

School Matters

January 2020



Everyone Every Lesson Every Opportunity



Welcome to the January edition of School Matters.

January has been a busy month with trips, open evenings and much more! We hosted our Sixth Form Open Evening on 15 January which hit record attendance and received great feedback.

Our Year 9 Football team has also progressed into the last 16 of the Football National Cup, which started with 657 schools. This is a fantastic achievement for the team! Our Year 11 team also made it to the last 32. A great result for all!

Finally, you will be aware that we had our long-awaited Ofsted inspection this week, who are now writing their final decision. The outcome will be known within the coming weeks, which we will of course share with you in due course.

Regards,

David James

Principal

Whole School Attendance

A polite reminder to all students and parents/ carers that all children are expected to be in their form rooms, ready to be registered by 8:45am. All students in secondary phase arriving on site after 8:45 will be issued with a 30 minute, same day detention and students arriving late in primary phase will be given a late mark.

If you require support or further information with regard to attendance, please contact the attendance officer on 01604 669200 or e-mail lamurphy@ccs.northants.sch.uk.

Absences can be reported via our text service on 01604 420132.

For planned absences of one or more days, please complete a leave of absence form (available on our website).

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Key Dates

21 Jan - Mad4Life KS3

22 Jan - Year 11 Parents Evening

24 Jan - Year 11 Barclaycard Trip

1 Feb - Othello trip for Year 12 & 13

5 Feb - Year 13 Parents Evening

8 - 16 Feb - Year 10 Ski Trip

[For further event information, please check the school website.](#)



Sixth Form Open Evening

On Wednesday 15 January we hosted our sixth form open evening. The night was a great success with over 460 attendees, including students from Quinton House School, Moulton School & Science College Northampton School for Girls and Abbeyfield School. We'd like to thank everyone who attended the evening!

The evening included a subject fair from all course leaders, talks from head boy and head girl and informative talks about our great facilities, staff and curriculum from the sixth form leadership team.

Please note: The deadline for applications is midnight on Friday 31 January 2020. For more information on applying to our sixth form, please visit our website.



Australia Day

On Monday 27 January, it's Australia Day! This year we are challenging every child and member of staff to walk and/or run 5 miles during our charity week, from 27 - 31 January.

Why 5 miles? It is 10,553 miles from Wootton to Sydney, New South Wales, one of the worst affected regions by the Australian bush fires. If every child (2,000) and every member of staff (250) completed five miles it would comfortably cover the distance from our school to Sydney.

We have asked every child to raise just £2 in sponsorship for this and we are also asking staff members to do the same. Our target as a school is £4000. We are trying to track down the extent of damage, if any to our linked Caroline Chisholm School in Australia to send the funds directly to them. Otherwise, funds raised will go to the overall rescue efforts.

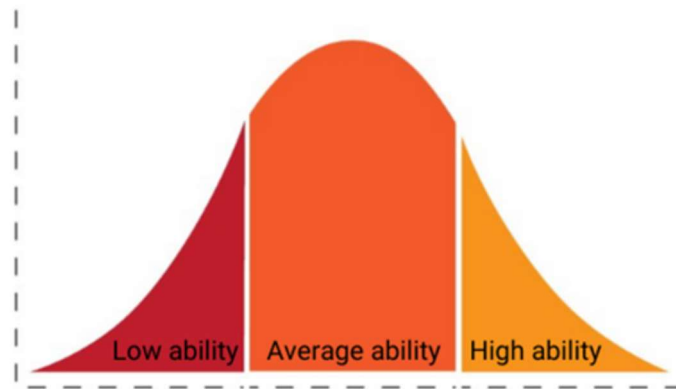
There will be plenty of Australian themed activities taking place during our charity week including; a cake sale, a 'Dance-a-thon' for primary pupils and much more! More details to follow.



High Performance Learning

On 3 January all school staff attended a training session on HPL led by representatives from High Performance Learning.

We continue to strive to banish the traditional bell curve, illustrated below, away from the classroom.



High Performance Learning instead believes in the idea that we can grow our intelligence.

We want to engage all parents in ensuring that their child makes outstanding progress. It would be great if you could continue to promote positive study habits and embed the language of a 'can do' attitude. We set out below some hints and tips on how to approach this.

DOHA COLLEGE

HIGH PERFORMANCE LEARNERS

SAY...

- "How can I improve?"** — Instead of... "I'm no good at this."
- "Let me try a different way."** — Instead of... "I give up."
- "Mistakes are part of learning"** — Instead of... "I failed."
- "Have I done my best work?"** — Instead of... "I'm all done."
- "Learning takes time."** — Instead of... "This is too hard."
- "How can we learn from one another?"** — Instead of... "They're smarter than me."
- "I like a challenge."** — Instead of... "I'll stick with what I know"
- "My effort and attitude are everything"** — Instead of... "My abilities determine everything"



High Performance Learning (continued)

High Performance Learning		
Values Attitudes and Attributes (VAAs)		
EMPATHETIC		
	Collaborative	The ability to seek out opportunities to receive responses to your work; present your own views and ideas clearly and concisely; listen to the views of others; be willing and able to work in teams; take a variety of roles and be able to evaluate your own ideas and contributions.
	Concerned for society	The ability to know the contribution you can make to society for the benefit of those less fortunate; demonstrate citizenship and a sense of community ethos and recognise differences as well as similarities between people and peoples; be aware of your own and others' cultural heritage and sensitive to the ethical and moral issues raised by their studies.
	Confident	The ability to develop a belief in your knowledge, understanding and action; recognise when you need to change your beliefs based upon additional information or the arguments of others; deal with new challenges and situations, including when this places them under stress.
AGILE		
	Enquiring	The ability to be curious; be willing to work alone; be proactive; keen to learn; show enterprise; think independently; challenge assumptions and require evidence for assertions; actively control your own learning; move on from the absorption of knowledge and procedures to develop your own views and solutions.
	Creative and enterprising	The ability to be open-minded and flexible in your thought processes; demonstrate a willingness to innovate and invent new and multiple solutions to a problem or situation; adapt your approach according to need; surprise and show originality in your work, developing a personal style; be resourceful when presented with challenging tasks and problems, using your initiative to find solutions.
	Open-minded	The ability to take an objective view of different ideas and beliefs; become more receptive to other ideas and beliefs based on the arguments of others; change ideas should there be compelling evidence to do so.
	Risk-taking	The ability to demonstrate confidence; experiment with novel ideas and effects; speculate willingly; work in unfamiliar contexts; avoid coming to premature conclusions; tolerate uncertainty.
HARD WORKING		
	Practice	The ability to train and prepare through repetition of the same processes in order to become more proficient.
	Perseverance	The ability to keep going and not give up; face obstacles and difficulties but never give up; persist in effort; work diligently and work systematically; not be satisfied until high quality; appropriate precision and the desired outcome are achieved.
	Resilience	The ability to overcome setbacks; remain confident, focused, flexible and optimistic; help others to move forward in the face of adversity.

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Staff will articulate which strand of positive behaviour has resulted in their achievement and the students should be able to tell you. We really hope that this will result in an increasingly constructive dialogue between our students, staff and all parents, which will enhance your child's progress and experience at school.



Superhero Day

The first day back of term saw some great sights with primary celebrating superhero day! With our pupils dressing up in their favourite superhero costumes and taking part in a day of fun filled activities!

Thank you to all the parents of children in Foundations Stage for supporting us with Superhero day. The children had a fantastic day completing a superhero obstacle course, solving mathematical problems and completing a range of challenges to rescue our new class bears.

It was great to see so many of you at the end of the day when we performed our superhero song and thank you for joining in.





Sports

Football National Cup

This month we have had both our Year 9 and Year 11's reach the last 32 of the Football National Cup with 657 schools entered!

U16 Year 11 - Round 6 (Last 32) Played Summer Hill Academy at home on Friday 10 December and unfortunately despite their best efforts lost 4-0. A huge well done to the team for getting the furthest they ever have!



Our Year 11 Football Team

U14 Year 9 - Round 5 (Last 64) Played at home to Rushcliffe, Nottingham on Monday 16 December and won 2-1. This meant the U14's now progressed to be in the last 32 teams and faced Sandwell Academy on Tuesday 14 January in West Bromwich.

In a game affected by wind the boys put in a tremendous performance to overcome a talented side from West Bromwich, winning 3-1. Players Yaw A scored 2 and Ben M got the third. This now progressed the team to be in the last 16, making it the furthest one of our school football teams has progressed in the competition. It started out with 657 schools. What a fantastic result!



We'd like to wish them good luck in their next match!



Our Year 9 Football Team at their match in West Bromwich

KS4 Swimmers win at Daventry

Before the Christmas break, the boys and girls KS4 swimming teams took part in the District Swimming Championships at Daventry Leisure Centre. Both teams took part in 50 metre freestyle, breaststroke, butterfly and backstroke races along with 4 x 50 metre freestyle and medley relays. Both teams won their respective competitions making them District Champions for 2019-20.

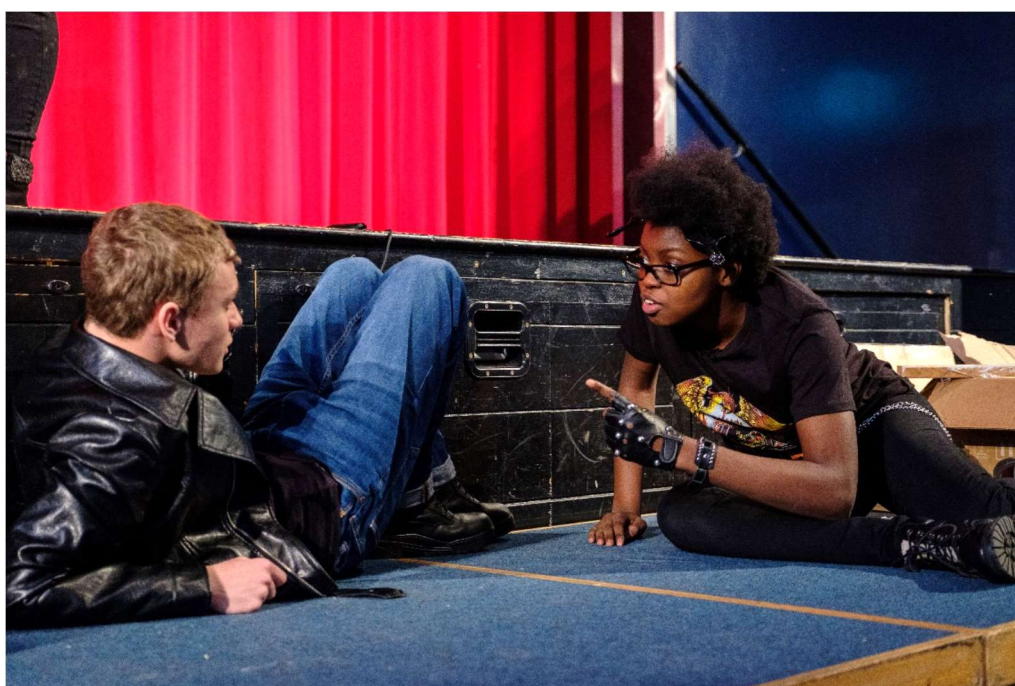




We Will Rock You Performance



In December the Performing Arts Department presented three nights of the Ben Elton/Queen musical 'We Will Rock You'. The students involved really stepped up to the challenge after a tiring week of technical rehearsals and dress rehearsals where they performed to the Primary cluster students. In addition to the largest number of performers we've ever used in a show, we also had the biggest ever band with a large number of our talented music students, supported effectively by staff.





The dancers, led by Danny Lloyd and Millie Crosdale had worked incredibly hard to choreograph some amazing numbers with a confident and professional team of girls. We would like to thank Miss Bailey for the fantastic sets and the soldier's costumes, which really enhanced the overall look of the show. Finally, a huge thank you to Mr Rich and Mr Phillips who were part of the 'Bohemian' gang and delivered cracking performances!





Performing Arts - Student Successes

WEMT Christmas Concert

Students Meryem (Year 10) and Sami (year 8) performed at St Clement Danes church in London at Christmas with their musical theatre training company West End MT. They performed with many West End stars including Amy Lennox and Natty Bungle. Well done to both!



Irish Dancer Success!

Year 8 student Jaylen recently competed in an Irish Dance competition in Kent, where he was placed 1st in 4 out of his 5 solos (Light jig, reels, hop jig, hard shoe reel and heavy jig)! Jaylen has been dancing for about three years, at the KP School of Irish Dancing, where his mum is his teacher! Congratulations to Jaylen – a fantastic achievement.



The Wizard of Oz

A number of students attend Youth Theatre Groups and belong to the Young Company at the Royal & Derngate. The musical theatre group are performing The Wizard of Oz in July 2020, following on from their highly entertaining performance of 'Legally Blonde Jnr' in July 2019. Congratulations to Emilia Payne, Sophie Barnes, Alfie Sanderson, Thomas Thorne and ex-student Oskar White who successfully auditioned for roles in the show.



Upcoming dates

Our Year 10 students will be performing three different versions of their set text 'Hard to Swallow' by Mark Wheeler on the following dates:

- 10A – Tuesday 3 March at 6pm
- 10D and 10B – Wednesday 4 March at 6pm

There will also be external practice exams on:

- Year 11 external practical exam – Tuesday 25 February (during the day)
- Year 13 external practical exam – Tuesday 11 February at 6pm

Year 7 Achievement points

23 pupils in Year 7 received a certificate for 80 achievement points! This is a great achievement for all students involved - well done to all. Keep up the good work!





Year 10 Interview Day

On the 13 December we hosted an interview day for all Year 10 students, which allowed them to gain valuable experience of what a professional job interview would be like and provide them with feedback to further improve their interview preparation and experience as they progress into employment.

On the day students were interviewed by professional employers who received a copy of their CV and cover letter prior to the interview to assess. Each student received a 15-minute interview with 10-minutes of constructive feedback.

The aim of the day was to give students the opportunity to:

- Experience an interview with a professional interviewer
- Practice marketing themselves during the session
- Obtain feedback about their interviewing style and their CV

The day was a huge success and feedback from our students has been very positive.





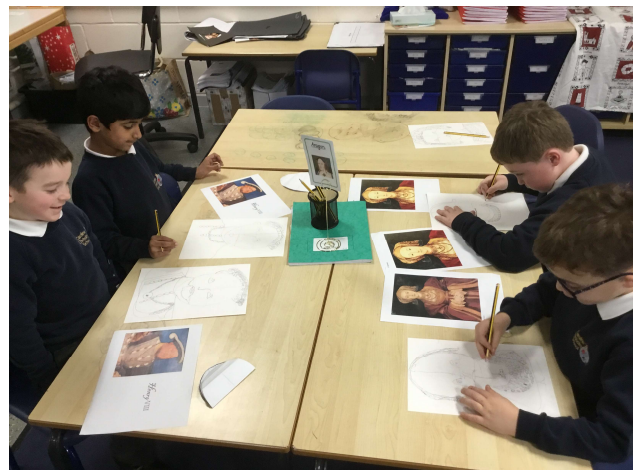
Key Stage 1 & 2 Updates

What have we been learning?

In Year 1, the learning theme for the next two terms has a focus on fairy tales. On Monday 6 January the class received an email from the Gingerbread Man, who informed us that he will be sending challenges each week related to their learning. This week pupils were given a scavenger hunt where they had to search for fairy tale characters. As a reward for finding them, they decorated mini gingerbread men.



In Year 2, the children have started their new theme 'Through the Keyhole' which is all about The Tudors. To start, the children sketched portraits of either King Henry VIII, his wives or his children. They focused on the shape of the face and where each of the features should be.



The children also had to look through the keyhole and investigate a variety of Tudor pictures. They made observations of what they could see and what this may tell us about life in the Tudor times. The pictures were then completely revealed and the children continued to analyse what they could see. We have been extremely proud of the children's efforts and are looking forward to continuing these next week.



Year 5 Workshop Experience

To build on our whole school ethos, Year 5 have all experienced some time in the workshop over in our Secondary phase in the final two weeks of last term. Every student made a wooden Christmas tree decoration which they independently cut with a coping saw and the outcomes were amazing!



It was great to see such confidence and enthusiasm from the students who were faced with a new environment, a teacher they had not met before and hand tools that were alien to almost all of them. By the end of the session all of them had a handcrafted Christmas decoration that they could take home for the holidays.

Many of the High Performance Learning characteristics were demonstrated throughout the sessions: students self-regulated by monitoring their own progress and adjusted how they used the coping saw, they were precise in their use of the tools to achieve a high quality finish and all showed that they could solve complex, multi step problems by changing the order in which they did things to prevent breakages at weak points in the design.

We are currently working on a plan for Year 6 to use the Food room to prepare dishes linked to their theme of WW2 Rationing.



Year 5 Stargazing

On Thursday 16 January pupils in Year 5 took to our forest school area for an evening of stargazing, studying constellations and using iPads to take photographs of the evening sky. The evening was finished off with hot dogs after to celebrate!



World War 2 Activity Day

The start of a new term saw a new theme for Year 6 history! After the Christmas break Pupils were eager to get started on their new history-based learning theme 'Far From Home' which focuses on World War Two, particularly evacuation. They have started their history learning with a sensational start – a WW2 activity day! They used research skills to develop presentations about key people involved in the war; made their own gas mask boxes and evacuation labels and even produced some war time rationing treats to eat!





A treat for Ambulance and Police staff!

Before the Christmas break Year 7 student Cameron handed out his own Shift Survival Kit to Northampton's Ambulance and Police staff, filled with food to keep the crew going through the day. The crew were extremely grateful for the kindness of Cameron!

Cameron's passion for giving back stems for his uncle previously working as an Ambulance Technician and not having time to stop and eat.

This was a really kind thing for Cameron to do, so well done him!



Year 7 Student Cameron with Northampton's Police crew.



Book Club

Book Club continues to be a well attended and fun place to spend Tuesday lunch time. We are in the process of re-organising the Reading Room in C Block with the view to making it a welcoming space for all avid readers. When we have finished our re-organisation, students will be able to visit the Reading Room to swap books during break and lunch times throughout the week. More information on this exciting new venture to follow!

Please come along and join us in the Reading Room (Upper C Block Wedge) every Tuesday lunchtime. Bring your lunch, any book you would like to discuss and help introduce us to new books we may never have considered before. All year groups and reading tastes welcome!

A-Level Trips

This Thursday, 23 January, all the A-level Literature and Language students are going to Bedford to see a live screening of the National Theatre's production of Arthur Miller's 'All My Sons'. It promises to be a riveting evening which we're really excited about.

Another trip to note is on Saturday 1 February, A level English and Drama students will be going to the Cambridge Arts Theatre to see a production of Othello. This should be an enthralling and innovative performance which we are really looking forward to.

KS3 Design Technology

Students in KS3 have been developing their food preparation and cooking skills. Each year group has been given a number of challenging dishes to make. These have focused on a wide range of skills.

- Year 9 have learnt how to make pastry and how to present food.
- Year 8 have been breadmaking, using spices and learning about the functions of ingredients.
- Year 7 have investigated what makes a balanced diet through the Eatwell guide and developed skills in food preparation.
- Year 7 have also prepared and cooked apple crumble, pizza toast and macaroni cheese.



(L-R) Cheesecake, bread pizza swirls, Bombay potatoes, vegetable pasties, apple crumble



Last term KS3 developed their 'creative' skills in KS3 Design Technology. In Graphics year 8 created 'innovative' designs for a menu and stand. They sketched using scissors only and then developed the idea using computer aided design software.



Left: Sketching with scissors Right: Their completed designs

Year 9 researched the use of technology in terms of the amount of time students spent on phones and tablets. This led to the production of board games to encourage students to improve social skills and communicate with others. The board games were manufactured using a range of graphic media and equipment such as the laser cutter.



Year 11 Visual Arts Trip

We took a group of 48 Year 11 Visual Art students to the Victoria & Albert Museum and Tate Modern Gallery on Wednesday 8 January 2020. The trip was organised to help students begin their exam preparation. Students were given their exam papers earlier in the week and had to decide which topic they were going to do for their exam. At both of the venues, students looked at art works that related to their chosen topic, took photos of these and gathered information regarding each artist and their work. Students were given equipment to also produce observational drawing studies from the live art works, which they can complete after the trip.





Students will be expected to produce at least a double page in their sketchbook/folder which evidences their visit to London. This will be included in their exam portfolio for their GCSE.

The trip was excellent and the students were an absolute delight and credit to themselves, their parents and the school.

One of the art works in the Tate Modern, invited the public to take an orange from the installation, which several of our students did. We had arranged to meet the students in the main turbine hall ready to depart back to CCS (the turbine hall is a huge sloping room) and found the boys rolling their oranges up the slope. Two little toddlers were chasing the oranges as they came back down the slope, catching them and returning them to the boys again, to the obvious delights of their parents.

Keep up to date with CCS!

To stay up to date with key events, information and news here at Caroline Chisholm School why not follow us on Facebook and Twitter and stay updated! And feel free to share the links with your friends too!



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