

9th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

We welcomed over 1000 visitors to CNS on October 1st for our Open Evening. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive with our students and staff receiving overwhelming praise for their pride, enthusiasm and confidence in City of Norwich School. Music scholarship auditions are currently taking place with our highest ever number of applications. All information relating to admissions can be found here [City of Norwich School - Admissions](#).

We closed our transition survey last week and the findings are shared below. I asked how parents and carers would prefer to receive communication and the majority of responses asked for a weekly, shorter newsletter. In response we will send a weekly newsletter in more bullet pointed form to help families read it more easily and keep up to date with relevant information and what is happening in the CNS community.

Please continue to regularly check and communicate with CNS via your child's planner.

We are excited for CNS 6th Form 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

Y7,10 and 12 Parent/Carer Survey (145 respondents)

Question	Strongly agree/Agree	Disagree/Strongly disagree
My child has started their year positively.	97%	3%
My child feels safe at CNS	100%	0%
My child is being supported in their transition into their new key stage	99%	1%
I would recommend CNS to another parent/carers	99.5%	0.5

Parents feedback on the best things about CNS are summarised below:

- Students are happy, settled and enjoy attending school
- Staff are seen as caring, approachable and supportive
- Pastoral care and wellbeing provision are highly valued
- Transition arrangements are exceptionally well regarded
- Teaching quality is recognised as a strength
- Communication with parents is consistently praised
- The breadth of co-curricular opportunities, particularly music, is highly valued
- The school as inclusive, welcoming and centred on individual students

Parents and carers said CNS would be even better if:

Feedback	What we aim to do
Keep doing what you are doing	We will!
SEND communication	This is happening and at key transition points we know it is even more important
Improve Arbor	We are working on it and will have an FAQ for you soon
More enrichment	The termly timetable is on our website, and we try to respond to students' suggestions where staffing expertise allows
More social spaces	We have maximised the spaces we have, and our canteen service is much quicker this year
Maintain high standards of teaching and behaviour, while supporting younger students as they settle into school life.	We totally agree as high expectations results in high standards
Keep improving facilities	We work with the OAT to keep improving all our educational and social facilities
Keep toilets clean	We monitor this closely and the cleaning team prioritise toilets after each social time
Increase opportunities for student voice	We have House Councils, Head Student team and regular student panels. New students will learn more about this in coming weeks.
Continue to strengthen communication	Weekly newsletter from next half term
Continue building strong parent partnerships	We agree and welcome your ideas on this

Y7 Sleep

We have noticed Y7 are quite sleepy in the mornings. We advised them in this week's assembly to have good sleep routines including:

- Screen free time before sleep
- No sugary/stimulant drinks or food after tea
- Regular bedtime
- A chat about the day to check if any worries might disturb their sleep
- Breakfast to start the day, breakfast club can help!

Thank you, parents, for supporting these routines to ensure all students are prepared for learning.
Ms Philpott

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

Homework

You will hopefully be seeing homework being set on Arbor under the term 'assignments'. Please check this with your child to support good learning habits. The purpose of homework is to consolidate learning or prepare for new learning. This can include research, follow up tasks or vocab learning amongst others. We value your support in supporting students to complete this on time by encouraging students to have a routine for regular homework. Where possible creating a distraction free place in the home will help students to focus on this work.

Yr10 Core Assessment Day

On Tuesday 3rd November, Yr10 students will sit two Core Assessments in the Sports Hall during P1&2 - one for English and one for Maths. These assessments are designed to bridge the gap between the End of Yr9 Exams that students completed in July and the Yr10 Exams taking place in April. Yr10 will have an assembly before half term where further information about these will be shared. This will also be communicated to parents via Arbor.

Yr11 Mocks

Information about the Yr11 Mocks was shared with students in assembly on Monday 5th October. The exams take place between Monday 2nd November and Friday 13th November. Full details of the information shared has been uploaded to Arbor Assignments for students and sent to parents via e-mail. Yr11 also had a CNS Sixth Form Assembly this week and will be working in IT Rooms during Form Time to work on their post-16 applications. P0 will resume next Tuesday. Miss Cook

CNS 6th form applications

Sixth Form applications opened on 1st October and close on the 18th December.

Students will need to enter their forecast grades in order to apply. If they know they need to improve their grades and wait until mocks, they might choose to delay their application until they get their grades.

Any student who does not meet the entry criteria, or misses the deadline of the 18th December, will not automatically be offered a place.

Students need to apply through Help You Choose: <https://www.helpyouchoose.org/>

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.

The 6pm talk is now full, limited spaces are available at 6.30pm and 7pm.

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

Flu vaccinations

Flu vaccinations will be taking place on Wednesday 14th October for years 7,8 and 9 and then on Wednesday 21st October for Years 10 and 11. We will be holding a catch-up clinic on Wednesday 2nd December for any pupils who were absent on these days. Please check your emails as the Immunisation team send you a link to a Portal for you to consent or decline this vaccination. It is important that if you do not want your child to receive the vaccine that you do decline or on the day the team may call you for verbal consent. Unfortunately, this is not open for pupils in years 12 and 13.

Nurse Gordon

Uniform Reminder

As we enter the autumn term and the weather becomes colder please ensuring your child is dressed appropriately for the weather. Our practical common-sense approach to uniform helps students maintain a focused learning environment and promotes a sense of community.

Please take note of the following uniform guidelines:

- No non-CNS Hoodies: Students may wear school jumpers, cardigans, or the CNS hoodies as appropriate. Please ensure you child wear a proper coat in addition to the CNS hoodie/ jumper if needed.
- Skirt Length: Pleated black skirt. Skirts should be of an appropriate length, sitting no higher than just above the knee.
- Proper Footwear: Students should wear weather appropriate school shoes, which should be plain black and free of logos or bright colours. Socks should be black, with no white stripes or logos on them.
- Piercings/ Jewellery: For safety and uniformity, students are not permitted to wear fake eye lashes, coloured nail varnish and acrylic nails are not permitted. We allow one small nose stud only; no other facial piercings are permitted.

We appreciate your continued support in ensuring that our students adhere to the uniform policy, and as clearly stated in our Home-School Agreement it is the student's responsibility to wear the full CNS uniform and bring all the equipment needed every day.

If you have any question, concerns or need support with regards to uniform, please do not hesitate to contact the House office in the first instance.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Ms Skarin

Illness and absence

We continue to see a high level of absence in school due to illness which we are very much hoping will improve soon. NHS guidance does say that children with coughs and colds can come to school unless they are genuinely too ill to do so, or they have a temperature. To help keep the school as healthy as possible, we have asked staff to keep windows and doors open to allow as much fresh air as possible and we have asked students to practice good hygiene including good hand washing and the use of tissues.

Mr Innes

Senior Maths Challenge Success

Our students have been busy putting their problem-solving skills to the test in the UKMT's national maths competitions. Five students entered the UKMT Maths Competition for Girls, with some excellent results. Lyla (Year 13) achieved a fantastic Distinction, while Maddy (Year 12) earned a Merit and Best in Year, finishing just one mark short of a Distinction.

Yesterday, the challenge continued as 40 students took part in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge, tackling a demanding set of mathematical problems designed to stretch even the strongest mathematicians. Well done to everyone who took part and stay tuned for the results!

Mrs Birleson

Student achievement

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

UCL roadshow

On Tuesday 13th October, Yr12 will spend the morning with UCL, University College London, to look at whether university is for them, and then take part in a taster lecture. This is part of the Yr12 pathways programme, and it is important for students to take part in order to make informed decisions. Yr12 will be off timetable for Periods 1 and 2 to attend. They should go straight to the auditorium for a 9am start where registers will be taken.

Ms Nichols

Y12 Psychology Colchester Zoo trip

The visit to Colchester Zoo was an excellent learning experience for our Year 12 Psychology students. The highlight was a highly engaging talk on visitor psychology, which linked directly to several topics within the AQA A Level Psychology specification, including research methods, social influence and behavioural approaches. Students gained valuable insight into how psychological principles are applied in real-world settings to influence visitor behaviour and enhance educational outcomes. The trip was both informative and enjoyable, with students demonstrating enthusiasm throughout the day and making strong connections between classroom learning and practical applications of psychology.

Mrs Thompson

CNSA

The CNSA is an amazing group of parents who work hard to raise money for specific projects in school.

All of the water bottle fillers in school have been funded by the CNSA along with portable floodlights for PE and many other things. A large amount of money is raised at the biannual CNS Fest and 2027 is a fest year.

The CNSA are looking for any parents who would like to be involved at either a committee level, or simply to help out at events, and are holding the annual AGM at school on the 20th of October - do please feel free to come along to room 97 at 6pm.

If you would more information or would like someone from the CNSA to contact you, please email a.innes@cns-school.org and Mr Innes will pass on your details.

Mr Innes

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

Dates for your diaries

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

5th 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



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