



Dereham Neatherd High School

Traditional · Inclusive · Supportive



2022-23 | Spring Term

Dereham Neatherd High School Newsletter

February 2023

Message from the Headteacher



Welcome to the February 2023 edition of our school newsletter. As you will see from a quick glance through the pages, it has been a busy month indeed! The highlight for me was undoubtedly seeing

so many of our pupils take to the stage in our production of the musical *Matilda* at Dereham Memorial Hall. It was by far and away the most impressive school production I have seen in my time at Neatherd (and let's face it, the bar was already extremely high). In fact, it is a humbling experience to be reminded on a daily basis that our school is packed full of such hardworking, talented, creative and dedicated young people who strive for excellence in all they do.

The younger generation can sometimes get a bad press because of the actions of a very small minority who are not yet living up to society's values. Let's not forget, however, that the vast majority of our young people here in Dereham are a real asset to our community and an example to people everywhere of what compassion, hard work, respect, integrity and fairness can achieve. We should be enormously proud of them!

Mr J. Mallett
Headteacher

Matilda

Parents, grandparents, carers, friends and teachers packed out the Dereham Memorial Hall on 2nd and 3rd February to watch 65 of Neatherd's turbo-talented miracles light up the stage with their electrifying performance of the deliciously dark musical *Matilda*.

In the show, there are just not enough "main" characters to go round so the solution was to double cast the leads for the four performances so that two actors were cast in most roles for two shows each. As always there are too many talented actors to name-check everyone but notable performances came from Willow and Ruby in the lead role of Matilda, Tom and Isaac as the slimy Mr Wormwood, and Esme as his foul wife – a vision in leopard print! Ronnie and Oscar excelled with their interpretations of the grotesque headmistress, Miss Trunchball, portrayed in perfect opposition to the angelic Miss Honey, played by Sophie and Liliana with their spellbinding singing voices.

Every pupil involved did themselves proud. It is their creativity, determination and professionalism that make audiences say year on year "that was the best Neatherd show I've seen!" No pressure for 2024 then!

Ms Ealshwith, Mr Owen & Ms Witton
Directors

COMPASSION

HARD WORK

RESPECT

INTEGRITY

FAIRNESS

Eco-Committee Launch!

Sophie and I are extremely excited about the launch of the new Eco-Committee and would love to encourage pupils from across all year groups to apply.



We would like to create a group of like-minded people, who are enthusiastic about making positive change within the school to reduce our carbon footprint and help the school site to become the most eco-friendly place it can be.

Any questions at all, you can speak to Miss Straffon-Lawrence, Miss Clarke, Sophie or myself.

Amber and Sophie
Head Pupils

House Points Update

CARTER	97,080
CAVELL	94,292
FRY	99,318
KETT	92,072

Most House Points: year to date

7	Enid C.	902
8	Leah Q.	785
9	Isaac H.	633
10	Connie E.	616
11	Siena C.	776

A grand total of **79,402** House Points were awarded in February. That's an average of **67** per pupil. Well done everyone!



Dates for your diary

22 Mar	Year 7 Parents Evening (online)
30 Mar	Year 8 Parents Evening (online)
31 Mar	End of Spring Term
3-17 Apr	Half-term holiday
18 Apr	Inset day – school closed to pupils



Neatherd Values

COMPASSION	We are kind. We support each other when things are difficult. We treat others as we would wish to be treated.
HARD WORK	We do our best at all times. We show resilience when things are tough. We don't give up.
RESPECT	We are polite to others, and we show impeccable manners. We treat our environment with care. We take pride in our appearance and in our achievements.
INTEGRITY	We are honest. We do the right thing. We trust each other. We are upstanders, not bystanders.
FAIRNESS	We treat each other equally regardless of difference. We play by the rules.

Neatherd Knights

Who are the Neatherd Knights?

The Neatherd Knights are here to support Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils at school. We are a trained pupil team who are here to listen to other pupils' concerns and worries. Our aim is to ensure that all pupils have a safe place to grow and develop within our community. We strive to make sure all pupils have someone to talk to and someone who they can relate to or who has – relatively recently – had similar experiences. We understand that sometimes pupils may not feel comfortable speaking with an adult. The Neatherd Knights can help with anything from worries about a lost planner to complex friendship issues. We are here to support pupils, no matter the problem.



How do we work?

When a pupil comes to us with a concern, we fill out a form detailing the incident and naming those involved, then we discuss (with the pupil) how to proceed. This may involve resolving the issue directly with another party or putting other measures in place. After the incident has been addressed, we pass the form on to the Student Development Team, who record it on a database so that we can spot recurring issues. We understand that every situation is unique, and will deal with each one in the manner we feel is best. We cannot stress too much the importance of speaking out to help others or yourself, as no matter how minor the problem might seem, every attempt will be made to ensure you feel happier and safer at school.

Where can you find us?

At the moment our 'castle' is in Society and Ethics 1 (opposite the Student Development office). There will be a Knight in S&E1 from 0830-0840, at break and during lunch every day. We can also be identified by our red ties or Neatherd Knight badges (and yellow polo shirts in the summer). We hope that we can be a friendly face whether you come to see us in the castle or out and about around school.

We want every pupil to have a place where they can share their feelings without judgement or fear. If you or anyone you know is having problems in school, feel free to speak to us.

We hope you don't need us, but if you do, we are here to help!

The Neatherd Knights



COMPASSION

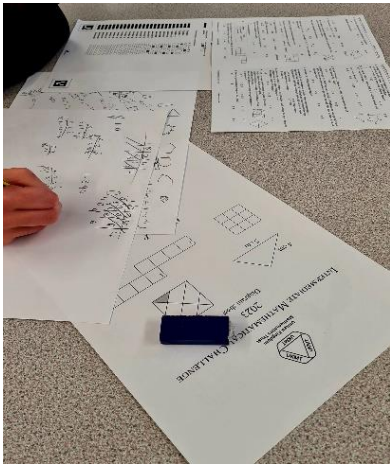
HARD WORK

RESPECT

INTEGRITY

FAIRNESS

Maths challenge results



Thursday 2nd February saw our top mathematicians in Years 9 and 10, along with some volunteers in Year 11, take part in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge.

For anyone not familiar with this, it is a competition involving a set of really tough maths problems! The pupils were only allowed a pen and plain paper to put their brains to the test, tackling as many questions as they could without losing marks for incorrect answers.

The pupils did brilliantly. Out of 124 entries we had 31 bronze awards, 23 silver and 5 achieved the top gold award! Super congratulations to Samuel, Jake and Ben for also making it through to the next round, with Joe and Leonor missing out by just a few marks!

We look forward to seeing how they get on with this even harder challenge.

After Easter we look forward to seeing how pupils in years 7 and 8 do in the Junior Maths Challenge.

Miss A. Clarke
Maths department



Services Pupil Premium pupils and the Bronze Armed Forces Covenant Award

We currently have 36 Services Pupil Premium pupils (SPP) at Neatherd. These are pupils that have a parent (or parents) serving in the Armed Forces or have served in the Armed Forces. We offer various systems of support. These can consist of a check-in with every single SPP pupil in the school; questionnaires and letters of introduction to every services parent, to ascertain what support they think the school should provide; or a lunch-time drop-in session every Monday. This session is particularly important as it offers an opportunity for Services pupils to meet up, bring their friends and partake in a range of activities, all within in a nurturing environment.

At the end of last year we were thrilled to be awarded the Bronze Armed Covenant award, which recognises the support Neatherd provides for SPP pupils and their families and also highlights how proud Neatherd is to be involved with the Armed Forces community. A copy of our award and pledge can be found on our website <https://neatherd.org/Our-Community/Armed-Forces/>

Mrs H. Hunton
The Gateway

A short story by Baileigh, Year 8

The Room

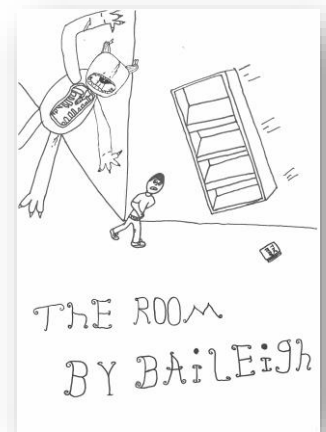
So basically, I got trapped in a facility full of creatures in Room 237. Locked in was the most dangerous creature of them all. Its name? Dem: short for Demon.

I had a look around and I noticed that the door for Room 237 was empty and broken even though I did not unlock it. And I'm the only one in here.

I think it's escaped... Oh no. I've got to get out of here! I see the exit. Aaargh, it's after me! I'm almost there! Aaargh (chomp) Demonic sounds! (stomp stomp stomp stomp)

Silence.

I don't think it got me...



Top Tips for Revision!

With GCSEs around the corner, here are my personal top tips for pupils on the best way to revise. Everyone has things that may work for them but these are some great bits of general advice that should help all to make the most of their revision time.

1. **Plan to revise** – Have a revision timetable and stick to it! Plan in rest breaks and make sure you still keep up with any hobbies or clubs you may have. Make it realistic, as the more it fits within what you can do the more likely you are to stick to it.
2. **Little and often** – Big revision sessions are less effective. Make sure you plan around 30-minute chunks per subject across the week. You can always add more or less for subjects you need to focus on.
3. **Mark out your space** – Have an area for revision. Clear the space around you and make sure it is free from disruption. Try to avoid things that might take away your focus such as background music, TV, computers and your phone. If it's going to be revision, make this the focus.
4. **Have breaks and drink!** – Water is shown to be effective at boosting the brain so make sure you have some to hand. Small 5-minute breaks, every 30 minutes, help you to absorb the current revision and then refocus on the next subject or topic at hand.
5. **Revise, Test, Test, Test** – Our brains act like a sieve. They decide what's important enough to keep and what to forget. The more we use some knowledge or information the stronger the memory becomes. To this end, recapping knowledge through testing is important. Go back to things you have revised previously and try to recall this knowledge through practice.
6. **Decide what works best** – Everyone revises differently... some of us like videos, others flashcards or revision guides. Sometimes test papers can help and often the "look, say, cover, write, check" approach works. Whatever it is, have a process and don't be afraid to try something new! Videos may seem good but we remember far more of what we write down, so always make some notes!



I hope this helps and please do start now! Little and often over time is far better than cramming and will certainly help to ensure you get the grade you deserve. Best wishes and good luck!

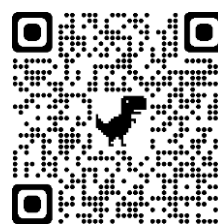
Mr C. Daniels

Director of Behaviour and Attitudes



CAMPS INTERNATIONAL KENYA – CHARITY CAR WASH & CAKE SALE! *LET US DO YOUR DIRTY WORK?*

Pupils in Year 9/10/11 are fundraising for their Camps International trip to Kenya where they will be involved in a range of sustainability projects, from community development to environmental conservation. Following a successful cake sale at the school's performance of *Matilda* (amount raised was £332.29!) pupils will be hosting a car wash and another indulgent cake sale! **Please bring your filthy cars and loose change** for a cake (or two!) while you wait for your cars to be cleaned at **Dereham Neatherd High School on Saturday 4th March, 10.30 am - 3.00 pm** for some well needed TLC. Cost - £7 per car. For more information on Camps International, please scan this QR code.



STEM News

STEM pupils meet every Wednesday at lunch time in DT3 to prepare for the Lego League. This year the final was hybrid – in person and on video calls (we hope for the last time).

The Team demonstrated their robot and projects, doing exceptionally well against some very strong teams.

Well done to Isaac, Kyle, Joe, Taylor and Duncan for receiving the 'Core Values' Award.



As part of the Norwich Science Festival there was a Techathon held at the Norwich School. With over 28 teams competing it was terrific to see one of the top 4 prizes go to a team with a Neatherd pupil in. Well done to Lewis!



Mr J. Chapman
Head of Design Technology

Careers Work at Neatherd

At Neatherd, we take great pride in our Careers work and are one of the only schools in Norfolk to have been awarded with the prestigious Gold Career Mark for outstanding careers provision.



Our programme of activities is organised for all year groups, from our popular Year 7 Business Breakfast to the Year 11 mock interviews. We are very lucky that many local employers and organisations come in to support our events and therefore give our pupils an insight into the world of work. Other regular careers events include the Apprenticeship Afternoon for Year 9 & 10, the Year 10 work experience week, the Post-16 Options Evening plus many special assemblies.

From September to November most, of the Year 11 assemblies had a focus on Careers and Post-16 options and, in the near future, our KS4 pupils will hear speakers from the Army and the construction sector. Pupils in Year 8/9 will soon have assemblies on apprenticeships and “Women in the Gaming Industry”.



Careers education isn't only delivered through our events however, but also fully embedded in the curriculum.

This is very much an ongoing task but we currently having a number of subject ambassadors working on this. Our Society & Ethics team deliver an excellent set of careers-specific lessons and this is supported by each tutor group having a half-term worth of careers lessons each academic year.

We are lucky to have an experienced and knowledgeable team of specialised careers staff at Neatherd, headed up by our Careers Leader Mr Hodges and overseen by Mr Humphreys, our interim Deputy Headteacher. Mrs Broughton is our full-time Careers Adviser/Careers Coordinator and our Careers Adviser Mrs O'Connor also works at school on a part-time basis. Careers Advice is routinely delivered on a 1:1 basis to all Year 10/Year 11 pupils and to pupils of other year groups as and when requested. It is important to note that any pupil or parent can request a careers appointment when required.



National Careers Week

National Careers Week takes place during w/c 6th March. At Neatherd we will be joining in with a variety of different lunchtime activities taking place and open to all pupils. On Monday 6th March the Army will be along with a team from the Royal Signals. We are also expecting visitors to represent the industry sectors of engineering, sports and many others. A list of activities will be confirmed closer to the time.

Mrs M. Broughton
Careers Coordinator



Parent Champions
Norfolk

Become a parent champion volunteer

coram
Family and Childcare

Norfolk
County Council

A message from Norfolk County Council

Would you like to be a Parent Champion, and volunteer to help other parents/ carers in your community?

We are looking for local parents/carers, who make good use of local services, are friendly and enjoy chatting with other parents/carers.

Parent Champions are volunteers who give a few hours a week to talk to other parents about the local services available to families.

Would you like to:

- Meet new people?
- Learn new skills?
- Gain confidence>
- Give something back to the local community?

If you would like any further information or you would like to become a Parent Champion, please contact us by e-mailing parentchampions@norfolk.gov.uk or visit our [website](#).



TURKEY-SYRIA EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

DONATE NOW AT DEC.ORG.UK

DISASTERS EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

Matching your donations with UKaid

Photo: Burak Kara/Getty Images

The UK Government will match pound-for-pound up to £5 million donated by the public to this appeal.

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Stand up to bullying! To report a concern, visit:
neatherd.org/Contact-Us/Report-Bullying-Form