



# Norbury News

Updates from Norbury High School to keep you informed



## **Pastoral**

### **Year 7 - Miss Campbell**

Well done Year 7, you have settled in really well considering the disruption to your education. We have now completed the CATs tests and will catch up with those that missed them next term.

I am proud of you all. I hope you have a great Christmas and see you in 2022!

### **Year 8 - Miss King**

First of all can I say again thank you year 8 for welcoming me as your Head of Year. I have had a lovely term getting to know them. They have worked super hard this term and have shown me how they are maturing into lovely young people. Their resilience and bravery has amazed me and they have shown that they trust me and it has been an honour working with them!

The students have worked hard and everyday I have a member of staff telling me how impressed they are with the year group and how they love teaching them. They are polite and well mannered around school and they have really shown me what they are capable of. I hope the rest of the year will continue in the same way and they will continue to work hard and show their teachers what amazing people they are!

Have a lovely break, I am super proud of you all and I look forward to 2022 and continuing to work with you all.

### **Year 9 - Mr Johnson**

Well done to my year group this term they have had six Option assemblies this term and most of the students seemed to be fully engaged. These are very important assemblies where the students get the information from the "horse's mouth". Unfortunately, due to the restrictions the last two assemblies had to be done remotely, hopefully we will soon return to face-to-face assemblies.

The students who achieved the top 5% of conduct points in Year 9 were invited to a tea party. This is such a wonderful achievement and suggests your child is going above and beyond within their school life whether that be contributing in lessons or supporting the school and our community.

I hope that everyone has a safe and enjoyable break. It's a time for us all to recharge our batteries and to look forward to 2022.

### **Year 10 Ms Leslie**

I am delighted to have returned from maternity leave this term and I cannot thank Miss Patten enough for taking such brilliant care of Year 10 in my absence. It has been fantastic to see how mature and engaged Year 10 have been in their GCSE and BTEC studies. I have always been proud of this year group but returning last week and seeing how hardworking and kind these students are has been amazing. A huge thank you and congratulations to the new Prefect Team - carry on being role models and making me proud! I'd also like to welcome Mr Affram to the Year 10 Tutor Team. Well done to each and every student for coping in such a difficult time - whether or not it feels like it - you are doing fantastically. Happy and safe holidays to all. Bring on 2022! We've got this!

### **Year 11- Ms Emanuel-Stanford**

**Massive Congratulations to Year 11!** Who have now completed their Mock exams! They have worked incredibly hard to get to this point. Returning to school after October half term the cohort stepped up with; impromptu student-led small group revision sessions, being more proactive with asking teachers for additional help and feedback and attending intervention. Students are supporting and encouraging each other which is always nice to see and hear. As the world around them continues to be uncertain, it has been unsettling for them, but they continue to muscle on. An admirable trait of the whole cohort. They have and continue to face so many changes and they really are doing their best. I am consistently proud of them and admire their willingness to succeed. Over the holidays, please encourage them to rest and indulge in self-care. It's important that they take time to recuperate.

Congratulations again Year 11 on all you have accomplished so far!

**Year 12 - Ms Nicholls**

**Year 13- Mr Choudhury**

### **YEAR 12/13**

We started the year with our team building day which was fun for all involved. It gave the students a chance to bond and for year 13 to welcome year 12. Year 13 had a successful day trip to visit St Mary's University for a campus tour and personal statement workshop, and their UCAS applications are now well under way. We have had My Bnk visit for a Money Twist workshop and a virtual PSHE lesson with Natwest Ambassadors delivering a Career Sense Session to our students.

To what has been a challenging half term our students have responded magnificently. More than 25% of students are on 100% attendance. This week we had our 100% attendance draw and the lucky winners were Aria Nasari SFA & Lauren Wrate SFU both receiving a £20 Amazon voucher.

### **PSHE**

We have successfully rolled out the Jigsaw programme across KS3 and KS4.

Year 7- have completed the "Being Me in my World" unit, covering topics such as *My influences, peer pressure and online safety*.

Year 8- have completed the "Being Me in my World" unit, covering topics such as *Self identity, Managing expectations and Personal beliefs and judgements*.

Year 9- have completed the "Being Me in my World" unit, covering topics such as *Perceptions about intimate relationships, Positive and negative self identity and peer approval*.

Year 10- have completed the "Being Me in my World" unit, covering topics such as *Human rights, Societal freedom and Assessing and managing risk*.

Year 11- have completed the "Being Me in my World" unit, covering topics such as *Equality in relation to disability including hidden, Campaigning for equality and the impact of unfair treatment on mental health*.

A big thank you to our school police liaison officers for coming in to speak to Year 8 and 9.

### **Faculty news**

#### **Computing & Life Sciences Faculty**

## **Computing**

This term has seen some wonderful work created by our students. They have worked hard and remained focussed on the whole. We have looked at the concept of Binary and how the computer uses it. In year 7 we explored Binary conversions, Binary addition, hexadecimal. This was challenging for year 7 but they did really well. I am very proud of them. We have now moved on to systems security, the girls will explore some news articles about flaws in systems that have allowed them to get hacked, (e.g. wannacry ransomware) and how we can prevent these sorts of security breaches. We also look at how we can take steps ourselves to keep our data safe. In year 8 we have looked at the ethical implications of technology and how this can impact people's lives, both here and worldwide. We also looked at the laws surrounding computers. The girls really engaged and we discussed what improvements we can make as individuals regarding recycling our technologies in the future. The current topic we have just moved on to is one which requires attention to detail- HTML coding. This allows the girls to build their own websites using notepad. Year 9 have looked at logic gates and types of validation we can use to create defensive systems. Again, another tricky topic but year 9 showed resilience and teamwork when needed. The current topic is on Ethics with a twist from the topic from year 8. It looks at the death of the high street due to online stores, and also we also revisit some of the environmental impacts too. Well done Key stage 3 for all of your efforts this term!

KS4 Computing girls! You are just a dream to teach! Well done for all of your efforts with your topics so far. Year 10 you have settled in so well, and I can see you genuinely enjoy the subject which is so fantastic. We have covered a lot this term and there have been lots of assessments for you. I am extremely proud of all of your hard work so far. Year 11, you have really been working hard this term. I appreciate you are all tested out! I know how much you all want this break now, so wind down and enjoy the rest as the next term is going to be a lot of exam preparation. It is definitely a testing time, but you are all extremely capable- just try your hardest.

If you celebrate Christmas, Happy Christmas to you and your family, if you do not, then happy holidays. Either way I hope you enjoy some quality time with your family.

## **Information Technology (IT)**

We started the year with an introduction/recap to Google classroom. This was to familiarise the students with the platform they'd be using to access work for all of their classes. This also included introducing year 7 to Google drive and how they can create work at school and access it at home without the need to purchase Microsoft office and emphasise that the school has moved away from USBs.

Year 7 moved on to look at file organisation where they would learn the importance of giving work and folders sensible names to allow them to find past work easily. Then swiftly on to using Microsoft Word to ensure they have basic word processing skills that would allow them to fully participate in other subject lessons.

After recapping the Google skills from last year, year 8 moved onto searching the internet, which would teach them different search criteria as well as identifying bias on webpages. This would work with other subjects as it would enable them to find reliable resources to include in their work.

## **Business Studies & Economics**

It has been a busy, yet exciting term in both Business and Economics this year. We have welcomed a new cohort of year 10 GCSE Economics students and two groups of Business students proving the popularity of both courses. The economics students have been learning about the fundamental

economics concepts relating to supply and demand and production, revenue, costs and profits. They have taken to the course well and are enjoying the challenge of a new subject. The Business students have completed the first 2 units of the course this term and have developed a good foundation in understanding how business ideas come about, market research and competition. They will be sitting their second end of unit assessment in January, continuing to build on their exam technique skills. There has been close liaison with this department and the careers department this term who have organised a series of business related events and arranged for speakers in industry to come to the school. This has not only given the year 10 cohort a valuable insight into the business world but also a good opportunity to be involved in designing a product and pitching it in a dragon's den style presentation which they thoroughly enjoyed.

The year 11 cohort have been learning about business growth in the form of mergers and takeovers and developing their understanding of the marketing mix. They have also spent time preparing for their recently sat mock exams.

In the sixth form, year 12 pupils have all been working incredibly hard on their courses which are new to the majority of them. The Economics pupils have built a good understanding of the key micro concepts: i.e the factors of production, supply and demand, the economic problem, consumer and producer surplus and the production possibility boundary along with others. They have also started learning about how the macro economy works, and key concepts of aggregate demand and supply on the macro side of the course. The Business pupils have learnt about managers, leadership and decision making and developed their business knowledge on what is a business to extend to different business setups. They have started to learn about the different functional areas of a business and are currently learning about marketing, which is an area of study enjoyed by most students. Year 13 Business pupils are continuing to work hard and are developing their ability to link all aspects of the curriculum and apply exam technique as they are preparing for their mock exams due to take place at the start of next term. They are also completing their UCAS applications with a large percentage applying for Business related courses.

## **Psychology**

Psychology is again proving to be a very popular option in year 10 with two groups running in the subject this year. Students started off with the topic of **Memory**. They examine various scientific approaches and research on modelling how the human mind processes, stores and retrieves information in both the short and long term. One aspect of this is how people use 'schemas' or pre-existing mental structures to help them 're-construct' what has happened in the past. Students have also been playing some games that help them to learn how to improve their memories!

In year 11, the group has progressed successfully through the challenging year covering such topics as **child development, psychological problems, social influence and Neuro-psychology**. This term they have moved onto the optional topic of **Criminal Psychology**. In this they have been learning some of the proposed causes of criminality whether that be biological, through conditioning with 'rewards' or by social learning through role models. They also evaluate the effectiveness of punishments and 'treatments' for criminality.

In the sixth form, all the year 12 and 13 groups have been enthusiastically embracing the curriculum and we look forward to the students getting similarly excellent results in 2022 as in previous years. A large proportion of our students are applying to do the subject at University level and this fact reflects the very wide number of careers and professions that benefit from the skills that are learned in the subject. It is also a testament to the fantastic enthusiasm that our students have for **psychology** which vies for position as the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> most popular A level nationally.

## **Sociology**

Sociology has proven once again to be a favoured option in year 10, as there are two classes studying the subject this year. Students commenced the subject by learning about Society and British culture. Students also became aware of the levels of conflict that may occur in Society. Students have also begun to learn about well known Sociologists and their research. Shortly after they studied the society they live in and other societies, they moved on to research methods. This explains why researchers have to consider how they approach their studies. Both year 10 groups have finished two units and have been assessed on the topics. They will move on to the Family unit From January.

The year 11's have grasped a greater understanding of sociology, and have shown progress. When they returned after the summer holidays they recapitulated on the Education unit. They have also had an end of unit assessment, followed by the Crime and Deviance unit, which they are in the process of completing. The Year 11's have also completed their mock exams. The assessment consisted of Family, Education and research methods. The year 11's have grown in confidence and are beginning to make connections with previous units.

There have been a number of students who studied Sociology at GCSE and continued the subject at A Level. There have also been students who have studied Sociology for the first time. Both year 12 and 13 have demonstrated devotion towards the topics they have studied. Year 12's and 13's will complete a mock exam soon, so good luck to all of them! In addition, there have been a number of year 13 students that have either applied to study Sociology at university, or applied for a course related to the subject, so all the best with their future studies.

Year 9's have now had an assembly on GCSE Sociology and have a rough idea about the subject. If they want more information, they have been advised to do their research and ask a Sociology teacher for more information.

## **Health & Social Care**

It's been an exciting term for Health and Social Care. We welcomed two fantastic Year 10 groups to the department. They have been settling into their new subject, learning all things related to growth and development. They have also been looking into factors that can have a positive or negative impact on the health status of individuals. They recently began working on their first piece of coursework, which is shaping up to receive fantastic results. They Year 11's are continuing their qualification with coursework on Health and Social Care services - they also recently completed a mock exam which hopes to prepare them for the public exam in February.

Our Key stage 5 groups are also working hard revising for exams - Year 13's taking Unit 1 & 2 exams in January while Year 12's are preparing for mocks in preparation for summer exams.

Can I also take the opportunity to introduce myself as the new Head of Department, Rachel Lang. I would also like to thank my hard working and dedicated team Mr Reiss and Ms John-Lewis.

## **English & Media Faculty**

### **KS3 English:**

This term, our year 7 students have been delving into the world of Romanticism. Blake, Wordsworth and Keats are just a few of the poets our students have been exploring and analysing as they seek to understand the foundation of Romantic literature. Alongside this, they have been reading and physically exploring a play adaptation of 'Frankenstein'- the first science-fiction novel written by the talented Mary Shelley. Through this study, students have been exposed to the scientific world which

Shelley based her novel on and the societal fears of the developing scientific world. Next term, we will be moving onto the Victorian Epoch where our students will be exploring the worlds of 19<sup>th</sup> century classical characters.

Year 8's have been studying a classic Shakespearean Tragedy- 'King Lear'. Our students have been completing incredible pieces of imaginative writing where their creativity (alongside their knowledge of the plays' context and conventions) could take over. As well as this, students have learnt the foundational skills of closely analysing Shakespeare's language and structure- a challenge the year 8s took in their stride, whilst engaging with rigorous critical essays and psychoanalytical readings. Next term we are moving on to Writings of War, with a focus on poetry from WW1, WW2 and recent wars- a unit of work students always enjoy and remember!

Our year 9's have been completing a media unit with a focus on how the youth are portrayed. They study works chronologically through the years, starting in the 40's. This unit has offered the students the opportunity to voice, challenge and debate opinions whilst considering why teenagers had, and still have, such a bad reputation in the media. They have expressed these through engaging conversations and class debates, persuasive writing and comparing media representations. Next term we shall be exploring the comical world of Shakespeare, with a focus on context, comedy conventions and how women were viewed and represented in theatre during Shakespeare's era.

#### **KS4 English**

This term, our year 10 students have made a fantastic start to their GCSE English Literature journey with an in depth analytical study of our anthology poetry collection, comprising 15 poems that explore the expansive concept of conflict. From Benjamin Zephaniah to Wilfred Owen via Christina Rossetti and Gillian Clarke, year 10 have explored a diverse range of challenging poems that tackle conflict in all its forms. Classes have developed critical understandings of the poets' musings and messages on a vast range of subjects, including war, race, class, gender, relationships and the wider effects of conflict, and have explored their own opinions about these pressing topics.

In addition to studying the anthology collection of poetry, year 10 have been developing their confidence and skills in tackling the tricky nature of unseen poetry, culminating in the comparative study of two poems exploring the experience of being a woman. Students have wowed their teachers with their engagement in such a challenging topic and we're very excited to see their responses to the modern texts they'll be studying next term!

A rite of passage for Year 10, we were delighted to welcome back the Speakers Trust facilitators in October for the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge to help our students gain vital skills and confidence in public speaking. Always a rewarding experience, we were thrilled with the progress students made throughout the day. The deserving winners from each group's speech competition will now compete against each other in a year's assembly next term and the winner will go through to the regional final to represent Norbury in March.

Year 11 students always relish studying Shakespeare and this year's cohort is no exception! Whether they have been reading 'Macbeth', 'Romeo and Juliet' or 'The Merchant of Venice', students have risen to the challenge of annotating their own copy of the play and have grappled confidently with the Bard's big ideas about the human condition. Our Language focus this term has been to revisit all the necessary skills needed to prepare for Paper 2, which requires students to analyse, evaluate and compare two non-fiction texts on the same subject. Students have also spent time polishing their transactional writing skills, offering them opportunities to craft their voice for a range of purposes and audiences. Having now completed their mock exams, we are in a strong position to begin our focused revision next term.

## **KS5 English**

Year 12 have worked hard in the Autumn term to complete their first novel, Bram Stoker's gothic classic, *Dracula*. They also have their first piece of coursework nearly complete for the Tennessee Williams' play, *A Streetcar Named Desire*. We are really impressed with our new cohort's literary flair. Year 13 are midway through their study of the dystopian classic, *1984*, by George Orwell. They have also begun their in-depth study of *Hamlet* and are currently in the process of agreeing a date to go and watch it at the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse next calendar year!

KS5 Media Studies- Students have been working tirelessly on their coursework creating two real life story magazine front covers and two contents pages. Their creative energy is impressive and we can't wait to read them (and mark them of course.)

## **Literacy**

A term initially coined by Dr. Isabel Beck, Dr. Margaret McKeown, and Dr. Linda Kucan in the 2002 publication of their book titled *Bringing Words to Life: Robust Vocabulary Instruction*, tier two words are also referred to as academic vocabulary. These are cross-curricular words, appearing frequently across topics and content areas.

With our weekly WOW posters now posted on tutor groups' Google Classrooms, we have been engaging students with some tier two words this month. This month, students have been encouraged to use words like 'subsequent', 'enforcement' and 'marginal' across their different subjects and to think about connections to other languages.

Our posters are set out in the same format - there is always an engaging image to help students make connections with the meaning of words, the translation of the word in a different language, the definition and example of the word in a sentence context, the etymology, other word forms and synonyms. There is also an opportunity to engage with the word and spelling in a creative way on the last page of the poster.

## **Humanities Faculty:**

### **Citizenship**

Both KS3 and KS4 have learnt about their rights and responsibilities this term. They have been able to explore different human rights, how these rights originated and how well they are being protected around the world. These units aimed to help pupils understand their basic rights as a citizen of the world and how those rights ensure the standard of living and expectations of treatment in the UK today. Throughout the year, pupils have been able to express their opinions, which they have done with passion and enthusiasm!

Year 10 have also gone on to learn about their rights and responsibilities within the law and the legal system, where they have explored the different types of criminal courts, the role of the police, the Equality Act and much more. They all produced an excellent homework, which involved researching a recent miscarriage of Justice.

Well done for all Y11 pupils who completed their Citizenship Mock this half term! I know this can be such a stressful time but they worked incredibly hard during our preparation lessons and should be proud of their efforts.

### **Geography:**



This term has been a great opportunity for the students in all year groups to be developing and working on improving their understanding of this world from the global to the local perspective. We have had the opportunity in Year 7 to do some fieldwork by doing the Norbury Walk where students evaluated the area of Norbury. We had students in year 8 learning about the Earth and its timescale and the issues humans are starting to bring to it including climate change and what to do. Students in year 8 created some very interesting projects about the earth on pollution issues such as: deforestation, climate change, water pollution, plastic in the oceans. We also had year 9s learning about the “Wild World” including tectonics and natural disasters and how humans are meant to manage them. We watched documentaries on Haiti’s earthquake and did a decision making exercise on managing the volcano in Montserrat. They also have produced some amazing posters and models about volcanoes that truly show their creativity and work ethic.

## **History**

This term Year 9 students have been learning about the Indian Rebellion of 1857 during which Indian soldiers rose up in protest of their British rulers. As part of this scheme of work students debated how this event should be remembered. Whether it was in fact a mutiny (as the British wanted it to be called), a rebellion or even, the First Indian War of Independence. As part of the students' work they produced exhibition pieces that reflected the events of 1857 and how it should be remembered. The work that was produced across the year group was exceptional and left the entire history department thoroughly impressed! Well done Year 9.

This term has also seen the return of the History Club. As part of their first project, Year 7 produced an exhibition for the Black Xperience event that reflected the sometimes neglected history of black Britain. Tracing black British history all the way back to ancient Rome and taking it right up to the present day. The standard of research and work produced was fantastic and provided excellent context to the Black Xperience evening. Next term the History Club will be focusing on the history of Norbury and I can’t wait to see what they discover.

## **Religious studies**

Earlier this term Year 13 visited St Paul's Cathedral to help support their understanding of the topics covered in the component entitled Developments in Christian Thought. Pupils were asked to prepare questions in advance. These questions allowed our tour guide to tailor our tour to what the students wanted to learn more about. They then had a detailed Q&A session with the chaplain, Paula Hollingsworth. Paula told us all about her journey into the priesthood as one of the females in the first cohort to be ordained as a priest in 1994. She also spoke with Year 13 about the Church of England’s response to current issues such as global warming, conflict (especially in Afghanistan and the Palestinian territories) and race/gender discrimination. The pupils ended their visit with a climb up the 528 steps (365ft) to enjoy the sights of London from the cathedral dome. All in all, it was a wonderful day out!

## **Law**

We have started the new BTEC Applied Law course this year with Year 12. So far the students have been studying the English Legal System. Learning about the structure of the courts and the role of various legal personnel. Also the students have looked at how Statute law is created through the parliamentary process. This has been followed by examining how Judges read and interpret the statutes in real world situations. As part of this process students have devised their own laws and taken on the role of Judges to interpret the law from previous cases.

## **Criminology**

Year 12 have been investigating the various theories of criminal behaviour. This has focused on biological theories this term. Students have been examining famous criminals and assessing which factors might have caused their criminal behaviour. In the other unit the students have been examining the various reasons why crimes go unreported. This has enabled them to discuss the reasons why certain types of crime are less prosecuted.

Year 13 have been tracking the criminal process from Crime Scene to Courtroom. By looking at the various processes, procedures and individuals involved the students have been able to critically evaluate the effectiveness of the criminal justice process. Next term they will complete this by examining the judicial processes and then will undergo a control assessment examining this process. In Unit 4 the students have been looking at why people obey the law with a focus on the elements of social control. This will be followed by an investigation of the theories around punishment and sanctions. In January the students will be taking a mock exam on this area.

### **Language & Expression Faculty:**

#### **Community languages**

So far we have 18 students who have signed up to sit GCSEs and A levels in a community language in summer 2022. They will be sitting exams in a variety of languages including Urdu, Portuguese and Russian.

#### **Drama**

KS4 Drama- Congratulations to Year 11 students who successfully completed Component 1 of their GCSE exam this term. Despite some obstacles all students performed and have completed their Portfolios. Year 11 Drama students have shown; creativity, independence and support for one another. Year 10 have completed their first full term of study and we are very impressed with their commitment and attitude towards the course, keep it up!

KS3 Drama- Year 9 have worked incredibly hard on scripted performances this term and have really recreated the rehearsal process in their lessons. Their performances were incredible with many students learning their lines and bringing in props. They have truly got a little taste of what it means to be an actor. Year 8 have been interrogating the world around them and creating theatre inspired by current events. In Autumn 1 they looked at creating political theatre based on the topic Climate Change and in Autumn 2 were challenged with creating their own political performances based on various current events. Congratulations to Year 7 for completing their first term of Drama at secondary school. They have really got to grips with the basics of Drama, learning new techniques such as still image, thought tracking and improvisation.

#### **French**

Well done to Year 11 students who all prepared really well for their speaking mock exams and managed to use their French skills really effectively. Keep up the good work for the exams in May, Year 11.

Year 9 students have been learning to use all the different tenses they have learnt over KS3 together to make really fluent paragraphs in French and should be proud of their efforts.

Year 8 students have been learning how to talk about festivals in French speaking countries and Year 7 students have been speaking about their opinions of school (in French of course!) We are really proud of all our students who use their French and try really hard in all their lessons.

#### **Music**

Pupils have made a great start in music this autumn. Year 7's have settled in well and have studied the elements of music and rhythm. They were also in fine singing voice before the COVID outbreak put a stop to it. Year 8 have studied and performed Blues music and I have heard some great Blues songs they have written over the last few weeks. Year 9 have composed a Theme and Variation piece and are now writing music for a scene from Pirates of the Caribbean. Unfortunately my fellow Music Teacher Lorrain Briscoe is leaving us and I thank her for her work and wish her well in her future endeavours.

We have also been able to start music clubs again, and choir has returned with a bang and we have been able to recruit record numbers of students which is fantastic. They performed wonderfully at our Harvest assemblies. Guitar and Keyboard clubs have also had good attendance. As you may be aware, being involved in music can have an extremely positive effect on students' wellbeing and learning, and I would encourage all students to either join a music club or take instrumental lessons, preferably both! If you would like any information about this please contact me via email.

Unfortunately due to the COVID restrictions we had to cancel all the planned christmas / winter performances, but some of the choir were able to perform at the Fairfield Halls for Stormzy's event 'A Very #Merky Christmas'. The students sang beautifully and got to rub shoulders with a range of stars including Stormzy himself, A J Tracey, ArrDee and Ian Wright.

I would like to thank all the staff and students involved in music this term for their hard work and dedication. Have a fantastic holiday!





### **Physical Education**

Our students have had a successful start to the academic year. We've covered a range of sports already in lessons, from invasion games such as netball and handball to creative sports such as trampolining and dance. Our students will continue to focus on creative sports when they are back after the New Year. We have also been able to run an increased extra curricular curriculum this year. With dance, netball, football, handball, volleyball and basketball all on offer to our students. Croydon School Competitions have also started back for our Netball teams, who have already played a few games against other schools in the borough. We are also starting to prepare our dance crew for their dance battles in February.

A selection of our Yr10s have elected to take BTEC Sport award level 2 as an additional qualification. They have taken to it well and are working hard. We also have a number of Yr11 students who have completed their Junior Sports Leaders Award level 2 this term. Even with the challenges they have had to face they have shown great resilience and success with the course. Finally well done to our Yr11 GCSE PE students who continue to show great focus and determination throughout the year.

### **Spanish**

We were really impressed with the performance of our Year 10 students who have just completed end-of-module speaking assessments. Speaking was one skill that was difficult to practice during

remote teaching, so we were especially impressed with their preparation, fluency and use of a wide range of vocabulary and tenses - keep up the good work!

### Mathematics:

#### **Mathematics Students of the Month for November!**



The following students have been amazing in their maths lessons and have been nominated as student of the month for November. Their pictures will be on the Maths corridor and will remain for the rest of the year to celebrate this achievement.

**Abinaya Selvarasa 9I**

**Divina Sivanesan 7Q**

**Amisha Suganthan 7E**

**Jemima Tshondo 10L**

**Savanna Simms 9Q**

**Anisah Rahim 8I**

Well done!

#### **Maths Surgery:**

Due to covid and split lunches, we have struggled to hold a formal Maths Surgery lunchtime support session during the pandemic period and this has been unfortunate. Mrs Alli has come up with a lunchtime schedule to support students in the following year groups. These will be held in MA6 as normal. Thank you Mrs Alli for putting these sessions together. We would look to see if we can do something similar for year 7.

#### **MATHS SURGERY**

**Lunch time**

**MA6**

**WEEK 1**

**YEAR 8 & 10 – FRIDAY**

**YEAR 9 & 11 – TUESDAY**

**WEEK 2**

**YEAR 8 & 10 – THURSDAY**

**YEAR 9 & 11 – TUESDAY**

#### **KS3 Maths**

Year 7 students that joined us in September were baseline tested and put into sets just before the November half term. Before joining ability sets they enjoyed mathematics in a creative way by solving murder mysteries, inheritance investigations and considering number properties for maths caterpillars.

Once in sets students have started covering the mathematics scheme of work that has been adjusted to insure gaps left by missing lessons due to Covid in primary school have been covered.

Year 8 and 9 students have been working hard from the beginning of the academic year to catch up with work missed in past years, again, mathematics schemes of work have been appropriately adjusted to fill in any gaps.

KS3 students have also been using our Hegarty Maths online learning platform for independent learning. Students answered an incredible amount of questions:

Year 7 - Rafiya Neesir - 765 questions answered correctly

Year 8 - Era Hartley - 1190 questions answered correctly

Year 9 - Abinaya Selvarasa - 532 questions answered

Amazing work!

### **KS4 Maths**

Year 10 students have been ploughing through the GCSE scheme of work, and have had unit assessments to keep a track on their retention as well as their progress. As we progress through the Scheme of Work, they will be having further unit tests, and therefore the expectation is for them to continue working hard independently.

Year 11 have been working hard towards their Mock exams. They have been working through the Scheme of Work with their teachers, and are also being exposed to Exam style questions and practice. Morning Intervention has also been taking place for a few selected students, where they re-visit prior learning and practice with Exam style questions in the hope of getting their grade up. We wish all our students all the best for their Exams, and hope they have a fantastic Christmas break (but keep working hard).

### **KS5 Maths**

Year 12 have had their first taste of Mechanics this term, initially they were dubious about how it fit into A Level Maths but they are now enjoying the concepts of this more practical maths. A lot of revision of GCSE maths topics has taken place with the use of a maths Bridging Unit as some higher level GCSE maths is also applied at A level. The Bridging Unit has also encouraged the Yr12s to independently plug any gaps in their GCSE knowledge required for A level. The students have now covered topics in Pure, Statistics and Mechanics, the completion of these topics are always followed by topic tests to assess and give students the experience of applying their knowledge to exam questions.

Year 13 have been working hard towards completing their A level course. They have completed topics in Pure, Statistics and Mechanics with topic assessments completed at the end of each topic. Students are regularly exposed to exam questions during lessons and homework, this helps with their confidence in answering these types of questions in exams. They can now appreciate the links between the three types of maths and are learning not to be limited in their thinking.

Both Yr12 and Yr13 are working hard towards their mock exams in January. Yr12 will be assessed on everything they have learned this term and Yr13 will be assessed on topics covered this term and a few from their Yr12 as this will be required of them in the final A Level exam.

### **Numeracy**

This term, KS4 and KS5 students have had the opportunity to complete the Numeracy Problem that is released every two weeks. Designed to push students to think about maths in a different way, and use their numeracy skills, these problems have been completed consistently by many students. A particular shout out goes to 10Q and SFY, who are always the first classes to submit solutions!

Year 7 and 8 students have also completed form time numeracy booklets every couple of weeks, having the chance to improve their numeracy skills that transfer across many subjects.

Well done to the group of Year 12 students who took part in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge. These challenges present maths in an unfamiliar but interesting way, pushing students to use problem solving skills to find solutions.

### **Science Faculty**

Year 7, 8 and 9 have completed STEAM projects.

Year 7 made their own balloon rockets under the topic forces and calculated the speed of their balloon rocket as part of their STEAM project. They really immersed themselves in the activity as this had an element of competition. The students worked their socks off in lessons and completed an assessment. In January they will be moving on to new science topics.

Yr 8 designed an organ system within the human body which is linked to the topic of 'Organisation' which they covered in November as part of their STEAM. Their designs included the functions of each cell, tissues and organs within the system. This activity enabled students to think creatively about how you will make your model organ system. The students presented their models to the class for feedback.

Year 9 consolidated what they learnt in the topic 'Bonding' by completing a STEAM project that involved making their own 3D molecule models using edible chocolate buttons, plasticine, cardboard and straws. They worked effectively in teams and used their creativity and artistic appreciation to produce some amazing models. The models are displayed in the classrooms. The different teams presented their models to the class for feedback. Some students took their models home to make improvements and they won the top prize. Students have completed a transition course and will be starting on GCSE topics from January. They have worked very hard and shown interest in science.

Yr 10 and 11 students have been working hard to complete the GCSE science topics and have completed topic tests. Yr 11 have also been working hard for the mock exams and we wish them a restful break.

Yr 12 and 13 students are busy preparing for the mock exams in January and they have been assessed in different topic tests. They have also been working hard to complete the required practicals. We wish them the best of luck in the January 2022 mocks.

*The STEM Club was off to a fantastic start. After some delay, 14 students signed up and attended. These students are very excited and keen on being part of the STEM Club. At the time, the aim for this term was to work on a project in groups where they make electric models of gliders, the aim being that at the end of the term they would test them to determine the most efficient and effective model.*

*This however has been put in hold due to the new restrictions in place. All being well, we hope to pick up next term and start working on a new project. Mr Watson (STEM club lead)*

### **Technology Faculty**

**Art**

**KS3 Art & Design**

**Year 7** students have started this year with a project looking at Native American Totem Poles and creating designs for their own spirit animal exploring identity. They have begun to make their designs out of clay, learning about different techniques and processes. Many of the year 7's also got to take part in some exciting drawing workshops run by Goldsmiths University students earlier on in the term.

**Year 8** students have been learning about the origins of clay and how artists have used this medium through traditional, modern and contemporary art. They have been designing and making a surreal clay bag exploring the surrealist technique of morphing. Students have been learning about joining and construction techniques such as slab building.

**Year 9** have been looking at the genre of portraiture this term and have learnt about how portraits have evolved over time. They have been learning different drawing techniques, about proportions of the face and how to draw features accurately. As a result, they have created some excellent tonal portraits using the grid method.

**Arts Evening Exhibition:** Look out for an exhibition of student's creative work in the Summer term.

### **GCSE Art**

The new year 10 Fine Art students have made an excellent start to their GCSE course with a project based around the theme of 'Natural Forms'. They have been exploring a wide range of different media to create observational drawings which have developed into abstract compositions inspired by the work of Georgia O'Keeffe. They are currently working on an A2 oil pastel final piece.

The year 11 Fine Art and Graphic Communication students have produced some amazing work for their coursework and recent mock exam. Fine Art students have been learning to use oil paint on canvas this term and have begun to produce some outstanding work in response to the theme of 'Identity'. Graphics students have been creating work in response to the theme of 'Fragments' and creating mixed media collages that have been scanned and developed using Photoshop. There have been some excellent pieces created including posters and book cover designs.

### **A-Level Art**

New year 12 Fine Art and Graphic Communication students have begun their course producing work in response to the theme of 'Structure'. Fine Art students have been experimenting with a wide range of different media and techniques to explore the initial areas of "Natural" and 'Man-Made' structures. Work includes an A0 oil painting. Graphic Communication students have been looking at a wide range of designers and how grid structures are used in design and then in contrast how designers such as David Carson break the grid. They have produced some amazing designs on Photoshop in response to briefs.

Our year 13 Fine Art and Photography A-Level students have been working on their personal study projects this term where they have chosen their area of study. In our dedicated sixth form art studio they are producing some really exciting and ambitious work.

**Summer Exhibition:** Look out for an exhibition of the outstanding work from our talented GCSE and A-Level students in the Summer term.

### **Food Technology - KS3**

**Year 7:** Students have begun to learn about food safety, hygiene and preparation this autumn term, whilst developing their practical skills within the kitchen environment. All students showed enthusiasm



and excitement within lessons and demonstrated a thorough understanding of food hygiene practices. As spring approaches the students will be learning more about nutrition and a healthy lifestyle, supported by more complex practical lessons, developing skills in order to cook and prepare a range of simple dishes safely.

**Year 8:** Our year 8 students were re-establishing their knowledge and skills from their last year in food, starting off with some retrieval practice about nutrition, safety and hygiene. In the latter part of the term, year 8 really demonstrated skill and precision whilst learning to use knives safely and gaining knowledge on different knife cuts to prepare ingredients in a range of dishes with links to the hospitality industry. They gained confidence in the kitchen by using these new skills to produce a range of complex recipes including some delicious lemon drizzle cupcakes as well as learning about ingredient functions to make their own pizza.

**Year 9:** Students returned to food technology ready to learn, in year 9 our students are given more freedom to work with flavour profiles and recipe adaptation, and are encouraged to trial and test. The focus this term, learning about international cuisine and how they can use the skills and practices they learn to propose an international menu of their own in response to a design brief. Year 9 students showed their independence and technical abilities within practical lessons and displayed their interest in Food Technology by producing a range of international dishes, lasagne, fajitas, vegetable curry and the famous French dessert, profiteroles.

### **Hospitality and Catering - KS4**

**Year 11:** It has been all systems go for year 11 hospitality students in preparation for year 11 mock exams that started in November. The students recapped their knowledge on hospitality establishments, commercial and non-commercial businesses along with legislation and safe hygiene practices within the industry. Mock examinations arrived swiftly and our hospitality students produced some beautifully presented dishes for their mock practical, which students had to produce fully, and they tasted as fantastic as they looked.

### **Product Design**

#### **Year 7 – Bridge Building Competition**

Students in Year 7 have been learning about types of bridge structures this term. They have also learned about the roles of an Architect. Working independently, students have produced a number of interesting fact files about 'Women in Architecture' both past and present. They have learned about the role of the Structural Engineer also. Students put their knowledge of bridge structures (maths and science) and designing skills (art) to the test through constructing the strongest and most sturdy bridge structure along with a partner. We look forward to announcing the winners of the bridge building competition shortly.

#### **Year 8 – Automata featuring a West End Theatre Character**

Students in Year 8 have been learning about mechanisms (Maths and science) for their Automata Project this term. Students learn about wood joints such as the lap joint and the finger joint and they have produced a sample of these joints. They have learned how to use specialist tools and equipment safely such as the pillar drill, belt sander, tenon and coping saw whilst making the frame (which also includes a finger joint) for their automata frame. Students are currently making their Character (chosen from a famous West End Theatre Production - Drama) out of recycled materials.

#### **Year 9 - Cultural themed USB Powered Lantern**

Students in Year 9 have been learning about Electronics, this is a combination of science (circuit board) and product design. Students have learned how to solder components to a working circuit board and they have worked independently to research the history, traditions, the significance, and the meaning of cultural patterns from their chosen country (geography). Using 'culture' as a theme has given the students an opportunity to explore and discuss another culture other than their own. Most importantly, students have learned about a country they have little or no knowledge about. The knowledge and skills gained has enabled the students to make their own USB powered lantern to reflect a cultural pattern design.

## **Textiles**

**Year 7 :** Year 7 have started their KS3 programme with lots of focus and enthusiasm. They have completed a range of machine and hand sewing skills, which they will be putting to good use at the start of next term to complete their beanie animal designs. They have worked with maturity and growing independence and we look forward to seeing their wonderful designs move from 2D to 3D!

**Year 8:** This academic year, students have been able to access a wider range of equipment and techniques and have shown great creativity and imagination in their design ideas and use of tessellations to create repeating patterns. As part of 'The Black Xperience' programme of events, students took part in a design workshop that focused on African Textile techniques and designs. These lovely pieces of work were presented as part of the event.

**Year 9:** Students have completed a really creative set of workshop based activities that have included fashion illustration, draping, technical pattern cutting and more. They have also produced an impressive set of block prints, applique and batik designs inspired by a female designer of their choice, as well as learning about fast fashion and the upcycling of jeans into skirts.

**KS4 & 5:** Throughout last academic year, students were still able to access practical work and this has led to a really impressive skills set being developed by GCSE and AS level students. In addition to this, lockdown gave us the opportunity to explore more digital based media including photoshop and illustrator programmes. Many of our students are hoping to continue their Fashion and Textiles for either A level or degree studies and we wish them the best of luck and support in their applications.

## **Student Support Services**

### **EAL**

The EAL department has been extremely busy this term welcoming students from as far away as the Philippines, Ivory Coast and India. We currently have over 60 students on the EAL register who are being supported by teachers in the EAL area as well as by teachers across the school. Our Young Interpreters have also been busy making sure all our new students settle in quickly and are being made to feel part of the school community.

### **SEND**

There have been a lot of goings on in Learning Support this term and we have plenty to celebrate as we break up for Christmas. Many of our students in KS3 are making use of the Sanctuary at lunchtimes, enjoying some crafts, playing games with friends or just enjoying a good book in peace and quiet. Our Haven has become a hub for our more vulnerable Year 9's, giving them a safe space to enjoy lunch and socialise together. We are very proud of the progress some of our key students

have made this term. Special praise goes to a year 9 student, who has raised her achievement in all subjects this term and is making good use of the support provided by the LSA team. Finally, we have had several new staff join our team in Learning support this term and they are all having a positive impact on our students. A massive thank you to Mr Hayden, who started as our new SEND Administrator in October and has already started transforming the systems for the better in our department. We also have the additional support this term of Mrs Jayaram (HLTA- Numeracy), who is working with our students who face challenges in math and science and Ms Bhadusha (HLTA- Literacy) who has made great headway with our students who are struggling in their core English skills. Finally we welcomed Ms Martyne and Miss Jama to our LSA team this term. They have both been an instant hit with the students they support and have gone above and beyond to help the girls as they settle into a new school year. We end the term having been through a stressful few weeks of Mocks with our Year 11's and it was a pleasure to support the girls who were taking their exams in the Welcome room and ML7. The behaviour and effort of our students was exemplary and I am pleased that the access arrangements seemed to help them through their exams.

On a final note, please remember that we are here to support students with their homework, after school from 3:15 every Monday - Thursday evening. We cannot offer homework support during the school day due to our other clubs, but there are many adults available to assist your child with homework after school, if they would like to come down to the welcome room at 3:15.

### **Learning Mentors - Mrs Kemal & Mrs Carty**

It has been an incredibly busy term with lots of referrals for students struggling with a variety of issues in and out of school. The Pandemic caused students to either love being at home or couldn't wait to be back in school. Those who enjoyed being at home are now struggling with the everyday routines which normally would not pose a problem. They struggle with being in classrooms full of students and adjusting to normal noise and work levels, let alone actually speaking to their peers or teachers. Sometimes the easier option is to stay at home and not adjust.

Encouragement from teachers and parents is the best way forward. Reassurances that life will take a while to return to normal; it may even take a year for it to feel 'normal'. They may feel that any small hurdle has become a mountain but it is best to create a supportive way of communicating to young people. Also, to tell young people that even adults are struggling but we must move forward and not stay in our comfort zones.

Some find it difficult to communicate the levels of stress they feel about school and everyone's expectations. Expectations from their teachers, parents, but also their own expectations which sometimes can affect their mental well-being.

Talking with teenagers can be difficult as they sometimes can feel over scrutinised. Adults often ask questions which are 'closed' which leads to a response of 'yes' or 'no'; which isn't always helpful. If you are finding conversations abrupt or non-informative with your teenager this is quite normal. It can also be really useful to identify another adult that they feel comfortable talking to; maybe an aunt or grandparent. They can also help young people talk and overcome worries. However, if you would like to know more about their well-being and levels of stress, try changing the type of questions you ask, such as:

- Do you feel stressed? (Acknowledge that they can be stressed)
- What help or support do you need?

- What would you like us to do?

It is not helpful to focus on the negative aspects of growing up, especially weight and body image. Also, not helpful is assuming the young person is not doing enough studying. Most students work incredibly hard and have a long day at school. If a student is having a good night's sleep, good diet with opportunities to exercise outside the family home everything usually fits into place as they develop physically and emotionally.

Mentors listen and help students to problem solve to take responsibility and make good decisions. If you would like to know more about how you can support your daughter/person in your care do get in touch with the school.

## **Careers**

It's been another intense term for careers. We have run a number of events from KS3 to KS5. Starting with talks for KS4 regarding apprenticeships, vocational qualifications and colleges. Our year 8s and year 9s were then visited by KPMG, who taught them about online safety and cybersecurity. Our year 9s then had a day with the Royal Navy, developing their team building and communication skills.

With business and enterprise being an area of focus this term for our students, we have worked with the Croydon Careers Cluster and Education Development Trust to organise events for our students. Our year 12 Business students visited *Start Up Croydon*. Where they had a tour and spoke to employers about setting up a business and entrepreneurship. We also welcomed Maddie Henson, who visited our school to speak to some of our year 11s regarding her life and opinions on being a business woman. Maddie was the Mayor of Croydon 2020-2021 and runs an IT solution company.

Finally, our year 10 students took part in a *Dragon's Den* event. They listened to talks from two highly successful business women based in Croydon (Nisha and Temi) and then were set the task of creating a food product or service. They then had to pitch their product to our two visitors, who decided the winning team. Nisha and Temi were blown away by how well our students accomplished the task. With the winning team being the DC Donuts. Having met the brief for all four sections (market, competition, budget and pitch). Well done to all those who participated in this event.

## **More Able and Talented**

It's been an exciting beginning of the year for More Able and Talented students at Norbury High School with an incredible amount of things to look forward to:

- 30 year 7 and 30 year 8 students will be taking part in the Lead Curriculum's Student Leadership Challenge that will see the students work in teams to create books and blogs that reflect their experiences.
- Year 9 More Able and Talented student will be offered the opportunity to participate in drama masterclasses delivered by The Noisy Classroom
- In the summer term years 10-13 students will be offered the opportunity to go on a Oxford University trip where they can experience university life, hear from current Oxford students and listen to a talk about how they can successfully apply to selective entry universities.

Over 250 Chilli Challenge achievement points have been awarded for outstanding contributions in lessons. The Chilli Challenge winners of this term, each receiving a £20 Amazon voucher are:

Year 7 - Maya Ebeniro 7Y  
Year 8 - Seerisha Rosun 8U  
Year 9 - Alethea Agbegah 9I  
Year 10 - Ciena Tyson 10T  
Year 11 - Zakirah Aslam 11Y  
Sixth Form - Atiya Armatrading

Congratulations to all the winners and keep challenging yourself in lessons for a chance to win next term's prize.

### **House News**

#### **Asher-Smith**

This marks the end of our first term with the new House system in place and I am extremely proud of all of those who have been engaging in competitions, trying their best to earn more House and Achievement points and, of course, winning lots of our competitions! In the last few months, we have been hosting a range of competitions including; 'proud to be'- celebrating our students' individualism and heritage, Netball, a Bin Bag fashion show, Mascot and Slogan design and Bingo. Our House has taken these competitions in their stride and wowed our judges, their peers and the staff body- winning and placing in multiple competitions. This term we are 2<sup>nd</sup> on the leaderboard so a big well done to all of those who have participated and a special shout out to all of the members of 8L who are 'Form of the Term' with their astonishing number of House/Achievement points, Breanna Levy (10E) and Ryanielly Nsimba (9E) our Asher-Smith 'Students of the Term' and Aamina Alvi who is our new House Captain! Keep up the competitive attitude and we will be placing first in no time!

#### **Hadid**

House Hadid has got off to a great start this term. The staff and students have worked really hard to gain valuable house points by participating in house competitions and showing off their outstanding behavior. Students participated in the 'proud to be competition', which gave the students a chance to show what they were proud to represent. Well done to Ebony Boateng 10Q who placed 1st place within this competition. Students have also had the chance to participate in weekly house competitions. Well done to the students who represented House Hadid in the netball competition in Year 7,8 & 10 who came 2nd. Another well done to the students in Year 9, 11 & 6th form who came 3rd overall. Students also participated in the bin bag fashion show. Students showed great creativity and inventiveness and placed 2nd overall. A big shout out to Eva-Marie 9I who also won the mascot competition, we look forward to seeing the Hadid rabbit on our house board.

The Hadid house members of staff have also been putting a lot of effort into supporting our form groups and I'm proud to announce we are currently at the top of the leaderboard. Well done to all the students and staff for your hard work.

#### **Hussain**

This year has seen the introduction of a new House system in this school. Many students have embraced the House system and have demonstrated pride in belonging to a House.

The members of the Hussain House students who are in the form groups of 'U' or 'T,' their form tutors, as well as selected members of staff. There have been a number of competitions this term, which seems to be very popular among the students, such as The Black Xperience t-shirt competition, Bin bag fashion show, Bingo and many others. As a whole, the Hussain House have won two competitions, which are the Harvest box competition and the Netball competition. The competitions have made the students extremely competitive, in a healthy manner, but has also encouraged them to take part in activities outside the classroom. The house system has also made the students more committed to demonstrate their best efforts and hard work during lessons. Please congratulate the students and tell them to keep it up. There will be more competitions coming up in the near future. We have also managed to appoint a House captain, who will be available to assist and help any students within the Hussain House.

### **Reid**

There have been so many successes to celebrate in Reid House this term. The students have embraced the new house system and have been working hard to gain house points in lessons by exhibiting excellent behaviour, being helpful and using word of the week. Students have also been keen to take part in the different House Competitions we have had this term which have included a Bin Bag Fashion Show, Bingo games, Netball matches and a 'design a house mascot' competition. Reid House has had an exceptional amount of sign ups for these competitions and I can't thank the students enough for their continued efforts and motivation. We now have our amazing House Captain Aisha Manejwala who will be assisting with competitions and promoting Reid House next year. We are currently on 5,202 house points and are hoping to get lots more in the new year!

### **Student Wellbeing:**

So far this year we have held two successful student wellbeing conferences in school, one for Year 11 and one for Year 7. These conferences consisted of team building activities, celebrating resilience, creating strategies to improve our wellbeing and mental health, and yoga or exam skills workshops. We will be continuing to host more wellbeing conferences in 2022 for all the other year groups so that every student will have the opportunity to take part and to reflect on their own wellbeing.

We are also looking forward to our second mental health awareness week which takes place from the 23rd to the 27th May 2022. We will be inviting guest speakers from different wellbeing organisations to speak to the staff and students and we will have positive mental health themes every day throughout the week. Something that everyone can look forward to next year!

Dear Parents & Carers

We have made it to the end of term despite the turbulence caused by the in school Covid outbreak. I would like to thank the students and families at home for supporting the school during this difficult time period for all. From January we will be reverting back to the normal start time for everyone, students should be in full school uniform including shoes and they will need to bring their PE kit in a bag to school and change here.

### **School Events**

Since the start of term we have contributed to a number of charities, so thank you for supporting them. They include the Harvest food which went to a foodbank and a shelter. The £652 raised from

the non-uniform day went to a charity supporting the emergency services, the £102 Christmas Jumper Day money went to Save The Children and thanks to those who brought in contributions for the Croydon BME appeal. Next year each house will be fund raising for their chosen charity.

Next half-term Year 11s will have a 'virtual' Parents' Evening; parents will need to book appointments in the normal way and you will be given instructions and guidance of how to log in for your appointments. If you have any problems with this please contact Mrs Collins and Miss Lampard.

Just to remind you we have an inset day on Friday 11th February 2022 in the Spring term

We could not visit the church this year, but carried on with some of the festive traditions including Christmas jumper day and Christmas lunch.

Thanks for your continuing support of the activities taking place in school.

### **Year 9 Options:**

The year 9 options process has begun with a series of subject assemblies presented to year 9 to inform them of the GCSE subjects available to them and what will be studied. Year 9 students have also met with our careers advisor, Ms Park, in order to discuss their future paths and aspirations as well as to gain invaluable and impartial information. More information will follow in the new year with year 9 parents' evening in January and options evening in March 2022.

### **Google classroom:**

Lessons will be posted on the Google classroom for those who are unwell or miss lessons for any other reason. Homework is also posted here under each of your child's classrooms. Please ask your child to show you their classrooms using their unique logins.

### **Parents Forum**

I would really like to get this moving forward so would like to hear from parents next term with the view to:

- Sharing ideas
- Discussing concerns
- Starting a PTA
- Involving parents more in the school community

I will be hosting a virtual meeting on Tuesday 25th January 2022 at 6pm to gauge interest. More details to follow next term.

### **Student Successes**

Jack Petchey Award winner this term

Congratulations to the following for being nominated and winning the Jack Petchey award. The Achievement Award Scheme aims to enable schools, colleges and youth organisations to recognise, reward and celebrate the achievements of their young people. Achievement Awards are designed to recognise a wide range of achievements. It is not just about being clever, or gifted, but about putting the effort in and doing your best. Congratulations to:

- Joanne Tshondo 8I
- Nia McDonald of 9L
- Lorraine Munzamba 9Q
- Moomal Sethar in SFL

We are also growing our alumni network on LinkedIn and we currently have over 200 former students registered.

### **Visits to school**

Parents will not be permitted on site unless it is a pre-arranged appointment so the best way to contact the school is either to write a message in your daughter's planner, phone the school office or email the school, contact details are on our school website. Please note that your response will not be immediate due to staff teaching commitments and if a meeting is required you will initially be offered a virtual appointment to ensure social distancing.

I would suggest meeting your daughter at a safe distance further away from the school gates to avoid congestion and a lack of social distancing. The back gate at the junction of Green lane and Norbury Hill will be open for an hour at the start and the end of the school day to alleviate the pressure on the front gate. Visitors to school will also be required to complete a covid questionnaire.

### **Behaviour**

We are asking for your support in helping your children to make the most out of their experience at Norbury. As you are aware we are well placed as one of the highest achieving secondary schools in Croydon and strive to constantly improve our practises in order to ensure each and every child and meet their potential.

Unfortunately we have found that our attention is sometimes being taken away from our ever striving goal of constant improvement, by students diverting our efforts away from their learning and towards other behaviours, which waste both their own, and others time and energies

Below are a few reminders regarding the behaviour policies in the school. These are agreed to by both yourselves as parents/ carers and the students as well as the consequences of breach of such rules.

### **Anti Bullying week**

All students have taken part in Anti-Bullying week this term, this has included assemblies and activities as well as visits from external agencies to share information with regard to this very important matter. It is hoped that students will continue to be mindful and vigilant with regard to any such behaviour and continue to work with staff members to ensure any issues are reported and resolved.

### **Mobile phones**

Mobile phones should not be seen or heard at any time while on school premises. They should be turned off at the school gates and taken directly to lockers where they should be locked away and only retrieved at the end of the day when the student is leaving to go home. They should not be turned back on until they leave the school gates. Mobile phones serve as a distraction from learning as well as reducing student opportunities to interact with each other. These skills are increasingly important in terms of social skills and employability. If mobiles are seen or heard they are to be confiscated and locked in the school safe for a week. The student will serve a one hour detention (two if found to be using the phone). The phone needs to be collected by an adult. Please discuss these expectations with your child, they are all very aware of the expectation already, and be prepared that if your child is in breach of these expectations then the above sanctions will be implemented. We hope this will not be necessary.



## **Uniform expectations**

Uniforms are an important habit which we help students develop in preparation for the world of work. It creates a sense of belonging and ensures children are treated equally. Some students have been bending the rules with regard to our very clear uniform expectations. Hoodies are not to be worn at all. Students are expected to have a black/red or white coat as part of their uniform. If worn, hoodies are likely to be confiscated. Earrings should be small gold or silver studs, one can be worn in each ear. No necklaces are to be worn. No nose piercings are allowed. Any infringement of the expectations with regard to jewellery is likely to lead to confiscation. These items will not be returned until the end of term. A significant amount of jewellery was returned at the end of term. It is very much hoped that this will not be necessary next term due to students adhering to uniform expectations. Please also discuss with your child the importance of handing over such items should they be seen and requested without a fuss. They should not have been worn in the first place and additional conversations should not be necessary.

## **Detentions**

Students can be kept at the end of any given day for up to 15 minutes without informing home. If the detention required is longer, then 24 hours notice will be given. Again this is non-negotiable. The intention of detentions is to act as a deterrent for any given behaviour and hopefully will serve to modify the behaviour to a more effective one.

## **Respecting one another**

We want our school community to know that we will do everything in our power to actively promote and reinforce the value of equality, and we will challenge anyone who behaves in a manner that goes against this value. Maintaining the highest standards of behaviour in everyone associated with our organisation is one part of this promise, it also includes ensuring that we have an appropriate curriculum in our school and that we appoint adults across our organisation who also share those values.

When students are travelling to and from school through the local communities they are a reflection of school and home and must ensure that they act respectfully when in the community away from the supervision of their parents and teachers. Unfortunately there has been some poor behaviour from a small minority of students travelling to and from school this term which has been addressed and we are hopeful that this small minority do not spoil the reputation of others and learn from their mistakes.

We know that for many of you, prejudice, racism and discrimination are a daily occurrence - we need to stand together and will take all action necessary to challenge that discrimination. We also know that we can do more, and we can improve. We are committed to that improvement.

We value everyone and believe everyone should be treated with respect regardless of age or position and unfortunately we have had incidents this term where some parents have not shown respect when contacting school, especially to our reception teams and this is not ok. Please can we ensure that we all remember to treat each other with respect and kindness no matter what the reason you are contacting school about.

We wish you and your family a very happy, healthy and restful Christmas break and we look forward to seeing your daughters back at school in January 2022.

Yours Sincerely

Norbury High School