



Term 3 - 2018/19

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents

This term's newsletter is focusing on learning and aims to give you a flavour of life at NTC. This is one of our busiest times for our staff and students. In addition to all the learning taking place, we need to support our students with exam preparation and thinking about their next steps. Most year groups are having to make decisions about their future pathways, whether it be KS4 subject choices, or where to next at 16 or post 16. As staff and parents', it is vital that we are informed to make sure all are on a journey which best suits their needs and future aspirations. If you need any support with any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact your son's Learning Coach or our Careers Leader, Mr Ratcliffe (Careers@ntc.kent.sch.uk). Y11 and the Sixth Form have been sitting PPE examinations, these are mock exams which give us all an indication of the likely outcomes for this year's summer examinations. I have been delighted with how many parents have attended the exam preparation sessions and Parent's Evenings over the last few months. The results of these examinations will provide an important focus for us in the remaining weeks before the actual examinations start. Now is the time for us all to be emphasising to students that they are going to have to work extremely hard and rethink their priorities for the next few months so that they can fit in regular revision sessions in the evenings and at weekends. NTC runs sessions before and after school and even on Saturday mornings and over holiday periods. I would ask you to encourage your child to make the most of these, as it certainly reduces some of the pressure. I would also make a plea that you support us with ensuring your child is prepared with the correct equipment for exams.

Mrs Jane Partridge, Headteacher



Voice of the Parent

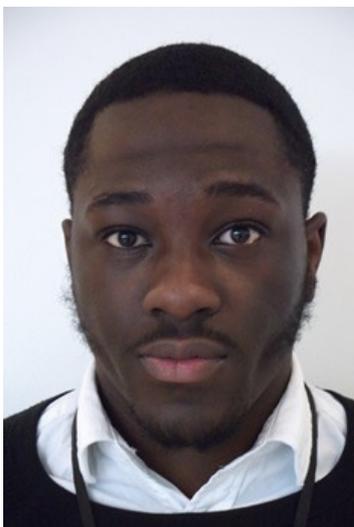
At NTC we take every opportunity to seek advice from parents on how we can improve and we carefully consider your suggestions. A really valuable source of information is our Parent's Evening surveys.

You said: You would like more support with careers advice

We did: Employed a Careers Advisor to attend Y11 Parents' Evening.

Response was so positive we intend to provide access in future at Sixth Form and Y10 Parent Evenings.

Mrs Jane Partridge, Headteacher



Sixth Form

The recent end of Unit external examinations have taken place for a large number of our Sixth Form students and we are all very much looking forward to the results in March. We have had over 20 students apply to University (through UCAS), to study for a range of different courses including Sports Therapy, Paramedic Science and Business and Finance. Already, many of the applicants have received offers. Lessons have been very busy and staff and students have all been working hard on the internally assessed units, with a big push from Y13 students working to improve on their final grades. All in all, it has been a very busy term. Prince, one of our 6th form students applied to University through UCAS, he has received a place from all 5 Universities! Prince wrote an excellent personal statement and his teachers added their references. I look forward to hearing about his future success.

Mrs L Donaldson, Assistant Headteacher, KS5 Learning Stage Leader

PIXL

'Going Beyond' to care for the well-being of the students facing difficult exam periods. The pressures that our Y11 students are under to perform well in the new GCSE system can be difficult for many. Recently, we carried out trial sessions of a mindfulness breathing and relaxation programme. 12 students took part in the sessions and, despite slight initial embarrassment, all students welcomed the opportunity and felt more relaxed and in control at the end of the session. As a result of the success of the trial, we are looking to introduce extended sessions ahead of the summer exams. As part of our membership of the PIXL organisation, we have been provided with a recipe book containing a number of recipes designed to support students through the tough revision periods and exam times. The school restaurant will be serving samples of the recipes during the exam periods, and the recipes and step by step videos, so the boys can prepare them for themselves. These are available on the PIXL student website (<https://students.pixl.org.uk>, 801876, Indep153). We have already had students try out some and say how tasty they were. If you do try any out, please send me a photo of the meal.



Mrs F Severns, Assistant Headteacher

DT

Within KS3, students have been developing their woodwork and metal work skills. Y7 have been creating imaginative pendants showcasing an array of skills to make a high-quality product. Y8 have been learning how mechanisms work, learning how different motions can be changed. They then used this knowledge to design and create their own mechanical toy. They have now moved on to working with metals, brazing and shaping different metal types to make new hanging basket products.

Mr G Childs, Design Technology Teacher

Options

Y8 are deciding what option subjects they would like to take from Y9 to Y11. Taster sessions started on 28 January, which will support the students in making their minds up. These sessions gave them the opportunity to try subjects they may not have experienced before. Most importantly, they should pick something they enjoy and can achieve in, not something they think their favourite teacher might teach or that their friend is taking! Good luck to you all!

Mr A Brown, Learning Programme Director and Options Coordinator

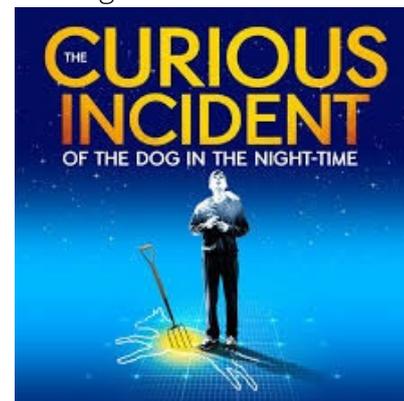
Team Northfleet

Since the start of the academic year, one of many projects NTC is investing time in, is working with higher ability students. We have teamed up with selected Y11 students to work with and against other teams in the battle for the best effort in lessons. The winning team, at the end of a two week cycle, receives a victory Pizza for their efforts. This increased effort, sparked by healthy competition, is showing an increase in progress across all subjects in the school, and is having a positive impact on Y11's predicted grades. Mr Ray's team took victory, and of course, Pizza this time around. I wonder who will taste victory next time?

Mr J Karnovski, Progress Manager

Drama

The KS4 and KS5 drama students took a trip to the West End to see 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time', a play based on the book of the same name, which has recently returned to the West End. The students were amazed at the use of physical theatre and the skills of the performers on stage. Overall, students and staff thoroughly enjoyed the performance, some students said that it was 'amazing!', 'entertaining!', 'fantastic!'. In lessons, students have been using some of the techniques used from the show, including; lifts, choreography and visual images. The students engagement in the style of physical theatre has doubled since watching the show, which shows how inspired the students were. There really is nothing quite like watching it in action!



Ms G Hull, Drama Teacher

IB Film

As assessment deadlines approach, IB Film students have been making excellent progress with their film projects. Students have experimented with a range of creative camera and editing techniques within their film portfolios. The films range from Horror to Film Noir, and it has been excellent to see their theoretical understanding of film theory being developed and applied into their practical projects.

Mr P O'Neill, Film & Media Teacher

Sports News

Y7 Rugby Team delivered an excellent performance in their very first fixture, beating the Howard School 10-5. Mitchell's pace was unstoppable and he scored our tries. Other special mentions must go to the leadership of Ollie and to the strength of Nii and Frankie.



Y8 team also picked up an excellent win over Wilmington Academy, beating them 20-10. Callum and Jack used their amazing pace and strength and scored two tries each. Considering how wet and cold conditions were, our boys showed incredible discipline throughout this fantastic victory.



Y9 Rugby Team entered a 15-a-side district tournament held at St George's School and performed extremely well. The tournament was exhausting, requiring them to play back to back matches with little break. They drew their first match against Woolwich Polytechnic 5-5, Riley scored our try. They then beat St George's & St John's, with tries scored by Arthur (three), Michael (two) and Chanukya.



Mr S Restarick, PE Teacher

Geography Trip

This term, Y11 geographers visited the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in Stratford, London, as part of their GCSE fieldwork exam. We were extremely lucky, again, to have clear skies and no snow! Students were investigating whether or not the regeneration of Stratford has been a success or not 7 years on from the London Olympics and whether or not it had improved the quality of life for the residents of East London. At various sites around the park; including the Aquatics Centre, Velodrome and Westfield Shopping Centre, students collected qualitative and quantitative data. We undertook a land use survey which we can compare to old maps in order to see how the physical landscape has changed. Students also carried out quality of life surveys and environmental quality surveys. Students found this a valuable experience as they were able to see content we had studied in the classroom, but in the real environment. The visit highlighted the positive and negative impacts of regeneration on the environment and society who live there. Students will now be well prepared for their GCSE Geography exams that are quickly approaching!



Mr Ray, Geography Teacher

Ironman Challenge

It's the start of a new year and, as always, we set ourselves targets for the year ahead. This year my personal target is to compete in the Ironman UK. This involves a 2.4 mile swim; followed by a 112 mile bike ride and finishing off with a 26.2

mile run. A lot of dedication, preparation, careful planning and persistence is needed for this very much like our students own school journey. I want to share my experience as a way of showing our students that nothing is impossible, commit to a goal, give ourselves a time frame and then plan how to get there, much like our boys do for their exams and career goals. Assessing how well we are doing towards our goal can be through testing, be that fitness testing or mock exams and from there, we will find areas that still need improving, which we can act upon. Lastly, leave nothing to chance – practice everything so, on race day, or exam day, nothing is a surprise to us! Success guaranteed! I will be regularly posting about how things are going - the highs and the lows! Stay tuned for more!

Mr A Brown
Learning Programme Director

Art

Creative Thinkers for the Future - A number of Y11 Art students recently attended the University for Creative Arts in Rochester. We enjoyed a tour of the campus featuring a wide range of disciplines such as Textiles, Fashion, Animation, Photography, Graphics and Fine Art. It was a very successful day allowing students to experience University, but also to learn about the range of career opportunities available to the Creative Arts. The creative industries are currently booming in the UK and worth almost £92bn according to figures published by the Department for Digital, Media, Culture and Sport. Students also took part in a workshop creating wire sculptures for their current unit of work.

Ms M Hayes, Art Teacher

Branson

Congratulations to the students from Branson who spent their week at their chosen work experience. For many, this provides their first taste of 'real-life'. Although, I am sure, every Branson student taking part made a positive contribution to the company or organisation they worked at. I do have to mention two students in particular; Mario and Cameron, as I received very complimentary feedback from both the employers involved, inviting them back to gain more valuable experience, if they wished to. Well done to all of you! Back in school, our strive to provide all students with a taste of public speaking continues. This term, the Learning Coach groups of Mr Parker, Miss De Anne and Mrs Cork played their part. It isn't easy to stand up and speak to a room of around 200 of their peers, but the students stepped up and played their part for their team, just as they always do for Branson Community.

Mrs F Severns, Head of Branson

Spielberg

Y10 and Y11 students have been focusing on the VESPA profile for their Learning Conversations this term, and have been reflecting on how they learn and revise their work. It has been good to see them reacting so positively to what they have been asked to do. We hope that time spent now on drilling down to priorities and looking at time management will really be shown in their grades. Y7, Y8 and Y9 students have been looking at what it means to be part of a community, both within school and the wider world. We have all been brushing up on our Geography, staff as well as students! On Wednesday's, we have a more relaxed time in the afternoon with Y7 and Y8 students playing Board games, I am now officially a Ludo Champion as I won my first game!

Ms L Donaldson, Head of Spielberg

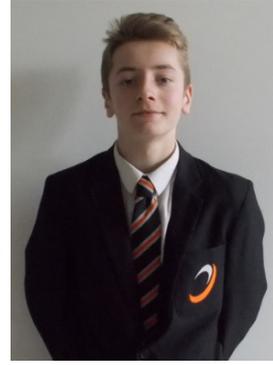
Thinking Hard!

Staff are using a strategy called 'Thinking Hard'. This strategy asks students to look at resources, whether as a text, an image or something they have created and go through a process in which they look at it in different ways, create new ideas from it, and compare it to other resources. The expectation is that students spend time thinking about what they are doing in greater depth so they have a deeper understanding of the work, therefore, are able to either secure their target grade, or in most cases 'go beyond' their target grade to achieve higher marks in assessment and exams. Students have responded well to this strategy and examples of this can be seen across the school in all year groups.

Mr B Meaney, Assistant Headteacher

Important Dates

- Last day of term Friday 15 February 2019
- Learning Coach Parents' Meetings 4 and 5 April
- Coffee morning run by 6th form IBCP students 15 February
- Last day of term Friday 5 April 2019



Da Vinci

Da Vinci students continue to impress me with their fantastic acquisitions of Achievement Points. Y7 in particular are leading the way with their brilliant accomplishments in their subjects for effort and progress. I'm really proud of my Community for the hard work, dedication and respectful excellent attitudes to learning that they are displaying on a daily basis.

Ms S Johnson, Head of Da Vinci

IB

This term has seen a busy term for IB subjects with Y13 students coursework/internal assessments being moderated with, for and by other IBCP schools in Kent. On top of that, following Options Evening, applications for September are starting to flood in. Any Y11 students wanting to apply for the IBCP in Sixth Form should complete their applications through the UCAS Progress website. It's exciting to see so many applications coming through with NTC reflecting the enthusiasm and interest seen in the IBCP across Kent. 2019-2020 looks like it may turn out to be another bumper year, with more students opting to take IB subjects than in previous years, becoming part of the IBCP family and setting themselves out for the future, whichever pathway they choose.

Ms E Campbell, IB Teacher