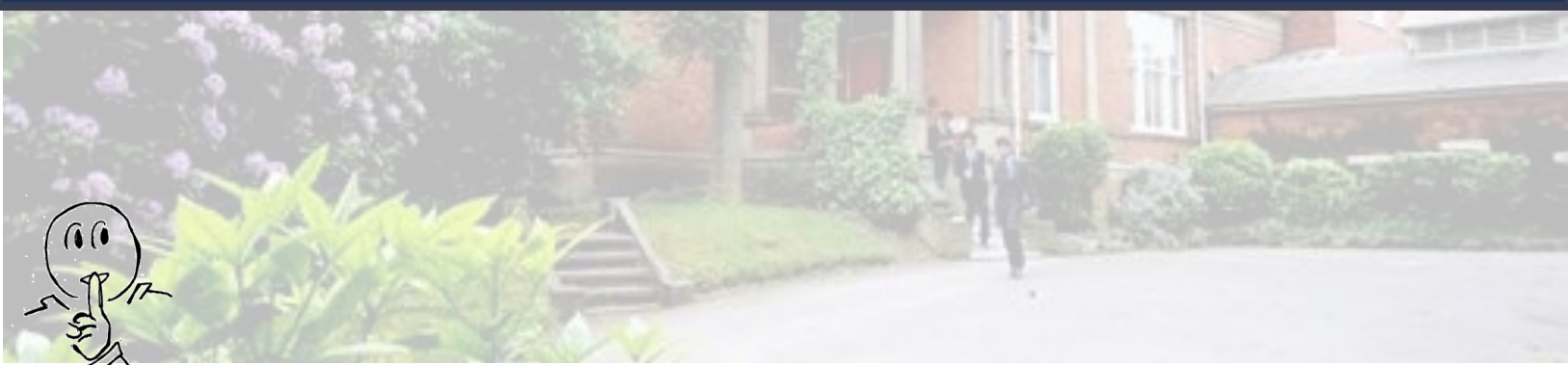




# NEWSLETTER

3 March 2023



VIP VISIT  
NEXT  
FRIDAY 10  
MARCH!!

FURTHER  
DETAILS IN  
BRIEFING  
NEXT  
WEEK..

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### Head Master's Message:

It's been another full week for school, and I am always grateful to our brilliant staff for their care, dedication, hard work and professionalism. At the start of the week 40 Y9 and 10 pupils visited Stratford as part of an English/Cultural experience. Pupils were role models, as is to be expected. During Tuesday's industrial action day, most pupils showed true resilience and sense of purpose, responding well to on-line lessons and set activities. Sports fixtures continue to provide a full programme, in addition to the many extra-curricular lessons put on each week. Thursday's World Book Day was a riot of rig-outs and reading. School is so much more than lessons.

Visitors to school may have noticed a slight whiff in the reception area. Our estates team have traced this to a broken manhole in the void between the new-build reception office and the former driveway area. It's a difficult location to access and repair but I'm sure their ingenuity will find a solution.

### Cestrian ABC

**Academic.** We encourage staff to visit other schools and network to pick up ideas, see good practice and keep abreast of the latest developments in cognitive science. It is good to see that many of the things we have been embedding for quite some while are now finding favour in other schools.

**Behaviour.** I would say that at least 75% of pupil-to-pupil disagreements witnessed in school stem from prior on-line fall outs. These group chats occur out of school hours but manifest in school, leaving a mess in their wake. I ask parents to monitor who their child is online to: these 'group chats' do not, it seems to me, develop healthy relationships but include characters who do not naturally align, and friction is almost inevitable. In effect the children are being allowed to interact with others who you may not approve of in face-to-face circumstances. This is not good.

**Character.** As mentioned previously, we are updating the House Icons. It is right now that we choose characters who are more reflective of the modern world, not least to include females in their number. In reality, the house structure in its current format is used primarily for sports competitions, and they normally use bibs to distinguish between teams. There is no need to have ties or uniform badges to identify pupils' houses. As such, from September we will introduce a school tie in school colours rather than use the 4 house ties and badges. There will be no need to replace your current ties, but gradually they will be phased out completely.

# DEPUTY REFLECTIONS - CHARACTER EDUCATION

*“Experience is by industry achieved,  
And perfected by the swift course of time”*

William Shakespeare (The Two Gentlemen of Verona, Act 1 Scene 3)

*Arbor keeps a record of Character development. Click 'Statistics', 'Character Points' - expand menu.*

You can prepare for your next Character briefings by reading and listening to [A Thorough Examination with Drs Chris and Xand](#). We will consider how the Cestrian Mindset and our character can develop our success habits and use of feedback. As ever, email me your reflection.

Pupils are guided in 8 character traits of NCS's character education programme. In lessons and beyond school, pupils have opportunities to pursue new discoveries and are assisted to own the next steps in the development. Click the poster!



Enter the North Cestrian School Character Education Website by clicking the photo below.

You will find...

- The Character Development opportunities and news of pupils thriving and leading rich and fulfilling lives
- Hooks for your curiosity hooked in the Cultural Capital opportunities and a chance to show off your sophistication.

Do you know someone who is building their character?  
Click to nominate a pupil.  
Investing in character development together!

**Build your Character Benchmarks**

Know someone building their Cultural Capital?  
Click to nominate.

**Year 9 and 10 tour Stratford-upon-Avon, watch Shakespeare's 'The Tempest' at the RSC Theatre, and visit Warwick Castle**

The next page showcases the fantastic images and inspired quotations from the pupils during their dive into some of the best cultural capital England has to offer. We joined the 1 million annual visitors to the Shakespeare Centre, birthplace and grave at the Holy Trinity Church learning about the world's most famous playwright, his creative genius, language innovation, and Elizabethan life. To refuel our curiosity and just to add to the sophistication we took a river walk, photographed the swans, and enjoyed a cream tea! In the evening we saw The Tempest which pupils loved. The pupils, and indeed Mr Bell slept soundly and long, especially after the homemade brownie from Amelie for supper! Next day, pupils wowed the theatre company during workshops by showcasing their confidence and passion, before touring Warwick Castle! "Great pupils and great Miss Butler, Mr Bailey, and Miss Badman!"



Shakespeare's Birthplace was very interesting. Amazing to see into the past here! And so near to the shops too!" Amy P

"I thought that the trip was a nice insight to the town where Shakespeare grew up in. It was my first time seeing a Shakespeare play being performed. I think this is a great trip opportunity." Nicole N

"When we had the fantastic opportunity to watch the play 'The Tempest'. It has absolutely amazed me with the extraordinary acting, use of music and the stage. I was blown away by the performances and I even went to look up the full story afterwards." Ian N

"Warwick Castle is an amazing place" Ashaar M, Dino Z

"The best part was the theatre experience. The stage set was cool!" Tom P. "Will performing in public and the tourists stopped to watch!" Mr Bell





## Exams News

### Well done Year 11, mocks are nearly over!

All pupils return to normal timetable and full school days from Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March.

Please be patient for results. Staff have many scripts to mark and check before awarding grades. E.g. typically, maths teachers will mark 75-90 papers, Science teachers between 60-150 papers, Geography, nearly 90 papers each. It is important marking is standardised and checked before grades are awarded.

Results and updated estimated grades will be published via DC2 on Arbor at the end of the term, 31<sup>st</sup> March.

In the meantime, staff may provide verbal and written feedback in lessons. However, their focus will also be on completing outstanding aspects of the specifications.

For pupils, the key to success is acting of the detailed feedback that teachers will provide in the coming weeks. This is a great time to demonstrate and improve your Cestrian Mindset! The effort you deploy now, will pay off in the summer. Invest wisely in your future!

Y10 exams are now confirmed as **2<sup>nd</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> May**.

This will exclude the extra Bank holiday on Monday May 8<sup>th</sup>. A draft timetable will be published next week.

As with Year 11, pupils will need to be in school for 8.30am – 12.50pm each day. With parental permission, they can go home to study or remain in school until 3.20pm. Parents will be sent an online permission form to complete after the Easter break.

The Exams Handbook is now available via the school website. Pupils will receive a paper copy and discussion in pupil briefing prior to the exams to ensure that appropriate examination conduct is known and embedded prior to the Y11 mocks and GCSE series in 2024. This will take place just prior to the start of exams.



In this school we have a ...



## CESTRIAN MINDSET

- We learn from mistakes
- We improve by acting on feedback
- We never give up - Delapsus Resurgam
- We are determined, we rise to challenges
- We self-reflect to identify our next steps
- We believe effort will lead to success
- We can train our brains

### WE BELIEVE YOU CAN

## 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



## British Science Week, 10<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> March

### How to get involved:

In school there will include a **quiz** with prizes. Collect the quiz from your science teacher and return to Mr Wilson by Mon 20<sup>th</sup> March.

**A STEM club special** event will run on Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> March, in S3, and Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 3.30-4.30 pm. Pupils will take part in a global science experiment, run by the Royal Society of Chemistry, about using batteries for a sustainable future. All pupils are welcome to attend.

**Poster competition**, on the theme of connections. More information [here](#).

Year have end of KS3 science assessments during the weeks beginning 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> March. Assessments will take place during normal lesson times and pupils will be expected to work in exam conditions. Teachers will provide guidance for revision topics and activities.

## Year 9 Science Assessments

Year have end of KS3 science assessments during the weeks beginning 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> March. Assessments will take place during normal lesson times and pupils will be expected to work in exam conditions. Teachers will provide guidance for revision topics and activities.

<b>A band classes</b>	<b>Fri 17<sup>th</sup> March lesson 4 Mon 20<sup>th</sup> March lesson 1 Tues 21st march lesson 2</b>	<b>Biology Chemistry Physics</b>
<b>B band classes</b>	<b>Fri 17<sup>th</sup> March lesson 1 Fri 17<sup>th</sup> March lesson 6 Wed 22nd March lesson 1</b>	<b>Biology Chemistry Physics</b>

## GCSE Science Live

On 8<sup>th</sup> Feb Mr Wilson and Dr Saker-Clark took 50 Y11 pupils to the Bridgewater Hall in Manchester for the GCSE Science Live event. Pupils listened to lectures from world class scientists including Professor Lord Robert Winston, Professor Alice Roberts, Professor Andrea Sella and Professor Jim Al-Khalili. Professor Al-Khalili also presents the documentary programme which is the science cultural capital activity for this term: [BBC documentary from Jim Al-Khalili](#).

*“The only thing you absolutely need to know, is the location of the library.”*

**Albert Einstein**

The Science library, outside S4, has had some new books, just in time for world book day! We also have science books from the NCS 100 list. Any pupil can borrow a book by signing it out in loans book.



## Gardening Group

Well done to members of the Gardening Group who have achieved their level 2 award from the RHS Schools Gardening Scheme.

Gardening group meets on Thursdays, 3.30-4.15 in the garden area. Pupils from all year groups are welcome.



# RELIGIOUS STUDIES



We are delighted to be able to share the learning journey and successes of our students exploring the big questions of theology, philosophy and what it means to be a citizen in Britain today. March sees the celebration of many religious festivals – are you celebrating Purim, Holi, Hola Mohalla or Navarati at home? We would love to hear what you do if you are. Several pupils have come to tell me what they are giving up for Lent which began on February 22<sup>nd</sup> this year and the end of March sees the beginning of Ramadan. As RE teachers we love hearing about the different faiths and celebrations our pupils enjoy at home and welcome anyone sharing this with us.

Year 7 have started a Random Acts of Kindness Club run by RE staff. We meet on Gold Week Tuesdays in U16 at lunchtime. Any Year 7's are more than welcome to come and join.

## Religious Education at Key Stage 3

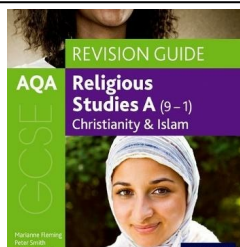
**Year 7** have started their new unit on the life of Jesus. We have been looking at the history of Christian art and how the image of Jesus has changed over time. We have studied early Christian symbols and explored how the image of Jesus has depended on who was in power at the time.

**Year 8** are exploring the History of Christianity, we are studying key events in the development of Christianity and thinking about our big Enquiry Question of the term – Why is Christianity the way it is? So far pupils have had silent debates on the issue of “St Paul or Emperor Constantine – Who was more influential in spreading Christianity?”, explored the causes of the Great Schism in 1054 and evaluated whether the Protestant Reformers were right to start protesting.

**Year 9** have just completed their study of Sikh beliefs and practices and are beginning their GCSE journey. The first unit is Christian Beliefs.

## Key Stage 4 - Religious Studies

Revision Book for Year 10 and 11:



RS Year 10 Star Learner – **Ruya A, Hana H, Steven O, Omar E** and **Joud A-S** for outstanding sophistication shown in their Year 10 12 mark challenge.

Year 10 have completed their unit on Christian Practices with a gruelling 12 mark question challenge which they showed great purpose and resilience in approaching. We have now moved to our Themes Unit on Peace and Conflict and are examining the question; Can war ever be justified?

Year 11 have been busy sitting their mock exams and I am looking forward to seeing them all back in class next week to continue our revision programme.







# CULTURE DAY

**DONATIONS WILL BE GOING TO:**



**Pupils who wish to wear their own /cultural clothes will have to pay £3 (Parent mail)**

**Pupils who wish to wear cultural clothes are strongly encouraged.**

**What will happen?  
A combined cultural snack and Pi day bake sale will be going on during lunch and break**

**Cultural main meals will be served in the canteen at lunch  
With many other activities at break and in lesson**

**The form to register interest for the Cultural Day is now available on email and Parentmail:**

<https://forms.office.com/e/ZKwJRVymLc>

**THIS IS MANDATORY**

**If you have any queries, please email:**

**asindhu19@northcestrian.co.uk  
belhajj@northcestrian.co.uk**

**FOOD DONATIONS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED AND APPRECIATED**

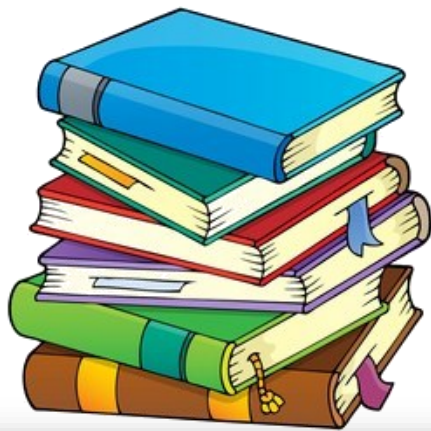
# WORLD BOOK DAY 2023

It was a fabulous turn out from staff in fancy dress on Thursday 2 March—**WORLD BOOK DAY**.

Can you guess who some of the characters?

Mr Bergin was on the look out for 'Snozzwangers' ...  
and Mr Bell was in need of some 'hot air'...

Fabulous!!







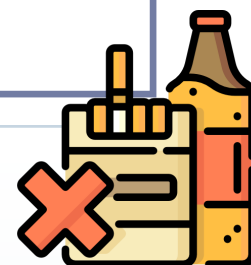
## Looking Ahead to **PI DAY** (March 14<sup>th</sup> for 3.14...)

Pi is the most famous irrational number with its ongoing decimal places. We look forward to our upcoming annual celebration of Pi Day as we plan activities, competitions and celebrations. We encourage students to prepare for these now. Activities include:

A **Pi Recital Competition** which gives students (and staff) the chance to show off how many decimal places of pi they can recall as they aim to beat their own personal records. An email was sent providing many decimal places of pi with paper copies also available in the Maths Department.

**Pi poster** opportunity creating a poster showing uses of circles in other subjects and the world around us.

**Earn a MAC badge** (for **M**aths **A**cross the **C**urriculum) by submitting your poster to Mrs Klutz or your Maths teacher.



This week **Y9** have been learning about drug addiction in PD. Students were having in depth discussions about smoking, drinking and drug use. We want our students to understand the effects these drugs have including the short- and long-term effects.

### Categorise: Short and Long Term Impacts



#### memory loss

falling out or breaking up with someone

Stroke

alcohol dependency

feeling and/or being sick

Acne

Drowsiness

#### alcohol poisoning

regret or guilt about their behaviour

Obesity

dizziness

Cancer

feeling sociable

diarrhoea

accidents and injuries due to falling over

dental health issues

poor judgments and decisions

a 'hangover' the following day

dehydration

liver disease (cirrhosis)

Headache

Depression

embarrassment from doing something they wouldn't have usually done

Lack of inhibitions

This week also saw the year 9 prefect interviews take place. Students in year 9 were asked to send an application form to explain why they want to become a prefect. These applications were then shortlisted, and interviews took place on Friday 24<sup>th</sup>. The students who were interviewed articulated themselves well and gave sophisticated answers to difficult question. This is a great steppingstone to becoming at key stage 4 prefect and I am excited to see the successful candidates fulfil their roles.



**DO YOU HAVE ANY SPARE CHESS SETS?**

**OUR SUPER ENTHUSIASTIC CHESS CLUB NEED MORE SETS TO ENABLE MORE GAMES TO BE PLAYED.**

**IF YOU HAVE ANY SPARE SETS, PLEASE LET MRS BRADFORD OR MR DOHENY KNOW (U5)**

**THANK YOU!**

**Can You Help?**

# *Freya's swimming along nicely!!!*

This February, Year 9 student Freya took on her 3rd '28 Challenge' to raise money for the Charity 'Hearing Dogs for Deaf People'. She challenged herself to bake and sell 28 bags of dog treats and swim 280 lengths. The dogs treats were very popular (and 3 different flavours) and today (the day after International Cochlear Implant Day) she swam 82 lengths and smashed her target.

In total she swam 338 lengths. She's raised **£360** with this challenge and overall with the three '28 challenges' and the Great British dog walk last year a total of **£1185!**

You can see what she's been up to on her page: [CLICK HERE](#)





# PTFA NOTICES

NORTH CESTRIAN PTFA  
MARCH 24TH

## CESTRIAN FAMILY Easter BINGO



DOORS  
OPEN  
6.45PM

BAR  
OPENS AT  
7PM

EYES  
DOWN  
7.15PM

FAMILY TICKET  
UP TO  
4 PEOPLE £5

SINGLE TICKET  
£2 VIA  
PMX.PARENTMAIL

PLEASE NOTE CHILDREN MUST BE  
ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

Made with PosterMyWall.com



Tickets go on sale this week for Family Easter Egg Bingo taking place on **Friday 24th March**.

So what exactly is it? As the name suggests it is a Family Bingo event, with an Easter twist.....

Families buy tickets in advance (£2.00 per person or £5.00 per family of up to 4 people) to come along to play some fun Bingo. Children **must** be accompanied by an adult, especially the younger children who may need more help.

Doors open at 6.45pm, bar opens at 7pm, eyes down by 7.15pm. We hope to play up to three games of Bingo, as well as one or two other activities, finishing around 9pm.

Bingo cards are provided to everyone with a ticket. We ask that you try and remember to bring your own pen, however there will be some daubers (Bingo pens) there to buy.

Unlike normal Bingo sessions, there are multiple line and full house winners and we ensure that most children go home with a prize. The rules are explained at the start of the session.

The Bingo caller goes through at a slow and steady pace so that the event is is suitable for all students and younger siblings, giving them a chance to find the numbers and have fun!

Refreshments will also be available to purchase; hot dogs, crisps, snacks and drinks.

**We hope to see many of you there. Tickets are limited, please buy them via Parentmail pmx. PTFA funds raised go directly back into school to benefit all students.**