



MONDAY SEPTEMBER 16TH | ISSUE 28

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 begin the second full week of the academic year, the school has truly become a hive of activity. Last Friday, we hosted our annual Clubs Fair on the tennis courts, and it was wonderful to see so many students exploring the various extracurricular opportunities available. At Nonsuch, we are proud of our strong extracurricular provision, offering a range of activities to nurture, develop, and challenge students' talents and interests.

I am also pleased to acknowledge the hard work of our Year 10 students who dedicated themselves to preparing for and completing their Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) challenge last weekend. Look out for an article in the coming weeks detailing their experiences during the expedition.

Finally, I would like to remind parents about the upcoming Parent Information Evenings over the next couple of weeks. These evenings are a valuable opportunity for you to engage with us as we begin this academic year. Members of the Heads of Year and Senior Leadership Teams will be available to answer any questions you may have. We look forward to meeting you.

Please remember to check the key dates section of this newsletter for important information about upcoming events, including for the SET day on Tuesday 17th September.

Warm regards,
Mrs Williamson-Jones

UPDATES FROM MS OSBORNE

Attendance

Every day in education counts. Missed lessons lead to missed understanding and, in an academically selective school such as Nonsuch, this can lead to added pressure placed onto the student. Good attendance is central part of our vision, values and ethos at Nonsuch High School for Girls and as a school, we have high expectations for student attendance and punctuality; we expect our students to be in school, on time to school and on time to lessons. Data suggests that students who have an attendance figure of 95% or greater will achieve higher grades. Attendance at 90% or below is considered as persistent absence by the government. Over a school year, a student with an attendance rate of 90% that student would have lost 95hrs of learning time.

Thank you for your continued support to ensure your child attends school.

You can monitor your child's attendance data through the Schoolgateway app and ensure that it remains at 95% and above. If there is anything that we may be concerned about, either I, your child's form tutor or Head of Year will contact you.

In February, the Government published new guidance for attendance which became statutory in August. This is part of the Government's drive to improve attendance at school. Details of these changes can be found [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 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	98.62	99.52	98.33	97.74	95.91	96.20	95.49	97.36
Authorised	0.54	0.48	1.13	0.79	1.01	0.70	2.31	1.00
Unauthorised	0.36	0	0.54	1.46	2.66	1.23	2.08	1.22

05/09/24-11/09/24



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

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.

Mrs Hart, DSL

SCHOOL NEWS

Reporting absence

Please report absences via Schoolgateway. Download the app here: [Nonsuch High School for Girls - Reporting Absences](#).



Bianca, Yathra and Devika have been awarded an Arkwright Scholarship



Yathra has been chosen for a Sponsored Arkwright Scholarship, funded by Virgin Atlantic Foundation

Virgin Atlantic's Passport to Change community program aims to inspire and empower young people from all corners of society to engage with STEM education and build career skills for the future in science, technology, engineering, and maths.



Bianca and Devika have been chosen for a Virtual Arkwright Scholarship, funded by The Smallpeice Trust

As an organisation, everything at Smallpeice is about offering new and valuable STEM opportunities to young people with the hope of inspiring them to become part of the next generation of industry-leading STEM experts.

What is an Arkwright Engineering Scholarship?

An Arkwright Engineering Scholarship is the most prestigious scholarship of its type in the UK to inspire and nurture school-age students to be the country's future **leaders** of the Engineering Profession.

Every Scholarship is sponsored by a commercial company, trade association, university, professional institution, armed service, government organisation, worshipful charity, charitable trust or personal donor. This means that support is offered in various different ways, for example: developing your own engineering projects, attending university open days, courses, textbooks, valuable hands-on work experience, support for curriculum project and a personal mentor who can help with aspects of your studies and career planning.

Do you want to be an Arkwright Scholar?

Applications open in September for Year 11 students interested in a career in engineering.

If you are interested in applying please email Miss Hobart for more details.

Benefits for Scholars

- Nationally-recognised Scholarship
- Financial support for the Scholar and their school
- Personal development
- Support from your Sponsor
- Dedicated Engineering Mentor
- Industry-based Connect Days
- University-based VIP Receptions
- Early notification of national competitions
- Network with like-minded students



SCHOOL NEWS

CCF Aviemore trip August 2024

Caitlin (Y13) writes: Over the August bank holiday, the now Y13s journeyed to Aviemore, Scotland for a long weekend of team bonding to prepare for the big year ahead.

One hike, nicknamed the Long Walk (ironically the shorter of the two) took us through some of the valleys, giving us some incredible views, as the photos below show. This walk allowed us to reflect on our time in CCF and discuss our aspirations for the coming year. We each had to present an item that best represented this and give a short speech to the rest of the group. Items varied from a Swiss army knife, Lego, soft toys, and running trainers, all of which were very insightful.

Another day meant another walk – the High Walk – which took us up to one of the highest peaks in Cairngorms National Park, the summit being just over 1000m. The views were breathtaking and the 40mph winds nearly took some of us out but nonetheless, it was a phenomenal day.

That evening the interviews were conducted and the leadership positions were announced, with the following ranks awarded to Nonsuch students:

Cadet Warrant Officer – Caitlin

Flight Sergeant – Lara

Staff Corporal – Matt (holding the position of Quartermaster)

Staff Corporal – Dara (head of Fountain Platoon)

Congratulations to the rest of Y13 on their promotions!

The final day consisted of zip lining and gorge walking, giving us one final opportunity to bond and chat before returning home.

We have big things planned for CCF, so be prepared for a very exciting year!

The 105ths



Cambridge Biology Challenge

Maya (Y11) writes: I loved participating in the Cambridge Biology Challenge as it pushed me to think outside the box and answer questions like "Are humans still evolving?" and "If alien life exists, what can we predict about their biology?".

Organised for the first time this year by Homerton College, Cambridge, the Biology Challenge led to the participation of 486 teams across the UK, made of pupils from years 10 to 13.

With each of the four rounds, points were accumulated, and it was encouraging to see myself steadily climbing up the rankings as the competition progressed.

I ended up placing 16th nationally and had the privilege, along with the other top 22 teams, to spend a day during the summer holidays at Homerton College, Cambridge. There, I attended a fascinating lecture about Giovanni Schiaparelli's observations of "canali" on Mars, which he believed were signs of a Martian civilization, linking to the question on alien biology in the last round of the challenge.

After the lecture, we were placed in teams and given objects with hidden clues, racing to collect cards by solving puzzles. After completing the puzzles, we went into a biology-themed escape room where my team and I had to prevent a pretend bomb from "exploding" by answering biology questions within the time limit.

The escape room was definitely the highlight of the day, and I made so many new friends along the way!



UPCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Week 1	
Monday 16th Sept	
Tuesday 17th Sept	SET day – school closed for students
Wednesday 18th Sept	Year 7 Parent Information Evening – 18.30-19.30
Thursday 19th Sept	Year 12 Parent Information Evening – 18.30-19.30
Friday 20th Sept	
Week 2	
Monday 23rd Sept	Year 8 Parent Information Evening – 18.30-19.30
Tuesday 24th Sept	
Wednesday 25th Sept	Year 10 Parent Information Evening – 18.30-19.30
Thursday 26th Sept	
Friday 27th Sept	INSET DAY – school closed for students