



Newsletter

2nd February 2024

In This Issue...



- **Headmaster's Message**
- **Deputy Head News**
- **Upcoming News**
- **Art News**
- **Music News**
- **Extra Curricular**

Headmaster's Message



We are now over half way through the academic year. There is a lot of pressure on children (and vicariously, staff and parents). Exams are but a part of this: choice of courses, colleges and sixth forms, qualification type all add to required decision making. Social media presents young people with alternative realities that often are impossible to live up to but present as life choices. So, there's pressure to 'perform'. Given this, one of our goals is to imbue pupils with a 'practical wisdom'. When faced with choices, how do they go about making wise selection. If a child makes the wrong decision – their

uniform, their reaction, their commitment - we explain why it was wrong, what the consequences were and then empower them to learn from their mistakes. This way we hope to build their discernment and equip them for the adult world which, as my opening sentence implies, approaches very rapidly.

Deputy Reflections

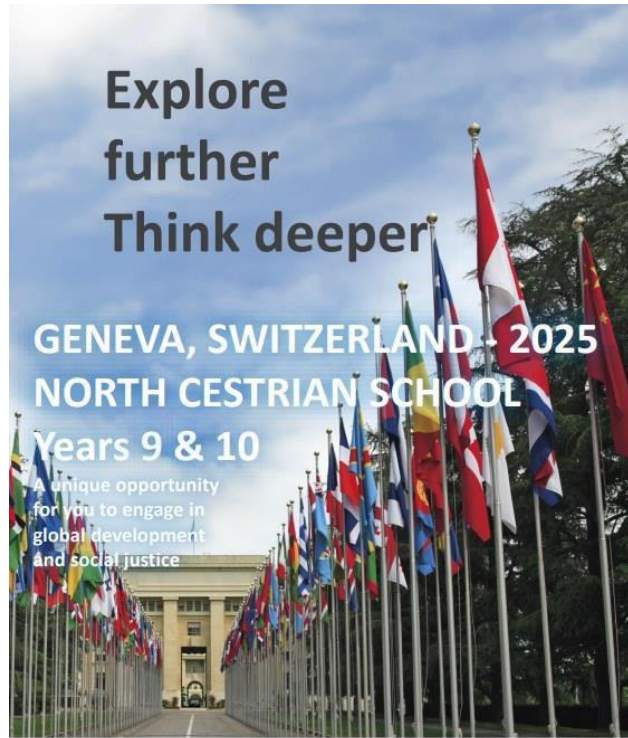


Parents should check through their child's planner every week. Here you will find their latest performance. For instance, on Page 241 the Geography section begins. It shows the date of the test, the content of the test, then a reflection of what the pupil knows well and that which can be improved. The following pages showcase the same type of reflection for the attitude to learning feedback. Crucially, this feedback shows pupils and parents what to focus on to become more successful in content knowledge and learning skills. Ultimately, this is what needs to be done in lessons and at home. All of this is, of course, attempting ensure the personal responsibility, their character, to make the most of opportunities as Year 7s become Year 11, and as prep becomes revision!

Take your chance to attend the information evening for the Greece and Switzerland trips. Greece has many interested pupils and Switzerland has about 10 places left for those current years 10 and 9 who see this a major advantage to their future. It would a great way for the current year 10 to conclude their North Cestrian life by attending this trip after their Y11 exams.

You couldn't book this in a travel agents!

Experience: Access to United Nations agencies and CERN; learn how these international agencies are working to create a better world. Learn about: Global Governance and International Development, World Trade, Scientific Research, Climate Change, Environmental Protection and Human Rights.



**Explore
further
Think deeper**

**GENEVA, SWITZERLAND - 2025
NORTH CESTRIAN SCHOOL**

Years 9 & 10

A unique opportunity
for you to engage in
global development
and social justice

Students & Parents presentation – at NCS

Tuesday 20th February @ 6:30pm

See Mr Bell for details

global action
global learning for positive change



Parents' & Students presentation at NCS
Tuesday 20th February 2024 @ 6:30pm
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Upcoming News

Advanced Notice:

- 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 (15:20hrs)**
- Mon Feb 19th – INSET
- **Tue Feb 20th – Term Resumes**
- Tue Feb 20th – Global Action (Trips) Parent meet – 1830-1930

Mr Millard and his Executive Chefs
present an evening of



SPANISH TAPAS

THURSDAY
7th March 2024
7 - 9pm



Tickets via 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.



1 - Spanish Tapas - Hola!

Gift Amnesty

Parents, staff and friends!

Can you help us raise funds for the school this year?

If you received any gifts at Christmas or on a birthday that aren't quite to your taste (or you got two of the same) we'd love any donations that can be used as prizes or at future events.

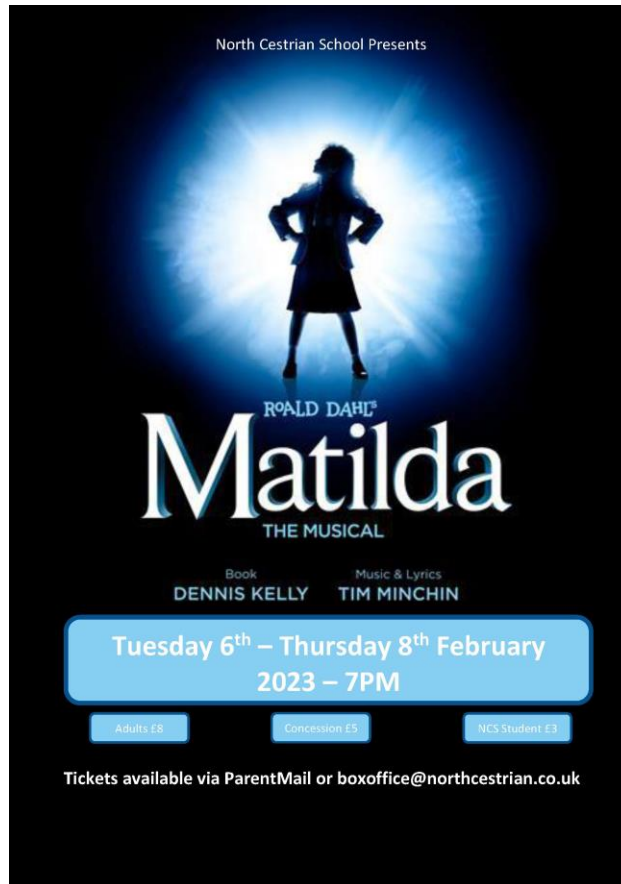
Where to drop them off

Please bring your donations to School Office /reception

Thank you!

from North Cestrian School PTFA





3 - [Matilda The Musical](#) - After an exhausting build up, Matilda's run as school production begins next Tuesday for 3 nights. From experience, the school production is one of the highlights of the year and I recommend buying tickets if you haven't already. Treat yourself to a great evening's entertainment. See the poster for more details.

FEATURED DEPARTMENTS

Art

Manchester Art Fair

Art Cultural Capital opportunity – Visit Manchester Art Fair

Manchester Arts Fair was again well attended by Key Stage 3 and GCSE Art students. Over 60 students from years 7 to 9 received Cultural Capital points for attending and character points for completing a written review of their experience.

Manchester Arts Fair – Cultural Capital Artwork

Here is a selection of student artworks that were inspired by their visit:







Art Club



Set Design Club and KS3 Art Club

In December students worked with air drying clay to create their own handmade decorations. Recently it's been all hands on deck to produce the set for the school production of Matilda.

Demonstrating Cestrian Character – Independently produced art work

We enjoy seeing your independently produced artwork. Bring yours in to be rewarded with character points and stamps for your rewards passport.

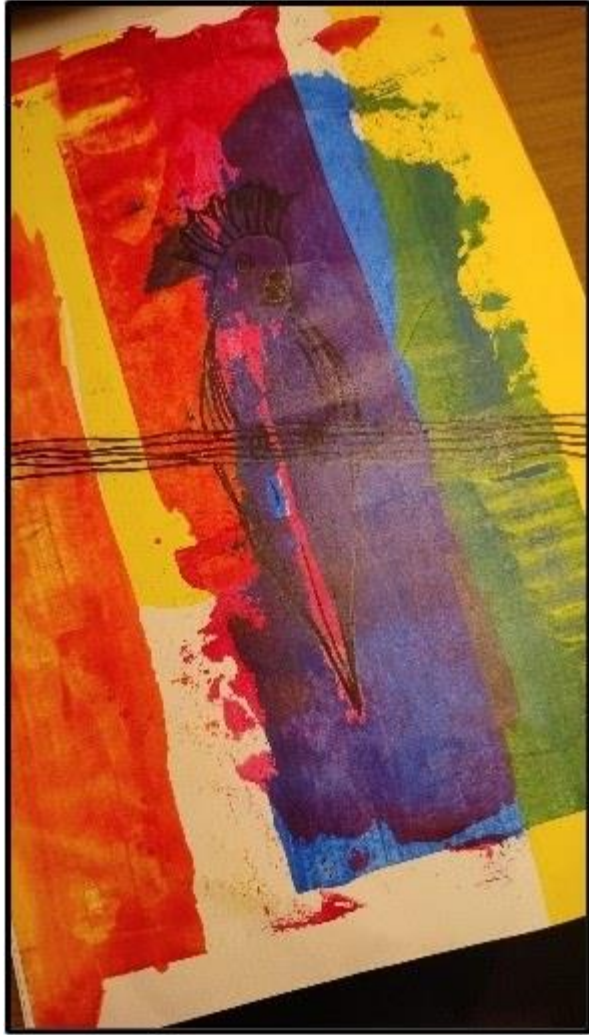
Here is a selection of recent work:



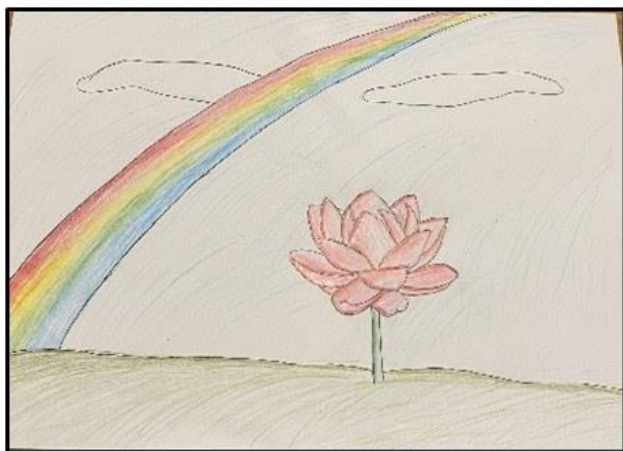
4 - Image 1



5 - Image 2



6 - Image 3



7 - Image 4

Music



8 - THE SCHOOL BAND IN 'MATILDA'

Between the 6th and 8th February, the School Band will be supporting the cast on stage, playing the score for 'Matilda.' The music, composed by Australian composer Tim Minchin, features some tricky time and key signature changes, and the band have shown immense passion, resilience and sophistication during rehearsals leading up to next week's performances. All 20-plus members of band have demonstrated how a professional musician should perform!

***For parents of those in the band:** all band members MUST wear smart black clothing for the performance – black shirts, trousers, skirts, shoes, etc. NO black jeans, training clothing...*

YEAR 11 GCSE MUSIC

Year 11 GCSE Music students have had a very busy half term! They have all completed their first marked solo performance exam/coursework, and have submitted their first compositions, each of which will contribute to their final GCSE Music grade. It was so nice to hear such a range of music and instrumentation being played by the Year 11s. They have now begun work on their next composition, to be composed to a set brief, and their performance focus should now switch towards their ensemble work. Students should also continue revising and practising ahead of their upcoming Listening & Appraising mock exam in March!

MUSIC CULTURAL CAPITAL

Music, in its nature, is a very culturally-rich subject and in each lesson, pupils are exposed to music from a vast range of genres, cultures and eras. For pupils looking to further their cultural awareness of music, they can complete a task based on an "Influential Musician." The link to all "Influential Musician" slides is:

https://northcestrian-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/a_wilson_northcestrian_co_uk/EgWi6MfAJ99OhDEJ0XxezRABivL-MqqywqzntQTXD5V4RA?e=RiaNgg

In this folder, pupils can find PowerPoint slides with listening tasks and the option to complete either a written reflection of the musician, or learn one of the pieces by the musician. Recommended composers for each Year group to support work in lessons include:

- Year 7 – Jimi Hendrix
- Year 8 – Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
- Year 9 – John Lennon & Paul McCartney

All videos and/or written responses can be sent via email to Mr Wilson (a.wilson@northcestrian.co.uk).

Culture Day Friday 9th February

Culture Day has now become a North Cestrian tradition. This year it is next Friday, 9th February. We focus on celebrating the rich cultural diversity of pupils at North Cestrian. There are three strands to this. Firstly, pupils are invited to dress in clothes that reflect their cultural or ethnic background. For some pupils this is easy, for many this is hard if there is no discrete cultural identity. For these, they may like to dress in clothes that reflect one part of their identity eg if they like cooking, in a chef's outfit. Our conditions are: pupils must be prepared to talk about and explain their clothes choice and that clothes should be decent, modest and safe. My judgement on this I final and pupils may be sent home if their clothing does not meet these conditions. The second aspect is that traditional ethnic foodstuffs will be on offer. These will be prepared by pupils and parents and while ingredients will be listed, we cannot guarantee 100% accuracy. Therefore, if you have any doubt, your child MUST bring in their own food or purchase food from the canteen in the normal way where there is very close scrutiny of ingredients. An email/form has been sent to parents to allow catering numbers to be estimated. If pupils wish to partake of the Culture Day Food, then the charge will be £5.00. All money surpluses will go to charity. Canteen will have their normal offer provision albeit reduced in volume.

Netball



TRAFFORD NETBALL

Year 8 Netball League - Thursday 25th January

The matches were held at Urmston Leisure Centre and the girls played three matches against BTH, Stretford Grammar and Flixton Girls. In a tough group the girls worked hard and played with impressive resilience.

NCS v Flixton MVP Elvie W

NCS v Stretford Grammar MVP Elvie W

Elvie was outstanding in both matches showing great determination and spirit.

NCS v BTH MVP Emma T

Emma was a very influential player, encouraged those around her and displayed good leadership skills.

Mrs Lawson

Contact Us:



School Office - 0161 928 1856

Email - office@northcestrian.co.uk

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