



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



Dereham Neatherd High School Newsletter

2024-25 | Autumn Term

November / December 2024

Designer of the month...

This month, we celebrate the incredible talents and dedication of Joe in Year 10, as our Design & Technology Designer of the Month.



Turn the pages to find out more.....

Message from the Headteacher



Welcome to our December 2024 newsletter. As always, you will find lots of articles highlighting Neatherd pupils' talents and the fantastic range of opportunities available in our school.

In recent weeks, our Year 11s have been working hard on their mock exams. Pupils from all year groups have also been busily preparing for next half-term's school production. Hundreds of pupils have been receiving their bronze, silver and gold stars to recognise their achievements and, last week, the school came together to raise money for Save The Children on its annual Christmas Jumper Day.

As ever, I feel very privileged to be the Head of a school where everyone plays their part in creating a safe, happy and supportive environment in which children can achieve their best. Our staff are second to none. Our pupils are hardworking, respectful and compassionate. Visitors this term have remarked on how calm, supportive and purposeful the school feels.

As we prepare for a well-deserved break, I would like to wish everyone a happy Christmas. We look forward to seeing pupils again on **Tuesday 7th January**.

Mr J. Mallett
Headteacher



Local businesspeople help pupils overcome their fear of interviews

Yr11 pupils at Neatherd High School test the job market

To attend an interview is a very daunting experience for most of us – let alone if you have never done it before. All pupils who are now in Year 11 will be in exactly that situation very soon when they have to apply for college courses, training or apprenticeships for when they leave school next summer.



In order for pupils to overcome these interview fears, Neatherd’s Careers team arranged for local businesspeople to come in and give every single pupil a “Mock interview” for a job of their choice. Representatives from the sectors of health, construction, engineering, law, agriculture, animal care, police, performing arts, IT and other professionals from many different job fields gave up their valuable time to interview the pupils and give feedback on their application documents and their interview manners.

“We are very grateful to the external professionals to come in and interview us,” says Neve. “We were quite nervous about being interviewed, but really enjoyed the experience and now feel more confident for any future interviews”.

“Ryan was an excellent candidate with good engagement, he should do very well in his future job”, says Lee Hunton of Machined Precision Components Ltd.

Shaun Taylor from Butcher Andrews solicitors also gave up his time to help with the interviews. He had some very positive feedback about Marina: “This was an excellent interview; Marina gave fantastic, detailed answers and showed a great passion for law.”

“Liam is really confident and it shines through. He answered all my questions very well and asked some good questions himself,” was the verdict of Holly Everitt of Larking & Gowen.

Marion Broughton



Writer of the month....

Hector in Year 9 has been selected for publication by Young Writers in their Fright Club Ghost Stories 2024.



The Old Man and the Key

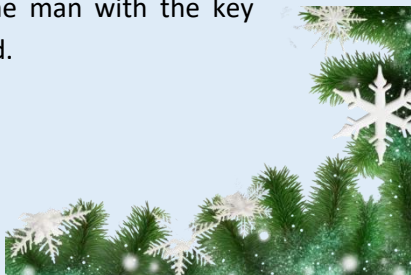
In this realm there lurked in a forest a village that had the stain of death that cursed it. In the deep depth of this village there stood a wooden mansion with a cobbled stone path. No-one knew what was lurking in the old woodland mansion. When people went there they came out differently. They are always shaking and no-one could understand what happens in the mansion. It was like an old brain teaser. A mystery...

The secret was eating me up. I had to know what happened in there.

The mansion door was dusty like the top of an old cabinet you can never reach. It was thick with a layer that smothered it like ink that you can't get off your fingers. As I latched my hands on the door handle, I pulled but it would not open. I had glimpsed an old wooden key in the village which was held by an old man. I offered him ten shillings, but he slowly shook his head, refused money and passed me the wooden key with an evil grin.

I looked deeper at the key. I wondered why it was so clean. I saw it had scratches on it, like the claws of a gargoyle. With a trembling hand, I opened the door.

Opening the door there was a huge shadow crawling towards me. There was a creature that lurked in those shadows. The man with the key laughed and laughed.



Annual Roast Dinner Day

We were delighted to host our annual Roast Dinner Day in the canteen in November. Patrons from Eckling Grange Care Home and pupils from Toftwood and Dereham Church infant schools sat down with the Gardening Club to enjoy a delicious roast dinner.

We are very proud of the food culture we have at Neatherd and we love getting the local community involved with the fantastic work that the canteen staff do every single day. Compliments to the chef!

BAE Systems, RAF, and Royal Navy STEM Roadshow

Year 8 had an unforgettable experience with the BAE Systems, RAF, and Royal Navy STEM Roadshow. Pupils explored the world of electricity—what it is, how it's made, and how it powers our world—through hands-on experiments.

They created a human circuit, experimented with a Van de Graaff generator, and watched Mr. Phillips and Mr. McFadyen pedal a turbine to light up an LED display.

The session also highlighted exciting STEM careers and the cutting-edge work of BAE Systems, the Royal Navy and the RAF. A huge thank you to the roadshow team for inspiring the next generation of innovators!



Iceland Trip - October 2024

What an amazing 5 days full of adventure and wonder in the land of **ice and fire**! The pupils did so well on the long and at times challenging journey to Iceland, staying positive despite issues with the Icelandic coach. The **Blue Lagoon** is a sensational first stop for the pupils, the highlight for many! Here they are relaxing in the luxurious lagoon with a facial mask and free drink, exploring the waterfall and sauna!



The second day was the **South Island Day** with the brilliant Stora Dimon climb in challenging frosty conditions, but it was worth it for the amazing views at the top. A couple of stunning waterfalls including a walk behind the



impressive Selandjafoss, a walk on a black beach and a walk to a glacier all made for a truly amazing day, all enjoyed in glorious sunshine.

The third day we took a ferry across to **Heimaey Island**, where the pupils were unbelievably resilient in climbing to the very top of the active Eldfell volcano, getting to see the moonscape at the top. We had a fascinating audio tour of the Eldheimar Museum, before a great swim in the pool on the island. A smooth ferry trip back was enjoyed, particularly as the pupils could buy some chips!



The Golden Circle day did not disappoint with more waterfalls, the erupting Geysir Hot Springs and the amazing Thingviller National Park. Our last night at the Viking Restaurant was extra special, being illuminated by the Northern Lights as we stepped outside.

There is no doubt that fitting in so much makes for long and tiring days, but the early starts and late nights were well worth it for what the pupils have seen and done. The staff on the trip were brilliant, helping everything run smoothly. Mr O'Brien enjoyed a special birthday seeing the Northern Lights, Miss Clarke will be known as Dr Clarke, Mr Dent

mistakenly told off some Icelandic teenagers (thinking they were Neatherd pupils!) for having their feet on the ferry chairs, and Miss Stratton-Lawrence had a chance meeting with her old Geography teacher in Thingviller!!

Above everything else on this trip, for me, the most amazing aspect was the conduct and attitude of the pupils. The support they give each other was amazing, whether that was to keep climbing to the top or to go down a waterslide, the kindness and encouragement pupils showed was remarkable. A fantastic 5 days!





This year we have 20 pupils working towards their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. Participants are engaged in a series of self-improvement activities, including skills, volunteering and physical challenges. The award not only encourages personal growth but also fosters a sense of community, seeing young people taking on roles within local youth groups, mentoring those younger or less experienced than themselves. This responsibility helps them gain confidence, discover their potential and contribute positively to society.

On Sunday 1st December, we completed a sponsored walk. We split into three groups. Each group followed a different route to gain experience in navigation and walking as a group over distance. This gave them an insight to the Bronze expedition. Despite the weather and a few wrong turns, everyone finished in good spirits.

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION DEREHAM AT WINTER

- ❖ Your entry must fit the title "Dereham at Winter"
- ❖ Submissions can be in colour or black and white
- ❖ All entries to feature at the Dereham Day art and photography exhibition on Saturday 10th May 2025
 - ❖ Prizes awarded
- ❖ Send your entries to Mr W Wright via teams by 20.2.25



ART and photography



School Production



This year we have two shows for the price of one. This first half is an original play called 'A Tale of Two Lizzies' and the second half is the musical 'SIX: Teen edition'. To purchase tickets please use the following link: [Your Box Office](#)

**DEREHAM NEATHERD HIGH SCHOOL
PRESENTS**

A Tale of Two Lizzies

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

**Thursday 16th – Saturday 18th January 2025
7:00pm – doors open from 6:30pm**

**Saturday 18th January 2025
2:00pm – doors open from 1:30pm**

**Adult £11 | U18s £9 |
Family Ticket (2 adults, 2 U18s) £35**

TICKETS:

All tickets must be purchased from www.yourboxoffice.co.uk. Enter 'DNHS' in the search bar.

VENUE:

Dereham Memorial Hall
62A Norwich Street
Dereham
NR19 1AD

**DEREHAM NEATHERD HIGH SCHOOL
PRESENTS**

SIX

TEEN EDITION

**SIX: TEEN EDITION
By Toby Marlow and Lucy Moss**

Originally Produced in the West End by Kenny Wax, Wendy & Andy Barnes and George Stiles
Originally Produced on Broadway by Kenny Wax, Wendy & Andy Barnes, George Stiles and Kevin McCollum in
association with Chicago Shakespeare Theatre

**Thursday 16th – Saturday 18th January 2025
7:00pm – doors open from 6:30pm**

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**Adult £11 | U18s £9 |
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TICKETS:

All tickets must be purchased from www.yourboxoffice.co.uk. Enter 'DNHS' in the search bar.

VENUE:

Dereham Memorial Hall
62A Norwich Street
Dereham
NR19 1AD

This amateur production of SIX: TEEN EDITION is presented by special arrangement with
Concord Theatricals. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

Admission:
£3 - Adults
£1 - 16 & under
Please pay on the door

Neatherd Music Department
**CHRISTMAS
CONCERT**

Wednesday
18th December
7pm start
Doors open at 6:30pm
In the school
canteen

Artist of the month...

We are pleased to announce that our Artist of the Month is Oonagh. They have already demonstrated a superb level of skill within their observational studies and a beautiful use of tonal mark making within each piece produced so far.

The cup was the first piece of homework of the GCSE course and showed the art and photography department just how skilful Oonagh is as an artist. We all look forward to seeing how their work continues to develop and are already very proud.



Designer of the month...



Joe is a true enthusiast when it comes to all things tech and design, demonstrating a passion that extends well beyond the classroom.

A standout member of our Design School and an active participant in the Lego League, Joe thrives on pushing the boundaries of innovation. At home, he has taken his love of technology to the next level, investing in his own Bambu Lab 3D printer. This state-of-the-art machine allows Joe to print intricate designs in multiple PLA colours, showcasing his skills in turning creative ideas into tangible products.

Among Joe's impressive creations are personalized mugs and stylish bags, crafted using the school's sublimation printer. His ability to combine cutting-edge technology with design flair makes his work stand out.

Joe is also deeply involved in the Lego League's Submerged Theme Challenge, where he and his team are building robots capable of performing a range of underwater-inspired tasks. Competing against hundreds of other schools, Joe's technical expertise and teamwork are key to the group's progress in this exciting competition.

Check out the photos of Joe's recent 3D-printed designs – they're a testament to his creativity, precision, and enthusiasm for technology. Congratulations, Joe, for being a shining example of what can be achieved with skill, passion and determination in Design & Technology!

Keep up the fantastic work, Joe – we can't wait to see what you create next!



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



Calling all Year 9s – win yourselves Amazon vouchers by entering this competition before 7th February 2025!



Writing Competition Year 9 Students

Write the best story that starts with this sentence:
"This was the last time they would ever see the Sun."

Rules:

You must use this as your opening line.

- Everything else is up to you: setting, time period, characters, etc. Show us your creativity!
- Your story should have a clear beginning, middle, and end – we want a full narrative, not just an extract.
- Make sure it's appropriate for school – if you wouldn't read it in front of your class, you shouldn't submit it to us.
- You have a 500 word maximum.

Administration:

- Please submit an electronic copy to your teacher – preferably Microsoft Word.
- Name your document "[Your Full Name] [Your School] Enrich WCL"

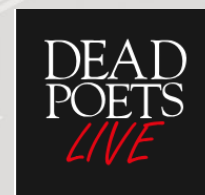
1st Prize
£50 Amazon Voucher

2nd Prize
£30 Amazon Voucher

Runner Up
£10 Amazon Voucher

Library News

On Thursday 3rd October, Year 7s were treated to an event which will, hopefully, kickstart a lifelong interest in poetry. Three members of the artistic collective, Dead Poets Live, which comprises classically trained actors, came into school and gave the pupils a fantastic introduction to poetry, bringing it alive with a bang! Pupils were encouraged to stand and beat out rhythms, shout and echo what the actors were saying, ending with some well-known lines from Shakespeare and others. Pupils also created their own poems and acted themselves! This made for an excellent introduction to a much-misunderstood art form.



The Library's year started really well with Year 7 pupils choosing a book from the library which they will receive as a Christmas present at the end of term. They could choose any one of the books from a super range of selected books, as shown in the picture below. The books have arrived in school and will be delivered to the children during one of their last English lessons of the term.





Christmas Bake Off



The Christmas Bake Off was on Wednesday 11th December and ALL houses were represented with 14 teams taking part including a teacher team leader in each group.

The competition was tough and VERY competitive (especially with the teachers) and the creations were stunning and delicious.

Congratulations to Jasmine and Maddie for their delicious and beautifully decorated Mint Flavoured Yule Log. The Judges Mr Mallett, Ms Webb, Mr Taylor and Mrs Temple couldn't stop eating it.

It was so great to see so many people taking part and congratulations to Fry house for winning.

Special thanks goes to Miss Rawcliffe and Mrs Temple for organising the event and to Mr I. Taylor for creating the highly coveted Bake Off wooden spoon trophies.



At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SETTING UP APPS, GAMES AND SOFTWARE

Millions of new phones, tablets, laptops and games consoles will be nesting under Christmas trees this year. However, even if parents and carers have gone to the trouble of setting up these new devices and enabling the safety features, there are still potential hazards in the apps, games and software that children will want to install and use. Knowing what to look for and discussing those risks with your child may help avoid any nasty surprises this Christmas. Here are our top tips for ensuring that unwrapping this year's presents doesn't unleash any unexpected dangers.

TAKE NOTE OF AGE RATINGS

Back when most games were bought in shops, checking the age rating was easy: it was on the front of the box. Now that most games are downloaded, it's tougher – but not impossible. All reputable download stores show a game's age rating at the point of purchase, and you can check the suitability of a specific title your child wants to play at videostandards.org.uk/ratingboard/games.



FREE ISN'T ALWAYS FREE

The games market has changed radically in recent years. Many titles are free to download, but then tempt players to pay for cosmetic items (as in Fortnite) or to unlock additional content. There can be huge peer pressure for children to pay for these items. Agree a budget for in-game purchases before the game is downloaded, and make sure children can't authorise in-game purchases by themselves.

DISABLE IN-APP PURCHASING

It's not wise to leave children with devices that can make in-app purchases without your permission. Ideally, set up computers, consoles and phones so child accounts need an adult's authorisation to buy anything. On shared devices (like iPads, which don't allow user accounts), check the settings to ensure that in-app purchasing requires the account holder's password, fingerprint or face ID.

CHECK THE SPECS

To avoid let-downs, check a game's specs before buying – especially for PC or Mac, where games often need a particular graphics chip or processor to work. Sites like systemrequirementslab.com can scan your computer to see if it will run certain games properly. On consoles, make sure you're buying the right version: some newer Xbox or Playstation games won't play on older consoles.

MONITOR IN-GAME COMMS

Voice chat with friends is part of the fun of modern gaming – but danger lurks here too. Many titles have open chat systems, meaning that children could speak to strangers or hear adult language and verbal abuse when games get particularly competitive. Using a shared family area (as opposed to alone in bedrooms) for online gaming is a good way to keep an occasional ear on what's being said.

BE WARY OF GIFTS

Titles like Roblox, Minecraft and Fortnite have in-game currencies, which can be earned through progress in the game – but can also be bought with real money. A common scam is for a young player to be offered currency if they click a link, visit a certain site or contact another user directly. Warn your child about such offers; they should show you if they're in any doubt over an in-game gift.

APPS ARE AGE RATED, TOO

Like games, apps in the major stores have age ratings, too – so you can see in advance whether an app's appropriate for your child. Additionally, phones' parental control settings allow you to set age limits, preventing young ones from downloading unsuitable apps themselves. These ratings aren't infallible, however: we've seen TV apps featuring adult shows with an age rating of 3, for example.



CONSIDER STORAGE

Most apps and games will tell you in the online store how much space they need on a device. Check this carefully – especially with games, which can run into hundreds of megabytes and beyond: if you don't have enough free storage on a device to run the game or app, you won't get a refund from the store. You can normally check a device's available storage space through the settings menu.

WATCH OUT FOR IMITATORS

Even in the official stores, untrustworthy rogue apps can slip through the net. Common tricks are apps or games that have a slightly different name to the genuine article (Fortnite rather than Fortnite, for instance) or use logos which deliberately look very similar to the official app. To avoid downloading these imitations, read the app's description and check who the publisher is listed as.



LEGAL APPS THAT BREAK THE LAW

There are many apps that are perfectly legal but enable illegal activity – streaming apps which let people watch football matches, say, without paying for Sky or BT Sport. Prosecution for using such apps is rare, but they can lead to risky behaviour like viewing rogue streams on sites teeming with malicious links. Watch for children installing unusual apps with 'TV', 'stream' or 'sport' in the name.

IN-APP REGISTRATION

It's common for apps and games to ask users to register: entering personal details like email address, date of birth and other information you might not want your permission to divulge. Ask them to get your permission before giving any personal info to an app – and consider using your details rather than the child's, so they're not targeted by marketing spam or put at risk of having their data stolen.

STAY UPDATED

Most games and apps are subject to regular updates, which not only offer new content and features but also provide critical security improvements. Children tend to ignore such updates – usually because they don't understand why they're important, or they simply want to get straight on with gaming. Check your child's devices periodically to make sure these updates are being installed.

Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the *Sunday Times*, *Wired*, *PC Pro* and *Computeractive*. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on *Newsnight*, *Radio 6 Live* and *ITV News at Ten*. He has two children and has written regularly about internet safety issues.



Dates for your diary

January

7 th	School re-opens to all pupils
13 th	KS3 mid-year assessments
21 st -23 rd	School production
21 st	Y11 trip to Norwich Playhouse - <i>Macbeth</i>
22 nd	Y11 History trip to Norwich Castle
23 rd	Y10 trip to Norwich Playhouse - <i>Macbeth</i>
30 th	Y10 parents evening

February

4 th	Y11 exams information evening
6 th	Y9 Options evening
13 th	Y11 apprenticeship workshop
17 th -21 st	Half-term break
24 th	Y9 DTP & Men. ACWY vaccinations



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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

tootoot
make a noise

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

neatherdhighschool.tootoot.co.uk/login

