



# NEWSLETTER



## HEAD'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the last Newsletter of the academic year. It's a briefer version as it does not have the usual subject-based content, but an important one, nonetheless.

### Staff News

Jo Walsh has supported Maths interventions for dozens and dozens of pupils who have benefitted from her patient guidance. She has been a stalwart upholder of the Cestrian Way, and I'm sure children will miss her constant reminder of "Tuck your shirt in!". She is moving on to a career in the police.

Viki Bradford has been a tour de force leading the Maths Faculty, to the point where results place the school in the top 20% in the country. Her boundless energy and enthusiasm are infectious and appreciated by pupils, parents and colleagues. She is moving on to a senior leadership position in another school.

Andy Brown has been Pastoral Director for nine years or so and is a long serving member of the North Cestrian, back in the days of it being a private grammar school. He has overseen changes with a clear shared vision, skilfully building a super pastoral team, dealing with pupil and staff matters with wisdom, thoughtfulness and intelligence. I will miss his guidance but also his collegiate manner and good humour. He is having a break from education before moving on to his next life phase.

We wish them all every success and happiness for the future.

### Uniform

We have striven to gain a compromise between affordability and uniformity. Following government guidelines, we have reduced the number of branded items as far as possible while retaining the important identity of the school. We have added to the approved branded supplier outlets to improve competition and convenience. The school tie is now one style which is easier for future purchases and availability. The school 'brand' is important, and the uniform should be always worn smartly and correctly, from home to school and back. We appreciate the branded items are slightly more expensive but are of good quality and value for money. For pupils in receipt of pupil premium funding, and if there is some hardship, please contact school **first BEFORE buying** the branded goods to discuss the level of support we can give.

### Going forwards

We are planning a new lift barrier at the front of the drive to improve safety of vehicles accessing the car park. This should be installed over the summer. Access to the car park will only be via staff fob or by accessing the intercom to reception. For parents who require approved long-term access (eg because of child disability), we will arrange loan of an access fob.

### September Start

Induction ("Boot Camp") of the new Year 7s begins on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September to Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September. These two days are important to train our new pupils in the Cestrian way. The rest of the school joins on a staggered start on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September:

**Year 11 - 0905**

**Year 10 - 0955**

**Year 8 & 9 - 1110**

### And finally...

I am grateful to all staff for their dedication, hard work and professionalism. I am blessed to have such a wonderful set of colleagues. Thank you to the tireless work of the PTFA, your parental support, and our fabulous children for another busy and successful academic year.

# CHARACTER EDUCATION- THE 100<sup>TH</sup> EDITION

***“We have been really pleased with Conor’s progress and his astuteness and willingness to learn. I hope my son will gain these character traits in the next five years.”***

A local employer speaking of Conor (Y10) at the end of his Work Experience

In this bumper 100th edition we celebrate the opportunities to further develop and cement new found character traits in our pupils. Indeed, we wish for all pupils to take the opportunities during the summer to take advantage of the time and self-management to pursue character development opportunities, cultural capital curiosities to build their sophistication, alongside trips and experiences which will undoubtedly develop rich and fulfilling lives. As ever,

Nearly 30 pupils from Year 9 and Year 7 took part in the Grip Adventures trip as a reward to further develop their resilience and sophistication. All the young people were keen to ascend to new heights and take the plunge! (well get a bit wet from a splash or two!) North Cestrian is incredibly proud of how they represented NCS school, how older pupils cared for Year 7, and how everyone’s growth mindset and can-do attitude flourished.



*If you are in year 7, 8 or 9 next year and want to take part in the 2024 Building Confidence and Resilience you should email me an early application of how this would match your character development plans!*



The ‘Going Green for the Day’ was a resounding success. Pupils wore green to show their commitment to environmental causes which we challenged them to put ahead of any social and economic priorities. Letter from My Grandchild competition winner is Isla C (7MBR)! Her letter included: “I wish my generation had what you had - the rainforests, coral reefs, and polar bears, I wish you have been more thoughtful and passionate grandma!”

Many pupils stuck their environmental pledges to the pledge tree designed by the GCSE Art Class. “Blanket not heating”, “Buy local wonky veg”! Pupils donated over £1000 and selected the charity they wished to support. 42% of the funds went to Friends of the Earth, 23% to The National Trust, and 35% to the NCS Greener Environment Initiatives.

We challenged the pupils to buy less single use plastics and the number dropped from 1085 in the last week of June to 880 during last week.

North Cestrian gives a major thank you to the regional and in-house Sodexo team for providing new sustainable food options for lunch each day (including using veg from our school garden!), sustainability film, sustainable smoothies, Lean Wastepath, and a Wonky Veg stall.

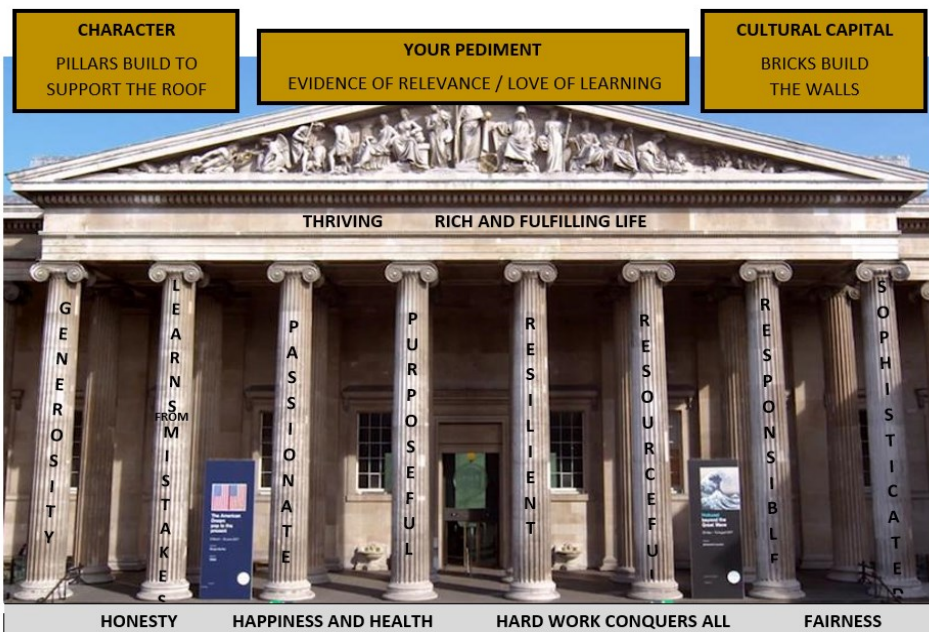


**“Cultural Capital is the essential knowledge that pupils need to be educated citizens, introducing them to the best that has been thought and said, and helping to engender an appreciation of human creativity and achievement.”**

*The Schools’ Inspection Handbook*

Cultural Capital is the second thread of character education at NCS. You can see Resourcefulness and Sophistication in the eight character traits and through cultural capital we are seeking to pique the young person’s curiosity to broaden and deepen their knowledge by appreciating the foundations and cornerstones of knowledge, and experiencing the very best that human’s have achieved. It is through this that we seek to enable today’s generation to stand on the shoulders of past giants and push the frontiers of application and innovation in the 21st century.

By clicking the image below pupils will access the cultural capital that goes beyond that which we can expose them to in lessons. The link covers all subjects. By acquiring this knowledge and following your own path deeper and more sophisticated debate and public speaking can take place in lessons. Just as with character, we encourage parents to expose their children to build their cultural capital through what they visit, read, listen to, and do. Piquing interest and feeding curiosity to research the route into their future.



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

Cultural capital investments of up to £20 are made for those pupils who are regularly exploring and reflecting on the opportunities. Through the further use of experiences, reading material, and trips, pupils are asked to showcase their new understanding in their class, newsletter, and school assemblies.

**Winners of the Character Benchmarks Certificates below**

Alex C (Y10): **Voluntary Work:** assistant leader at 14th Sale Beavers / Cubs; **Community Work:** providing refreshments at St. Annes Church; **Leisure Pursuits:** Explorers kayaking, Airsoft, bushcraft and hikes; **Artistic Creativity:** Lego and Minecraft recreations of World War II battles; **Performance Creativity:** Legally Blonde acting with Footlights, Cello for Trafford Music at Stoller Hall, Rock School Band lead guitar; **Debating/Public speaking:** NCS Debate Club; **Team competition:** regional tournament for dance trope; **Building Cultural Capital:** visiting Leeds Armoury.

Tristan R (Y7): **Voluntary Work:** Garrick Playhouse in the Altrincham Festival Parade, Garrick stall at the RHS Tatton flower show; **Community Work:** litter pick with 4th Bowden Scouts; **Leisure Pursuits:** bike riding, reading and nature walks; **Artistic Creativity:** Warhammer clubs involves the building and painting of the models; **Performance Creativity:** acting in Garrick Academy; **Debating/Public speaking:** I want to join the NCS Debating Society; **Team competition:** NCS Sports Day and Dodgeball team; **Individual competition:** debut at NCS Chess tournament, BMMA Green Belt; **Building Cultural Capital:** read The History Britain & Tudor History.

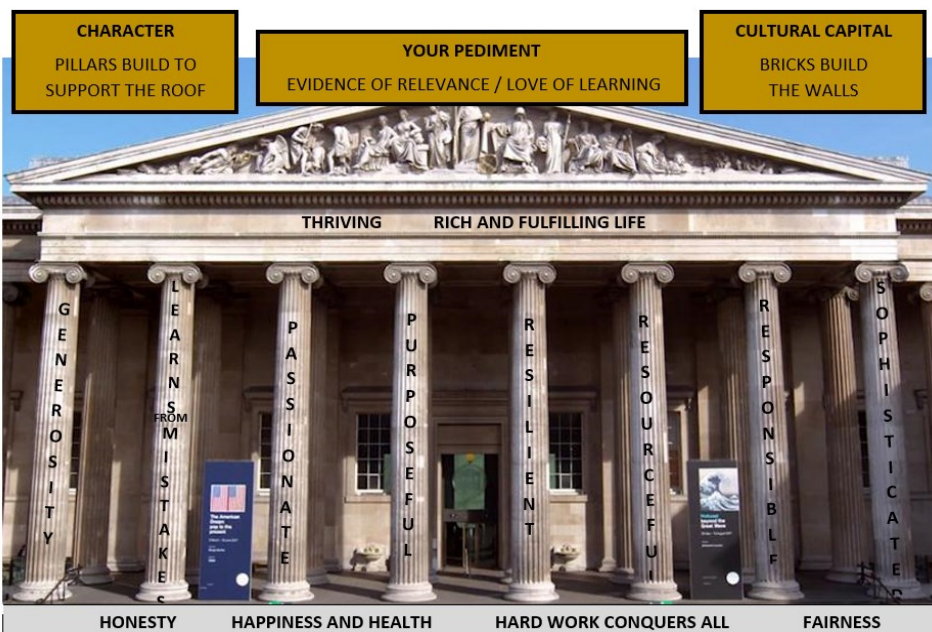
Character education and cultural capital is at the heart of a rich and fulfilling life, which is fuelled by pursuing a rich and fulfilling career. You can download all your Character Education feedback from Arbor. This will help you to remember to use it on applications and in interviews when applying for Prefect Roles, Further educations, and jobs.

*"It is our utmost duty to invest in our children. The dividends of which, they and we will reap, are limitless. Opportunities are available either provided by the school or sourced from home. They just need to be grasped. Some may not work out, but some will enable the discovery of new passions. As Chaucer wrote in The Canterbury Tales, "Nothing ventured, nothing gained."*

*Mrs Calvert, North Cestrian parent of pupils in Y5, Y8, and Y10.*

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## Winners of Half Term 6 Character and Cultural Capital investments!

*“The first to arrive is the first to succeed”. Chinese proverb*

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

### Year 7 Winners

**Cultural Capital: Arnav M (7VJE), Gaby R (7JMI), Tze Yan Baumber (7MBR)**

**Character Development: Lizzie H (7DWI), Emma T (7DWI)**

### Year 8 Winners

**Cultural Capital: Jayan P (8RDO), Roni F (8JDE), James A (8RDO)**

**Character Development: Kiera S (8SFE), Demah F (8RDO), William C (8EKL), Sienna E (8EKL)**

### Year 9 Winners

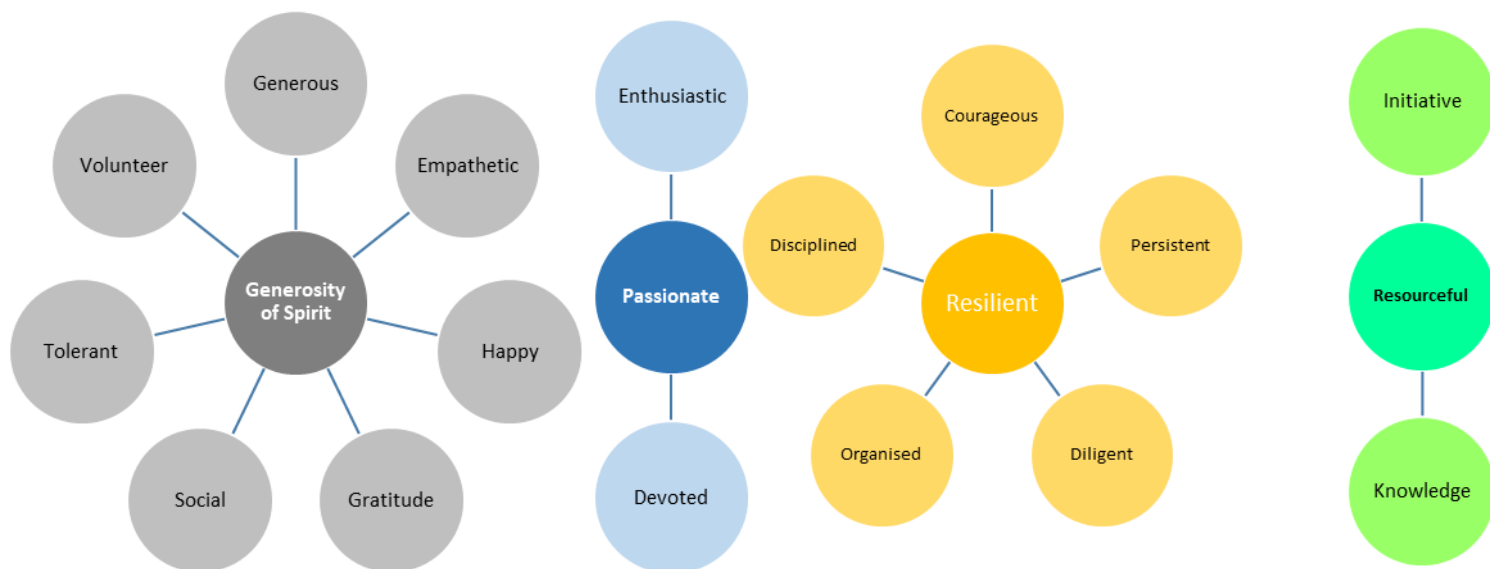
**Cultural Capital: Amelia B (9MWO), Oliver M (9MWO)**

**Character Development: Caitlin R (9MWO), Calla W (9HVA), Arabella D (9LCO), Shashank J (9MWO), Praise O**

### Year 10 Winners

**Cultural Capital: Millen L (10ASI), Mina A (10ACL)**

**Character Development: Amy P (10JJA), Naomi A (10JJA)**



**Have a good summer! Watch the FIFA Women’s World Cup from Thursday. See which character traits you can spot. In September we will enjoy a series of looking at character in sport.**

Thank you to parents and teachers who are the coaches, mentors, and supporters of every North Cestrian pupils' character education. Together as we help our youngster discover and then kindle their passions and purposes, it is easy to see all NCS character traits in the stories you have told me .

***“For I dipped into the future, far as the human eye could see;  
saw the vision of the world, and all the wonder that would be.”***

**Tennyson, 1842.**

Our Personal Development opportunities are cherished and championed and equal partner to the academic progress in the life of a North Cestrian. Indeed, much of the purpose of secondary education is to transition the pupil from relying on adults through a journey to 'self': self-confidence, self-management, self-belief, self-reliable, self-discipline, self-aware, and so on... 'self'. At North Cestrian, everyone can do this with help from the team around them: peers, friend teachers, tutors, support staff, the PTA, governors, parents, family, and community. The happy, safe, and ambitious youngster should be guiding us: what could you help me discover? How could I develop that?

***“There are no passengers on spaceship Earth, we are all crew!”***

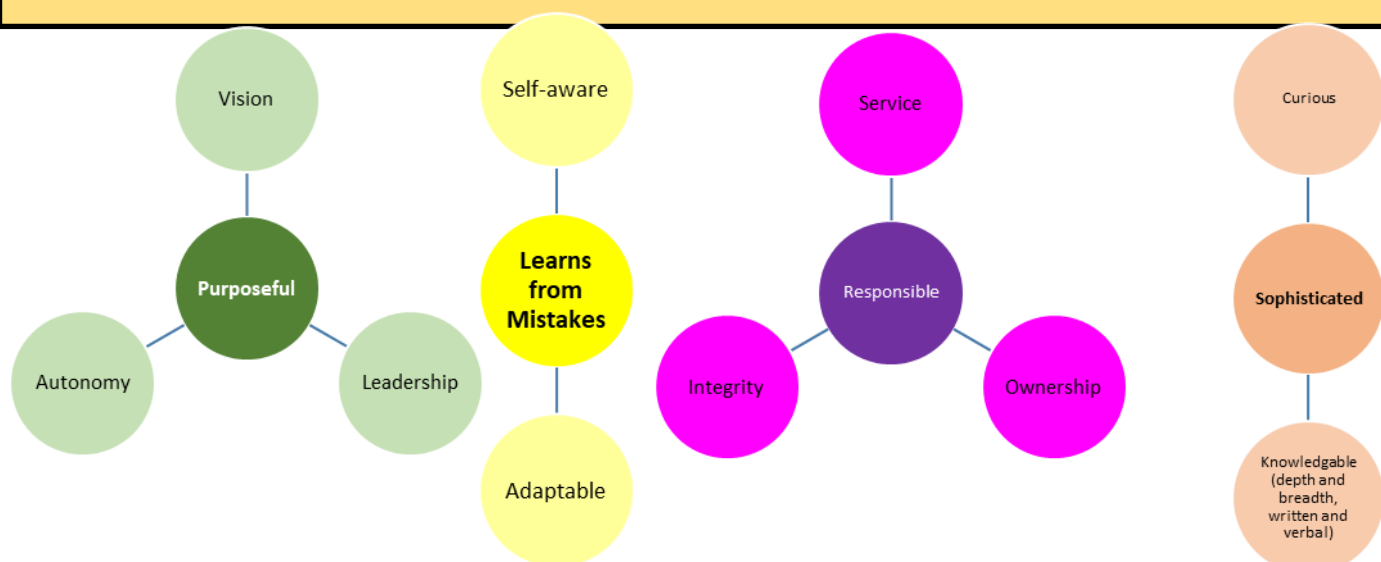
**Marshall McLuhan, philosopher.**

We have five years together to kindle pupils' life long achievements. What you are and what you do today is influenced by the Cestrian Way just the same as what you are and what you do at 18, 26, as parents, and as future leaders will be influenced by what we do together at North Cestrian.

Everyone should have the opportunities on offer at NCS and our ethos is to use resources to reduce barriers and enable everyone to thrive. Dream big, take it to the next level, pay it back, pass it on.

***“We choose to go to the Moon... not because [it is] easy, but because [it is] hard.”***

**President Kennedy**



**Stand on the shoulders of giants, reach for the stars!**

Have a great Summer!

