Weekly News

Issue No.4

THE NORWOOD SCHOOL

Dear Parents,

Guardians, Carers, Staff & Governors

One of the things we talk about often at Norwood is that education is about far more than the accumulation of knowledge. Of course, strong teaching and academic progress matter enormously, but so too do the experiences, relationships and opportunities that help young people develop confidence, resilience and a sense of who they are becoming.

This week has been a good illustration of that wider picture. Across the school, students have been learning in very different ways: through challenging lessons in Science, through travel training and greater independence, through creative and musical opportunities, through recognition at the Jack Petchey Awards, and through conversations with people whose own experiences can inspire them to think differently about their futures.

Our basketball programme captures this particularly well. The phrase being used is **"More Than a Game"**, and that is really the principle behind so much of what we are trying to do as a school. Sport, music, performance, trips and enrichment are not simply extras; they are experiences through which students can learn about commitment, teamwork, self-belief, discipline, leadership and how to respond when things do not go to plan.

The visit from former NBA player Ray McCallum Jr. brought that idea to life. The basketball itself was exciting, but the real value came from the conversations around resilience, work ethic, setbacks and the choices that shape a journey. Those are messages that matter whether a student sees their future in sport, science, the arts, university, employment or somewhere else entirely. Our aim is to keep creating a school in which students are known, challenged and given opportunities to discover what they are capable of.

Lastly, with October now here and the evenings becoming darker, please visit the topic of safety on the way to and from school with your child. We recommend they stick to well lit streets, walk with others if possible, keep phones out of sight and wear something reflective on their coat or bag so they can be seen by drivers. If ever they see something which concerns them outside of school they should always raise it with you or us. Let's stay safe!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Niki Clemenger & Richard Cole
Co-Headteachers

Weekly News

October 6th 2026

Highlights of the Week

It has been another week full of activity across Norwood.



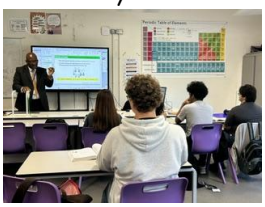
Our **Jack Petchey Award winners** took to the stage this week to receive their awards and represented Norwood with real pride. The ceremony is always a special occasion and a fantastic opportunity to recognise young people who make a positive difference to their schools and communities.



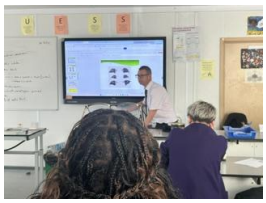
A group of mainly **Year 7 students** also took part in a Lambeth Travel Training trip. Students learnt more about travelling safely by bus, with police officers helping to recreate different scenarios they may encounter while travelling independently.

There was lots to see in **Science** this week too. Students were studying genetics, gene mutations, natural selection, covalent bonding, forces and acceleration, as well as developing their examination technique and the accuracy of their written answers.









A special visitor to Norwood Basketball

We were delighted to welcome **former NBA guard Ray McCallum Jr.** to Norwood this week.



Students had the opportunity to work with Ray on court, but some of the most valuable moments came through conversations with our Sixth Form students about his journey through college basketball, the NBA and European basketball.

Ray spoke openly about the importance of **work ethic, resilience, discipline, commitment and responding positively to setbacks**. The connection with our students was so strong that he returned later in the week to spend more time with them.





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Highlights of the Week

Norwood Basketball – More Than a Game

This year also marks the next stage in the development of **Norwood Basketball**, with **London City Ballers** becoming the school's basketball delivery and pathway partner.

The programme is about much more than developing talented basketball players. Its focus is on helping young people develop confidence, resilience, leadership, emotional intelligence, discipline and self-belief – skills that can transfer from the **court, to the classroom, to life**.

Students can become involved in a variety of ways, including playing, coaching, mentoring, strength and conditioning, refereeing and leadership opportunities.

A boost for the KS3 Library



A big thank you to **Mr Norris**, who has generously donated copies of **The Beano, Phoenix and The Week** to our KS3 Library.

The new additions are already proving popular with students – while also bringing back quite a few childhood memories for members of staff!

Important Dates

- **Monday 12 October** – New Scientist Exhibition for selected Year 8 students
- **Monday 12 – Friday 16 October** – KS3 Play Auditions
- **Tuesday 13 October** – Sixth Form Open Evening, **5.00–7.00pm**
- **Wednesday 14 October** – Year 12 UCAS *Create Your Own Future* trip
- **Thursday 15 – Friday 16 October** – Yr 11 Spanish Speaking Mock Exams
- **Thursday 15 October** – Yr 13 UCAS Early Entry Deadline
- **Thursday 15 October** – Annual London Championship Cross Country
- **Friday 16 October** – Portrait Artist of the Year Final

Hot Chocolate with the Heads this week

Congratulations to:

- Lyra Whitehead – 7EHU
- Saja Shaban – 8JUC
- Jack Carroll – 9JRE
- Lara Grace Fernandes Silvestro – 10IKA
- Linus Chivers – 11MJO
- Malachai Francois – 12TMI
- Frankie Suthers – 13AF

Latest News

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FONS Notices

Easy Fundraising - Sign up today and start raising money for Norwood School every time you shop!"

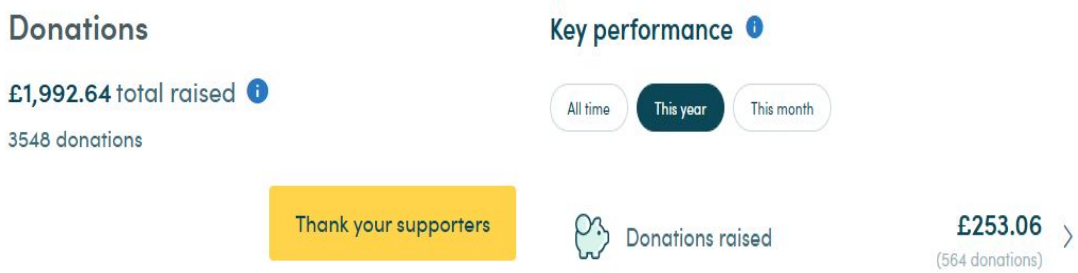
Parents and carers can help Friends of The Norwood School PTA raise money simply by shopping online through easyfundraising - it's free and costs you nothing extra.

Easyfundraising is already making a real difference for FONS.

So far, our supporters have raised £1,992.64 for FONS through easyfundraising - including £253.06 this year alone. Every donation adds up, so the more families who sign up, the more we can raise to support equipment, activities and opportunities for students.

How it works:

1. **Sign Up** - Go to Easyfundraising and search for "Friends of the Norwood School PTA."
2. **Shop Online** - Over 7,000 shops and sites (Amazon, John Lewis, Sainsbury's, and more) give a free donation to our PTA when you shop via Easyfundraising.
3. **Raise Funds Automatically** – When prompted add the Easyfundraising browser extension to never miss a donation. These are added automatically at no extra cost to you!



THE NORWOOD SCHOOL FRIENDS