Weekly News | Issue No.7

THE NORWOOD SCHOOL

Dear Parents,

Guardians, Carers, Staff & Governors

One of the things we value most about Norwood is the range of opportunities that allow young people to discover what they enjoy, what they are good at and what they might become. Doing things which explore talents and potential builds confident young people.

Confidence is something which often grows over time. It grows through small decisions: volunteering an answer, trying something unfamiliar, practising a difficult skill, asking a question in front of an audience or performing alongside others. We encourage students to take that risk; to put themselves forward and get involved; to keep trying and keep going. This all builds confidence.

We have seen many examples of that across the school recently. Students have represented Norwood at the Debate Mate launch in central London, our musicians have worked with professionals in a recording studio, young artists have experimented with traditional materials and developed ambitious portrait work, and our sports teams have shown resilience and teamwork in competition.

These experiences matter because education is about more than qualifications. We want students to leave Norwood with knowledge and skills, but also with curiosity, confidence and a willingness to make the most of the opportunities in front of them.

When we meet with student for hot chocolate on Fridays it is always lovely to hear about what they are doing well in and what they enjoy about school. There are often uplifting personal experiences too such as one student this week who had really tested herself by stepping out of her comfort zone and joining Debate Mate. The confidence she demonstrated when talking to us about it was palpable - a first hand example of someone challenging themself and thriving as a result.

As assessment activity continues across several year groups, we also remind students that progress comes through preparation, feedback and perseverance. Assessments help us understand what has been learned and what the next steps should be; they help build both confidence and resilience for the future.

Thank you, as always, to our families for your continued encouragement and support. This half term is always one that can be a challenge with dark mornings and evenings and the wetter and colder weather. We would also like to thank our staff for creating so many opportunities for students to learn, participate and succeed.

Best wishes,

Niki Clemenger & Richard Cole
Co-Headteachers

Weekly News

12th November 2026

Highlights of the Week

Norwood students have had an energetic start to the new half term.



Students from Years 7–9 attended the Debate Mate 2026/27 launch in central London. They brought great energy to the event, and Naomi G in Year 9 was handed the microphone and given the opportunity to put a question directly to the debaters on stage.

In music, Lassoo enjoyed a mentoring and recording session at Trinity College of Music after winning the Trinity Battle of the Bands in June. The group worked with singer-songwriter and Trinity tutor Rosie Frater-Taylor before recording two of their original songs.



Creativity in the Classroom

Year 11 Food students approached their mock examination with real skill and ambition. Students demonstrated bread and pastry making, piping and carving, alongside ambitious dishes including mille-feuille and salmon Wellington. The standard of practical work - and the thoughtful peer feedback taking place - was excellent.







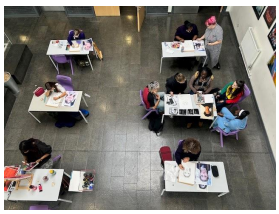


Learning & Enrichment

Year 12 Art students explored the traditional process of making tempera paint using egg yolks and pigments, combining practical experimentation with an understanding of historic artistic techniques.



Before half term, our Norwood Portrait Artist finalists were also developing their work in the atrium. Even at an early stage, the quality and variety suggest that choosing a favourite will be a difficult task when voting begins.









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Performing Arts in Action

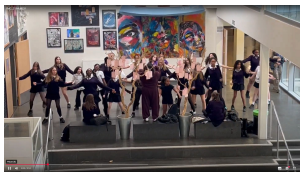
A visit to Performing Arts showed students learning in very different ways. Year 9 drama students used freeze-frames, facial expression and different perspectives to explore moments from the London bombings, while music students layered chords using Logic Pro. Sixth Form students were refining Shakespearean monologues and dance routines through individual feedback, modelling and rehearsal.





Community in Action

Norwood life is often found in the unexpected moments too. Before half term, spontaneous dancing in the atrium became a Halloween flash mob during wet lunch, while elsewhere staff could be found joining students for a lunchtime basketball game. Small moments like these help build the positive relationships and sense of community that make school enjoyable.





Football Success

The Year 7 football team produced a thrilling 3–2 comeback victory over Elmgreen in the Lambeth League, scoring twice in the final two minutes. The Year 8 boys also progressed to the next round of the South London Cup with an impressive 6–2 victory over Sacred Heart, including Year 7 players stepping up to represent the team.





Important Dates

- Monday 16 November – Admissions Test Day
- Monday 16–Friday 20 November – Year 12/13 Assessment Week
- Monday 16–Friday 20 November – Year 11 Visual Arts Mocks
- Thursday 19 November – Music Showcase, 6.30–9.00pm
- Friday 20 November – Year 11 Drama Component 2 Exam (selected students)



Hot Chocolate with the Heads this week

Edith F – 7VBU
Olivia LA – 8MBL
Shanniyah H – 9RBU
Sahand Or – 10BPA
Isobel-Rose AL – 12GA
Aidan M – 13SDO



Latest News

Issue No.7

THE NORWOOD SCHOOL

FONS Notices

Winter Fair

Thursday 10 December 2026 • 4.00–6.30pm • The Norwood School

This year, we're doing things a little differently! Friends of the Norwood School (FONS) is working with the school to make the Winter Fair bigger, better and more festive than ever. If you've never been to one of our school fairs before, this is definitely the year to come along!

We're bringing the school community together for an afternoon of festive fun, with plans for carols and choirs, Christmas food, a festive bar, seasonal activities, creative workshops and stalls. It's a chance for pupils, families and staff to enjoy themselves while raising money for the school.

Could you run a stall?

We'd love to hear from parents, pupils, staff and local businesses who would like to have a stall. Whether you sell handmade gifts, festive treats or something completely different, please register your interest. FONS will be in touch with further details.

Stallholder contributions

External stallholders / local businesses	10% of takings, minimum £15
Teachers and pupils raising money for the school	Free
Teachers and pupils running their own stalls	10% of takings

Stallholder contributions are payable to the PTA account on the night of the Fair.

Stallholder booking form

Interested in a stall? Please complete our short online registration form:
CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE THE STALLHOLDER BOOKING FORM

Completing the form registers your interest; FONS will contact you with the next steps.

Want to help in another way?

We'd also welcome volunteers to help on the day, support a stall or share ideas and talents. If you can lend a hand, please get in touch with FONS. Together we can make this a real highlight of the school calendar!

Save the date – Thursday 10 December!

THE NORWOOD SCHOOL FRIENDS