Weekly News | Issue No.7

THE NORWOOD SCHOOL

Dear Parents,
Guardians, Carers, Staff & Governors

When we work with young people we always need to promote the importance of aspiration: helping our students see possibilities for themselves and then giving them the confidence, experiences and support to pursue them.

That can happen in many different ways. Sometimes it is through lessons that challenge students to think and communicate with increasing independence. Sometimes it is through a trip, a performance, a sporting opportunity or a conversation about what might come next. What matters is that students begin to connect what they are doing now with the person they might become.

Recently there have been plenty of reminders of that. Our students have been exploring future study and career pathways, representing the school in sport, experiencing science beyond the classroom and seeing former Norwood students succeed in music and international sport. We have also been delighted to see the continued growth of clubs and activities that give students the chance to discover new interests and build confidence beyond their lessons.

We have always believed schools should not be an exam factory. A school should open doors beyond classrooms. It should expose young people to ideas, people and experiences that broaden their horizons while giving them the knowledge and habits needed to make the most of those opportunities. That is something we will continue to work hard to provide for every student at Norwood.

Of course, we need to ensure pupils are fully prepared for the formal exam season so we currently have Year 11 undertaking their mock exams and we wish them the best in these important assessments. We also encourage them to remember this assessment does not define them. It gives them important indications of where they are at currently where they need to put their efforts next. Once the exams are done the next steps begin. We encourage them to have aspirations for where they want to be, what they want to achieve and how they will work with our staff to achieve these. This experience of mock exams helps build confidence and resilience in the long run - we look forward to seeing their achievements.

Aspiration is not just something we nurture in our students - it is also at the heart of how we lead and shape our school community. A strong, ambitious school relies on the shared vision of staff, students, and families working together. With that in mind, we are currently undertaking an election process for two new Parent Governors to join our Governing Board.

Parent Governors play a vital role in keeping our aspirations high, offering valuable perspectives, and helping guide Norwood's future direction. To put yourself forward for nomination, look for the email sent to all parents on Wednesday 4th November. You have until Wednesday 11th November at 5pm to make your application. We will let you all know about the voting process following that.

As we head into this new half term, thank you to our students for the energy they have brought to the first part of the year, to our staff for the care and commitment they show every day, and to families for your continued support and partnership.

Best wishes,

Niki Clemenger & Richard Cole
Co-Headteachers

Weekly News

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Highlights of the Week

There has been plenty to celebrate across Norwood in the week before half term.



We are delighted that The Norwood School has been named a finalist in the Music & Drama Education Awards for Outstanding School Drama Department – fantastic recognition of the creativity, ambition and hard work that goes into Performing Arts across the school.



Fifty Year 8 and 9 students also visited New Scientist Live at the ExCeL Centre. Feedback from students and families was outstanding, with excited conversations about new ideas, science and possible future careers.

Sixth Form Open Evening

The week' before half term saw the Sixth Form Open Evening which was a resounding success. With queues at the door and strong interest from both current Norwood students and visitors from other schools. It was a brilliant showcase of the breadth of study, care and opportunity available at KS5.

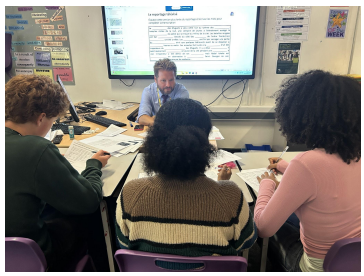


Learning & Enrichment

A visit to Modern Foreign Languages showed students developing confidence in listening, speaking, reading and writing across a wide range of ages.



Year 9 students were translating from French, developing descriptive language and learning about cultural traditions. Year 11 were firmly in exam-practice mode, while ESOL and Sixth Form students worked on increasingly sophisticated language and literature. Across the department there was a clear focus on participation, accuracy and being READY to learn.



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Looking to the Future

Thirty-one Sixth Form students attended the UCAS Create Your Future university and apprenticeship show, speaking with universities and exploring post-18 pathways. Seven students also completed the school's early-entry process for highly competitive courses including Oxbridge and Medicine. We wish them every success.



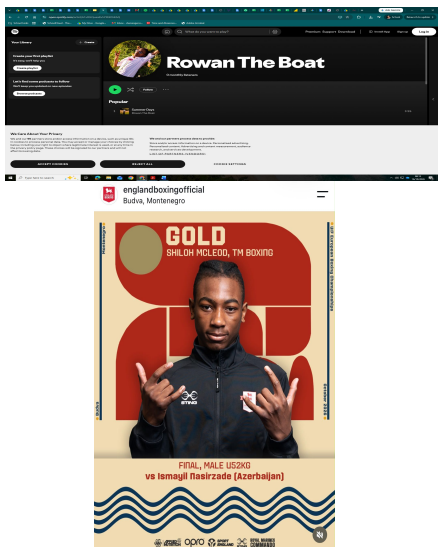
Black History Month

Students marked Black History Month by making Bulla with staff this week – and the results were every bit as delicious as they looked!



Celebrating the Norwood Community

Former Norwood student Shiloh McLeod has won gold in the 52kg category at the U17 European Boxing Championships in Montenegro – an outstanding achievement. Another former student, Rowan, has released their first song on Spotify. It is always inspiring to see where Norwood students go next.



Beyond the Classroom

Clubs and sport continue to thrive. Anime Club is now averaging around 26 students each week, bringing students together to enjoy Japanese culture and a shared interest.

Girls' sport has also made a fantastic start: 21 Year 7 and 8 students attended netball this week, while the first girls' volleyball session attracted 13 students from Years 7–9.



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Cross-Country Success

Congratulations to our Under-15 team, who finished third in the English Schools Cross Country Cup first round and have qualified for the next stage at Dulwich College.

Marie, Leon, Gray, Otto, Ralph and Rafael represented Norwood superbly.



Important Dates

- **Monday 9–Friday 13 November** – Year 11 Mock Exams, Week 2
- **Monday 9–Friday 13 November** – Year 12 Walking, Talking Mocks in lessons
- **Wednesday 11 November** – Lambeth Careers Fair for the whole Year 11 cohort
- **Thursday 12 November** – Monologue Slam, 7.00–10.00pm
- **Friday 13 November** – Year 7 Art Trip, whole cohort

Hot Chocolate with the Heads this week

Nia – 7JFR
Ema - 8MBL
Riley – 9JLT
Shasmeen – 10ILI
Beata – 11DCL
Harry – 12DWO
Eli-Azriel – 13RBA



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