

MONDAY MARCH 4TH 2024 | ISSUE 11

NONSUCH NEWS

Our weekly newsletter for the school community



WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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- Updates from Mrs Williamson-Jones
- Community notices
- School and department news
- Upcoming dates for your diary

MESSAGES FROM MS CAVILLA



Dear students, parents and carers,

This newsletter includes great news about the school production, trips and competitions. It also includes safeguarding information about risky social media apps. I just wish to share my own experience of activity in school last week and an update regarding the School Fund, where parental donations are paid in to and how we have been spending this money and future plans for it.

World Book Day celebrations and the School Production

Last week saw our best ever World Book Day celebrations. Many staff and students dressed up and I was particularly impressed by the group efforts and countless – well probably 101 – dalmatians. The engagement was very high and the book fair generated a lot of interest. Nonsuch students love to read! “The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe” was a wonderful production with a superb ensemble, very talented leads and an unforgettable fight scene. It is lovely to witness how students support each other across year groups and the contribution made by the technical teams of set, costume, sound and lighting. The Y13 students who have participated in the school production every year were moved and moving in their gratitude to staff for directing them each year and to the opportunities afforded them. It was humbling.

School Fund

With money donated by generations of Nonsuch parents we have been able to buy a new solar telescope, repair the old main telescope and have set money aside to fix the astrodome of the observatory to automate it. We have also been able to pay for more peripatetic music teachers to run ensembles, orchestra and choir as well as sports coaches to provide more clubs at no cost to students. Our safeguarding bid to secure better perimeter fencing was secured but we have to match the funding. The work has started and the school fund will be able to ensure we can afford to complete the task to better secure our site and improve access for pedestrians. We have also set money aside to replace the long jump pit.

Best wishes, Ms Cavilla

UPDATES FROM MRS WILLIAMSON-JONES

Attendance

In January, the Government launched a new campaign around school attendance to remind families that every day of school is important, moments matter, attendance counts.

The campaign forms one part of the government's wider strategy to increase attendance. It is focused on 'avoidable absence' – odd days lost because of mild colds or coughs. As a school we have a clear policy where we monitor illness. For students, who have four or more days absence in a half term due to illness, we ask for medical evidence. These days can either be sporadic or taken as one. The Chief Medical Officer says it is usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild respiratory illnesses, including general cold symptoms like a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat. The guidance found here can help you as a parent to decide: Is my child too ill for school? If your child has been off school for a number of days we have a duty of care to ensure that they have received medical evaluation and treatment. The Government attendance hub also has information that can help you to make informed decisions: How to improve your child's school attendance and where to get support

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, your child's form tutor, Head of Year or myself will contact you.

Year group	Attendance (%)	Authorised (%)	Unauthorised (%)	Persistent absence >=10%
Year 7	98.17	1.4	0.36	3
Year 8	97.54	1.77	0.61	7
Year 9	97.05	2.41	0.54	9
Year 10	96.27	2.41	0.54	9
Year 11	95.45	3.82	0.73	16
Year 12	96.21	3.01	0.77	12
Year 13	94.16	4.57	1.26	35
All years	96.41	2.83	0.71	99



Session attendance summary (4/9/23 to 27/02/24)



COMMUNITY NOTICES

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Consultation

This academic year we will be reviewing and updating our RSE Policy and curriculum. We would like to consult with parents and carers to ensure that our policy meets the needs of pupils and parents and reflects the community we serve. The aim of this is to ensure that our RSE provision is appropriate for our students. We need your feedback to help us to do this. We will be running two in-person focus groups and one online. Please see the times and dates below:

- Tuesday March 5th 8.30 am-9.30 am (in person at school)
- Wednesday March 6th 6pm-7pm (online)
- Thursday March 7th 4pm-5pm (in person at school)

To take part, please complete [this online form](#) by Friday March 1st 2024. We will then send out further details including links to the online session. Please see the letter sent out last week with further information in it regarding the expectations placed on schools.

Emerald Chat - information about anonymous chat website

Emerald Chat is an anonymous chat website that promotes making new friends by interacting with strangers.

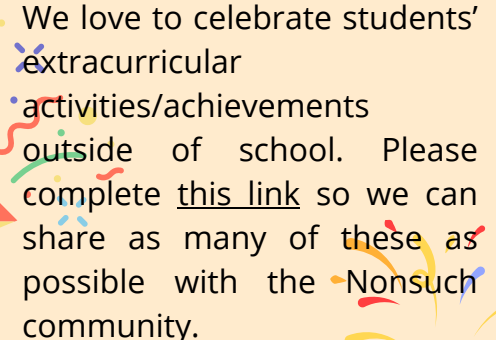
- The platform incorporates features from popular social media platforms like Feeds and Direct Messaging to engage users
- Users have the option of buying a 'Gold' membership which offers additional benefits such as sending images and choosing the gender of the user they are matched with.
- There have been multiple reports of concerning behaviour on the platform, including allegations that it caters to paedophiles.
- Emerald Chat uses AI technology and human moderation to identify and remove inappropriate content in chats.
- Emerald Chat is accessed through a web browser, as there is currently no mobile app available for download but it can still be used on web browser apps like Safari.

Age Rating: The platform states that all users must be over 18 years old. However, online safety experts discovered that the age verification is ineffective, with only a self-declaration statement to confirm that the user is over 18.

Please see this [link](#) for more information on Emerald Chat and tips on how to safeguard your children.

Reporting absence

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



We love to celebrate students' extracurricular activities/achievements outside of school. Please complete [this link](#) so we can share as many of these as possible with the Nonsuch community.

SCHOOL AND DEPARTMENT NEWS

PE - Upcoming fixtures

Date	Time	Sport	Team	Location
06/03/24	15:30	Netball	Y8ABC	Wallington
06/03/24	15:30	Netball	SNR	Nonsuch
11/03/24	15:30	Hockey	U12AB	Nonsuch
14/03/24	15:30	Netball	Y9AB & Y10AB	Wallington
18/03/24		Acro Gym Competition	U19 & U11	
18/03/24	07:00	Badminton	KS3 & KS4	St Helens
19/03/24	13:00	Netball	Y8	Overton School
20/03/24	15:30	Netball	U13BCD & U12CD	Downsend School

Music - instrumental lessons

Final opportunity to sign up until September 2024.

The Nonsuch Music Department have a team of private instrumental teachers offering lessons on many instruments, including the oboe, saxophone, piano, and drum kit. Please register [here](#) to join our waiting list:

To expand our provision, we have partnered with Sutton Music Service, who will provide lessons in cello, flute, violin, voice and trumpet. Please register directly with them here:

[Registration - Sutton Music Trust](#)

All lessons take place at school during the day.

House Talent Show Final

After several months of intensive auditions, the House Talent Final took place on Wednesday February 21st with one act from each House competing to see who would be the overall winner. With Ms Cavilla and our Head of Music, Ms Patterson, acting as judges, each act performed with courage and conviction. We had polished performances ranging from a Y8 re-creation of Queen (complete with double bass), a solo clarinet performance and an acapella act. Congratulations go to every performer who has taken part over the last few months, to our worthy finalists, and well done to the winner, Lily in 8J, representing Jupiter with a traditional Slovak song.

Music - GCSE and A level recital

Thursday March 14th 2024 17:30-20:00 in the Hall

Performances from our GCSE and A Level students

Complimentary tickets available [here](#):



SCHOOL AND DEPARTMENT NEWS

Maths - Nonsuch students' Maths Challenge success

We're delighted that Nonsuch students achieved excellent results at the recent UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge. We had 134 students take part on the day. They sat the challenge under exam conditions in the main hall. Forty-nine Gold and forty six Silver certificates were awarded across years 9-11, and we are particularly proud of the following successes: three Olympiad qualifiers (two hour paper) and 31 Kangaroo qualifiers (one hour paper).

Students who have made it through to the next rounds on 21st March have been emailed about their achievement and given links to the past papers. Well done to all who took part - we are really proud of you.

Austria Ski Trip February 2024

Imara, Avni, Meela, Jaahnavi, Raiya, Zarah and Niamh write about the half term skiing trip to Austria: After a smooth trip to Munich and a three-hour coach trip to our hotel, we were excited for the next day when we would be on the mountains. We were very eager to make our way to the slopes. We were all buzzing with excitement to practise our skills. Even though there were many funny falls throughout the day we had the best first day. It was so fun to mess around in the snow, even when we found out it was -7 degrees and with a lot of fog. We had the time of our lives on the slopes and we were really lucky when it started snowing really heavily. It was mesmerising, as a lot of us had never experienced proper snow before. We finished off our ski day with a Nonsuch-style massive teachers vs students snowball fight, which we obviously won! We're sure everyone will agree that we had the best time on this trip! We made so many new friends and memories and the week was full of laughter. For some of us, from not being able to ski at all at the start of the week to whizzing down slopes by the end, we were so so proud of our progress and achievements. We are very grateful to all the teachers for making it happen and the immense effort they put in the trip for us. They were all so fun and caring, which made the trip even more special. A huge thank you to Miss Burgess, Miss Dawson, Miss Snowden, Mrs Osborne, and Miss Whelehan for everything they did!



SCHOOL AND DEPARTMENT NEWS

PE - Regional Sports Hall Athletics Competition

On Friday February 9th the Nonsuch Year 7 and Year 8 Athletics Teams competed in the Regional Sports Hall Athletics Competition at Westcroft Leisure Centre. The day was filled with lots of dedication, hard work and perseverance from all the members of the team. The Year 7 team came first in the competition meaning they get to move on to the London Youth Games Final! The year 8s were also brilliant but sadly did not make the finals. You were all remarkable; well done to everyone!



History - Sir Roderic Lyne visits Nonsuch

Last week we were delighted to host Sir Roderic Lyne at Nonsuch to speak with A Level Politics in the library and Year 10 History students in the Hall. Sir Roderic was Britain's ambassador to Russia between 2000-2004, prior to which he was in the diplomatic service and foreign policy adviser to Prime Minister John Major. It was wonderful to hear Sir Roderic's views on Vladimir Putin, the invasion of Ukraine and many other world affairs, on which he provided a unique insight.

His stories of meetings with such historical figures as Mikhail Gorbachev,

Nelson Mandela, Margaret Thatcher, Prince Phillip and Bill Clinton amongst others were truly amazing and helped to bring so many of these distant figures to life.

Sir Roderic's talk to Y10 students was focused on his experience of the Cold War and he regaled students with his knowledge and understanding of life in the Soviet Union and the collapse of communism.



His stories of having to find cola in communist Russia for Princess Anne, of presenting a cricket bat to Nelson Mandela, pouring olive oil into the Prime Ministers ear and demonstrating Bill Clinton's handshake had us all smiling. It was truly a wonderful experience to hear from someone with such a wealth of historical and political experience.

SCHOOL AND DEPARTMENT NEWS

Nonsuch Book Week - School Book Fair fundraising

Students have really enjoyed having the opportunity to browse books to buy this week in the school library, and we appreciate the support from parents and carers for this fundraising effort. At the time of writing, we have raised over £500 in points which is great news: it means the library has earned enough points to buy brand new titles for all to enjoy.

Thank you for this support from the school community. More next week on Nonsuch Book Week and dressing up as a book character day - a Nonsuch tradition!



PE - Y7 netball at the London Youth Games

Our Year 7 Netball A and B teams had their first fixture of the year on Tuesday February 20th in the Netball London Youth Games Tournament. Both teams played extremely well with great shooting and attacking skills. We defended players effectively and regained possession often after we had lost it. Our A team came second overall and our B team came third which are both amazing results. Congratulations to our Year 7 teams!



PE - Sutton Borough KS4 Mixed Dance Competition



The Nonsuch Dance Team competed in a Sutton Borough KS4 Mixed Dance Competition at Sutton High on Thursday February 8th. All their hard work paid off as we watched an amazing performance which earned them first place in the competition, meaning they qualify for the London Youth Games Finals in June. Congratulations to everyone in the team for this wonderful achievement!

UPCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Week 2	
Monday 4th March	
Tuesday 5th March	Year 12 Parents Evening – 16.00 – in schoo
Wednesday 6th March	Year 10 Revision Guide deadline
Thursday 7th March	Year 10 Battlefields Trip- Ypres Oxbridge Information Evening – 19.00-20.00 (Hall)
Friday 8th March	Year 10 Battlefields Trip – Ypres
Week 1	RAG Week
Monday 11th March	
Tuesday 12th March	Year 7 Hockey & Netball Interhouse
Wednesday 13th March	Young Carers Action Day 2014
Thursday 14th March	GCSE & A Level Recital 17.30 (Hall)
Friday 15th March	Year 8 Hockey & Netball Interhouse Year 10 & 12 Drama Theatre trip