

New River College

New River New Start

In the now and beyond

NEWSLETTER

Summer Term - 2026



SECONDARY

A Summer term to be proud of

GCSE success!

Our Year 11 students approached their GCSE exams with determination and resilience. Attendance was great, with students working hard and attending additional revision sessions. They entered their exams with confidence and sometimes even came out with smiles! We are incredibly proud of you all and look forward to celebrating your achievements on Results Day. Well done.



Ten hours of creativity

Completing a ten-hour art exam is a huge achievement, but our talented Year 11 artist rose to the challenge. Kaya produced some beautiful final pieces, which we are displaying with great pride.



Points mean prizes



Our attendance push has continued throughout the term, and we have seen some brilliant results. Students have been working hard to improve

their attendance, earn extra points, and claim some well-deserved prizes.

Every day makes a difference. Keep it up!

[Trips, trips, trips](#)

Students have enjoyed a fantastic range of cultural capital and attendance reward trips this term.

Highlights have included:

HMS Belfast • VeloPark • South Bank • Hair and Beauty Nail Salon • Southend Beach

These visits have given students opportunities to explore new places, develop their skills and make some brilliant memories.

[Year 10 work experience](#)

We are incredibly proud of our Year 10 students, who received fantastic feedback during their work experience placements. Students explored a range of careers, including plumbing, childcare and cheffing, and were praised for their maturity, attitude and hard work. Several students were offered further opportunities, and one student already has an apprenticeship lined up!

A brilliant first step into the world of work. Well done, Year 10.

Football Mania

There were plenty of tired faces following the Arsenal parade, but also lots of reasons to celebrate. Students have continued to enjoy their weekly football sessions with Arsenal, while football fever has also taken over during the World Cup.

We were even honored to welcome the Arsenal trophy to our Year 11 celebration. It arrived with its own bodyguard and was very popular with our proud Arsenal supporters, who made sure to take plenty of selfies.



Well done, Chloe!

We are extremely proud of our student Chloe, who has been selected to be an Arsenal ball girl. This fantastic opportunity is a credit to her hard work, commitment and brilliant personality.

Very well deserved. Congratulations, Chloe!

Goodbye, Year 11 🤝

We said a fond farewell to our Year 11 students at a wonderful celebration filled with smiles, happy tears and certificates of exceptional achievement.

Students, families, professionals and staff came together to recognise everything our Year 11s have accomplished.

We are so proud of you and excited to see what you go on to achieve next.



Fun in the sun



Our end-of-year BBQ is always a highlight, and the sunshine certainly came out for us during the third heatwave of the year. Students enjoyed delicious food, games, music and an exhibition of artwork created throughout the year. It was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate our students, say a fond farewell and talk about our exciting plans for September.

Farewell and thank you 🤝

This term, we are saying goodbye to three fantastic members of staff:

Marek - our Maths maternity cover^[L]_[SEP]

Brian - our finance aficionado^[L]_[SEP]

Dorrienne - our brilliant interim receptionist

Thank you for your hard work, commitment, and everything you have contributed to New River College.

You will all be greatly missed, and we wish you every success for the future.

A warm welcome

We are delighted to welcome our new Co Head of Centre, **Sam Marcus**, who will be joining us in September.

We look forward to working with Sam and welcoming him to the New River College community.

Important September dates

- **Wednesday 2 September:** INSET day
- **Thursday 3 September:** Structured Conversations
- **Friday 4 September:** Team-building trip

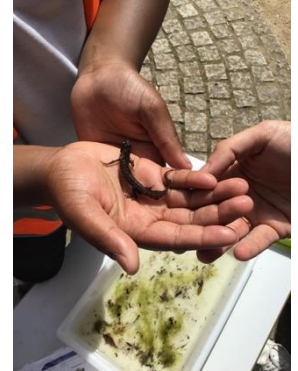
Further information about the start of term will be shared with families.

Have a fantastic summer!

Thank you to all our students, families, staff and professionals for your continued support throughout the year.

We look forward to seeing everyone again in September.

PRIMARY



Gobi Class

Gobi class have worked so hard, not only over the last term but throughout the whole academic year. They have grown in resilience, confidence and independence. The whole Gobi Team are so proud of everything the class have achieved.

In Science, we've continued spending time getting hands-on with our learning. We've carried out lots of practical experiments, used data loggers to collect information and built our own electrical circuits. Everyone has become more confident in testing ideas and explaining their thinking.



Our English has linked closely with our Topic, World War II. After learning all about the experiences of evacuees and life during the war, the class wrote their own newspaper reports. I was so impressed with how they used everything they'd used a range of language features and demonstrated independence with their punctuation.

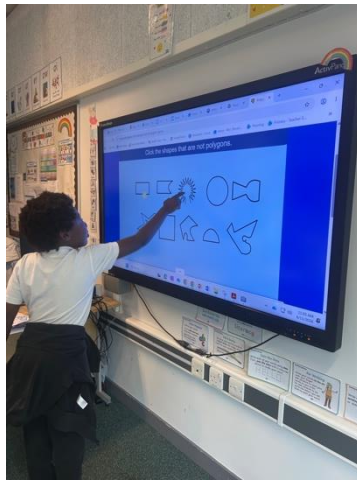
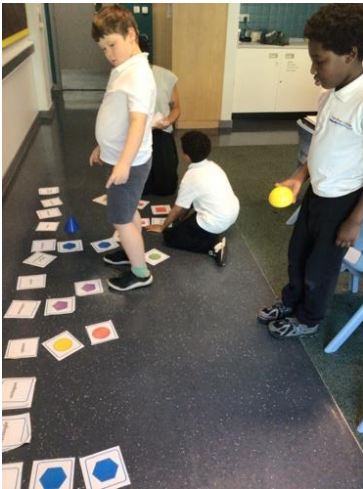
Cooking has been one of the highlights of the term! We've made paneer tikka, stir fry, homemade pizzas, sushi and ramen. It's been lovely watching everyone become more confident in the kitchen, try foods they might not normally choose and of course helping to tidy away, too!

In Maths, we've been focusing on statistics, shape, money and time to consolidate the school year. Everyone has worked hard and shown real perseverance, especially when tackling some of the trickier problem-solving activities.



To finish the term, we're really looking forward to celebrating all the hard work the class has put into achieving their Personal Development targets by going out together for a class meal. It feels like a really special way to end the year and celebrate everything they've achieved.

Thank you, families and carers, for all your support throughout the year - it really does make a difference! I hope everyone has a restful summer and I look forward to seeing you all in September.



Sahara Class

Summer term has been busy in Sahara class! The children have worked incredibly hard and should be very proud of all they have achieved. They have enjoyed lots of exciting trips this term, individually and in small groups including climbing, swimming, cinema, BMXing, Go Ape, and many more. Here are some highlights from our learning across the curriculum:



Art

Primary pupils continue to explore clay, and their creativity is honestly unmatched. Most recently, we have seen a functioning toaster, ceramic numbers and some beautiful cartoon-inspired animal pots. Every week seems to bring something even more unexpected.



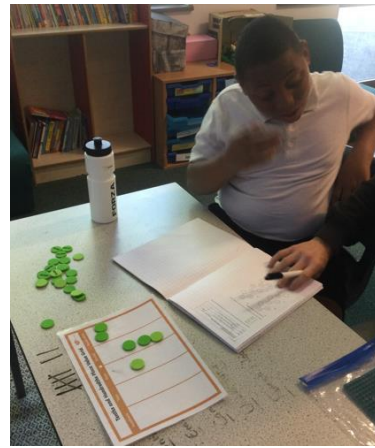
English

This term, we have been inspired by 'The Lost Thing'. The children have explored the story in depth and used it as a springboard for their own writing. They have written some fantastic story innovations. We were particularly impressed with their use of inverted commas for speech and relative clauses.



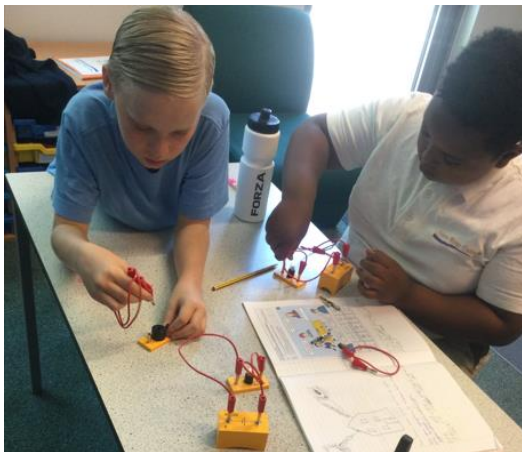
Math's

In math's, we have focused on statistics, developing our skills in reading a variety of bar, charts and graphs as well as interpreting the information we were able to get from them. The children have really enjoyed using all of the manipulatives. More recently, we have begun exploring shapes, with a focus on angles. These children are working hard to develop their skill of measuring angles accurately using a protractor.



Science

This term in Science, we have been consolidating all the things we have learnt. The children have explored electricity, forces, and light. They have been recapping previous learning and have shown a good understanding of the different concepts. The children have been working hard on their ability to work as a scientist and have been planning their own experiments, making predictions and recording their findings.



Topic

In Topic, we have been learning all about Vikings. The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the Viking soldiers and how sneaky they could be and finding out more about King Alfred. The children got very creative and have been making their own Viking long boats and papier mache Viking helmets.



As the Summer holidays approach, we will be saying goodbye to all our Year 6 students. We wish them a successful transition into their secondary schools and look forward to hearing how they are all settling in.

Thank you for all of your support this year. Have a restful summer break.

The Sahara Class Team

Thank you!

We will be saying goodbye to Louis, who has been supporting pupils at primary for the last few months. We wish Louis well in his next step!

A big thank-you to all parents and carers this year. Your attendance at school events such as the reading mornings, end of term assemblies and structured conversations is appreciated!

We wish all of our families a wonderful summer and we will see you in September!

MEDICAL

The Class of 2026



Students in year 11 have now completed their final examinations. We would like to congratulate every student in Year 11 for the progress they have made this year. Whether it is sitting an exam, or achieving a specific grade in order to secure a place in a post 16 college. All students should be congratulated. In June we said goodbye to our year 11's. This was an emotional day. We gave the students their NRC hoodies and gifts they had chosen. Thank you to Aymen and Vio for delivering such heartfelt speeches from their time at NRCM.



We wish them the best of luck when they collect their results in August.
Results can be collected at our Lough Road site from;

10 am on Thursday 20th August

At Lough Road, Secondary School



Chessington World of Adventures



Students at Medical chose to go to Chessington on Monday for their end of term reward trip. We all jumped in the minibus on a very warm day armed with sunscreen and plenty of snacks. The students chose their rides to go on and screams could be heard from afar. By the time we returned home in

the minibus all that could be heard was the sound of snoring, as almost every one fell asleep. Luckily Helen stayed awake to drive the minibus. We can't wait to start planning our trip for next year.



World of Work Week

KS3 and Yr10 students will be celebrating the Work Experience and World of Work through a range of onsite workshops running throughout the week. Yr10 students were also given the opportunity to attend work experience placements/visits.

Below you can see the range of both onsite workshops and visits on the work place



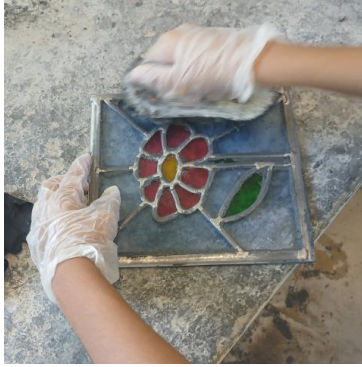
KS3 and Yr 10 work shops



Work Experience visits



Yr 10 Glass Cutting Workshop



Jack Petchey



The students have been busy nominating each other for good deeds recognized by each other and characteristics that are recognized by the students themselves. Throughout the year we have been able to purchase theatre tickets, sports equipment,

garden games and an SLR camera. The big favorite from the students has been the basketball post. This has been a great way for students to work as part of a team and build friendships across the school.

This term we would like to congratulate Talullah and Alfie who have both been nominated for a Jack Petchey certificate. Both students have been recognized by their peers as being kind and respectful. Well done both, this is a great achievement.

Brook Visit

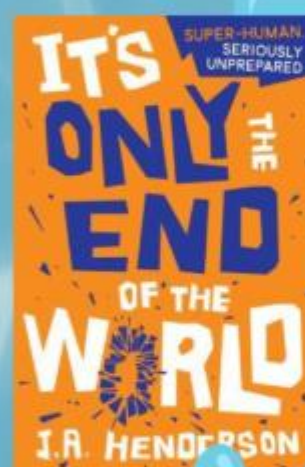


We were delighted to have Brook visit school to run workshops for our students based on Healthy relationship. They came in to deliver two sessions to KS3, year 10 and year 11. The first was on sexual health: the different types of contraception available and understanding the risks of STIs. The second was about consent and what this looks like in a healthy relationship. Students engaged well with the workshops and showed maturity; they asked questions, got involved in discussions and applied their learning to scenarios.

Reading for pleasure at Medical

Our Reading for Pleasure initiative continues to inspire students to discover books they enjoy. A new batch of books has recently been distributed, and it has been fantastic to hear students discussing their latest reads and recommending books to one another in the library. We encourage all students to keep reading at home and over the summer holidays to maintain their reading habits and discover even more great books.

DIVE INTO A GOOD BOOK THIS Summer



Art at NRC

Medical & Secondary:

This term, Year 11 completed their final 10-hour exam and produced some phenomenally detailed and meaningful final pieces. They also handed over two years of hard work in the form of their coursework and are now waiting for their very well-earned results in September.



Year 10's have since had the class to themselves and have been busy focusing on their individual project themes, refining ideas and developing their work beautifully. We have seen detailed gouache drawings, large-scale splatter paintings, expressive ink work, new realms of surreal art and, as always, more cats. We really cannot seem to stop with the cats.

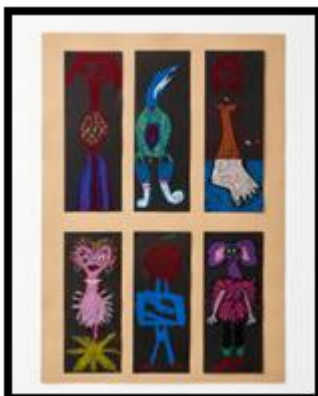


We also had the pleasure of displaying all of this hard work at the end-of-year celebrations at both Medical and Secondary. Year 11 work took pride of place, alongside an abundance of KS3 and Year 10 pieces showing fantastic skill, engagement and promise.

At Medical, KS3 have been focusing brilliantly on their culture project, exploring the idea of feeling

alien through surreal collage and drawing, creating large-scale clay pots inspired by Grayson Perry and exploring their own cultural identities. Some students even came along to after-school club to complete their beautiful clay masterpieces.

At Secondary, KS3 created a stunning giant papier-mâché flower vase as a collaboration and explored 'feeling alien' through some fantastic surreal collages of staff. More recently, they have shown real skill in colour blending, sculpture and fine-line drawing. We are definitely seeing lots of budding GCSE Art students coming up through the ranks.



Food Tech Room Updates



This term KS3 have made chocolate muffins, omelets, pizza, pancakes, humus, apple and pumpkin pie, potato salad, bruschetta and halloumi parcels.

We have practiced weighing, whisking, blending, rolling, boiling, baking and chopping. And we have learnt new skills, such as folding, measuring and dicing.

KS3 enjoy cooking and are really open to trying new foods.



KS3 Pottery workshop



Key Stage 3 students have been busy developing their pottery skills this term. One of the highlights has been learning how to use the pottery wheel. Although it has been a challenging skill to master, students have shown great perseverance and have produced some fantastic results. They have also been exploring a range of painting and decorating techniques to bring their creations to life. It has been wonderful to see such enthusiasm and engagement throughout the project.



Staffing News and Dates for your Diary

There are no changes of staffing this term.

Autumn Term Dates

Structured Conversation – Thursday 3rd September

First day of Lessons for students– Friday 4th September

Half Term Monday 26th – Friday 30th October

Last Day of Term Friday 17th December 1pm.

Requesting Time Off for your child

Should your child require time off school for any reason.

Please contact victoria.lizarazo@nrc.islington.sch.uk, and make a request in writing.

You will then be expected to attend a meeting with the Executive Headteacher, Nigel Smith. He will discuss the request with you and decide on how to authorise the request.

Please note

Any unapproved absence will be marked as unauthorised and is subject to a possible fine in line with the Islington absence policy.

NPCC Helpline.

An estimated 1 in 20 children have experienced sexual abuse. And child sexual abuse is under-reported by adults. It's time for that to change.

It's never too soon to talk to us. And what you share could make a life-changing difference to a child.

You can contact the NSPCC Helpline by [calling 0808 800 5000](tel:08088005000), [emailing help@NSPCC.org.uk](mailto:help@NSPCC.org.uk) or [completing our report abuse online form](#).

Our voice Helpline is currently available **10am–4pm Monday to Friday**. You can still [email help@NSPCC.org.uk](mailto:help@NSPCC.org.uk) or [complete our report abuse online form](#) at any time for free. You don't have to say who you are.

If you think a child is in immediate danger, please [call the police on 999](#) straight away



We are the department for opportunity

Great British Summer Savings

Rising prices can make life's little treats harder to afford, especially during the school holidays when costs build up for families. This Government is determined to help, and that is why last month the Chancellor announced the *Great British Summer Savings* scheme.

From 25 June to 1 September 2026, the Government is temporarily cutting VAT from 20% to 5% on children's meals in restaurants, children and family tickets to cinemas, theatres, concerts and exhibitions, and admission to a wide range of attractions. Combined with free bus travel during August for children aged 5 to 15 in England, families and young people will be able to enjoy experiences that make summer special, including visits to the kinds of cultural and educational attractions that enrich children's lives outside the classroom.

The public are ready to get behind the scheme and are keen to take advantage of the discounts available. As trusted pillars of their communities, schools play a vital role in connecting families with important information.

We need you to help spread the word. So please share details of the *Great British Summer Savings* scheme through your newsletters, school apps, and other communications to parents and carers, so that the families in your school community know about the experiences they can enjoy this summer for less.

This forms part of a broader effort by the Government to ease financial pressures on families. From ending the two-child limit and expanding free school meals, to rolling out free breakfast clubs and delivering 30 hours of free childcare, this Government is taking action to put more money back into parents' pockets and give every child the best possible start in life.

As part of this campaign, we have launched an **attraction finder** website which allows families to type in their postcode and find participating venues near them to make the most of summer savings. To use the attraction finder, please visit <https://summersavings.gov.uk>.

Businesses can find out more about the VAT reduction by visiting GOV.UK and searching 'Temporary reduced rate of VAT for family attractions'.

Yours sincerely,

RT HON BRIDGET PHILLIPSON MP
Secretary of State for Education



**Department
for Education**

Holiday information and activities from Islington and the

NRC Family Support Team

Meet our Team



Pam – Educational Support Practitioner

I'm Pam, recently appointed as an Educational Support Practitioner at New River College, supporting students and families. I have many years of experience working with young people across a range of settings and am passionate about helping them develop skills, confidence, and independence so they can thrive and succeed. Outside of work, I enjoy cooking, reading, spending time with family and friends, and being creative through art, music, and drama.

Dee – Family Support Practitioner

Hello, I'm Dee. I have worked with families for 15 years, including the last 4 years at NRC. I understand family life can sometimes feel overwhelming, and my role is to work alongside you to find ways forward that feel right for your family.

I am trained in Non-Violent Resistance (NVR), supporting families where behaviour feels challenging. I can also help connect you with community, health, and wellbeing services.

I enjoy helping families recognise their strengths and build confidence. Outside work, I'm a football fan, a busy parent, and enjoy baking and self-care when I can!



Paul – Senior Practitioner



Hi, I'm Paul, Senior Practitioner in the NRC Family Support Team. Since 2020, I've helped develop our Family Support offer into a flexible and accessible service. My background includes working with adolescents and families in residential, outreach, and edge-of-care settings. As a trained counsellor, I value communication and creating space for people to make sense of life's challenges. In my spare time, I enjoy travel, art, films, reading, and hearing people's stories.

Family Support Team – How We Can Help

Our team supports young people and families who may be finding things difficult at home, offering Early Help without the need for Social Services involvement.

We provide flexible support, including phone calls, one-to-one sessions, or family meetings—based on what works best for you. We offer a listening, non-judgemental approach, practical advice, emotional support, and help connecting to community services.

We also work closely with NRC staff to ensure the right support is in place, including during transitions, school holidays, or challenging times.

Our goal is to help make home life more manageable, improve wellbeing, and support families to feel confident and supported.

To speak to anyone one of us, please call New River College on 0207 504 0534.

UNDERSTANDING ME

A GROUP FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE AUTISTIC AND/OR ADHD
BROUGHT TO YOU BY CAMHS AND SOAPBOX



This group is for young people age 12 - 16 who are autistic and/or ADHD to find out more about neurodivergence, connect with other young people and try out some of Soapbox's activities including virtual reality, 3D printing, a driving simulator and digital content creation!

HOW TO SIGN UP

To sign up, **please email your name and age to: whh-tr.camhsgroups@nhs.net** and you will be contacted when the next group has been arranged. One of our team members will give you/your parent/carers a call to answer any questions and start to find out what you're interested in!

The sessions will be held at: Soapbox, 69 - 85 Old Street, London, EC1V 9HX

PLEASE ATTEND EVERY SESSION, YOUR PRESENCE MAKES A DIFFERENCE!





Get free family meal boxes this summer

We're offering Islington residents the chance to get free meal boxes between June and August. Each box contains the ingredients and an easy-to-cook recipe for a delicious meal, which will feed 4-6 people.

Just scan the code to sign up to our list, then we'll email you when boxes are ready for collection from the Priory Green Estate.

We're looking forward to sharing them with you.



COOK
FOR GOOD

www.cookforgood.uk

Children's Services Contact Team (CSCT), Children's Social Care

The Children's Services Contact Team (CSCT) is the single point of contact for all services for children, young people, and families in Islington who may need extra help and support.

If you are worried about a child, please phone CSCT first:

- 020 7527 7400

The services we offer include:

- Family support in the community through
- Support for children and young people who are at risk of getting involved in gangs, anti-social behaviour or crime
- Health and mental health services
- Children's Social Care - services to protect and safeguard vulnerable children.

Children and young people missing from home

If you're thinking of running away from home or you know someone who is, call the Children's Services Contact Team on 020 7527 7400 to speak to someone who will listen and can help.

If you are the parent or carer of a young person who has gone missing, call the Metropolitan Police Missing Persons line on 0759 500 4082.

info@kickbackproject.co.uk



Family Funday



FUNDRAISER, WHERE THE FUN BEGINS

Join us for an unforgettable Family Fun Day filled with games, live music, great food and fun for all ages. Spend time together, meet your community and make memories that will last a lifetime.

11:00 AM - 17:00 PM

Friday 7th August
2026



Finsbury Park
N4 1EE

LOCATION: FINSBURY PARK ATHLETICS TRACK

Scan the QR code to book your free ticket on Eventbrite.
Get a FREE burger and drink on arrival.(One per ticket.)



Fun games
prizes & stalls



Face painting
bouncing castles



BBQ & Delicious
Food

FREE ENTRY

OPEN FOR ALL AGES

Sign up with your email to receive event updates and reminders.



