

HEADMASTER'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN TERM WEEK 6
10TH OCTOBER, 2025



Dear Parents

I write to you today having just concluded a busy and vibrant Open Morning, our first of the academic year, where we welcomed lots of prospective families to the School. Most of our families who visited today came with view to joining either Nursery or Reception for the next academic year and it was a pleasure, as always, for our pupils to tour them around the School to see all that makes up a Town Close education. It was a poignant moment for myself, one year on from my first Open Morning at the School, and a welcome opportunity to reflect on the successes from last year and our ambitions for the future of Town Close. I was so pleased that we were finally able to share the good news from our recent ISI inspection, particularly in terms of our 'significant strength' for the way that the values of 'The Town Close Way' are embedded into daily school life. If you haven't yet had a chance to look at the report or our highlights from it, then please do take a look [here](#).

It has, as ever, been a busy week at Town Close and Monday kicked off the week with a visit from Ellen Affleck of the Good Schools Guide and author Brían Dungan. Brían spoke to our Year 6, 7, and 8 pupils about his action-packed books: 'Wintour's Game' & 'Wintour's Fate'. We were thrilled that pupils from Charles Darwin Primary, Northgate High School and Edith Cavell Academy could join us for the morning. Staying on a book related theme; this week, thanks to the incredible imagination and creativity of Mrs Guymer, our Library has been transformed into the hallway of 4 Privet Drive, with our children having the thrilling opportunity to experience Harry Potter's bedroom / cupboard under the stairs for themselves! Conforming to the 'Under the Stairs' rules of only 2 muggles at a time and only sitting (no jumping) on the bed, our children thoroughly enjoyed the magic of reading in this fantastic space. They celebrated Harry Potter Book Day, with Mrs Guymer leading a Harry Potter themed pumpkin decorating craft at lunchtime.

Our Year 7 and 8 pupils ventured out to London on Tuesday on a fascinating trip linked to their work in Art, English and PSHE. Visiting the National Gallery in the morning, the children were introduced to a number of incredible paintings, including Titian's famous oil painting 'Bacchus & Ariadne'. In the afternoon, they walked up Whitehall to the Houses of Parliament, taking part in a law-making workshop before enjoying a guided tour of Westminster Hall, the Central Lobby, The House of Commons Chamber and The House of Lords Chamber. It was a wonderful afternoon that served to enrich their learning about the history, heritage and workings of UK Parliament.

Our own pupil leaders were also busy this week with School Council meeting another local charity, the Benjamin Foundation. With one further charity still to meet we hope to be able to share the School's selected charity soon. Our Eco-Council, with representatives across the ages, met this week with Mr Smith to discuss The Royal Society project and their involvement in attracting more wildlife to our School site, as well as to talk about their regular initiatives that include litter picking, pond clearance and attending to the School's Green Johannas.

Further highlights of the week included stumbling upon Year 1 Lime Tree Class who were busy working in the Outdoor Classroom earlier in the week creating some beautiful fabric art using the 'hapa zome' technique, a Japanese method of creating art by pounding plant materials with a hammer or heavy object to transfer their natural pigments onto fabric or paper. In the ever-popular Science Club this week, Ms Gallacher challenged our budding engineers to design and construct a bridge that would be capable of holding the weight of a pair of goggles without breaking or collapsing. I also very much enjoyed getting over to the Astro to cheer on our Under 13 girls in two hockey victories against Framlingham College, which in turn will hopefully have acted as good preparation for IAPS today – good luck girls! Finally, it was great to be able to enjoy the first Informal Soloists' Concert of the year with pupils from Years 3 – 8 putting on a very entertaining concert with some wonderfully confident performances.

I hope that you all have a lovely weekend ahead of the final week of this half-term and good luck to our F24 Team at Goodwood.



SAVE THE DATE - TUESDAY 11TH NOV



We are delighted to invite you to a very special event designed to support families in the world of youth sport.

Richard Shorter, widely known as The Non-Perfect Dad, has worked with England Rugby, England Cricket, and some of the UK's leading schools, helping families and coaches create environments where young people thrive- not through perfection, but through connection.

In a world where the pressures of sport, school, and life seem greater than ever, Richard offers a refreshing, honest, and often humorous take on how parents can:

- ✓ Support their child's development both on and off the field
- ✓ Balance encouragement with realistic expectations
- ✓ Build character and resilience through calm, constructive conversations

Whether your child dreams of winning trophies or simply enjoys being active, this session will provide valuable tools to help you support them with confidence. There will be refreshments and time for informal questions at the end. We look forward to seeing you there.

Date: Tuesday 11th November

Provisional Time TBC: 6.00pm-7.30pm

Location: Read Hall

Parking: Main drive and Pre Prep playground

BULLETIN BOARD PRE PREP & PREP FRIENDLY REMINDERS

WRAP UP NORWICH

Following the success of the 'Wrap up Norwich' donations last year, we are pleased to once again support the campaign, which is run by the Rotary Club. The idea is to collect coats (men's, ladies' and children's) and give them to people who need them to keep warm in the winter.

From Monday 13th October we will have a box in the Prep Front Office, where you can donate clean coats in good condition, which you no longer need. We will only have the box for one week so please bring coats in by **Friday 17th October**.



HALF TERM SPORTS CAMPS

More information about Football, Tennis and Cricket camps taking place over half term, can be found on the posters within the newsletter.

TOWN CLOSE ASSOCIATION EVENT

Next month we will host our first Town Close Association event in London. Everyone associated with the school is welcome to join us, this includes parents. If you are a parent who is also an alumni, please do help us by passing this invitation on to your Town Close peers.

Date: Thursday 27th November

Venue: True House, 29 Buckingham Gate, London

Time: 6.00pm

RSVP: admissions@townclose.com

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Year 3 Parents' Evening

Thursday 16th October, from 5.00pm

Friday 17th October

Break up for half term

Please refer to the calendar on the Parent Portal for a full list of events and fixtures.

OPEN MORNING

Thank you and well done to all of our children today, who always represent Town Close so positively, with energy and enthusiasm. Take a glimpse of our [Open Morning here](#).

SCHOOL BLAZER

The School has a positive relationship with SchoolBlazer and has always found them to be responsive to any problems individual families might be experiencing. Please can we ask that you always let both the School and SchoolBlazer know if an item or clothing is not up to standard or deteriorates more quickly than you would expect. Anecdotally we have heard of a few problems with the children's track suits and are actively exploring other options with SchoolBlazer.

NEWS FROM THE PTA

UNIFORM SHOP- STOCK NEEDED

If you have any uniform at home we would be very pleased to rebuild our stocks and sell it for you. Please bring your uniform to the shop during opening times or leave in the Prep Front Office in a bag with your name. The labels for uniform you are wishing to sell rather than donate can be found on our [website here](#).

VIKING, CELT AND ROMAN COSTUME DONATIONS

A reminder that If you have Viking costumes that won't be needed again, or even Celt or Roman outfits from previous years, the PTA would love to take them as donations. The aim (if we can all make it work) is to offer pre-loved costumes for sale ahead of future themed days, to help parents source costumes sustainably and to raise money for the School Charity at the same time.

Donations can be brought in a bag to the PTA shop during opening hours, or dropped off at the Prep Reception.

MATCH REPORTS

HOCKEY

The U11A team enjoyed a Triangular Tournament against Framlingham and Ipswich. After a slow start the team fought back well, improving their tackling and linking passes together. Goals from Clara W and Joanie S rewarded their persistence. Against Ipswich, the girls played with more confidence and composure, using the width of the pitch effectively, passing quickly and creating more scoring chances. The game finished in a draw with goals from Georgia S and Joanie S. Elizabeth C was outstanding in defence, tirelessly tackling and clearing danger. Shreya B made several excellent saves in goal and showed great determination. Overall, a strong team effort with clear signs of improvement ahead of the IAPS next week, and POM was awarded to Georgia S. The U11B team enjoyed an excellent afternoon of hockey, showcasing both skill and teamwork across their matches. In their opening fixture against Framlingham College, they made an impressive start, quickly getting on the score sheet and maintaining their momentum throughout the game. By half-time, the team held a commanding 8–0 lead, allowing players the opportunity to rotate positions and gain valuable experience in different roles. The side continued to play with confidence and creativity in the second half, finishing with a superb 10–0 victory. In their second match of the afternoon, they faced a stronger Ipswich side. The team carried their confidence from the earlier game into this fixture, showing great teamwork and determination. Ipswich proved to be tougher opposition, but Town Close continued to play with pace and creativity. Some excellent passing moves led to well-taken goals, and the defence stayed organised throughout. Final winning score: 4 – 1. Player of the match was awarded to Charlotte L in both games.

The U13A's also played Framlingham this week. They started the stronger side and quickly took the lead with a goal from Annabelle H. Framlingham managed to equalise just before half time scrambling home a short corner. An end to end second half saw chances from both teams with Town Close taking the honours when Saskia T scored from a short corner. Another good performance from the A team, with POM awarded to Matilda C. The U13B team delivered a clean performance, securing a 5–0 victory in a dominant display of skill, teamwork, and determination. From the first whistle, the players controlled possession and applied relentless pressure on their opponents, creating numerous scoring opportunities. A key highlight of the match was the strong play down the wing from Coco S, whose pace, control, and intelligent positioning repeatedly opened up space in attack. Her crosses into the circle kept the opposition defence under constant strain and set up several of the team's goals from Sophie K, Isla Mc and Coco S. The midfield worked tirelessly to maintain momentum, while the defence remained organized and composed, ensuring a well-earned clean sheet. The team's communication and passing improved as the match went on, showing great development and confidence on the ball. Overall, this was a fantastic team effort — every player contributed to the win, demonstrating skill and teamwork. POM was awarded to both Isla Mc and Coco S.

RUGBY

Our Under 9 rugby teams returned to action at Main Field last Friday against Gresham's Prep. The A team played against well-drilled opposition with some strong runners. Despite losing by 5 tries to 7, it was an encouraging performance from our boys with Charlie G nominated as POM. Mr Taylor was impressed with the efforts of the B team in their contact match. Noah W received the POM award for his powerful attacking play in the 15-11 win. The C team drew 11-11 in an entertaining contest with both sides gaining in confidence with the ball in hand. Rupert J and Harvey L received the POM awards for their efforts in attack and defence.

We fielded six teams on Wednesday against Framlingham Prep and Norwich Lower School, with a number of players getting the opportunity to play their first competitive match of the season. The 1st team hosted a strong Framlingham Prep team at Main Field. Despite an excellent second-half performance, with much more grit and determination in evidence, we lost by 4 tries to 7. The team scored some well worked 'team' tries in the second period with Elias Y, Wolf and Ben S all leading the way with some strong attacking runs. The 2nd team match was a very tough affair indeed for the TCH boys against some quick and skilful opponents. Captain, Dexter W, gave his all and was awarded POM for his sterling efforts.

The Under 11A and B travelled to Brandeston for their matches. The A team were involved in a triangular fixture against Framlingham Prep and Ipswich High, winning both matches comfortably by 6-1 and 4-0. Beltran, Jack B and Theo S received POM awards from Mr Greenhall for their efforts over the course of the afternoon. Our weakened B team lost by 3-5 to Framlingham Prep and then drew 4-4 with Ipswich High. Yuvaan was awarded POM by Mr Parker for his determined play in both matches. The Under 10AB squad proved to be too strong for our opponents. Ralph J was in excellent form as the team ran in 10 unanswered tries before the players were mixed up to finish with a 'training' match. Ralph J was dominated POM.

Our Under 10 and Under 11 C teams travelled to Lower Close to play Norwich School, giving a number of boys the opportunity to play their first fixture of the term. The Year 6 boys were involved in an end-to-end encounter which finished 11 tries apiece. Ben S was in fine form, scoring 5 of the tries, and was awarded POM. The Year 5 boys found themselves playing against more experienced players and certainly endured a tough afternoon on the pitch. Nevertheless, Francis T-L tried very hard throughout the match and Mr Taylor awarded him the POM in recognition of his efforts.

We have a busy week of rugby ahead of the half-term break. The 1st team will be involved in a 'Blitz' festival at Redmayne which will involve playing both Prep and state schools in some short, quick-fire games. The Under 11A and B will head to Culford to participate in their annual festival, with our Under 10A and B teams heading to Lower Close to play Norwich Lower School. Our Under 8 boys will travel to the same venue to play tag rugby matches next Friday with our Under 9 boys in action at Main Field against Langley Prep that afternoon. Good luck to all involved!

FRIDAY 7TH NOVEMBER

FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR

**TICKETS 80% SOLD!
BOOK NOW!**

Townclosepta.co.uk

£10.50 a ticket
Under 3's free

Potash Farm, Potash Lane, NR14 8EY
Parking at Lotus Cars



5PM - 8PM (FIREWORK DISPLAY APPROX 6.45PM)





COMMUNITY
SPORTS
FOUNDATION

FOOTBALL CAMP



SCHOOL: Town Close School

SPORT: Football

DATE: Wednesday 22nd October

TIME: 10am - 3pm



Scan here to book or find out more

communitysportsfoundation.org.uk

Norwich City Community Sports Foundation, Norwich City FC, Carrow Road, Norwich, NR1 1JE | Registered charity number: 1088239





JUNIOR TENNIS CAMP

**Eaton Park
Heigham Park
East Anglia Tennis Club
Cringleford Tennis Club**

**28th – 31st October 2025
9:00–11:30am / 12:00–2:30pm**

5–15 years
Action packed holiday
camps with team
challenges, tennis skills,
games and prizes.



SCAN THE QR CODE
TO BOOK OR CLICK
ON THE
LINK BELOW

[HTTP://NATIONALTENNIS.ORG.UK/CAMPS/NORFOLK](http://nationaltennis.org.uk/camps/norfolk)

CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION -
HELLO@NATIONALTENNIS.ORG.UK



October Half Term Holiday Outdoor Cricket Clubs

At 'Hilltops' Lakenham Hewett RFC
Main Road Swardeston NR14 8DU

Tues 21st, Weds 22nd, Tues 28th and Weds 29th Oct 2025

For Years 2 upwards

£45 for one
day, £85 for
two days or
£40 a day for
three or more
days



Our Lead coach will be Mr. Neil Taylor.

Players of all levels and experience will have the opportunity to improve their technical skills in a fun environment.

Suitable for Years 2 to 10.

Those wishing to play hardball cricket will require their own kit, but it's not essential.

Pupils in Year 2 will play with softball cricket equipment, which will be provided.

Players should bring warm clothes, outdoor shoes, plenty of drinks and a packed lunch.

10am to 3pm, outdoors

Venue: 'Hilltops' Swardeston CC 2nd XI ground (not The Common)

At Lakenham Hewett RFC Main Road, Swardeston Norwich NR14 8DU

To book:

Go to www.taylormadecricket.com for full details of booking & payment.

Please submit the online form and pay online

Confirmation of place will be sent by email.

*Neil is also available for one to one cricket coaching sessions
Message him on 07761866572 for more details*



**St Peter Mancroft
Norwich**

Mancroft Choristers
rehearse after school
on Mondays and sing
for a Sunday service
usually twice a month,
and for special
occasions such as
Christmas and Easter

Choristers receive a
termly payment in
acknowledgement of
their commitment
and financial support
with learning an
instrument (totalling
up to £350 per child
per annum)

'BE A CHORISTER' AFTERNOON

Sunday 19th October, 2.30pm

**Children in Years 2 - 7 who enjoy
singing are invited to come along
to see what it's like being a
Chorister**

The afternoon will include:

**a fun singing session led by Director of
Music Jody James**

exploring the church

trying on Chorister robes

**singing with the Mancroft Choir
for a service at 5pm**

**No experience of singing in a choir
is necessary to take part**

**For more information
& to book a free place
please contact**

music@stpetermancroft.org.uk