City of Norwich School
An Ormiston Academy – Excellence in all

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Dear Parents and Carers

My apologies that last week's newsletter did not reach you on Friday. This was an Arbor issue and one we are seeking to resolve – if you are reading this then we have been successful!

Y8 surveys are informing us of your frustrations with the Arbor App. We are relaying these to OAT and Arbor who are working together to improve the Parent App's functionality and usefulness to parents.

Thank you to Y8 families for your positive feedback regarding Y8 Progress Evening. 1 in 3 families have completed the questionnaire and we really value your feedback so please do click the link and complete the short survey so we can continually seek to be the best we can be at CNS.

Last night we welcomed back many of our Y11 Class of 2026 to celebrate their many achievements – more on this in next week's newsletter.

This is a packed newsletter, I hope you enjoy reading it as well as being informative. Our aim is to keep you connected to life at CNS further strengthening our CNS community.

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely
Ms Jo Philpott

Yr7 Settling in Evening

Miss M Cook

- Y7 parents and carers are inviting to an information event in the Auditorium from 5.30-6.30pm on Thursday 3rd December
- We will focus on how Y7 have settled into CNS and guidance on how to become better learners and get the most from being part of the CNS community including
  - lesson routines and learning
  - how we measure and report progress
  - movement and social time routines
  - the power of reading.
- The evening is a must for all Y7 families, and we strongly recommend you attend
- Students do not need to attend.
- The presentation will be shared with all parents following the event for those who are unable to attend on the evening.

Attendance

Mr Innes

- In the run up to Christmas, we will be running a competition across all forms around attendance and the best form in each year group will be in line for a treat in the first week back!
- Every child receives a virtual raffle ticket for every day they are here.
- As the weather gets wetter and colder and the mornings get darker, it becomes harder and harder to get up in the mornings - we all have to do it!
- Attendance at school is still a priority for us - we cannot teach an empty seat, and students miss out on so much when they are not here.

Christmas Dinner

- The City of Norwich School will be serving our excellent Christmas lunches in the Dining Hall on the following dates:
  - Tuesday 8th December: Years 7, 8 and 9
  - Thursday 10th December: Years 10, 11 and Sixth Form
- The cost is £3.63 payable via ParentPay.
- Cash can also be paid to the Finance Office via Student Services.
- All payments must be received by **Sunday 6th December** to allow our catering team to plan accordingly.
- If your child is entitled to Free School Meals, they can have Christmas lunch free of charge.
- Please complete the form below to confirm their attendance:
- https://forms.cloud.microsoft/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=cCy76NwEk0iIgsR7VNvSkk89KmMi_7tOp-LAIwrw9BtURFlOQktGQVlCME5LWkpHVTZLQzBIWTk5WC4u&route=shorturl
- Please note that the full FSM daily allowance will be used for Christmas lunch. Students can bring additional money or top up their cashless catering account if they wish to purchase extra items.
- Snacks and drinks will continue to be available from our other food outlets, which will remain open as usual during break and lunchtime.
- For assistance with ParentPay, please contact cnsfinance@cns-school.org.

Anti-bullying week

Mr Innes

- This week has been National Anti-Bullying Week and there has been a lot going on. It has been great to speak to students and to hear what they have to say.
- It has been reassuring to hear that the majority of students feel that bullying is not an everyday issue and on the rare occasions when bullying happens and is reported, it is well dealt with.
- There are of course a small number of students who do not have such a positive experience, and we will continue to work tirelessly to improve thigs for them.
- If your child is experiencing bullying, please do contact the House Team so that we can follow up quicky.

Christmas Concert

Mr Cushion

- Save the date!
- Our annual CNS Music Winter Concert will take place on Tuesday 8th December.
- Please see the attached poster for more details.

Y12 Exams

Ms Collison

Next week, we would like to wish our Year 12 students the very best of luck as they take their first formal assessments in the Gym under exam conditions. Since joining us in September, students have made an excellent transition to A Level study, demonstrating maturity, commitment and a positive attitude towards their learning. We have been particularly impressed by the way students have embraced the challenges of sixth form and approached their studies with determination. These assessments provide an important opportunity for students to showcase their knowledge and skills, and to gain a well-deserved sense of achievement for the hard work they have invested throughout the term. We wish them every success.

Y13 Parent Information Evening

Ms Nichols

- Year 13 parents are invited to attend an information evening on Tuesday 1st December in the Fisher Auditorium.
- The evening will start promptly at 6pm and will be finished by 7pm.
- We will cover:
- Exams and Mocks: Timetables
- Revision: Good routines
- UCAS timeframes and next steps in applications
- Introduction to student finance
- Information will be sent home on Friday 4th Dec with the normal bulletin.

Y11 Progress Evening

Mr N Williams

Year 11

- Thursday 10th December in the Sports Hall from 4:30pm to 7:30pm.
- More information on making appointments will follow closer to the date.

Parent Governor Vacancy

Mrs Shaw

- We currently have a vacancy for the role of Parent governor.
- Being a governor at your child's school can be very rewarding and offers you the opportunity to make a real contribution to the life and work of the school.
- It is also interesting, informative, and valued by CNS and OAT.
- For more information of the role itself and details on how to apply please see the attached letter.

News reports from events at CNS

Year 8 Progress Evening

Mr N Williams says

"The recent Year 8 Progress Evening was a really positive event. Lots of families received feedback on the work their students have covered so far this year and pointers on how they could improve. From the conversations I had with parents it was clear that many students were definitely getting Christmas presents this year, earned through their hard work and excellent attitude in lessons."

Cromer Trip

Mr Akroyd says

"The geography department took a group of year 11 students to investigate the coastal defence on the North Norfolk Coast on Monday. We wanted to know why some parts of the coast get hard engineering while locations nearby do not. We also wanted to evaluate how effective the coastal defences are, and the impact the engineering has on the environment.

We were lucky with the weather, a nice sunny day with no wind meant we could really appreciate the natural environment. The CNS students behaved really well, and I picked up several compliments from the public, many of whom enjoyed taking to our students as they took part in the interviews to gauge the public perception of the sea defences."

Canary Wharf Trip

Mr Butler says

"Thirty-nine GCSE Geography students attended a fieldtrip to Canary Wharf and Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park on Tuesday 24th Nov, investigating the impacts of urban redevelopment in London. Students collected primary data through Environmental Quality Assessments (EQA) and footfall surveys and public interviews, developing practical fieldwork and data analysis skills. The experience helps prepare students for fieldwork-related questions in their upcoming GCSE Geography examinations."

UEA Explore Health and Medicine Futures

Mr Etheridge says

"As part of our ongoing support for students exploring their future pathways beyond Sixth Form, I had the pleasure of accompanying ten Year 12 students to UEA this week. The students, who are considering careers in medicine, nursing, and allied health professions, took part in a series of engaging workshops and lectures designed to provide an insight into the wide range of opportunities available within the healthcare sector.

Throughout the day, students experienced a taste of life as a healthcare professional, developing consultation skills, exploring the principles of prescribing, and attending a university-style lecture on the anatomy of the hip. The visit provided a valuable opportunity for students to deepen their understanding of healthcare careers while experiencing first-hand what studying and training in these fields at university might be like."

CNSA AGM

Mr Roberts says

“On behalf of CNS, we would like to say a huge thank you to the CNSA for their continued hard work, commitment to our school community, and for their contributions at our most recent AGM. The CNSA raises valuable funds for projects that directly benefit our students. From funding the water bottle fillers across school and portable PE floodlights to supporting many other improvements, their contribution makes a real difference.

The CNSA is always looking for new parents and carers to get involved, whether joining the committee or simply helping at events. For more information, please contact mailcnsa@gmail.com.”

Careers information

Ms Pentney

Year 7 STEM Roadshow

On Wednesday afternoon, we welcomed Altru Drama into school to deliver a STEM Roadshow on behalf of BAE Systems, the Royal Air Force, and the Royal Navy. The interactive session explored how materials are made and demonstrated the important role science and engineering play in everyday life, while also raising awareness of future career opportunities in these sectors.

Year 8 Find My Future event at the John Innes Centre

On Thursday, a group of Year 8 students with an interest in STEM attended the Find My Future event at the John Innes Centre. During the day, they heard inspiring talks from guest speakers Bobby Seagull & Dr Gabriel Astorga, met STEMM professionals to learn about a variety of career pathways and took part in a range of hands-on activities. It was a fantastic opportunity for students to see how their learning in the classroom connects to real-world careers, while exploring the many exciting opportunities available within science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine.

Year 11 post-16 applications

- A reminder to all Year 11 students and parents/carers that applications for post-16 destinations should be completed by Friday 18th December.
- If your child would like support to discuss their next steps, explore their options, or receive help with completing applications, please contact n.pentney@cns-school.org. Students are also welcome to drop into the Careers Office for advice and guidance.
- We encourage students to submit their applications through the Help You Choose website.
- If your child has applied directly to a sixth form or college, please ask them to inform either me or their form tutor of the provider and courses they have applied for.
- Thank you for your support in helping students prepare for their post-16 journey

Year 10 Work Experience Opportunity

- Applications are now open for our Norfolk Year 10 Introduction to NHS Careers Work Experience Programme with East of England Community Health & Care NHS Trust.
- Ever wondered what it's like to work in the NHS? Join us in Norwich from 12-16 July 2027 for a five-day programme exploring careers including nursing, physiotherapy, psychology, pharmacy, occupational therapy, speech, and language therapy and more.
- You'll meet healthcare professionals, learn about different career pathways, and discover what life in the NHS is really like.
- Find out more and apply: https://buff.ly/gVnOxHA

Year 10 Science Camp at the John Innes Centre

The 2027 Year 10 Science Camp will take place at the John Innes Centre from Monday 5 July until Friday 9 July 2027. Applications will open on 30 October 2026 and close on Friday 15 January 2027.

- As part of Year 10 Science Camp, students explore how some of the world's best plant and microbial scientists work and learn how the science of today is the reality of tomorrow. Find out how you too can become a scientist, investigate mysteries, and change the world!
- Students that take part have a chance to take part in lab and computational practical's, explore the site and find out more about the work of the John Innes Centre and shadow a scientist or technician to find out what life is like working in the lab. This is a non-residential course, held at the John Innes Centre. You will need to arrange your own transport to and from site each day. Travel bursaries are available for those who receive free school meals.
- To apply for the Year 10 Science Camp, click the link and complete the form: Apply here.

Dates for your diaries

1st December	Y13 Parent information Evening
3rd December	Y7 Settling in Evening
8th December	Christmas Concert
17th December	Christmas Showcase and Panto
18th December	End of Autumn term
4th January	Staff training day school closed to students
5th January	All students return to school

Progress Evening dates for the year

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