



NCS NEWSLETTER

Friday 26 January 2024

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## Headmaster's Message



The Cestrian Way sums up our approach to the educational offer at North Cestrian. In simple terms, the three strands – ABC – Academic, Behaviour and Character are underpinned by core values of Fairness, Hard Work, Honesty and driven by a belief in a Growth Mindset stating that we can all overcome barriers to become better and stronger; *Delapsus Resurgam*. One might argue, chicken and egg style, about the three strands, ABC, and which comes first, matters most. But I do think Character is the hardest to encapsulate. Academic is seen by exam outcomes, progress and attainment. Behaviour is seen by the



calm classrooms where pupils can learn and concentrate. But 'character' is a bit nebulous. As a school we firmly believe in developing the whole person – their character. At the end of the day, a person's qualifications and ability to behave appropriately matter and will bring opportunities, but it is their character – their inner virtues – that will sustain them. So our Character Education programme, led by Mr Bell, has been in place to afford opportunities for pupils to develop their character – symbolised by 8 traits. Staff recognise and reward when we see these being exhibited by pupils, we support pupils who actively seek to build on their virtues, we provide challenges to stretch pupils to become more than they are today. There are no GCSEs in 'character'. So it was right that school sought a means to assess our delivery of character education. The Association of Character Education (ACE) is the UK's leading association for character education. It is based at the interdisciplinary research Jubilee Centre at Birmingham University. Assessors from the association came to school on Tuesday. They spoke to pupils, staff and governors, reviewed paperwork (there had already been an exhaustive application process) and saw the school in action. Their feedback to Mr Bell and me was heartwarming. A full report will come in a few weeks, but from their initial feedback:

- Character Education ran through the school like a letters in a stick of rock
- delivery was based on sound research (our cognitive science approach)
- staff and children were keen to seek character development opportunities, directly linked to their future development (eg Careers education, prefect duties)
- character had 'emotional contagion' - it was just 'the done thing'
- cultural capital was a focus, linked to sophistication
- pupils were 'encouraged to go above and beyond and to do more' (Period 7s and extra-curricular)
- good to see civic-based virtues (eg Kindness and Eco Clubs)
- school lived up to the Delapsus Resurgam motto
- staff had an enthusiasm and authenticity that was palpable
- the holistic focus draws all children in
- they liked the Tracker as a means to reflect.

As a result, North Cestrian has been awarded the Character Education **Quality Mark Plus** – their highest award. I am very proud and grateful to all in achieving this award and particularly pleased for Mr Bell who has invested considerable time, energy and skills in developing the programme.



1 - ACE

**We say 'hasta luego' to:**



Miss Connell as she starts her maternity leave. We wish her all our love as she begins the exciting adventure of parenthood.

Mrs Williams will be away for a few weeks: we wish her well.

## Upcoming Events:

### **Advanced Notice:**

Tue Jan 30th – Y9 Parents' Evening 4-7pm on-line

Mon Feb 5th – Pastoral Gov Committee – 1645

Tue Feb 6th – Curriculum Gov Committee 1545

Year 9 Vaccinations

**Tue 6th – Thu 8th – MATILDA**

**Fri Feb 9th – CULTURE DAY – own clothes/ethnic dress**

Fri Feb 9th – Break for Half Term

Mon Feb 19th – INSET

Tue Feb 20th – Term Resumes

**Tue Feb 20th – Global Action (Trips) Parent meet – 1830-1930**

## Deputy Reflections



Parents should check through their child's planner every week. Here you will find their record and their reflections on lessons: what are they now confident with, what are they yet to master. Also, have a look at the weekly review - what are the successes and next steps for their Attitude to Learning, Attendance / Punctuality, Behaviour, and Character / Cultural Capital.

As you have read in the Headmaster's article, North Cestrian School has been awarded the Quality Mark Plus for Character Education. The assessor's feedback relayed how our character ethos is striking throughout all aspects of the school and people.

My typical day as a Deputy Head is immersed in developing and celebrating character developments. My short and heartfelt review of the inspection day is entirely at one with this sentiment

The first meeting of the day was between the assessors and myself and Mr. Bergin. They probed for answers and details on our intent: the way we set out to build and teach character. The meeting went well, and we were most confident and excited for them to test this out by talking to pupils, staff, and governors over the next three hours. This process is a triangulation and discovery of the reality.

The assessor's reported back that the 15 to 20 staff, and 20 plus pupils they met had confirmed the picture we had painted. All of the pupils showed great sophistication in their conversations. Both staff and pupils show great commitment, understanding, and enthusiasm.

North Cestrian will now be invited to share this best practice at national conferences and support other schools (including supporting the Association for Character Education in the assessment of other schools).

As ever, the most important thing is to continue to develop the opportunities for character education at North Cestrian. Therefore, if your child has already taken a great deal of character opportunities or none at all yet I hope that you can join me for a parents' information evening on Thursday 29th February. Before, then please have a look at the school trips (poster in this newsletter and emails sent to pupils and parents) and....

See if you are on the [character news](#)

Check out the latest [character development opportunities](#) or continue to build your [character benchmark certificate](#).

[You can Nominate a Pupil for their Character Development here.](#)

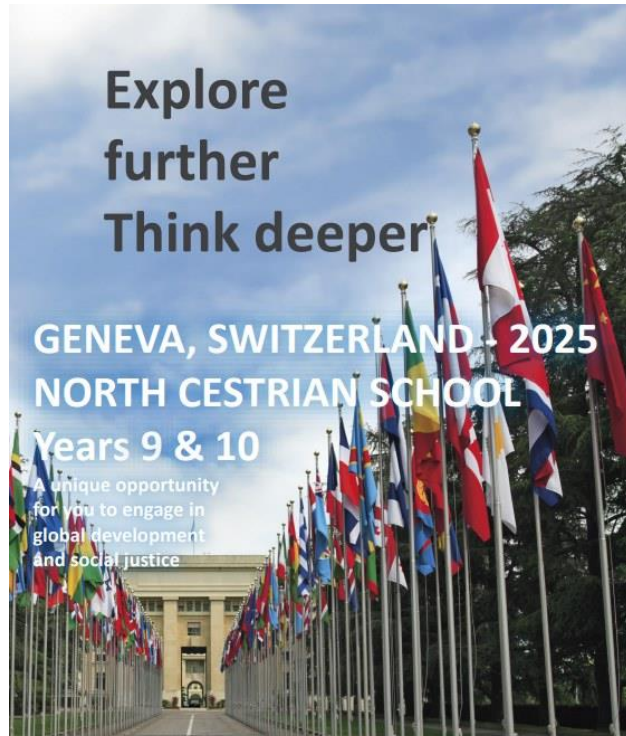
Pique your interest for the [cultural capital](#) and [send in your reflections](#)



**Parents' & Students presentation at NCS  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024 @ 6:30pm  
See Mr Bell for details**

**globalaction**  
global learning for positive change

2 - This is an unbelievable trip opportunity - email [m.bell@orthcestrian.co.uk](mailto:m.bell@orthcestrian.co.uk) to secure a place on the information evening if you are currently in Y8 or 9



**Students & Parents presentation – at NCS**

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February @ 6:30pm**

**See Mr Bell for details**

**global action**  
global learning for positive change

3 - This trip will be mentioned by you in every interview you ever have! Email [m.bell@orthcestrian.co.uk](mailto:m.bell@orthcestrian.co.uk) to secure a place on the information evening if you are currently in Y9 or 10







4 - Academic

At North Cestrian, the use of purple pen in lessons allows students to identify errors and gives them an opportunity to identify what they need to do better next time. Cestrian Role Models would independently make additional purple pen notes as well as the corrections to remind themselves of the improvement needed. They would also add a note in their daily progress tracker to further emphasize the need to revisit that learning point and do it differently next time. **They check, correct and reflect.**

Of course, making the notes helps with the identification and reminder at that point in time. However, what really matters is that they do, do it differently next time; they act on the feedback and feed it forward into the next piece of work. Taking these opportunities are really the key to improving learning and becoming **purposeful**, autonomous learners.

<b>Use of Feedback</b>	
<b>Purposeful</b>	
<b>Role Model</b>	I always seek opportunities to improve my work beyond what is expected.
<b>Positive</b>	I can improve my work independently.
<b>Developing</b>	I don't ask for feedback. I need reminders to improve my work.
<b>Hampering Progress</b>	I don't take opportunities to improve my work.
<b>Acting on Feedback</b>	
<b>Role Model</b>	I always act on feedback. My work shows significant improvement.
<b>Positive</b>	I act on feedback. My work shows improvement.
<b>Developing</b>	I don't always take notice of feedback. My work doesn't always show improvement.
<b>Hampering Progress</b>	I don't take any notice of feedback. My work is not improving at all.
<b>Purple Pen</b>	
<b>Role Model</b>	I add meaningful purple pen notes and reminders to my work on my own. Check, correct, reflect.
<b>Positive</b>	I <u>add</u> some reminders and notes as well as the teacher's purple pen corrections.
<b>Developing</b>	I only add the purple pen answers that the teacher tells me, or I can copy from the board.
<b>Hampering Progress</b>	I don't always add/copy/complete purple pen corrections.



**YEAR 9 PARENTS CONSULTATION EVENING - BOOKING WINDOW  
CLOSES ON MONDAY 29 JAN (12PM)**

**Trafford School Nurses**  
Trafford Local Child Organisation

**Early Break**

**Vaping Webinar for Parents**

For parents who wish to know more about vaping

**What will it cover**  
What is vaping?  
Facts around Vaping  
How it may impact teenage behaviour  
How parents may be able to support their children

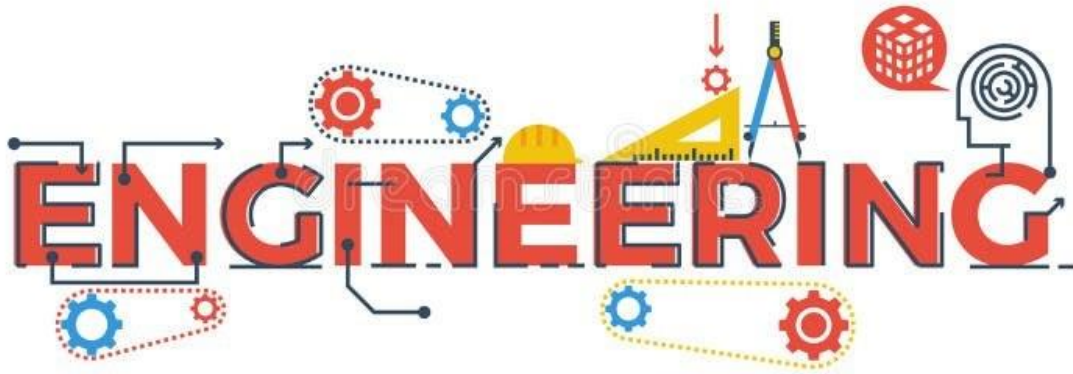
Book your space now!

Contact your child's school for the links to the events

**TRAFFORD COUNCIL**



## Engineering News



Years 7-9 Classes are in the process of moving subjects between Food & Engineering. Please be aware that if you are moving to food then you will need to bring an apron, container to take your food home & the ingredients for the lesson. Pupils must take any food up to the food room (T3) before school.

**The first lesson for each class in the new subject is as follows:-**

7C1 - 4th March (due to INSET on 19th Feb)

7C2 – 21st Feb

7C3 – 7th Feb

7N1 – 6th Feb

7N2 – 5th Feb

7N3 – 8th Feb

8C1 – 22nd Feb

8C2 – 23rd Feb

8C3 - 4th March (due to INSET on 19th Feb)

8N1 – 6th Feb

8N2 – 23rd Feb

8N3 – 4th March (due to INSET on 19th Feb)

9C1 – 9th Feb

9C2 – 7th Feb

9C3 – 6th Feb

9N1 – 7th Feb

9N2 – 9th Feb

9N3 – 21st Feb

Year 11 are just finishing their NEA1 manufacturing task & are about to start their NEA 2 design task. Year 10 are developing their CAD skills ready to manufacture a small prototype to show off their graphics & manufacturing skills.

### Finished work pupil gallery...



7 - Y9



8 - Y9



9 - Y9



10 - Y9



11 - Y9



12 - Y9



Year 8 Automata



13 - Y8



14 - Y8



15 - Y8

***What's coming up.....***

North Cestrian School Presents



ROALD DAHL'S  
**Matilda**  
THE MUSICAL

Book DENNIS KELLY      Music & Lyrics TIM MINCHIN

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February  
2023 – 7PM

Adults £8

Concession £5

NCS Student £3

16 - Matilda

North Cestrian School PTFA

# NCS LOTTERY

2 Draws Annually

**£250 prize**

ANNUAL ENTRY IS £12 WHICH GIVES YOU  
ENTRY TO BOTH DRAWS IN DECEMBER & JULY

THE MORE ENTRIES YOU HAVE THE MORE CHANCE  
OF WINNING VIA PARENTMAIL PMX

**PTFA NORTH CESTRIAN SCHOOL,  
DUNHAM ROAD, ALTRINCHAM  
WA14 4AJ**

17 - NCS Lottery





18 - Tapas Evening



19 - Chinese New Year

Students have been busy painting a delightful Dragon to mark Chinese New Year. Thanks to Veronica L, Yu Ching K and Zoe R in Year 9, seen here alongside their creation.

## Extra-Curricular Opportunities (activities available for all years unless stated)

		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Week A Blue	Before School	Breakfast Prep and Journal Reading	Breakfast Prep and Journal Reading RE U8 (Y10, 11)	Breakfast Prep and Journal Reading Reading Buddies Breakfast	Breakfast Prep and Journal Reading Maths Buddies Breakfast	Breakfast Prep and Journal Reading
	Lunch	History U10 (Y10, 11) Chess second half of lunch. Canteen, everyday	KS3 Debate Club 1.15pm F1 Vival Club de Lenguas. L12	Morning breaktime: Science library S4 Break - Reading Buddies LH4	FURTHER MATHS LEVEL 2, U4. (Y10) School Choir M5 (break time) KS4 Debate Club 2.15pm LH4 Year 7/8 Drama Club L9	Chess second half of lunch. Canteen, everyday
	After School	Prep Club S1 Science (see teacher) (Y10, 11) Biology S2, Chem T2, S3 Geography U12 (Y10, 11) Art UH5 (Y10, 11) Esports Club U2 School Band M5 Rendezvous Café T3 Film Club to 6pm LH4 last week HT Cheer leading (Drama Studio)	Prep Club S1 Staff CPD	Prep Club S1 Media Studies LH4 (Y10, 11) Psychology U12 (Y10, 11) Maths (see teacher) (Y10, 11) Art UH5 (Y10, 11) Anumana Code Academy U2 Science club, S6 (Y7) School Production L9	Prep Club S1 History U10 (Y10, 11) Art UH5 (Y10, 11) Food T3 (Y10, 11) Gardening group Gazebo KS4 Debate Club 2.15pm LH4	Prep Club S1 Zumba club Drama Studio
Week B Gold	Before School	Breakfast Prep and Journal Reading	Breakfast Prep and Journal Reading	Breakfast Prep and Journal Reading Reading Buddies Breakfast	Breakfast Prep and Journal Reading School Choir M5 (and at break) Maths Buddies Breakfast	Breakfast Prep and Journal Reading
	Lunch		FURTHER MATHS LEVEL 2, U7, (Y11)	Break - Reading Buddies LH4	RE U8 (Y10, 11) Year 7/8 Drama Club L9	
	After School	Prep Club S1 Art UH5 (Y10, 11) Mindfulness Art Club UH5 Esports Club U2 Spike Club U5 (Y7) Rendezvous Café T3 School Band M5 Inspector Calls Rehearsal L7 Y10,Y11 Cheer leading (Drama Studio)	Prep Club S1 Staff CPD	Prep Club S1 English (see teacher) (Y10, 11) Psychology U12 (Y10, 11) Art UH5 (Y10, 11) Creative Imedia L2 (Y10, 11) Anumana Code Academy U2 Table-Top Gaming Club U5 School Production L9	Prep Club S1 Earth Science club T2 Comp. Science U2 (Y10, 11) Engineering T1 (Y10, 11) Art UH5 (Y10, 11) Psychology U10 (Y10, 11) Spanish L12 (Y10, 11) Geography U16 (Y10, 11) Inspector Calls Rehearsal L7 Y10,Y11 Food drop in T3 (Yr 11)	Prep Club S1 Zumba Club Drama Studio

### 20 - Extra-Curricular Timetable

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
LUNCHTIME	KS4 BADMINTON TABLE TENNIS SPORTS HALL Mr. Cliffe		KS3 BADMINTON TABLE TENNIS SPORTS HALL Mr. Cliffe		KS4 BADMINTON/VOLLYBALL SPORTS HALL R. Nash
AFTER SCHOOL	Y9 / Y10 FOOTBALL TRAINING PLAYING FIELDS Mr. Cliffe  Y7/Y8 CHEERLEADING SPORTS HALL R. Nash		Y9, 10 & 11 NETBALL CLUB SPORTS HALL Mrs Lawson	Netball Match Night Mrs Lawson J. Connell  Year 7 and 8 Netball SPORTS HALL J. Connell  Y7 FOOTBALL TRAINING PLAYING FIELDS Mr. Cliffe  Yr8 Football Training Playing Fields Mr Boswell	

21 - Blue Week Clubs

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
LUNCHTIME	KS4 BADMINTON TABLE TENNIS SPORTS HALL Mr. Cliffe		KS3 BADMINTON TABLE TENNIS SPORTS HALL Mr. Cliffe		BADMINTON/ VOLLYBALL SPORTS HALL R. Nash
AFTER SCHOOL	Y9 / Y10 FOOTBALL TRAINING PLAYING FIELDS Mr. Cliffe		Y9, 10 & 11 NETBALL CLUB SPORTS HALL Mrs Lawson	Netball Match Night Mrs Lawson  Y7 FOOTBALL TRAINING PLAYING FIELDS Mr. Cliffe  Yr8 Football Training Playing Fields Mr Boswell	

22 - Gold Week Clubs

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)