

May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this letter finds you well. This is the second edition of our newsletter which includes information relevant to your child as well as for other year groups. In this letter we are celebrating excellence at CNS and sharing forthcoming calendar events with you.

An excellent Y9 Progress Evening took place yesterday, thank you to parents and carers for your attendance and please do complete the survey which has been sent, the link is here as well. [Year 9 Progress Evening Parent Questionnaire May 2026 - Fill out form](#)

Exams are in full swing and Y11 and Y13 have conducted themselves superbly throughout, fully supported by their teachers and House/Year teams. Family life can be stressful during the exam period and please do contact us if you are concerned about your child.

I have been interviewing Y10 students for a place in the Head Student team. I have been so impressed by the confidence shown and commitment our students have, to promoting CNS's 'Excellence In All'.

As you will see from the reports below school life has been very busy with lots to share and celebrate.

I wish you all a happy half term break in the sunshine. I look forward to seeing our students (except Y13) return to CNS for the final half term of the 25-26 school year on June 1st for a prompt 8.35am start.

Ms J Philpott

Y11 Exams & Boosters

Yr11 have completed a very busy fortnight of exams and will be looking forward to time over the half term to recharge ready for the final weeks of GCSEs. Subject specialists are spending time planning Warm-Up and Booster sessions to meet the needs of students and ensure that these sessions are as purposeful ahead of upcoming exams. These will continue to be timetabled after half term, and parents will receive a weekly overview of the in-school sessions planned.

The Exam Invigilation Team commented this week that our Yr11 students are the most impeccably behaved they have worked with over the last 10 years. It fills us with pride to know that students' conduct in exams has been commented on by external professionals who work at CNS and reinforces our motto of 'Excellence in All'.

A reminder that Yr11 are expected to remain in school after half term. There are some instances where they will be allowed to leave the school site at lunchtime and Thursday 11th June is an Independent Study Day, where students can revise from home. Other absences will be unauthorised if students leave site without permission after an exam or arrive late to school without a valid reason.

Arbor

If you have not yet signed up to the Arbor Parent App, please do so as more information moves to this single platform. Arbor is the system we use as a school for sharing information and data on your child in school. You login using the email you have registered with the school and your child logs in using their school email address. The attached [link](#) here goes to a guide on accessing and using the parental portal.

Attendance

Attending school every day is an important part of a child's development as well as their education, we do not want them to miss out on school life! Please support your child in being in school unless they are too ill to attend. Any holiday requests will not be authorised.

Yr9 KS3 Assessments

On Tuesday this week, Ms Nichols spoke to Yr9 about their end of key stage 3 exams in English, maths and science. These take place at the following times:

- **Science Assessments**
 - All of Yr9 will sit these in the Sports Hall on paper, on **Wednesday 17th June**.
- **English & Maths Assessments**
 - Yr9 EAST will sit these on **Monday 29th June, P1-3**. These are ONLINE and will take place in IT Rooms.
 - Yr9 WEST will sit these on **Tuesday 30th June, P1-3**. These are ONLINE and will take place in IT Rooms.

The assembly focused on the big picture of assessment, and the importance of balance. We spoke about how it is normal to feel a bit nervous before tests, but that if we work hard, help each other and try our best, we are likely to make good progress. Guidance about revision and a copy of the assembly presented are on Go4Schools.

Yr10 6th Form Assembly

Ms Nichols spoke to year 10s this week about studying at CNS 6th form. Although this may seem some way off, students will be starting to make their applications to post-16 providers from 1st October. It is important students are showing their teachers what they are capable of in lessons, assessments and in their homework, so that their teacher can forecast their grades for the end of Yr11.

CNS 6th form is very proud of its reputation for excellent outcomes (average grade B), its enrichment programmes, its 32 courses on offer without blocking that allows a flexibility in choices and its experienced and expert staff. Our 11 hours per subject per fortnight (well above the Norfolk and national average of 9hrs) allows a breadth and depth to be delivered in classrooms that see an average class size of 13 students.

We shared the courses available and advised Yr10 students to help themselves to the subject sheets in the common room at breaktimes and lunchtimes.

Our Curriculum: 32 courses



Art (Fine Art)	English Literature	Geography	Physics
Biology	Environmental Sci	History	Photography
Business	AS Extended Project	Law	Politics & Government
Chemistry	Film Studies	Maths	Psychology
Classics	DIP: Food and Nutrition	AS Core Maths	Sociology
Computer Science	French	Music	Spanish
Economics	Further Maths	Philosophy & Ethics	Drama & Theatre
English Combined	German	Physical Education	VESPA

No blocking allows flexibility in timetabling to allow you to choose your perfect combination.

Y12 Synagogue Visit

Last Thursday we took Year 12 A level philosophy and Ethics students to an exhibition at the Norwich synagogue that was put on by the Board of Deputies of British Jews. Year 12 listened to a speaker talk about the workings of the local Norwich synagogue, showing them, a Torah scroll from the Ark and even read some Hebrew to them. After, students were able to explore the exhibition, showing enthusiasm for trying to blow the Shofar Horn, playing dreidel and trying to write their name in Hebrew. Year 12 were exceptional in upholding CNS values of being polite, punctual and participating by asking questions and exploring the exhibition.

Y8 County Plate Winners

Following their success in the Norwich Pathways Schools cup, the Year 8 football team did the double by winning a second trophy of the season - U13 Norfolk Plate Winners. CNS played against Fakenham in the final at the Nest. Fakenham scored first after 15 minutes but CNS managed a couple of quick goals before half time from Max M and Felix B-L, half time 2-1. Fakenham hit back in the second half and took a 3-2 lead only for Harrison S to equalise. Despite going close neither team could find a winner, so it went to a penalty shootout. A great save from Albie B gave CNS the advantage and Milo S-J (a last-minute addition to the squad) converted a retaken penalty to win the plate for CNS. The team had great support from the Year 8 ultras throughout, and it was a great way to finish an extremely successful season.

Oxford Aspirational Programme

Step 3 of *New College's Step-Up* programme saw students take part in an inspiring session led by Malwina, Outreach and Admissions Officer, who delivered an excellent insight into life at Oxford and the expectations of a strong personal statement. This is one of five steps of support Oxbridge-aspirational students at CNS have over Year 11 and 12.

Malwina guided students through what admissions tutors look for in the personal statement, how to map out their extra-curricular experiences, and avoiding clichés in writing. It was a wonderful afternoon that left students feeling motivated, informed, and excited about their next steps, with many staying behind to ask follow up questions.

It is always inspiring to see how motivated our CNS students are. Well done!

Harford Manor trip

Year 12 A level music class walked to Harford Manor School and demonstrated short pieces to the students in this special educational setting. They also played as an ensemble to the students; it was wonderful how responsive the students at Harford Manor were and how important live music performances are. We were then treated to the Harford Manor Signing choir and taught a song in British sign language. Well-done to the year 12 students.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award at City of Norwich School

We had the Annual CNS DofE Awards Celebration Evening on Tuesday 19 May.

90 students were invited to receive their Awards.

The story of CNS DofE over the past 13 years was celebrated along with staff years of service and the student's achievements.

13 Years of DofE at CNS - the story so far:

- 71 Expeditions.
- 928 Awards Achieved.
- 34 Gold Award Achievers.
 - 7 Gold students attending Gold Award at the Palace this Friday 22 May.
- 90 students achieving their Award in the past year.
- 4000+ Volunteering hours in local community by CNS DofE students in the past 12 months.

Dates for your diary

June 2 nd	Y12 UCAS Parent Information Evening
June 8-12 th	Y10 Work Experience Week
June 11 th	Y6 Parent's Evening
June 25 th	Y12 Induction Day
July 2 nd	Sports Day
July 8/9/10 th	Y6 Transition Days
July 8 th	KS3 Celebration Evening <i>to be confirmed invitation only</i>
July 8/9/10 th	Summer Art Exhibition (Evenings Only)