



# NEWSLETTER

5 May 2023



## Head Master's Message:

We have spent some time on 'pupil voice' this week: Mr Bell will be sending round a set of questions for pupils to answer about their subjects, as opposed to the whole school. We use the results as a litmus test for the effectiveness of the education we deliver and inform areas for development. It's important to tell the pupils that we do listen, and act and their voice is responded to.

No doubt some families will show a great deal of interest in the coronation this weekend. Some may show no interest. It's not for me to promote a republican or monarchist viewpoint. However, the coronation is an historic event in the life of a country. On that basis alone I would hope our pupils have opportunity to witness the occasion live at some point. I think it's healthy if communities have some common focal point for conversation and interaction. Like the weather, good or bad, you can't avoid it and it's always a good topic to chat about.

A reminder that Monday 8<sup>th</sup> is a bank holiday and school re-opens on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May.



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### Dates:

Monday 8 May  
Bank Holiday

Weds 10 May  
PTFA Meeting

# DEPUTY REFLECTIONS - CHARACTER EDUCATION

*"Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely.*

*The real safeguard of democracy, therefore, is education."*

Franklin D. Roosevelt (former President of USA)

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



The first round of pupil voice is now complete. 453 pupils responded and gave a great insight into their experiences of life at North Cestrian.

There is now a second round of pupil voice to find out about pupils' experiences in their subjects. In order to effectively collate the information, each class is sent their own link to the survey (so a generic link or QR cannot be created here).

**PLEASE LOOK FOR THE LINK TO THE SECOND ROUND OF PUPIL VOICE—YOUR EXPERIENCES IN SUBJECTS — ON YOUR EMAIL.**

Pupils will have one week to complete the Forms Questionnaire. As always, I encourage parents share in your child's review!



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

**Investing in character development together!**

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 of the British Museum 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.

**Build your Character Benchmarks Certificate**

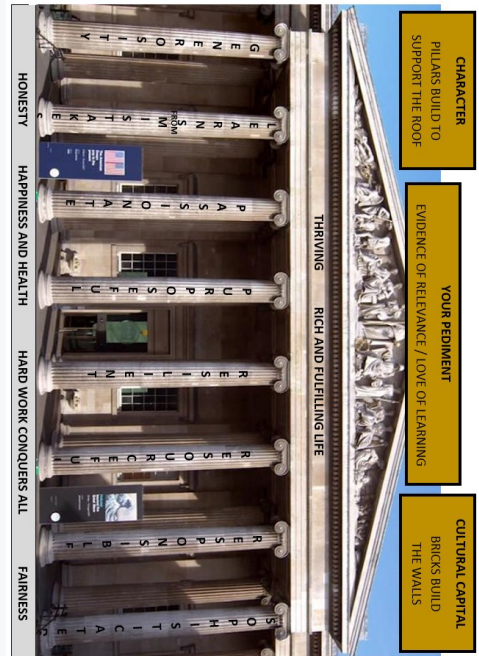
Know someone building their Cultural Capital?  
**[Click to nominate.](#)**

**In 2022...**

**93% of pupils said that they felt safe at school all the time. So, we listened to those pupils who said they didn't feel safe at school and tried to act on their advice. Since then, we**

Removed all queuing outside (where there was potential for "queue jumping" and "older pupils pushing in") in favour of safe and calm queuing inside and by sitting down in the Dining Hall, provided separate spaces and doors for Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 pupils.

Some younger pupils felt unsafe with older pupils in toilets or on the playground at the same time, so we have provided separate toilets for Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4, enable different lunch times so younger pupils are at leisure while older ones are in lessons (and vice versa), ensure that we protect playground space for calm, relaxation (and give over just the lower playground to ball games).





## Are mobile phones harming pupils' concentration?

The latest research has shown that mobile phones pose problems for students' attention in various aspects of their lives, from hindering their learning to reducing enjoyment and engagement in other activities.

### A recent studies have suggested that..

- students check their phones on average every 8.6 minutes!
- students who spent more time on phone apps were less likely to get their schoolwork done and more likely to lose track of time.
- the blue light emitted by mobile phones can cause eye strain, fatigue, and disrupts sleep patterns. This further reduces the ability to concentrate and study effectively.
- the mere presence of a mobile phone can make students miss out on the full experience of a fun activity. Notifications, messages, and social media alerts can easily distract them from the present moment and harm both their engagement and enjoyment.

### Possible solutions:

- Limit notifications by **changing settings** to choose what is notified and when.
- **Let friends know** when you are back online to ensure they aren't disturbed and to avoid the temptation of texting during a studying session.
- Declare study space/desk a **phone-free zone** to help improve focus and productivity. Out of sight, out of mind is the key here. Establishing a rule that keeps their phone completely out of their way will increase students' focus on the task at hand and eliminate any potential digital disruptions.
- Use apps to help **limit screen time** - apps like Forest incentivises users to refrain from touching their phones for a set period of time by allowing a digital plant to grow as a reward for their discipline.



## Year 10 & 11

\***Make sure parents complete the online form to give permissions for study leave.**

Email [s.askey@northcestrian.co.uk](mailto:s.askey@northcestrian.co.uk) if you have not received the form.

Make sure that you have had a copy of the NCS Exam Handbook and have completed the online declaration to say that you have read, and understand, the examination rules for written exams and coursework if it is relevant to you.

Copies can be found on the school website [here](#)

## Year 10 Exams 2-12<sup>th</sup> May

Business & Music only for 8.30am on May 2<sup>nd</sup>

All Y10 pupils in school for 11am English exam.

Early finish to school 3<sup>rd</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> May with parental permission\*.

**All pupils in school full time from Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

## Year 11 Study Leave

May 15<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> all Y11 in school from 8.30am.

**Early finish with parental permission\*.**

June 5<sup>th</sup> onwards, in school for exams only. Some revision/study sessions will be offered during this time.

**All expected to attend Maths sessions P3-4 June 5<sup>th</sup> and June 13<sup>th</sup>**

## Business Simulation

A week before Easter we were giving the opportunity to enter a business simulation competition against other schools from around the world. With a very short deadline to ensure we had a place, I chose the students who would enter on behalf of the school. It was great that I had students who had demonstrated passion for Business through their own autonomy, which made it easy to decide who to select.

Eleora, Sami and Ryan have been working together as Team Paradisio since 17th April. They completed 3 hours training to go through the first two round of the competition.

They are competing against 95 teams from 36 countries. They currently stand in first place in their group.



## Outstanding Learners

**Year 11 - Arishma A** and **Anna W**, demonstrate each lesson the importance of coming to lesson with a purpose. They seek every opportunity to use feedback and improve each response.

**Year 10 - Jad A** has shown lots of responsibility recently, ensuring his time in lesson is focused on his academic performance.

**Year 10 Azka S** - demonstration passion for the subject, using her lunch break to sit with me and develop her answers in line with the specification.

## Year 11

Since we returned from the Easter break, Year 11 have been focussing on revision. Students have been given the opportunity to highlight topics they want further support with and tailor the remaining lessons to meet their needs.

We have been able to get the insights from some experienced examiners and it is important that students continue to make use of this in the build up to the GCSEs.



# COMPUTING

KS3 Computing, GCSE Computer Science and  
OCR Creative iMedia

## Anumana Code Club

Next week is the last week of this club until next academic year.

It has been fantastic to see the students gaining more skills in Python Programming and working with University of Manchester students to gain an insight into future courses and careers.

## Star Learners

KS3	Evelyn C, Kiera S, Tashi Y, Leon N, Taylor U, Callum McG, Yousef M, Lina A-S, Sofie A, Cyrus H, Maisy C, Faredah R, Eleora B.
GCSE Comp Sci	Angel G, Jad A, Nehir D, Sophia A, Jafar B, Andy G
Creative iMedia	Connor A, Harry P



## iDEA Award

All students have received an email about the iDEA Award.

This is an opportunity to build digital skills outside of the curriculum and includes elements of finance and business.

In addition to gaining valuable skills, there are queue skip passes available for those who completed both the bronze and silver awards.

## ESports News

Years 11 and 9 have completed their fixtures for this year.

Year 11 Winners - Tymon M, Sarri M, and Irfan A  
Year 9 Winners - Ben S, Max L and Ivan F

Year 8 fixtures will resume on Monday 15th May

PLAY

## Esafety tips for Parents

With more and more online tools and platforms being made available every day, stay up to date with tips to keep your child safe online. There are a range of guides for different platforms and games available here: <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/guides>

## Good Luck Year 11!

Miss Collins and Mr Worswick would like to wish all of Year 11 Computer Science and Creative iMedia the best of luck for their upcoming exams.

Both are happy for year 11 students to drop in for support in the lead up to these final exams.



## YEAR 7 NOTICE

I hope you are enjoying the improved weather and longer days. As Year 7 enter their final term at North Cestrian, we are likely to have improved weather. Can I issue a notice that students should not be coming to school with water pistols, or water balloons, nor should students be spraying each other with water bottles. I appreciate this may be good harmless fun at a weekend, a holiday, or an evening, however it's not appropriate school behaviour. Anyone found with water pistols will be sanctioned, have them removed and disposed of. Thank you for your support.

As we move in to this final term, please use this as a chance to work with your young person on their next steps. Following on from parents evening, does your young person know how to make improvements? Do they know where they can access revision materials? Do they know how to access the Cultural Capital opportunities? If they don't, and you're not able to help them either, please encourage them to check in with their form tutor so they can flourish in the final term. I would encourage everyone to try and take on a Cultural Capital opportunity. Have a lovely bank holiday weekend.

Mr Bailey



**SUMMER** 29 JUN  
**CONCERT**

VANSTONE HALL  
NORTH CESTRIAN  
ALTRINCHAM

*Live performances from...*

with the & pupil band

**THE** **POP** **THE POLICY**  
**BAND** **CHOIR** **MAKERS**

*Plus, many more performances from our wonderful musicians at North Cestrian!*

**TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW via PARENTMAIL**



# BAG 2 SCHOOL

## FREE FUNDRAISING FOR SCHOOLS

In partnership with your school or organisation



North Cestrian School



Bag 2 School is a company that specialises in the reuse and recycling of good quality second-hand clothing and we have arranged to make a collection from your school. All the bags will be weighed and you will be paid for the total weight collected. Remember, the more you collect the greater the benefit to your school.



By using this paper leaflet we are helping to reduce unnecessary extra plastic. Please use your own bag or bags (there is no limit). The leaflet is FSC accredited, please recycle it.

When the clothes have been removed from the bag the plastic will be packed and sent for recycling.

***We are collecting good quality items for RE-USE:***

**Men's, ladies' & children's clothing, paired shoes, handbags, belts & accessories.**

**(No uniforms, workwear, pillows, duvets or pieces of fabric please)**

***The more we weigh the more we pay!***

***Extra bags are welcome - there's no limit***

***Please return your Bag2School on:***



**JULY 2023**

 01609 780 222

 [www.bag2school.com](http://www.bag2school.com)

 [helpdesk@bag2school.com](mailto:helpdesk@bag2school.com)

North Cestrian School PTFA

**New 100 club**

**2 Draws Annually**

**£250 prize**

**ANNUAL ENTRY IS £12 WHICH GIVES YOU  
ENTRY TO BOTH DRAWS IN JULY & DECEMBER**

**THE MORE ENTRIES YOU HAVE THE MORE CHANCE  
OF WINNING VIA PARENTMAIL PMX**

**PTFA NORTH CESTRIAN SCHOOL,  
DUNHAM ROAD, ALTRINCHAM  
WA14 4AJ**