Club has been very successful this year. The university students who run the club and support the students are now on their own Easter holidays.

Anumana Code Club will resume for Year 9 students who were in attendance prior to half term on Wednesday 17th April.

iDEA Award

All students will receive a reminder email about the iDEA Award.

This is an opportunity to build digital skills outside of the curriculum and includes elements of finance and business.

In addition to gaining valuable skills, completion of the different awards will get you a stamp on your rewards passport.

CiM Deadlines

Deadlines for CiM Non-Examined Assessment this year are as follows:

Year 10 - Unit R094: Visual identity and digital graphics - **28th March 2024**

Year 11 - Unit R094: Visual identity and digital graphics (Resubmission opportunity) – **Extended to 28th March 2024**

Year 11 Students are expected to be in attendance after school on Monday 25th March and Wednesday 27th March until 5pm.

GCSE Computer Science Parent Webinar

Year 10 and 11 parents of students completing GCSE Computer Science have been invited to a Webinar hosted by Miss Collins on Tuesday 26th March. This webinar will explain how you can best support your child in the run up to their exams this year. Please check your emails and junk mail if you have not received your invite.

Esafety tips for Parents

With more and more online tools and platforms being made available every day, stay up to date with tips to keep your child safe online. There are a range of guides for different platforms and games available here: [CLICK HERE](#)

BRONZE AWARD WINNERS!

The following students have been successful in gaining their Bronze Award for Computing in their rewards passport. They will receive their badge and queue skip voucher next week. Mikkel G, Ian N, Demah F, Nehir D, Victory O, Callum P, Evie D, Kiera S, Aaron N, Caleb N, Haysten W, Shu'ayb A, Gavin L, Angel G



Pi Champions!

We are delighted with the enthusiastic participation and contributions to Pi Day.

Here are three of our impressive Pi Champions holding their certificates and pi badges (Isla W, Suna K and Callum P who recalled 112, 210 and 137 decimal places of pi respectively).



5 - Pi Champions!

Other admirable performances came from Laasya C, Chloe W, Sanmed L, Jasper H, Thomas H, Ahmed Z, Lola B, Anjali J, Sarah K, Eddie L, Jayan P and Heavnyasri C. And some are already planning to know even more decimal places next year. Well done to all!

And thank you to our student leaders who ran the Pi Day bake sale with efficiency and creativity. Proceeds are going to ACEF in the form of maths supplies to support learning in Nairobi. We are pleased to extend generosity of spirit to the wider world.

(Emma T, Briony H, Isla G, Lizzie H and Alana J).



6 - Pi Day

CAREERS

National Apprenticeship Show - Ethiad Stadium

On Wednesday a group of 25 Year 10 learners attended the National Apprenticeship Show at the home of the European Champions - The Ethiad Stadium.

The learners had the opportunity to visit over 40 exhibitors and find out about the wide range of apprenticeships available for them to consider in the future. Exhibitors included Jaguar Land Rover, KPMG, HSBC, The Army and Manchester Airport amongst others. Our learners behaved fantastically throughout the visit and had the confidence to independently approach the professionals, find out lots of information and take advantage of the free merchandise being given out.

We hope this will become an annual event for the year group to attend and with the Governments announcement this week about a increase in apprenticeship funding it is becoming a very attractive option for our learners.

Mr Gallamore, Head of Careers



7 - Apprenticeship Show

ASK Apprenticeship Session - Friday 22nd March

A group of Year 11 students took part in a 2 hour session with the ASK team to support them in searching and applying for Apprenticeship vacancies.

This gave them the confidence needed to know what to look for, learn about the expectations and responsibilities of commencing an apprenticeship and also find out what sort of salary they can expect.

We are planning on working with the ASK team over the coming years to support each year group and ensure that students are aware of the apprenticeship pathway and to also give the best support possible to students who would like to go down that pathway.



8 - ASK Session

Contact Us:



School Office - 0161 928 1856

Email - office@northcestrian.co.uk

REPORT AN ABSENCE TO - absence@northcestrian.co.uk