



Dereham Neatherd High School

Traditional · Inclusive · Supportive



Dereham Neatherd High School Newsletter

2022-23 | Spring Term

March 2023

Message from the Headteacher



Welcome to the latest edition of our school newsletter, giving you updates on the exciting things that have been taking place this month alongside important information about school and school life.

Now into the third month of my headship, I continue to be more and more impressed by just how many events take place in our school and by how talented and hardworking our pupils and staff are. In March alone, Neatherd pupils have:

- taken part in School Council meetings so that all pupils can have their say on how we can make Neatherd even better
- raised money for several different charities including Comic Relief and Able Kidz
- given their all in sports training, fixtures and competitions
- participated in events covering a whole host of topics from careers awareness to STEM challenges, World Book Day to Angling Club, and much more besides
- launched our new Eco-Committee
- volunteered as Neatherd Knights to support other pupils having difficulties with friendship issues
- taken part in outreach events run by some of the country's most prestigious universities
- completed Spring Mock Exams

- attended a new lunchtime club called 'The Space'

The list goes on and on...! And that's not to mention attending and engaging with over 100 hours of lessons delivered by highly qualified and experienced teachers, and being supported by many TAs, pastoral staff and countless support staff who work tirelessly behind the scenes each day to make sure that pupils are safe and ready to learn.

One major change over the past month has been our decision to bring form time to the start of the school day. So far, this has been very successful and popular with pupils, parents and staff alike. It has meant that pupils start every day with an opportunity to check in with the same trusted adult, and to make sure they have all the equipment and the correct uniform they will need for the day ahead. All pupils also receive a Daily Briefing with key messages for the day ahead and public congratulations to individual pupils on their recent achievements.

As we reach the end of the Spring Term, I wish all members of our school community an enjoyable and relaxing Easter holiday. We look forward to seeing pupils back in school on **Tuesday 18th April**.

Best wishes,
Mr J. Mallett

COMPASSION

HARD WORK

RESPECT

INTEGRITY

FAIRNESS

House Points Update

CARTER	124 639
CAVELL	120 241
FRY	127 158
KETT	118 310

Most House Points: year to date

7	Violet P.	1235
8	Leah Q.	870
9	Isaac H.	782
10	Connie E.	819
11	Siena C.	900

Well done to Enid C. in Year 7 for being the first pupil to achieve 1000 House Points this academic year – a huge achievement! Enid has since been joined by Violet P. and Mollie H., both of whom are also in Year 7. Congratulations to all three of you!

Year 11 MFL Support

Tuesday lunchtimes in MFL1



No appointment needed, just come along with questions and we will help!



Dates for your diary

- 18th April Start of Summer Term for all pupils
- 25th April Year 10 Geography Trip to Holkham
- 1st May Bank Holiday Monday
- 8th May Bank Holiday (Coronation weekend)
- 15th May Start of GCSE written paper exams
- 26th May End of half-term



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.

Boys Dance Workshop Friday (morning) 12th May 2023

Legacy (Boys) Dance Company will be coming to Neatherd to host a FREE 90-minute workshop aimed at boys.



Legacy are a multi award winning male youth company based in Norwich. A number of ex and current Neatherd students are part of Legacy and regularly take part in dance workshops, performances and competitions. They train in a range of styles of dance, theatre and fitness and are highly regarded locally and nationally.

Dance is often (and incorrectly) seen as part of the girls' domain but Legacy blows this stereotype right out of the water with energetic, dynamic and exciting performances that play to boys' strengths.

You can take part whatever your current level of experience. If you just have an interest in dance or a curiosity to find out more, if you think you might like what's on offer and would like more information – talk to Ms Ealhs with in lessons, at break, during the lunch break or after school.

Mrs S. Ealhs with
Head of Drama

World Book Day Bakers!

On Thursday 2nd March we held a competition for the best literary cakes to celebrate World Book Day. We were blown away with all entries and whilst Mr Mallett chose three bakers who won a rosette for their efforts, everyone made such amazing cakes and all pupils were given a book of their choice and some chocolate!

The winners of the rosettes were:

- Most imaginative: Gemma for her Willy Wonka extravaganza with marshmallows and lollipops
- Best looking cake: Evie for her Roald Dahl inspired red velvet cake
- Greatest effort: Haidee for her enchanting Queen of Hearts cake

We raised a grand total of £71.08 in aid of Book Aid International!

Many thanks to all students and parents involved.

Ms S. Holmes
Senior Librarian and Trust Library Co-Ordinator



Services Pupil Premium Update



I have now had a check-in with every Services Pupil Premium (SPP) pupil at Neatherd. These are pupils that have a parent or parents serving in the armed services or whose parents have served in the armed services and are now veterans.

As part of the support we offer these pupils, we provide a lunch-time drop-in club, every Monday, where pupils can bring their friends and meet other SPP peers. This is run with specialist support and pupils have an opportunity to simply chat, play games or try out a range of craft activities. So far it has proved very successful.

Mrs H. Hunton
Services Pupil Premium Co-ordinator



Written by Benjamin, Year 11

The following piece was written by Benjamin in Year 11. He was practising writing for Paper 1 of the English Language paper where students are asked to write either a description or narrative. Here, Ben has used a picture as inspiration for his description:



The rattle of an engine stammering into life. The gentle humming of a passer-by. The energetic soprano from the locomotive.

These sounds - others too - filled the air with great enthusiasm as the entirety of the city waltzed to the

beat of an inaudible tune. It was morning. Great concrete pillars, etched with glass and trimmed with brick, clambered into the heavens as the gilded sun sliced cleanly through the silvered clouds above. It shone down upon a labyrinth of neon that found itself unspooling across shopfronts and snaking around window frames. The inhabitants of New Amsterdam began to emerge from their slumber. A flood of pinstripe suits and Derby hats cascaded down the sidewalks, mirrored on the road by the throng of a thousand Cabriolets, each one purring eagerly as they swept along the asphalt.

The rattle of an engine as it stuttered and died. The fury-driven slam of a car door. The last words of a passer-by. One shot rang out; then another; and another. The moon watched on, hapless as it hung from its perch while pewter smoke began to uncoil from the polished steel of a discarded revolver. It clattered onto the rain-soaked concrete of the municipality. The tyres sobbed and screamed as the shadowed silhouette of a roadster slipped into the rainfall, fleeing the glow of a lone flashlight.

Mrs L. Tucker
Teacher of English

CAREERS NEWS

Mr R. Hodges, Careers Leader

Careers Trip to the Norfolk and Suffolk Skills and Careers Festival

On 8th March, we were delighted to take 24 year 10 pupils to the careers festival at the Norfolk Showground. It was genuinely a fantastic event because it showcased the range of opportunities that are available to pupils in Norfolk.

Our pupils were an absolute credit and really engaged with the wide range of exhibitors. They even made the most of the free ice-creams!



Apprenticeship Careers Event

On Monday 20th March, we welcomed over 20 apprenticeship organisers to a careers fair in the sports hall.

Some of the providers included Lovewell Blake, BAM Nutall, the Army, Bill Cleyndert and Marah McLennan. It gave pupils from years 9 and 10 a wonderful opportunity to explore their future options.



The importance of apprenticeships has never been greater because they provide a hands-on experience, a salary and the opportunity to train while the pupil works as an apprentice. A year 9 pupil reported that “it was great to speak to a range of different organisations to really find out about apprenticeships and where it can take me”. The pupils were a credit with lots of good questions being asked. Thanks to Mrs Broughton for organising such a useful event and to all the different organisers who gave up their time to attend.

‘The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde’

Year 11 pupils Ethan and Joey recently attended a performance of ‘The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde’ at the Norwich Science Festival. They are studying this text as part of their GCSE English Literature exam.

Mrs S. Guy
Teacher of English



Netball Champions

The Year 7 netballers have made great progress during their time so far at Neatherd. During their league matches, they kept going from strength to strength, resulting in them making it through to the league final. This match took place on 22nd March.

The girls played a great game of netball, resulting in a 7-5 win and the title of League Champions. As if this wasn't enough, they also took part in a recent tournament involving over 20 schools at Greshams and became the plate runners up. Not bad at all for their first year!

Well done then to our very own League Champions:

- Gracie B
- Ruby S
- Enid C
- Freya M-C
- Amelia D
- Jessica P
- Madison C

Miss S. Hardman
Teacher of PE



Summer Uniform is here!



For many years now we have, after Easter, moved to our summer uniform which consists of pupils being permitted to wear a light blue (Neatherd Logo) polo shirt. These can be purchased from Birds of Dereham.

The polo shirt can be worn without the Neatherd tie and can be untucked. This is always a popular choice with our pupils and therefore we are still happy to continue with this as an option. However, in an attempt to reduce costs to families, we are also now happy to allow pupils to continue to wear their winter uniform button shirts without their tie. The shirt, however, would be required to be tucked in.

In all cases, the school blazer is required to be worn (except, of course, in very hot weather or when pupils have asked their teacher's permission to remove their blazer). Should pupils be feeling cold, they may also wear a school jumper. However, this is **in addition to** the blazer and not simply in place of the blazer.

Pupils will also be expected to continue to wear skirts to the knee, full-length (non-skinny) trousers or tailored shorts. Last year, we saw some very warm weather and many pupils found tailored shorts preferable to full-length trousers.

As ever, if you require support in purchasing uniform, please contact the school office and we will be happy to assist you in any way we can.

Miss S. Manning
Assistant Headteacher



University Challenge



Well done to Year 11 pupils **Lola** and **Amber** who recently secured highly selective places for weekend residential revision courses at the University of Oxford.

Neatherd has also been selected as one of just 10 schools across the country to take part in the **Discovery Programme** run by **Balliol College, Oxford**. Pupils take part in a series of virtual academic enrichment sessions that cover a wide variety of humanities and science topics, such as an introduction to classics, machine learning and neuroscience. In the summer, they will visit Balliol and take part in a 'graduation' ceremony.

Comic Relief 2023



Once again, pupils and staff have been busy raising money for Comic Relief, with numerous events taking place during form times and lunchtimes over the course of the week leading up to Friday 17th March.

Over 100 pupils took part in netball and basketball challenges on Monday with our winning entrant in netball managing to score an astonishing 10 goals in just 30 seconds!

Tuesday saw a doubles table tennis competition, followed by a hockey penalty shootout against Mr Wright. Many pupils gave it their best but ultimately Mr Wright proved a formidable opponent, saving 44 goals against just seven that got past him.

Throughout the week, there were form-time activities such as an English quiz, geography challenge and Comic Relief quiz, along with an assembly for each year group to explain what the charity is and where the donations go.

The much-anticipated highlight of the week was undoubtedly Friday's Year 11 v. Staff football and netball matches. Year 11s were victorious in football, taking a 1-0 win. Over on the netball courts, pupils played well but were narrowly beaten by the staff team. Some post-match cookies provided by Mr Saunders brought some solace!

Thank you to everyone who supported the events throughout the week by participating and/or donating. As of 27th March, the school had raised £222.50 with more expected to come in before the end of the month.

Miss S. Hardman
Teacher of PE

Attendance matters!

We often remind pupils that every minute of their learning time counts – they will never get it back again. And to learn, they need to be in school, in class and with their teacher. High attendance really does matter. 90% might sound like an excellent figure but even this is not high enough...

- 90% attendance is the equivalent of half a day's absence per week on average.
- Over five years of secondary school, this is equivalent to missing **half a year of school**.

Clearly, we cannot help being absent when we are extremely unwell. There are also times when it is vital that children do *not* come into school in order to avoid spreading infection to others, including when they have been vomiting or have had diarrhoea.

However, there are many times when pupils might feel a bit under the weather but could still – with a little effort – come into school. In fact, they often find that they start to feel better after a little while. If a pupil feels much worse as the day goes on, the school will always contact parents. **These are the times that make the biggest difference.** The odd day's absence here and there doesn't seem like a big deal, but it soon adds up and it means missed learning time and falling behind in studies.

As a rough guide, we would suggest that children **SHOULD** come to school if they are feeling unwell with the following:

- A minor cold
- Tiredness
- A headache
- A cough or snuffle (so long as it is not accompanied by a temperature)
- Tummy ache

If unsure, please do contact the Attendance Office and we will be pleased to give you advice and guidance. Our job is to support you in supporting your children.

Mrs H. Beard
Attendance Manager

Safeguarding at Neatherd

Keeping children safe is every school's top priority. At Neatherd, we are fortunate to have a large and experienced team of trained Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) whose responsibility is to oversee all matters relating to child protection and wider safeguarding support. The team meets regularly to share key information, work together on resolving complex issues and provide professional challenge to one another. We also work extensively with a range of external agencies and partners including the Local Authority, other schools, medical professionals, the police, social workers, charities and mental health providers, to name but a few. If you have a concern about a child's safety and wellbeing, you should always feel free to raise it with a member of the Safeguarding Team – by phone, in person or by emailing office@neatherd.org and stating 'FAO Safeguarding Team' in the subject line – and it will be treated with the highest levels of urgency and importance.

Our Safeguarding Team



Mr N O'Brien

Assistant Headteacher, SENCO, Lead DSL
(Designated Safeguarding Lead)



Mrs A Thompson

Child Protection, Safeguarding,
Family Support & DSL



Mrs R Jacobs

Senior Behaviour Lead & DSL



Mr C Daniels

Director of Y8 & Y9 and DSL



Mr J Cannon

Director of Y10 & Y11 and DSL



Mrs J Emanuel

Mental Health Practitioner & DSL



Mrs H Beard

Attendance Manager & DSL

Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility. If you have any safeguarding concerns about any pupil or a disclosure has been made you MUST report this directly to a DSL immediately.

Other members of our Safeguarding team include: Mr J Mallett (Headteacher)

Mr D Humphreys (Deputy Headteacher)

Miss S Manning, Miss H Holmes, Mr N Sinclair (Assistant Headteachers)



**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**