



## Joint Art and Drama Project

**This term we have been delighted to be working with Stratford Girls' Grammar School on an exciting joint Art and Drama project, "Little Red Riding Hood." Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 have been creating amazing masks and artwork and working on character studies all based on the classic fairy tale.**

Students were then invited to Stratford Girls' to see and take part in the work they have created. The visit started with students being able to explore interactive installation pieces all based on elements of the fairy tale. There was Mother's cottage, the wood, Grandma's home, ink-stained trees hanging from the ceiling and chairs for each of the main characters. Students loved sitting in Grandma's chair which was cosy and smelt of lavender. The wolf's chair was covered in scratchy fur and Red's chair was covered in scrumptious soft velvet. As well as all the

incredible art, there was also live music based on the "Into the Woods" Broadway Musical.

Students were then invited to take an active part in the retelling of the story. They had tea with Little Red Riding Hood's family and then went off on the journey to Grandma's house with Red. They went through the enchanted wood and met a charming but alarming wolf! Finally, they were saved by a dashing Huntsman and met Grandma who had hidden in fear!

A fabulous time was had by all and NCW Students are excited to show the Stratford Girls their plays and artwork as well as getting them to try Braille and tactile elements in Art.





# Camping trips in **beautiful Wales**

**This term, the Activities Team took a group of students to Wales for the weekend. Our students LOVE camping, a change of scene, fresh air and a chance to experience new things.**

After a long drive, the students enjoyed their time on Fairbourne beach, frolicking on the sandy dunes. Despite the strong gusts, the beach offered a refreshing respite. They set up camp nearby and had a famous NCW BBQ and relaxed by the fire in the evening to keep warm. On Sunday morning they packed up camp, and explored the Castell Y Bere (castle ruins) found in the Dysynni Valley.

**Ne-yo said:** "The camp was really awesome. I loved running and screaming into the wind on the beach - I felt so free!"

**Kacey said:** "I had an amazing time! My favourite bit was sitting around the camp fire in the evening keeping warm."



## **Chair of Governors**

**From September 2023 we have a new Chair of Governors, following the retirement of Diana Fulbrook who chaired the board for seven years. Although sad to see an end to Diana's period as Chair, all recognise with grateful thanks her considerable achievements in moving the college forward during her tenure.**

Newly appointed Chair, Pat Dyson, was previously Executive Principal of Sense College, after spending 13 years with the national charity Sense. She was attracted to the role having worked in the field of post-16 visual impairment / multi-sensory impairment and complex needs for a substantial part of her working life and said she immediately felt 'at home' in the college.

**Pat said** "I am really looking forward to leading and supporting NCW through the strategic and operational challenges that are ahead for all in the specialist education sector. All at NCW have a can-do attitude, a strong determination to succeed and I feel NCW is uniquely placed to support our young people in their educational achievements and journey into adulthood."





# Digging with Dove!



Word of Lawson's gardening prowess has been spreading far and wide. BBC Hereford & Worcester had heard about Lawson and his love of radio and invited him in for a tour of the studio! Lawson was shown around by the Executive Producer Mark Hellings.

Lawson got to see behind the scenes and meet the team at the BBC, as well as talk to one of their presenters while he was live on air. Mark Hellings said: "We loved having Lawson visit us. He asked some excellent questions of our team and demonstrated a real passion for what we do. And

he looked very at home in the studio!"

It doesn't stop there! BBC Gardeners' World Events also heard about the amazing garden that Lawson has been cultivating and paid a visit to NCW to find out more! Bob Sweet (Horticultural Director) and Lucy Tremlett (Head of Horticultural Division) enjoyed a pleasant morning walking around the garden and talking to Lawson about what he has learnt about gardening since he started the project. Bob Sweet said: "... we were given the treat of experiencing the wide range of plants he is growing. A feast of strawberries, a plethora of vegetables, a riot of ornamentals and many more! Lawson is a great character and we wish him well with his growing expertise. We look forward to him visiting BBC Gardeners World Live next June and meeting the team for even more tips on growing plants."

**Lawson said:** "This is the best thing that has happened to me this week! NCW makes dreams come true!"



## Meeting famous authors at Cheltenham Literature Festival

Our A-level Classical Civilisation students recently went to the Cheltenham Literature Festival to hear a lecture by Prof. Mary Beard, the famous classical scholar, TV presenter and writer, talk about the emperors of Rome. Afterwards, they met and chatted with her and were

offered a chance to discuss her views on Homer and Virgil via email!

**Khadijah said:** "It was such an experience to sit and listen to the lecture - the atmosphere was amazing. We were so pleased to be able to meet her afterwards too!"



@newcollegeworcester



@newcollworc



@newcollegeworcs



07387 023516



# Boxing **Clever!**

**This half term, some of our Sixth Form students have embraced a new activity - a 6-week unit of Boxercise. They showed great listening and mastery of the jabs, crosses, rear hooks, lead hooks, left and right upper cuts and the different hand and feet positions.**

**Ne-yo said:** "This has been such a great 6-week course! I have enjoyed being able to test my full strength – I've surprised myself! I would love to continue!"



## GCHQ's National Language Competition

**This term, Year 9 took part in GCHQ's National Language Competition 2023, which aims to inspire language learning in friendly competition with schools from around the UK.**

Each lunchtime, students completed puzzle-solving tasks and put their language skills to the test! Students were given a secret spy name unique to them such as 'Thankful Patient Koala' and 'Beautiful Brave Reindeer' and competed in an online arena solving capture-the-flag challenges. In one task they had to decipher the language of hedgehogs and in another, they had to explore the etymology of various words to crack a code.

Lawson said, "I have really enjoyed it! It took us a while to crack the hedgehog language and it has been fun."

Well done Year 9!







## DJ Leo

**Leo has taken his love of radio to a whole new level by joining the team at Radio Vectis on the Isle of White. Leo is part of the "Short Breaks Saturday Sessions" and is very much enjoying being on air during holidays and home weekends! The show has been such a success that they have even been nominated for a Community Radio Award!**

Leo said, "I am finding it very

enjoyable! My favourite part is being able to talk on the air knowing that lots of people can hear my voice. In the beginning, I was very nervous but that only lasted an hour or so! When on air, I somehow just know what to say. I would love to have a career as a radio DJ when I leave NCW."

Kelvin Currie, the Director of Vectis Radio said "Leo has infectious enthusiasm and has a great name for a presenter! 'You are listening to Leo Lake on Vectis Radio FM 104.6' has a ring to it, don't you think?"

## On Stage at the RSC

**Recently Year 10 and 11 students had the opportunity to perform on the stage at the famous Royal Shakespeare Company.**

The RSC has been running a series of events aimed at making theatre more inclusive and accessible for those with other needs. Our students were delighted to attend and watch a production of "Macbeth". The day included what they labelled an 'unwrapped' session. Students got a touch tour, an opportunity to explore the costumes and a talk by the sound designer who explained and played some of her sounds, focusing on sounds she had designed for the witches.

The students then got the opportunity to recite some of the witches' lines as the sounds of their choice were played. This was all on the main stage of the RSC!

Afterwards, students enjoyed a fully audio described relaxed performance where the actors gave an introduction and the band came on stage to demonstrate what they were going to play. The students very much appreciated it. Thank you, RSC!

## School Games Silver Mark Award



**We are thrilled to announce that we have achieved the School Games Silver Mark Award for the 2022/23 academic year!**

Sport is at the heart of NCW and our Physical Education department aims to provide students with the opportunity to experience a wide range of physical activities and gain knowledge of sports in an environment based on building students' confidence in their own abilities. We offer a huge range of sports from tennis, goal ball, cricket, football, boxing, swimming and everything in-between. A big round of applause for Mrs Price and Mrs Wallcroft for reaching this outstanding standard and motivating our students to engage in sports.



@newcollegeworcester



@newcollworc



@newcollegeworcs



07387 023516





# Food, from Farm to Fork

**This half term, students have been getting their hands muddy and enjoying spending time at Bonterre Farm.**

This evening activity, linked to Independent Living Skills, has enabled students to learn just how food gets from farm to fork. They have been learning about soil and the harvest, animal welfare and about the important part that animals play in our ecosystem. This has been such a popular after-school activity and students have thoroughly embraced this experience. From planting, digging and petting the animals – they have loved it all! Thank you to Bonterre for offering this marvellous experience.



# Apple Day

**Around our leafy campus, we have the most amazing apple trees that produce delicious apples! It has become a tradition that every September Peggy's (one of the lower school houses) hosts an Apple Day.**

It is a day that EVERYONE loves and an opportunity to harvest the copious amount of apples that grow at NCW! Students picked all the apples using special tools and turned them into apple pie, apple crumble, sticky toffee apples, apple juice, apple cake, apple pancakes, apple flapjack and apple muffins...students made them all. The day was full of teamwork, learning new skills and most importantly appreciating and enjoying the apples!





# A Grand Gift

**We're ecstatic to have received a magnificent Grand Piano as a gift from the Royal National Institute of Blind People.**

The RNIB knows of the passion our students have for playing the piano, so when they needed to find a new home for their Bechstein piano, they had no doubt we would accept it with delight. The magnificent Bechstein now proudly resides in our chapel and looks and sounds absolutely stunning.



## Coffee, Cake and Company

**Morning coffee, fresh cupcakes, sticky toffee flapjack and sausage rolls...yes please!**

As part of their Independent Living Skills lessons, Natalie, Maxwell and Lawson planned, prepared and hosted a coffee morning. Their aim was to practise social skills and build independence. Not only did they send invites, lay the table and bake EVERYTHING but they were superb hosts too. Mr Stark, Mrs Molina and Ms Perry were treated like royalty. They also had special guest, Andy from local charity, YSS, who enjoyed meeting the students and talking about life at NCW. Let's hope this becomes a regular event!



## Waitrose Work Experience

**Meet Sixth Form student Thomas in his latest place of work at Waitrose in Worcester! Thomas is doing a work experience placement in Waitrose this year to gain experience in the workplace, new skills, independence and a taste of life after NCW.**

Thomas said, "I am enjoying it! It is such a positive experience and I am loving being in the workplace, meeting new people and working with colleagues. At the moment I am on the checkouts and in time, I will be working on different areas around the store such as the café, customer service and stock replenishment!"



@newcollegeworchester



@newcollworc



@newcollegeworcs



07387 023516



# A short trip in time!

**In November a group of History and ASDAN students left campus on one of the shortest History trips ever - a mere 500 metres along the pavement from NCW! The top of Red Hill is where the gallows were sited in Worcester and, in the centre of the Whittington Gate development, there is a memorial to a number of Catholic clergy who were executed in the seventeenth century.**

Students enjoy the fireworks around Bonfire Night but don't always realise that some of the people accused of involvement in the Gunpowder Plot, one of the most famous assassination attempts made on a Monarch

in history, were executed so close to NCW. Worcestershire features strongly in the story of the Gunpowder Plot with several powerful Catholic families living in the great houses of the county. Sir Richard Walsh, the sheriff of Worcestershire, was ordered to hunt for the plotters and Humphrey Lyttleton, John Wintour, Ralph Ashley, a man called Perks (no relation to our Mrs Perks, we hope) and Father Oldcorne were all arrested in Worcestershire and thrown into Worcester Castle! Did you also know that the person responsible for starting the uprising, Robert Catesby, was shot and killed by John Streete, a Worcester clothier serving in the militia at the time. For shooting the ring leader

Catesby, the King gifted him a pension of two shillings a day for the rest of his life!

What a lot of history on our doorstep!



## Visit from the Mayor of Worcester

**Towards the end of term we had another special visitor! The Mayor of Worcester, Louis Stephen spent an exciting morning touring the college and talking about politics, environmental sustainability and green initiatives with our students.**

Mayor Stephen said, "I was delighted to see the proto-type electric car that is being built by the students really taking shape. I had a fantastic opportunity to speak with students and staff and learnt a great deal about how the college is getting students ready for independent living."

Will Stark (Strategic Lead for Student Progress) said, "Our staff and students were blown away by the experience and opportunity to meet the Mayor, and especially with his background in the Green Party which is inspirational to us at New College Worcester". The Mayor also had the pleasure of listening to one of NCW's very talented musicians. Student Isy joined him at the Guildhall for a tea, cake and piano and singing event for Age UK guests. She was amazing and her performance blew everyone away!





# Just Keep Swimming!

**On 19th November a group of students spent the day at the British Blind Sport National Youth Swimming Gala, a wonderful sporting event in the NCW calendar.**

The event provides an excellent opportunity for young people with a vision impairment aged 3 to 17, from all over the UK, to participate in fun and competitive swimming and water-based activities. Making up by far the biggest group of competitors, the NCW team embraced the opportunity and each contestant entered as many races as they could. The swimmers returned with an absolute hoard of medals. They also had the opportunity to learn more about jumping and diving into the water, and to practise their diving skills. Well done everyone and thank you to the PE team for supporting the event.



## Wellbeing Day

**We are all aware how we must take care of our own wellbeing. With this in mind, Miss Morris organised for the whole school to enjoy a Wellbeing Day this term.**

All students were involved with a range of activities including arts and crafts, relaxation sessions, movement classes, a talk from the police and cooking sessions. The day tied in brilliantly with the Mental Health First Aid course that 14 Year 13s have completed this term, which they have really enjoyed. Amy said "The Mental Health First Aid course was brilliant – I've put what I learnt into practice already!"



## Lessons in Childcare

**If you happen to be walking past Room 15, you might hear something a little unusual for NCW... Meet Nancy, the NCW baby doll that students will be learning to look after in PHSE lessons.**

Nancy can be quite loud, cries a lot and sometimes screams during lessons. However, all is forgiven when she is quiet (or her button is turned off!). Over the coming weeks, students will be learning how to care for babies including nappy changes, car seats, how to soothe and even how to feed. Let's hope Nancy turns out to be a good baby!



@newcollegeworchester



@newcollworc



@newcollegeworcs



07387 023516





# Miss Saigon at Worcester Royal Grammar School

**Last Friday, students were kindly invited by RGS Worcester to watch their incredible matinee performance of 'Miss Saigon.'**



Director of Drama, Mrs Jilly Witcomb, introduced the students to the theatre, discussing the set, stage and plot. Students then had the opportunity to explore the stage and props through a touch tour. The Engineer's sparkly red jacket was a popular item and the feather fans adorned with money were firm favourites.

Students then watched the show and spent the next few hours spellbound by the incredible professional performance. Mr Hinds (Head of English) provided his usual amazing and detailed audio description which students could listen to through their headphones.

At the end of the show, the audience was invited to ask the main lead characters questions. Everyone returned to college with high spirits, energised and inspired by the show.

***Thank you RGS Worcester - what an outstanding show!!!***



# A Winter Poem: Winter starts

The yellow light beams on the snowy rooves.  
A red breast silently sweeps, darts and moves.  
Sharp Icicles; wet, drip like jagged teeth.  
Silk snow lies flat like white paper beneath.  
Matching the beat of the robin's warm heart  
The rhythmic drip of the icicles start.

*Written by NCW students George and Ellie on the 1st of December.*

## Mince pie, anyone?

These are not ordinary mince pies...these are highly skilled GCSE Year 11 mince pies with pâte sucrée base, mincemeat and Viennese biscuit topped. Students enjoyed lots of wonderful Christmas cooking. These delicious delights were the first Christmas treats to leave the Independent Living Skills department. Well done Isabelle and Emma!



## ¡Feliz Navidad! Joyeux Noël! Merry Christmas!

Year 9 students Lawson and Oliver have been busy making these amazing Christmas wreaths. Apart from the cotton wool, all the materials have been picked from the grounds of the college. They have even included Braille 'Merry Christmas' messages in English, French and Spanish AND a tactile Christmas tree which they have made using Braille! Amazing work!



## Whole school trips to “Snow White” and “The Box of Delights”



**It's officially panto season! Oh no it isn't... Oh yes it is! At the end of term, Key Stage 3 enjoyed a trip to the theatre to watch “Snow White” at the Wolverhampton Grand. Students were thrilled to have a**

**touch tour before the audio-described show and meet some of the actors.**

Oliver said, “The audio description was AMAZING as was the touch tour. It was a really good trip out!” George said, “I enjoyed the music so much - there was a live band which I loved !”

Student Natalie was also delighted to sing with singer and actress Kelle Bryan. Amazing Natalie - well done!

On the same day Key Stage 5 enjoyed a Christmas trip to the Royal Shakespeare Company to see “The Box of Delights!”. Isabelle said, “I thought it was interesting and I really got in to it!” Jake Said, “I LOVED it! I especially loved the part with the trains. It made you feel like you were in an actual train. The audio description was AMAZING!”



@newcollegeworcester



@newcollworc



@newcollegeworcs



07387 023516

11





# News from the Houses!

**The residential houses have all been getting excited about Christmas, celebrating in their own special ways.**

The **Sixth Form** residents went out for their Christmas meal to a local restaurant, held a Christmas quiz and party in the common room and did a Secret Santa so that every student received a gift.

**Bradnack House** held their Christmas meal the week before the end of term in the house, had great fun decorating the Bradnack tree and got creative with a Christmas Craft evening.

In **Peggy Markes House**, students and staff celebrated Christmas with a traditional meal with all the trimmings, all prepared and cooked by the staff team. This year saw a change in the festive celebrations – Peggy Markes held their inaugural Christmas Prize Giving! A Golden Ticket award for each and every student, a token which they could exchange for a prize or

reward in the new year. Each student had a few words spoken about them by Claire and Monika about their individual contributions to the house.

It was a lovely Christmas surprise for the folks from Peggy Markes house to catch up with two students who left in the summer. Louisa and Luke popped back to say hi! Fabulous to see them and hear how they are getting on in their new adventures.

As well as a delicious Christmas meal in the house, **Dorothy McHugh House** also went on a trip to local Garden Centre and visitor attraction, Webbs of Wychbold. It was a cold night but everyone wrapped up warm and enjoyed a brilliant Peter Pan themed show and some festive light displays.



 @newcollegeworcester

 @newcollworc

 @newcollegeworcs

 07387 023516

New College Worcester, Whittington Road, Worcester WR5 2JX

T: 01905 763933 E: info@ncw.co.uk