

Tuesday 22nd July 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Headteacher Update: End of Term

What an incredibly wonderful, and very busy, few weeks it has been for us all! Keeping with tradition at NSG, we continued last week's Applied week activities, finishing yesterday with a Careers Fair and various other mathematical and literature-based activities.

As part of Applied Week, students from every year group engage in a variety of activities that allow them to carry out themed projects and challenges, and to have different experiences to those they would normally have, all linked to the world of work and preparation for adulthood. To give you a flavour of some of the wonderful activities that students took part in, this year we had an entire cohort of Year 7 students undertaking the challenge of becoming scientific crime scene investigators, orienteering across the site, empowerment and teamworking games, Step up to Sixth Form and even escape room activities which challenged our students' critical thinking abilities... to name but few! The Sky-Blue Theatre Production company also returned to us, once again, and delivered an interactive performance of 'Macbeth' and 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', to Year 7 and Year 9, which students thoroughly enjoyed! Over 40 external organisations supported us as part of our Enterprise and Careers days this week, which were an incredible success.

We were also pleased to be able to offer all our students the opportunity to attend a trip this year: over 1300 of them went out on day trips which included a performance of Wicked, Alton Towers, Warwick Castle, Thorpe Park, Whipsnade Zoo and Wildfire Event. Alongside this, hundreds of students also went on overseas trips, which this year included the music tour to Liege, Belgium, the history trip to Ypres, Belgium and two trips to Spain, Barcelona and Cádiz.

I am incredibly grateful to everyone involved in the organisation of these events and would like to give a special thanks to all the trip leaders, activity planners and organisers and to Mr Parker who had the responsibility of overseeing Applied Week and the activities again this year, supported by Ms Harle, Lead for Careers. This is certainly not an easy task! You can see photographs from the activities on our Instagram and Facebook pages.

Sports Days

Our Sports Days this year were another huge success despite the unseasonal weather on the second day! Both days, as ever, epitomised the NSG spirit with everyone striving to do their best for their tutor group - win or lose, first or last! Thank you to Mrs Tarlton and the fantastic P.E team for organising another excellent event and for



working incredibly hard to ensure that plans were changed (and changed again) to accommodate the inclement weather.

Our winning teams this year were:

Year 7

1st : MCS (308 points)
2nd : COS (258 points)
3rd : CES (228 points)

Year 8

1st : LAA (278 points)
2nd : LHN (271 points)
3rd : PLS (262)

Year 9

1st : AKI (308 points)
2nd : SET (267 points)
3rd : MMN (245 points)

Year 10

1st : JLY (353 points)
2nd : MAS (284 points)
3rd : KKA (257 points)

Congratulations to all our winning tutor groups, and a huge well done to every student who contributed with passion and perseverance across all events. It was a fantastic day of sporting excellence and NSG spirit. Another huge thank you to the P.E team for ensuring that both days went ahead despite the interrupting rain. You are all *ace!*

Poetry Pharmacy: Words for Wellbeing

On Wednesday lunchtime, students were invited to step into the calming and restorative world of the 'Poetry Pharmacy', an opportunity to celebrate the power of words to heal, uplift and inspire. Held in the glorious sunshine outside the Spinney Theatre, the event created a reflective space where students could engage with poetry in a mindful and meaningful way... with a cupcake and a sticker, of course!

As part of the experience, students were asked how they were feeling, and based on their response, were offered a personalised poetry prescription. This included a carefully selected verse, accompanied by a rhyming remedy, a playful yet poignant line of poetry designed to offer encouragement, perspective, or simply a moment of joy. Students were invited to complete the remedy themselves, composing a closing line that reflected their own thoughts and feelings.

Once their rhyming remedy was completed, poems were signed off and entered into a prize draw. Congratulations go to our three winners, who each received a Poetry Pharmacy tote bag and book:

- Andy B (7COS)
- Mahi P (10KKA)
- Casey G (7KWE)

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Miss Windridge and Miss Skirrow for their thoughtful organisation of this special event, and to the English team for their invaluable support throughout.



Duke of Edinburgh

We are immensely proud of the levels of engagement in our Duke of Edinburgh programme here at NSG and this year we have seen students' participation continue to grow. I wanted to formally congratulate Olivia A, Violet A, Erin P, Millie T, Rachel B, Stella B, Nell C, Maddie C our Year 12 and 13 students who successfully completed their Duke of Edinburgh Gold practice experience this weekend. Miss Peachey, who accompanied the students on their expedition along with Miss Startin. Although they were absolutely exhausted by the end, there were definitely lots of smiles and students were immensely proud of their achievements - as were we!

As we reach the end of the academic year, there is always a certain poignancy in saying farewell, not only to our student leavers as they embark on the next stage of their journeys, but also to colleagues who are moving on. This year, we say goodbye to a number of valued teaching staff, some of whom are taking up well-deserved promotions elsewhere, and others who are retiring after decades of dedicated service. On behalf of us all, I would like to thank them sincerely for their commitment, care and kindness and we wish them every success and happiness in the future.

At the same time, we also look ahead with excitement. September will bring with it a cohort of excellent and experienced new staff who will be joining our team. We very much look forward to welcoming them to NSG and continuing to build on the strength and spirit that make our school such a special place to learn and work.

Finally, I would like to thank you sincerely for your ongoing support for the school. It means a tremendous amount to us all.

Have a truly wonderful summer and I look forward to seeing all our students again in September.

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With very best wishes,



Mrs Cristina Taboada-Naya | Headteacher

