



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



# Dereham Neatherd High School Newsletter

2022-23 | Summer Term

June / July 2023

## Message from the Headteacher



And just like that, here we are again at the end of another busy and successful school year. It has been a year in which we have been proud of our pupils for so many reasons, including their achievements in lessons; their commitment to improving our environment through their work in our Eco Committee; their strong, articulate voice on behalf of their peers in School Council; their extraordinary creative and artistic talents; their many sporting accomplishments; and countless other actions which reflect our values of **compassion, hard work, respect, integrity and fairness**.

As with schools across the country, however, it has also been a year with its challenges, including difficulties recruiting staff earlier in the year, more challenging pupil behaviour, and a fall in attendance. Perhaps it should not come as a surprise: what we are seeing are the true long-term effects of the pandemic on society. As has ever been the case, times change and we must change with them. As we look forwards to the new school year, the central themes of our school improvement plan are **reconnecting** and **belonging**, rebuilding those crucial relationships between pupils, staff and parents that are key to children and young people's wellbeing and success.

At the centre of our plans is our new approach to behaviour. Our current system – with its focus on 'C' warnings and detentions – worked well once, and helped to establish the disruption-free classrooms of which we are rightly proud. However, in the wake of the pandemic, it has become too remote and detached, with most detentions feeling meaningless and petty to pupils. Our new system is aimed at **reconnecting** pupils and teachers, and **reconnecting** pupils' understanding of good behaviour and the consequences of poor choices. We will put a much greater emphasis on teaching what good behaviour looks like in the community in which we **belong**, praising and rewarding pupils for good behaviour. There will be increased support for pupils who struggle with this, and supportive dialogue between teachers, pupils and parents at an early stage if things start to go wrong. There will still be a place for sanctions such as detentions for certain misdemeanours, but there will be fewer of them, and they will have more meaning and more connection with the behaviour they are meant to correct. We have also appointed more members of staff to our Pastoral Team and improved their training to ensure we give all pupils the right level – and right sort – of support for their behaviour, attendance and general wellbeing. All of this will be greatly aided by the fact that, from September, we will once again be fully staffed in every teaching department (and, indeed, overstaffed in some departments to allow for small-group interventions to take place).

COMPASSION

HARD WORK

RESPECT

INTEGRITY

FAIRNESS

**(Message from the Headteacher)**

Part of **belonging** to a community also involves opportunities to share rich and enjoyable experiences with other pupils and staff. It was therefore a real pleasure to have had our first **Activities Week** in four years take place earlier this month. I am sure that many of you, like me, will have followed different groups' adventures on our school's Facebook page, seeing them taking on outdoor challenges at Bramley Lakes, experiencing new cultures in France and Italy (and, in the case of the latter, learning how to deal with the unexpected when it comes to travel arrangements!), visiting the WWI battlefield sites of Flanders and the Somme, deepening their understanding of where our food comes from on the 'Farm to Fork' programme, and much more besides. Our pupils did themselves proud and have formed many happy memories and some new friendships. In that same week, Year 10 took part in a wide range of **Work Experience** placements and we received hugely positive feedback about their work ethic, good manners and professionalism. We have also had the **Year 11 Prom**, that great celebration of five years of **belonging** to our school community reaching its conclusion. It was a very happy event and a reminder of how much we will miss the Class of 2023 – they have been a fantastic year group!

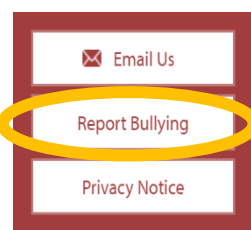
As this school year draws to a close, I look forward to the next with great optimism, knowing that our staff and pupils will once again rise to the challenges placed before them and, working together, will achieve great things. They will be joined by new members of our community, including some new members of staff, 238 new Years 7s and many other new pupils in other year groups who are transferring to us from different schools. We look forward to welcoming our Year 7 and Year 11 pupils to school on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September, with pupils from all other year groups returning on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September. In the meantime, good luck to our Year 11s for their Results Day on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August and very best wishes to all members of our school family for a safe, happy and relaxing summer holiday.

**Mr J. Mallett**  
Headteacher

---

## Responding to bullying

Bullying is something that can sadly happen in all schools and in all walks of life. It is never acceptable and we will always do everything in our power to support the victims of all forms of intimidation and to stop bullying from reoccurring, as well as to educate our pupils and instill our values so that it is less likely to happen in the first place. We have robust systems in place to identify, record and track instances of bullying and the impact of our actions. However, it can be a complex matter, especially when bullying takes place outside of school in the wider community. We are always keen to learn more and to improve our work in this area. For this reason, we are pleased to announce that we have joined the Anti-Bullying Alliance and will be taking part in their *United Against Bullying* programme from September. The programme looks at existing practice, conducts surveys with pupils to seek their views, offers training for staff, identifies areas for improvement and helps to plan actions to address these.



We will keep you updated on our progress over the coming months. In the meantime, please remember that **all** members of staff at Neatherd are able to support pupils if they are facing bullying. The most important thing is to tell an adult in school that it is happening. This can be done by speaking to form tutors or members of the pastoral team, talking to the Neatherd Knights (our pupil peer ambassadors), filling in a Concern Slip (available from form tutors) or using the 'Report Bullying' button on our school website (neatherd.org).

Working together, we *can* stand up to bullying.



### Dates for your diary

|                       |                                      |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 21 <sup>st</sup> July | School closes for Summer Holidays    |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> Aug  | GCSE Results Day                     |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> Sept  | Start of Autumn Term years 7 & 11    |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> Sept  | Photographs years 7 & 11             |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> Sept  | Start of Autumn Term years 8, 9 & 10 |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> Sept  | Photographs years 8, 9 & 10          |

### House Points Update

|               |        |
|---------------|--------|
| <b>CARTER</b> | 35,238 |
| <b>CAVELL</b> | 33,983 |
| <b>FRY</b>    | 35,908 |
| <b>KETT</b>   | 32,841 |

### Most House Points: year to date

|           |           |      |
|-----------|-----------|------|
| <b>7</b>  | Violet P. | 1733 |
| <b>8</b>  | Amber W.  | 1191 |
| <b>9</b>  | Chloe C.  | 1106 |
| <b>10</b> | Connie E. | 1063 |

A grand total of **657,323** House Points were awarded in 2022-23. That's an average of **552** per pupil. Well done everyone!

## Library Book Amnesty!

Now is the time of year when we think about our summer reading and coming to the library to take out more books for the long hazy days of the school holidays! Reading during the six-week break is a great way of spending your time either on the beaches of Norfolk, in the garden or in a comfy chair when it rains – it keeps your brain active and ticking over nicely for the return to school in September – and it's free! To make sure we have a great collection for everyone to choose from, we need you to return your overdue (some have been on loan for a couple of years!) books, so that others who have been waiting patiently to borrow them and we have lots of fabulous new books on offer too!

Don't forget that whilst we're closed, you can still get free books to borrow from any public library and look out for any events that are going on – many are free or don't cost very much – click [here](#) and [here](#) for more details.

**Ms S. Holmes**  
School Librarian



**Dereham Neatherd High School**  
Norwich Road, Dereham, Norfolk, NR20 3AX



**01362 697981**



**office@neatherd.org**



**neatherd.org**

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

## Year 10 Work Experience

Our Year 10 pupils have returned to school after another very successful work experience week.



The feedback from their placements was overwhelmingly positive; the employers praised our pupils for their mature and committed attitude.

We are already receiving lots of very good Employer Report Forms – these will be passed on to our pupils in due course. Those with outstanding reports will be rewarded during an assembly in September, with a certificate and 50 house points.



Our Careers Leader, Mr Hodges commented:

*“We are very grateful to the employers for taking our pupils, they benefit immensely from this week, they gain in confidence, develop work skills and therefore have a better understanding of what employers require from their staff.”*



**Mrs M. Broughton**  
Careers adviser / Careers Coordinator



## Interhouse Competition Final Results



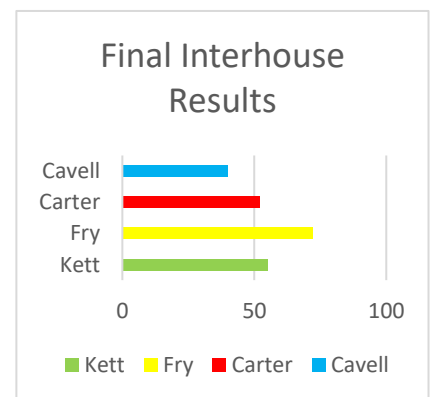
We have had another great year of inter-house competitions with many pupils across Years 7 to 11 taking part in several different sports at lunchtime. Each term the PE department provided different sports that the pupils could take part in:

- Term 1: Football and Hockey
- Term 2: Netball, Basketball and Dodgeball
- Term 3: Cricket, Rounders and Tennis

All pupils worked incredibly hard in their teams trying to gain as many points as possible for their houses. After each competition, the points were added to each house to identify who was in 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place.

At the end of all of the inter-house competitions, the final standings are as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Fry
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Kett
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Carter
- 4<sup>th</sup> Cavell



Well done to all pupils who took part in the competitions and helped contribute towards their house score. This year we also introduced the School Sports Games values which were: honesty, determination, team work, self-belief, passion and respect into our competitions. Each inter-house focused specifically on one value: team work for Football, determination for Hockey, honesty for Dodgeball, passion for Netball and self-belief for Basketball. At the end of each competition, the Sports Captains chose which house had best represented their value. It has been great to see a few houses that have managed to receive more than one value throughout the year!

All results from the inter-house competitions can be seen on the inter-house noticeboard in the DT corridor.

**Miss S. Hardman**  
PE Department



# Class of 2023 Year 11 Prom

The Year 11 Prom at Wensum Valley on Friday, June 30th was a night to remember. Pupils and staff alike had a brilliant time celebrating the hugely successful Class of 2023.



The pupils arrived in style, dressed in their finest prom attire as they graced the red carpet. The venue had been decorated beautifully for the occasion. The tables were set with white linens and sparkling centrepieces and the dance floor was ready for the party to begin.



Then, the dancing began. The pupils danced the night away to a mix of pop, rock, and dance music. They laughed, they talked, and they made memories that they will cherish forever. The pupils had a great time taking pictures with their friends and classmates, and they enjoyed sampling the delicious buffet!

The prom was a night of fun, laughter, and celebration. It was a perfect way for the Class of 2023 to mark the end of their time at Dereham Neatherd High School. They will be hugely missed, but they will always remember their prom night with fondness. The Class of 2023 is a group of talented and accomplished young people. They have achieved great things during their time at school, and they are sure to continue to do great things in the future. The prom was a perfect way to celebrate their success and send them off on their next chapter.

**Mr J. Cannon**  
Year 10 and 11 Director



## Teaching staff updates

At the end of term, we will be bidding a sad farewell to several members of teaching staff as they head off for pastures new. **Mr James**, **Mr Yan** and **Mr Olivier** have been with us for much of this year and we are grateful to them for holding the fort in humanities, maths and languages. Similarly, **Mr McFadyen** has done sterling work in the art department during Miss Brown's maternity leave. **Miss Chapman** will be leaving the English department to pursue new opportunities. I would like to thank her for all she has done during her time at Neatherd and to wish her well for the future.

**Mr Stek** will be leaving his role as a history teacher following his promotion to a post in the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) of a large high school in King's Lynn. Also successful in gaining promotions are **Mr Covington**, who will become Head of Science in a school in north Norfolk, and **Mrs Noble**, who is heading to an academy in the south of the county to take up a new role in pastoral leadership. I wish all three the very best of luck as they take on their new challenges and responsibilities.

**Mr Cannon** will be leaving us after a decade at the school following his successful application to become Assistant Headteacher in charge of Behaviour and Attitudes at Long Stratton High School, one of our partner schools in the Enrich Learning Trust. I am delighted that he will continue to work with us as a colleague in our Trust and wish him well in his new role.

**Mr Humphreys** has been a member of Neatherd's SLT for twelve years, most recently as the interim Deputy Head, and it is with great sadness that we will be saying goodbye to him as he takes on new responsibilities on the SLT of a school in King's Lynn, where he will be working with Mr Stek. Mr Humphreys has played a key role in transforming teaching and learning at Neatherd over the years and, on a personal note, I have greatly appreciated his support as the Deputy Head in my first months of headship.

Finally, we say good luck to two of Neatherd's longest serving teachers as they begin their retirement. **Mrs Shaw** has taught in Neatherd's Modern Foreign Languages department for twenty-five years and, during that time, has supported hundreds of Dereham children through their GCSE and A Level French studies. **Mrs Jacobs** has been a Neatherd stalwart for over thirty years, joining as a newly-qualified PE teacher before gaining promotion to a number of pastoral leadership roles, culminating in her becoming the school's Behaviour Lead. She has supported countless children and families during her time in the pastoral team. Fortunately, we will still see Mrs Jacobs in school from time to time in her new role as a casual supply teacher. I would like to thank both of them for their extraordinary commitment to the school over so many years and I wish them every happiness in the future.

As colleagues leave, so we are joined by a number of new teachers, all of whom have been put through their paces in rigorous interview processes and will be fantastic additions to our hardworking and talented teaching team.

- Ms E. Webb - Deputy Headteacher and teacher of English
- Mrs S. Gerrard - Assistant Headteacher and teacher of modern foreign languages
- Mr J. Riches - Director of Key Stage 4 and teacher of life skills
- Miss H. Davis - Teacher of modern foreign languages
- Mrs M. Flanagan - Teacher of art
- Miss K. Morris - Teacher of history
- Mr H. Murkin - Teacher of maths
- Dr I. Sloss - Teacher of science
- Miss A. Trew - Teacher of history

In other changes, **Mr Gilhooly** will become the year leader for Year 7, **Ms Thornton** the year leader for Year 9 and **Miss Adey** the year leader for Year 10. **Mrs McDonald** will take on responsibility for Instructional Coaching, a key part of our Teacher Development programme. **Mrs Tucker** becomes our new Head of Literacy, **Miss Clarke** the new More Able Pupils Coordinator and **Miss Straffon-Lawrence** the new EAL Coordinator. **Mrs Guy** becomes joint Second in English, sharing the role with Mrs Hawthorn, and **Mrs Lambert** becomes joint head of MFL, sharing the role with Miss Collins.

Mr J. Mallett

## Pupil Welfare Team

Neatherd is lucky to have a large team of staff dedicated to supporting our pupils' wellbeing, behaviour and attendance. From September, the team will be bigger than ever before.

**Miss Manning** oversees the Pastoral Team in her role as Assistant Headteacher in charge of Behaviour and Attitudes. The Pastoral Team will be divided into a Key Stage 3 team and a Key Stage 4 team:

| Key Stage 3<br>(Years 7, 8 and 9)   | Key Stage 4<br>(Years 10 and 11)   |
|---|--|
| <b>Office:</b><br>current Student Reception   | <b>Office:</b><br>opposite First Aid office                              |
| <b>Director:</b><br>Mr Daniels  | <b>Director:</b><br>Mr Riches  |
| <b>Year group leaders:</b><br>Year 7: Mr Gilhooly<br>Year 8: Mr Daniels<br>Year 9: Miss Thornton          | <b>Year group leaders:</b><br>Year 10: Miss Adey<br>Year 11: Mr Riches   |
| <b>Pupil Support Officers:</b><br>Year 7: Mrs Constable<br>Year 8: Miss Loades-Vincent<br>Year 9: Ms Ryan | <b>Pupil Support Officers:</b><br>Year 10: Mr Coe<br>Year 11: Mrs Tayler |

The work of the Pastoral Team is supported by Mrs Emmanuel (Mental Health Practitioner), Mr Dent (Inclusion Manager), Mrs Jones (Healthcare Practitioner), Mrs Mayor (First Aider) and Mrs Needs (Pastoral Team Administrator).

**Mrs Gormley** has overall responsibility for attendance in her role as Assistant Headteacher for Vulnerable Groups. Her Attendance Team is made up of:

- Mrs Beard                      Attendance Manager
- Miss Whitehead              Attendance Officer

**Mr O'Brien** is the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). All members of the school's Senior Leadership Team are available as deputy DSLs. The Safeguarding Team also benefits from having two non-teaching members of staff:

- Mrs Thompson                Safeguarding Support Adviser
- Mrs Hamilton                 Safeguarding Officer

Neatherd pupils are also supported by a team of over forty **Form Tutors** and, for most low-level matters, these are the first port of call for parents wishing to contact staff about pupil welfare issues. They are deeply committed to your children's wellbeing and personal development, working with them at the start of each day to ensure they feel happy, safe and ready to learn.





## Activities Week 2023



We are delighted to share a few articles from some of our trip leaders and organisers...

### **Battlefields Trip**

The History Department was delighted to be able to run the Battlefields trip again this year. Following a three-year absence, we headed out early on a Monday morning, boarding the coach and heading south for our ferry crossing. Once we arrived in Calais it was a quick journey to Ypres (or 'Wipers' as the British soldiers called it), where we would be basing ourselves for the four days of the trip.

Our first stop was the Flanders Field Museum in Ypres where the pupils were able to refresh their knowledge of the First World War. We then headed out of Ypres and onto the neighbouring town of Poperinge to visit Talbot House. At this museum pupils were able to gain an experience of what it was like for soldiers away from the front line in the 'Every Man's Club' by watching a show and exploring the building. A much-appreciated cup of tea was received and it was wonderful to hear several of our pupils giving a performance on the piano.



The second day was spent exploring the area of Ypres to gain a perspective on how the war was fought in the region. We began at the Passchendaele Museum where pupils could find out more about how the war was fought. The highlight was definitely the tunnel system, designed to give visitors an idea of the underground experience the soldiers faced. We then went on to visit the Lettenberg Bunkers and the excavated German trenches at Bayernwald.



The afternoon gave pupils a first look at a Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery at Tyne Cot. In an emotional moment we found the name of a pupil's relative and they were able to lay a wreath on behalf of the school. We then went on to reflect at the German Cemetery at Langemarck where we also laid a wreath in a moment of remembrance. In the evening we attended the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate which was a fitting point to end our day around Ypres.

The Somme was the focus on the third day of the trip. It was an early start and we set off to the impressive Canadian memorial at Vimy along with a visit to the excavated trenches where pupils could see how close the front lines got to each other. We then went on to Arras with the next stop at Wellington Quarry. This proved to be one of the most popular sites as the pupils were given a guided tour of the underground tunnels used in the 1917 Allied offensive. As we headed south we visited Lochnagar Crater which allowed pupils to gain a perspective of the landscape of the Somme. Our final stop was at the Thiepval Memorial to the missing of the Somme which allowed the pupils to see how those who lost their lives in the region have been remembered.

Our final morning gave the pupils a chance to visit the renowned Peter De Groote's chocolate shop and many took up an opportunity to get a deal from Peter himself! Following some time shopping we visited Hill 60 and our final site at Lijsenthoek Cemetery. Making good time we made for Calais to begin our return to Neatherd.

A huge thank you to all the pupils who behaved impeccably and were a credit to the school. A further thanks to Mr Stek, Mrs Gormley, Mrs Noble and the team from ICT Coaches for making this trip happen.

**Mr S. Foulger**

**Head of History Department**





## Bramley Lakes Outdoor and Adventure Activity Centre

Year 7 pupils had a brilliant few days at Bramley Lakes Outdoor and Adventure Activity Centre in Norwich. Whilst enjoyment was the main aim of the week, pupils were taking part in eight different activities - Ziplining, Abseiling, Archery, High Ropes, Crate Stacking, Canoeing, Raft Building, and Catapult. For many pupils, they faced their fears in several of these sessions, whether this be facing heights or water. Many pupils highlighted how much they enjoyed their activities – in particular zip lining and canoeing seemed most popular. It was fantastic to see pupils showing hard work and determination throughout these activities, and developing skills such as confidence and teamwork.

The experience continued on the campsite, staying in tents or cabins with their friends and spending time with each other and making new friends along the way. The evenings brought fun, where everyone was included in down time activities. One of these was the famous Egg Race, a team challenge where the pupils completed a range of tasks and earned tickets that they could later spend in the shop to buy materials to protect their egg. Mr Lyons and Mr Barron then

attempted to break each team's egg one by one using a range of tools. There was always a winning team, which was decided by a game of catch, with their egg!! The pupils fully embraced the challenges and had a brilliant time.



Overall, the Year 7 pupils thoroughly enjoyed their experience at Bramley Lakes, engaging well with both their peers and the activities they were involved in. For some it would have been their first residential, and for many their first experience of camping.



Mr Barron's closing words at the end of the trip reinforced that we hoped they had learnt lots – whether this be that they now really enjoy heights, or they can now wash up their plate and cutlery after meals!! All of the staff included enjoyed the week, and despite the heavy rainfall at the start of the week the camping experience at Bramley Lakes was a thoroughly enjoyable one for all involved!



**Mrs E. Dack**  
Teacher of PE



## Italy Trip

The Italy 2023 trip was one like no other. This write-up is going to deliberately focus on all of the positives that were experienced on this trip and give parents and pupils a real insight into what we packed into four days.



*Day 1:* Pupils spent the morning climbing the active volcano, Mount Vesuvius. We learnt from our guide, Car, how important this volcano is to people's livelihoods and how over 1 million people live and work in the surrounding region despite regular volcanic activity. Pupils and staff then enjoyed some lunch in the local trattoria beneath the shade of the trees. In the afternoon, we had a guided tour of the site of Pompeii, which is a World Heritage site. It was amazing for the pupils to be taken around this ancient town preserved and destroyed during the eruption of Vesuvius in 79AD. Despite the hot weather, pupils were fantastic at showing an interest in what our guides had to say.

*Day 2:* We travelled along the famous Amalfi Coast. Our guide, Francesca, lectured us on the history of the many villages of the area including how reliant the local economy is on their famous export, lemons! We also learnt about the geology of the area which gives this coastline its distinctive milky-white cliffs. There were a number of villages to stop off at on the way including the famous Positano. We stopped in Amalfi for lunch, where pupils enjoyed some free time enjoying the local cuisine including fried seafood, gelato and pastries. We then took a boat to the port town of Salerno, which gave our trip a new perspective as it was wonderful to see the coastline from the sea – pupils really enjoyed the views and the refreshing sea breeze. We finished our day visiting the famous town of Sorrento, which we travelled to by train. This was a good opportunity for many pupils to get experience of using the local public transport and even practising some Italian.

*Day 3:* This was our waterpark day, which was a welcome relief after some very hot and jam-packed days beforehand! Our school had a whole area reserved at the waterpark which gave us all a base where we could keep belongings and chat to friends whilst enjoying the wave machine, slides and aqua aerobics in between. We even managed a small staff and pupil game of volleyball in the pool before leaving at 4pm. We finished our day with a meal at the hotel and a group quiz.



*Day 4:* As we were well-practised with using the train, we all travelled into Sorrento for the morning before our flight to pick up any last-minute souvenirs and cram in more gelato! Due to flight cancellations we even finished our day spending the night in the centre of Naples – definitely an eye-opening experience for all!



Overall, despite the challenges, it really was a fantastic trip for pupils. The number of different places we visited, different modes of transport used, cultural experiences and the people we connected with will make this a trip to remember. Thank you Neatherd pupils for just being you!

**Miss E. Powell-Bowns**  
Head of Geography



## Mix and Match – Science Day



This year, the science department continued the tradition of making rockets with pupils from Years 8 and 9.

There was a huge variety of types built and successfully launched throughout the day. Pupils were divided into groups and given the opportunity to build and design an air rocket which travelled over 70 metres through the air.



Afterwards they were asked to consider the rocket's thrust by carrying out some simple chemical reactions with water and alka seltzer.



Later, it was time to design and launch a water rocket. Some pupils wanted to allow for air resistance and included fins and streamers. The best design managed to stay in the air for over 9 seconds and one of the rockets even got stuck in the trees. Pupils also designed and made straw rockets, helicopters and paper airplanes. All pupils and staff would agree it was an uplifting experience!

**Mr J. Scahill**  
**Head of Science**

## Normandy Trip



Normandy 2023 was a huge success! 47 Year 8 and Year 9 pupils discovered the history, sights and tastes of France during Activities Week.

On Tuesday, pupils saw the Bayeux tapestry followed by a moving cinema experience about the D-Day landings and the liberation of France during World War II.



On Wednesday, the group enjoyed a day out exploring the cobbled streets of Mont St. Michel, a UNESCO world heritage site.

On Thursday, pupils impressed the locals of Etretat with their French skills as they purchased a variety of food at the market as part of a competition to see which group could come up with the best picnic. We wrapped up with a guided tour of historic Honfleur with some last-minute shopping time!



The pupils were fantastic Neatherd ambassadors to France and did the school proud.

**Mrs J. Lambert**  
**Teacher of Modern Foreign Languages**





## Year 11 Celebration Event



The Year 11 Celebration Afternoon on 26th May was a brilliant period of celebration and reflection for the Class of 2023. The afternoon began with a surprise assembly, where pupils were treated to a montage of memories from their five years at high school. The montage included clips of pupils from their first day at school, their performances in school plays and concerts, and their sporting achievements. The pupils laughed and cheered as they watched themselves grow and change over the years.



After the montage, pupils were presented with awards for their achievements, sporting prowess, and contributions to the school community. Pupils also received personal messages from their teachers, who spoke about their individual strengths and talents. The headteacher addressed them all and Mr Cannon presented pupils with awards.

The afternoon concluded with a celebration on the school field, where pupils enjoyed ice cream and each other's company. It was a perfect way to celebrate belonging and to look forward to the future.



The Year 11 Celebration Afternoon was a wonderful way to end the school year for the Class of 2023. It was a day of fun, laughter, and reflection, and it will be a day that they will remember for years to come.

**Mr J. Cannon, Year 10 and 11 Director**

### Norfolk Children's Book Day, Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023

On Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June, we took a small group of our keen Year 7 and Year 8 readers to the Norwich School to join in with their Norfolk Children's Book Day. This involved being wonderfully entertained and enthralled by three fantastic authors of children's fiction. They made us laugh, had us on the edge of our seats at a Witch trial, and led us into magical worlds, and then they signed copies of their books for us, taking time to get to know us a little. We all enjoyed the day and returned to school with plenty of summer reading material! Josh from Year 8 correctly answered a question about Sir Gawain from King Arthur's court and won a goody bag of treats from the superb Norwich bookshop, Bookbugs and Dragontales!



## Library News!

### Scholastic Book Fair 6<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> July

We had a successful book fair in the library this week with lots of interest, despite the fact that for half of the time, we were all out on Activities Week and Work Experience! We spent £370 in total and raised an extra £92 to spend on new books in the library. Many thanks to Emily D in Year 10 for helping the librarian to set it all up and suggesting ways of advertising the fair. Thank you, too, to all who came to browse and make suggestions for future library purchases. 😊



## Neatherd's Dedication to Service Pupil Premium Pupils: Ensuring Crucial Support

We know at Neatherd that we have families who are in the Army, RAF or Navy. Our Armed Forces Champion is Helen Hunton, whose tireless work with service pupil premium pupils has been recognised across Norfolk.



Service pupil premium pupils, often facing unique challenges due to the nature of their parents' military service, require specialised attention. Helen understands this and has emerged as a beacon of support for students and families alike.

Helen was invited to the Royal Norfolk Show on 29<sup>th</sup> June as Captain Matt Deavin's guest, who talked about the changes happening at RAF Marham and how they could impact Neatherd. She has helped Norfolk County Council by sharing how we support our SPP pupils to ensure that these young learners receive the assistance they need to thrive academically and emotionally.



Neatherd has achieved the Defence Employer Recognition Bronze Award to demonstrate our support for the armed services and we are working towards achieving the Silver Award. Part of the award means we are proudly part of the Armed Forces Covenant, which means we are committed to being a forces-friendly organisation - we respect Remembrance Day, allow pupils to wear cadets' uniforms on Armed Forces Day and we are there to support the armed forces families that attend Neatherd.

If you would like any more information, please email [Helen\\_Hunton@neatherd.org](mailto:Helen_Hunton@neatherd.org)

Mrs Jenni-Marie Gormley  
Assistant Head, PP Strategy

## Attendance News!



A huge congratulations to the 59 Neatherd pupils who have 100% attendance this academic year! Consistent attendance demonstrates your dedication and a commitment to learning. A big well done to all those pupils on their impressive accomplishment.

Congratulations also goes to all our zero heroes and 100% attenders for the Summer Term! Pupils enjoyed an extended break time celebrating with cake and fruit punch!





## Dereham Neatherd High School Eco Committee Update

Since the last newsletter, the Eco-Committee has been busy. Pupils took part in a litter pick on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, wielding pickers and bin bags; the group ended up collecting three bags full of litter!

Behind the scenes, the Eco Committee completed working through steps to gain the Eco Schools Award and have submitted their application for Green Flag status. The Committee are waiting in anticipation and are looking to update you on progress in September.

**Miss S. Clarke**  
**Geography Teacher**

## Gold Medal Winners!!

Congratulations to nine Neatherd pupils who travelled to Taverham High School to compete in a Panathlon event which involved sports activities and team building.



Well done to Isaac, Chloe, Riley, Jake, William, Stanley, Maisie, Autumn and Eva. They all worked really hard and were a credit to our school.



## Norwich City Football Club Workshop

On 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> July, 33 Neatherd pupils from years 8 and 9 spent two days in school with coaches from NCFC's Norwich Community Sports Foundation.



They completed a mixture of classroom sessions and outdoor coaching. The two days were a mixture of useful coaching drills, developing principles of play, a tournament and exploration of club structures.



There were also a number of fun yet competitive quizzes and even a transfer deadline day. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience!

**Mr P. Critten**  
**Head of Society & Ethics**

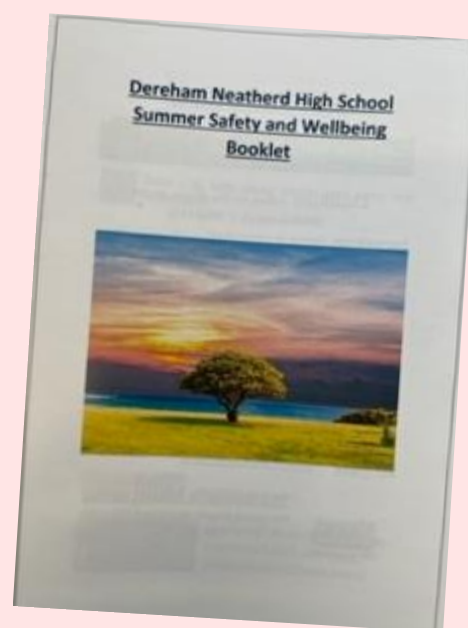


## An update from Mrs Emanuel, Mental Health Practitioner at Dereham Neatherd High School.

I am nearing the end of my first year as Mental Health Practitioner at Dereham Neatherd High School. I thought that you would like to know what I have implemented during that time to try and improve the support that pupils are receiving around their mental health.

Over the last 12 months I have put together some booklets for pupils:

- Asking for Help booklet – For pupils that are experiencing poor mental health but do not know how to disclose and talk to a parent/carer or friend
- Supporting Your Wellbeing booklet – contains information on where to get support. This includes apps, websites, services as well as the grounding technique, coping strategies and positive steps to wellbeing.
- Summer Safety Booklet – For pupils that have not necessarily disclosed that they are experiencing poor mental health, but ones that staff may have a 'niggle' about and who want to make sure that they have the information needed if they feel they do need support during the summer holidays.



All these booklets can be found on the school website, using the following link <https://neatherd.org/About-Us/Wellbeing-Support>

I have also implemented a Staff Supporting Pupils with Poor Mental Health booklet. This explains what symptoms to look out for and what to do in the event of a pupil disclosure.

The school has been working closely with the Mental Health Support Team who are based with the NHS. They have been helping with a whole school approach to mental health. This has included delivering exam stress workshops, Cup-O-T lunchtime sessions, and will also include staff training and support. They also take referrals from school for pupils that meet their criteria and work with them on a 1:1 basis offering support with anxiety, low self-esteem and low mood.

I have also referred pupils to other services including Nelsons Journey, Prospects and Mathew Project to name a few.

Within school the Pastoral Team, First Aid, Safeguarding and myself work together sharing information where appropriate to offer the best support for our pupils.

There is lots more information on the school website for parents / carers around young people's mental health so please do take a look. If you need further advice or are worried about your young person please do not hesitate to contact me:

**Mrs J. Emanuel, Mental Health Practitioner**

**Jill\_emanuel@neatherd.org**

## DNHS Science Fair 2023

Neatherd had another very successful science fair on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June with 26 projects participating!

Pupils get the opportunity to build on their learning from their science lessons or research a topic beyond the curriculum that they are interested in. They then show their findings and re-create any experiments they did for the pupil population to try out themselves. Three professionals from STEM-related industries were asked to judge the projects while the rest of the school could walk around science fair and see what their peers had researched. We had a diverse range of topics on display and every project clearly demonstrated how much hard work the pupils put into their research, so the judges had a real challenge deciding who should win.



*Most Creative Prize  
‘Hand in Hand’*

The judges decided to award prizes to: “Hand in Hand”, “How plants grow”, “Hockey Ball Investigation” and “Dog Diagnosis” but all pupils taking part should be proud of themselves – they’ve set a high bar to meet for next year!

Mrs J. Sheldrake  
Science Teacher



We were proud to take part in Pride Schools Week, 26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> June. The highlight was welcoming Sophie from the Norfolk LGBT+ Project on the Monday and seeing the support given from the whole school community. It’s a pleasure to see all of our pupils able to be their true authentic selves and we support them fully. We will once again be marching as a Trust at Norwich Pride on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July. We will meet at the banner, 12.30pm in front of City Hall.

Mr N. O’Brien  
Assistant Headteacher (Equalities, LAC, Safeguarding, SEND)

