



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



Dereham Neatherd High School Newsletter

2023-24 | Spring Term

February / March 2024

Message from the Headteacher



Welcome to the latest edition of our school newsletter. Whilst this has been an unusually short half-term, at just four and a half weeks, it has by no means been a quiet one. Besides working hard in their 115 timetabled lessons, our pupils have been learning, and making contributions to school life, in a wide range of ways, including:

- representing Neatherd in numerous fixtures and tournaments for rugby, netball, football and basketball;
- raising funds for our forthcoming Kenya expedition;
- showing great creativity and flair in our World Book Day themed literary bake-off and interhouse short story writing competition;
- taking part in a range of educational visits, including to the Festival of Knowledge careers event;
- learning about International Women's Day, LGBT+ History Month, the Youth Parliament Elections and British Science Week in our assemblies.

Next half-term, our Year 11s will be completing the last of their GCSE practical exams and will then get to work on their final written exams. They have been working hard and I am sure you will join me in wishing them good luck and great success in the weeks ahead.

As members of staff, we continue to work on developing our own knowledge and skills through our weekly training sessions so that we can deliver the best possible education and school experience for your children. Over the past term, we have worked with the Norfolk Steps team to undertake training on effective behaviour management. Like schools across the country – and indeed the world – we have had to adapt to changes in pupil behaviour since the Covid pandemic, and our aim is to do everything reasonable to meet individual pupils' needs whilst also remaining committed to achieving disruption-free learning in the classroom. This has certainly been challenging over recent years, but we feel we have made progress and we were delighted when the Steps team visited us in February and noted that "students' behaviour and interactions with staff were exceptionally good."

I wish everyone a happy and relaxing Easter break. We return to school on Monday 15th April (week A).

Mr J. Mallett
Headteacher

COMPASSION

HARD WORK

RESPECT

INTEGRITY

FAIRNESS



Dates for your diary

March

27th School closes for Easter break

April

15th School re-opens to all pupils
 24th and 26th Year 10 trip to Holkham
 25th BEE Netball Competition
 25th Year 7 and 8 Junior Maths Challenge



House Points Update

| | |
|------------------|---------|
| CAVELL | 185,473 |
| COWPER | 184,712 |
| FRY | 195,505 |
| WOLLASTON | 173,597 |

Most house points: year to date

| | | |
|-----------|--------------|------|
| 7 | Wren K. | 1436 |
| 8 | Violet P. | 2097 |
| 9 | Anastasja W. | 1113 |
| 10 | Bea G. | 1329 |
| 11 | Callum H. | 829 |

A grand total of **739,212** house points have been awarded since the start of this school year. That's an average of **614** per pupil. Well done everyone!

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. |



International Women's Day – Sports Events



Report written by Elise, year 10

On Friday 8th March, Mrs Dack took 2 all-girls football teams (Years 8 and 9) to 'Goals' in Norwich to celebrate International Women's Day. The pupils participated in the 'Barclays Girls Football Tournament' jointly hosted by the West Norwich and Dereham and North Norfolk School Sports Partnership.

Both football teams were amazing, with the Year 8 team coming in 4th place and Year 9 coming 3rd. Both teams had to go head-to-head with girls from other schools around the county. They faced multiple 12-minute, 5-a-side matches, during which Neatherd were very strong and scored many goals. All girls that participated were exceptionally good at showcasing their Neatherd values (Compassion, Hard work, Respect, Integrity, and Fairness). The girls from Years 8 and 9 showed resilience and sportsmanship to the other teams and themselves very well. Congratulations to all of the girls who took part on Friday, you all did a fantastic job representing Neatherd.

Mrs Topping was also out and about on Friday, taking two teams of girls from Year 7 to The Nest in Norwich. Here they took part in some workshops about empowering women in sport, then listened in on Q&A sessions with a range of inspiring females about their careers. The girls engaged with these excellently.

After lunch, the football began outside and the two teams participated in a tournament. One of the Neatherd teams did exceptionally well, finishing as runners-up on the day. All 14 girls played with a smile on their faces, which in itself epitomised what the day was all about.

A big well done girls!



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Library News!



Norfolk Book Day at Norwich School

On Tuesday 5th March, Ms Sangster and I took an enthusiastic group of Year 8 readers to Norwich School to enjoy a readers' day organised by the librarian there.

We were treated to performances and talks by three fantastic children's authors: Carnegie-winning, best-selling author **Sally Gardner** who told us that she couldn't read until the age of 12, and had been severely affected by undiagnosed dyslexia; **Sarah Hagger-Holt**, who writes brilliantly about children who have been underrepresented in children's literature until recently, embracing inclusion of every kind; and the hilarious **Dave Rudden**, who had us in stitches but, alongside Sarah, also got us thinking about how to start writing our own stories, answering questions about everything.

Pictured below is a group of pupils (including three from Neatherd) participating in Sarah's latest novel, talking about how, as authors, we can make decisions about how a plot will progress!

We are grateful to Norwich School for inviting us to share in this wonderful day.

World Book Day 2024

Not only were we amazed and enthralled by the expertise of our bakers, we also played a guessing game in the library with staff members from all over the school hiding behind their current or favourite book! Pupils enjoyed looking at the first photo, testing their knowledge of members of staff (who would read THAT book, whose hair is that appearing above the book...) then opened the door, like those on an advent calendar, to discover who is reading what!





Library News!



Reading Champions 2024

On Friday 1st March, the intrepid Year 7 Reading Champions set off for their first challenge at Northgate High to compete in the regional heats of the National Reading Champions Quiz. Megan, Wren, Morgan, Jude and Sam were so keen and excited, and really deserved the prize for the most enthusiastic team, but the judges clearly weren't looking! We came 11th out of 25 with a score of 41, which is a very creditable achievement as most of the other pupils were much older.



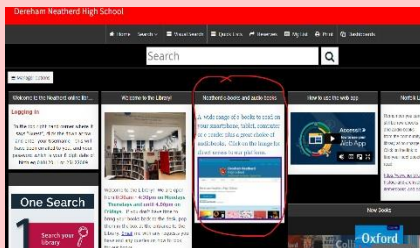
Audio and eBooks



Your library doesn't only provide physical books for you to borrow – we offer audio and eBooks too! Listening to stories isn't just for those times when you are very small: we all like being read to, and it's a great way to absorb literature if you are travelling, or find physical books a chore. Audio and eBooks are also good if you're on the go.

The colour of your reading screen can be changed to suit your preferences or needs, and you can adjust the font in terms of size, colour and type. You can adjust letter and line spacing to make your reading experience the best it can be for you.

Go to the library webpage, click on the image circled in red below, and sign in with your Neatherd login details...



You are then taken to the online eBook and audio book website where you can browse and start reading and listening.

If you prefer to use a tablet or phone, you can download the app in the usual way – just type in Dereham Neatherd High School when prompted and search for your next book.

Ms S Holmes

Senior Librarian and Trust Library Co-Ordinator

Spotlight...

On Saturday 2nd March at the Adrian Flux Arena in Kings Lynn, Year 11 pupil, Bleu, participated in his first race in a 2 litre saloon stock car. Despite racing conditions being far from ideal, due to the recent rain, he persevered and completed his first race!

Bleu started his racing career in ninja carts at the age of 6, and is well and truly following in the footsteps of his father, grandfather and great grandfather in the stock car racing family tradition.

Well done Bleu!



... and another!

Parent of Alex in Year 7 recently shared the following exciting news:

“A few months ago, we entered an open martial arts competition and winning medals meant we were invited to try out for Team GB. We attended the selection day and all got selected.

In August Alex will be representing team GB in the European martial arts games being held in High Wycombe!”

Great news and we wish Alex the best of luck!



SNAG Team News

The SNAG club has invested in a rotating compost bin which will take food waste from the Food Technology rooms and turn it into compost. This is a fantastic way to reduce our environmental footprint by turning a waste product into something useful, showing integrity by doing the right thing. All pupils who use the Food Technology rooms will place fruit and vegetable waste cuttings into green compost bins. Gardening Club members empty the bins on their designated rota day.

Mr Anderson and the SNAG team



Careers News

Trip to the Festival of Knowledge

The careers team recently took 21 Year 10 pupils to the Festival of Knowledge at the Norfolk Showground. The pupils were excellent and a real credit to the school. They engaged with a wide range of providers and employers to ask questions about their future.

The event was excellent and had a wide range of exhibitors in attendance. These included Aviva, Norfolk Police, all the local colleges, RAF and many more. We're grateful to the Norfolk Chamber of Commerce for organising.

Mr Hodges, Head of Careers



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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

COMPASSION

HARD WORK

RESPECT

INTEGRITY

FAIRNESS



Who are we?

Mental Health Support Teams (MHSTs) support children and young people in selected schools and colleges across Norfolk and Waveney. We operate 9am-5pm Monday-Friday and are open during school holidays.

What do we do?

We offer short term (6-10 sessions) interventions based on cognitive behavioural therapy, catered to the current difficulties your child is experiencing. We may also put you in touch with other services for further support.

What do we offer for secondary schools?

Worry Management - Tools to help your child cope in anxious situations. This is delivered directly to young people, with the opportunity for parents/carers to attend sessions where appropriate.

Graded Exposure - Slow, small steps building up to face what makes your child anxious. This is delivered directly to young people, with the opportunity for parents/carers to attend sessions where appropriate.

Mind & Mood - Group work around supporting mental health.

Behavioural Activation - This focuses on finding out what is important and planning this into their day to help them feel better. This is delivered directly to young people, and parents/carers are given the opportunity to attend where appropriate.

How do I get help?

All of our referrals must come directly from the mental health lead in your child's school or college. If you are concerned about your child, please contact school staff and request a referral to be made.

For more information about supporting your child's mental wellbeing, please visit:

Supporting Smiles

<https://www.ormiston.org/>

Just One Norfolk

<https://www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/emotional-health/norfolk-waveney-mental-health-advice-support-for-0-25-s/>

NSFT

<https://www.nsft.nhs.uk/parent-workshops/>