



MONDAY NOVEMBER 25TH | ISSUE 35

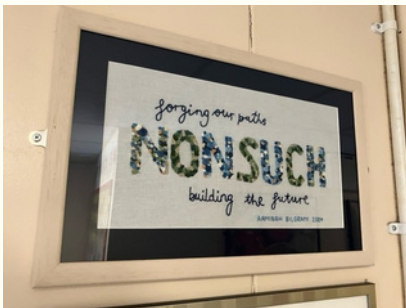
# NONSUCH NEWS

Our weekly newsletter for the school community

## WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Messages from Mrs Williamson-Jones
- Updates from Ms Osborne
- Safeguarding and wellbeing
- Community notices
- School news
- Upcoming dates for your diary

## MESSAGES FROM MRS WILLIAMSON-JONES



Dear students, parents, and carers,

It has been another vibrant and inspiring week at Nonsuch, filled with activities and opportunities that showcase the breadth of our students' experiences and achievements.

Our Year 10 Geographers had an enriching visit to the Olympic Park, where they explored urban regeneration in action and were able to bring their studies to life. Meanwhile, some of our senior mathematicians participated in the UKMT Senior Kangaroo Challenge. It was wonderful to see so many of you at our Sixth Form Opportunities Evening last Wednesday. Thank you for joining us to explore the excellent provision we offer at this important stage of your or your child's educational journey. We hope the evening provided valuable insight into our curriculum and the levels of support that we offer.

Looking ahead, we have more exciting events this week. Our annual University Fair will take place online. This is an excellent opportunity for students to explore future pathways. On Wednesday, our Year 9 students will host the Kipkelion Fair, raising funds for one of our school charities. Your support for these initiatives is greatly appreciated.

Finally, a reminder that our next Parent Forum is on Monday, 2nd December, at 6pm in the school hall. Details were shared in my earlier communication. Please do join us if you can.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Warm regards,  
Mrs Williamson-Jones

# UPDATES FROM MS OSBORNE

## Attendance

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. Being in school and in front of a teacher is key to academic success.

High rates of school attainment can help your child to achieve their aspirations, and the aspirations you have for them. 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 School Gateway 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.

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.

### 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	97.88	98.19	96.38	98.24	93.52	97.09	92.84	96.22
Authorised	1.16	1.38	1.95	1.67	5.84	2.39	5.49	2.93
Unauthorised	0.95	0.43	0.33	0.10	0.60	0.33	0.42	0.45
Persistent absence >=10%	15	16	24	17	62	27	46	207

11/11/24 - 15/11/24

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 do not hesitate to contact us at [safeguarding@nonsuchschool.org](mailto: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.



# SCHOOL NOTICES

## Student safety leaving school

For safety reasons, the Nonsuch Park gate. **All students leaving school after 4.30pm should now exit school via the canteen gate.** Parents collecting students by car may drive onto site after 4.30pm. Students using public transport can cross Ewell Road at the pedestrian crossing and walk towards Cheam Broadway down Ewell Road, or we would advise walking via Anne Boleyn's Walk. **Please respect our neighbours and do not park across driveways, or on pavements, on roads close to the school.**



## Appointments during the school day

A reminder that appointments (e.g. dental or medical appointments, visa/ passport appointments) during the school day should be avoided. Where unavoidable, students in Y7-11 are required to be collected from school and will not usually be allowed to travel alone. To ensure the safeguarding of all our students we are unable to let a student leave school without parent consent in Y7-11.

If you do need to take your daughter out of school for an appointment, we require a minimum of two full school days' notice. We also require evidence of the appointment in advance.





# SCHOOL NEWS

## PE fixtures

Date	Time	Sport	Opponent	Team	Location
27/11/24	15:30	Football	Wallington	U12	Nonsuch
28/11/24	10:00	Gym		U19 & U15	St Catherine's
09/12/24	15:30	Hockey	Sutton	U12AB	Nonsuch
10/12/24	15:30	Football	Glenthorne	U12 & U14	Nonsuch

## GCSE Prizegiving

It was a joy to celebrate our 2024 Year 11 cohort at GCSE Prizegiving last week. Our canteen staff made some amazing cupcakes to mark Year 11's incredible achievements and our special prize winners are pictured here with Dr Joanne Riordan, our guest speaker.





## The IET Faraday Challenge

The Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) has been working for many years to encourage more young people to engage in the STEM agenda and to consider engineering as a possible career path.

On Wednesday 13th November 12 Year 8 students took part in the Faraday Challenge, where they were given an engineering task to design and make part a product and then present their ideas to the judges. We were given the chance to discuss a range of ideas and plan which idea to make and what tools and materials we would need to make the task more complicated we had to buy tools and materials using 'Faradays' currency using a maximum budget of 100 Faradays.

We were expected to use our knowledge of structures, mechanisms and electronics to make our model.

"We loved that the activity was hands on, and that we actually got to build things."



"It informed us of the challenges faced by engineers and how they work to overcome them."

It was interesting to see what each team came up with and the final competition scores were really close. Unfortunately, one of the Carshalton High School teams won the competition with a trophy for their school and a place on the national league table. The top teams from across the UK will go through to the National Final at the end of the season to compete for a cash prize of up to £1,000 for their school to spend on STEM activities.

Although it was disappointing not to win, it was fun taking part and it helped us develop our problem solving, team working, planning, creative and making skills whilst applying our knowledge of science – just like an engineer. It was also an exciting opportunity to design something for a real client.

Well done to Elina, Ridhima, Mannat, Kavi, Arushi, Elaine, Riddhi, Mila, Shradha, Jessie, Anaya, Lana for representing the school.



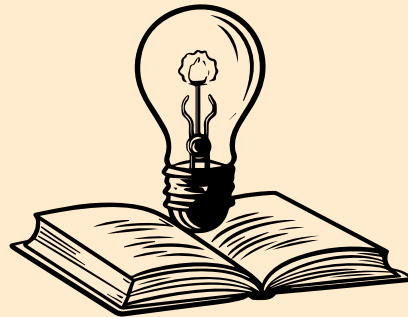
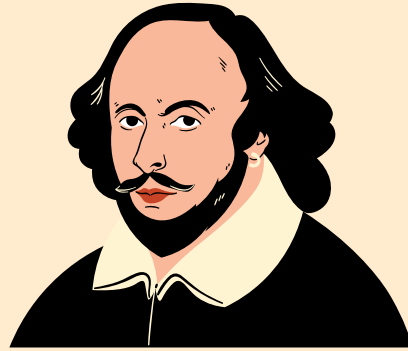
The Arkwright Scholarship applications are now in, with a record 10 students applying this year.

The Arkwright Engineering Scholarships programme is the most esteemed scholarship scheme of its type in the UK designed to inspire students to pursue their dreams and change the world as an outstanding engineer of the future. As part of the application process you are required to complete a STEM project and an exam. If successful, you would then be called for interview to discuss your project and your interests in the field of engineering.

The next round of applications opens in September for Year 11 students only. If you are interested in applying please see <https://www.arkwright.org.uk/> or ask Miss Hobart for more information.

## Lit Soc

Held every W1 Wednesday lunchtime in 153, Literature Society is a great opportunity to improve analysis and discussion skills. Designed to be similar to a university level seminar, each meeting centres around a text extract and is entirely student led. From medical autobiographies and modernist novels, to 19th century poetry and Shakespeare, we cover it all. This exposure to multiple different literary genres is highly beneficial to all students as it helps to broaden perspectives and improve critical thinking. One of our recent sessions focused on the book 'When Breath Becomes Air' and upcoming sessions will include the poetry of Yeats. We hope to encourage all students in KS5 to attend, regardless of A Level subjects, as no prior study or knowledge is required. Come and join our next session on Wednesday 27th November!



## House Diwali Photography Competition

Students enjoyed entering the annual Diwali Photo competition over the half term break, and House Officials judged all the entries. We had many participants who all receive 5HP, with winners from each House winning 10HP. This year, the overall winner is Srikala in Y9 for her beautiful Rangoli photo. Srikala will receive 15HP. Thank you to all who entered - winners can be viewed in the Houses/Sharepoint/Diwali Photography folder.





## Astronomy

Year 10 Astronomy students, accompanied by two Year 12 mentors were lucky enough to spend a day at the King's College London "Dark Matter Day" recently. Two internationally- renowned research physicists spoke to us about the growing evidence that dark matter is the reason we have galaxies at all and the experiments being designed and built to capture it !

Galaxies in our universe are rotating with such speed that the gravity generated by their observable matter could not possibly hold them together; they should have torn themselves apart long ago. The same is true of galaxies in clusters, which leads scientists to believe that something we cannot see is at work. They think something we have yet to detect directly is giving these galaxies extra mass, generating the extra gravity they need to stay intact. This strange and unknown matter was called "dark matter" since it is not visible. Unlike normal matter, dark matter does not interact with the electromagnetic force. This means it does not absorb, reflect or emit light, making it extremely hard to spot.

Researchers have been able to infer the existence of dark matter only from the gravitational effect it seems to have on visible matter. Dark matter seems to outweigh visible matter roughly six to one . Here's a sobering fact: The matter we know and that makes up all stars and galaxies only accounts for 5% of the content of the universe!

A highlight of the day was making our own cloud chambers where we were able to follow condensation trails of cosmic rays moving through the air !



# SCHOOL NEWS

## St John Ambulance round-up

Hasi (Y12) writes: I attended the YOU Leadership conference at Harrow School during half term. I met a lot of people from all sorts of uniformed organisations, listened to speeches, completed a variety of activities and got to make friends with cadets from all over London. My favourite part was definitely getting to play with a fire hose and also completely failing to construct a catapult (it was fun though!). Overall, I found the weekend very exciting and my leadership skills were definitely developed throughout.

Well done to Hasi for travelling to Harrow for an early start time on both days. The speakers included a Justice of the Supreme Court and an Air Vice Marshall. The Lord Lieutenant of London was present on the Sunday – Sir Ken Olisa OBE who was a SJA Cadet.

Sahasra, Sharanya & Kathleen helped train 70 members of the public at a Restart a Heart Day held at the Museum of the order of St John in Clerkenwell. They write: Restart A Heart day was a fun, engaging experience for me as a Cadet. It was an amazing experience to see members of public come by and learn a potentially lifesaving skill. Overall, it was a great and enjoyable experience to help spread awareness about something which could save a life.



## 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.

## University Taster Events - Years 10-13

Tuesday 26th and Wednesday 27th November 2024  
7pm and 8pm

A reminder that we have an exciting Careers event coming up for students between Y10 and Y13 at the three schools in the GLT (Nonsuch, Wallington and Carshalton High Schools for Girls). The event will give students the chance to attend online university 'taster' lectures, delivered live by leading universities in a wide range of subjects. Please keep a look out for the email to students for sign-up information.



## No Twilight on Tuesday December 3rd

There will be no Twilight after school in the library on Tuesday December 3rd. School finishes early for students due to the Y8 Parent/Teacher Consultation afternoon.



# UPCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<b>Week 1</b>	
Monday 25th November	
Tuesday 26th November	University Fair – Virtual –19.00-20.00
Wednesday 27th November	Kipkelion Fair - P1-P4 – Hall University Fair – Virtual –19.00-20.00
Thursday 28th November	
Friday 29th November	
<b>Week 2</b>	Year 11 Mock exams & NEA
Monday 2nd December	Year 7 Trip – Herstmonceux, East Sussex
Tuesday 3rd December	No Twilight session in the library Early finish at lunchtime for students Year 8 Parent teacher consultation - 13.10-15.30
Wednesday 4th December	Year 8 Parent teacher consultation – 16.00- 19.30
Thursday 5th December	House Talent Show Final – Hall –12.30-13.00
Friday 6th December	