



Nicholas Chamberlaine School

NEWSLETTER

Successful Learners | World Citizens

Friday 28 January 2022

Dear NCS Families,

You may have seen our Ofsted report which is on our website and the Ofsted website. It was 2 years from the date of the last report and 22 of those months were during times of serious Covid disruption. We are pleased that the swift progress made in this short time has been recognised. We are particularly pleased that inspectors found that “Pupils are happy at Nicholas Chamberlaine. Adults take the time to get to know pupils and their families really well. Pupils appreciate this and have strong relationships with their teachers”.; “Leaders are ambitious for pupils and the community they serve” and “There is a strong culture of safeguarding”.

Working together allows us all to get the very best experience for your children and we are grateful for the support that you give.

Do you want to be a force for good at NCS? We are looking for parents to become Family Ambassadors and to take part in democratic engagement activities that will influence the work we do in school. If you have some time to spare and would like to be involved, please see page 2 for details.

Best wishes,

Executive Head

Proud Traditions

There is so much going on at the moment: Rotary competitions; monologue festival; student leadership opportunities; Founders Day, GAF 2022 preparation; Shakespeare Day.

See pages 4 –6.

Wide Horizons

On pages 7–8 you can read about our audience with the famous artist, Grayson Perry, sessions with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Sessions with BBC, our extensive extra curricular programme and Griffin promise

High Achievement

Sporting achievements, music successes and a focus on the Geography department are included in our High Achievement section this week.

Key Dates

Thursday 10th February—Year 9
Video Parents’ Evening

Monday 21st–Friday 25th
February—Half Term

Options evening presentations can
be found on our website.



Upcoming Opportunities for Democratic Engagement: Parental Voice Opportunities

As key stakeholders in Nicholas Chamberlaine School, we would like to invite parents and families to share their views on aspects of school life, to gain insight into community Voice and how our school can best support all stakeholder interests.

We will be hosting an online meeting each half-term, based on a particular theme of interest agreed in advance and publicised through this newsletter. Parents and families who would like to contribute will be invited to respond to prompts, complete a survey or suggest questions prior to meeting: these will be collected and then addressed during online feedback meetings. Through this platform, we aim to involve parents and families more actively and regularly in the decision-making processes that affect their children by giving opportunities to express Voice democratically.

Our first online meeting will be held **16:30-17:30 Wednesday 2nd February**. The theme of the first meeting will be regarding **Curriculum** and we are especially interested in hearing your responses to the following questions:

- In which subject area do you feel your children are learning best?
- What do you feel our school is getting right in terms of teaching and learning?
- What do you feel would be a positive next step in terms of teaching and learning?

Should you wish to participate please:

1. Email enquiries@nicholaschamberlaine.co.uk,
2. Confirm your own name and contact email,
3. Confirm the name, year and form of your child,
4. Offer responses to any of the above questions as detailed,
5. Should you have a question you would like to be addressed, please explain

Invitations and links to the scheduled Zoom consultation will be returned via reply to the emails received.

Year 9 Options



In conjunction with our in-school Options Evening event on Thursday 20 January, we are excited to launch our Year 9 Options website:

<https://sites.google.com/nicholaschamberlaine.co.uk/gcseoptionsevent2022/home>

The website is full of useful advice and guidance about the options process, individual video guides for each of the subject options and example tasks.

There are also short video guides from English, Maths and Science about what they will study at GCSE.

School drop off/pick up

To All Parents/Carers

There have been a number of concerns raised recently regarding the congestion in the school's turning circle at the start and end of the school day.

To ensure the safety of all students the school gates will not be accessible for parents to drop off/pick up students from school. If your children come to school by car please make alternative arrangements for pick up and drop off points away from the school premises.



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

See below some of our **PROUD TRADITION** events coming up over the next half term.

Monologue Festival-Drama Medal

A popular addition to our **GAF competitions** in 2021 was the **Drama medal** which is now determined by a monologue competition. The monologues for the school round are divided into age groups therefore Nicholas Chamberlaine students are to perform KS3 and KS4 monologues and any student can apply!

This year the competition will start in Jan/Feb in all schools and gradually move through regional finals to a grand **final on June 30th**. The winner of the Grand final will be presented with a new award **The Margaret Lewis Cup**, which will be displayed at their school and a book voucher worth £50. Runners up will also receive book vouchers.

The competition will have 3 judging points:

School heats (judged by school staff)→
HUB finals → (judged by Drama staff from across the Trust)
Regional (London/Birmingham) judged by a special panel
The grand finale of this competition will be held at GAF 2022

Applications process:

Schools should run their own finals and select ONE winner for each age group:

KS1, KS2 (Year 3 & 4), KS2 (Year 5 & 6), KS3, KS5

A recording of that winner doing their monologue should be made making sure the audio is clear

Please email your best entry to z.lewis@nicholaschamberlaine.co.uk by Monday 21st February. Please identify your name and year group when submitting your entry.

Judging criteria:

Ability to:

- Clearly convey the meaning of the text
- Become the character speaking the text
- Understanding of giving a performance
e.g.
 - ◇ projects voice and speaks clearly (not mumbling)
 - ◇ use of voice and tempo variations (not monotone)
 - ◇ creates a mood, the experience, or emotion of character

Round one (school's best 3 entries in each category) **closes Feb 28th 2022**

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

GAF: Student leadership recruitment

From 20th June 20—Fri 1st July we will be holding a residential GAF for a select group of Year 5 students. **We are seeking 10 secondary students** from NCS (for London) and from The Lammas (for Birmingham) to help lead this event.

The role has 4 key parts:

1. Helping the GAF team plan for GAF 2022
2. Leading on creative work during GAF
3. Working with an assigned group as a co-leader
4. Contributing feedback to the GAF 2022 evaluation

What do secondary students need to do before GAF?

1. Attend a training session
2. Prepare a creative outdoor and indoor learning activity for a group of 10 children related to the activities we will be doing at galleries, exhibitions, and workshops. Information to help with this will be provided at the training session.
3. think about the skills, equipment, and requirements of working with children outdoor/ in a non-classroom situation.

What do secondary students do at GAF?

- Assist staff with the delivery and additional planning of activities, You will have the opportunity to use your own artistic talents to lead a creative project during GAF.
- Experience all the fun arts activities like practical workshops, exploring museums, seeing live theatre, and music.
- Though it is a lovely opportunity to spend time with any friends who are also leaders, you need to be willing to commit your time to supporting the children and staff during the days and evening activities, and to be ready and prepared to jump into action and use your initiative.

What sort of personal qualities do they need to have?

Students who are passionate about the arts; art, drama, music, and those who are interested in artists and musicians and actors, or becoming teachers, people interested in the care industry, youth workers, students interested in developing their people and leadership skills.

Applications Close March 21st 2022-See Ms Johnson for more details

Proud Traditions

Griffin Founders Day—March 2022

2022 Theme: *How does being a Griffin help me to be a “change maker”*

See a schedule for the event below

- It is seven years since the foundation of the Griffin Schools Trust (GST) Founders Day
- Each school within the Trust; will celebrate their **Proud Traditions** as well as the journey they have gone on as part of GST
- links with the **local community**- Our **Cuisine students** will be selling a range of snacks and sweet treats to raise money for local charities in Bedworth selected by our student leadership team. (See our Facebook sites for updates)
- Students will enjoy an assembly, in which we will discuss what it means to be a Griffin along with the Trust's theme, which this year is **“Change makers”**, celebrate house successes, reflect on the history of our school, including celebrating some of our long serving members of staff
- During tutor time on 4th March students will enjoy a **community afternoon tea**

Shakespeare Day-March 2022

Our students will participate in a variety of **literacy activities, written and spoken** Shakespearean language over the day. Developing listening skills, problem solving and oracy skills.

GAF-2022

GAF in 2022 will be a return to our usual 2 week format with some changes.
3 parts under the theme *Change Makers*:

Week 1: June 28th -July 1st

- London GAF and Birmingham GAF Week June 28-July 1
- Virtual Cross Trust activity provided online

Week 2: July 4-8th

- Schools work on their own and a HUB project in a LIVE GAF week

London / Birmingham GAF

- The Lammas hosts students from NCS, R, WB, SW, KF and L
- NCS hosts students from Lammas, PL, RL, Perry, Chiv, Bram.

Students selected to attend will deliver some of the activities They will be trained to help with planning and be guided in devising some activity to lead. (See details above for the application)

Last night of the Proms

The Last Night of the Proms Concert will be held on June 30th. 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 Fri 1st July.

Grayson Perry



Over the last few years, Nicholas Chamberlaine School has welcomed a number of guest speakers through our relationship with *Speakers for Schools*.

On Thursday 27th January, Art and Photography students took part in an on-line event with the artist and Turner Prize winner, Grayson Perry.

Born in 1960, Perry is famous for his ceramic vases which often criticise British culture. His work has been exhibited across the world and he has made a number of TV series on art.

There is no doubt that our VI Form students will have gained a fantastic insight into one of Britain's most famous and influential contemporary artists.

Relationships and Sex Education

In 2020, the government introduced a new Relationships and Sex Education curriculum. The curriculum is compulsory for all schools in England and Wales and aims to improve the teaching of this important subject.

As a school, Nicholas Chamberlaine is constantly looking to improve the education of our young people. We are therefore delighted to be taking part in a project with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Rated the third best university in the world for Public Health, the LSHTM will be providing the school with specialist training and a range of resources to support our students.



Extracurricular activities

Our recent Ofsted report described the school as providing “an impressive range of opportunities for pupils to develop their interests.”

We are therefore delighted to share details of our ECA programme for this term. As you will see, there are numerous opportunities for students to take part in activities they already enjoy or to try new ones.

The full list of activities can be found by clicking on the link below:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1RKrqQ_AbCjAoTGuWafhmgct7F_jQrf3dVoN3RakW-gY/edit?usp=sharing



The Griffin Promise

With Covid restrictions gradually lifting, the school is committed to offering a full range of events through our ‘Griffin Promise’.

Open to all, the Griffin Promise provides students with the opportunity to participate in a variety of visits and activities - from visiting museums and galleries, to taking in workshops. In recent weeks, the school has welcomed visits from major employers such as KPMG, who worked with our Business Studies students.

In the next few weeks we will be welcoming the BBC as they celebrate their centenary and have many more events planned as the term progresses.



Music at NCS

Year 9 Music - Options

We have been overwhelmed with the amount of students that are hoping to take GCSE Music. After learning to play an orchestral instrument for over 2 years, some of our Year 9 students are now ready to take the next step on their musical journey.

On Tuesday lunchtime, MU2 was full to capacity with students taking a 'GCSE Music taster session'. Students started to learn about Samba music, by forming a Samba band. Every student played a part in the Samba band, and the group mastered an impressive short performance in just 20 minutes.



How will Music help me in the future?

Music is an academic subject in its own right, but it actually benefits other subjects too. A recent study in the UK found that playing a musical instrument appears to enhance general performance in other subjects at GCSE. Other studies have shown that music benefits learning by activating all areas of the brain: auditory (sound processing); motor (rhythm processing); and limbic (emotions).

So by choosing music, your child could actually be improving their chances of doing well in their other subjects – including those within the Ebacc.

It will provide transferable skills

GCSE music involves written, analytical, practical and social/personal skills such as:

- independent learning: having to be disciplined about practising their instrument or voice
- team working: particularly if they're involved in weekly groups or ensembles, concerts and performances
- performance and presentation skills which are useful for any job/career
- listening: this is highly developed in musicians and it is an important part of the course
- analytical and essay-writing skills
- confidence and self-esteem: which has a knock-on effect in all areas of life and learning
- creativity and self-expression: helping young people to think differently and harness the power of their imagination

MYTH BUSTED: Music does not stop you getting into a profession such as law or medicine.

Both employers and universities see creative subjects as an asset

Increasingly, employers and universities are looking for young people who have skills that are learned through creative subjects: creative thinking, emotional intelligence, adaptability, communication and tenacity to name just a few. And universities are keen to attract students who have a well-rounded education and achieve good results, no matter what the subject.

For further information about taking GCSE Music at NCS please watch this short video

<https://youtu.be/Czqm8AP6gR8>

Music at NCS

Students to gain extra musical qualifications, thanks to SAF

The Music department have successfully secured funding from the Trust's **Griffin Sports and Arts Fund** to enter able musicians for ABRSM (*Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music*) graded music exams.



An ABRSM grade has a worldwide currency and their exams are designed to motivate learners at all levels and ages. Students wishing to take their Grade 2 exam in the Summer term should talk to their instrumental teacher. The exam will consist of a performance of four pieces that students will have prepared over the Summer term.

At a cost of £55 for each exam, paid by the Trust, students will need to be dedicated and have a good practice schedule.



Fair Play - Exploring pathways to inclusive musical participation

New funding has been awarded by **Youth Music** to Worcestershire, Gloucestershire and Warwickshire Music Hubs to improve musical inclusion within the three areas. NCS are currently working on this project, led by **Severn Arts** (lead for Worcestershire Music Education Hub) with the aim to improve and embed inclusive practice within their organisations. The project entitled 'Fair Play' will bring together the skills and experience of the three lead organisations and partners to focus on establishing youth voice and removing barriers to musical engagement.

To launch the project Severn Arts have requested that KS3 students complete the following questionnaire. If students feel that they would benefit from having instrumental lessons on a 1:1 basis, and they wish to be considered for entry to graded examinations, students should explicitly state this on the questionnaire.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeJlVKxgppqYWuAVPUWIMKAl9kkofQzoz3pUTV1waZ_BQmy6JQ/viewform?usp=sf_link



Sport at NCS

Wasps Rugby

Wasps Rugby continue to deliver sessions to our Year 9 girls every Wednesday, and as you can see from the photos below, they are well engaged in learning the sport and embracing life as a rugby player.



Sport at NCS

Your Time to Lead

We have been successful in becoming part of a nationwide initiative funded through the Department for Education called Your Time to Lead.

Your Time to Lead Learning Programme

This is an online, accredited learning programme consisting of six modules that will support female leaders (14 years and over) to:

- Understand existing barriers to participation for girls
- Identify what their female peers recognise as engaging competitive sport opportunities
- Lead an event or competition to provide those opportunities for female participants



We will be identifying 6 and 10 girls to be on the programme, who will be training to lead sessions to around 25 girls in Year 7 and 8. This programme can be used as prior learning towards the full Level 2 award in sports leadership.

Basketball

Our first match in the NBC Jr league saw us put up an amazing battle, eventually losing 28 – 13 to Sidney Stringer. It is now the turn of the Year 8 team away to Barr Hill. We wish them all the best of luck!

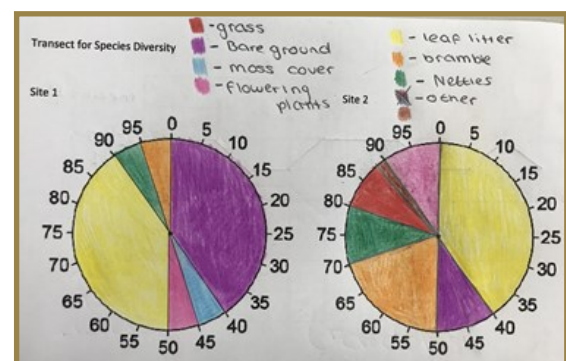
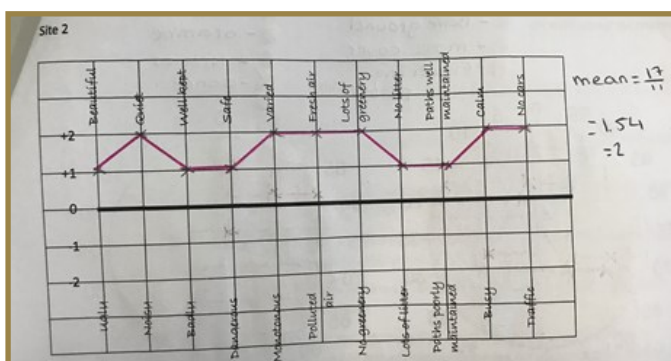


High Achievement

Geography

The geography department are pleased to have been able to get outside and participate in a field-work trip, having been unable to go for the last two years. Fieldwork allows students to study geography in real life contexts and is also recognised as an important skill in geography education, being assessed at both GCSE and A level.

Just before the Christmas holiday, year 11 geographers went to Coombe Abbey and tested the hypothesis, 'humans have had a negative impact on the small scale ecosystems at Coombe Abbey', using techniques such as field sketches, footfall counts and species transects to collect data. They have since been presenting their data and will go on to analyse, come to conclusions and evaluate their findings.



Other year groups have had the opportunity to look at techniques within school, for example year 7 have created their own field sketches, year 8 have completed a litter survey and year 12 have been considering a range of opportunities on the coast.

We are looking forward to getting out with other year groups soon.