



UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

16th - Mock Examinations
5th Mar:

27th: Open Morning Pre-Nursery, Nursery and Primary

MARCH

6th: Open Morning Years 7 and up

8-10th: Senior Art Exhibition

10th: Independence Day Celebration - Lunchtime Closure

11th: Public Holiday: Maha Shivaratri

12th: Public Holiday: Independence Day

16-19th School Photos

20th: Open Morning Years 5&6

23rd: Whole School Photo

25th: Parents Meeting - Years 11&13

30th: Interhouse Athletics - Middle Distance Events and Throws

31st: Parents' Consultation Day - Year 5&6

APRIL

1st: Interhouse Athletics - Tracks Events

2nd: End of Term 2 - Lunchtime Closure

5-16th: Easter break

9-13th: Office Closed

13th: Public Holiday: Ugadi

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2021



The start to Term 2 has been very eventful, and we have been fortunate to experience so many enjoyable opportunities for learning and engagement already this new year. It has been a great pleasure welcoming our new students and staff to Northfields and also celebrating our different cultures and talents together through a variety of activities and events.

We have also seen exciting improvements to our facilities through the refurbishment of our High School and Primary School libraries. These hubs of exploration and learning are now attracting more and more students, thanks to the outstanding vision and commitment of our Librarian and the many parent volunteers who have assisted in this project.

Our IB MYP authorisation visit in January has gone very smoothly, also thanks to the many contributions from our staff, students, parents and Board members. We are pleased with the progress the school has made through our MYP implementation so far, and we have enjoyed sharing our vision and practice with the visiting team. They were very complimentary of our school community, and we look forward to receiving more formal feedback from the IBO in the coming months.

It has been wonderful to see our students return in January with enthusiasm and determination to build on their progress over the first term. This is especially true of our examination candidates as they demonstrate their knowledge and understanding through the current mock examination session. We are impressed with the focused approach they are taking for these important assessments and encourage them to build on this experience through their preparations for final examinations in the third term.

I do hope that you enjoy reading this issue of our Newsletter, which highlights some of the enriching activities that have been happening around the school this term and add such valuable learning opportunities for our students together with their daily focus on academic lessons.

It is only through the creativity, talent and dedication of our outstanding staff and students and through the ongoing support of our parents and wider community that we are able to enjoy such a holistic approach to learning, so thank you all!



Phyllis Philogène
Principal

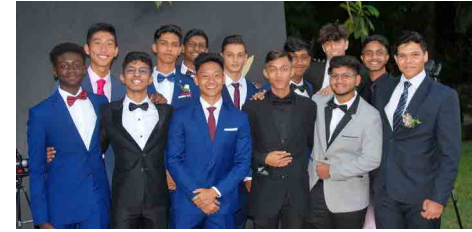
"We are pleased with the progress the school has made"

PROM

After dinner, guests took to the dance floor before the announcement of awards.

Prom Queen: Mary
Prom King: Solal
Prom Princess: Greta
Prom Prince: Musharraf
Best Dressed: Moosaa and Uliana
Best Couple: Marius and Kenza

Many thanks to our Prom Committee and to their parents for their support in organising this event.



On Saturday 30th January, Northfields hosted the annual Senior Prom organised by the Year 12 Prom Committee at La Demeure St Antoine. With the theme of Cannes, students and their guests walked the red carpet through the beautiful grounds to sip welcome drinks and enjoy snapping some memories in the photo booth.

ACTIVITY SESSIONS

Every Wednesday afternoon, Northfields students participate in organised activity sessions. At the beginning of each term, our students choose their preferred activity. Here are highlights if a few activities on offer this term.

sugar models. Models include teddies, figures, animals, flowers and other objects.

CHESS CLUB

The Chess Club has been a popular choice for our Wednesday Activity Session. It has been wonderful to see the students becoming involved in the game and enjoying friendly matches.



This activity is suitable for students who have an interest in baking, modelling/crafting and also those who wish to add something truly special to their baked goods.



Chess helps to develop children's critical thinking and reasoning, encourages them to plan ahead, and helps them to understand the consequence of actions. It also encourages problem-solving, sportsmanship and self-esteem. I look forward to this activity prospering in the future.

Students make best use of their creativity to produce and showcase their own masterpieces. They learn hands-on techniques to decorate cakes with fondant/icing and cream to make different decorations.

This creative activity helps to improve our students' skills and widen their personal interests, which in turn can make a valuable contribution towards the Duke of Edinburgh Project if participating.

CAKE DECORATION

In our cake decorating class, we use sugar paste (fondant), butter cream and fresh cream. Our sugar modelling is perfect for crafters or amateurs looking to create beautiful edible cake decorations including flowers, figures, animals and much more! In this activity students learn to use a variety of tools and techniques to create 2D and 3D



VISIT FROM JOURNALIST



The English Department were pleased to welcome award winning journalist Roshan Hassamal on Friday 5th February to work with Year 7 as part of their MYP unit 'Making The News'. Year 7 have been working on how news is made, language of the news, research and presentation skills.

Students listened attentively to a talk in which Mr Hassamal outlined his career highs, inspirations and how he works in a team to bring the news we see to life and why this is so important. He also shared some clips of his work. The students asked thoughtful questions concerning the skills needed to do his job and how he got into television.



They then had the chance to work in groups to produce news bulletins of their own; a task they approached with enthusiasm and admirable teamwork. It was a perfect opportunity to put all they had learnt to use in a real life context. We enjoyed some breaking news from Year 7 and Mr Hassamal was able to give expert advice to the students. Some students became a little star struck and asked for autographs. All left inspired and energised for their own projects.

Mr Hassamal was impressed with the students' knowledge and energy and hopes he has inspired the next generation of journalists. We would like to thank him and hope to welcome Mr Hassamal to Northfields in future. We would also like to thank Miss Green who organised this event, English teachers, facilities, IT and all staff involved in making this happen.



EVENTS

CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION



On Thursday 11th February, we celebrated Chinese New Year at Northfields. We had representatives from the Chintown Foundation speak to us about the festival and demonstrated the age-old art of Chinese calligraphy.



Our own talented students performed a traditional Chinese dance with a twist, played the violin and recited a poem.

To end the festivities, we had the lion dance troop come in and shower the blessings upon us.



GUEST SPEAKER

On the 8th of February, Mr. Chandra Kumar Gujadhur, a well-known and respected figure in the Business world, visited our school, where he gave the students an expose regarding a matter close to our local economy.

Mr. Gujadhur is the Co-founder and Chairman of Apex Mauritius which forms part of the Apex Group, one of the largest global financial services providers.

The talk provided great insight on the journey to being a successful businessman while also directly addressing topics such as the Covid-19 and the EU blacklist which is currently impacting the Mauritian Global Business Sector.

We thank him for his time with us at Northfields.

VALENTINE'S DAY



On Wednesday 10th February, the Year 12 students organized the annual Valentine's Day at school.

We had a civvies day and the Year 12 handed out roses and candy skewers to the students. The valentine's day committee did a great job.

The profit made will go to the Hope House, which is a non-governmental organization with the purpose of social upliftment in Mauritius. Thank you all for your contribution and Happy Valentine's Day.



VISIT FROM ALUMNUS



He played some original music to a smaller group before chatting with students individually.

Northfields is keen to continue welcoming back alumni to talk to our students about a range of issues including tertiary education, careers, areas of expertise/experience. Please contact the school if you are interested.

On Wednesday 13th January we welcomed Northfields alumnus and Emmy nominated singer-songwriter Axel Mansoor back to school. Axel spoke to Year 11-13 students about his career pathway, what success means to him and about overcoming challenges in life.



SUBJECT CHOICE INFORMATION SESSIONS

IGCSE

An initial information session was held on Wednesday 13th January 2021 by Mrs Tammy Rungasamy to explain the process of choosing subjects in Year 9. Parents were introduced to Cambridge Assessment International Examinations (CAIE) and the ICE Award.

Subjects on offer were presented to parents and to facilitate the process a terminology booklet was given to parents. The various levels in examinations was explained such as Core and Extended for various subjects. A preliminary subject choice form was handed to parents.

A second session was organised for the final subject choices on Wednesday 3rd March 2021 whereby parents and students were given the final table for their subject choices. All forms must be handed in by Friday 19th February 2021.

SIXTH FORM

On Monday 8th February the school held a Sixth Form Information Evening pertaining to entry for IBDP academic cohort 2021-23. During the evening teachers and students presented their perspective on the various aspects of the Sixth Form programme including;

- Model United Nations
- Work Experience
- Duke of Edinburgh

There was an opportunity for Year 11 students and their parents to discuss subject choices with subject teachers ahead of making decisions about their programme.

Subject choices for entry to Year 12 for academic year 2021-22 should be submitted to Head of Sixth Form, Mrs Kirsty Daby by Friday 26th February.

SCIENCE BLOG

The students of Northfields are using their creativity and independence to write short articles or produce short videos on scientific topics.

Have a look here:
<https://nisscienceblog.blogspot.com/>

READ, LEAD, SUCCEED

We have kicked off with our DEAR time and READ LEAD SUCCEED feature this term. To promote a love of reading, students are encouraged to bring a book of their choice to read every Friday morning during form time - Drop Everything And Read!

READ LEAD SUCCEED involves sharing our love of reading in our year assemblies. We welcomed to the stage speakers from different year groups to share with their peers why they love reading and what they are currently reading. Students have inspired others with their love of reading. Some have focused on a specific book and read out their favourite paragraph out or even shared the writer's background.



We encourage our students to talk about any book (in any language) that they are reading (or have read)! We look forward to hearing about many more inspirational tales over the coming weeks.

LIBRARY OPENING



The Library opened its doors again after a week refurbishment. The students were delighted to see the new layout which provides more room to search for books, clearer signage to help them navigate to the right sections, and additional seating to give

them a comfortable spot to concentrate on their chosen book. The librarian would like to give a special thanks to the parents that gave up their spare time to help get everything ready and of course helped to raise money for the new furniture in the last golf day.



SWIMMING GALA

The various Interhouse galas concluded with the Year 5 and Year 6 gala on Thursday 18th afternoon. After a successful High School gala the week before, the Year 5 and 6 students did themselves proud with the outstanding house spirit they displayed on the stands. The standard of swimming at both the High School and Primary School gala was extremely impressive and we would like to congratulate all the swimmers for the effort they made.



The format of the inter-house gala's this year was obviously a lot different as a result of the pandemic but we are certainly hoping to be back to normal next year. We will be announcing the winners of the house cup, spirit cup, victor/victrix ludorum and category winners on Monday 22nd February. Medals will be handed out at the various year groups assemblies throughout that week.

TOGETHER WE MAKE A FAMILY

Our focus from the start of the second term at the Pre-Nursery is Family and Our Sense of Belonging. It is about learning that we all have connections to people, places, and things. As we guide our little students in learning about their world from a concrete foundation, we asked all our families to bring their family photograph to add to our family wall in the Pre-Nursery.



Adding the value to "love, kindness and respect" on our Valentine's Day at Northfields on the 9th February, our students arrived at school in their colour of love and they shared a proud moment with their teacher Reshma and Mariana as they presented their family portrait to their friends in the Walker class.



SENSITIVE PERIOD OF "MUSIC"

In our Montessori Methodology we look at the "Sensitive Period" of a child. This occurs from birth of a child to around 6 years old. The sensitive period is commonly referred to as a 'window of opportunities' It is those periods in the child's life when a certain ability manifests itself strongly. During these periods, the child has an especially strong sensitivity towards a particular piece of knowledge or skill. These periods of special sensitivity are only temporary and fade once the aim is accomplished. One of the sensitive periods is music.



Cohen. Katerina has sparked the interest of music in all our students through Musikgarten.

During the month of February the toddler class parents had a Saturday morning experience with their child in learning to engage with one another through the language of music. Our Walker class parents will have their opportunity in April. "Musikgarten offers more than just an easy way to introduce your child to music.

During this term we introduced a music programme with Katerina Sevastaki-



Music classes can play a critical role in your child's social, emotional, intellectual, and physical development, as well as laying a pathway to musical proficiency."

CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

This year the animal for the Chinese New year is an "Ox" which symbolises strength and determination and is so fitting with each of our student's at the Pre-Nursery.

As we embrace and introduce the different cultures of the world to our children. All our student's dress in Red on Thursday 11th February, It is a great way to instil and learn about our primary colour - RED!! Thursday was a fun-filled plan day in getting dressed up in our colour red, the student's got creative in making their very own Chinese hat and

learnt how to make red playdough that they could use over their long weekend at home. It was a super day as we gave a new cultural experience to our students of the Pre-Nursery.



MONKEYNASTIX AT THE PRE-NURSERY

One of our highlights at the Pre-Nursery is for our students to engage in Monkeynastix sessions with Helena.

Helena has a great passion for our children and she enjoys assisting their development in learning through movement and their own physical abilities at school. Monkeynastix physical development programme encourages our students to explore and discover their world through their senses and their bodies, from learning to walk on a balancing beam, throw and catch different sized balls, to a variety of fun-filled exercise activities that our students enjoy at school.



THANK YOU

Our facilities team have been working hard at the Pre-Nursery. Recently the gentleman worked exceptionally hard in repainting the jungle gym and assisted in having a new slide added to the apparatus.

We thank the team for all that they do at the Pre-Nursery in attending to the needs our littlest students at Northfields.



SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING

At Northfields, in the Nursery and Primary, we place a great deal of emphasis and importance on the social and emotional development of our students. The Montessori classroom environment allows for movement, verbal exchanges and social interaction as well as the development of pro-social behaviour through our lessons of Grace and Courtesy. From an early age we encourage the following skills: thoughtfulness, confidence, acting with self-control, helpfulness, courtesy, sense of belonging etc. Once way to achieve this is with the classroom 'jobs' which are allocated to the children on a weekly basis. Please get into the habit of asking your child about their class 'job' and help them to feel a sense of pride and community in taking care of their environment for themselves and their peers.



We believe that if our students' social and emotional needs are being met, then everything is in place for students to have the most success and likelihood of reaching their full potential. Acquiring new skills and developing their knowledge 'feeds' their intellect and personality. Parents will receive feedback on their child's social and emotional wellbeing, by means of the Social and Emotional record at the end of Term 2.



Montessori is a philosophy. The goal is to create a humanistic, respectful individual, to develop the full potential of a person in every area: physical, social, emotional, intellectual.

- MARLENE BARRON

NURSERY & PRIMARY

SWIMMING IN THE LOWER PRIMARY



We are now just over half way through our swimming sessions and the students in Lower Primary are really enjoying and making great progress. In Lower Primary, our first objective for the swimming lessons is to ensure that all our students are water safe and confident in water. Especially living on an island, where access to water is all around us, we need to give all children the chance to learn to swim.

The most important reason is that swimming is the only sport which can save a child's life. Drowning is still one of the most common causes of accidental death in children, so being able to swim is an essential life-saving skill.



an extended swimming program and we swim from November to April. In this time children have time to develop their confidence and skills.

Once children can float unaided and are confident in the water, the coaches work on introducing the different strokes and building the distance children can swim.

Our most competent swimmers are also challenged and work on their stroke technique, endurance and speed.



Our swimming season will culminate in our Gala on Friday 2nd April in which all LP students will participate. We also encourage you to give your child/children safe and structured opportunities outside of school to continue to develop their swimming skills in the months to come.

CHINESE NEW YEAR

The Nursery and Primary students were excited to celebrate this annual event which is most joyful and colourful. Some even wore their best Chinese outfit on the day to celebrate the occasion.

Class activities such as displays, project work, reading comprehensions, crafts and more were linked to this theme.

The Lower Primary students worked collaboratively on wall displays to mark the event and watched the High School Ceremony via video link.



NEW STAFF



Raju Bagratee
Finance Manager

Mr Bagratee has joined the school as our new Finance Manager. He holds an MBA from the University of Sunderland and is FCCA qualified from the UK Association of Certified Chartered Accountant. He has more than 25 years of experience in financial and management accounting in a wide range of sectors including hospitality, manufacturing and ICT.



Zoyah Yearoo
Database Administrator

Ms Rubeenaz has joined the school as our new Database Administrator. She holds a BSc in Software Engineering from University of Technology, Mauritius and has 11 years of experience in the IT field.



Sharon Campbell
Geography Teacher

Mrs Campbell has recently joined the school as our new Geography Teacher. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree and a Diploma in Education from the University of West Indies. She has more than 25 years of teaching experience during which she has been an examiner for different institutions such as the Ministry of Education of Jamaica and Caribbean Examination Council. She also has held the position of Head of Department for 10 years at Kingston College, Jamaica.



Karishma Puryag
Nursery and Primary Teacher

Ms Puryag joined our team as a Nursery and Primary teacher. She holds a Diploma in Montessori Education from London to teach children from 2 ½ to 6 years old and has 4 years of experience in teaching.



Mariana Elmire
Childcare Practitioner

Ms Elmire has joined our Pre Nursery team as a Childcare Practitioner in the Walker class. She comes with experience, expertise and passion in educating the minds of young children. She has studied through Charles Telfair University and has also gained experience in the Montessori system.



Ashna Segobind
Childcare practitioner

Ms Ashna Segobind has joined our Pre-Nursery team with the Toddler class and we look forward to the development, care and understanding that she will bring to all our little students under her care. Ashna comes with extensive childcare experience and is excited to be part of the Northfields family.

EFFECTIVE STUDY TIPS

Dear Year 11 and 13 students,

I am sure that you are thinking that it was not so long ago when you had embarked on the IGCSE/A Level/IB course, and here you are writing Mock Examinations. Time flies very quickly and inevitably in life, we have to cross some bridges to move to the other side.

Mock Examinations can be that bridge between the content and knowledge that you have learnt and experienced and the final examinations which will take place in April-June 2021

There may be many questions floating around in your mind such as: how do I study? How do I prepare for the exams? Which subject should I give priority to? How can I memorise certain facts/information? In all honesty, there is no direct answer to any of these questions.

Each student must find and adapt to their own personal circumstances and preferences, bearing in mind your strengths and areas for improvement.

Below are some tips/guidance for you to consider during this Mock Examination time and also for the final examinations.

1. Create a 'to do' list

Before the exams start, prepare a 'to-do' list and see what are your priorities. There is nothing more satisfying than crossing things off your list. Use colours and highlighters, it makes the experience much more enjoyable!

2. Spare time

Don't over-fill your 'to do' list - you do not want to end each day with a set of things you have been unable to accomplish. Allow yourself breaks, it is important to eat healthily, rest and even exercise to rejuvenate the body and mind.

3. Avoid distractions

Find a quiet place to study; switch off your phone, all social media and the television. When you study have in front of you only what you need to complete the work you are focussed on.

4. Do one thing at a time

It is tempting to move from one task to another but it is certainly not effective. Plan an effective timetable of the work you need to do. Focus on one thing at a time and stay with it until you finish, this way you will have the satisfaction of having made progress whenever you sit down to work. Be realistic in what you can achieve.

5. Have a Goal

Set a target for each study period and do not stop until you reach it. Know what you need to do and work steadily until you achieve it - then you have earned a well-deserved break. This could mean going out for a few hours, meeting a friend or simply having a lovely cup of coffee/tea or even a milkshake!

SOME EFFECTIVE REVISION STRATEGIES

1. Flashcards – This is one of the most important revision strategies to master. Flashcards help turn information into a visual source which is easy to follow and learn from. They should include colour, pictures, maps and facts and be a short summary of key points from the content you have learned.

2. Mind maps – Very useful for visual learners especially. You need to have plenty of colours available. You need to summarise key topics into a mind map showing essential words or ideas with further information radiating out from the key words. Pictures or maps should also be included to help you learn key aspects of the topic. Mind mapping is really useful for listing lots of ideas and connecting them together. You can use it to record information as you are revising or you can use it to see how much you know or have remembered about a topic, area or subject.

3. Mnemonics

Mnemonics are really simple but very useful for revision. You can use them to remember a sequence of events, a list of facts or parts of a process. To create a Mnemonic all you have to do is write down a list of facts or information. Here's an example designed to help remember the order of the planets that circle our sun. Doing this helps you to create something memorable that you can decode when you need to.

4. Revision posters

You may want to create a poster to help you put all information in one format. If you hang the poster in your room, you will be visually reminded of the important facts. In essence, re-write the information in your own words to help you better remember the content.

5. Using post-it notes

Write key information on a certain area of content on to post-its and stick them in different places around your house. As you move around your house stop and look at the key notes and test yourself on what they contain. The more you see the information, the better it will be.

6. Reading and copying

This is a traditional method where you can read the information a few times and then copy it down. You may wish to copy it a few times for better retention.

IMPORTANT: YOU ARE STRONGER THAN YOU THINK

You are all very capable young people, believe in yourself and aim high. Always seek help and guidance from your teachers should you be in doubt of anything. Practice, read, and try any method which works for you. We wish you all the best and **REMEMBER: YOU CAN DO THIS!**

Mrs Tammy Rungasamy
Head of Middle School

DON'T MISS OUR UPCOMING OPEN MORNINGS



OPEN MORNING

PRE - NURSERY

SATURDAY
27TH FEBRUARY

FROM 8.30AM TO 10.30AM



OPEN MORNING

NURSERY
TO YEAR 4

SATURDAY
27TH FEBRUARY

FROM 9.30AM TO 11.30AM

OPEN MORNINGS

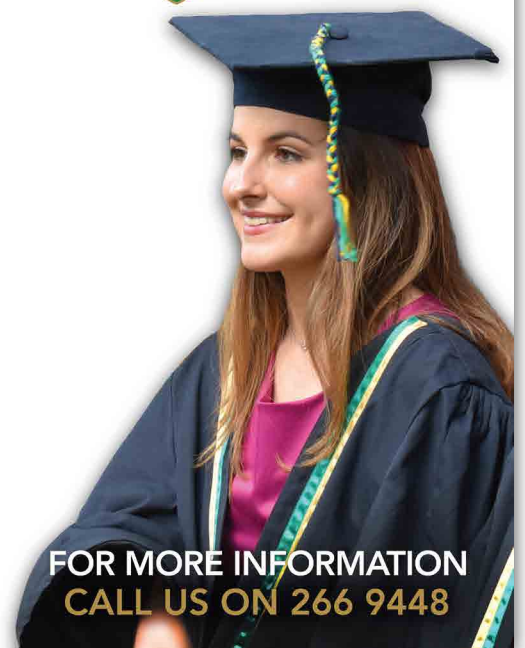
SATURDAY 6TH MARCH

FOR YEAR 7 TO YEAR 12 (AGED 11 TO 17)

SATURDAY 20TH MARCH

FOR YEAR 5 AND YEAR 6 (AGED 9 TO 11)

9.00AM TO 11.00AM



FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL US ON 266 9448