



MONDAY JANUARY 20TH | ISSUE 40

NONSUCH NEWS

Our weekly newsletter for the school community

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MESSAGES FROM MRS WILLIAMSON-JONES



Dear students, parents, and carers,

As we settle into the new term, January often brings a sense of renewal—a time for fresh starts and setting goals. This month can also bring challenges, such as the recent sub-zero temperatures we experienced across the country. That's why I wanted to share how uplifting it has been to see the energy and enthusiasm from staff and students during a recent learning walk, where I, along with senior leaders, visited classrooms. Vibrant lessons and engaged students are a powerful reminder of the passion for learning that drives our school community.

The first week of Spring Term has been wonderfully busy at Nonsuch. We've seen meaningful connections at our Year 9 parent-teacher consultations and celebrated creativity and leadership through art trips and CCF activities. This newsletter is packed with highlights of student achievements, and I hope you enjoy reading about the remarkable things our students are accomplishing in addition to their academic endeavours.

Looking ahead, we're excited to offer a "Day in the Life of a Sixth Former" experience for Y11 and, on the same day, to provide Year 12 students with a Higher Education and Careers Day to help them explore their future pathways. Later on this month, we'll also be hosting Year 11 guidance meetings to support students with their next steps.

Warm regards,
Mrs Williamson-Jones

UPDATES FROM MS OSBORNE

Attendance

Attending school every day can help your child to achieve their aspirations, and the aspirations you have for them. School attendance is also important for giving them the enrichment opportunities that can help support their social and mental wellbeing.

The research on the link between attendance and attainment is clear; the students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE and A Level results.

We appreciate that it can be difficult to know whether your child is too ill to attend school. However, NHS guidance is clear that it is fine to send them in with a minor cough or common cold, provided they don't have a temperature.

We aim for all our students to have an attendance rate of 95% or above. You can monitor your child's attendance data through the Schoolgateway app and ensure that it remains at this rate. If there is anything that we may be concerned about, your child's form tutor, Head of Year, or I will contact you.

New guidance on attendance

In February, the Government published new guidance for attendance which became statutory in August. These changes reflect amendments to the law and are part of the Government's drive to improve attendance at school. Details are [here](#), along with links to wider guidance on supporting your child's attendance. The full guidance is [here](#).

A reminder that the Government has an [attendance hub](#) which can help parents make informed decisions about attendance. The Government also provides parents with guidance around illness and attendance at school. This [guidance](#) helps parents make informed decisions about their child's health and attendance.

All in %	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12	Y13	All
Attendance	98.43	97.71	95.86	98.33	96.24	96.78	90.33	96.21
Authorised	1.57	1.90	3.10	1.48	3.37	2.84	8.05	3.21
Unauthorised	0	0.38	1.05	0.20	0.38	0.38	1.63	0.58
Persistent absence >=10%	12	22	32	20	37	29	77	229

13/01/25-17/1/25

Yearly Attendance	Yearly Days Missed	Yearly Learning Hours Missed	Learning Hours Missed Over 5 Years
100%	0	0	0
97%	6	30	150
95%	10	50	250
90%	20	100	500
80%	40	200	1000
50%	100	500	2500

ClassCharts for parents

A reminder that our presentation on ClassCharts for parents can be found on the [parent portal](#) of our school website.

SAFEGUARDING AND WELLBEING

Safeguarding email

If you have any concerns or questions regarding safeguarding or child protection, please contact us at

safeguarding@nonsuchschool.org

We are here to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all individuals within our community, and we take any reports or enquiries seriously. Your email will be treated confidentially and promptly addressed by our dedicated safeguarding team.

Reporting absence

Please report absences via Schoolgateway. Download the app [here](#).

First Aid

Please advise [First Aid](#) of any recently-diagnosed medical conditions/allergies.

Reminder for Year 9 parents

Please complete the consent form for the DTP/MEN Vaccination – closing date Friday 31st January.

SCHOOL NEWS

Cambridge Biology Challenge

October 2024 saw the launch of this year's Cambridge Biology Challenge. Run by Homerton College, this nationwide competition challenges students to think deeply about the sort of questions that they ask at Cambridge. The first question was 'Does behaviour fossilise?'

Homerton College received over 700 entries, nearly double that of last year! Over 50 Nonsuch students from Y10-12 entered and we had some brilliant results, in particular many commended and highly commended certificates. Well done to all who entered!

Congratulations to [Isabella, Mahveen and Arushi](#) in Year 12 and [Eva and Maya](#) in Year 11 whose entries were so thought provoking they gained an impressive badge of merit.

Well done also to [Samriddhi, Siana, Amvi, Emma and Azra](#) in Year 10, [Jasleen, Sanjana, Erin and Zhara](#) in Year 11 and [Sunidhi, Riddhi and Izzah](#) in Year 12 whose entries were graded at 'distinction' level.

Finally, a special mention to [Hannah, Sandee and Minseo](#) in Year 11 who not only gained a badge of merit and a distinction level entry but also won an award for best video. This is amazing work and they should be very proud of this achievement!



Physics Enrichment Club Years 11-13

Physics Enrichment club for Years 11-13 has been running fortnightly for the first term. Our main aim is to prepare for supra-curricular competitions, specifically the suite of exams run by the BPhO.

Certificates are on the way to the students who participated in each of these competitions in the first term, as well as prizes for the high achievers. We are incredibly proud of all of them.



British Physics Olympiad Challenge (A2 Open Competition)

This exam contains questions that relate to A level (or equivalent) topics, but it is much harder! It is to stretch thinking into the applications and ideas of Physics and may be inspirational for university and further work in Physics. Keira, Nethra, Nethira, Rithika, Carrie, Michela, Ibtida, Ashritha, Veronika, Juhi and Yea-Eun all achieved certificates of participation. Yilin, Aree and Vishmayaa all achieved Merits and will also get book prizes.

British Astrophysics and Astronomy Olympiad Challenge (A2 Open Competition)

Kajeeva and Yilin are both passionate about Astrophysics, so took on the challenge of a self-study course in Astrophysics and Astronomy and took part in the BAAO Challenge exam. Kajeeva achieved a very impressive Merit and Yilin was awarded a Distinction certificate!

British Physics Olympiad (A2 Selective Competition)

Some highly impressive students were selected to enter the British Physics Olympiad, which means that they volunteered to sit an exam paper in their own time! The paper was designed to stretch and challenge the top young physicists in the country in a national competition, so every question is a real challenge for even the most capable. Vishmayaa achieved a Bronze certificate, Aree achieved Silver, and Yilin scored Gold. Well done!

Students' achievements



We love to hear about and celebrate our students' many and varied achievements outside of school. Please complete this [form](#) to let us know about these and we will try to publish as many of them as we can in future issues of the newsletter.



DT - Accelerate Studios Architecture Workshop

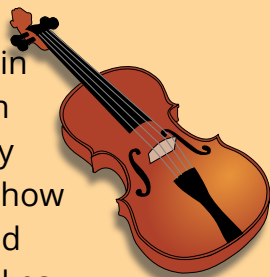
On Thursday 10th January, Year 10 Product Design students took part in an Accelerate Studios architecture workshop and learnt about careers in the built environment. Research into designers inspired students designing a new façade for Nonsuch High School. They sketched ideas independently and then discussed their ideas working collaboratively, putting the best ideas together. Modelling was the next step, where students encouraged to use different methods to enhance their designs like folding paper to create texture, nets, use of colour to highlight parts of the model as well as including landscapes and animating by adding people to show how the building would be used. The session finished with students presenting their ideas to Accelerate Studios and the rest of the class.

The new façades for the front of the school took advantage of using space on the external walls for services and stairs, giving more space, particularly in the corridors inside the building. A couple of the designs included oversized initials and a logo of the school. This was a fun practical activity which was a great opportunity to find out more about careers in architecture. Thank you to Accelerate Studios for organising this event. To find out more about a potential career in the environment, please visit www.open-city.org.uk



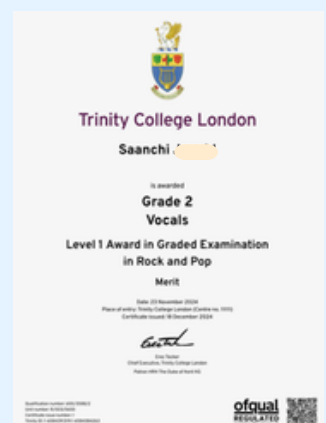
Student spotlight

Congratulations to Rhea in Y12, who achieved a merit in her Grade 8 violin exam assessed by Trinity. We know how much practice and dedication this takes at this level. Well done!



Student spotlight

Well done to Saanchi in Y7 for achieving a merit in her Grade 2 vocal exam. The songs she chose were "Let It Be" by The Beatles, "Something Inside So Strong" by Labi Siffre, and "Bad Blood" by Taylor Swift. She dedicated five months to preparing for this exam.



Rights Respecting School Steering Group

**An article by the Rights Respecting Schools Steering Group
on Article 9 of the UNCRC, Right to Family Reunification**

The UNCRC states that children have the right not to be separated from their parents, unless it is in their best interest. Despite the importance of family life for children, relatives have often been forced apart due to unforeseeable circumstances.

In January 1961, Sigrid Paul arrived at a hospital in Berlin's eastern zone, going through labour. During the birth, her baby - Torsten - was seriously injured. Nobody knew if he'd live or die. At that time, Sigrid and her husband, Hartmut, could cross to the West. Reaching a better-equipped hospital, Torsten's life was saved and although still fragile, he was allowed home. As long as Sigrid could pick up his medicine and special food from the West, he would survive.

But on August 13th, 1961, she no longer could. The night before, East Germany had constructed the Berlin Wall, dividing the city for nearly three decades. When Sigrid woke the next morning, she couldn't travel to the West. Torsten's condition worsened.

Back in hospital, he became sicker, needing western care. Transferring patients west was forbidden, except in heart cases, so seeing no other option, his doctors falsified Torsten's papers to save him.

Although able to recover, he was now alone in West Berlin. Sigrid was eventually granted a visa to visit him for a few hours, but crackdowns on visits were only increasing. Two weeks after sheltering three students, the couple were arrested, imprisoned and charged with failing to reveal their plans to escape. Meanwhile, Torsten remained in the western hospital.

Sigrid and Hartmut, due to an agreement between East and West, were released early. Almost a year later, Torsten returned home. Unfortunately, due to their separation, it took time before he began to truly see her as his mother. Later, though, Torsten began to flourish and grow ever-closer to Sigrid. Remembering the moment the wall fell in 1989, Sigrid said that "I was exhilarated."

Despite the great adversity their family faced, and the anger that she still feels, they managed to reunite against all odds.



SCHOOL NEWS

Upcoming PE fixtures

Date	Time	Sport	Team	Location
20/01/25	10:00am	Gym	U13	Putney High
20/01/25	16:00pm	Indoor Athletics	Y7 &8	Nonsuch
21/01/25	15:30pm	Hockey	U12A	Nonsuch
23/01/25	15:30pm	Netball	SNR	Nonsuch
28/01/25	15:30pm	Football	U12	Nonsuch
29/01/25	15:30pm	Netball	U12AB & U13AB	Nonsuch

U13 Cricket vs Sutton High

Our U13 indoor cricket team played against Sutton High on Friday 10th January at Nonsuch. They all played extremely well and worked together brilliantly, resulting in Nonsuch winning the match! The team should be very proud of themselves, well done! Extra congratulations to Tiahni for bowling POM and Shion for batting POM!



U15 Cricket vs Sutton High

We had our first fixture of 2025 on the 8th. Our U15 cricket team played a match against Sutton. The team played their very best showing great teamwork and communication. Everyone was supporting the entire team. Well done to all the players, especially to our batting POM Anu and bowling POM Maleeha.

Admissions consultation

In accordance with the School Admissions Code, please follow this [link](#) to the draft admission arrangements for entry to Nonsuch High School for Girls in September 2026-2027. The consultation period lasts from Friday 13th October 2024 to Friday 31st January 2025 inclusive and all responses must be received within this time period. In your response, please include your full name, title and contact details. Responses can be sent by:

Post to:

**Trust Admissions Manager
Girls' Learning Trust
Nonsuch High School for Girls
Cheam Road
Sutton
SM3 8AB**

Email to:

**ap2026consultationnhsg@nonsuchschool.org
(with the subject 'Admissions Arrangements
Consultation 2026-2027')**

The main changes proposed are:

- Clarification of language around Pupil Premium, changing "in receipt of Pupil Premium" to "eligible for"
- The addition of 'young carer' as a category as part of the prioritisation for Sixth Form places and an additional Supplementary Information Form to submit supporting evidence.
- Clarification of when offers to Sixth Form are made.
- Clarification of the process about mid-term admissions to years 10 and 11.

The [Consultation Admissions Policy and Arrangements for 2026 - 2027](#) are available on the school's [website](#).

UPCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Week 1	House Contest - Lunar New Year lanterns
Monday 20th January	Day in the life of a Sixth Form student (Year 12 not in school) Royal Courts of Justice Trip U13 Surrey Floor & Vault – Putney High
Tuesday 21st January	Year 12 Higher Education and Careers evening – 19.00-20.00
Wednesday 22nd January	Year 12 Houses of Parliament Politics trip
Thursday 23rd January	GCSE Rock Climbing 13.00-16.00 GCSE & A level students theatre trip – 18.00
Friday 24th January	
Saturday 25th January	Year12 Mock Trial Regional Heat- Inner Crown Court Southwark
Sunday 26th January	ECF St Catherine's semi finals
Week 2	House Contest - Lunar New Year lanterns Year 13 MFL orals
Monday 27th January	
Tuesday 28th January	
Wednesday 29th January	
Thursday 30th January	Year 11 Parent Teacher Consultation – 16.00 – 18.30
Friday 31st January	