



Newsletter - 8th March 2024

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8th March 2024

In This Issue...



Headmaster's Message



Ms Johnson led the charge on Literacy this week culminating in World Book Day yesterday. During the lead up she delivered a number of assemblies that explained how developing one's reading skills leads to growing confidence and in turn greater successes in school, well-being and the workplace. The word confidence stems from Latin meaning 'with trust'. It is about having faith and trust in your abilities. Reading builds confidence in several ways. Firstly, it's good for your mental health; it reduces stress, improves brain connectivity, reduces cognitive decline and aids empathy. Secondly, all reading helps

other reading; the ability to comprehend, use vocabulary, express oneself improve, the more you read. So it aids learning as well as navigating the world around you. Parents, I ask that you continue to support your child with their reading. Be role models, ask them about what they're reading, check they are doing their Reading Plus tasks, show interest and provide reading material. This is very difficult if they are too engaged on social media, so limit their time and encourage reading something instead. All pupils have school reading books – do you know what their book is?

TAPAS Evening

A huge thank you to all those engaged in the TAPAS evening yesterday: Mr Millard has worked like a Trojan to get this event up and running. The atmosphere, food and service were all excellent; the chefs were magnificent. Thanks, too to Mrs Hayes and the MFL department and Mr Wilson and his pupil band for completing the Spanish feel and as always to our brilliant PTFA for their unerring help.

Science Trip

Much of Year 7 and some Year 8 spent Thursday afternoon with friends at AGSB in a joint science activity day. It is to be hoped that the many fun and interesting talks and activities inspire the boys and girls into courses and careers in science. Thank you to Dr Rodger for all the arrangements.

Attendance

School attendance hovers around 93%: while this is above national average it means in effect that on average, pupils are missing 13 days of schooling – just over two and a half weeks. The only reason children should be away from school is illness. All other absences must be authorised by the Headmaster. Please do everything you can to ensure your child attends school. There is a strong positive connection, unsurprisingly, between school attendance and examination success.

Deputy Reflections



Take the opportunity to read the Arbor information on your child. How many Character comments do they have? 92% of pupil received at least one in half term 3.

A few weeks ago I ask parents, pupils, and staff to nominate pupils for the resilience workshops. These will take place in the next two week as part of timetabled lessons. Over 100 pupils will benefit from these one-to-one or small group workshops exploring the techniques to build resilience. I invite parents and staff, and of course the pupils themselves, to recognise that growth in resilience and point it so that it can be celebrated and growth further. In next week's assemblies all pupils will engage in an overview of these easy techniques and little confidence boosts to the ownership of a situation will hopefully results in anything from improved coping strategies, and more motivation-interest and self belief, to greater wellbeing and social mobility bringing a rich and fulfilling life to fruition.

This week's request for parent voice stems from the great work of the Parents' Steering Group on Character Education and last week's parents' workshop. Character Education would like to support development by knowing which clubs / societies / groups your child is part of beyond their school life. We could support their development by bringing those skills to the fore in school, by providing space to lead, and of course highlight the many and varied rich and fulfilling lives that might motivate others to follow you!. Please complete this Form Questionnaire with some details.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=BMpVtRm7BkGSpgMFydIHTQXATWouq4hJi0G5-4C8dedUNEo5RFpQSk1RMEtHM0dTQ09JODI4SkpMUC4u>

MR CLIFFE ALREADY COLLECTS YOUR SPORTS CLUBS INFORMATION SO THINK BEYOND SPORT CLUBS IN THIS FORM QUESTIONNAIRE.



1 - QR CODE LINK TO THE questionnaire FOR EVERYONE!

- See if you are on the [character news](#)
- Check out the latest [character development opportunities](#) or continue to build your [character bench mark certificate](#).
- [You can Nominate a Pupil for their Character Development here.](#)

- Pique your interest for the [cultural capital](#) and [send in your reflections](#)

ACADEMIC NEWS - Exam Updates

EXAM UPDATES

- **Year 11 GCSE Art Exam** is confirmed as Friday 19th April and Monday 22nd April all day (10 hours total)
- **Year 11 GCSE Spanish Speaking exams** are still to be confirmed – Likely 25th, 26th April and 3rd of May. Mrs Hayes and her team will let individuals know their specific exam times in the coming weeks.
- **Year 10 exams** are confirmed as Tues 16th April to Thursday 25th April inclusive. Pupils will be in school from 8.30am but will be allowed to go home at 12.40pm with parental permission. A form will be sent to parents in a few weeks. The proposed schedule can be seen below.
- **4 things students should avoid when revising** – Distractions from phones, listening to music, cramming, and not getting enough sleep. Read the article [here](#)

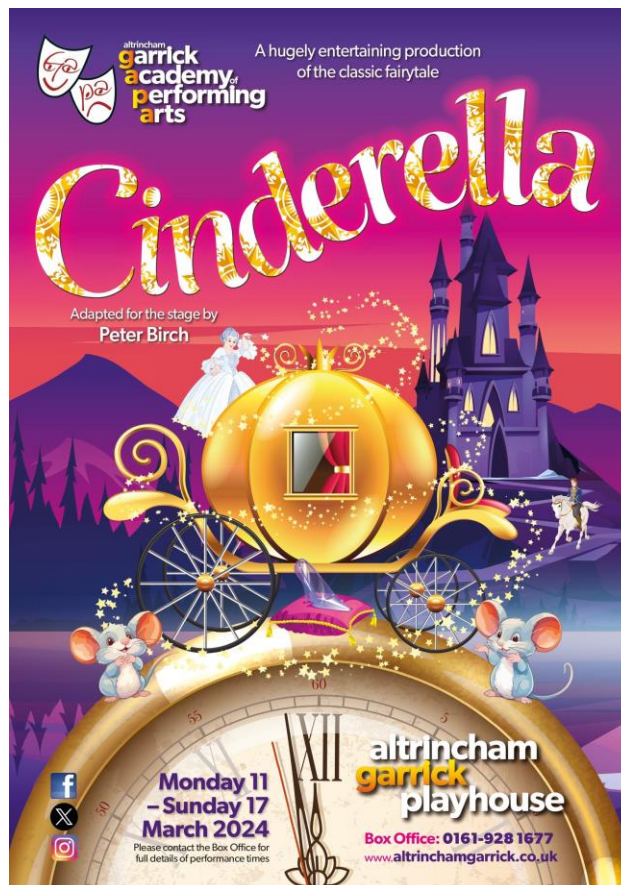
	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	
8.30am	15-Apr	16-Apr	17-Apr	18-Apr	19-Apr	
P1	Normal Lessons all day	ENGLISH LIT 2:15	Business(1:45), Engin(1:30), Media (1:30)	MATHS 1 (no calc) 1:30	Psych (1:35), Stats(1:30) Food (1:45)	
P2					CIM (1:40) CWK (1:45)	
BR						
P3						
P4	Exam Team prep day	Spanish W & R (1:00, 0:45) Drama (0:45)	RS 1 & 2 50 + 50 min	HISTORY 2hrs	GEOGRAPHY 1:30	
P5a						
P5b						
P6						
	LUNCH &/or HOME REVISION OR HOME					
	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	
	22-Apr	23-Apr	24-Apr	25-Apr	26-Apr	
P1	ENGLISH LANG 1:45	Music (1:00), Sport (1:00), H&Soc (1:30)	BIOLOGY 1:15 / 1:45	MATHS 2 calc 1:30	Normal Lessons & Catch ups all day	
P2						
BR						Art (1:40) CWK
P3						
P4	Spanish Listening (0:40)	PHYSICS 1:15 / 1:45	Computing (1:30)	CHEMISTRY 1:15 1:45		
P5a						
P5b						
P6						
	LUNCH &/or HOME REVISION OR HOME					

Dates for your Diary

Key Dates

Advanced Notice:

- Fri 8th to 17th Mar - Science Week
- Mon 11th Mar - Start of Ramadan
- Thu 14th Mar - Pi Day
- Fri 15th Mar - Red Nose Day
- Fri 22nd Mar - PTFA Easter Bingo
- Thu 28th Mar - Term Finishes 3.20pm



2 - Aidan F (Y8) is building many aspects of his character through his work with the Altrincham Garrick Theatre. So, if you would like to see the Cinderella show then check out the tickets here [Cinderella - A GAPA Spring Pantomime | Altrincham Garrick](#). If you would like to get involved in any aspect of performance then please contact Aidan or the theatre, there is also voluntary work available - all great to build your character benchmarks with!

North Cestrian School PTFA

NCS LOTTERY

2 Draws Annually

£250 prize

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

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

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

Photo: www.Pixabay.com

NORTH CESTRIAN PTFA
MARCH 22ND 2024

CESTRIAN FAMILY



Easter BINGO



**DOORS
OPEN
6.30PM**

**BAR
OPENS AT
6.40PM**

**EYES
DOWN
7.10PM**

**ADULT £5 / CHILD £3
WHICH
INCLUDES 3
BINGO TICKETS**
via pmx.parentmail.co.uk

**DAUBERS &
REFRESHMENTS**
will be available to
purchase.

**PLEASE NOTE CHILDREN MUST BE
ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT**



Cestrian Gold Award



We have our first three pupils with 80 stamps on their Rewards Passport. This is an amazing achievement halfway through the academic year. The common thread amongst them was their dedication to using Reading Plus, and all had Silver Awards in Literacy as a result. **Many congratulations to Laasya C, 7ITA; Harshi V, 7RMI; and Chloe W, 7JBA.** The girls earn their Cestrian Role Model Pen, our new gold wheatsheaf badges and have identified personal prizes of a notebook, school bag and a board game.

Trafford Netball



Year 9 Trafford Tournament - Thursday 29th February

The tournament was held at Stretford Grammar. Despite the bitterly cold weather and some strong opposition, the girls played with commendable determination and resolve.

NCS v Stretford Grammar. **MVP Seren K** - Seren was excellent in her defensive/jumping ability.

NCS v Wellington School. **MVP Angelika V** - Angelika displayed impressive attacking and shooting skills.

NCS v Ashton on Mersey School. **MVP Layla A** - Layla had an outstanding game at Centre, linking attack and defence and as captain, leading the team.

NCS v Urmston Grammar. **MVP Serafina J** - A fine shooting performance from Serafina.

Mrs Lawson

ENGLISH

The Horizon Post Office Scandal

In the early part of the spring term, Year 9 students worked on a unit where they study documentaries as part of our understanding of how the Media works, and to practice transactional writing. Some classes looked at the documentary *Mr Bates - v - The Post Office: The Real Story*, and were moved by the injustice meted upon Post Office Masters. The students' response to the documentary was to write a letter to their MP, and indeed they did write to The Rt Hon Sir Graham Brady. Sir Graham wrote a personal reply to each of our students addressing their concerns, assuring them he valued the view of the younger members of his constituency. Our Y9 students were happy to see our democratic process in action, and are looking forward to a promised visit by Sir Graham to discuss parliamentary affairs later in the school year.

BBC Young Reporter

BBC Young Reporter Competition is a journalism project for students aged 11 to 18 across the UK. It's a unique extra-curricular opportunity to share story ideas with BBC journalists, producers and programme makers, with the best ideas being selected and broadcast across the BBC on television, radio or online. North Cestrian are looking forward to a visit from BBC Journalist Suzanne King on 8th March to offer some insight and guidance into how to find and structure a story for BBC news. The competition deadline is Sunday 24th March at 23:00. Please make sure your entries are in!

Midsummer Night's Dream

Casting has just begun for a Year 7 production of *Midsummer Night's Dream* to be performed for parents, family and friends in the spring term.

World Book Day

What another wonderful celebration of reading we had yesterday at NCS for World Book Day!

Our theme was horror and it was fantastic to see so many terrifying costumes from staff and student alike - our winners of the costume competition were Daniel C, Aidan F, and Alice R. Our costume clinic and Book Cafe were full!

We have been having briefings all week based on CONFIDENCE in reading, reminding students of all the buffet of reading activities that they can involved in; the NCS100 and Journals, book reviews in trackers, Book Cafe, and Reading Buddies to name but a few. The star of the briefing was Laasya C from Y7 - who demonstrated exactly why reading regularly breeds confidence, as she discussed how Reading Plus had

improved her reading age by 2 years in the last 5 months, and how she has read over 170,000 words. Her target is now to improve accuracy.

In lessons, we were treated to reading horror stories written by our very own students, (and in some English lessons, writing stories based on this inspiration.) They had entered the Horror Story competition, and our winners were: Sophie S, Morten M, Eva C, Praise O, Hayden R, Ruby H.

Many congratulations to them, who are accomplished writers beyond their years - the rest of the student body were really impressed and enjoyed the stories enormously.

We were also 'treated' to some ghostly visitations around school with some storytelling.....or were we?

Can any student who submitted an entry to the story competition or who came in costume, collect a Reward Passport stamp from Miss Johnson asap!

Students from Y7-10 have also received a physical WBD voucher for a free book from a selection, or for £1 off a book of their choice - available in all good bookshops. Y11 have received a digital version. Can anyone who has not received a voucher, come and see Miss Johnson.

We also enjoyed debates in our form groups about our Big Read texts - please do a review in your tracker and return to your form tutor by the first day back after Easter (Mon 15th April)

Don't forget the WBD Great NCS Book Hunt based on staff reading posters round school - get a quiz sheet from LH4. Deadline is Thursday 14th March.

Happy World Book Day, and good luck with gaining confidence in Reading!



Oxford Union Debating Competition 2024

The North Cestrian Debate Team made another outing to Manchester Grammar School to take part in the Oxford Union Debate Regional Finals in February, and although we went with measured expectations given the quality and intensity of the competition, our teams were perfect examples of Cestrian Character, resilient and persevering with passion, rising to the challenge! I'll let the students tell you more. Miss Johnson.

The debate trip was genuinely such an interesting and different experience for me. I remember going into the room, nervous about what would happen. What would it be like for me? I remember all the

other people from different schools hoarding around the place and preparing intensely with notebooks, and discussions just as we were. After we received the motion for our topic of debate, we all were sent to a private room going against other schools. As an observer, I realised how intense it had gotten and how some schools were passionately questioning our statements as we were to them. I still recall watching in awe as the debate began, the rules were so different. You had to cover so many points to make your argument valid and even though the judges gave us some harsh feedback to improve on, we still managed to stay optimistic and point out where we were wrong in some cases and how to fix it for next time. Overall, this was an amazing experience I have learnt from as I got to see how the rules of debate are in the real world. Safa A y10.

From the start to when we arrived to the end I was so excited through out my experience at the debating competition even just as a spectator! It was thrilling to watch everyone from different schools and colleges in smart uniforms taking seats awaiting to be registered, curious about what topics were going to be debated and how different students would debate. You can tell those who go to private schools and have been debating a long time, it was good to learn from them. I think year 11s did very well considering the more experienced the others were as well the intimidating environment of elders. I enjoyed my time there a lot! Amelie H y10.

Pi Day is approaching!



Pi Day – Thursday, March 14 – Join in!

Thursday is Pi Day, March 14th, when we celebrate pi as a famous maths number relating to circles and spheres, 3.14... We welcome ALL to engage in our pi opportunities such as:

- **Pi Recital competition** in **U1** during KS3 and KS4 **lunch**. Come and recite as many decimal places of pi as you can recall. Compete against your own target or against others.
- **Bake sale**. Please bring **baked goods to U1 or U5 Wednesday or Thursday morning**. Pies (home-made or shop-bought) or cakes decorated to celebrate pi are particularly welcome. Bake sale will take place during **break and lunch in Vanstone Hall** with proceeds going to **ACEF** to support maths learning in Nairobi.

- **Cultural capital opportunities** Students are invited to create a **pi poster** showing interesting facts about pi such as its history, applications and related careers. Be sure to also explore the cultural capital link for opportunities on the school website:

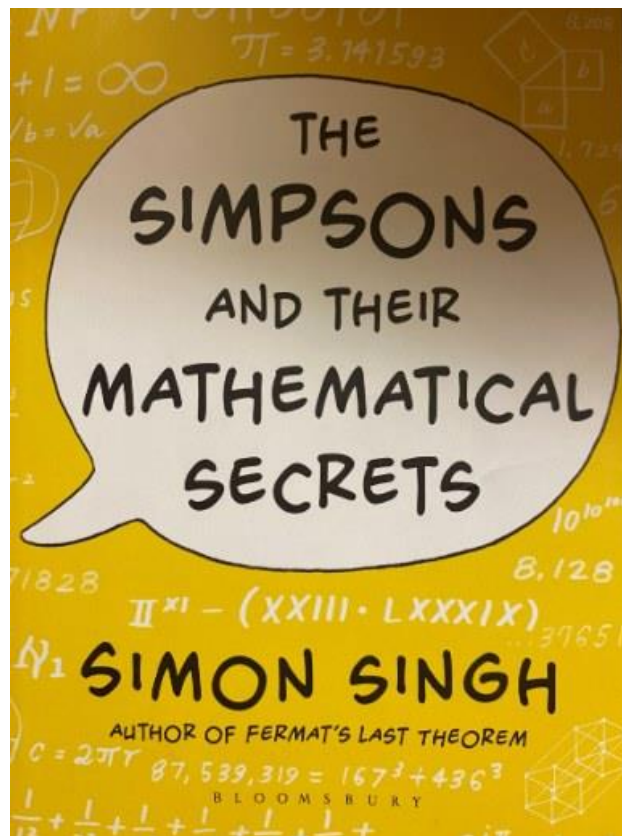
Students can access the following when logged in to their school email accounts.

[CULTURAL CAPITAL & CHARACTER OPPORTUNITIES](#)

Below is an example of posters received so far, investigating pi's history and purpose as well as advertising Pi Day activities. Well done and thank you to Asmita, Riya, Sarah, Amelia and Shashank.

The book, from the **NCS 100 List** and containing chapters about pi, has inspired one of our Maths lesson Pi Day activities. (Some of the other chapters have inspired some highly sophisticated discussion about infinity on World Book Day.)

We look forward to celebrating together and helping all increase their appreciation of pi and sophistication on Thursday's Pi Day - 3.14. **Join the fun!**



Cestrian Futures

Dear Parents, Carers & Students,

Since my last correspondence regarding placements. It is great to see so much engagement from pupils and parents requesting places. We have 14 companies and placements on our books some of which have been utilised to reach out for our current student body.

As of today we have 26 official placements secured. 9 placements are waiting on the employer to complete their forms. 2 placements awaiting parent/guardian agreement. Email nudges have been sent to all parties.

Students have been advised on how to secure placements during their 'Careers' programme with many having their shortlists to go from whilst some students have emailed to inform me they have family/friends who will be willing to accept them for their placement.

To further support the process and demonstrate Unifrog and how to load a placement I held a Parental workshop to assist uploading and using the Unifrog platform. I will also be available next Tuesday please use the link below to access:

[Tuesday 12th March @5pm: Parental workshop Link](#)

(Students can access this when logged in to their school email accounts)

Here are our key dates for work experience:

Autumn term - Delivery of the Careers programme - How Unifrog can assist in sourcing placements using the apprenticeship tool.

- 9th January 2024 - Student placement delivery during assembly
- 1st March 2024 - Continuing upload of placements onto Unifrog
- 29th March 2024 - Careers department to assist sourcing placements for students.
- 20th May 2024 - Placements confirmed
- 1st July - 5th July 2024 - Work Experience commences. Monitored by Mr Boswell and Mr Gallamore.
- 8th July 2024 - Work experience - Feedback forms to sent to placement coordinator and student for delivery before the end of the academic year.
- Any problems please use the attached letter that has useful links addressing how to load a placement and further advice on how to source a placement.

Kind regards

Allan Boswell

Head of Key Stage 4

Contact Us:



School Office - 0161 928 1856

Email - office@northcestrian.co.uk

REPORT AN ABSENCE TO - absence@northcestrian.co.uk