



NEWSLETTER



Merry Christmas

A message from the principal

Dear Families, Pupils, Carers and Staff,

As we approach the Christmas season and the close of another year, I want to take a moment to thank each of you for being such an important part of our school community. It's been a whole school year since I arrived at Nightingale and I couldn't be more proud of the boys achievement and success's.

This term has been filled with hard work, growth, and many moments that remind us why education is so meaningful. I am incredibly proud of our pupils for their dedication and resilience, grateful to our staff for their commitment and care, and thankful to our families for their continued support and partnership.

The Holidays is time for reflection, kindness, and togetherness. It offers us the opportunity to pause, celebrate our achievements, and look ahead with hope and optimism. I encourage everyone to enjoy this break, spend time with loved ones, and return refreshed for the exciting opportunities the new year will bring.

On behalf of the entire school, I wish you a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hoildays and a peaceful, happy New Year. May the season bring you joy, warmth, and good health.

Warmest regards,

Sarah Brooks, Principal

Pictured: David and Miss Abby putting the first bauble on the Christmas tree



NEWS FROM PRIMARY

Maple Class attend launch of David Walliams' new book

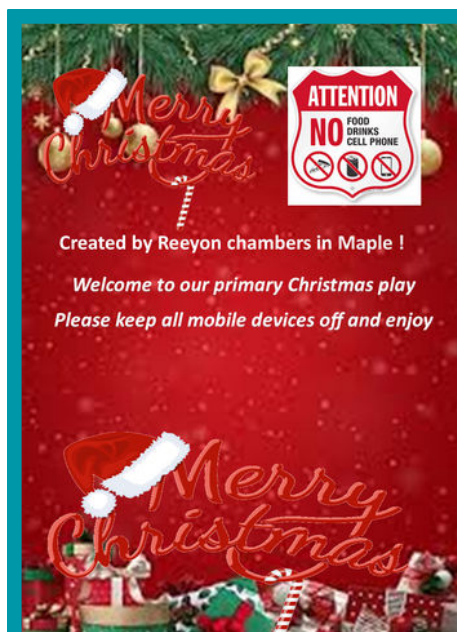
On **Thursday 20th November**, Maple Class had the incredible opportunity to attend the launch of David Walliams' brand-new Christmas book, *Santa & Son*. Year 6 were buzzing with excitement as they prepared to meet the author of some of their all-time favourite stories, including *Gangsta Granny* and *The World's Worst Teachers – Part One*.

During the event, Asher was thrilled to be selected from the audience to nominate his class teacher for *World's Best Teacher*. His reason? Because, according to Asher, "she's old!" - a comment that had the whole room erupting with laughter. It was a moment Maple Class won't forget and made the book launch even more memorable.



Student Spotlight

Congratulations to Reeyon from Maple on your wonderful Christmas Jumper poster! It looks lovely and festive on display around the school. Reeyon also made the below poster for the Maple Christmas play this month.



NEWS FROM PRIMARY

First Football Tournament for Oak and Maple Class



A selected group of Year 5 and Year 6 learners took part in their very first football tournament this term, proudly representing Nightingale Community Academy. They were placed in a challenging group alongside schools from across the Wandsworth Borough. The team started strong with an impressive win in their opening match, and although they narrowly missed out on topping their group, they played with determination throughout.

Across the entire tournament, every learner demonstrated outstanding sportsmanship, kindness, and respect - both towards their teammates and their opponents. We are incredibly proud of their effort, teamwork, and positive attitude.

Well done Year 5 and 6!

Some Highlights from Primary

Ash Class grouping for times tables in Maths, and a Primary trip to McDonalds!



NEWS FROM SECONDARY

Year 7 Trip to Wimbledon BookFest

Year 7 recently enjoyed an exciting and memorable trip to meet the multi-award-winning author Christopher Edge. The event brought his popular book *Escape Room* and its thrilling follow-up, *Escape Room: Game Zero*, to life through an engaging and interactive session.

Pupils had a fantastic time solving puzzles alongside the author, fully immersing themselves in the story and its challenges. Their enthusiasm and teamwork were clear throughout the event, making it a truly enriching experience. At the end of the session, each learner was thrilled to receive their own copy of *Escape Room: Game Zero* to take home and continue the adventure through reading.



The journey to and from the venue was smooth and calm. On the way there, learners played a game together, creating a fun and relaxed atmosphere. On the return journey, they chatted quietly and sensibly, showing great maturity and representing the school brilliantly.

Overall, it was a successful and inspiring trip that left everyone buzzing with excitement about reading, storytelling, and problem-solving.



NEWS FROM SECONDARY

7A Step Into History at the London Dungeon



As part of their English studies this term, our Year 7 learners have been exploring *A Kind of Spark*, a powerful novel that follows the story of a young autistic girl who becomes fascinated by the historic witch trials that took place in her town. To deepen their understanding of the book's themes, students took a thrilling educational trip to the London Dungeon.

From the moment they stepped inside, Year 7 were fully immersed in the dark and atmospheric world of historical London. The theatrical storytelling, eerie sets, and live characters provided a vivid backdrop to the themes they have been reading about. While there were certainly a few nervous laughs and jumps along the way, the experience proved to be both engaging and informative.



Pupils learned a great deal about the historical context behind witch hunts and broader moments of fear in society, making valuable links between the Dungeon's stories and their work on *A Kind of Spark*. Staff were delighted with the learners' enthusiasm, excellent behaviour, and thoughtful reflections afterwards.

Overall, it was an excellent outing full of fun, frights, and fantastic learning. Well done, Year 7!



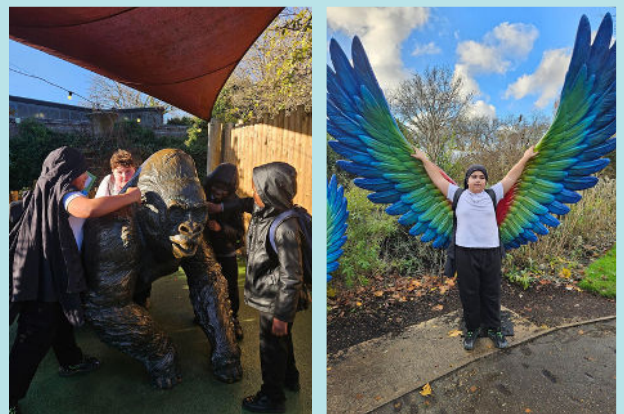
NEWS FROM SECONDARY

7C's Trip to the London Zoo



7C had a wonderful trip to London Zoo, where we went in search of the *Secret Beast Club* and *The Dragons of Emerald Yard*.

Unfortunately, we were unable to locate the Bewilder Bubble where the dragons live - probably because none of us had "magic sight" to be able to see it. Nevertheless, we all had a lovely experience exploring the zoo and seeing the gorillas, monkeys, penguins, reptiles, turtles, tigers, and lions.



7B at the London Museum

As we are currently reading a book based on Japanese mythology, we planned a visit to the British Museum to help the students learn more about Japanese culture. However, due to an unexpected and unprecedented power cut, we were unable to enter the museum.

Instead, we visited a Japanese restaurant, where the students were fascinated by the artwork on the walls and the display of Japanese spices on the tables. They enjoyed traditional desserts such as mochi and dango, which added to their excitement. One student even said, "I don't feel like going home today." The group remained cheerful throughout the journey, singing songs on the bus. Even when we had to change buses, they adapted very well.

With three adults supervising, we had a lovely day out with a very happy group of students.



NEWS FROM SECONDARY

KS3 Boccia Competition Report

Our KS3 boccia team delivered a superb performance, finishing in first place overall in this week's competition. Throughout the event, the players showed excellent respect for every opponent, contributing to a positive and supportive atmosphere.

A special mention goes to Parker, whose empathy and sportsmanship shone through as he consistently offered kind words and consolation to opponents after each match.

Altogether, it was a brilliant day of skill, teamwork, and outstanding conduct.



KS3 Sports trip: Round 1 Fulham Inclusive League



The team made a brilliant start to the competition, showing great teamwork, discipline, and commitment. Their hard work led to victory in every game, with an outstanding defensive effort from Tyrone, George, and Jakobi in goal, ensuring they did not concede once.

Up front, Archie was unstoppable, scoring 10 goals and forming a strong attacking partnership with James, with Re'kai also heavily involved in the build-up play.

A perfect round, a confident performance, and plenty of momentum as the team looks ahead to the next round in March.



NEWS FROM SECONDARY

KS3 Panathlon Challenge



Our KS3 students took part in the Panathlon Challenge this week, demonstrating fantastic enthusiasm and determination throughout the competition. The boys approached every activity with real focus and commitment, never shying away from new or challenging events. Their teamwork, positive attitude, and willingness to give their best in every round were admirable.



Although the team narrowly missed out on a top-three finish, they proudly secured a strong position just outside the podium places. This achievement reflects both their effort and their excellent sportsmanship on the day. We are incredibly proud of how they represented the school and look forward to seeing them continue to grow and succeed in future competitions.



A Great Start to the KS4 League Games!

A great start from the KS4 boys in their first round of league games! They showed brilliant teamwork, discipline, and emotional control throughout.

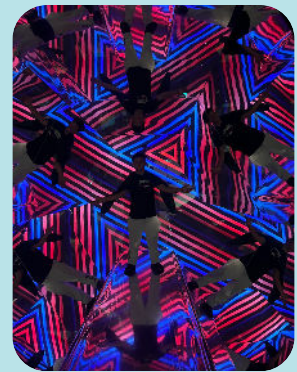
The team went unbeaten and conceded only one goal across the round. Kalel was on fire as top scorer, with Charlie and Romaine also standing out for their effort and composure.

A solid and positive start - great attitude all round from the boys.



NEWS FROM SECONDARY

KS3 at the London Twist Museum



Our recent trip to the Twist Museum was an outstanding success. The learners demonstrated exemplary behaviour throughout the day, showing respect for the venue, staff, and each other. They engaged enthusiastically with the exhibits, asked thoughtful questions, and represented the school with pride.

The visit provided a strong link to our **Art curriculum**, particularly in exploring concepts of perspective, illusion, and visual interpretation. Learners were able to see first-hand how artists manipulate space and perception to create immersive experiences, reinforcing classroom discussions on depth, proportion, and viewpoint.



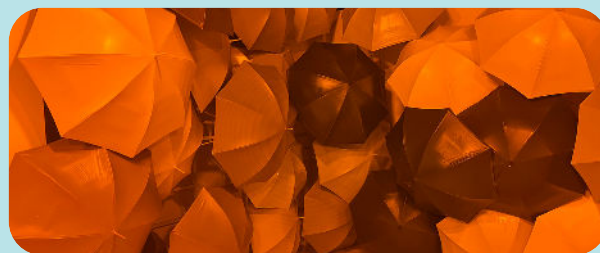
NEWS FROM SECONDARY

KS3 at the London Twist Museum



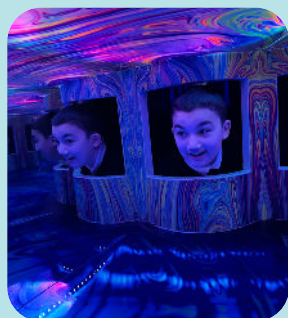
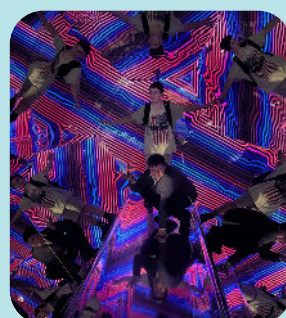
In addition, the trip supported **English outcomes**. Students were challenged to articulate their experiences, describe the sensory impact of the installations, and reflect on how perspective influences interpretation - skills that align well with our focus on figurative language and critical thinking.

Overall, the trip was both educational and inspiring, offering learners a unique opportunity to connect theory with practice in a creative and interactive environment.



"Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere."

Albert Einstein - Physicist (1879-1955)



NEWS FROM SECONDARY

Year 8 Visit to the Imperial War Museum

Year 8A recently visited the Imperial War Museum as part of their study of *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak. The trip provided an invaluable opportunity for students to deepen their understanding of the historical context behind the novel.

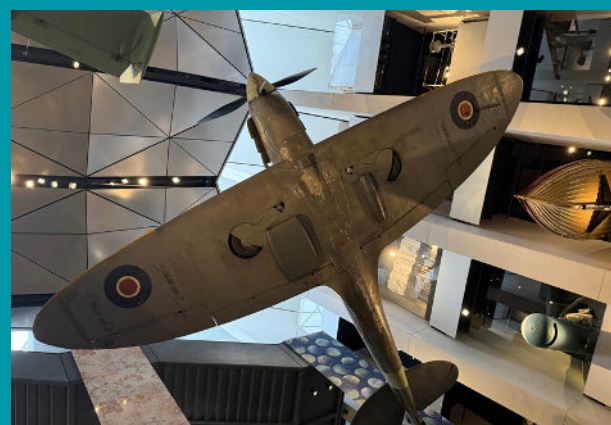
Students explored the First World War and Second World War exhibitions, engaging with artefacts, photographs, and personal stories that brought this period of history to life. They encountered a wide range of powerful exhibits, including full-size tanks, military vehicles, uniforms, weapons, propaganda posters, and personal items belonging to soldiers and civilians. These galleries helped learners make meaningful links between their classroom learning and the real experiences of people living through wartime.

One particularly impactful part of the visit was the opportunity to walk through reconstructed trenches, giving students a strong sense of what conditions were like for soldiers during the First World War. Experiencing the cramped spaces, darkness, and sounds of the trenches helped students empathise with the fear and danger faced by those on the front line.

Students also chose to visit the Holocaust Galleries, where they demonstrated maturity and sensitivity while engaging with challenging and thought-provoking material. This provided them with a deeper understanding of persecution, prejudice, and humanity during the Second World War - key themes explored in *The Book Thief*.

Throughout the day, learners were engaged, curious, and respectful, asking thoughtful questions and making clear links between the museum exhibits and their classroom learning. The visit greatly enhanced their historical knowledge and enriched their understanding of the novel.

Overall, the trip was a valuable and memorable experience that brought literature and history together in a meaningful way. Learners were highly engaged throughout the visit and represented the school extremely well. The experience significantly enriched their understanding of the novel and helped bring their learning to life beyond the classroom.



ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 2025

Odd Socks Day

As part of **Anti-Bullying Week 2025**, our school proudly took part in activities centred on this year's theme, "**Power for Good.**" The week focused on encouraging pupils to recognise their own strengths, celebrate individuality, and reflect on how positive actions can be used to prevent bullying and promote kindness across the school community.



Earlier in the week, pupils participated in **Odd Socks Day**, which was a great success and sparked meaningful conversations about difference and inclusion. To ensure that every child felt fully included, the activity was repeated later in the week, allowing all pupils the opportunity to take part and feel a sense of belonging.



Superhero Dress Up Day!

The week concluded with a Superhero Day, where pupils and staff in the Primary Department, and older year groups who wished to join in, dressed as superheroes, wore fancy dress, or came in cosy onesies. Throughout the day, pupils engaged in discussions and activities exploring how they can use their own "power for good" through kindness, empathy, and standing up for others.



It was a joyful, inclusive celebration that reinforced our shared commitment to creating a safe and supportive school environment for everyone.

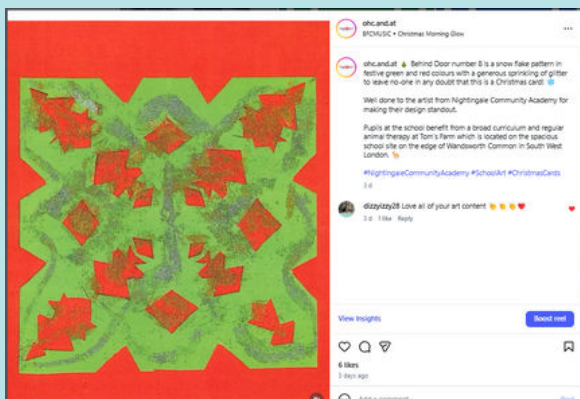


GETTING FESTIVE

Christmas Card Competition 2025

We are delighted to let you know that two of the NCA students have received Highly Commended Certificates in the OHC&AT Christmas Card competition.

Well done to Jakobie and Delarno for catching the judges eye! They are featuring in the OHC&AT advent calendar on social media.



Jakobie 7B



Delarno 8A

In addition, well done to the other boys who entered - Daniel & Mason from Ash Class, George from 8A and Archie & James from 9A.

Christmas Jumper Day



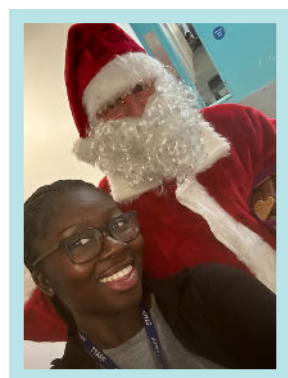
We kicked off the festive celebrations with Christmas Jumper Day last week.

Learners were invited to take part in Christmas Jumper Day, and it was great to see so many pupils joining in. Classrooms were full of festive jumpers, bright colours, and plenty of smiles throughout the day.



GETTING FESTIVE

A Visit from Santa!



NCA NEWS

Vocational Update

Our Vocational Department has had an outstanding start to the academic year, and we are delighted to share some brilliant news with our school community. Over the autumn term, the department successfully passed all External Quality Assurance (EQA) visits, demonstrating the strength, consistency, and high standards of our provision across Hair & Beauty, Construction, and Land-Based Studies.

Even more importantly, every single one of our vocational learners achieved the qualification they worked so hard towards last year. This is a remarkable accomplishment and a testament to their commitment, resilience, and determination. Staff worked closely with students throughout the year to ensure they were fully supported and able to excel, and these results reflect that collective effort.

We are incredibly proud of our learners and grateful to the vocational team for their dedication in helping students develop the skills, confidence and knowledge they need for future success.



Mufti Day

I wanted to share the flyer we have been using this week for our Mufti Day, held in support of Croydon BME Forum, following the devastation caused by Hurricane Melissa in Jamaica a few weeks ago.

Croydon BME Forum kindly created a bespoke flyer for us to share across the school. Our students have demonstrated strong global citizenship, bringing in small voluntary donations where they were able to.

They have been very clear about why they are wearing their own clothes and where their generosity is being directed, which has led to some thoughtful conversations around empathy, global responsibility, and supporting communities beyond our borders.



LET'S HELP REBUILD JAMAICA!

OUR SCHOOL IS PROUD TO BE SUPPORTING THE "CROYDON BME FORUM'S JAMAICA RELIEF EFFORT", HELPING FAMILIES AFFECTED BY THE RECENT HURRICANE IN JAMAICA.

MUFTI DAY ON FRIDAY 12TH DECEMBER

STUDENTS AND STAFF ARE INVITED TO COME IN "NON-UNIFORM" AND MAKE A "SMALL CASH DONATION" TOWARDS THE "CONTAINER FUND", SUPPORTING THE SHIPMENT OF ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES DIRECTLY TO THOSE MOST IN NEED.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

In addition to Mufti Day donations, families and staff can contribute in the following ways:

Make a Donation

Support the container fund to help ship vital items to Jamaica.

Bank Details Account Name: Croydon BME Forum
Account Number: 36053929 | Sort Code: 60-50-01

Your kindness and generosity will make a real difference to families rebuilding their lives.
Thank you for standing with us and supporting the people of Jamaica

For more information, please contact:
Croydon BME Forum – www.cbmeforum.org

SAFEGUARDING NEWS

Student Anti-Bullying & Safeguarding Ambassadors 2025/26

We are immensely proud to welcome our first cohort of Anti-Bullying and Safeguarding Ambassadors. Our team of Ambassadors, representative of the wider school community, is focusing on the theme of *'Feeling Safe at School'*.

Focus groups were organised, and safety walks were held alongside our Principal, Sarah Brooks, who remains committed to supporting the team and acting on the areas identified.

This term, our Ambassadors will be working on projects to promote the message of *'Feeling Safe at School'* by developing safeguarding posters and introducing worry and feedback boxes. These will support and encourage all learners to share suggestions, worries, or concerns easily and anonymously, which the Safeguarding Team will regularly follow up on.

To further develop their skills, our Ambassadors will also receive training from our Director of Safeguarding, Jackie Van West.

Parent Coffee Mornings

The term kicked off with a successful open session with our Principal, Sarah Brooks, who spoke to parents about Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) and Positive Handling at NCA.



This was followed by an informative *Worry Management* workshop delivered by CBT specialist Zainab Alyssa. Parents were able to gain a deeper understanding of the origins and impact of negative emotions, as well as explore strategies for identifying and managing these within the context of being a parent of a young person with SEN.

Please keep an eye on the website www.nightingaleca.org

CEOP Safety Centre



The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command (CEOP) is part of the UK's National Crime Agency and works to protect children and young people from online sexual abuse and exploitation.

The CEOP Safety Centre provides a safe and secure way for children, parents, carers and professionals to report concerns about online grooming, exploitation or inappropriate behaviour. Reports are reviewed by specialist child protection advisors who can offer support and take action where needed.

[FIND OUT MORE ABOUT CEOPS HERE.](#)



SAFEGUARDING NEWS

PSHE FOCUS: PREVENT and Child on Child Abuse

This term in PSHE, our focus has been on PREVENT and child-on-child abuse. Learners have been exploring the importance of promoting fundamental British values, challenging harmful ideologies, and developing critical thinking skills when accessing information both online and offline.

We have also been considering what healthy and unhealthy relationships look like, how we can keep ourselves safe, and what steps to take if we feel worried or unsafe.

Please remember - If you are worried about someone, and there is immediate risk of danger - please contact 999.

Some useful websites to visit are:



 Boundary Your personal space: invisible, safe, comfortable.	 Personal Space Your personal space: an invisible bubble no one should pop without asking.	 Consent "Yes" to high-five? Always check before touching.	 Private Parts of the body that are covered by swimwear. No one should touch these areas.	
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Foodbank Vouchers

Please email us at info@nightingaleca.org if you would like to be discreetly issued with foodbank vouchers.





SAFEGUARDING: KEEPING EVERYONE SAFE

The words we use to protect, support and empower students

Safeguarding

Safety

Prevent

Protection

Welfare

Wellbeing

Risk

Vulnerability

Safe environment

Disclosure

Trusted adult

Boundaries

Consent

Respectful

relationships

Personal space

Privacy

Reporting

Online safety

Digital citizenship

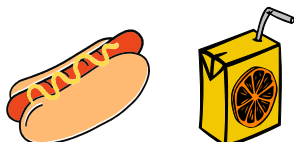
Safe choices

Harm prevention

If it doesn't feel right - talk to a trusted adult.

REMINDERS

Half-day on Friday 19th!



A quick reminder that learners will be finishing up at **12:30PM** this coming Friday - 19th December, for the last day of term.

Taxi companies have been informed. See you in the New Year!

School Jumpers – back in stock

School jumpers are now back in stock and available to purchase. If you would like to buy a new jumper, please come into reception.

All sizes are available.

- Children's sizes --- £14
- Mens sizes S-XXL --- £18



Weekly Swimming Lessons

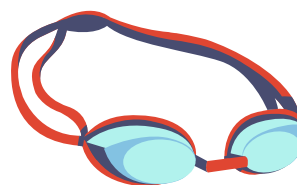
Please familiarise yourself with the below timetable for weekly swimming lessons.

Mondays – Year 7A, 7B & 7C ⌚ 10AM-11:30AM

Mondays – Primary ⌚ 1PM-3PM

Wednesdays – Year 8A & 8B ⌚ 10AM-11:30AM

Wednesdays – Primary ⌚ 1PM-3PM



KEY DATES

Important Dates for Spring Term



Monday 5th JAN

INSET day



Tuesday 6th JAN

Learners start back 9AM



Monday 26th JAN

Year 10 Work Experience



Monday 9th FEB

Year 12 & 13 Work Experience



Friday 6th FEB

Parent Celebration Afternoon

Merry Christmas

Best Wishes for the Festive Season

Wishing everyone a safe and restful break. We will see you all in the New Year.

