



## Principal's Bulletin

Friday 26 January 2024



To mark Holocaust Memorial Day on Saturday, 27th January, assemblies have been delivered to Year 6-13 this week. The focus is on the 'Fragility of Freedom' and educates students not only about events during WW2 but also about other genocides since.

Linking with this topic, in March, Sixth Form History students Jessica and Lizzie will participate in the *Lessons from Auschwitz* programme. This educational and commemorative project offers post-16 students the opportunity to learn about the Holocaust and consider its relevance for today. Through the bespoke interactive online platform, online seminars, and a one-day visit to Poland, participants join others from across the country as they embark on an educational journey in which they:

- Learn about the history of the Holocaust and the role of camps such as Auschwitz-Birkenau
- Consider the individuals whose lives were affected by the Holocaust
- Reflect on the relevance of the Holocaust today and share their learning with others

Students end the course by completing their next steps, an opportunity for them to share what they have learned and experienced with their school and the wider community. I look forward to sharing, in a future bulletin, further details on this fantastic programme and how Jessica and Lizzie get on, so please stay tuned for more!

In our ongoing commitment to ensuring a quality education for every child and reducing school absences, I would like to draw your attention to the latest data. Severe absence reveals a return to the peak levels seen in Summer 2023, with 140,000 children missing at least 50 per cent of their school time. Severe absence is defined as "a pupil who has missed 50 per cent or more of their school time, equivalent to every afternoon in a week." -Andy Cook, CEO, Centre for Social Justice, *The Missing Link*, 2024. Your support and collaboration in addressing these absence challenges are invaluable as we work together to ensure that every child receives the education they deserve.

Teachers had great response from our Year 12 parents' evening Thursday. We hope you found it most helpful to talk through your child's progress with their teachers. As always, a reminder that Edulink is always available for parents and carers to get in touch, to discuss any concerns or queries you may have throughout the school year.

## Key dates

**Parent Mental Health Day**  
Saturday 27 January

A reminder that Parent Mental Health Day is taking place this weekend. I shared some useful resources in the bulletin last week and include a reminder of those below:

[Anna Freud](#)  
[SSS Learning](#)  
[Stem4 – Creating positive relationships webinar](#)  
[Young Minds](#)

**Children's Mental Health Week**  
5 – 9 February

Continuing to encourage conversations about mental health, we will be celebrating this year's 'My Voice Matters' theme in school through dedicated assemblies, two brand-new student videos challenging stigmas and myths about mental health available on our website, a wellbeing display design competition, workshops for KS1 and KS2 and much more.

**Year 9 Parents' Evening (Virtual)**  
Thursday 8 February

Bookings open via Edulink for our Year 9 Parents' Evening on Wednesday 31 January at 9am. Please view our communication shared on 26 January for further details.

In Year 3, the focus has been on strategy planning. The children are currently working on multiplying a 2-digit number by a 1-digit number. Thinking back on prior knowledge and learning that if they partition a number, it makes the process easier. For example,  $27 \times 3$  is a pretty tricky sum; however, if you partition it to  $20 \times 3$  and  $7 \times 3$ , it makes it a lot more manageable. This is just one strategy the children could use, and they have also been learning the grid method too.



During their Sensational Start activity this term, Year 4 has been practicing their evolutionary thinking skills. Having investigated strategies used to make buildings earthquake-proof (such as cross-bracing, strong foundations, and tuned mass damper), the children then collaborated to design and build their own structures. Influenced by impressive structures such as The Burj Khalifa and Taipei 101, their model buildings showed a good understanding of how modern-day structures are built to be both aesthetically appealing as well as strong and sturdy in the event of a natural disaster.

Last week, A Level Philosophy students attended a Philosophy conference at the University of Southampton. The conference included lectures on the fascinating topics and themes such as: the implications of Nietzsche's claim "God is dead"; whether it is possible for the universe to be infinitely old; and whether all moral claims are inherently false because morality doesn't exist. These areas of philosophical enquiry were new to year 12 students, so they had to display connection finding skills to link these new areas of enquiry to ones they have previously studied.

Mrs Ideson, our Faculty Leader of Social Science, said "All our students displayed outstanding flexible thinking in approaching these debates with an open-mind and willingness to have their preconceptions challenged. Following each lecture there were breakout discussion sessions with Professor Daniel Whiting; our students demonstrated intellectual confidence in contributing to sessions and their fluent thinking generated some fantastic discussion. Students also went on a tour of the university campus, and the day as a whole also provided plenty of scope for students to consider their future post-A level pathways."

Warm regards,

David James  
Principal

## Latest vacancies

We currently have a number of vacancies live at the moment, including:

- Cover Supervisor
- Teaching and Learning Support Assistant

Teaching roles which will be starting in September 2024

- Teacher of Computing (with TLR)
  - Teacher of Humanities
  - Teacher of Science
  - Teacher of Maths

For more details on the positions available, please visit:

[Caroline Chisholm School | Tes Jobs](#)

## GCSE Webpage

We are pleased to share our GCSE Guided Choices webpage is now live via:

[www.ccs.northants.sch.uk/gcse-guided-choices](http://www.ccs.northants.sch.uk/gcse-guided-choices).

On this dedicated webpage you will find an informative GCSE options video, a Q&A section, as well as subject specific videos.

Navigating the selection of GCSE choices can be a complex undertaking. We are committed to providing guidance and support in this important decision-making process.