



19/12/25

Dear Parents, Carers, Students, Staff and Friends of the School



It has not been the easiest of terms but there are many reasons to be Joyful, and by now I hope you have all had the chance to digest the Catholic School Inspection report, which was a lovely early Christmas present to the school community. If not, please do try and read it over the Christmas break.

This week we bid a fond farewell to several long-standing servants of the school – Mrs Powell, who has provided administrative support to the SEND team and leadership team for over a decade, and Mrs Nobes, who has worked in various guises at Notre Dame for over 25 years, an incredible achievement. Thank you both for your service.

We also celebrate our final Advent Liturgy with Fr Alan, as he will move on to his new role in February. We have been very lucky to be supported by Fr Alan, who I know holds all the young people at Notre Dame in his prayers, and asks his parishioner's to do the same.

Thank you to all families that supported the Advent Hamper appeal, these hampers provide food, toiletries and small gifts for those people in our locality that really do need additional Christmas cheer. I am aware that some families have gone above and beyond in their support. Every contribution is valued!

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Tom Pinnington – Headteacher

Key Dates

- **Tues. 6th Jan.:** School opens to students



Young Carers Advent Calendars

A huge thank you to everyone who provided an advent calendar to support our young carers this year, the photo shows just a small selection of the amazing donations we received from our staff members.

Also, a thank you to Tesco, Morrisons, Asda and M&S who gave a welcome donation to the cause when we reached out. Our staff are a truly generous bunch and the young people have been incredibly grateful.

Hope you all have a blessed Christmas
The Young Carer Team

6th Form Drinks Stall

Amy in Y13 has been running a hot drinks stall to help bring her year group together and lift their spirits at a time that can be particularly stressful, with deadlines, university applications and looming exams.

It has been really lovely to see people queuing up and talking to people they wouldn't usually bump into, and helping each other to make drinks. It's acted as a real booster for mental health and morale.

Amy tried really hard to keep it going herself, holding bake sales and asking for donations, but it simply wasn't sustainable with the volume of people using it. Luckily, the PTFA have agreed to supply ingredients to keep it going, and they recently presented Amy with a selection of tea, coffee, hot chocolate, mince pies and marshmallows! They will replace supplies when needed.

Great work, Amy! And thanks to the PTFA for supporting such a lovely initiative.



NDHS 2025
Christmas Card
~ Competition ~

Thank you for all the entries!
Make sure to grab your prizes

<p>YEAR 7-9 1st Place</p>  <p>Harper Y8</p>	<p>YEAR 10-11 1st Place</p>  <p>Oliwia Y13</p>	<p>YEAR 12-13 1st Place</p>  <p>Oliwia Y13</p>
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Enquiries @19jabidle@ndhs.org.uk

On November 18th a group of passionate Year 12 Geographers devised and presented their own Youth Micro Lectures to the Royal Geographical Society at the Norwich School.



Keegan asked how European countries can protect their citizens and communities against the growing risk of extreme weather in Europe.

Bethany and Gabie gave a presentation investigating the extraordinary migration of the monarch butterfly in North America and the impacts of human activity and climate Change

Farah gave a powerful presentation on the human impact of the Gaza conflict and asked whether we can have peace in Gaza without a shared respect for human dignity.

Each presentation was 10 minutes long and followed by some very testing questions from the audience! I was immensely proud listening to them present to an audience of RGS members (including the Honorary Chair: Professor Tim O’Riordan OBE) and as in previous years NDHS made up a sizeable proportion of the participants.

**“It was an awesome, (even though my slide broke),
but there were some great people there and loads of free biscuits...win win!”**

Keegan

CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2025





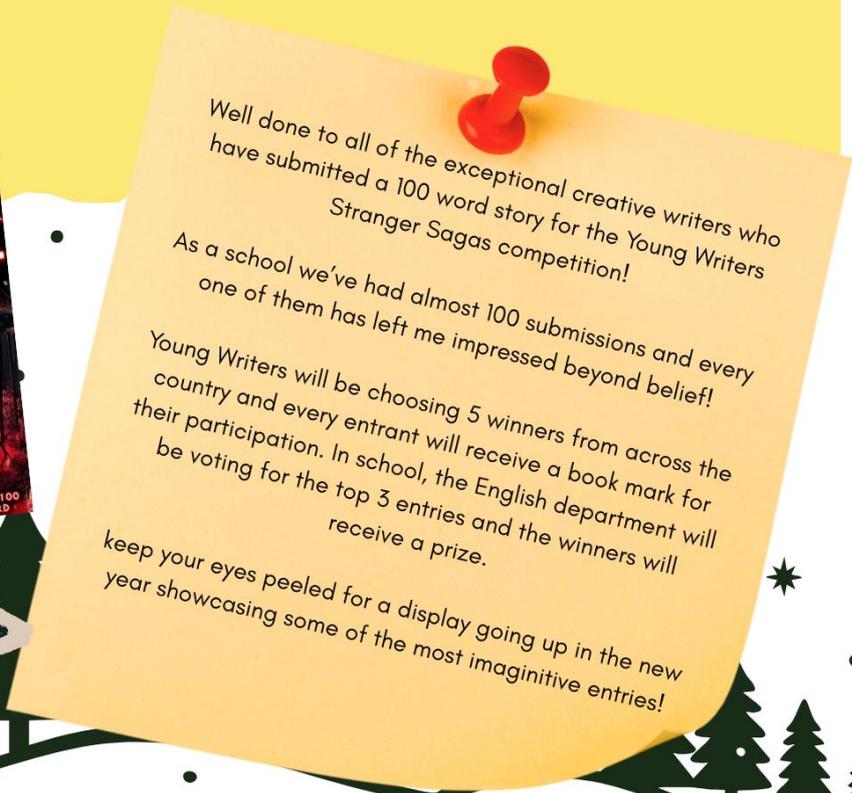
Library Notices



There's still time to come in and pick up a book to enjoy over the Christmas break, do come in and browse the shelves! You can find updated recommended reads lists for each year group on the school website under the Library section.

Thank you to all those who have returned overdue books, we have a few popular titles still missing, so do bring them back in if you find any at home.

We have many exciting events coming up in the new year such as the sponsored read, Scholastic book fair and Carnegie shadowing to name a few. I hope you all have a restful break and I look forward to welcoming you back in 2026!



Well done to all of the exceptional creative writers who have submitted a 100 word story for the Young Writers Stranger Sagas competition!

As a school we've had almost 100 submissions and every one of them has left me impressed beyond belief!

Young Writers will be choosing 5 winners from across the country and every entrant will receive a book mark for their participation. In school, the English department will be voting for the top 3 entries and the winners will receive a prize.

keep your eyes peeled for a display going up in the new year showcasing some of the most imaginative entries!

There are currently 917 books out on loan!

If you have a Library book at home collecting dust, please bring it back so someone else can enjoy it!

No judgement on how long you have had it for

If you can't find the book, it's okay! just come and tell me so I can mark it as lost!



St George's R C Church
Sprowston Road
NORWICH

Christmas Mass Times 2025

Christmas Eve; Children's mass 5.30pm (St George)

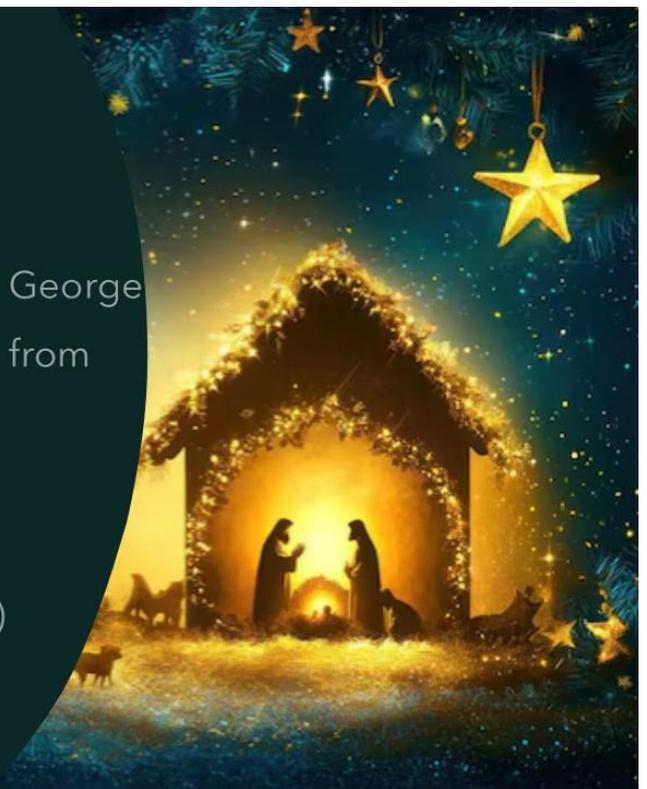
Midnight Mass; 12.00 midnight with carols from
11.30pm (St George's)

Christmas Day; 8.00am (St Boniface)

10.30am (St George's)

Dec 26th (St Stephen's); 11am (St George's)

New Years Day; 11am (Our Lady's)



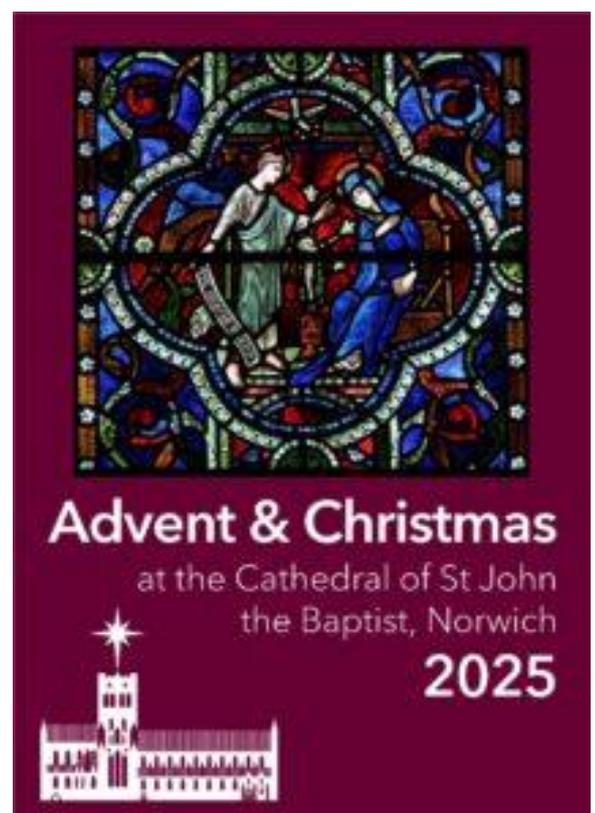
Cathedral's Carols by Candlelight – 21st December at 3:00pm

A treasured Cathedral tradition, *Carols by Candlelight* invites visitors to gather for an afternoon of timeless carols illuminated by gentle candlelight. Afterwards, enjoy mulled wine and mince pies with friends and family.

Children's Nativity Guided Tour – 23rd December at 11:00am

Designed especially for families, this interactive guided tour brings the Nativity story to life. Children are invited to explore the Cathedral, discover the hidden story of the Nativity in its windows and stonework and enjoy a gentle, imaginative retelling of the story at the heart of the season.

Friday 19 December	19:30 Simbang Gabi [Filipino Night Mass]
Sunday 21 December	15:00 Cathedral Carol Service with Liturgy of the Word
Wednesday 24 December	09:40 Morning Prayer 10:00 Mass 15:00 1962 Latin Rite Mass 16:30 First Vespers of Christmas 18:00 Family Vigil Mass 23:30 Proclamation and Carol Service 00:00 Midnight Mass
Thursday 25 December	09:00 Mass of the Dawn 11:00 Mass of the Day
Friday 26 December	10:00 St Stephen's Day Mass



Discover how Caritas is responding to conflict in Ukraine.



Henry Wilson Smith CAFOD Ukraine Emergency Programme Officer will be talking about his work.

On: Saturday 17 January 2026

Time: Coffee from 10.30am, talk starting at 10.45am, finishing at noon.

At: St George's Parish Hall, Sprowston Rd, Norwich NR3 4HZ

Mass in the church at 10am, plenty of parking

All welcome

This event has been jointly organised by Caritas East Anglia and CAFOD in East Anglia.



“I can't change the world, but I can change a child's life.”

Foster with Norfolk County Council. Together we can help children flourish

Free training and in-depth support from our dedicated, experienced team

We can't wait to get to know you.
Call 01603 306649 for a friendly chat or enquire online
www.norfolk.gov.uk/fostering

FosterEast