



Newham Collegiate Sixth Form Centre

A specialist centre for Science and Mathematics

July 2015 Issue No 6

A Fantastic First Year at the NCS

As we come to the close of our first year at the NCS, it is a good time to look back at what progress has been made. So much has happened since that sunny September day last year when the NCS opened up with the promise of providing outstanding A Level education and opportunities for its first cohort of students.

There have been many highlights and successes to look back on; our Induction day at Cambridge University, the exceptional programme of enrichment opportunities that have helped our students build unrivalled CVs, the independent judgement of a lead Ofsted inspector who declared the NCS 'Outstanding' in all categories, our strategic partnership with UCL giving our staff and student access to opportunities at one of the world's leading universities, an exceptional programme of lecturers by some of the country's leading speakers and great learning activities such as Science Week, The Maths Society's activities, Bioweek, our trip to the European Parliament and our Super Curriculum, giving students a real taste of degree style learning.



"YOU HAVE PROBABLY HEARD MR ISMAIL TALK ABOUT THE QUALITY OF TEACHING BEING ONE OF THE KEY STRENGTHS OF THE NCS AND I CAN DEFINITELY VOUCH FOR THIS HAVING EXPERIENCED TWO VERY DIFFERENT LEARNING INSTITUTIONS THE TEACHERS AT THE NCS ARE EXPERTS IN THEIR SUBJECT AND COME WITH A TRACK RECORD OF A LEVEL SUCCESS. THEY REALLY DO PROVIDE YOU WITH THE TOOLS YOU NEED TO SUCCEED."



Ashna

"The remarkable relationship between teachers and students has been a genuine partnership and the foundation of our present and future success."

A Year to remember and celebrate!



“My favourite part about studying at the NCS is the fact that I am in the company of some of the brightest individuals in Newham...”

Azim (Ex Stratford Academy)

However, perhaps the most satisfying aspect of our first year at the NCS has been the continued outstanding quality of what happens, day on day, in our classrooms and laboratories. Our A-level teaching and learning has been consistently excellent across all subjects, and the remarkable relationship between teachers and students has been a genuine partnership and the foundation of our present and future success. The atmosphere that has been created at the NCS is one where learning is enjoyed and valued, ambition and success are celebrated, talented students have been stretched and challenged beyond A Level, but support has always been there for those who need it. It has indeed been a quite exceptional first year by any measure.

“The atmosphere that has been created... is one where learning is enjoyed and valued...”

We know that the results of our first AS examinations this summer are absolutely crucial in order to help our students achieve their hopes and aspirations next year. Our students were really well prepared, they showed tremendous commitment and dedication and their teachers could not have done more to help them succeed, so we look forward with great confidence to the results in August.

Below: NCS students have enjoyed various learning activities in the year.



Perhaps the best people to make judgements on how the NCS has done are our students. We will always be grateful to our first cohort who put their trust in us. We recently asked our students what they thought about their first year at the NCS and share their responses with you throughout this newsletter.



“All my teachers cater to my individual learning needs, ensuring that I can always contact them for support in various ways at all times.”

Mazeda (Ex Sarah Bonnell)

SEPTEMBER 2015: THE NEXT GENERATION!

We have been delighted with the number of students who have applied to join us in September. We recently held our Subject taster days for those students who we anticipate will be joining us; we already see them as part of the growing NCS family and we are absolutely committed to and focussed on their future success.

An important reminder to those students who have been made an offer of a place - keep checking your own special website (www.welcome.thencs.co.uk), as we are constantly adding new content that will help prepare you for September. We look forward to seeing you again on Enrolment Day on 20th August (see our website for details of enrolment times)

Induction 2015: Last year we marked the opening of the NCS by taking all our students to Cambridge University. This year, we are all off to... Oxford, to visit the UK's second great University city, tour the colleges and superb buildings, meet key admissions staff, and our students will attend subject Masterclasses prepared just for new NCS students. It will be a great start to the NCS year and we wish to warmly thank Oxford University for offering us this excellent opportunity.

Outstanding Teachers: Ready to help you succeed

We are really pleased to report that we are fully staffed for September 2015. Our current A-Level experts will be staying with us, and they will be joined by some outstanding new staff who have a great track record of A Level teaching and achieving success for their students. Just two examples of the quality of the teachers joining us are new Maths teachers, Mr. Edwards, and English teacher Ms Marchione. You can find profiles of them, and other new colleagues, on our website. At the NCS all our staff profiles are available to you on our usual website (www.thencs.co.uk).



“With the best possible facilities...the NCS provides the ideal learning environment without a doubt.”

Tayyiba (Ex Plashet School)



Above: NCS students with Lord Mervyn King, Mr M Ismail (Principal) and Ms A Lomax (Deputy Principal)

Life and learning at the NCS remain as exciting as ever. Even in the last few weeks of the year there has been no let up in the opportunities our students are enjoying. A recent special highlight was the visit of Lord Mervyn King, former Governor of the Bank of England, who spoke to students about key national and international financial policy (including the current crisis in Greece) and issues facing the global economy. This was a brilliant lecture for our Economics, Politics and History students and we thank Lord King for giving us his valuable time. Do try and read our student blog (Kiesha, ex Langdon Academy) on his visit and talk.

No let up in high quality opportunities - only the best for the NCS!

UCL's Dr. Ben Collen recently spoke to Science students about his research project looking at changes in global biodiversity and Dr Natalie Quinn from Oxford University visited the NCS to talk about her international experiences and work looking at poverty and wellbeing in developing countries. Meanwhile our Physicists visited the Royal Society Summer Exhibition for an inspirational look at the cutting edge science and technology that is shaping the modern world. We were also delighted to welcome the team from the prestigious Westminster School for an inter-collegiate debate on lowering the voting age, with our expert debate team. This was an excellent occasion, chaired superbly by our own Zereena Arshad (ex-Forest Gate School) and we would like to send our best wishes to our new friends at Westminster School.

SO YOU WANT TO BE A DOCTOR?

As any aspiring doctor will know the Bmat / UKCat tests are absolutely essential in gaining university entrance (most students will have a minimum of 3As at A level, so these really make the difference).

To give our NCS Medics a competitive edge we have been providing high quality preparation, focussing on the specific demands of these tests. One of the great advantages for student attending the NCS is that they have access to successful young professionals who know exactly what lies ahead for them.

“ When it comes to degree learning, our students will be ready. ”



Pictured Above: NCS debate team at Westminster School, debating on lowering the voting age, chaired by NCS student Zereena Arshad .

Our NCS Ambassador network numbers more than 40 highly successful local people including a number who are either currently studying Medicine or have already graduated as doctors, and they are really keen to help NCS students to do the same. We are particularly grateful to NCS Ambassadors Steph Matthews and Komal Verma both in their 3rd Year of Medical degrees, who have been coming in recently to work on Bmat/ UKCat preparation with our students.

“What struck me most about the NCS is the sheer amount of like-minded people you meet. Bid farewell to all superfluous distractions. The NCS evokes a compelling ethos in which we as young adults can thrive.” Paul (Ex Little Ilford School)



“To give our NCS Medics a competitive edge we have been providing high quality preparation, focussing on the specific demands of Bmat/UKCat tests. ”



OXBRIDGE ADVICE, FROM SOMEONE WHO REALLY KNOWS!

We were delighted to welcome Mike Nicholson, former Director of Undergraduate Admissions at Oxford University to the NCS. Mr Nicholson met our students for a very practical and helpful session on how to apply to Oxbridge, giving students excellent tips and advice for their applications. Mr. Nicholson advised on which subjects and Colleges to consider at both Oxford and Cambridge, what to include (and not to include!) in Personal Statements and how to best prepare for the various Oxbridge entrance tests.

He provided invaluable insight into how the great universities select their undergraduates and, most importantly, what NCS students could do to maximise their chances of entry. Finally, Mr Nicholson gave our students great advice on how they can prepare themselves for their Oxbridge interviews, even running an 'on the spot' mock interview with some of the students.

Mike Nicholson, former Director of Undergraduate Admissions at Oxford University visits the NCS.

"An obvious pre-exam highlight was Science week when our team of Science teachers put on a range of activities."



Oxford University

"I feel as though the vision of the NCS transcends the average sixth form. Teachers work tirelessly to elevate us intellectually, whilst at the same time developing our characters in a nurturing and vibrant environment in which you have no choice but to excel!"

Zereena (Ex Forest Gate Community School)



“Our Maths students have been so excited by these opportunities that they have created their own blog of Maths opportunities.”

SCIENCE WEEK: GREAT BALLS OF FIRE!

An obvious pre-exam highlight was Science week when our team of Science teachers put on a range of activities. This included practical sessions such as the Raspberry Pi workshop in Physics, Fire writing in Creative Chemistry and the always popular rat dissections tutorials in Biology!

The Science Gladiators competition was great fun and the more artistic took part in an Art Attack, whilst the Student Science Fete was popular with all. Students enjoyed some excellent lectures; Dr. Adam Roberts from UCL presented on “Antibiotic Resistance”, and Professor John Nicholson’s lecture on “Molecules and Murder” gave students a fascinating insight into forensic study. However, the most spectacular event of the week was the final session, the “Explosive Science Show” run by the NCS’ own Science team which ended with teachers juggling with fire balls! Many thanks to all our teachers and technicians for a truly memorable week.

It All Adds Up To Exciting Maths!

It has also been a busy time for the NCS mathematicians. Dr Luciano Rila from UCL followed up his earlier lectures on the Gradient Function by delivering an advanced masterclass for our Maths Society on Curve Sketching. Our students attended stimulating lectures by Cedric Villani at the Royal Institution on ‘How a Theorem is born’ and at UCL on ‘Puzzles and Paradoxes’ by Professor Tony Green.

Attending a lecture on ‘Mathematics for the Masses’ by the famous Marcus du Sautoy was a highlight for the NCS Maths Society and led to a visit to the NCS from 2 Oxford undergraduates, ‘the Mathemagicians’ which presented our students with all manner of mathematical challenges, and lots of chocolate!

Our Maths students have been so excited by these opportunities that they have created their own blog of Maths opportunities at the NCS which can be viewed at <https://ncs6mathssociety.wordpress.com/>.





LEGAL EAGLES FLY HIGH

Finally, our budding Lawyers have been busy, with a session on Discrimination Law from an eminent barrister and involvement in the Law Debates at Westminster School. They have also been receiving intense legal training from barristers from leading London Chambers through the 'Your Law' scheme, involving areas of law such as Human Rights, Police Powers, Criminal Law and Negligence and Contract. Our students are now submitting essays on a particular area and will present their findings to high profile barristers at Gray's Inn towards the end of July.

Joining the NCS: What happens next?

We believe that the jump between GCSE and A Level is a significant one, even for the brightest students, so we intend to help our new potential students prepare for this. On our own special website for new students (www.welcome.thencs.co.uk) we are posting regular updates on subject reading lists, blogs from our current students, information on activities at the NCS, profiles of new NCS teachers, advice on preparing for university and careers from our NCS Ambassadors, and many other topics which we hope you will find helpful. Let us know what you think – your feedback is always welcome.

The date for NCS Enrolment is **Thursday 20th August** (GCSE results day). All Enrolment details, including specific times, are available on the website. As ever, if you have any queries or questions please contact either the Principal, Mr. Ismail on mismail@ncs6.org, or Mr Hayes, Director of Student Recruitment on dhayes@ncs6.org. We enjoy hearing from new students and will ensure that we get back to you as quickly as possible.

Good luck with your exam results! We look forward to meeting you again at Enrolment.

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