



Nicholas Chamberlaine School

# NEWSLETTER

*Successful Learners | World Citizens*

Friday 25th March 2022

Dear NCS Families,

I hope you and your families are well and enjoying the unexpected warm weather.

The last weeks have seen a resurgence in Covid infections and we have rearranged the curriculum at times and combined groups to ensure that we have not closed year groups. Keeping our students in school is an absolute priority for us and closures will only happen in the most exceptional of circumstances.

As the weather has warmed it is timely to remind students to bring a disposable water bottle to school so that they can keep hydrated throughout the day and do their part for the environment by not buying drinks in single use plastic bottles. Please encourage your child to do their bit!

As restrictions have lifted it has been wonderful to have families in school again and I would like to thank year 11 families who supported their child by attending Parents' Evening on Thursday. There are 27 days only to the first exam! Please let us know if you have any concerns in these final weeks so that we are aware of any issues that may arise and put strategies in place to support your child. By working together we can achieve so much more!

Best wishes,

*Healey*



## Key Dates

31 March: Y13 Parents' Evening (in school)

4 April: Y11 Coursework Catchup

6-7 April: Year 8 HPV vaccinations

7 April: Head's Reward Event

8 April: End of term (finish at 2.30pm)

11-22 April: Easter Holidays

25 April: Return to school (8.40am for all years)

### Fake news and disinformation online

What's the problem?

Fake news is false or misleading information presented as genuine news.

Your child might have seen fake news online about the Russian invasion of Ukraine. There have been examples of old footage being shared as if it's new, or images being manipulated to present a misleading picture about what's happening. There's been lots of misinformation on TikTok in particular.

Reading information like this can upset or worry your child unnecessarily. Fake news also helps create a culture of fear and uncertainty, with children trusting reputable news outlets less as a result of fake news.

### How can I help my child spot fake news online?

This is a useful help sheet for parents to help them support their child to understand this issue.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VQHioaYbBhxXQzKmNFdHtFsVw-f35-fT/view?usp=sharing>

### Family Engagement Session

We held our first online Family Engagement session on Thursday 17 March.

Families of children in Key Stage 3 submitted questions regarding independent learning and supporting home study, which were collected and responded to via an online presentation. Issues addressed included:

- 1) the function and purpose of independent study,
- 2) means of accessing independent study materials via Google Classroom,
- 3) what a student can meaningfully engage with should work not be set (especially reading!),
- 4) how families can best support students to foster skills of independence and an inner drive for success.

You can access the slides from the meeting here:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Xs-W3OY99-uc1hRovbEplY8stUMd1xIb/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=104944702693944395497&rtpof=true&sd=true>

Nicholas Chamberlaine School will be hosting online Family Engagement meetings half termly, with our next being held in mid-May. We will be inviting all families to submit questions on the theme of transition: whether from Primary to Secondary, from Year 9 to GCSE courses, from Year 11 to Post 16 or any related issues you may wish to learn more about. Details of our next session including a contact email will follow in the next newsletter.

Paul Walker

# Proud Traditions

## Founders Day March

We enjoyed a wonderful family day at NCS on Founders Day.

### Family breakfast

We started the day with a family breakfast in our dining area.



### House assemblies

Throughout the day students came together to remember what it means to be a Griffin, looking back at all our achievements and remembering the foundation of our houses.



### Family Tutor

We finished the day with a family tutor session, where students enjoyed an afternoon tea whilst watching the stop animation videos which had been collaboratively prepared by all our GST schools. We also took the time to look back through the history of Bedworth and celebrate our longest staff members here at NCS.



We also had a community afternoon tea for our Family Ambassadors in the library.



# Proud Traditions

## Founders day Community Service

Our **Cuisine students** have been selling a range of snacks and sweet treats to raise money for local charities in Bedworth. They have raised £118.00 so far.



## Science Symposium

The last two weeks have been full of mentally stimulating and fun-packed activities and trips for students in the Science department. Here is a summary of some of these.

Some students from years 7 and 9 went to the National Space Centre with Dr Duara. The students were not only able to look around the space centre but go into some of the labs that are closed to the public to view and discuss work that is going on within them.

14 girls from year 9 represented NCS at Warwick University and took part in their "Slice of Science" event. The aim of the event was to host young women from the local area and allow them to learn more about science and to inspire them to think about a possible career or education path within STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) pathways.

We also had the annual Griffin Science Symposium year 7 event, this is one of our proud GST traditions. This 2 week event had year 7 students in week 1 carrying out numerous practical and theory lessons with regards to Science and Space. Week 2 was hosted by the Open University and Scientists from there held online live link seminars with our students to further discuss the Space topic and their specialisms within it.

All of these activities linked in nicely with this year's British Science week. All of the participating students were left ultimately enthused about Science, Astrophysics, Space, STEM and the roles that women play in it. Well done to all who took part!





## Proud Traditions

**HCF-A new proud tradition HOT CHOCOLATE FRIDAY:** To recognise our students who go above and beyond.



### Shakespeare day

At NCS Shakespeare day has become an annual Proud Tradition.

Shakespeare's plays were written a long time ago, but they are based on his view of life as a whole. They are not just reflections of his own life within the confines of his own times. Social factors did have some influence. The Elizabethan audience, for example, believing in witches, would have gained a lot from Macbeth. These factors were never the main focus of his works, though.

You may question why we study the works of a writer who died over 400 years ago. But if you take into consideration that we quote him everyday and can still relate to his characters, stories and themes, the answer becomes a lot clearer.

We celebrated the day by making subject-related references in all our lessons and students enjoyed poems, quotations and stories during tutor time to remind us of his importance and relevance.

*"All that glitters is not gold."*

*The Merchant of Venice, Act II, Scene VII*

*To be, or not to be: that is the question:  
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer  
The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,  
Or to take arms against a sea of troubles,  
And by opposing end them. To die: to sleep..."*  
*Hamlet, Act III, Scene I*

### Last night of the Proms

The Last Night of the Proms Concert will be held on June 30<sup>th</sup>. The first part of the evening will be awards and finals for our annual Music, Drama and Art prizes and will be recorded to watch in school from Friday 1st July.

## GAF poster competition

### Brief

To design and create an original artwork which embodies this year's theme ***Change Makers***. The winning artwork will be the image for this year's Griffin Arts Festival poster.

Text shall be added to the poster by the organisers, so do keep that in mind when designing your masterpiece.

The final poster will:

- Showcase this year's theme: ***Change Makers***
- Be suitable for both children and adults i.e., a wide audience
- Advertise and be used for resource material supporting GAF
- Be visually stimulating
- Demonstrate artistic skill of exceptional quality

### Guidelines

- The artwork can be submitted in any medium (or mixed media)
- Please consider the context and purpose of your poster
- The final piece should be no larger than A2.
- If you create a three-dimensional work, consider how this will be translated into a flat image.
- Please avoid using text
- Consider the audience – attractive for both students and adults.
- The poster must be of a quality that can be reproduced on printed material and online resources, so faint pencil won't work.

**Deadline for submission to school TUESDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> May**

### Winning entries

Judging of poster will take place at school and up to three pieces shortlisted.

Schools need to enter their shortlisted entries into the Arts Folder with the students name, Year and School by MAY 10<sup>th</sup>. An independent panel will then select the winner and runner up and notified via their school by the end of May. Prizes will be presented at the *Last Night of the Proms* on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**First place – £50 gift voucher    Runner Up –£25 gift voucher**

### Competition rules for students

By entering this competition, you give permission for your name and age to be published alongside your work and you provide consent for any related publicised activities and photography. Please note that minor amendments may be made to the winning artwork when formatting the poster by a professional designer. Your work will be held and exhibited by The Trust after the winners are announced.

**See Ms Johnson for details**

## GST Competitions

### **Rotary competitions**

NCS is always proud to participate in Rotary competitions. This year these comprise:

**Young Artist** is *Colours of Nature*. As before this needs to be a 2D unframed piece which can use paints, drawing, collage. See Mr Marriott for details

**Young Photographer** theme is also *Colours of Nature*. This year the entrants are only to submit one photograph (of at least 150 pixels on the longest length of the picture). They can use cameras or mobile phones to take the photo. See Mr Marriott for details

**Young Writer** theme is *Environment*. The entrants can submit either a piece of prose (500 words max) or a poem (max 40 lines) . See Ms Chapman for details

**Young Chef** Entries are expected at district level to produce 3 courses in 2 hours (which would be good practice to include in our local heat) at a cost of under £20. See Ms Johnson for details.

## Music Medal 2022

Whether you are a soloist, an ensemble musician, or a keen composer, we are looking to identify and celebrate the exceptional musical talents from across the Trust. Therefore, get your thinking caps on – how will you represent NCS?

The competition is made up of the following categories:

- Ks3 Solo Award
- Ks4 & 5 Solo Award
- Ensemble Prize
- Composition Prize

Your music teacher looks forward to hearing your ideas and suggestions -

**See Ms Vincent for applications.**

## Residential Trip: Losehill Hall, Castleton



Sometimes opportunities come along that are too good to be missed and this was certainly true when students at Nicholas Chamberlaine were offered the opportunity to participate in a residential trip to the Peak District.

Funded by the 'Generation Green' programme, the scheme aims to provide young people with the chance to experience life in the countryside. Having applied last year at the height of Covid restrictions, an email out of the blue revealed that the school had been accepted on to the programme and that 34 students could take part in the experience.

Having invited students to take part from Year 9, 10 and 12, our intrepid travellers set off from school on Monday 14th March to Castleton in Derbyshire. Situated in the heart of the Peak District, Castleton is a beautiful village surrounded by steep hills and a network of caverns famed for the mining of a rare mineral, 'Blue John'. Our accommodation was the Losehill Hall Youth Hostel.



After arriving at 4pm, students had an opportunity to orientate themselves before having something to eat. The evening's activity was a stargazing walk with a Peak District National Park Ranger. With little light pollution, students could appreciate the beauty of the night sky.

The following day, students were treated to a full English breakfast and an introduction to that day's activity. With the sun shining, the National Park Rangers, Pete and Andrew explained that students would be walking up Losehill. This, they carefully

explained, was a walk of approximately 3 miles. Students murmured slightly and Pete responded by explaining that 3 miles uphill would be different from a walk on the flat. At 1,500 feet high, Pete had slightly miscalculated students' desire to tackle the slopes. Although challenging, most students persisted, despite a range of minor setbacks, including breathlessness, the occasional fall and mud claiming one student's walking shoes! At the top, everyone was rewarded with stunning views of the surrounding countryside.





Returning to the hostel, students enjoyed lunch and a brief rest. Suitably refreshed, the afternoon's activities involved working with nature. This was the focus of the trip and whilst one group looked at the landscape surrounding the Youth Hostel, others undertook hedge laying. In short, this involved using sharp instruments to cut down trees and bushes to create hedges. Fortunately, all of our students emerged with a full count of fingers!

By now, exhaustion had set in and students were rewarded with a tasty evening meal. That evening's activity was a more sedate walk through the woods and a campfire where marshmallows were toasted and students learnt how to light fires using simple tools. It was perhaps little surprise that by 10:30pm, all was quiet from the rooms - not least because the step count for the day hovered around 20,000!



With Wednesday the last day of the trip, the weather had taken a turn for the worst. The nearby hills were masked by mist and light rain fell, which would later turn into a deluge. Once again, students were offered a choice of activities - either a continuation of hedge laying or a trip into Castleton to see what a Peak District village looks like. Fortunately, the heavy rain that had been forecasted for the day arrived after students had departed Castleton for their return to Bedworth.



Nicholas Chamberlaine students gained a lot from this experience. For some it was their first visit to the Peak District, whilst all rose to the challenge of doing something very different from their day to day lives. Our special thanks must go to the staff of the Losehill Hall Youth Hostel and to Pete and Andrew, the park rangers who created the activities. Also a big thank you to the staff from Nicholas Chamberlaine who attended the event and to our Year 12 students who took part in this as part of their Health and Social Care work.



## Sport at NCS

23 year 7s and 8s took part in an indoor Athletics Competition at Higham Lane School this week. We didn't win but the students were excellent, showed great athleticism and put maximum effort in throughout the competition. They should all be very proud of themselves!



# High Achievement

## Gold Awards: Year 7

Last month three of our Year 7 students excelled by becoming gold badge award winners for achieving 300 house points so far this year! Since then more students have joined them in receiving this award. Well done to all!

They were celebrated and awarded their certificates, badges, achievement letter and an extra reward by Ms Ramsay in assembly. We can't wait for other year 7 students to reach this award very soon!



**We are looking forward to recognising, with a Heads' Afternoon Tea, students who have been nominated by subject teachers for exceptional work and effort or students who have made an exceptional contribution to the community.**

**Names will be shared shortly.**