

NEWSLETTER

16 September 2022



We have taken soundings from parents, pupils and staff to ensure school communication is as good as it can be. To this end, from next week, we are changing the format of the newsletter to make it easier to navigate and increase its relevance. A key change is that there will be sign-postings to key subject areas and Key Stage groups on regular cycles.

Open Evening

We welcomed hundreds of interested parents and children on site last Tuesday: it was very busy throughout the three hours. I am very grateful to staff and pupils who contributed, after a full working day. School looked and felt super; guides were helpful and charming, activities were engaging and all involved were approachable and friendly. I have had lots of positive feedback.

Cestrian ABC

Academic

All our Year 7s have now had baseline tests conducted, and this, allied to Key Stage 2 information will allow us to tailor teaching groups accordingly. We have resolved nearly all the ARBOR communication issues so it will be good to have Year 7s fully 'in the loop'.

Behaviour

Pupils look very smart in their uniforms, they move around school with purpose and are ready to learn in lessons. Parents: ask your child the meaning of SLANT – they should be able to give a quick answer. Morning assemblies (briefings) have now gone through their full cycle – it's good to have 'real' meetings again rather than virtual ones.

Character

It was good to hear excellent reports of interest shown by Year 8s in their visit to a local synagogue and this was dwelt on by Mr Bell. The next step is for our pupils to be self-confident and be bolder in their Asking and Answering questions.

A REMINDER – Monday 19th is a Bank Holiday and school is closed. School resumes on Tuesday 20th in BLUE WEEK

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Special points of interest:

Extra-Curricular Clubs

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HM QUEEN ELIZABETH II
1926-2022



DEPUTY REFLECTIONS - CHARACTER EDUCATION

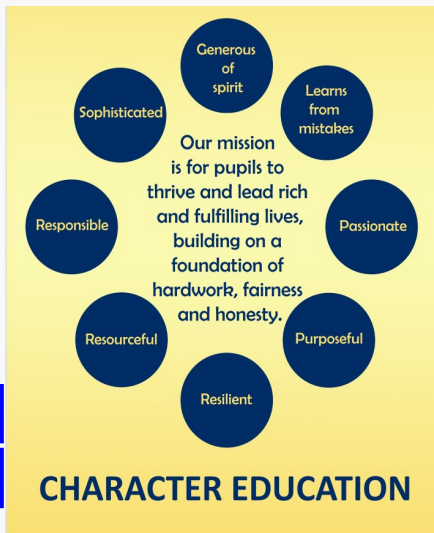
Let's encourage investment in discovering opportunities and taking ownership for a rich, fulfilling life. The Arbor Portal keeps a record of Character development. Click 'Statistics', 'Character Points' - expand menu.

'Intelligence plus character — that is the goal of true education' - Martin Luther King

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

Plan to experience and act on opportunities that build a rounded character. Send me genuine, sustained and significant examples of your pursuits rooted in the categories below. Your examples should contain a photo, written reflection referencing character traits, and evidence or certificate or reference from leaders.

Volunteer	Community Work	Artistic	Performing	see Cultural Capital Page
Debating		Leisure Pursuits	Sporting	Competitive Team / Individual



Last Week's Celebrations

Thank goodness for George (Y9) who had the **responsibility** to act quickly when he noticed a pupil in distress and choking. He was **resourceful** in using his first aid training to hit between the shoulder blades whilst calling for help.

Elise T (Y10) won last year's rounded character prize and she has asked for **resourcefulness** investment in Science revision guides which NCS has now purchased for her.

Theodora T (Y10) won last year's rounded character prize and she has asked for **resourcefulness** investment in Science and Maths revision equipment.

Max O (Y9) has **purpose and passion** and is selected for the Swim England National Development Programme and will swim for Cheshire at the County Meet.

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

Character nominations from parents, family + friends!

Arabella Y9, from friends, purposeful + passionate: her staff at Cest Fest was really successful, raised money for charity, and showed her personality. "I would like to help any pupils or teachers who want names cut out in vinyl to personalise their classroom doors or belongings. If any more opportunities to grow my character come up please notify me as this year I am going to work on this massively!"

Alex C Y10, from mum, **resourceful + sophisticated**: achieved his Grade 4 Cello performance certificate.

Click the image for this week's Character Development Opportunities.
More are available from your class teacher!
Don't miss out—some have limited numbers and short deadlines!

Pupil Leadership Write a letter of application to your form tutor and prepare your speech. Deadline 23 September. Ask for tips and help.	Arts Award Follow the information to achieve Bronze, Silver and Gold awards in Art, Engineering, Food Tech, Performing Arts and Music.	Duke of Edinburgh Email me outlining why you would like to achieve this award. How will it build your character? For Y9 only. Deadline 1 November	Debate Club Gold Tuesday in L1 KS3 1pm KS4 2pm
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DEPUTY REFLECTIONS - CULTURAL CAPITAL

Cultural Capital is the essential knowledge that we need to be educated citizens. It is the best that has been thought and said, and helps to grow an appreciation of human creativity and achievement.

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

"If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants" - Sir Isaac Newton

Pupils are guided in the acquisition of cultural capital both in lessons and beyond school. It may be the origins or foundations of thought. It may be the deeper broader details or the where next and what ifs. It may be beyond the lesson or exam but yet essential to kindle passion, discover purpose, broaden horizons and enable sophisticated discussion.

Know someone building their cultural capital?
[Click to nominate.](#)

Plan to take these opportunities that build your cultural capital. Then make use of it. When you do this in lessons, teachers will award points. They will guide your next steps to go deeper and develop further. They will test your sophistication - is it genuine, relevant and significant? rounded character. **These subjects will use lesson based cultural capital opportunities....**

Business	Knowledge Map Cultural Capital Sections in English, Geography and Psychology	Religious Education: nobody stands nowhere! What is your worldview? Where do you	
Computing			
Maths			
Science	Statistics	Spanish: write a paragraph and share in class.	

You can also explore the images below for beyond lesson, topical and contemporary cultural capital. Pursue what you are most curious about. Email me with your first reflection on the source material. Write a 100 words summarising the main points. Then 100 words analysing why it is important? What it means for the future? Why is it cultural capital? Are you inspired? Again, our experts will guide your next steps.

Nominated Achiever Imogen F (Y9)
Fully used summer holidays by walking in the High Peaks and Mam Tor. Then competed in Fashion Week with her sewing class by designing & making. She learnt about upcycling and dazzled with her innovations plus won Speediest Seamstress. Imogen explored her fashion career ambitions by touring Rixo in London, before visiting Royal Parks to see how they work to mitigate pollution + give urban dwellers leisure space. Finally, she took part in Sales Water Park's Activity Week!

Business: What impact will this have on ASDA's reputation?

Music: Composer of the Month - Strauss

English: create a newspaper front page reporting the death of Queen Elizabeth OR Write a letter to King Charles thanking the Queen for her service and work.

Engineering: What is a Design Engineer?

MFL: topical challenges every month

Humanities Breakfast Movie Club Wednesday's 8am. Sign up on U12 Door

Engineering: Women in Engineering

Food: would showing carbon emissions on menus affect our choices or footprint?

Computer Science Share and discuss articles, videos & podcasts that you find that support legal, ethical, cultural & environmental aspects of technology.

Email me with how you are building your cultural capital in your own way?

Reading	novels	specialist magazines	journals	newspapers	
Visiting	museums	galleries	museums	theatre	Further education
Listening	orchestra	choir	podcasts		
Watching	films	Current affairs	documentaries		
Doing	volunteering	Creative writing	Making / designing	Sports	
	Experiencing new places and cultures	Getting a head start on next year's study			



Science: How have different scientists contributed to our understanding of cells?

Curie-osity Club - discuss big science in T2 KS4 lunch Gold Thursdays



Maths: How did Pythagoras help save whales?

Festivals are a big part of religious life. What festivals are happening from now to the end of the year? Identify the religion, the celebrations and any diversity of traditions that exist.

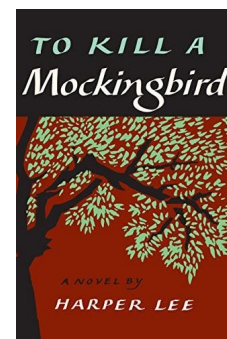
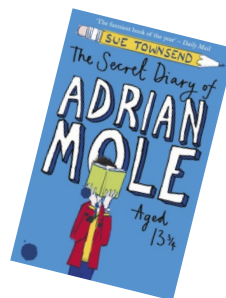
Dear Students and Families,

I wanted to tell you about some of the exciting upcoming and ongoing Literacy initiatives at NCS. It is of paramount importance that students leave NCS with the communication skills to equip them to tackle life with passion, purpose and resilience. The cornerstone of that is highly competent reading skills - we hope the below will be supported by you all.

The Big Read

Students in every year group read the same book with their form tutor, getting the opportunity to discuss the texts and the issues they raise. They are as follows:

- Y7: The Diary of Adrian Mole by Sue Townsend
- Y8: The Curious Incident Of The Dog In The Nighttime by Mark Haddon
- Y9: To Kill A Mockingbird by Harper Lee
- Y10: Oranges are Not The Only Fruit by Jeanette Winterson
- Y11: The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood



Reading Plus

Years 7, 8 and 9 have been undertaking baseline assessments in Reading Plus over the last couple of weeks, and we hope to have these concluded soon. This programme allows students to undertake short reading lessons that directly target the challenges they have with reading, or extend their capabilities.

We saw extraordinary progress in reading ages in our trial last year -and believe regular, short use of the system (about three times a week for 15 mins a time as a minimum) at school and at home will prove revolutionary to the wellbeing and achievements of our students.

We'd be grateful if families can support us with this venture at home as much as possible. Students should know their login details but if you have any difficulty, so contact me on the email address below.

[Watch out for a family information event coming up this term to see how you can best support your child.](#)

NCS 100

We are launching an initiative called NCS 100 - where we challenge students to read as many of the 100 books listed in their time here at NCS. More details to come, but **please look out for a survey coming soon asking on your thoughts on what great books should go on that list.**! What did you love reading as child? What are you enjoying right now that others shouldn't miss out on? What should everyone have read by the time they hit 16? Let us know your thoughts via the survey.

Do contact me with any questions on c.johnson@northcestrian.co.uk





Welcome to our Newest Cestrians!

We are delighted with the excellent start our Y7 cohort has made settling into our Cestrian Way.

We were pleased that over 100 Y7 students attended and benefitted from our summer school activities ranging from drama and creative writing to map reading, numeracy and origami as well as world faiths and mindfulness.

We have also been thrilled with the many high quality optional summer literacy and numeracy projects submitted by Y7s. We are currently in the process of awarding certificates; many projects are also on display.

Behaviour has been admirable in these early days which we look forward to building on this as students aim high academically and develop their Cestrian character traits. We look forward to great things ahead with so many positives which we can build on together.



acef

Providing dignity and opportunity
through education

ACEF is a UK charity which supports a school and orphanage in Mathare North – the biggest slum in Nairobi, Kenya.

Find out more at:

ACEF Ambassadors

Becoming an ACEF ambassador is an ideal way to help other children less-fortunate than yourselves and build some important aspects of your character such as generosity of spirit, responsibility and purposefulness.

We meet at the following times to plan our fundraising for the term but also to build towards a connection with The Brainhouse Academy in Kenya:

Blue Week Tuesdays – KS3 from 1.25 to 1.40 and KS4 from 2.00 to 2.25 in U12 with Mrs Few.

All are welcome to join us and the bigger the team the more fun we can have and the more we can achieve!



