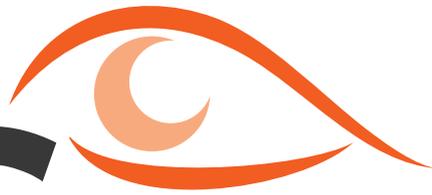


news



SPRING 2026



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NCW Presents: **"Dracula: A Feminist Revenge Fantasy... Really!"**

Last half term, a bold, darkly magical production was brought to the stage - a daring, atmospheric and thought provoking reimagining of the classic gothic tale and a dramatic shift from last year's bright "Summer Nights" of *Grease!*

The scene was set for the eerie shadows and swirling mist of Whitby, where Count Dracula's chilling presence tests the boundaries of fear, courage and identity. With a blend of humour, horror and clever reinterpretation, the piece invited audiences to rethink the characters they thought they knew and to consider themes of power, agency, vulnerability and revenge through a modern lens.

Head of Drama and Director, Miss Chloe Elmes said:

"From our very first rehearsals to opening night, I have been continually inspired by the creativity, energy and commitment of the amazing company. They have stepped out of their comfort zones, supporting one another with a maturity that far exceeds their years. Their growth - not just as performers, but as a cohesive, resilient team - is the heartbeat of this production."

Dracula: A Feminist Revenge Fantasy... Really!





Visit from **Blista School for the Blind**

We were delighted to welcome a group of students and staff this term from our longstanding partner school, Blista School for the Blind in Marburg, Germany.

Our two schools share a warm and historic connection dating back to 1989, and it was a pleasure to once again host our German friends here in Worcester for a programme full of cultural experiences, joint activities and time spent with NCW students.

Blista is one of Germany's leading and most historic institutions dedicated to the education and support of people who are blind or vision impaired. Located in the university city of Marburg – renowned for its highly accessible, blindness friendly infrastructure – it continues to be a beacon of inclusive education.

On arrival, the group headed straight to one of the Midlands' best known attractions: Cadbury World! Students enjoyed exploring the interactive exhibits and of course sampling plenty of chocolate treats!

After checking into their hotel, the group travelled to NCW for a relaxed evening meal with students, followed by a lively Youth Club Variety Event featuring music, pool, darts and crafts. It was a wonderful first opportunity for both groups to meet and chat.

Day two was dedicated to discovering some of Worcester's most historic sites including Worcester Cathedral and The Commandery to learn more about the city's Civil War heritage. Wednesday offered Blista students the chance to experience a full school day at NCW taking part in a range of lessons.

Head of Modern Foreign Languages, Mrs Beatriz Molina said:

"It was an absolute pleasure to host the students from Blista. Students greatly enjoyed the opportunity to spend time with them – whether in class, over meals or during informal activities – and many have spoken about how much they valued the cultural and personal exchanges that took place."

Fundraising News



We're pleased to share some exciting updates and opportunities from across the NCW community.

Worcester City Run – Sunday 13th September – Places available!

Preparations are well underway for this year's Worcester City Run, and we're delighted with the growing interest and support so far.

There are still a number of places available, so if you or someone you know would like to take part and support NCW, now is the time to get involved. Every step taken helps raise vital funds to support our students. Find out more by emailing fundraising@ncw.co.uk or visit <https://www.ncw.co.uk/event-directory/2026-worcester-city-run/>

Enhancing Learning – New Equipment for Maths & Music

We're excited to have recently invested in new specialist equipment for both our Maths and Music departments.

These resources are designed to further support accessible learning, enabling students to engage more fully and confidently in their studies. It's fantastic to see these tools already making a positive impact in the classroom.

A huge thank you to the Universal Music UK Sound Foundation and the Michael Marsh Charitable Trust for their generous support in funding this equipment and helping make these improvements possible.

Coming Soon – Waitrose Community Matters Scheme

We're thrilled to share that NCW has been selected to take part in the Waitrose London Road Community Matters Scheme in April, May and June.

Voting will open in-store after Easter, and we would greatly appreciate your support if you are local. If you're shopping at Waitrose, please consider voting for NCW, every token helps us secure additional funding for our work.



Thank you, as always, for your continued support of NCW.

Sensational Ski Trip!

Just before Christmas, our students embarked on an unforgettable adventure to the stunning Italian Alps for an incredible skiing experience!

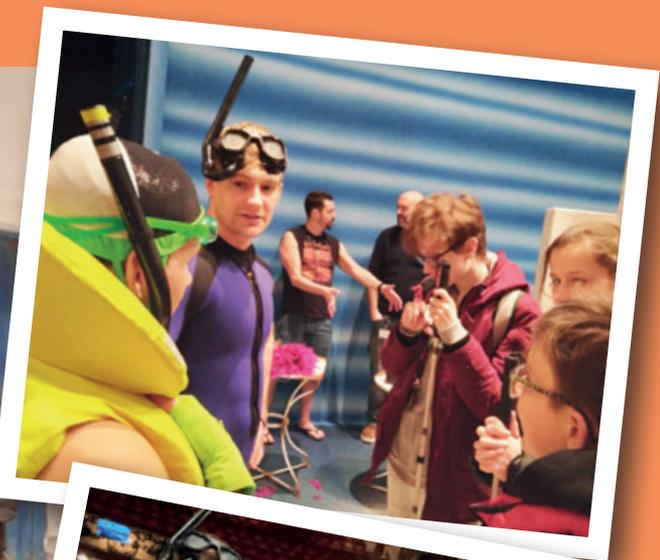
The group stayed in the beautiful ski resort of Sauze D'Oulx. On the first day, students were fitted with all the essential gear – skis, boots and helmets – and introduced to the fantastic instructors who were ready to guide them every step of the way. The trip was organised in partnership with specialists in accessible tailored holidays for the VI community, Seable, who have access to the best ski schools for visually impaired people in Europe.

Each day brought new progress and confidence on the slopes, as students honed their skiing skills and embraced the thrill of the mountains. Lunchtimes were a treat too, with the group enjoying an amazing variety of authentic Italian cuisine – the perfect fuel for an action-packed day! This trip was not only about skiing; it was about building independence, confidence and unforgettable memories in a truly spectacular setting.

"I am always so humbled by the trust the students have in us when we take them skiing and amazed at the progress they make in such a short period of time. This year was no different with every student making it up to the top of the mountain and skiing the long run back down to base."

Jane Price – Head of PE





Super Trouper Trip to London!

Students and staff from NCW enjoyed a truly *Super Trouper* experience on their recent visit to London to see the West End production of "Mamma Mia!" – a trip brilliantly planned and co-organised by Year 12 student Zac.

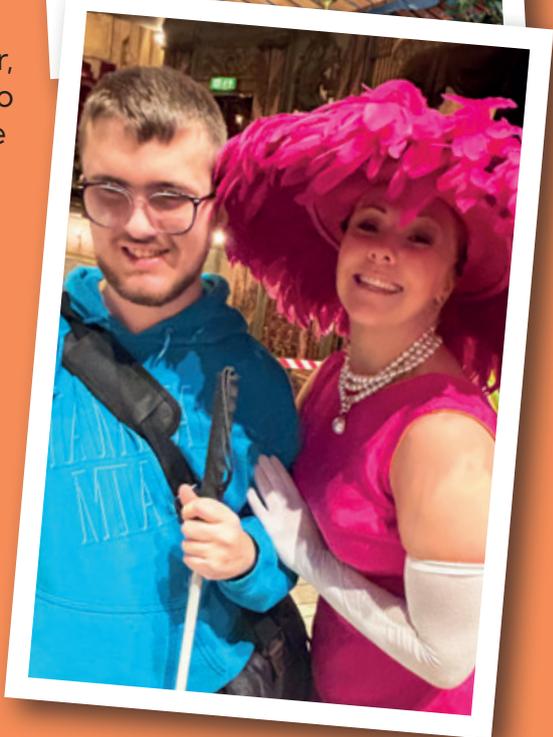
The group set off bright and early, with Mrs Price driving the NCW minibus full of excited travellers to Hillingdon Tube Station. Thanks to Zac's meticulous planning, the journey into central London ran smoothly and the group arrived in Covent Garden in time for refreshments before walking to the Novello Theatre.

Before the performance, students were welcomed onto the stage for a special Touch Tour thanks

to the Novello Theatre staff, who provided exceptional service from start to finish. The group explored the set and handled a range of props, from feather boas and groovy sunglasses to sparkling rhinestone microphones. Several cast members also joined the tour, giving students the chance to ask questions and learn more about the show.

The group then took their seats in the stalls for the performance, a high energy, feel good celebration of ABBA's greatest hits.

There's only one thing left to say... **"Mamma Mia, THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC!"** and thank you to Zac for organising such a brilliant trip.



Art Competition Winners!

We are thrilled to announce that New College Worcester has won the Secondary School category in the VICTA Braille Art Competition!

This year, students were challenged by VICTA Patron Clarke Reynolds, also known as Mr Dot, to create a piece of Braille Art inspired by his newly released children's book, *Mr Dot and His Magical White Cane Adventures*. The challenge invited young people to bring their own adventures to life through texture, creativity and imagination.

Congratulations to all the talented students at NCW who took part! Each student produced a unique, personal piece of Braille Art, representing a journey or adventure of their own. Their creations ranged from outerspace odysseys to tropical island escapes, each one bursting with vibrant ideas



and carefully crafted textures.

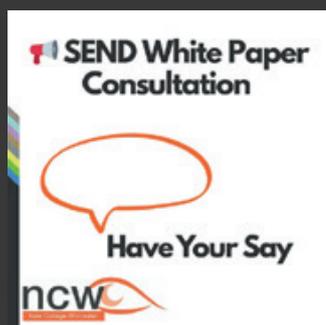
VICTA were hugely impressed with the standard of work, with Clarke Reynolds commenting:

"Love the white cane adventures, especially the space themed ones. The illustrations look like they should be on the cover of children's novels."

As part of their prize, students enjoyed a **pizza party** – a fun and fitting way to celebrate their success! Winning the Secondary School category is a fantastic achievement, well done to all who were involved.



SEND White Paper Consultation – Have Your Say



The **SEND White Paper consultation** is now live and we're encouraging people to share their views. This is an important

opportunity to help shape the future of SEND education and ensure that specialist settings like ours are recognised and valued.

You can find the information online on the Department for Education website: <https://consult.education.gov.uk/>

They would like to hear from everyone who has an interest in the reforms including:

- children, young people and families
- teachers and leaders
- schools, trusts and early years and post-16 providers
- local authorities
- experts and academic organisations
- representative groups

You can also respond to the consultation via email at **SENDreform.CONULTATION@education.gov.uk**, or by post to:

SENDAP Reform, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT

The opportunity closes on 18th May.



Celebrating Chinese New Year in Dots!

This term, Dots House students celebrated Chinese New Year in true festive style! With beautiful decorations, food fit for royalty and fantastic company, it was the perfect way to say goodbye to the Year of the Rat and welcome in the Year of the Horse and find out more about Chinese food and culture.

A special thank you to Singapore Restaurant in Worcester, who kindly supplied the stunning decorations and chopsticks – they helped make the celebration feel extra authentic!

Party into Spring!



This term we held our first get together for families with very young children who are blind or vision impaired.

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for our Spring into FUN party! We had an absolute blast hosting young children for a VI friendly celebration full of joy and exploration. From sandpits, messy play and a bouncy castle to all things fun – it was a brilliant day and the parents and children really enjoyed getting together and connecting in a relaxed environment.

We are hoping to run more similar events throughout the year. Thank also to student Darcy and her mum who came along to help out!



Introducing the **NEW** NCW Online Shop!

We're excited to launch the NCW online shop – your place to support NCW while picking up some great products.

From NCW branded merchandise to learning resources and specialist equipment, every purchase helps us continue to inspire, nurture and empower young people with vision impairment.

By shopping with us, you are directly supporting opportunities for our students to learn, grow and live independently.

You can find the shop on the website at www.ncw.co.uk/shop





Red Belt for Elonia

Huge congratulations to Elonia on earning her very first judo belt! Elonia was first introduced to judo here at NCW and has since gone on to join her local club - a fantastic step in building her skills and confidence.

Elonia said:

"I love judo, I really enjoy it. It's good to throw people to the floor! Seriously though, it has given me real confidence and I know that if I did get myself into trouble it could help me!"

Well done, Elonia!

Breakfast with love!

When Valentine's Day and Pancake Day both fall in half term, there's only one thing for it... heartshaped pancakes for breakfast! On the last day before we broke up for half term students enjoyed the perfect breakfast to celebrate both days in one breakfast!





Up close at Six Nations Rugby!

This term we had the absolute pleasure of heading to Twickenham for the first Six Nations fixture of the season at Twickenham; England v Wales. Our seats were so close to the action that a few parents even spotted us on TV! With front row seats the half time DJ set was less than 10 metres away and we could feel the heat from the fire rockets! A convincing win for England was the perfect end to a wonderful experience.



A group of our students had the absolute delight of visiting the Royal Shakespeare Company to watch *The BFG*!

They had a fantastic time experiencing the magic of live theatre and seeing this muchloved story brought to life on stage. Blending puppetry, physical theatre and Dahl's sense of mischief, the bold adaptation was an absolute treat for the students.



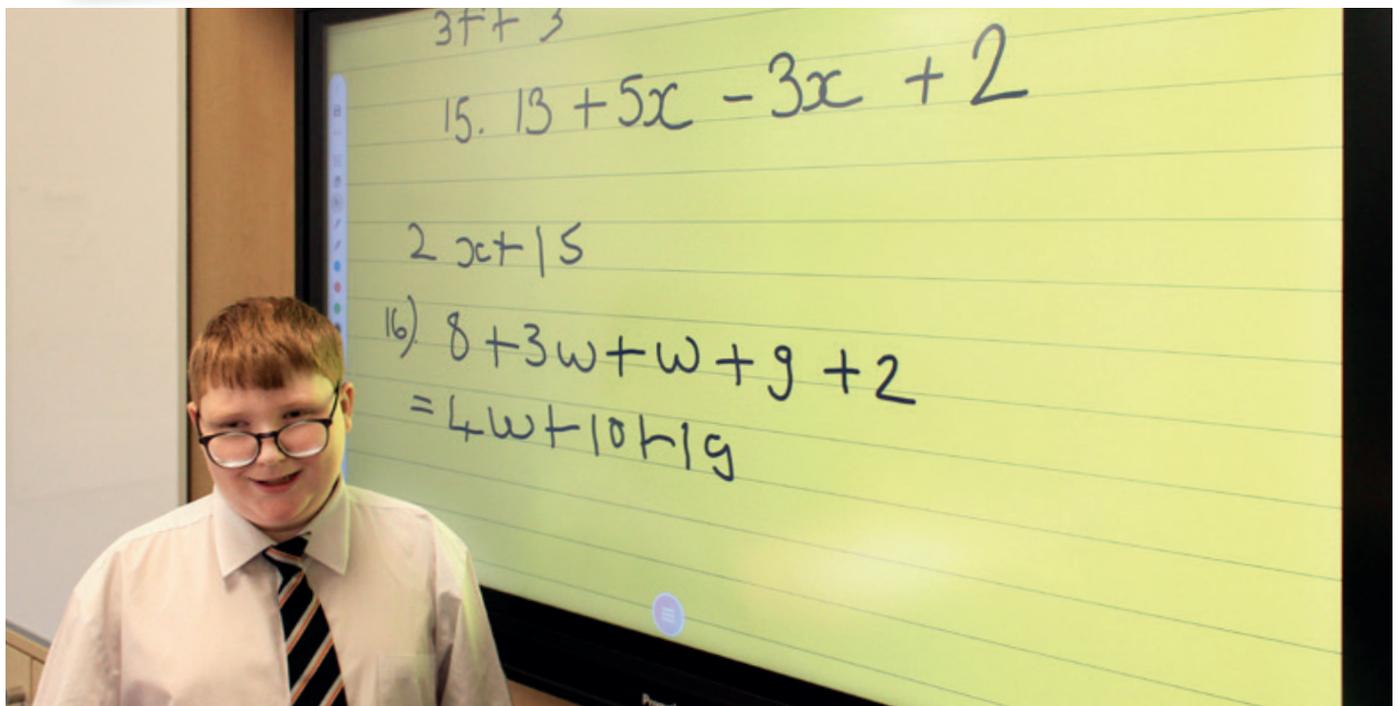


We've sprung a Leak!

Oh no... quick, alert the Premises Team! There are loads of leaks in the Malvern Room!

Wait, hang on, LEEKs, not leaks (turns out spelling really does matter!) NCW student Lawson has been busy planting seeds in the greenhouse and has brought them indoors to keep them cosy and growing strong before they head back outside.

A lovely bit of greenfingered teamwork from Lawson and Mrs Blake.



Mathematical Egg-stravaganza!

Head of Maths, Mr Brookes has been challenging the NCW community on a daily basis in the run up to Easter, with his Easter Bunny challenge! Every day is a new mathematical problem to solve with an Easter theme. The mini challenges appear every morning at 7.30am, by email and posted on Mr Brookes' door in large print and Braille, maybe even with the odd tactile diagram or model!

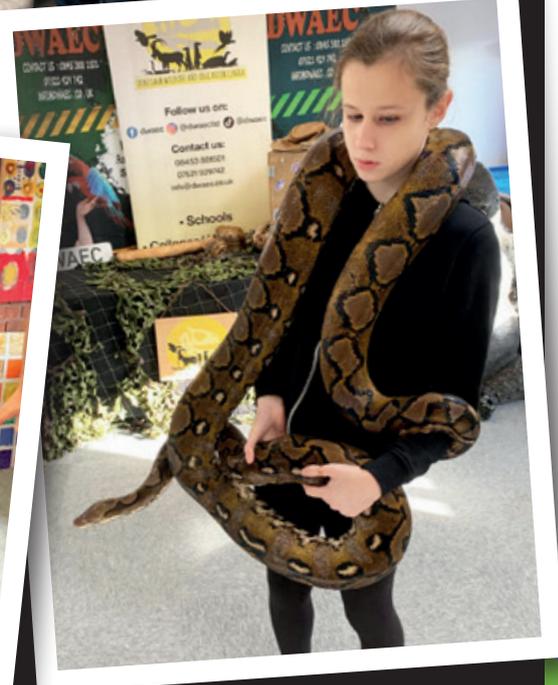
Correct answers earn a star card reward and we are all hoping there might be an Easter treat the end!

A couple of the examples are:

'Miss Jones is making Easter bonnets. She has a ribbon that is 2.5 metres long. She needs to cut it into 15cm strips. How many full strips can she cut, and how much ribbon is left over?'

Mrs Price is running an Easter 5km "Bunny Hop." If she hops at a constant speed of 2 metres per second, how many minutes will it take her to finish?

Well done to all the keen Mathematicians who worked out the answers.



Exotic animal experience

We recently had the brilliant DWAEC (Dinosaur Wildlife and Education Centre) visit NCW for an amazing hands on session - and they brought a whole host of fascinating animals for our students to learn about. Being able to get hands on with the animals is a wonderful experience, from reptiles to fluffier friends, there was a whole range of creatures to learn about and touch. The enormous snake, surprisingly, was a firm favourite!





Musical fun in the Youth Club

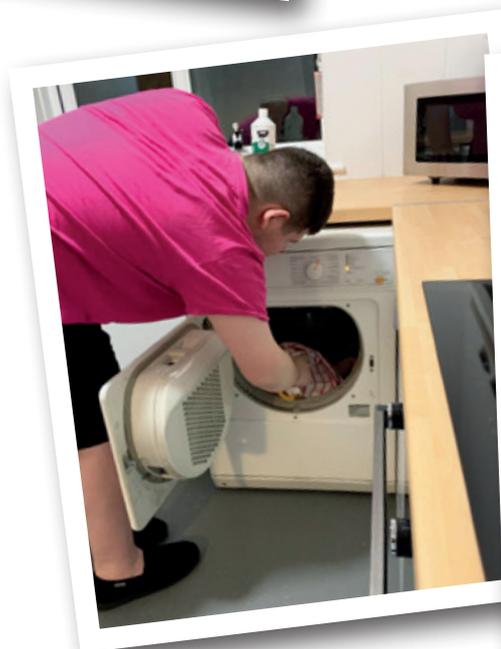
The NCW Youth Club is a busy, buzzy environment at the best of times, but this term saw a really special evening when Vika and Mr Peden organised for an interactive visit from his band for a fun evening of music and song.

It was a brilliant evening filled with music, energy and dancing! We were especially pleased to have our own students performing alongside the band.



A huge shoutout to George W, who stayed especially to perform, followed by fantastic performances from Len and George C.

The Youth Club hosts regular themed evenings as well as providing a space for relaxation, crafts and games throughout the week – all under the amazing supervision of Youth Engagement Officer, Vika.



Get the washing on!

We love nothing more than seeing our students grow in confidence and gain the skills to do things independently and developing those skills is a crucial part of the NCW offer. This

term a special NCW shoutout go to Ed and Fin, who have been doing their own laundry in the houses.

This milestone makes us all VERY, very proud!

Marketing Agency Accessibility

A visit to a brilliant local marketing agency to talk all things digital accessibility was a highlight for Mr Radford and a three students who visited Ecrubox, a leading ecommerce strategy, marketing and development agency specialising in premium lifestyle brands.

Ecrubox is already championing accessibility, going above and beyond to create inclusive online experiences. Wanting to take this even further, the team invited our students for a hands on digital accessibility workshop at their Worcester offices.

It was a great opportunity for the students and the professionals who were eager to learn from lived experience to shape their own practice.



Pedestrian Crossing News

There was a great deal of activity on campus over half term as thanks to the incredible generosity of some wonderful individuals and organisations, a fully working pedestrian crossing was installed in front of school just by the visitor car park.

Learning Support Assistant, Mrs Adams and friend of NCW, Feargal O'Connell came up with the idea a few months ago and Feargal used all his

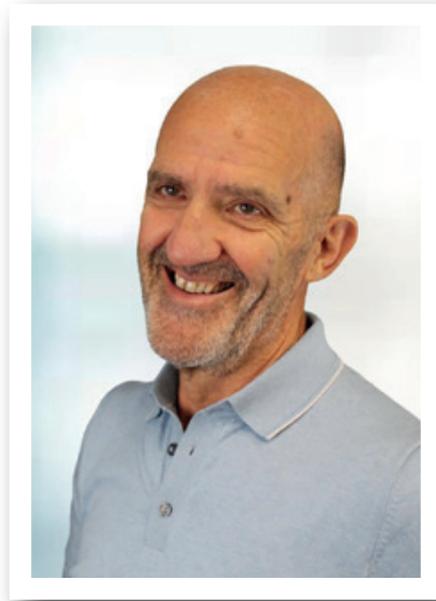
connections in the highways and construction industry to pull together an amazing team to bring the idea to fruition. Thanks to their generosity and hard work, the crossing was fully completed over the half term break.

Partners who have contributed expertise, resources and time into the project are

- Worcestershire County Council
- Ringway

- Telent Technology Services
- AGD Systems
- ATP

Also, contributing to the signage, PR and Media effort are local companies Nifty Marketing and Universal Display Ltd. An official launch event is in the planning stage and we can't wait to start using the crossing in lessons and inviting others from across the VI community to benefit from this fantastic facility too.



In memory

Noel Duffy was Governor from early 2020 to September 2023 and will be remembered for his passion for accessibility for people with a vision impairment as well as his energy and commitment towards his role here as Governor.

Noel enjoyed a long career history with our technology partner Dolphin Computer Access, starting with them in 1993 and retiring from the CEO role just last year. In 2022 he received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the RNIB for his long-standing contribution to improving the lives of people who are blind or vision impaired.

Our thoughts are with his family, friends and colleagues.



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