



# Dereham Neatherd High School

*Traditional · Inclusive · Supportive*



## Dereham Neatherd High School Newsletter

2023-24 | Summer Term

June / July 2024



Welcome to our final newsletter of the school year. This half-term has been full of activity. Our Year 11s completed their GCSE exams and celebrated their 'graduation' from high school in style at the Year 11 prom. Other year groups have sat their end-of-year tests and, over the past three weeks, the focus has shifted to events that mark both the wider curriculum and the theme of celebration. The end of June saw our Year 7s heading to Cromer for their geography trip, whilst our annual Art Exhibition showcased the amazing talents of our young people. Moving into July, we had the Sports Festival and Science Fair, followed by Enrichment Week trips and activities, Year 10 work experience and the annual Presentation Assemblies for each year group. We are also delighted to be welcoming 230 new children to the Neatherd community as our incoming Year 7s join us from their primary schools for the final three days of term.

Alongside these many happy events, we have also been dealing with the Local Authority's last-minute – and extremely disappointing – announcement about significant cuts it is imposing on funding for high-needs SEND pupils. At a time when there is an increasing need for staffing and resources to support some of our most vulnerable young people, these cuts seem short-sighted and the timing of them has left many schools in a state of turmoil, coming as they did after budgets for the next school year had already been set. We have made some adjustments so that we can live within our means under this new funding settlement, but we continue to fight behind the scenes to ensure that every pupil with SEND gets the fair funding and the resources they deserve. Your children deserve nothing less.

As is always the case at this time of year, we have a number of staffing changes on the horizon. Among these, Miss Adey will become the Head of Modern Languages; Mr Taylor the Head of DT & Food; Ms Collins the Coordinator for pupils with English as an Additional Language; Miss Dack the new Pastoral Support Leader for Year 8; and Mr Sabberton-Coe will become a teacher in our Maths department. At the end of term, we will be saying goodbye to several members of staff who are relocating, seeking new opportunities or have secured promotions in other schools. Our thanks go to Mr Appleby, Mrs Butler, Mr Chapman, Mr Hodges, Mr Lyons, Mr Moon, Ms Morris, Mr Murkin, Mr Saunders, Ms Sheridan and Miss Young for all their hard work and everything they have done for our school and its pupils. We wish them well for their future endeavors. Over the past few months, we have been recruiting new colleagues and I am pleased to say that we are fully-staffed for September.

Have a happy and relaxing summer holiday. Pupils in Years 7 and 11 return to school on **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September**, followed by those in Years 8, 9 and 10 on **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September**.

**Mr J. Mallett**  
Headteacher

COMPASSION

HARD WORK

RESPECT

INTEGRITY

FAIRNESS



## Dates for your diary

### September

- 4<sup>th</sup> Year 7 and 11 in school (school photos)
- 5<sup>th</sup> All pupils in school (y8,9 &10 school photos)
- 16<sup>th</sup> Year 7 GL Assessments
- 24<sup>th</sup> Post 16 Evening
- 26<sup>th</sup> Clubs Fair

### October

- 7<sup>th</sup> Year 10 & 11 Flu Vaccination
- 10<sup>th</sup> Open Evening – year 6
- 26<sup>th</sup> Year 10 Iceland Trip

### November

- 5<sup>th</sup> Year 11 Parents Evening
- 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> Year 11 Interviews
- 19<sup>th</sup> Year 8 HPV Vaccinations
- 21<sup>st</sup> Year 9 Parents Evening
- 25<sup>th</sup> Year 11 Mock GCSEs



## House Points Update

<b>CAVELL</b>	260,877
<b>COWPER</b>	256,561
<b>FRY</b>	273,011
<b>WOLLASTON</b>	244,991

### Most house points: year to date

<b>7</b>	Reuben B.	1949
<b>8</b>	Violet P.	3012
<b>9</b>	Faith W.	1606
<b>10</b>	Bea G.	1830
<b>11</b>	Callum H. & Summer G.	953

A grand total of **1,035,445** house points have been awarded this school year. That's an average of **850** per pupil. Well done everyone – and a big well done in particular to this year's house winners, Fry!



## Neatherd Values

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

**COMPASSION**

**HARD WORK**

**RESPECT**

**INTEGRITY**

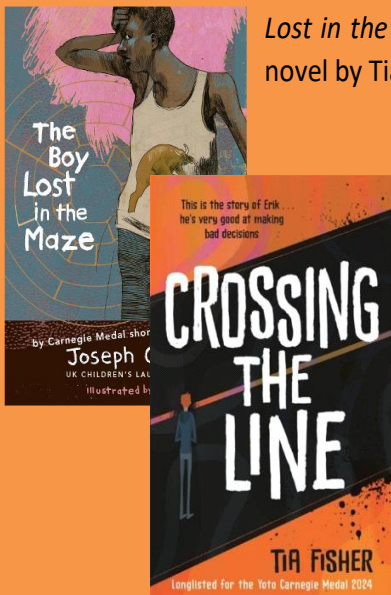
**FAIRNESS**



## Library News!



Our **Book Club** enjoyed a great day out at Wymondham High Academy on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June celebrating the Carnegie Medal for Writing for an outstanding novel for children. We participated in a fantastic quiz, wrote reviews about our favourite books, voted for them ourselves and then watched the live ceremony which was hosted by Manjeet Mann, a previous nominee. We were delighted to discover that one of our favourites, Joseph Coelho's novel, *The Boy Lost in the Maze*, was the winner voted for by the judges and the verse novel by Tia Fisher, *Crossing the Line*, was voted for by readers.



On Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, we were lucky enough to host the author of the award-winning books, *Run Rebel* and *The Crossing*, Manjeet Mann. Manjeet gave a fabulous talk to all Year 9 students about her writing journey, her inspiration, where she grew up and how this influenced her first book. It was fascinating to hear how she works, researching intensely for each book and how she converts her ideas into the format of a verse novel. She also talked about the charitable foundation, Run the World, that she established, with the aim of assisting women and girls who are survivors of domestic violence. We very much appreciated her visit and loved hearing her speak.





## I Belong Girls Coding Day

On Monday June 24th, 2024, seven enthusiastic pupils from Neatherd, Bella, Alice, Arabella, Amelia, Lexi, Victoria, and Violet, attended the I Belong Girls Coding Day at UEA. The day began with an introduction and welcome session in the Julian Study Centre. This was led by Beatriz De La Iglesia who is the Head of School of Computing Sciences. She was brilliant and so engaging. This was followed by an engaging panel and Q&A. Pupils participated in a Cyber Security activity and learned about the Norfolk Computing Hub. After lunch, they dived into coding with machine learning and Scratch. The day concluded with a career's session. It was a great day filled with lots of learning, networking, and fun!



## Norfolk Scratch Off – UEA

On July 2nd, over 50 pupils from various schools attended the “Norfolk Scratch Off” at the UEA. Neatherd took 10 pupils from Year 7 and 8, and they did a fantastic job! Our team included Enid, Wren, Kacper, Harrison, James, Arthur, Oscar, Max, Maddie, and Oakley. The day began with an introduction and outline of the event in the Congregation Hall. Pupils then worked on building retro arcade games using Scratch in the School of Computing labs, which can accommodate over 100 pupils. The games were judged throughout the morning, with finalists presenting their creations after lunch. The audience judged the games based on the loudness (something Neatherd excelled at 😊) of their applause. Neatherd pupils produced wonderful games and performed exceptionally well. Thanks to UEA for hosting this fantastic event.

Mr Hodges  
Head of Careers  
ICT Teacher

## Spotlight.....

Evie (9HME) has donated 19 inches of her gorgeously long hair to The Little Princess Trust! For those of you that aren't familiar, The Little Princess Trust provides free real hair wigs to children and young people, up to 24 years, who have lost their own hair through cancer treatment or other conditions. Evie has also raised almost £800 (as it stands currently) for the charity, her family are all enormously proud of her, as are we, what an inspiration to others!

(more information can be found here: <https://www.littleprincesses.org.uk>)



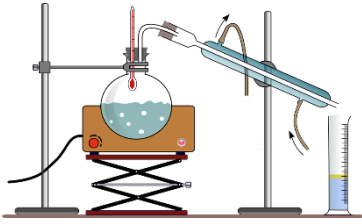
## Summer Music Concert 2024

Last week, we hosted our annual summer concert and we were once again wowed by the talent on show; it was truly wonderful to see pupils from all year groups taking part in the concert. The audience were treated to a wide range of musical styles, which included vocal solos and duets, saxophone and piano solos, drum solos, choir and a band performance.

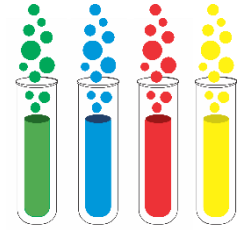
Mr Owen & Miss Witton would like to thank all of our wonderful performers and the family and friends who came to support them. We would also like to thank Ms Eahlswith for providing refreshments, Mr Gilson for technical support and for entertaining the audience whilst they arrived and Mr Mallett for his excellent piano accompanying skills.







# Science Fair



Neatherd had another very successful science fair on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July with 23 projects participating. Pupils had the opportunity to build on their learning from their science lessons or research a topic beyond the curriculum that they were interested in. They then displayed their findings and re-created any experiments they did for the pupil population to try out themselves.

Three STEM professionals from the Earlham Institute, Quadram Institute and University of Cambridge very kindly gave up their time 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 had put into their research, so the judges had a real challenge deciding who should win.

1<sup>st</sup> prize went to “Save Our Soils”. Having worked on their project since October 2023, it was evident to the judges each pupil in the group could answer any question put to

them about their investigation into soil erosion.



2<sup>nd</sup> prize went to “Blooming Bacteria” as they had an excellent example of how bacteria and mould grew in different conditions and modified their method when the original set up didn’t get any results, just



like a true research scientist would do. “The High Fivers” won 3<sup>rd</sup> prize due to their excellent knowledge and re-creation of prosthetic hands. The special “Most Creative” award went to “Honesty Experiment” and it was so nice to see that the Dereham community successfully returned all the



wallets that the pupil had planted around

Dereham within 24 hours of him ‘losing’ them! I think the group which had a real set of pig’s heart and lungs was a firm pupil favourite though as their stall was always busy with people wanting to prod them.



COMPASSION

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## Careers News

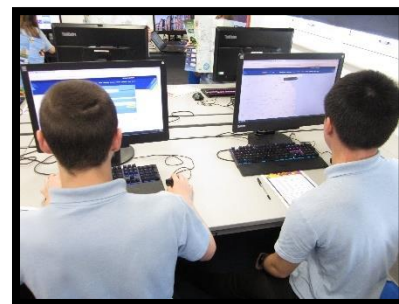


In preparation for their work experience, a number of Year

10 pupils took part in a workshop delivered by the local bus company Konectbus. The objective of the workshop was to equip the pupils with the correct knowledge, know-how and confidence to travel independently using the resources available and provide them with the skills they need to plan their journeys and prepare for their work experience placements and beyond.

“The idea behind targeting the 14–15-year-old age group was to lay the foundations for increased independence, better mental health, and economic growth by creating greater accessibility for employment, and an increased uptake in sustainable travel among the future generation of adults”, says Katherine Voyce, Marketing Executive of Konectbus who delivered the workshop.

The pupils watched a presentation with tips on how to catch the bus, buy tickets, how to behave on board, journey planning and tracking buses. Afterwards they engaged in a journey planning activity on the Konectbus website. After the workshop, the pupils received 1 week’s free travel to use anywhere on the network.



## Year 10 Work Experience

Another successful week for our pupils.

The Year 10 Work experience week is always one of the highlights in our school calendar: An opportunity for our pupils to experience the “real working environment” and to learn a lot of important life skills, i.e. working with adults, time keeping, working in a team and learning a variety of technical skills in different job sectors.

Even if some of them are initially quite shy and nervous about the week, they soon come out of their shells and embrace this wonderful chance of experience a certain job field.



As every year, our pupils found placements in a large variety of career sectors, from Engineering, Construction and Local Government, to Childcare and Education, Hospitality & Catering and Media.

Most pupils stayed in the local area, in and around Dereham, some ventured to Norwich and other towns in Norfolk. Three of our pupils completed their work experience further afield, Lewis was with the DHL Foundation Supply Chain in Milton Keynes and Eva’s and Mexx’s placements took them to Northampton.



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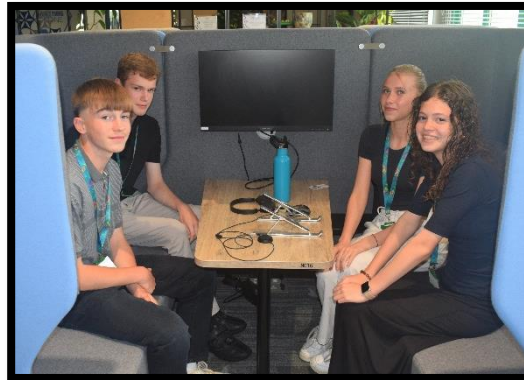
The feedback was exceptionally good from the employers: “Konrad, Isaac and Amelia were some of the best work experience pupils we ever had,” said Richard Bailey, Director of Westcotec. The pupils were engaged and interested at all times, asking lots of questions. They got involved in some office administration and CAD drawings and also helped in the workshop with the manufacture of interactive traffic signs.

“We have really enjoyed our work experience at the Dove Company, the staff have been so supportive and we have learned a lot about different aspects of Engineering,” said Olivia and Alex about their week at the local Engineering Company.



“Work experience is such a wonderful week and our pupils have been an absolute credit. They have really embraced the opportunity and we’re proud of their efforts. Well done year 10” says Mr Hodges, Careers Leader at Neatherd.

Mrs Broughton  
Careers Adviser





## Farewell to Year 11

This term we said our goodbyes to the class of 2024. This is a year group that joined high school when the experience and impact of COVID were something we could not have foreseen. As a year group they have had to be resilient and adaptive throughout their time here at Neatherd and over the past few months worked incredibly hard, preparing and revising and giving their all to their GCSE exams.

Leaving school is a significant moment for each and every one of them as they end 11 years of school before embarking on their own journeys of college, apprenticeship, sixth form or further training and employment, whichever is their chosen path we wish them all the best on their journey. It is a significant moment in their lives where they won't be seeing people they have learnt alongside since they were 11 years old and for some since Primary school, even Nursery.

I have had the pleasure of being the Head of Year 11 pupils for only a year of that time, but have enjoyed working with each and every one of them, seeing all of them demonstrating our school values and developing and preparing for their exams and their next steps.

During their time at school they have been involved in so much, visiting many amazing places, competing and testing themselves against other schools in sports and events which have given them experience and opportunities that will help to shape them.

It was great to see so many pupils and staff attend Wensum Valley Golf club and hotel for the year 11 Prom. It was a great evening of celebration for all those involved and was great to see all the eye-catching cars and outfits on arrival and throughout the evening.

This will not be the last time we all see them, as in August we will be in school for them to collect their exam results and we will be inviting pupils back in November to receive their formal exam certificates and to celebrate their exam successes. Mr Riches.

**From all of us at Neatherd we wish them good luck and all the best for their future.**



## Senior Pupils

At Neatherd this term we have been re-launching our pupil leadership and as part of that we have had the pleasure of receiving applications from all of those wanting to be prefects and senior pupils. It has been a tough but very enjoyable process of interviewing pupils and listening to their visions for our school and the areas they want to develop over the next year. Mr Mallett, Miss Manning and myself spent many hours Interviewing and deliberating over who to appoint and I am happy to say we appointed the following senior pupil team to serve our school over the next academic year and know they will do an amazing job in supporting our school community and leaving their own impact and legacy at Neatherd.

Head Boy & Head Girl: Joshua and Beatrice

Deputy Head Boy & Girl: Dino and Neve

Assistant Head pupils: Eliana, Willow, Harvey, Breanna, Sienna, Sophie and Emily



They will lead a team of over 50 Senior pupil prefects and Junior prefects and we all look forward to working with them.

Congratulations and well done to all involved! Mr Riches





## Sports Festival 2024



Neatherd hosted their annual Sports Festival on Thursday the 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024. With some of the traditional houses changing names, it created an opportunity for possibly a new name on the sports festival cup.

This year Cavell, Fry, Wollaston and Cowper battled it out on a day full of sport. All pupils from year 7 through to year 10 had a chance to compete in 3 out of the 38 different sports on offer during periods 1,3 and 5. The range of sports this year has been our biggest by far, with some key sports being added such as wheelchair basketball, dance by the workshop studios and mixed martial arts.



At each activity, the leader in charge was responsible for selecting 5 pupils that performed well, the house they are in was then awarded 5 points. These points were then added to the track events to find out the eventual winners. During periods 2 and 4, those who wanted to test themselves even further were given the opportunity to compete for their house in the track events. This year's track events were electric with several records being broken. A special mention has to go out to Bea G (Senior Girls 800m) and Joel E (Junior Boys 100m) who managed to put their names into Neatherd sports festival history with records in their events.



A big thankyou has to go out to the record 13 providers that came in to support on the day, some of these being some of our own ex-pupils. These included Hoopstars, NR fitness, Savage Martial Arts, Norfolk Cricket Board, the Workshop Studios and many more.

Once again, I have to say Neatherd pupils have done themselves proud, as the day went really well with many smiles, engaged pupils and some great sport being played across the whole school.

Finally, that leaves me to announce the winners this year. In 4<sup>th</sup> place we have Cavell. In 3<sup>rd</sup> place we have Wollaston. Second place is Fry. And the winners are Cowper.



## Awards Assemblies

On Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July we held our annual awards ceremony where pupils are celebrated for their achievements throughout the school year. This event is Neatherd tradition and is always met with excitement and anticipation. We may think that young people are more interested in life online, but the buzz in the Sports Hall on Tuesday clearly showed this isn't the case. Pupils want to do well, they want to stand up and be proud of their efforts even if it is a little nerve wracking to do so.

Parents were beaming, pupils were overjoyed and staff were so very proud. The awards are not only the traditional subject prizes but also for attendance, attitude to learning and also the special awards for those pupils who have gone above and beyond to help others or improve their own behaviour and attitude. On the day 100s of certificates and badges were handed out to a wide range of pupils, each receiving the traditional handshake from Mr Mallett.

The rewards do not end there, in form times this week we have also celebrated the highest golden tickets awarded to a form as well as individual pupils, the zero hero certificates were also awarded to the pupils who haven't received a single negative point all school year along with best form attendance.

It is a week of celebration for the hard work that pupils have put in throughout the year. We are very proud of our pupils and what they have achieved and look forward to the celebrations again in next academic year.



# Enrichment Week 2024

What a fantastic Enrichment Week we have all enjoyed.

Year 7 pupils had the opportunity to try outdoor and adventurous activities while camping at Bramley Lakes for half the week. When in school, Year 7 pupils made and launched rockets as well as doing some bug searching with the Science department, there was a multi-sports day and day of languages, which included making pizzas!

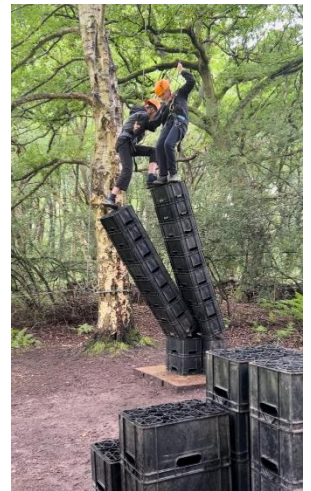
Year 8 had days involving an author workshop, a book making class and a murder mystery challenge as well as days of drama, music and art. Year 8 also had a chance to visit Africa Alive on the Wednesday.

Year 9 could have gone on the Battlefields or Devon trips, and in school pupils were managers setting up a festival with the DT department and were solving the Enigma challenge in Maths, as well as the Friday at Pleasurewood Hills.

What a fantastic and varied week!

## Bramley Lakes

During Enrichment Week Year 7 went to 'X Adventure', an outdoor pursuits centre just outside Norwich. For many, the trip away was the first time away from home, or their first-time camping – it was definitely an adventure. Activities included climbing up some high ropes, canoeing and water games, building and then sailing a raft, seeing how high you could climb on stacked up crates with a partner, braving the zip wire over the lake, abseiling, building a huge catapult and then firing water bombs at the opposition, and archery. The focus was very much on team work, supporting others in the group, making new friends and having fun. Despite the rain it was a very successful trip, and we hope the pupils enjoyed it as much as the staff did!



## Devon

The Year 9 trip to Devon was a great success with an action-packed week of outdoor activities – I think it's fair to say the coach home was a lot quieter than on the way there! The highlight of the trip was surfing at Westward Ho! where lots of pupils (and staff) spent the afternoon catching waves in the sun! At Beam House the pupils enjoyed rifle shooting, abseiling and high ropes along with many more activities which put pupils to the test, overcoming fears and learning new skills. In the evening pupils were kept busy competing in tournaments, dancing at the silent disco and cheering on England in the semi-final. Throughout the week Neatherd pupils did very well working together and supporting each other in their teams and lots of compliments were given on the pupils good behaviour and courageous attitude on the trip. I hope that if the pupils return to Devon in the future they will have fond memories of the adventures they got up to!



COMPASSION

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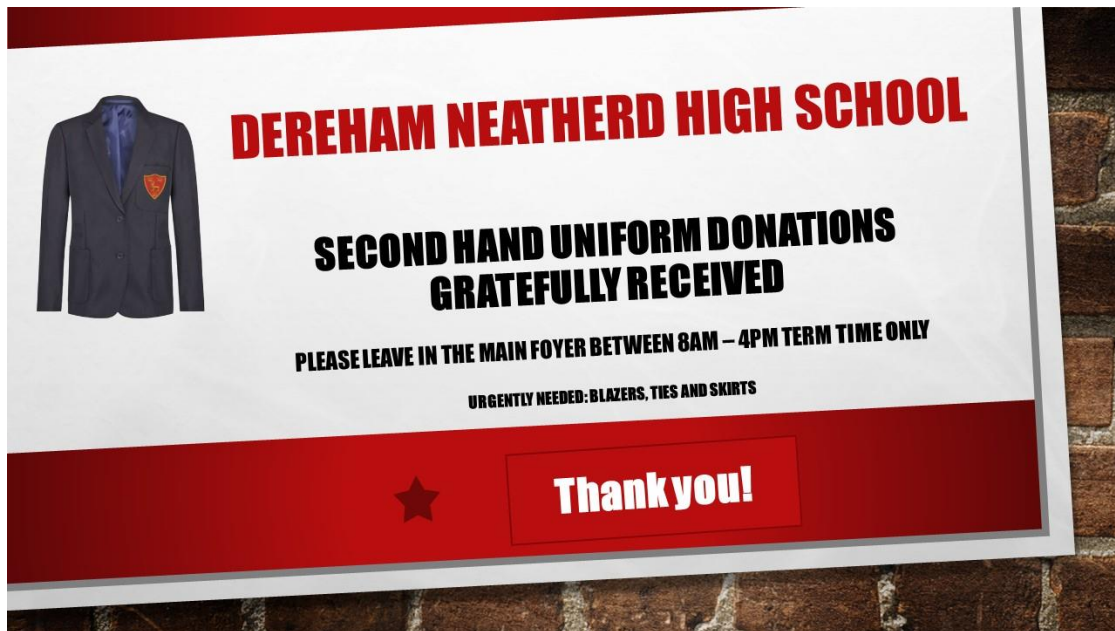


## Battlefields

From 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> July we took 44 year 8 and 9 pupils to France and Belgium for the WW1 Battlefields trip. It was a packed week, starting at an old WW1 medical station site which is now a cemetery for those who lost their life in the conflict. We also got to explore a reconstructed trench system to understand what it was like in the trenches. During the week we visited bunkers, museums and cemeteries to pay our respects. We also went down a quarry which housed British and New Zealand troops at Arras. One of the many highlights was George, Noah and Evie laying a wreath on behalf of the school at the Menin Gate Last Post Ceremony. A trip to remember for all.







## Need a little help, right now?

If you are struggling a little and need some help right now, these organisations can help:

### Samaritans

Call 116123

### Shout

Text SHOUT to 85258

### Childline

Children and young people can call 0800 1111



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**office@neatherd.org**



**neatherd.org**

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



Neatherd pupils can now report concerns about bullying, mental health or anything else that is worrying them on Tootoot:

[neatherdhighschool.tootoot.co.uk/login](https://neatherdhighschool.tootoot.co.uk/login)