



Caroline Brooker
Headteacher

An Inspector Calls

There has been much written in the media recently about OFSTED, and in particular persistent allegations – which have all been denied – about whether some schools had prior notice of inspections.

I don't want to go into the specifics of those stories, but it does throw up a more general point: how vital it is that there is a system that credibly measures all aspects of how a school is doing – a system above all which parents can trust.

I don't know anyone in education who thinks the current system is perfect, but there are very few in the sector who believe that there shouldn't be some form of inspection regime. Although going through an inspection puts massive pressure on everyone involved in a school, I do agree that such inspections are necessary.

But to be credible, meaningful; and useful to parents trying to choose the right school for their children, the inspection regime needs to do a number of things:

- It needs to be operated fairly and equally across all schools. That means the inspection body must be genuinely independent, free from political influence, and avoid cosying up to particular schools or educational bodies.
- Inspections need to look at the whole picture, rather than just narrow, easily-measured statistics. Of course exam results are important, but so too are non-academic activities, behaviour, and the overall culture of the school. These are difficult things to measure in simple tickboxes, but they are vital if parents are to get an accurate picture of the kind of education their children stand to receive.
- It needs to move away from one simple headline judgement. The current system is so overly rigid, and so fixated on coming up with one, simplistic

rating, that important nuances are lost. Why not report a number of measures (academic achievement, behaviour, parent/student satisfaction, etc) and then let parents make their own minds up about their overall assessment of the school?

Above all, it needs to be credible. Parents need to know that a school with a given rating is of the same standard as a school with the same rating elsewhere. The moment that public confidence in the system is dented – even if that is based on perception rather than reality – it has completely lost its usefulness.

Check out our new
guide to online
services on our
website.



Hair Removal seems to be a popular theme at NWHs this month. Read about Callum's head shave over leaf and also these 3 'brave' Year 11 students who have volunteered to have their legs waxed for Children in Need. James Bassett, Luke Chopping and Liam Clark will be wearing skirts for the day to show off their hairy pins before each has one leg waxed during KS3 lunch and if they can stand the pain will be returning at KS4 lunch to have the other one done! Good luck boys!

Diary dates

Important Dates

Wednesday 12th November
Class of 2014 Prize Evening 7:30 - 10pm (Atrium)

Friday 14th November
Children in Need Fundraising Day

Monday 17th November
Parents Forum 6:45 - 7:45pm (Library)

Thursday 20th November
Year 10 My-Fi Event
Year 7 & 8 Flu Vaccinations
Trip to Parliament - Debating
Internet Safety Evening 7:00-8:00pm

Study

Study support and revision sessions

Art Art Club/War Hammer
Tuesdays 3 to 4pm, A5 Mr Winner
Year 11 Art Coursework Catch-up
Wednesdays 3 to 4pm, A5 Mr Winner

Design Technology Thursdays
3 to 4pm, A1 Mrs Parker

Film Club Thursdays 3 to 4pm,
Theatre Mr Breeze

Geography Year 10 Catch-up
Tuesdays, Year 11 Catch-up
Thursdays 3 - 4pm CS2 Miss Walker

History Young Historians Society
Thursday 3 - 4:30pm, Miss Springall-Coleman

Maths FSMQ Tuesdays 3 - 4pm,
M2 Dr Lee, Revision Wednesdays
3 - 4pm, Miss Honey

Music Strings group Wednesdays
3 - 4pm, Mrs Gardner

BTEC Sport Fridays 3 - 4pm, Mr
Bradshaw & Mr Mills

Homework Club

Every Tuesday, Wednesday and
Thursday 3pm to 4pm, Library

Sports

Sports fixtures

Wednesday 12th November 3:00pm
U14 Girls Football (A)

Thursday 13th November 3:00pm
U16 Girls Football (A)

Wednesday 19th November 3:00pm
U14 Girls Football V KES (H)

Tuesday 25th November 3:00pm U13/
U14 Girls Football Tournament (A)

After school sports clubs

Netball Club Tuesday 11th, 18th,
25th Nov 3 - 4pm

Badminton Club Wednesday
12th, 26th, 19th Nov 3 - 4pm

Hockey Club Thursday 13th, 20th,
27th Nov 3 - 4pm



'HAIR' TODAY, GONE TOMORROW

Callum Franklin, Year 9 student had his head shaved in school assembly in front of more than 200 of his classmates, to raise money for MacMillan Cancer Support—an idea he came up with after learning that his nan had been diagnosed with breast cancer.

Callum hoped the stunt would raise at least £200, but with sponsorship and a bucket collection in the assembly, the total currently stands at more than double that.

“My nan is having chemotherapy, and lost her hair a couple of weeks ago. I wanted to do something to show my support, and came up with the idea of a head shave,” said Callum. “I wanted my friends to see it, and the school said I could have it done during assembly.”

Head teacher Caroline Brooker, who tweeted before and after selfies featuring herself and Callum, said, “Callum is a real credit to his family and to the school. We shouldn't underestimate what a big thing this was to do, and the admiration around the school for him has been reflected in the amount of money raised for an excellent cause.



NORTH WALSHAM STUDENTS STEP OUT TO HELP ABOUT WITH FRIENDS

Cromer-based charity About With Friends has become the first to benefit from funds raised by our annual sponsored walk, held in July. The event raised a total of £2266, and representatives of the charity visited the school to receive the first cheque to be given out from that pot, for £258.

The charity was chosen as a beneficiary by Cavell House. House captains George Fleming and Zoe Smith handed over the cheque to Steve Smith, manager at About With Friends, together with members James Aldridge and Stuart Phillips.

“Edith Cavell, after whom our house is named, was a nurse, so we felt that About With Friends was a good cause for the money to go to,” said George. “Also, a former Cavell house student, George Pegg, is a member of About With Friends, and his younger brother James is in Cavell, and took part in the walk.”

About With Friends manager Steve Smith said, “We are very grateful that the students thought of us as a beneficiary. We should applaud all the students who got up and made the effort to do the walk, to help a number of good causes. We will be putting this money towards one of our youth projects”

About With Friends is a Cromer-based charity which offers children, young people and adults with learning disabilities the chance to lead the lives they choose. There are currently around 150 members accessing the charity's different services, supported by a staff team of around 25, and a team of volunteers.



As the rest of the school went home to put their feet up after a half-term of hard work, our Duke of Edinburgh's Award teams went home to pack rucksacks weighing a quarter of their body weight ready to complete their practice expedition in Saxlingham Nethergate, just south of Norwich.

After some working out of unfamiliar sleeping arrangements, cooking on Swedish Trangia stoves and surviving the first cold night, each team set off on a 6 hour walk around the countryside - carrying everything they had brought with them! Early on in the day one team relinquished their extra tent, and another participant was found to be carrying spare boots in his bag. A number of stops were made to chuck out that gear that once on their backs they realised they didn't really need!

Another night in a tent, tending to sore feet, backs, knees and ankles, but they were only halfway through.... the next morning they dragged themselves out of bed at 6 am to prepare themselves for another 6 hour walk. Determined to complete this part of their Award all participants marched on, working excellently together to navigate through tricky terrain and relocate themselves when they ended up not quite where they should have been!



On a sunny half-term Monday, 23 members of STEM club eagerly awaited the train from North Walsham to begin their epic adventure to the Science Museum in London. We took a short walk through crowded streets to view the spectacular Tower of London poppies, overlooked by the Chard. At the museum we started at the top and worked our way down. We explored flight (some students riding the simulators that rotated them 360 degrees!), energy, materials, the modern world, mathematics, 18th Century science, the information age, and the ever fascinating topic of space. Hands-on exhibits kept everyone busy, with the "Do Not Touch" installation a particular curiosity.

**North
Walsham
High School**

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Pastoral questions

Years 7, 8 and 9:
ks3@northwalshamhigh.norfolk.sch.uk

Years 10 and 11:
ks4@northwalshamhigh.norfolk.sch.uk

Parents Forum:

parentsforum@northwalshamhigh.norfolk.sch.uk