

Autumn Term at Northwood

Part 1 of 2

Headteacher's Winter Message

Dec 2025

Dear parents and carers,

We have received two brilliant pieces of news that recognise our strengths as a school this term.

Firstly the national school data that has been recently published shows that our GCSE passes for English, Maths and EBacc qualifications place us in the top 20 non-selective schools in the country. This is a fantastic recognition of the work that teachers at the school do over Year 7-11 to set students up to achieve the qualifications that will open doors to the future.

Secondly we have been recognised in the national Edurio awards as one of the top 10 schools in the country for student satisfaction- specifically the question about whether students would recommend the school to other children as a good place to study.

This really does reinforce our ethos of creating happy and successful young people.

The following pages will show you so many other examples of how we are building on this success.

Wishing all students and families a peaceful and Happy Christmas!

Mr Shah



Careers in the Curriculum Day : Public Service

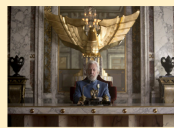
On Wednesday the 10th of December our subjects engaged in some amazing discussion and learning about careers in the public sector and how these industries work and link to each subject. Students were engaged across KS3, Year 10s and Year 12s at engaging in a wide array of careers that could involve their future.



How might this job apply to your study of The Hunger Games?

What type of government is in charge of Panem?

- The government of Panem in The Hunger Games is a **totalitarian one, headed by President Snow**.
- The Capitol holds most of the country of Panem's wealth, which allows the government to control the people in all of the districts across Panem.
- President Snow maintains his control by sowing division among Panem's people and ensuring their dependence upon the government.



Discussion: Do you agree or disagree with this type of government?

Some really interesting ones were the discussion on being a politician in English and how their language skills could be helpful for giving speeches. Really interesting how it was linked to some of the content they were learning including the Hunger Games.

As well the conversation in MFL was centred around the

pros and cons of Public Service jobs and had a really fruitful discussion as to what that type of industry is and what types of jobs are a part of it.

Overall it was a great day and looking forward to our next opportunity to learn about careers in March 18th about STEM jobs.



Talk Thursday – 25th September

On Thursday 25th September, our school hosted a whole-school *Talk Thursday*, a day dedicated to developing high-quality classroom talk. During every lesson, teachers embedded a segment focused on our new Think–Turn–Talk strategy, using carefully crafted questions and sentence stems to optimise learning through talk, learning to talk, and learning about talk.

Across the school, classrooms were alive with purposeful discussion. Students were encouraged to think independently, turn to a partner, and articulate their ideas clearly and confidently. This approach supported deeper understanding, helped students refine their thinking, and allowed them to practise listening and responding thoughtfully to others.



The day was a great success, and the student voice reflected this. Many students highlighted that they had more opportunities for discussion within their lessons and felt more confident sharing their ideas. These opportunities to develop oracy skills are vital, not only for academic success but also for students' future education, careers, and wider life.

We are proud of the way both staff and students embraced Talk Thursday and look forward to continuing to embed high-quality talk across our curriculum.

Rights Respecting School Award- achieving bronze!

This term, our school has been working towards achieving the Bronze UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA). This award recognises schools that are committed to putting children's rights at the heart of school life, in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Working towards and achieving the Bronze award has involved developing a shared understanding of children's rights across the school community and ensuring that these rights are reflected in our values, policies, and everyday practice.



Achieving Bronze RRSA means that our school is building a strong foundation of respect, inclusion and participation. Students are learning about their rights and responsibilities, developing empathy for others, and understanding how rights help create a safe and supportive environment where everyone can thrive. This work supports our wider aims of nurturing confident, respectful learners who are prepared for life beyond school.

A huge part of this success is due to the dedication and enthusiasm of our Student Steering Group, led by two outstanding Year 13 students: Vinay Radia and Mary Oluwaniyi. Their leadership throughout the process has been exemplary; they have shown initiative, commitment and maturity, while growing their own leadership skills and confidence. They worked tirelessly to promote children's rights across the school, engage their peers, and ensure student voice was central to our RRSA journey. We are incredibly proud of their hard work and the positive impact they have had on our school community.

Mentoring Mondays

Sixth Form Community Mentoring goes from strength to strength in its third year running. At the end of the academic year 2024/2025 we won the Oppidan Mentoring Silver award. The success and popularity of the programme has necessitated an expanded model which now involves every Year 12 student taking part in community contribution every Monday. The mentoring programme is now expanded to Holistic Mentoring, Organisational Mentoring for SEND and Homework Mentoring.



Here is some feedback from some of our mentees:

- *"It's really fun and really useful. It's really good to get organized and if you're stressed out it's really really good to talk to someone."* - Year 7 student
- *"I've been going to mentoring since Year 7 and it's really good because you get to talk to somebody. It's really helpful and nice in general. I also like it when we play table tennis at the end of term."* - Year 8 Student
- *"I find it really helpful especially the weekly challenges because it gives me something to work on through the week and this has been working for me. Also my mentor is a really nice person."* - Year 9 student
- *"I really like it because I get some really good advice."* - Year 10 student
- *"I actually like it because it feels really good talking to someone close to your age about your problems."* - Year 10 Student

We like to celebrate at the end of every half term; here we are enjoying some hot chocolate and pain au chocolat in our last session for Christmas:



Extended Learning Challenge



This term some of our Key Stage 3 students took part in the extended learning challenge (ELC). Over the course of 6 weeks they planned, researched and made artefacts of their choosing in response to the stimulus "our class of 2030: the world we create". Guided by a dedicated group of Year 12 mentors, students produced artefacts ranging from written pieces, to videos, physical models to annotated designs. Congratulations to our 2025 winners:

- ★ 1st place: Mila (Year 7)
- ★ 2nd place: Taksh (Year 9)
- ★ 3rd place: Talwasah (Year 8)

Headteacher commendation: Aanya (Year 9)

Charity Work : Interact

Interact is our student led charity and community group, giving students the opportunity to plan, lead and run fundraising events that support both local and national charities. Interact is led by Ms Barry and the Interact leadership team: Maia 10R and Lynn 10EN are our co-leaders, Inayah 9C and Maya 9C are our treasury and secretary & Lois 9E and Anaisha 9R are our event co-ordinators.

Macmillan Bake Sale



On Friday 26 September, Interact once again supported Macmillan Cancer Support through our annual bake sale, held on Friday 26 September.



This year's event was Interact's most successful bake sale to date, thanks to the generosity of students and staff across the school. A wide range of baked goods were donated and sold,

raising over £270 for Macmillan Cancer Support, nearly double last year's total. Congratulations to Annabel in Year 11, who won a £5 Amazon voucher for her outstanding brownies. The bake sale was a fantastic start to Interact's fundraising work this term and reflected the strong sense of community at Northwood School.

Children in Need



On Friday 14 November, Northwood School proudly supported Children in Need, raising an impressive £874.72 through a Non-Uniform Day and raffle.

Throughout the week, students took part in a range of activities led by Interact, including decorating Pudsey bears during form time, which were used to create bright and engaging Children in Need displays around the school. Students also participated in a Children in Need quiz written and organised by Interact members. The week concluded with a raffle, won by Hassan in Year 10, who received a £10 Amazon voucher. Thank you to everyone in our school community for their generosity, enthusiasm and continued support of this important cause.



Winter Fair & Non Uniform / Christmas Jumper Day

On Friday 12 December, Interact hosted another hugely successful Winter Fair, raising an incredible £1,673 through the Fair and Non Uniform Day combined, more than last year and bringing us to just £827 away from our £2,500 target to name a Guide Dogs puppy.

Since November, Interact members have given up their time every Thursday after school to plan and prepare for the Fair. They designed and created all stall posters, planned activities, organised stock and prizes, ran their own stalls on the day, managed money and tickets, and did so with professionalism, teamwork and pride throughout. Their hard work was evident in both the smooth running of the event and the fantastic atmosphere in the hall.

This year saw the introduction of a Winter Fair Prize Counter, where students could exchange tickets won at stalls for prizes ranging from small festive treats to larger, high value rewards. These included lollipops, keyrings, stationery, toys, teddies, colouring books, Disney items and limited edition prizes, with some of the most popular items selling out very quickly! The Prize Counter was a huge hit with students!



Alongside the stalls, Interact also ran raffles and competitions, including the Disney Raffle, Christmas Movie Raffle, and Who's That Bear?, all of which contributed significantly to our fundraising total and student engagement.

For Who's That Bear?, students and staff were invited to guess the name of a giant teddy bear for 20p per guess. While several creative guesses were submitted, no one correctly identified the name. The bear was revealed to be Roy, named after Irish football legend Roy Keane, a well known supporter of Guide Dogs Ireland. As no correct entries were received, all participants were entered into a draw and Rion in Year 8 was selected as the winner.

To add to the festive spirit, staff took part in the Holly Jolly Jumper Award, judged by Interact students themselves. Staff were invited to wear their most festive outfit and the winner was Ms Caple, who received over half of all Interact votes for her brilliant duck themed Christmas T-shirt and music playing jumper. She was awarded an M&S hamper with Disney goodies.



A huge thank you to everyone who supported the Winter Fair, particularly our Interact students and 6th form students who helped out on the day. They should all be incredibly proud of what they achieved. This event marks just the beginning of our fundraising journey for Guide Dogs, with more exciting events planned in the months ahead.

Christmas Cards for Local Care Homes



In the lead-up to Christmas, Interact students took part in a thoughtful community project by creating and sending Christmas cards to residents in local care homes. Students carefully wrote messages of kindness and festive cheer, helping to spread warmth and connection to those who may feel particularly isolated at this time of year. This project was a lovely example of Interact's commitment to compassion and community, and we would like to thank our students for the care and effort they put into making someone else's Christmas a little brighter.

What's next? Next term, Interact will be supporting Red for Heart Month in aid of the British Heart Foundation. Throughout February, the school will be going red to help raise money for life-saving heart and circulatory disease research. Interact will be running a series of student-led fundraising activities, including Valentine's rose sales, a Heart Month bake sale, and a Valentine's raffle. All money raised will be donated to the British Heart Foundation, with further details shared closer to the time.

On Friday 20 March, Northwood School will also be supporting Red Nose Day, with Interact organising a range of fun fundraising activities for the whole school community. These will include wearing red, a raffle with a large Easter egg prize, a Red Nose Day quiz during form time, and a Funniest Teacher T-Shirt Competition, with students voting for their favourite. More information, including how to take part and donate, will be shared nearer the event.

Alongside our regular fundraising events and charity days, Interact will continue to run additional fundraising activities throughout the year in support of Guide Dogs, as we work towards our goal of raising £2,500 to name a puppy. These events will run alongside our usual fundraising calendar and will give students further



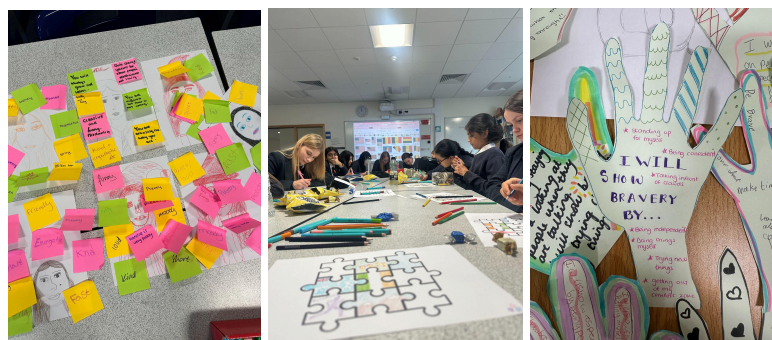
opportunities to lead, organise and take part in activities that make a real difference. We look forward to sharing updates with the school community as we continue our fundraising journey!

Be Her Lead - Empowering our Year 8, 9 & 10 girls

This term, a group of our Year 8, 9 and 10 girls have been proudly taking part in the Be Her Lead programme a powerful initiative designed to build confidence, leadership, wellbeing and strong peer support. The programme provides a safe, inclusive space where students are encouraged to share openly, support one another and develop a strong sense of self-belief.



Through regular sessions, students have explored key themes such as identity, confidence, resilience, equality and leadership. What has stood out most is the positive culture the girls have created together, one built on trust, kindness, encouragement and mutual respect. They have formed a genuinely supportive network where every voice is valued, and everyone feels empowered to be themselves. The programme also encourages students to take ownership of their personal growth, helping them recognise their strengths, develop independence, and grow in confidence both inside and outside the classroom. The girls have shown maturity, enthusiasm and compassion throughout, and it has been wonderful to see them supporting and uplifting one another so naturally.



We are incredibly proud of the commitment shown by all students involved in Be Her Lead and of the strong, positive community they have built together. The skills, confidence and friendships formed through this programme will continue to benefit them far beyond these sessions.

Year Group News

Year 7 Ms O'Keeffe

☀️ Year 7 A Fantastic Start at Northwood ☀️

Our Year 7 students have made an outstanding start to life at Northwood School, and we could not be prouder of how well they have settled in. From day one, they have shown enthusiasm, resilience and a real commitment to being positive members of our school community.

This term, students have taken part in a range of team-building activities, developing strong friendships and learning the importance of supporting one another. They have also completed thoughtful Anti-Bullying Pledges, demonstrating maturity, kindness and a clear understanding of how to keep our school a safe and respectful place for everyone. In addition, Year 7 marked International Men's Day with maturity and respect, engaging in meaningful discussions around positive role models, wellbeing and identity.

🎄 Year 7 Christmas Card Charity Project 🎄

In the lead-up to the festive season, our Year 7 students have been busy creating Christmas cards for children who will be spending the holidays in hospital. The pupils put a huge amount of care and effort into their designs and wrote wonderfully thoughtful, kind and uplifting messages inside, all aimed at bringing some smiles to others during what can be a difficult time. It has been a lovely opportunity for our Year 7 forms to take part in meaningful charity work and show such compassion and generosity at this special time of year.

A big thank you to Miss Merali for organising this wonderful initiative and giving our students the opportunity to spread some festive kindness. Attached a small selection of the beautiful cards created by our Year 7s for you to enjoy.



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👏 Year 7 rewards morning 👏

We were delighted to host a special Year 7 Rewards Morning to celebrate students who have gone above and beyond during their first half term at Northwood. Each form nominated two students in recognition of their outstanding effort, attitude and commitment to school life.

Students enjoyed decorating gingerbread men, listening to music and spending time together in a relaxed, joyful atmosphere. It was a lovely opportunity for them to bond, celebrate their

achievements and feel truly valued for the positive contributions they have already made to the school community.



Looking ahead to 2026 🌈

Our focus will be on wellbeing and helping students develop lifelong strategies to support themselves. Year 7 will explore the 5 S's alongside regular weekly mindfulness activities in class, giving them practical tools to manage their emotions, build confidence and stay positive. We are incredibly proud of everything Year 7 have achieved so far and are excited to see them continue to grow and thrive at Northwood.



I hope all of our Year 7 students have a happy, safe and restful Christmas break.

Miss O'Keeffe

Please see our brand new newsletter '[The Transition Times](#)' detailing all the wonderful things Year 7 have been doing this term. Including:

- Summer School
- Jack Petchy Transition workshops
- Summer Project winners
- National Poetry Day
- Black History Month
- The Year 7 Colour Run
- Christmas Card House COMpetition
- Christmas Party

- Christmas Showcase
- Ms Elliott (Transition Lead)

Year Group News

Year 8 Mr Gibbs

Start to Year 8

Year 8 has made a positive and settled start to the new academic year. All students quickly re-established routines and have shown high levels of maturity, focus and engagement in lessons this term. As a year group we are keen to build on the foundations from year 7 and this has been reflected in the students' efforts since starting year 8. Below you can see some of the exciting things that have been happening over the last few months.

Science Museum Trip

Ninety students took part in the (slightly delayed!) trip to the Science Museum, and the day was highly successful. Pupils were enthusiastic throughout, engaging well with the exhibitions and asking thoughtful questions.

Behaviour was excellent across the group. Students moved around the museum sensibly, represented the school with maturity, and responded positively to staff instructions. Their curiosity and interest made for a purposeful and enjoyable learning experience.

Staff noted that the visit helped students make strong links between their classroom learning and real-world science. Many pupils commented on how the trip had deepened their understanding and sparked new interests.

Overall, it was a rewarding day and the students should be commended for the way they conducted themselves throughout the trip.



Water Polo Success

One of our very talented year 8 students, Nevine G, has been a key figure in the Watford and Hillingdon Penguins side. Due to her impressive club performances Nevine was offered the chance to trial for the London Sharks, who are the regional representatives. She was successful in her trial and selected for the squad to take place in the inter-regional championships in November.

Taking on teams from all across the UK, Nevine played a crucial part in helping the London Sharks to a second place finish. An amazing achievement and we look forward to seeing more success in the future. Well Done Nevine!



Lainey C - Dancing Success

Another one of our year 8 students, Lainey C, has also excelled in her sport recently. Lainey took part in a national competition which featured over 200 dancers. Lainey performed exceptionally and was able to secure a top 10 finish. Lainey has big plans for the future and we look forward to seeing her on stage or TV soon! Congratulations Lainey!

Reward Morning

A select group of year 8 students enjoyed a special Hot Chocolate Morning to celebrate their successful first term. Everyone gathered together to relax, chat with friends, and enjoy a warm drink topped with marshmallows. It was a fun and cosy reward for all their hard work, positive attitude, and achievements so far. The event helped end the term on a high note and encouraged everyone to keep up the great effort next term.

Year Group News

Year 9 Ms Barry

The Daisy Cup

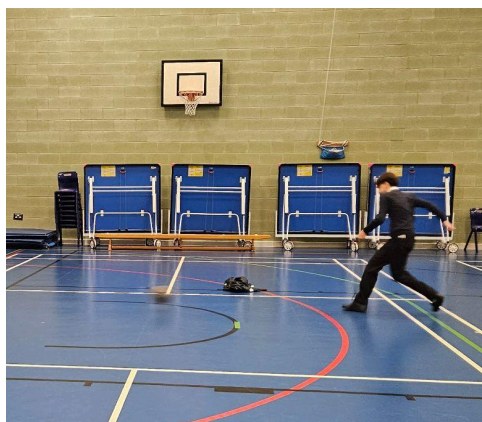
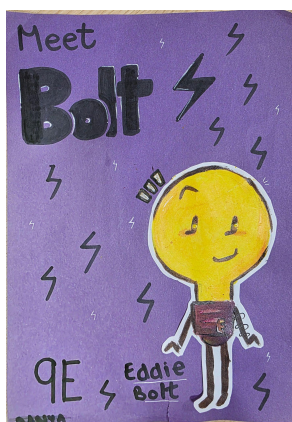


This half term, The Daisy Cup has continued for Year 9, with forms taking part in a wide range of creative, collaborative and problem solving challenges during form time. The competition aims to encourage teamwork, participation and positive form spirit, with points awarded not only for winning but also for effort, creativity and organisation.

The first challenge was the Bonfire Night Paperchain, where forms worked together to create long, colourful and sustainable paperchains. 9C were outstanding, winning Longest Paperchain (100 points) and Most Sustainable (50 points). 9I were awarded 50 points for Most Colourful, while 9EN won 50 points for Most Creative. The completed paperchains were later displayed at The Winter Fair, showcasing students' teamwork and creativity.

Forms then took on a riddle-a-day challenge, where a new clue was released each morning and students had to work together carefully, waiting until the final clue before submitting an answer. The final riddle revealed the answer to be Pudsey Bear, the mascot for Children in Need. This was followed by the 50-word writing challenge, "The Winter Songbird", which required students to write exactly 50 words, focusing on atmosphere, mood and precise language. 9E and Taksh won the challenge and received 100 points, while 9I and Aimee were awarded 50 points for a strong entry that narrowly exceeded the word limit.

Students also designed form mascots, with 9E and Aanya winning 50 points for their entry. 9EN received 50 points, and 9I were awarded 20 points after their mascot unfortunately disappeared from their form room over the weekend.



Later in the term, forms completed a full Crack the Code week, solving daily maths problems and anagrams to reveal a secret poem. When all lines were decoded, the poem instructed students to go to the gym and score a goal, with only one student per form allowed to take the shot. 9E and Ilhan successfully cracked the code and scored the winning goal, earning 100 Daisy Cup points for

their form. 50 points were also awarded to 9P (Ezra), 9I (Frankie) and 9EN (Krishiv) for completing the challenge.

The half term concluded with Winter Wonderland Prep Week, where points were awarded for effort, teamwork, participation, organisation and form spirit, rather than the finished door. 9R won the challenge and were awarded 200 points. Further Daisy Cup points will also be awarded from the Year 9 Achievement Assembly on Wednesday 17 December, giving forms another opportunity to boost their totals before the end of term. Leaderboards have remained extremely close throughout, with 9C and 9I frequently competing for the top spot, alongside significant point gains from 9E and 9R, keeping excitement and engagement high across the year group. The winners of The Daisy Cup for this half term are yet to be decided!

Year 9 Star of the Week

Throughout the term, teachers have been nominating students for Year 9 Star of the Week in recognition of excellent effort, attitude and achievement in lessons. We have had over 180 nominations so far this academic year. Each week's winner receives a certificate, a prize, and RECIPE points.

This year, there is also an extra incentive. Every Star of the Week winner is entered into a half-termly draw to win a homework off voucher, adding an extra reward for consistent hard work.

We are delighted to celebrate the following students who have been recognised so far this term:

- 15 September – Saeed 9EN
- 22 September – Ezra 9P
- 29 September – Inayah 9C
- 6 October – Isaac 9EN
- 13 October – Lilia 9C
- 20 October – Munazza 9I
- 3 November – Esil 9E
- 10 November – Mads 9EN
- 17 November – Gia 9C
- 24 November – Muhammad 9R
- 1 December – Julien 9C
- 8 December – Julia 9R

Well done to all of our Year 9 Stars of the Week - a fantastic reflection of the effort and positive attitudes being shown across the year group.

Careers and Future Pathways

During form time this term, Year 9 students have taken part in a range of careers based activities and information tasks using BBC Bitesize Careers resources to support early thinking about future pathways and GCSE options.

BBC
BITESIZE
CAREERS

Students were introduced to current career trends, including the types of jobs young people are interested in and how the world of work is changing. They completed short activities encouraging them to think about different industries, the skills employers value, and how school subjects can link

to future careers. Pupils also reflected on their own strengths and interests, considering what they enjoy, what motivates them, and where their skills may be best suited.

Further activities focused on understanding job satisfaction, helping students think about what they would want from a future career, such as working conditions, teamwork, creativity or making a difference. Students were also given information about different post-16 routes, including apprenticeships, to highlight the range of options available beyond traditional pathways.

There were also activities on goal setting and planning ahead, encouraging students to think about small steps they can take now, as well as longer term aspirations. Students were introduced to the idea of networking and identifying people who could support them with advice, guidance or future opportunities.

These careers based activities aim to help Year 9 students develop greater awareness of their options and feel more prepared as they begin to consider their GCSE choices and future plans.

UTC Heathrow

On Friday 21 November, UTC Heathrow delivered an assembly to our Year 9 students, outlining the opportunities available to them as they consider their options for Year 10. UTC stands for University Technical College and offers an innovative approach to education for students aged 14–19, combining specialist programmes in areas such as engineering and IT alongside traditional subjects including English, Maths and Science. UTCs are government-funded, fee-free schools that work closely with universities and employers to provide a relevant and future focused education. UTC Heathrow, based in Northwood, specialises in engineering and IT and supports students from Year 10 to Year 13, with a strong focus on preparing young people for further education, apprenticeships and employment. If parents/carers would like more information, please contact UTC Heathrow directly or attend their Open Evening on Thursday 12 March.



What's next?

In January, Year 9 students will take part in The Riot Act: "What You Gonna Do?", a road safety theatre presentation delivered in school by The Riot Act, funded by the Hillingdon School Travel and Road Safety (STARS) Team.

This interactive, hour-long performance is specifically designed for Year 9 transitional students and links closely to the PSHE curriculum. Using drama, music and real life scenarios, the programme explores key road safety messages and encourages students to think carefully about risk-taking behaviours, peer influence and the consequences of choices for themselves and others.

Through the performance and follow-up discussion, students will:

- consider the potential consequences of risky behaviour
- recognise situations and triggers that may lead to unsafe decisions
- develop strategies to manage and minimise risk as road users
- understand the role individuals play in keeping themselves and others safe



The programme is highly engaging and thought-provoking, with schools consistently praising its impact on students' awareness, decision-making and understanding of personal responsibility. This initiative supports our wider pastoral and personal development work as students continue to mature and prepare for the next stage of their education.

Please note that the Year 9 GCSE Options Evening will take place on Tuesday 10 March 2026. This event will provide students and parents/carers with important information about the GCSE options process, subject choices and pathways available, helping to support informed decision-making ahead of the options deadline. Further details will be shared closer to the date.

As we come to the end of the term, I would like to wish all Year 9 students and their families a very happy holiday season and a fantastic New Year. Year 9 have shown real growth and maturity this year, and it has been wonderful to see the positive impact of mixing up subjects and experiences across the curriculum. As we look ahead to next term, I am excited to support students as they begin their GCSE options journey and start preparing for the transition into Year 10. I am incredibly proud of the progress Year 9 have made and look forward to everything they will achieve in the year ahead.

Ms Barry

Year Group News

Year 10 Ms Little

The autumn term has been a busy and positive start for our Year 10 students as they have settled into the demands of their GCSE courses. From September to December, pupils have shown growing independence, resilience and maturity as they adapt to increased subject content and expectations across the curriculum.

**STRONG
FOUNDATIONS** **BRIGHTER
FUTURE**



I have received **many positive comments from staff** about this year group, particularly praising their attitude to learning, behaviour around the school and their engagement in lessons. Year 10 have approached the term with a positive mindset and a willingness to work hard, which has been reflected in both their progress and conduct.

Students have engaged well with lessons, assessments and enrichment opportunities, building strong foundations for the remainder of the year. Tutors and subject teachers have been especially pleased with improvements in organisation, homework completion and students' readiness to take responsibility for their learning.

Celebrating achievements

Form tutors and I have observed a growing level of **maturity and independence** in a number of students, particularly in their attitude towards learning across their subjects. These students are taking increased responsibility for their progress, demonstrating strong organisation, effective use of feedback and a willingness to challenge themselves academically. They approach lessons with focus

and commitment, working independently while seeking support appropriately when needed. In recognition of their consistently positive attitudes and efforts, these students were **rewarded with a celebratory breakfast**, celebrating their achievements and the excellent example they set for others within the year group. Below are the names of the students who have been invited over the past term.

Autumn 1					
Kamari	Mafalda	Sam	Ruth	Stanley	Paige
Josh	Alex	Sofia	Elliot	Vyana	Rohan
Casslyn	Rishika	Nikita	Robin	Aisha	Lynne
	Ella	Harry	Kye	Luca	Amy
					Seb
Autumn 2					
Casslyn	Nishil	Maddison	Clarissa	Inayah	Shivaan
Nikhil	Joe	Emma	Lola	Pranay	Aryaan
Matias	Jena	Elias	Ash	Krishni	Evangeline
Ajuni	Shravan	Ingrid	Summer	Frankie	Hamza
	Brody	Misha	Aqil		Annisa

Upcoming: Coach Bright Maths Intervention

Next term, fifteen Year 10 pupils are taking part in a **CoachBright Peer-to-Peer Coaching programme**, supporting fifteen Year 7 pupils in developing their maths skills, confidence, and approaches to learning. The programme helps Year 7 pupils improve their **metacognition** (how they think about learning) and **self-efficacy** (belief in their ability to succeed), while giving Year 10 pupils valuable **leadership and coaching experience**.

The programme includes:

- **Training for Year 10 coaches** by a CoachBright Programme Manager to learn effective coaching strategies.
- **A launch event** where coaches and coachees meet and plan which areas of maths to focus on.
- **10 weeks of one-to-one coaching**, with weekly 60-minute sessions and short debriefs with the Programme Manager. Sessions take place outside core subject lessons.
- **Accreditation:** Year 10 coaches can earn a **Student Leadership Accreditation** through the Schools, Students and Teachers Network (SSTN).

We are excited to see how this programme helps Year 7 pupils build their maths skills and confidence, and provides Year 10 students with a unique opportunity to develop leadership and mentoring abilities.

Upcoming: Work Experience

Looking ahead, we are preparing students for their **upcoming Work Experience placement in July 2026**, an important opportunity for Year 10 to develop key employability skills, gain insight into the world of work and begin exploring future career pathways. Further



information will be shared with students and parents shortly as placements will need to be secured by the end of January 2026.

Year Group News

Year 11 Mr Hunte

Year 11 – A Strong Start

Our Year 11 students have returned this year with a mature, focused attitude and a clear determination to succeed. From the very start of term, students have shown a strong commitment to their studies and a growing understanding that this is a crucial year for making the right choices and keeping as many future pathways open as possible. We have been extremely impressed with the way Year 11 have embraced the expectations of their final year at Northwood and the responsibility that comes with it.

PPE Window

Year 11 have now completed their first PPE window of the academic year, demonstrating an impressive level of resilience and perseverance. Feedback from invigilators has been extremely positive, with students setting a very high standard in both behaviour and exam conduct. This has been a valuable opportunity for students to experience exam conditions and reflect on their progress as they continue to prepare for the months ahead.

Year 11 Rewards Morning

To recognise the fantastic effort shown during the PPE window, students were invited to a Year 11 hot chocolate rewards morning. This was a well-deserved celebration of their hard work, commitment and positive approach, and a chance to take a moment to reflect on their achievements in a relaxed and supportive environment.

1:1 Support Meetings

Year 11 students have been actively engaging in one-to-one meetings with Mr SV, Mr Hunte or a member of the Leadership Group. These discussions have focused on students taking ownership of their journey, identifying their strengths and areas for development within the curriculum, and recognising both academic and pastoral support needs. As part of these meetings, students have also discussed their post-16 plans, ensuring they are beginning to think carefully about future pathways and the steps needed to achieve their ambitions beyond Year 11.

Year 11 Prom – Save the Date!

We are delighted to invite all Year 11 students to this year's Prom – a truly special opportunity to celebrate together at the end of their time at Northwood.

When: Wednesday 1st July 2026

Time: 7:00pm – 11:00pm

Where: The Grange Country House, Rickmansworth Road, Northwood HA6 2RB

Tickets are available via **ParentPay** at a cost of **£48**, with the payment deadline set for **Friday 6th February 2026**.

The ticket price includes food (pizza and a celebratory cake), a soft drink on arrival, decorations, a 360° video experience, lighting, red carpet, prizes, a dancefloor and a DJ. This promises to be a memorable and enjoyable evening for all.

Looking Ahead

As we move further into the academic year, key upcoming dates include the **Year 11 Parents' Evening in January** and the **next round of PPEs in March**. These milestones will be vital in supporting students as they continue to refine their revision strategies and prepare for their final examinations.

We are incredibly proud of how Year 11 have started the year and look forward to supporting them every step of the way as they work towards achieving their goals.

Year Group News

Year 12 & 13 Ms Kondal / Mr Younes

Introduction to Year 12

Completing our first full term in 6th form has been an incredibly rewarding experience. From welcoming our new cohort of Year 12s to establishing and supporting our Year 13s as they prepare for their futures, it's been a journey of growth and achievement. We've seen our students tackle initial assessments and face their first set of full PPEs with resilience and determination. It's clear that 6th form is thriving, growing in both size and spirit, and we couldn't be more proud of everything we've accomplished together. It's been a term to remember, full of progress and promise for the year ahead.

Mrs Kondal Deputy Head of 6th Form

Ted Talks

This term, Northwood School's Year 12 students have begun an exciting new journey: creating our own TED-style talks. These talks give us the chance to take a single idea we're passionate about and share it with our entire year group. Each student is preparing a short, meaningful presentation on a topic of their choice, anything from an academic interest to a favourite sport, hobby, or personal experience.

By crafting and delivering these talks, we are building critical thinking, confidence, and presentation skills. More importantly, we're learning how to communicate our ideas in an engaging and impactful way. It's a powerful opportunity for every student to

Northwood 6th Form TedTalks

Financial Doping: Atharva
Whys is the sky Blue?: Anika
Is there a Planet B: Amelia
Spongebob's Cultural Impact: Eira

explore what inspires them and to make their voice heard. [Anika Arun - 12B]

Oxbridge Soc & MedSoc

The Medic/Oxbridge Society is a supportive place for anyone aiming for medicine or highly selective universities. We share tips and opportunities, explore work-experience options, and learn about different medical and academic pathways with professional guidance available. We also take part in university visits to get a real sense of campus life. It's all about teamwork, confidence, and making the whole process feel a lot less stressful. We have had alumni come and talk to us, year 13s supporting us, and lots of informative sessions within the society.

Dhruv Deepak 12B

European day of languages:

On the 26th September, sixth form celebrated European day of languages. Students celebrated their own culture through wearing their own cultural dress. It was lovely to see all of the different cultures being celebrated within the sixth form, emphasising how multicultural our community is.

Marcus Burden 12C

Colour run:

On the 17th October, year 12 helped run the year 7 colour run on the field. It was a great event with both year 7 and year 12 students having a wonderful time. Year 12 were vital in the running of this event, leading activities and managing where the year 7s needed to go.

Marcus Burden 12C



Interview Prep for Oxbridge and Medics

As we embark on the next steps of our journey, several students have received interview invitations from Oxbridge universities. They have been busy gaining a wealth of support from both within and beyond the school community, and we are incredibly grateful to every member of staff and supporter who has given their time to invest in our Year 13 students.

Year 13 Oxbridge Soc

Information Evenings

As part of our Leadership within the Northwood Diploma, helping at the information evenings for the younger years was a really good experience. We spent the evening talking to students and their families about what to expect next year and showing them around. It was nice to work with the teachers and other helpers, and it made me feel more involved in the school community. Overall, I'm glad I volunteered because it was a relaxed, enjoyable night and I felt like I was actually helping.

Ishaan Karia 12C

Themed Movie evenings Northwood School's movie nights have become one of our Sixth Form Community's most enjoyable and successful traditions, each one drawing enthusiastic students



and creating lasting memories. The Halloween Movie Night kicked things off with a spooky atmosphere showing *Get Out* leaving students shocked and frightened. This was followed by a vibrant Bollywood Movie Night, which filled the school with color, music, and cultural celebration with the variety of food and snacks provided, showcasing *Three Idiots*, definitely a fan favourite. Most recently, the Christmas Movie Night wrapped up the series with warm holiday cheer, and a joyful sense of togetherness inviting students to watch the holiday staple *Home Alone*. Altogether, these events have not only been well-attended and beautifully organized by our Year 13 team, but they have also strengthened school spirit and created a wonderful sense of connection among everyone involved.

Layla Farah 12A

Ice Skating

On Tuesday 9th December, Year 12 and Year 13 went on an exciting trip to Battersea Power Station to go ice skating. The sixth formers enjoyed a really fun evening at the Glide ice rink in London, and it was a great way for both year groups to socialise and have fun together. Some even had the confidence to use the penguin supports as they made their way around the rink!

Thank you to the sixth form team for arranging such a great night!

Saroop Singh 12C



6th Form Talent Show

Northwood School Sixth Form Talent Show!



This year's Sixth Form Talent Show was a lively mix of creativity, humour and musical talent, showcasing the impressive range of skills across the year group.

Hiren kicked things off with an energetic and hilarious Donald Trump impression that left both students and teachers laughing. The evening also featured several piano performances, with **Andrew**

playing twice, including a final piece to close the show, alongside beautiful classical pieces from **Elzubair** and **Michael**.

The musical performances continued with **Malek** from Year 13, who impressed the audience with his astounding drum playing. Later, **Malek** showcased his sporting dedication as a national water-polo champion through an exciting video projection. **Marwa** kept the energy high with a comedic TikTok-style video that had the audience laughing, and vocal talent shone through as **Tashvi** delivered a heartfelt rendition of *I'm Almost There* from *The Princess and the Frog*.

To finish, the teachers surprised everyone with a last-minute act: **Mr Kavanagh** impressed on guitar, and **Mrs Underwood's** lively performance of *Blinding Lights* had the whole hall singing and clapping along. Finally, everyone joined together for a festive group sing-along of *Last Christmas*. Overall, the event was a brilliant celebration of the Sixth Form's Christmas spirit and talent.

Miriam Paduraru 12A

Name of Department

Inclusion Ms Hamadi

This term, we've been really proud of student's achievements, both in the classroom and beyond. In November, a select group of SEND students were taken by Ms Manders to an inclusive sports event at Pield Heath School. They took part in a fun sport called Boccia and thoroughly enjoyed themselves! Ms Elliot led the way to a cinema trip for some lucky year 7s and 8s who watched Kensuke's Kingdom - a great film enjoyed by all. In addition to this, partners from Heathrow airport met with some budding entrepreneurs in Years 8 and 9 to develop their skills in designing a product that can be used by passengers to make travel more adapted.

In the department, students have bonded well with their key workers, focussing on key target areas for support. Some have also shown real skill as 'architects, builders and engineers' in our LEGO groups. Ms Fernandes has supported some students with how to understand themselves and others with successful targeted intervention.

In KS4, we've been really impressed by the way Year 10s have taken strides in their new GCSE options. The Year 11s have had their first round of PPEs and got to experience the exam environment - with adaptations for those who need it.

All in all, a wonderful term is wrapping up for Christmas and we're really proud of all learners!

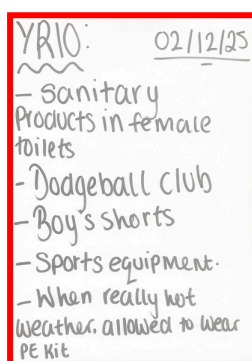
Student leadership + House News! Mr Mouladad

House Events:

House spirit has been thriving at Northwood this term, with a fantastic range of events designed to bring pupils together and celebrate friendly competition. Highlights have included House Netball, House Assemblies, and a *Decorate Your Door* competition inspired by winter and Christmas themes. These events have created real buzz around the school and kept enthusiasm high across all year groups. House Netball will return at the very end of term, providing another exciting opportunity for pupils to represent their houses and carry this energy forward into 2026



Student Leadership:



Student Leadership continues to go from strength to strength at Northwood. Meeting fortnightly, pupils are currently working through Step 1 of a three-step action plan focused on driving positive change across the school. This initial phase centres on gathering ideas and planning for the future.

Class Captains have been instrumental in this process, leading discussions within their form groups and feeding back ideas that matter most to their year group. The photos below highlight some of the creative and thoughtful

ideas shared by our Year 10 student **leaders**.

RECIPE:

Northwood's RECIPE system continues to gain momentum, with Edison currently leading the house leaderboard. Exciting developments are also underway in Year 10, where a new RECIPE reporting system is being trialled in Science. This 'Top 3' model, already successful in KS3, has shown great promise and is paving the way for a planned whole-school rollout in 2026.

Event	Rosa	Edison	Chadwick	Isaac	Pele	Ennis
Quiz	356	409	306	322	319	386
RECIPE	2031	2645	2497	2766	1557	1901
House Assembly	50	200	50	100	50	150
DYOD - Christmas	0	0	0	0	0	0
House Netball	0	0	0	0	0	0
Y7 Christmas Cards	100	50	200	0	50	100
Total Points	2537	3304	3053	3188	1976	2537

Name of Department

Art

A Level Art students had a great time experimenting in a range of workshops in response to the artists they studied during their visit to the Saatchi Gallery in London. Ms Maida

