

25 September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Your child will have brought home a school planner this week. We have made the decision to return to planners to support independence, organisation and responsibility. A planner supports students in knowing where they are meant to be, their homework due dates and relevant information from Daily Messages. Importantly it contains the home school agreement which enables us to work together supporting your child. Please regularly ask to see the planner and help your child to use it supportively.

Thank you to Y7,10 and 12 parents for your transition survey responses. The survey closes on Monday and I welcome your feedback. The survey responses are overwhelmingly positive with 99% of parents recommending CNS to another parent and highlighting our community, teaching and facilities as key strengths. I have asked a question about preferred communication methods, and we will use this information as part of our wider communication plan.

I am delighted so many students have made such a positive start to their first weeks of term with hundreds of students still Zero Heros. We are excited for Open Evening next Thursday when we welcome prospective students and their families and get the chance to showcase Excellence in All at CNS.

I look forward to seeing many of you then.

Yours sincerely
Ms Jo Philpott

School Photos

Last Friday we had our photographers, Van Cols, in to take individual student photos. All students who had their photo taken were given a leaflet. This had their personal QR code and instructions to take home. If you scan the QR code, you will be taken to the photographer's website www.getphotos.co.uk.

There is also a code on the leaflet if you can't use the QR code. If the leaflet has been misplaced and you want to see your child's photo, please contact the school and we can provide your individual code.

Mr N Williams

Attendance - If your child is absent

It has been lovely to see so many of our students attending in the first few weeks, but we are aware that there has been quite a lot of illness in school - we hope that this will settle soon. We want as many students as possible in school as much as possible - (we miss them when they are not here and they miss out) - to help with this please note the following:

- If your child is ill or absent for any other reason, please do remember to contact us either by phone 01603 454015, email attendance@cns-school.org or preferably via the Arbor app before 08:30am
- During the morning, we will attempt to contact the parents of every child not in school to carry out a quick welfare check and to see if there is any support that we might be able to offer - please still call in early and do not wait for this call.
- Where students are absent for more than 3 days, we may make a home visit to carry out a welfare check and to offer support in returning to school.

Phone updates

Following the very successful introduction of our new phone policy, we are now refining the system based on feedback from staff, parents and students:

- Where parents have told us that their child does not bring a phone at all, we will shortly be issuing stickers to go into planners to avoid any confusion.
- If your child normally brings a phone but is not doing so for any reason (broken / confiscated etc), please can you as parents add a note in the planner for that day.
- If your child forgets their pouch and hands their phone in, you will see a sticker in their planner - we do need to keep this to a minimum.

Once again - a massive thankyou to everyone for making the new system so successful.

Mr Innes

Open Evening

We are looking forward to welcoming current year 6 students and their parents into school for our Open Evening on Thursday 1st October. A number of CNS students have been invited in to help either as subject ambassadors or guides - please do remember to fill in the consent form if your child has been invited; our students are always amazing and represent the school with pride.

Mr Innes

Music Scholars and Scholarship applications 2027

On Monday our new Year 7 Music Scholars went to their first Scholars' Meeting, where they proudly received their Music Scholar badges. Our Music Scholars are wonderful ambassadors for the Music Department and play an important role in representing music across the school. We are excited to invite our new scholars to perform at our Year 6 Open Evening on 1 October.

Applications for our next cohort of Music Scholars are now open to current Year 6 pupils, with a deadline of 2 October. Please see the attached flyer for further information.

Mrs Reddington

6th Form Open Evening

On Thursday 15th October, we welcome prospective Yr12 students and their families to come and find out about the 32 courses we offer at A-level.

The evening takes place between 5:30pm - 8:00pm and the talks are held at 6:00, 6:30 and 7:00pm.

The 6th form is a thriving 400 strong community that offers breadth of curriculum, space for independent study and increased teacher contact time.

To book your place on one of the talks, please use this QR code, or the web address:



To join us for one of our talks
at 6:00, 6:30 or 7:00pm on
the 15th October, book your
place via the QR code or link
below:

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/city-of-norwich-school-sixth-form-open-evening-oct-2026-tickets-2001388516930?aff=oddtcreator&keep_tld=true

We invite all of Year 11 to come and explore 6th form with fresh open eyes, as the experience is distinctive to being in the lower school.

Ms Nichols

Arbor

Please ensure you are signing into Arbor and keeping up to date with how your child is doing with their timetable, positive and negative behaviours, attendance and homework. If you are having trouble signing in, we use the email address you have provided, please try resetting password in the first instance, on occasion your child may be linked to a previous school - that previous school needs contacting to remove your email address from their system so that Arbor associates your child with CNS - unfortunately this is something we can't do due to GDPR.

Students accessing Arbor

Students' login using their school email address and click forgotten password if they have forgotten or not set up their account. This resets the password to their school email account.

If your child is struggling to navigate Arbor these 2 useful videos are written by Arbor for use of the student portal and the student App.

We are recording internal support videos to share with students and complete further training in form time.

Student portal

<https://support.arbor-education.com/hc/en-us/articles/360006651877-The-Student-Portal-Quick-tips-for-students>

Student App

https://support.arbor-education.com/hc/en-us/articles/19459987383325-Logging-Into-and-using-the-Student-App#h_01J018JEZZKY1PBRVJ4YQ8MRVJ

Planners

Students were handed their planners in an extended Form Time on Tuesday morning. They spent time exploring and using their planners. The main focus of the planners is to promote independence of organisation. We are asking all parents to sign the home school agreement found in the planner on page 4. This should be a conversation with your child alongside signing.

Mr Hewett

Student achievement

Y10 student Joe has achieved the highest Grade 8 Piano examination result in Norfolk, earning a special prize from the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM). This is an outstanding result and congratulations to Joe! If you have successes you wish to share about your child, please do let me know at head@cns-school.org Please note we do not share student surnames and photos are with consent only.

Ms Philpott

Tutor reading

A reminder of our tutor reading programme this term:

- Year 7: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe and Norse Myths
- Year 8: The Outsiders and The Giver
- Year 9: Musical Truth- an exploration of black British history through the music created by black artists from the 1950s to today

We strongly recommend discussing these books at home or even reading them yourselves!

Mrs Jillett

Y11 post -16 information

On 17 September, we were pleased to welcome parents to our *Step Into Year 11* evening, where we shared information about post-16 pathways and the application process. Further information, including details of upcoming open events, has been emailed to all Year 11 parents. Students have also received their *Help You Choose* login details via their CNS email accounts. Most applications will be open from 1st October.

Throughout the autumn term, we have post-16 providers visiting school to ensure students are aware of the full range of opportunities available after Year 11. We encourage all students to attend open events wherever possible. Career guidance appointments are available to all Year 11 students. These can be arranged by emailing n.pentney@cns-school.org.

Mrs Pentney

Y11 and 12 Step Up Programme We are delighted to invite a select group of high-performing Year 11 and Year 12 students to two inspiring Step Up sessions led by Oxford University. These sessions are designed to raise aspirations and encourage students to consider higher education opportunities.

Delivered separately for each year group, the workshops provide valuable insight into university life, the application process, and what it takes to succeed at a top university, as well as gain practical advice on developing their academic profiles.

We thoroughly look forward to these engaging sessions!

More information can be found here: <https://www.new.ox.ac.uk/step-up>

Miss Lewis

Enrichment Fair and Co-Curricular activities

This week, every student at CNS had the opportunity to attend our annual Enrichment Fair and discover the huge range of co-curricular opportunities available to them. From pottery to Pokémon, sports clubs to performing arts, the fair showcased the fantastic activities that help make life at CNS so vibrant. We were also delighted to welcome a number of local sports clubs and community organisations who are keen to support our students and encourage participation beyond the school day.

Our co-curricular calendar has been shared with parents each term and updated regularly throughout the year. Students can keep up to date with any club changes through daily form-time messages.

Miss E Cook

CNSA

Welcome back to school from everyone at the CNSA! We are the City of Norwich School Association, essentially the PTA, and we arrange various events over the school year as well as selling refreshments at many school gatherings. If you're keen to get involved, please drop us an email at mailcnsa@gmail.com.

It would be great to see some new faces, especially as we'd love to hold a CNSFest again this year but will need lots of volunteers to make it happen!

The CNSA AGM will be taking place on Tuesday 20th October at 6.30pm in Room 96 of The Elkins Centre (The Sixth Room block round the back of the school) where we shall be giving a rundown of last year's events and voting in the committee. If you're interested in a role, or just want to know more, please email us on mailcnsa@gmail.com. All are welcome, there will be biscuits...

Save the Date!

CNSA Quiz and Chips night Friday 13th November 6.30pm please see the attached flyer for details on how to book.
CNSA Committee

Site Assistant Vacancy

We are looking for a proactive and dedicated Site Assistant who will play a vital role in maintaining the safety, cleanliness, and functionality of our school premises with a focus on Grounds maintenance. The focus of the role is on maintaining our beautiful and extensive outside spaces, including state of the art Tennis Courts, Football and Rugby pitches and the Cricket field.

The role is offered based on working 32 hours per week, all year round. Please click this link for further information: <https://mynewterm.com/jobs/141269/EDV-2026-CNSAOA-71879>

HR Team

Lost Property & Uniform

Please could you ensure that all clothing, uniform and personal belongings are clearly named wherever possible. This will make it much easier for us to return lost items to their rightful owners.

Thank you for your support and cooperation.

Student Services

Dates for your diaries

25 th September	Matilda Cast List up outside Drama Studios.
1 st October	Y6 Open Evening
15 th October	6 th Form Open Evening
20 th October	CNSA AGM
23 rd October	Staff training day school closed to students
13 th November	CNSA Quiz and Chips night
26 th November	Ex-Y11 Awards Evening

Progress Evening dates for the year

5 th November	Y13 Progress Evening
19 th November	Y8 Progress Evening
10 th December	Y11 Progress Evening
4 th February	Y10 Progress Evening
25 th February	Y9 Preferences Evening and Meet the Tutors
15 th April	Y12 Progress Evening
29 th April	Y7 Progress Evening
8 th July	Y9 Progress Evening