

Dear Parents, Guardians, Carers, Staff & Governors

.....

This half term our school value is resilience, and over the past few weeks we have been reflecting with students on what this means in a secondary school context.

Resilience at this stage is not about getting everything right, but about continuing to engage when learning feels demanding — persevering with challenging work, managing setbacks, and developing the confidence to seek support when it is needed. We see this daily in classrooms, where students are grappling with new concepts, building independence, and learning how to manage increasing expectations.

As Dr O'Brien-Coker affirms in his assemblies, you may not be where you want to be....yet!

As the half term progresses, staff will continue to emphasise the importance of effort, routine and consistency, helping students understand that progress often comes through sustained commitment rather than quick success. This shared focus between home and school plays an important role in supporting both academic progress and wellbeing.

Each Friday it is a real pleasure for us to meet with students nominated by their head of year to share a hot chocolate with us at break. We talk with them about the reason for their nomination - often pupils are surprised by the adjectives used by staff to describe them - kind, helpful, determined, resilient...it is such a positive end to the week for us.

We hope you have a good week.

Niki Clemenger & Richard Cole
Co-Headteachers



Highlights of the Week

Last week our Year 8 Girls competed in the Lambeth tournament and dominated the track events. Special mentions to Marie, Cymphonique, Shaniyah and Isobel who won their individual races. We are waiting for the final results that could see us progress to the next stage of the competition at the London finals!

At Art Club last week students were looking at the artist Niki De Saint Phalle and her joyful 'Nanas' which are large scale sculptures of lady's dancing and generally being joyful. They are making their own out of blue foam which they are carving and sculpting with Steve's help.

Our Sixth Form students had an amazing trip to The Place in central London for a London Contemporary Dance School taster day. They thoroughly enjoyed learning about the course, taking part in an inspiring practical workshop, and observing Year 2 technique classes. The staff were so impressed with our students that we have been invited back for even more exciting opportunities in the future!



Important Dates

- FONs Comedy Night 29/01 -19:00-21:00
- Steel Pans Ball 05/02 - 18:00-20:00
- Y11/13 Mocks Week 1 - 09/02
- Yr 10 Parents' Evening 10/02 16:30-19:00
- Feb Half Term 16/02-20/02
- Year 9 Parents' Evening 03/03 16:30-19:00
- Year 11 Information Evening 19/03 16:30-19:00
- Music Spring Showcase 26/03 18:00-21:00
- Last day of Spring Term 27/03

Hot Chocolate with the Heads this week

Congratulations to:

- Daniel Collins (7MBL)
- Rudy Cheetham (8AWH)
- Shasmeen Kiyangi (9ALE)
- Jakob Leister-Wright (10JCU)
- Bode Richards (11GFW)
- Kiya Marriott-Black (12EKO)
- Mia Wisniewska (13SPE)

Supporting our school

As you may be aware, schools across the country are experiencing significant budget pressures due to rising costs and reduced funding.

To help us continue providing the best possible learning experiences for our children, we are inviting voluntary donations from parents and carers.

All funds received will go directly towards curriculum resources and materials that enhance teaching and learning across the school.

If you would like to make a contribution, please log in to your ParentPay account where you will see an item labelled "Parent Donation."

There is no obligation to contribute, but every donation, large or small, makes a real difference and is greatly appreciated.

Please note that this fundraising stream is separate from our Friends of Norwood fundraising and is not attached to the QR code that is regularly shared on the FONS page of our weekly newsletter.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.



FONS Notices

Hi Everyone,

The Comedy Night is nearly upon us with just a few tickets left! We want a sell out so please do come and join us or share with friends and family – all are welcome! It's our biggest event of the year and our major fundraiser, paying for all sorts of amazing things for our kids. As always, huge thanks to Kerry Godliman for hosting and arranging the talent. Tickets can be purchased [here](#) on the school website. Please note: the £15 'restricted view' red section is in the balcony alongside the stage so are great value – you don't have a column in front of you! Don't forget to purchase a raffle ticket on the evening and also bring your loose change to donate towards new theatre seating for the school.

COMEDY NIGHT DRINK & SNACK PRE-ORDERS Avoid the queues for the bar! We have a new automated system for pre-ordering and paying for the Comedy Night drinks and snacks so all you need to do is collect your bag from the Study Hub on the night! [Pre-Order Here](#)

Keeping the winter blues away, we have the Steel Pans Valentine's Ball on the 5th Feb to look forward to, another excellent evening of entertainment from the music department with the full PTA bar. Tickets on sale soon on the school website.

In other news, last week, not only did the PTA shed get a thorough clean, sort and audit by Ailsa and Miranda (in the pouring rain!), but also PTA volunteers Debra and Anthony went through ALL the lost property, identifying many items of named clothing that were able to be reunited with their owners, plus sorting, washing and returning a load of new stock to the secondhand shed, which is now up and running. We will be reintroducing the online log of lost property again soon so we can help you try to find your items – this will be circulated in WhatsApp groups and in the newsletter. As always, please make sure all items are named with a surname and class code eg SMITH 7WMA to help us identify them. Clean, good quality school uniform can be donated to the school at Reception. Access to the shed is in school hours and Prisca on Reception has a key. Optional donations for secondhand clothing can be made to the PTA bank account Friends of The Norwood School, Acc: 41188934, Sort: 604005, or via our QR code which is in the shed.

Thank you all for your ongoing support!

Ailsa, Alex & Miranda

Advertiser:

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GLOBAL TRAVEL GROUP



COMEDY NIGHT

A FUNDRAISER FOR
THE NORWOOD SCHOOL

THURSDAY 29 JANUARY 2026
DOORS OPEN 6.00PM, SHOW STARTS 7.30PM



KERRY GODLIMAN | ESTHER MANITO | ROSIE JONES
CHARLIE BAKER | CHANTEL NASH | IVO GRAHAM