



# NORTH CESTRIAN WEEKLY NEWS

Friday 8 December 2023

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## Headmaster's Message



One of the benefits of a growing school is that the 'critical mass' that's needed for some things to happen is reached. One of these is the ability to form a school choir and school band. There's safety in numbers and being part of an ensemble of voices or instruments gives the singer or player confidence to take part, do their best, develop and become better. With the bonus of being part of a fabulous production. Last night's Christmas Concert demonstrated to a delighted audience what talent,

enthusiasm and groups of children, with Mr Wilson's musical direction can really achieve. It was a great night and one that the children can be very proud of.

The concert really did set the scene for Christmas and the theme continues over the next few days. I encourage you to attend the traditional Carol Service at St Margaret's Church, Dunham Road on Wednesday Evening from 7pm. It promises to get you all in the festive mood.

### **Computing**

We were pleased to take delivery this week of two full class sets of new computers for the computer suites. These are of much higher specification than the existing ones and will ensure they are able to keep up with the programmes and applications required for successful studies. The successful Computing Department (in the top 20% in the country for GCSE outcomes) under Miss Collins' leadership are relishing the chance to work on the new machines.

### **Christmas Lunch & Non-Uniform Day**

Next Friday 15th December, the canteen will be serving traditional Christmas lunch – turkey and all the trimmings. To ensure a serving, please ensure you have filled in the form sent to all parents. This sets out the options. If you don't reserve a Christmas meal you will have to go to the back of the queue and hope there's enough left. The day is also NON-UNIFORM day. We charge £2.00 for this – payable via Parentmail. All money raised goes to PTFA and the school charity, ACEF. Don't forget to buy raffle tickets to enter the prize draw – first prize is a brand new AppleiPad. Tickets via Parentmail are £3 for 3, £5 for 5. All proceeds to PTFA.



*1 - Christmas Lunch*

## **Upcoming Events:**

**Please check each week as changes occur BOLD means recently added.**

- Tue 12th December – Year 11 Parents' Evening – online \* **BOOKINGS CLOSE 3pm MONDAY 11th Dec \***
- Wed 13th Dec – Christmas Carol Service, St Margaret's Church, Dunham Road 1900-2000

- Fri 15th December – Own Clothes day, Pupil Christmas Lunch  
**IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY DONE SO - PLEASE ORDER LUNCH SELECTION HERE: [CLICK HERE](#)**
- Mon 18th December – Y8 Outdoor Activities trip to Wales
- Thu 21st Dec – End of term – 1200

## DEPUTY REFLECTIONS



In a Gold Week Newsletter this section provides all parents and pupils with some reminders, whilst the Blue Week it features the latest celebrations and opportunities.

I take the opportunity on a Gold Week Thursday to record all of the new character points from pupils evidence, see how the Character Benchmarks is progressing for you and update the opportunities on the website. Therefore, you always have access to everything in the North Cestrian Character Education and news articles about role model pupils on the school web site.

It is an important moment for you to check each link out and, of course, reading your fortnightly report from Arbor show how your building your evidence of Attendance, Behaviour, Character and Cultural Capital.

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

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

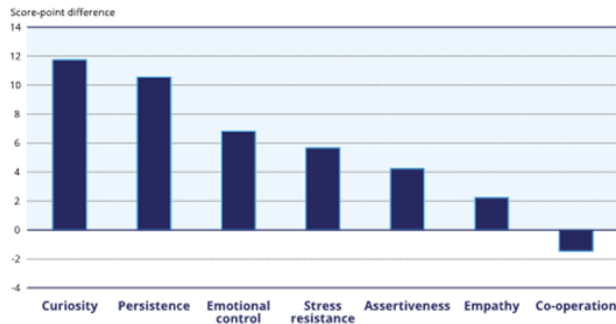
[You can Nominate a Pupil for their Character Development HERE](#)

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



## Social and emotional skills, and mathematics performance

Change in mathematics performance associated with social and emotional skills



2 - Social and Emotional Skills

Every few years, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) release their PISA report – an assessment tool which measures educational progress and outcome around the world. In their recent publication, they report the importance of social and emotional skills in education, as well as the impact of mobile phones on student focus and anxiety. It also suggests that *“the pandemic does not provide the sole explanation*

*for the drop in student performance”*.

There is no doubt that emotional and social skills are important for students to develop, as they play a crucial role in overall well-being. Evidence from PISA also suggests that it can have a positive impact on academic success.

Research has shown that when students are persistent, they are better at overcoming challenges, develop a **growth mindset** and are more self-motivated. Similarly, [curious students are](#) more active in their learning, foster critical thinking and develop a more comprehensive understanding. Maths is full of complicated equations and hard problem-solving questions. Therefore, it is perhaps unsurprising that areas such as curiosity and resilience are important.

## HOW DO WE HELP STUDENTS DEVELOP CURIOSITY AND PERSISTENCE?

Students’ distractibility can be attributed to the brain region responsible for focus and attention which is still developing at that age. Immature cognitive control makes children more susceptible to distractions, as their brains are in the process of acquiring the necessary skills to maintain sustained focus. As children grow older, their brain matures and their attention span increases. However, it does not reach full maturity until around 25 years of age.

However, age and neural connections are not the only factors that influence attention span. Others include:

1. **Interest** – Children tend to focus better on activities they find enjoyable or rewarding.

2. **Environment** – Chaotic, noisy environments can cause sensory overload, leading to distraction. [Research suggests that](#) children who spend more time outside are less anxious and better at paying attention when they return back to their learning environment.

**Health and nutrition** – [Lack of sleep](#) and [poor diet](#) can also affect attention span.



3 - Why asking **WHY** is good

## We also...

1. **Encourage self-questioning** – we encourage students to [ask thought-provoking questions](#) and provide opportunities for discussions that promote curiosity and critical thinking e.g. SLANT, PD lessons, Briefing & Cestrian Form Lessons, Cultural Capital tasks
2. **Emphasise the importance of reflection** – we help students identify what they find challenging, what they [learned from their mistakes](#) and how they can improve in the future. e.g. Purple Pen Feedback, ATL grid, Progress Tracker, Whole Class Feedback and analysis after assessments.
3. **Teach coping strategies** – we teach them techniques such as positive [self-talk](#), [mindfulness](#) and [goal setting](#). e.g. Personal Development, Careers and Wellbeing lessons



*“adolescence is a time of rapid change, where teenagers are navigating the complex terrain of identity formation, peer relationships and academic challenges. But by cultivating social and emotional skills within the educational framework, schools can help support students’ personal, academic and future professional success.”*

PISA 2022, p59

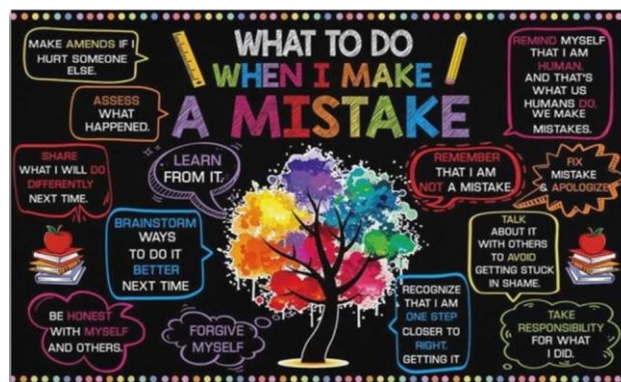
If you want to find out more about all the PISA 2022 data, [read the 72-page document here.](#)

## YEAR 11 PARENTS CONSULTATION EVENING - DEADLINE FOR BOOKING APPOINTMENTS IS MONDAY 11 DECEMBER - 3PM

### PASTORAL DIRECTOR UPDATE

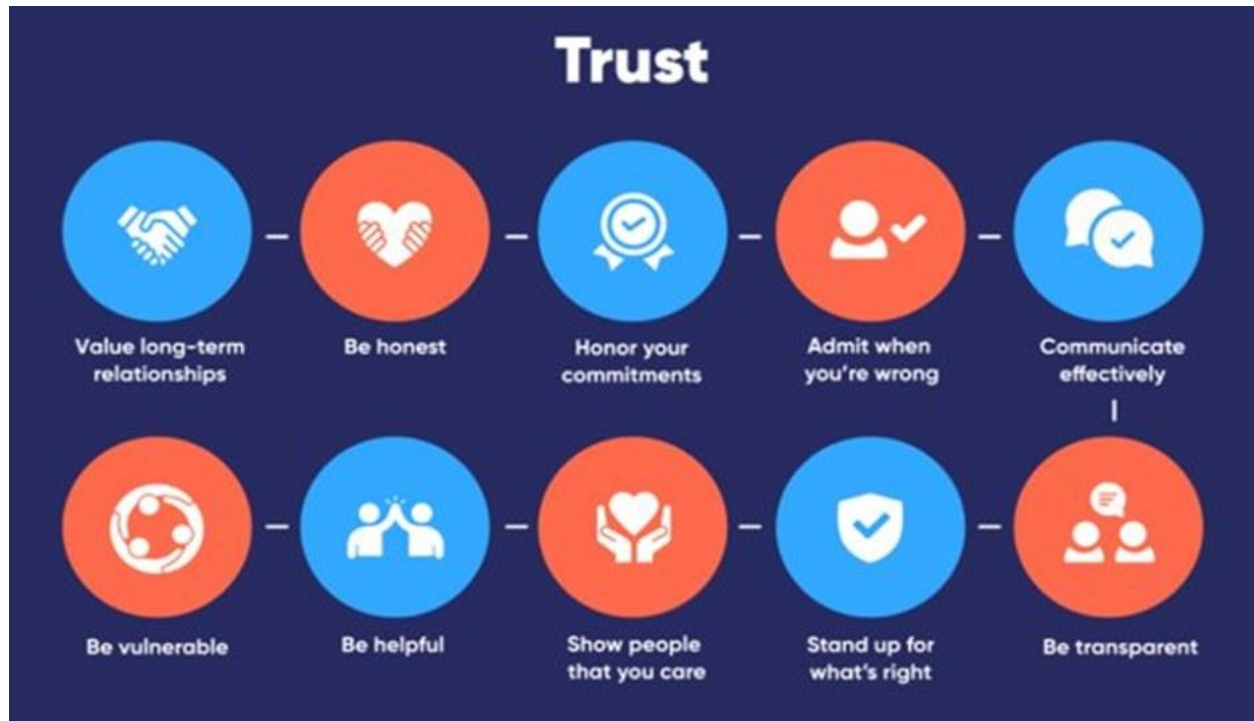


### LEARNING FROM MISTAKES



This week we have been looking at mistakes. We all make mistakes – it is a part of learning and development. In briefings this week, I have been discussing that it is how we respond to the mistakes we make that matters.

We have also been looking at trust and what that looks like...



This links in with trusting the adults in school because:

- The adults in the building have your best interests in mind.
- We want you to be safe in and out of school.
- We want you to succeed.
- We want you to learn more than the subjects we teach you (character development).

When we learn from our mistakes and trust the adults, we can assess what has happened, reflect and recognize that we are one step closer to getting it right!

## GEOGRAPHY NEWS



### Volcano in Japan spews ash and rock 200m into sky!

An explosive eruption last week sent volcanic rock hurtling into the sea around Niijima Island, located 970 km (600 miles) from the Japanese capital Tokyo.

The moment of the eruption was captured by Japan's coast guard, which shared the footage on Tuesday. The agency said the eruption had reached a height of around 200m (656ft).

The volcanic island was formed 10 years ago. Its name translates as "new island".

[CLICK HERE](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION



5 - COP28

### COP 28; Another chance to stop climate change?

#### What is COP28 and where is it?

COP28 is the 28th annual United Nations (UN) climate meeting where governments will discuss how to limit and prepare for future climate change.

The summit is being held in Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), from 30 November until 12 December 2023.

**What does COP stand for?**

COP stands for "Conference of the Parties", where the "parties" are the countries that signed up to the original UN climate agreement in 1992.



*6 - PUPIL GEMS*

**WELL DONE TO THESE PUPILS FOR OUTSTANDING WORK THIS WEEK:**

**Y11 - Mina. A - Regularly attending period 7s showing a responsibility to her learning. Passionate debates in period 7s also.**

**Y10 - Ali. F - Fantastic start the GCSE Geography course, role model in participation and oracy in lesson.**

**Y9 - Rory. M - Fantastic start to Year 9 Geography, role model in participation. Routinely attempts challenge tasks. Shown a real passion for our topics so far.**

**Y8 - Gaby. R - Excellent participation in lessons and showing a great growth mindset when attempting longer written work.**

**Y7 Liam. J - Excellent participation this year. Great growth mindset and willing to attempt questions even if unsure.**

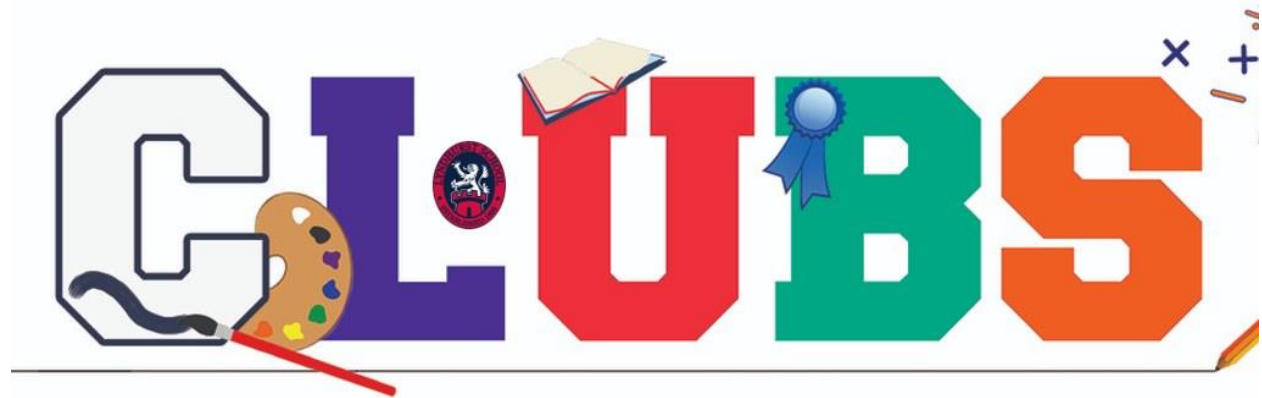
## *Thank you from Kindness Club!*



This year for the first time our school Kindness Club chose a Christmas Appeal to support and have been collecting donations for the Wood Street Mission. We have been delighted by the generosity of spirit shown by pupils, parents and staff who have been bringing a steady stream of new toys, selection boxes and wrapping paper into school. Mrs Isherwood-Cann has been able to take two full carloads of gifts to Wood Street Mission ready to be shared with children and families struggling this year in Manchester and Salford.

Thank you to everyone who has donated and to all our Kindness Club members who have advertised, collected, co-ordinated and supported our appeal.

# 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	Breakfast Prep and Journal Reading
	Lunch	History U10 (Y10, 11)	KS3 Debate Club 1.15pm F1 ¡Viva! 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	
	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 club (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)	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 Club (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 (Y11)	Prep Club S1 Zumba Club Drama Studio

7 - Extra Curricular Clubs

SPORTS	CLUBS	SPORTS	CLUBS	SPORTS	CLUBS
	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  Y8 Football Training Playing Fields Mr Boswell	

8 - Sports Clubs Blue Week

	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	

9 - Sports Clubs Gold Week

## SCHOOL VACANCIES



### [Science Technician, Trafford - Tes Jobs](#)

North Cestrian School, United Kingdom

[www.tes.com](http://www.tes.com)

### [Pastoral Support Lead, Trafford - Tes Jobs](#)

North Cestrian School, United Kingdom

[www.tes.com](http://www.tes.com)



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