



**Dereham Neatherd  
High School**  
*Traditional · Inclusive · Supportive*



# Dereham Neatherd High School Newsletter

(turn to page 10 for important dates!)

2024-25 | Spring Term

February 2025



## *A Tale of Two Lizzies*

*An original play written by the staff  
and students of Neatherd High School*



**SCHOOL  
PRODUCTION  
2025**



COMPASSION

HARD WORK

RESPECT

INTEGRITY

FAIRNESS





This year's school production was, in fact, two school productions. We decided to stage SIX the Musical (Teen Version) because we currently have very talented female actors and singers in school. SIX was the perfect vehicle to showcase what they can do. SIX has, naturally, six amazing roles with opportunities for backing singers and dancers; but what could the rest of our incredibly talented actors do - especially the boys?

We never turn anyone away from our shows - if you audition, you're in! Staying the course of the gruelling rehearsal schedule is another matter, but we usually audition and accept around 90 students with an eventual cast of around 75. With a maximum cast of 20 for SIX, this meant that we'd either have around 70 very disappointed actors or a mutiny on our hands! The answer was simple, we had to come up with another show to stage in a double bill alongside SIX. But what?







# *A Tale of Two Lizzies*

*An original play written by the staff  
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SIX runs at 1 hour 15 mins so we knew that we could put on another show of around the same running time. We also wanted to compliment SIX rather than just stage something random and unrelated. With not many short, Tudor-themed shows for a cast of around 70, we had no choice but to write something ourselves. This is how "A Tale of Two Lizzies" came about. At first we planned to focus on Henry VIII and started workshopping his story; but the more we improvised and researched, the more it became clear that Henry's children, Mary, Elizabeth and Edward were much more interesting.

To compliment the premise of SIX as a competition, we started exploring the lives of Elizabeth and Mary; especially the power-hungry, gold-digging men who featured in their lives. The show was a joy to put together, with ideas coming from students and staff alike: a take on Blind Date, trauma therapy with Mr Sigmund Freud, a whole host of executioners, William Shakespeare and four Queen Elizabeths!

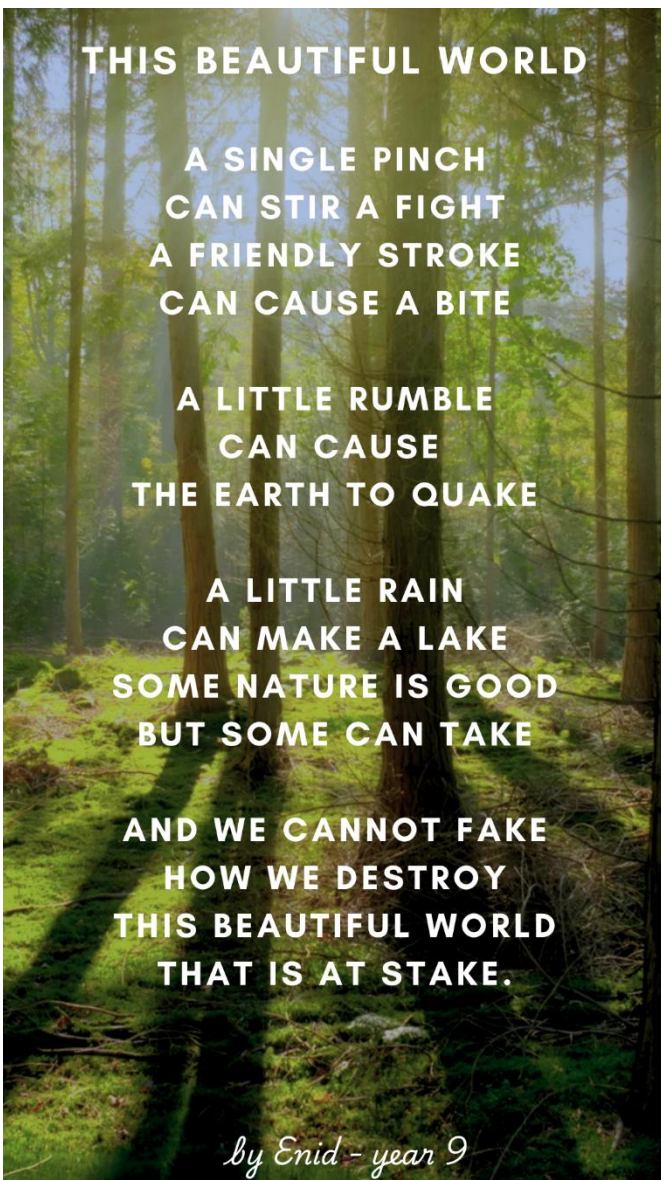
SIX show-cased our amazing singers and dancers. Lizzie show-cased our amazing devisers, writers and actors. Every year we are astounded by the enthusiasm, passion and talent of Neatherd students. This year was no exception.



## Writer of the month..

Here is a poem written by Enid in year 9, who has been accepted for publication by Young Writers' "A Beautiful Truth" poetry competition.

Enid says she was inspired to write this poem in order to send the message that, although there are some things we can't control, we can all make a big difference to our world by not polluting the environment.



## Artist of the month..



We are pleased to announce Harvey in year 11 as our latest winner of Artist of the Month.

Harvey has always been a highly dedicated artist and over the last few years has developed his own very distinctive style that he used fantastically in his most recent piece that was part of his mock exam.

Harvey is always able to put together very strong experimentation and has a willingness to refine his ideas through a variety of development work within his sketchbook. We know that he loves animals and it was very pleasing to see this passion as well as dedication to the subject within his exam piece – a large pair of paintings depicting a beautiful giraffe. The final outcome has the perfect blend of lucidity as well as careful observation and painting skills.

We have always felt that Harvey is one of our hardest working pupils and we are so proud of where he has taken his final outcomes as his work has just gone from strength to strength.

## GCSE History Trip to Norwich Castle

On 22nd January, eighty-eight Year 11 History pupils embarked on an educational trip to Norwich Castle as part of their preparation for the *History Around Us* exam, which is worth 20% of their overall GCSE grade.

The day was packed with engaging sessions exploring the Castle Keep, the Prison, the Courtroom and the Museum. Each area brought a different aspect of the castle's rich history to life, providing invaluable context and insights for their exam. Pupils had the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the castle's evolution over time and its significance as a historic site.

Our pupils were a credit to the school, showing enthusiasm, curiosity and very good behaviour throughout the day. Feedback from pupils highlighted how much they valued the hands-on learning experience and the chance to connect classroom learning to a real-world setting.

A huge thank you to the staff who supported the trip, ensuring its success. Your help was greatly appreciated.

Mrs Gormley  
History Department



# DEREHAM DAY FINE ART COMPETITION



Paint, print, sculpt or draw... it's entirely up to you.

Be part of the Dereham Day art exhibition 2025.

The subject of your work must link to Dereham.

Prizes available for all winning entries!

Deadline 2nd April 2025  
Mr W Wright - Dereham Neatherd High School



# WANTED SCHOOL TIES!



CLIP ON OR STANDARD TIES, WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL TO RECEIVE ANY YOU NO LONGER NEED, THANK YOU!





## Art Club

Before Christmas in Art Club, pupils created some lovely examples of collaged robins. The artists experimented with mixing their own palette using only primary colours to get their desired tones. Once they produced a selection of papers, they did not waste any time assembling their robins. I think they did a brilliant job.

Next, we will be making miniature books with a short-sequenced narrative.

Mrs Flanagan  
Art Department



# PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION DEREHAM AT SPRING



- ❖ Your entry must fit the title "Dereham at Spring"
- ❖ Submissions can be in colour or black and white
- ❖ All entries to feature at the Dereham Day art and photography exhibition on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2025
  - ❖ Prizes awarded
- ❖ Send your entries to Mr W Wright via teams by 2.4.25



ART and photography



## Inter-generational Visits

Neatherd pupils have been visiting St Nicholas Care Home in Dereham to have inter-generational conversations while playing some fun games! We are building a relationship with the care home and the charity Friend in Deed. Our pupils were simply sensational, chatting and enjoy a joke with the residents, which really made their day!



## Thinking Day 2025

Girl Guides, Rangers and Scouts all over the world will be celebrating World Thinking Day on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. To mark this special day, any pupil or staff member belonging to either of these associations is welcome to wear their uniform on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February. If you wish to know about Guiding or Scouts and to see what is available locally please visit [Girlguiding](#) | [Help all girls know they can do anything](#) | [Girlguiding](#) or [Scouts](#)

## Careers News

### **NEW CAREERS TEAM LAUNCHED TO GUIDE PUPILS TOWARDS FUTURE SUCCESS!**

After 20 years Neatherd has sadly said goodbye to Mrs Broughton! Over the years she has tirelessly ensured that all pupils had careers appointments and wonderful places to go on their work experience. Neatherd would like to thank her for everything she has done to make sure that the careers guidance at Neatherd has been inspirational, motivational and interesting.

We are excited to announce the launch of Neatherd's new Careers Team, dedicated to empowering pupils to make informed decisions about their future paths. Mr Sinclair, Miss Stewart-Richardson and Miss Hensellek are committed to providing comprehensive guidance, resources, and support to help pupils navigate the complex landscape of higher education and employment opportunities.

### **JANUARY'S CAREER OF THE MONTH - TECHNICIAN**

Chemical technicians conduct chemical and physical laboratory tests to assist scientists in research and development of new products and processes. Salaries for technicians in East of England can earn up to £33,373 a year.

**Entry Requirements:** A bachelor's degree in chemistry or biology is preferred for chemical technicians.

**Your day-to-day will include tasks such as:**

- Conduct chemical or physical laboratory tests to assist scientists in making qualitative or quantitative analyses of solids, liquids, or gaseous materials
- Operate experimental pilot plants, assisting with experimental design
- Order and inventory materials to maintain supplies
- Design or create experimental apparatus to develop new products or processes
- Maintain, clean, or sterilise laboratory instruments or equipment
- Set up and conduct chemical experiments, tests, and analyses, using techniques such as chromatography, spectroscopy, physical or chemical separation techniques, or microscopy
- Prepare chemical solutions for products or processes, following standardised formulas, or create experimental formulas

**Skills required:**

- Curious to learn new things and ask questions
- Resilient so you can stay positive and meet deadlines
- Enjoy working with other people in a team
- Organised as you may have to carry out tests at specific times



**FEBRUARY'S CAREER OF THE MONTH - BAKER**

Bakers prepare bread, cakes, and pastries to sell and serve in shops, cafes, or restaurants. Bakers can earn up to £24,912 a year.

**Entry requirements:** There are no specific entry requirements to become a baker. You may find it useful to have GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A\* to C) or equivalent, in subjects like English, maths, science, or food technology. You could start out by doing a baking course at college, applying to be a trainee in a bakery, or doing a baking apprenticeship.

**Your day-to-day tasks could include:**

- Making sure you have enough supplies
- Measuring out large quantities of ingredients
- Working safely with machinery like power mixers, industrial ovens and production lines.
- Making dough
- Working out cooking times
- Keeping production areas clean
- Developing new products and recipes

**Skills required:**

- Practical skills
- Organisation / time management skills
- Creativity / innovation
- Numeracy skills
- Artistic skills

**In summary**

- Unifrog can help you make decisions now about your college and sixth form choices and what you want to study.
- Later, it will help you choose the university or apprenticeship that's right for you.
- Be smart. Get ahead of the game!

**Sign in now at [unifrog.org/sign-in](https://unifrog.org/sign-in)**



**unifrog**

[Unifrog - The universal destinations platform.](https://unifrog.org)



## Thinking Reading

We are incredibly proud of our pupils Tommy, Noah and Chinaza who are the latest graduates from our Thinking Reading programme. Together they have improved their reading ages by over 14 years.

This is all down to their positive attitudes and hard work, along with expert teaching from Mrs Hunton and Mrs Browne.



## IMPORTANT DATES



### FEBRUARY

- 24TH - PUPILS RETURN TO SCHOOL
- THINKING DAY - GIRL GUIDES/SCOUTS
- 24TH - Y9 VACCINATIONS
- W/C 24TH - Y11 GCSE PE PRACTICALS

### MARCH

- 10TH - Y10 APPRENTICESHIP AFTERNOON
- 11TH - Y7 PARENTS EVENING
- 20TH - Y9,10&11 MATHS CHALLENGE
- 26TH - Y8 PARENTS EVENING

### APRIL

- 23RD - PUPILS RETURN TO SCHOOL
- 23RD-29TH - Y11 SPEAKING EXAMS
- 30TH - 2ND MAY - Y11 PHOTOGRAPHY EXAMS
- 7TH - EASTER HOLIDAYS

### MAY

- 1ST Y7&8 MATHS CHALLENGE
- 5TH - MAY BANK HOLIDAY
- 6TH-9TH - Y11 ART EXAM
- 8TH - Y11 GCSE EXAMS START
- 12TH KS3 END OF YEAR ASSESSMENTS
- 26TH - HALF TERM

### JUNE

- 3RD Y10 CONSTRUCTION WORKSHOP
- 10TH - Y7&8 JNR MATHS CHALLENGE
- 16TH - Y10 ASSESSMENTS START
- 27TH - Y11 PROM

### JULY

- 4TH - SCIENCE FAIR
- 7TH -11TH - ENRICHMENT WEEK
- 7TH-11TH - Y10 WORK EXPERIENCE
- 4TH - SPORTS DAY FIELD EVENTS
- 17TH SPORTS FESTIVAL
- 22ND LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

### Message from the Headteacher

We hope you have enjoyed reading the latest edition of our school newsletter. Neatherd is a school packed full of talented and hardworking pupils and staff. We are incredibly proud of their achievements!

At the start of next half-term, we will be contacting all parents with information about our annual parent survey. Your views on what we do well, and what we could do to improve our school still further, are really important to us. Thank you in advance for your time in supporting us with this.

Over the next half-term, our Year 11 pupils will be working hard as they prepare for their GCSE practical exams and finishing off their coursework. I am sure that you will join me in wishing them well.

Have a happy half-term break!

**Mr J. Mallett**

