

Friday 6 June 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you all had a wonderful half-term break. It has been a pleasure to welcome our students back for the final half-term of the academic year, a time full of opportunity, celebration, and a reflection of all that makes NSG such a vibrant and high-achieving community. As you know, we are currently in the thrust of the public and internal examination season, and I want to take a moment to commend our students for the maturity and focus they are demonstrating. Whether sitting GCSEs, A-levels, or end-of-year assessments, their commitment to doing their best is evident across the school. We are proud of how they are managing both the academic pressures and the routines of school life.

Physics Challenge Success: Year 7 and 8

We are delighted to share the exceptional results from the recent online 'Physics Challenge', which saw 111 students take part, demonstrating an outstanding level of participation for a national competition that demands deep thinking and scientific agility:

- 31 students achieved a Gold Award (70% or above)
- 77 students earned a Silver Award (42% or above)
- 2 students received a Bronze Award
- 1 student was awarded a Special Commendation

A very special thanks to Mrs Rockingham for her leadership in making this opportunity a success and a huge congratulations to all the students that participated.

Northants County Schools Challenge: Semi Finals

We are very proud of the County Challenge team, whose project on vaping awareness has been selected for the semi-finals of the County Schools Challenge. Taking place at Northamptonshire Police Headquarters on Tuesday 17 June, the day will include a *Dragons' Den*-style pitch of their winning idea and a tour of the control room.

We are extremely proud of their creative approach to a pressing social issue and look forward to seeing how they progress. Many thanks to Mrs Martin for coordinating our involvement in this event every year.

Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award Expedition

This weekend, a committed group of our Year 10 students will embark on their Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition. This marks the culmination of many months of preparation and planning, and we are incredibly proud of the independence they have shown throughout the process. Over the course of four days, they will navigate their own routes through open countryside, set up camp each night, cook their own meals, and work together to meet the challenges of

outdoor life. It promises to be a rewarding and memorable experience, one that always leaves our students with lots of very fond memories. We wish them every success!

A heartfelt thank you goes to the wonderful staff who have generously volunteered their time over the four days to support this expedition. Their commitment and willingness to go 'above and beyond' make experiences like this possible, and we are enormously grateful to them.

Sporting Excellence: Student Spotlight

We start the new term with some impressive individual sporting achievements and want to extend our sincere congratulations to the following students:

- Megan H (Yr 9) has been selected to represent the Northamptonshire U15 Girls' County Cricket Team in their upcoming fixture against Warwickshire. Her selection is a testament to her skill and love of the game. We are delighted to support her involvement and wish her every success as she takes to the field at county level.
- Jessica K (Yr 8) has been named U14 Girls Player Development Centre Player of the Season by Northampton Town Football Club. This is a fantastic recognition of her talent and dedication. Alongside her involvement with the club's development programme, Jessica also plays for Roade U14 Girls, who recently won the Northamptonshire Women & Girls U14 Football League Division 2. This is a particularly impressive achievement, given that much of the team has been competing a year up against older players.
- Amelia W (Yr 9) has secured a prestigious place in the England U15 Girls' Basketball Team, following her standout performance at the National U14 Schools Championship, where she was named Most Valuable Player. She will now compete in a series of international tournaments, culminating in the Junior NBA Finals in Valencia this July. We are incredibly proud of her talent and wish her every success.

Culture & Identity Day: Thursday 10 July

It is fair to say that Culture & Identity Day remains one of the most joyful and meaningful moments in our school calendar; a day when students and staff come together to celebrate the rich diversity that defines our NSG community. It is always a powerful reminder of the importance of belonging, identity and mutual respect.

I am pleased to confirm that this year's event will take place on **Thursday 10 July**. Behind the scenes, preparations are already well underway, and we will be sharing further details in the coming weeks. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the many staff who have already contributed their time, energy and creativity to shaping the day and, particularly, to Ms Holmes, for leading this event and making the day a memorable experience for our students and staff.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend,



Cristina Taboada-Naya | Headteacher

