



16/07/26

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



Another year has passed and as we move towards the holidays the students have used their last reserves of energy in some wonderful performances. The picture above shows the highly successful joint CNS-Notre Dame trip to Barcelona. These talented musicians had to endure temperatures of 40 degrees, but the show must go on! As it did at the Royal Norfolk Show. My thanks to the music department for all their hard work this year.

It was a pleasure to see many of you at the sports day on Tuesday. The atmosphere was excellent, and I know parents enjoyed the track side seats. I must commend the spirit of the day – competitive but with comradery and inclusion visible throughout. It was a ‘school record’ breaking year: Alex in the Y7 1500m; Max in the Y7 High Jump; Rory in the Y7 Javelin; Connie in the Y8 High Jump; Ashton in the Y9 1500m; Flo in the Y9 800m and 1500m; Kian in the Year 10 High Jump; Eleana in the Y10 Long Jump and Finlay-Rae in the Y10 High Jump. This year, the Kirwan Cup was awarded to Finley-Rae and Ben for their brilliant all-round performances. Well done to every athlete that took part, you made us very proud.

It is the time of year when we say goodbye to staff, some of whom have been with us for a substantial amount of time. A special mention must go to Mr Gallacher – Head of Maths, Ms Ross-Carter LSA, and Mr Arnander – Psychology teacher, who have all served the school for over a decade. We will also say goodbye to Mrs Collier, Mr Spalding, Mr Bown, Mr Hodson, Ms Heighway and Mr Hawkes. We wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

We will celebrate the final day with Mass presided over by Fr Anthony from the Cathedral. We will keep all our families in our prayers, wishing you all a safe and relaxing summer.

We look forward to seeing our young people, refreshed and eager to learn in September.

Very best wishes,

Tom Pinnington - Headteacher

*Let us support each other by our prayers which are
feeble in themselves but strong through the merits of
Jesus Christ.*

- Saint Julie Billiart, Founder of the Notre Dame
Order

Music Department Summer Tour

From the 4th – 10th July, thirty Notre Dame music students joined forces with City of Norwich School to travel to Spain for a music tour. After a 27-hour coach journey, we stayed in Lloret de Mar and had a wonderful few days of performances and sightseeing in some of Spain's beautiful cities including Girona, Barcelona, and Tossa de Mar. The two schools' combined wind band, choir and orchestra performed a range of pieces for the Spanish locals, three nights in a row. It was a brilliant opportunity to perform abroad, work with another school and make great memories. To view more photos and videos of the trip [CLICK HERE](#).



Music Department Norfolk Show Tour

On the 24th June, 74 of our music students across all year groups were taken to the Royal Norfolk Show. Students from the choir, wind band, jazz band, worship band, and rock band 'Paisley Thursday' had the opportunity to perform a variety of pieces that they had been practicing over the school year. They played at multiple stages including the Bandstand, Carnival stage, and New Noise stage. The worship band gave an amazing performance and were filmed to possibly feature on the BBC programme 'Songs of Praise' on Sunday 16th August at 1:15pm. It was a great chance to perform to members of the public, represent Notre Dame and enjoy a brilliant, sunny day at the show.





Year 10 Food & Nutrition Visit to Two Magpies Bakery

On **1st and 2nd July**, our Year 10 GCSE Food & Nutrition students enjoyed a fantastic visit to **Two Magpies Bakery School** in Darsham. Working alongside pastry chef John and Michelle, students were given a behind-the-scenes tour of a fully functioning commercial bakery kitchen, gaining a valuable insight into the skills and processes involved in professional baking.

During the visit, students made two different bakery products, sampled a range of items, and asked lots of thoughtful questions throughout the sessions. They also had the opportunity to learn and recap key Food & Nutrition skills and terminology, helping to reinforce their knowledge in preparation for their GCSE examinations. A huge thank you to John, Michelle and the team at Two Magpies Bakery for providing such an enjoyable and informative experience.

Miss Buck and Mrs Holden

Year 7 Careers Myth-Busting Event

On **3rd July**, our Year 7 students took part in an engaging Careers Myth-Busting event, meeting a fantastic range of employers from organisations including Aviva, Sizewell, the police, Water Management Alliance, Jaguar Land Rover, Marks & Spencer, Nottcuts, Howes Percival, and apprenticeship providers, as well as professionals working in scientific roles.



Each employer shared their career journey, challenged common stereotypes about their industry, and highlighted the wide variety of opportunities available within their organisations. Our students asked thoughtful and insightful questions throughout the event, impressing our visitors with their excellent behaviour, curiosity and confidence in asking follow-up questions.

Congratulations to **7PHE**, who were the winning form in the interactive challenge, correctly identifying the highest number of employers' occupations. A huge thank you to all of our employers for giving their time to inspire the next generation.

Miss Freezer and Mrs Holden



Year 12 Students Explore Future Pathways at UCAS Fair and UEA

On Monday 8th June, all Year 12 students attended the UCAS Discovery Fair at the Norfolk Showground, giving them an invaluable opportunity to explore their post-18 options and learn more about higher education.

With universities from across the country gathered under one roof, students were able to speak directly with representatives from a wide range of institutions. They explored different degree courses, discussed entry requirements, and gained insight into student life in various cities and regions. The event allowed students to ask questions, gather information, and begin considering the many pathways available to them after sixth form.

Following the UCAS Fair, students travelled by coach to the University of East Anglia (UEA) for the second part of the day. Upon arrival, they attended a presentation in one of the university's lecture theatres, where three current UEA students shared their experiences of university life. They spoke about their academic journeys, the transition from school to higher education, and the many clubs, societies, and opportunities available to students both inside and outside the classroom.

Students then took part in guided campus tours, travelling around the university in groups of approximately 20. Led by UEA student ambassadors, the tours provided an excellent opportunity to explore the campus facilities, accommodation, and learning spaces while gaining a first-hand perspective of life as a university student.

The visit was informative and engaging experience, helping students to broaden their understanding of higher education and inspiring them as they begin to consider their future aspirations.

Mrs Holden and Mr Harper

County Champions!

The year 7 boys tennis team have been crowned county champions after a busy tennis season. With schools such as Gresham's, Norwich School, Beeston Hall, Hethersett and Wymondham College in the top division, we knew it was going to be tough.

However, a very talented squad took on the challenge and managed to win 4 out of their 5 matches which was enough to secure the title of Norfolk champions. It is also worth noting that this competition was for year 7 and 8 students, and our squad was made up entirely from year 7 - it bodes well for the future!

The team will enter the national knockout rounds in September. Well done to Rory, Pyrros, David, Max and Alex.

Mr Clitheroe



Year 8 Geography Japan Competition Winners 2026

Once again we had an amazing array of entries to our Geography Japan Project competition, where students are tasked with choosing any aspect of Japanese culture that they find interesting, asked to do some research and then to present it in a creative way.

The quality of this year's entries was outstanding, we awarded over 50 certificates and 6 top prizes. From models to posters, exquisite artwork to racing cars and textiles, we love seeing the wider talents of our students whilst they learn more about a unique culture. Well done to all who participated!



Annie 8IRE

Yuwa 8ERH

Clodagh 8ERH

Toby 8CMI

Margot 8PLU

Harper 8LKI

A Level Geography Trip Lake District 2026



June saw our annual Geography trip to the Field Study Centre at Blencathra in the Lake District. It was a very successful trip; students had the opportunity to study a glaciated environment – mapping the flow of ice down across Britain during the last ice age. They studied concepts of place and rebranding in Keswick and thanks to a very kind donation from the PTFA – were also able to take a boat ride round Derwent Water and try ghyll scrambling in a mountain stream. Much needed fun during the heatwave. Most importantly they enjoyed the stunning scenery of one of the UK'S most treasured national parks and grew in confidence getting to know and working with people they may not have spoken to before. Thank you to all parents and the PTFA for supporting and helping us to retain this very special experience for our Geographers.



The Notre Dame PTFA would like to warmly welcome our new year 7 students and their families to our school community.

We were delighted that so many of you attended our new starter BBQ on June the 27th. We were blessed with the weather, the atmosphere was joyful and laced with an abundance of laughter from our new students as they engaged with a game of rounders and connected with new friends.

It was great to chat with many of our eager new students and their families about what a special school community we have here at NDHS. It is why those of us on the PTFA are keen to do as much as we can to enrich the education of our students with additional equipment and experiences. We have big hopes for the 26/27 academic year. We aim to increase our fundraising abilities, recruit new members into our 200 club and support as many requests from staff and students that we can. A blessed year awaits us as we are committed to doing everything we can to support our wonderful students and school.

We really need to take this moment to honour and show gratitude to Norma Broadest. After 18 years of devoted service to our PTFA Norma has handed her raffle book back in. We are sad to be losing such a dedicated and active member of our PTFA however understand how busy Norma is looking after her local church. As the carer for her Granddaughter Norma joined the NDHS PTFA when her Granddaughter was accepted into the school and obviously stayed for many years after she left.

We once asked Norma why she had stayed well past her Granddaughter's enrolment and she said 'This school looked after my Granddaughter so superbly I just wanted to give back'. In modern times we could talk for hours about what it means to be a modern Catholic, a modern Christian and we think Norma says it all. It is about looking after others and giving back.

The remaining members of the PTFA wish Norma happiness and joy and send all of their love and gratitude to her as she continues her service to her church and loved ones.



LIBRARY

Despite the heatwave, we've been busy busy on the Library front!
Year 10s have been busy revising for mocks, good luck to you all I'm sure your hard work will have paid off!

Have the best summer, I'll see you all in September!

The NDHS Carnegie shadowing group took a trip to London to watch the awards ceremony live in person, below you can see the winners. You can find the books of the shortlist nominees in the Library!



NATIONAL CENTRE *for* WRITING

Young people

Stitched Stories: Make Your Own Book with Amanda Addison (11–13 years)

Wednesday 29 July

National Centre for Writing at Dragon Hall

FREE - £7.50 (pay what you wish)



Some of our year 7s took a trip to Norwich school for their annual book festival and were lucky enough to meet authors; Jennifer Killick, Mitch Johnson and Joseph Elliot.





Enjoy this poem from
creative writing club,
written by one
of our resident Y8
writers.

Try
Let us
Fix it.
No.

Try our excuse
One drop in an ocean.

But what
If one drop flooded our lands
But what
If one drop took it out of our hands

But what
If one drop was one too far
But what
If one drop left a permanent scar

But what,
One drop in an ocean
No.

A grain of sand on the beach

Tiny

Futile

Miniscule

A pebble among boulders

Small

Insignificant

Unnoticeable

And we are not

Capable of change

We are

Always excusing

Fix it.

(Now read from bottom to top)

Fix it. By Isabel R



Department
for Education

We are the department for **opportunity**

SUMMER Savings

Find your family's summer offer

The government is cutting VAT from 20% to 5% on family days out — from cinema and theatre tickets to attractions, and children's meals out. Less to pay, more summer to enjoy, from 25 June – 1 September 2026, right across the UK.

To find out what opportunities are available in your local area visit <https://summersavings.gov.uk/>



Real savings on days out

A 15-percentage-point VAT cut on eligible tickets and meals, passed on at the till. Ten weeks of school holidays to make the most of summer.



Cinemas, attractions & meals

Family and children's tickets for shows and attractions, plus kids' meals eaten out, wherever you are in the UK.



Free bus travel for kids

For the whole month of August, kids age 15 and under in England will get free bus travel, supporting families to choose public transport.

Confirmation programme at St George's RC Church, Sprowston

Confirmation strengthens us to take up our role as full members of the Church by witnessing to God's love in our words and deeds. Candidates are enriched with the sevenfold gift of the Holy Spirit: given wisdom and understanding, right judgement and courage, knowledge and reverence; filled with the spirit of wonder and awe in God's presence. Confirmation is celebrated during Mass, usually by a bishop, who imposes his hands on the candidates' heads and then anoints them with Chrism on their foreheads, saying: "Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit."



Registration is open for the Confirmation Programme 2026-27. Candidates need to be aged 13 and above (entering Year 9 in September 2026). Please register your child using [this link](#). Registration closes on 30th September 2026. We look forward to meeting you in the Autumn (for the first session both parents and candidates will be asked to attend Mass at Our Lady's on Saturday 17th October, followed by a short meeting). If you require a paper version, please contact the office.

For more information [CLICK HERE](#).