



NEWSLETTER

14 July 2023



Head Master's Message:

You may have heard your children talking about 'The Cestrian Way'. This is our agreed set of principles and practices to help deliver what we believe to be an excellent education. At its heart is the concept that pupils thrive on consistency. Pupils experience a vast range of changes during any school day: 6 periods moving to different subjects and different teachers. In some cases the class they are with changes too. Add to that the variety of topics covered, the different skills applied and array of degrees of difficulty, then it will be very easy for a pupil to get confused. If teachers then adopt different approaches, that confusion is added to. This is one reason we adopted SLANT as an acronym for our agreed set of expectation as to how pupils should behave and approach their lessons. Sit up straight, listen, ask and answer questions, never interrupt, and track the teacher. Ask your child; they should know the acronym and I hope have heard their teachers use it to enforce the good behaviour. Having a common approach avoids mixed messages – the expectations in one class are reinforced by another. It would be wrong if children were allowed to slump at their desks in one class but not in another. We also believe these expected behaviours make for better manners, young people and support effective learning. The Cestrian Way is not just about behaviour. It is also about our approach to learning. For many years the orthodoxy in teaching was that pupils learn best by 'discovery'. That teachers were there merely to facilitate the ability of pupils to find things out for themselves. Provide pupils with enough resources and their natural inquisitiveness will lead to endless knowledge. We believe this orthodoxy is wrong. Not only is it wrong, it is inefficient and harmful to pupils' learning. I didn't 'discover' how to drive; I was instructed. As Sir Isaac Newton declared; he stood on the shoulders of giants – his work on gravity and calculus arose out of hundreds of years of mathematics and science previous. His wasn't a case of discovering earlier principles and then arriving at his own. He was instructed in the known mathematical and scientific theories and out from those came his insights. So in the Cestrian Way we place the teacher at the heart of the lesson, the expert in the room. They are the 'sage on the stage' rather than the 'guide on the side'. Clear exposition, careful sequencing of knowledge and modelling answers lead to greater understanding. In the Cestrian Way we make pupils accountable for their learning. Prep is set for pupils to learn the basic building blocks. At home, supported by parents, low stakes but high impact. Lessons are planned to build on that knowledge. They build sophistication, increase complexity and raise the technical language in the classroom, in the place where the teacher can best support.

It is important that you as parents support us in this methodology 100%. We have invested a lot of time in teaching pupils how to learn. Research is clear: learning is accelerated when pupils are tested. This does not mean lots of nerve-jangling tests. Rather the process of self-quizzing. Can I actually recall the elements I am learning? So, help your child. Ask them what their prep is. EVEN IF THEY'VE DONE IT, quiz them on it. Sit them in front of you and ask them questions on it. If they can't recall, then they've not really finished their prep. We know some pupils find this easier than others – all the more reason for supporting your child in this way. Many of you do already, thank you.

I want to stress also that the principles of the Cestrian Way are not a 'flash in the pan' to be replaced next year by another educational fad. Yes we may tweak our procedures, but the principles will remain. Clear and consistent approaches, the efficiency of effective instruction and the accountability of pupils to learn and self quiz the knowledge building blocks are at the heart of the Cestrian Way.

Cest Fest

Despite the period of rain early on, Cest Fest was a huge success. Mr Bloomfield made the correct call and put the majority of stalls in the Vanstone Hall – which had a busy, thriving atmosphere of a bazaar. Plenty of people milled around the outside, listening to music, attending the active events and games, watching the gunging and the sponging or simply moving between locations. We had a record number of stalls and it was great to see so many young people interacting with customers. The PTFA, as always, were magnificent but I must pay particular tribute to Mrs Parr for her energy and creativity.

Upcoming Events Monday 17th July - Year 7 & 8 school trip Knowsley Safari Park

- Year 9 & 10 Sports Day: Events from 1300, (Subject to weather report – watch for email)

Tuesday 18th July – Year 9&10 school trip Alton Towers

Wednesday 19th July – Honours Assembly, End of School Year 1200 Noon.

(Y10 Own clothes in lieu of missing Going Green Day on account of Work Experience)

Final special newsletter

“We are determined to use our resources to create a world where everyone has the opportunity to lead a healthy and productive life.”

Bill Gates, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Arbor keeps a record of Character development. Click ‘Statistics’, ‘Character Points’ - expand menu.

Not quite the hundredth edition! That will be delivered to you on Wednesday and contains a review of the year and photographs from today’s Going Green events!
You should now download all your character development record form Arbor and keep it in a safe place in order that you can always have the information to hand to include in prefect, further education, and job applications and interviews.



During the Character Education this week we discussed firstly how it is difficult for us to decide to invest to assist in future outcomes and we compared the tasks of 1) being a tiny one in 8 billion person trying to solve a whole planet’s climate change 2) being the biggest person trying solve our own career and balancing it with a rich and fulfilling life.



Click the image. Play from Start to 30 secs, then 1m 45 secs to 2m 15 secs to find out about Wonky Veg. “30% of food produced is wasted”. Would you eat wonky veg?



Click the image. Play from 30 mins to 31m 30 secs. If you put the empty plastic bottle in the bin, what happens to the bottle? Is it better to not buy the bottle? Is it better to re-use it? . “This plastic was in the UK, put in the recycling bin, now it is in Indonesia!”

Not quite the hundredth edition! That will be delivered to you on Wednesday and contains a review of the year and photographs from today’s **Going Green** events!

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

Build your Character Benchmarks Certificate

Know someone building their Cultural Capital?
Click to nominate.

To read more about NCS Character Education click the poster!

Enter the Character Education Website by clicking the photo of the British Museum below. You will find the Character Development opportunities, news of pupils thriving and leading rich and fulfilling lives, and hooks for your curiosity hooked in the Cultural Capital opportunities.

An audit is a great first step to solving environmental issues and our own career opportunities.

Take the chance to audit the school environment. Can we become an eco-school? How could you lead an improvement in the score?
Download the full audit [here](#) and hand in to Mr Bell.

Interests profile
✔ Quiz last taken 31 Mar 23: 5 and E and C
[Start >](#)

Personality profile
✔ Quiz last taken 20 Apr 23: 157
[Start >](#)

Work environments profile
✔ Quiz last taken 20 Apr 23
[Start >](#)

Skills profile
✔ Quiz last taken 20 Apr 23
[Start >](#)

What about a self-audit to invest in your future?
Log in to Unifrog and complete these four profiles. Send the four results to me and together we will work out how to get you the experiences and character development to fulfil your aspirations.



KS3 Reports have been sent home TODAY!

Apologies for the duplication of Report emails you may have received.

Attitude to Learning

Are you a Cestrian Role Model?

Next year, we will be using the **Attitude to Learning (AtL)** criteria coupled with character development to encourage all our pupils to become Cestrian Role Models. This is a central part of the Cestrian Curriculum.

Morning briefings and form tutor lessons will focus on aspects of attitude, character, conduct and learning which will enable pupils to reflect on their progress against the AtL criteria.

In lessons, teachers will give opportunities to demonstrate and develop the AtL characteristics. These will be tracked, and feedback will be given to encourage progress towards Cestrian Role Model.

Across the school, we are working to improve pupil reflection and independence. Pupils will be taught to review their performance weekly and identify next steps to focus on the following week.

Parents can help by regularly checking and discussing the reflection and feedback in the Pupil Tracker (Learning Journal/Planner). **It is essential that pupils bring this to school every day.** Please check bags every morning!

Progress Tracker 2023-24

CESTRIAN WAY

The Cestrian values and ABC toolkit enable pupils to thrive and lead rich and fulfilling lives.

A	B	C
Prep Knowledge Maps Purple Pen Feedback Hardwork Application Motivation	Personal responsibility SLANT Valuing learning time Honest reflection No excuses	Generous of spirit Learns from mistakes Passionate Purposeful Resilient Resourceful Responsible Sophisticated

Name: _____
Form: _____

Cestrian Role Model

Attitude

Passionate

I love learning.
I am interested in lessons and curious to find out more in my own time (Cultural Capital)
I am proud to be a model Cestrian.
I set an example for my peers.
I maximise all opportunities to learn.
My prep and testing methods are effective because I can retrieve all the knowledge when required.

Growth Mindset

Responsible

I know that I will be successful with continued effort and a positive mindset.
I always self-reflect and can identify my next steps independently.
I correct and learn from my mistakes.
I enjoy rising to challenges.
Failure makes me more determined to succeed.

Feedback

Purposeful

I always seek opportunities to improve my work beyond what is expected.
I always act on feedback.
My work shows significant improvement.
I add meaningful purple pen notes and reminders to my work on my own.
Check, correct, reflect.

Learns from Mistakes

Participation

Confident

I am confident that my knowledge can help others.
I am a leader in discussions.
My verbal responses are always detailed.
I have good projection, fluency, and clarity when I speak.
I always stay focused and always participate in lessons.

Classwork

Resourceful

I use my own ideas.
I make links to other work / subjects
My classwork is high quality.
I always complete my work in detail.
My work is always well presented.
I always take pride in my work.

Resilient

SCIENCE NEWS - Dr Roger

Science Holiday Work

Year 9 and 10 classes will be set holiday work for Science. The work will be sent to both pupils and parents via email and we would appreciate if parents could support all pupils to complete this work.

Pupils will need to log in to [GCSEpod](#) and can do so using their school email address and office 365 password.



Summer Holiday Opportunities

For pupils in all year groups there are plenty of opportunities to continue with science learning and enrichment over the summer holiday.

Why not visit a museum? The [Manchester Museum](#) has recently reopened and the [Science and Industry Museum](#) continues to offer free entry.

[BlueDot Festival](#) is a music and science festival at the Jodrell Bank Observatory.

For hands-on STEM activities you can do at home why not take a look at [All About STEM](#) and the [Inspiration Station](#).

For those rainy days the BBC has a fantastic collection of [science and nature documentaries](#).

Start thinking about your future career in science with this [YouTube playlist](#).

Email a Science teacher with a short review of any of the above for cultural capital points!



Kindness Club Report - Mrs Isherwood-Cann

This year saw the inception of our Kindness Club at North Cestrian. This was a club that current Year 7 pupils asked for and showed super leadership in advertising and growing. We have met regularly on Tuesday lunchtimes and activities have included – writing appreciation cards for teachers and form tutors, decorating kindness cards, painting rocks with kindness slogans which will be displayed in the garden club garden. At Cest Fest a group of our original kind club members ran a stall to advertise Kindness club to our new Year 6 pupils and even had a sign up sheet for new members. We would like to thank the PTFA for supporting Kindness Club this year and helping us buy lots of new resources so we can invite more members from September. We look forward to meeting new members in September!

- Walk a neighbour's dog
- Cook dinner for your family
- Collect litter – be sure to wear gloves!

- Clean your room (without being asked)
- Create thank you care packages for community helpers
- Return someone's cart at the store
- Call a relative you haven't spoken to lately
- Introduce yourself to someone new



SUMMER CONCERT 2023



CEST FEST 2023



CEST FEST BAKE OFF 2023



2nd



4th



2nd Prize = Freya C
3rd Prize = Emma T
4th Prize = Kiera S

FIRST PLACE
YARA A - Y8
CONGRATULATIONS!!



3rd



1st



Our lovely Bake Off Judges:
Mrs Klutz, Mr Millard and Mrs James!