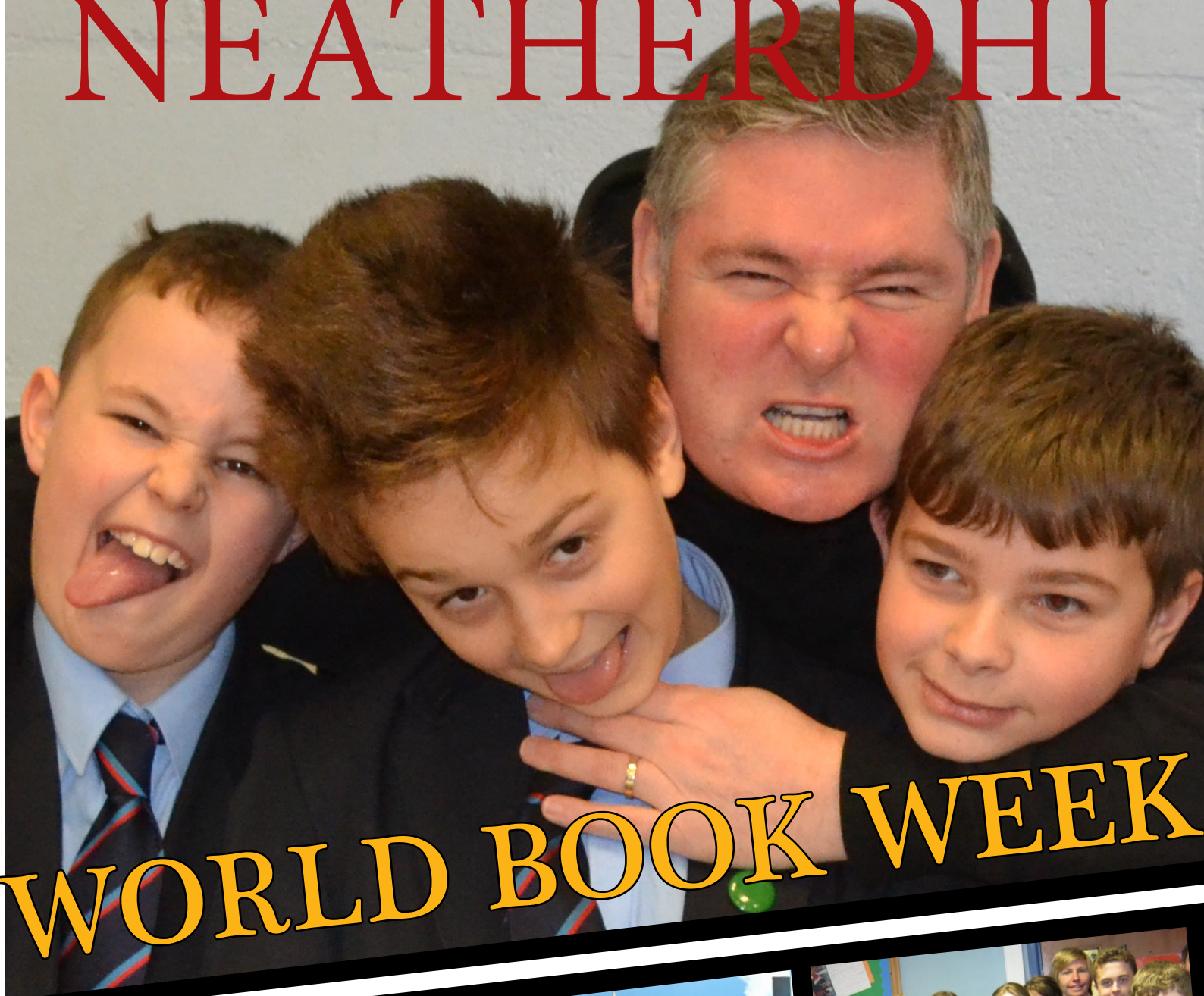


# NEATHERDHI

## WORLD BOOK WEEK



**FLEXIBLE LEARNING DAY**



**PARIS DANCE TRIP**



**SCHOOL REPORT**  
**BBC SCHOOL REPORT**



WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN ZOMBIE'S ATTACK?

**B SMITH IS ABOUT TO FIND OUT**

WILL MAKE READERS THINK AS WELL AS GAG...  
A LEAN, PUNCHY TALE...  
GORY AND EXCITING



# WELCOME

## Dear Readers

Lots of activity at Neatherd, as you will see inside this edition of Neatherd Hi! World Book Week was a roaring success with children enjoying authors visiting the school. The Flexible Learning Days go from strength to strength with some opportunities to really immerse students in a particular curriculum area. The many other events from sports, the creative arts and STEM as well as the Biryani cook-off, ensure that Neatherd continues to feel happy and purposeful. All work and no play would make for a very dull school! On that note, I wish you all a very happy and peaceful Easter holiday.



**Peter Devonish**  
Headteacher

## WACKY RACERS

Woodwork Club is one of the many extra-curricular clubs at Neatherd. It is run by Mr Appleby. Recently the members of the club took part in an excitement packed wacky races final. Pupils had been busy building their wooden racers for the past few months. They had racing classes for wackiest racer, fastest, straightest rolling and most spectacular crash. Mr Appleby even brought his 'A-Team van'

in (which he made when he was in Year 7). Unfortunately he didn't win anything. Their next project is going to be "Zip Line Flying Things." Pupils will be designing and making flying objects to "fly down a zip line". New members are always welcome. The Woodwork Club meets during lunchtimes on a Thursday in DT2 and is open to students in Years 7-9.



### Woodwork Club

New Project – Zip Line Flyers!

New Members Welcome.

DT2 Thursday Lunchtimes



Design and build your own wooden flyer: Plane, bird, pterodactyl, spaceship, wedge of cheese! Then race them down a zip line.

# FLEXIBLE LEARNING DAY

On Wednesday 15th March, we had our usual Flexible Learning Day, which was filled with a range of fun activities for all of the year groups.

**Year 7:** The Taste of Spain Day gave the students a real flavour of Spain. They participated in a number of activities including getting to make and play castanets, listening and dancing to Spanish music with a visiting dance teacher, making a tasty Spanish soup, use paint to create Spanish art, take part in a Spanish quiz, tasting tapas and learn some of the Spanish language.



**Year 8:** The whole of the year group spent a great day in Wroxham and the Norfolk Broads assessing the impact that tourism is having on the local area, and the ways in which the Broads Authority aim to conserve the environment. During the morning half of the year group went on a guided boat tour on the Norfolk Broads and were able to see some of the fantastic wildlife in the sunshine. The rest of the year group collected primary data in the centre of Wroxham assessing the impact that tourism is having on the town. After lunch the groups swapped around. "I thoroughly enjoyed the boat trip and learning about Wroxham," says Sophia.

**Year 9:** The year group experienced The PACT Crime and Consequence Day and it really was an eye-opener for many

of the students. They were in large groups and rotated around different sessions delivered by external experts. They got to act out a court room drama with a magistrate, play Crime and Consequences Monopoly, talk about life in prison, carry out emergency first aid, talk about safe driving and discuss having safe and healthy relationships. Furthermore, half of the students were lucky enough to have the opportunity to participate in a workshop, led by some of the cast from the musical 'STOMP'. The students loved the combination of percussion, movement and visual comedy. It was very loud and fantastically creative!

**Year 10:** The students had their day split into two parts. Firstly they travelled to the Norfolk Showground to visit 'Skills East of England', which is the region's largest careers and skills event for 14-19 year olds. Here, the students were able to talk to different providers about what they should do post Neatherd. There was a big variety of providers which gave students a diverse choice and there were plenty of activities, too. Then in the afternoon, the year group walked to Dereham Sixth Form and spent the remaining part of



the day meeting the staff, touring the campus and experiencing two taster sessions in subjects of their own choice.

**Year 11:** The year group spent the day revising Maths and Science, which was great preparation for their upcoming GCSE exams. Being in small groups meant they had good support and could focus well, making a brilliant learning environment.

Overall the day was a huge success and everyone really enjoyed it.

**ELLEN HODGES**



# SKI TRIP

During February half term, Neatherd set off on a 24 hour coach trip to Bormio, Italy and headed for the mountains where our students soon realised the journey was absolutely worth it! It was early starts all week but our skiers, along with the teachers, were keen to get going on the slopes and throw themselves down a mountain each day! Neatherd took all abilities of skiers, from the speedy pros who conquered black mogul runs, to the brave novices who learnt the sport from scratch, but everyone progressed massively and had the best time; Adam, a Year 10 on the trip, told us, "I loved every second and the instructors were great. I improved so much more than I expected."

He went on to say, "I recommend it to everyone and hope to go again next year." Throughout the course of the week, the skiers visited three different resorts and got to do a range of runs - there was something for everyone. The slopes were also fairly quiet which was perfect. The students were all put into small groups

with students from other schools based on ability and had a skilled instructor to guide them down the mountains. Georgia



explained, "one of the best parts was the fact we had an instructor so we constantly got tips as well as learnt fun tricks like 180° turns down the slope."

Another great aspect of the trip was the accommodation; the students were impressed with their rooms and most of all the three course meal they enjoyed every night.

Georgia, Year 11 said, "our room was really nice and the food was delicious." All in all I think it's clear the trip was a huge success, so a big thanks to Mr Miller and the other teachers who went along.

**JESS BALES**





# DISNEY DANCE TRIP

On Thursday 19th of February, 8 members of the Ignite dance group, Miss Harris and Mr Beanland left St Pancras Station aboard the Eurostar en route to Paris! For some, it was their first trip abroad; some people didn't even own a passport before the trip... but we were all excited and in high spirits. You might be asking yourself: Why did 10 people from school travel all the way to Paris? Well, it was in fact to attend a dance competition in Disneyland Paris! With an early start, lots of backcombing of hair and walking around in the rain for a while (due to Mr Beanland's not so good sense of direction), we reached the competition. Ignite had four dances to perform: A group dance, two solos performed by Charlotte Canham and Maddie Palmer, and a duet, danced by Zac Fisher and Ellie Salisbury. We had an extremely successful and fun, danced-filled day, getting placed three



times, with the group coming second out of many competitors in the category; Maddie getting a fabulous 3rd place for her solo and Zac and Ellie also getting an amazing 3rd place for their duet! The next day was filled with fun and magic as we spent a day in the park itself, with the braver members of the group going on jaw-dropping roller coasters (including Miss Harris, defeating her fears to go on a very fast, stomach-churning, upside-down rollercoaster!). As a group,

we had the fantastic opportunity to take part in the Disney Parade, smiling and marching 750 metres through the park



in front of thousands of people followed by the famous Disney characters! Alicia Randall said, "I loved Disney so much, I had never been before so I did not know what to expect...But it was magical and I want to live there; dancing at Disneyland was a dream come true and I would definitely do the trip again!" Finally, after an unforgettable few days, we returned home again to England. Maddie Palmer explained "Disney was such an amazing experience. The pressure of a professional competition didn't faze us and Ignite returned with three trophies, an amazing achievement for our first try. The fact that I got 3rd place for my solo was an honour. We did Neatherd proud!" Everyone who went on the trip would like to say a VERY BIG THANK YOU to all who came to the Disney Fundraising Disco to see Gameplan (Mr Beanland's band) perform because without your support, this trip may not have happened and we wouldn't have been able to represent the school at this sensational event. Don't forget to check out the new Disney Dance Trip display board in the Drama room next time you're in there!

**JORDAN FENNAH**



# STEM EVENTS

## Faraday Challenge - Alderman Peel

The IET (Institute for Engineering and Technology) run annual STEM Faraday Challenge days. We were invited by Alderman Peel High School to compete in the STEM challenge day. We were given little information about the challenge, it was kept "hush hush" until the day. What we did know was that it would involve the use of a 3D printer. We were given the design task, this year it was to design a prototype information beacon to be used in



the next Tour de France. The beacons were to relay important information to the cyclists such as weather conditions, hazards and road characteristics. Pupils had to design the beacon casing as well as the circuit. At the design stage students soon realised that there could only be a limited amount of chosen information relayed to the cyclist since they would be passing the beacons at speed. Neatherd STEM team chose to convey to the cyclist any immediate hazards with the next 50m using red/amber/green lights. They also incorporated a simple weather station feature relaying to cyclist any severe weather conditions. Ambitiously the team decided they would also relay the cyclist current position in the race. However, it was questioned how this design feature would enable the cyclist to read all this information so quickly. The team were divided into circuit designers and beacon designers. The circuit was to be constructed on proto bloc and students were able to construct a simple LED indication system and included a thermistor (this bit didn't quite work!). The beacon was designed using a 3D modelling software package, something the students grasped very quickly.

Taking into account dimensions needed to house circuitry and LEDs the beacon was swiftly sent to the printer - however with an incorrect scale! Anticipated print time was 8 hours, and the beacon would have been 2ft tall. With some swift amendments it was re-sent at correct size.

The final task was to present a prototype design and give reasoning for design choice. The presentations from all schools were great. The IET Challenge leader put each team through their paces in a 'Dragons' Den'

styled question session. We completed all the design tasks and had a working prototype but the winning team had a simplistic but effective approach that the judges felt was more scaleable. A great day was had by all and what an experience in having free access to six 3D printers!

## CO2 cars competition

The CO2 cars challenge is a national competition in which Neatherd High School has competed in the past. Northgate High School set up a regional competition with schools across Norfolk invited to compete. Three weeks prior to race day we received the necessary material to construct simple scaled cars. The design challenge was to design and build an aerodynamic car that would be shot down a 20m straight race track powered by a CO2 gas cylinder. We entered two teams, one from Year 7 pupils who attend STEM Club, the second a group of Year 9 students. There were trophies available for the fastest track time and overall time trial winner. We took 1st place in the fastest track time, and 1st and 2nd place in the time trial competition.



# COOKATHON

More than 40 children, teachers, parents and friends rolled up their sleeves on Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th March to cook up a delicious, healthy "Speedy Biryani" and to take part in the National Children's Food Trust BIG Cookathon 2015.

Mrs Phillippo, Food Technology teacher, said: "This event will help continue to promote the importance of cooking tasty family food as well as exposing students to food from another culture and trying new things. We made a speedy biriyani in small groups of different

year groups as well as throwing a few teachers in for a bit of spice! Working like this helps improve relationships between students and teachers and other adults across the community in a more informal and fun setting. It is also a brilliant way of raising confidence and self-esteem. We think that sharing food is an essential part of any healthy community."

its seventh year, is the biggest mass cooking event in the country. This year's competition is supported by Ben's Beginners, which aims to get more children

cooking with their families, and the Big Lottery Fund. Cerys Blake from Year 9, said: "I loved the cooking, even if things went a bit wrong sometimes! It was great to be sitting around the table and eating together. The food was amazing. I went back for more!"

Justine Hare, spokesperson for UNCLE BEN'S®, explains: "We want to help get kids and families cooking

together and create a life-long healthy relationship with food which makes our partnership with the Children's Food Trust BIG Cookathon a natural fit.

Evidence shows that kids are more likely to eat a meal when they help prepare it and that when families eat together, they are more likely to eat healthier foods. Ben's

Beginners and the Children's Food Trust working together will help to ensure that all of our mutual objectives are achieved." To find out more about the Children's Food Trust's BIG Cookathon visit: <http://letsgetcookingathome.org.uk/bigcookathon>.



The annual BIG Cookathon, now in



# WORLD BOOK WEEK



World Book Day took place on Thursday, 5th of March and in the week surrounding we had in four authors. We started the week with dyslexic writer Sally Gardner who read some of her Carnegie prize -winning book, Maggot Moon. She was an inspiration to the Year 9 students as she spoke of how she could not read until she was 14. Her animated talk was both moving and entertaining.

In the afternoon Year 7 met the brilliant Helen Dennis who writes code-breaking books set at Bletchley Park. She allowed our Year 7 students to have a go at breaking some codes themselves. We learned about MS408 and what happened to it. Afterwards, many people bought a book to get signed. I personally got



all of my copies of the series signed. Each day we had a swap shop where students and teachers could trade in an old book for a new one. Also there was a literary bake off where students designed cakes based on books. There were some beautiful and tasty cakes being sold. Later in the week we had a talk by Joseph Delaney, who has recently had a film made for his books. We got to watch the trailer and listen to extracts from his books. We had Year 6s come in to listen to him as well. The last author during the week was the poetic Kevin Price, who spoke to year 10s and 11s during assembly and worked with the year 7s and 8s. On the Thursday staff had organised a "Flashmob Reading Event" - at 12:55 teachers walked into the canteen and were reading aloud, then 5 minutes later all but one had left again leaving the canteen in shock. Mrs Sanderson carried on her dramatic reading of Room On The Broom until she reached the end. Also teachers took photographs of their bookshelves and we had to guess whose "shelfie" was whose. Ms Barron gave hers away with her collection of red noses.

A couple of weeks prior to World Book Day we had the privilege of hearing Darren Shan - the master of horror - read his new book in the ZOM-B series to Year 7 and 8 students. Organisers Mrs Hunt, Head of Literacy, and Mrs Gill, Librarian, both said that, 'The World

Book Week events have been fantastic with all staff and students getting involved. Our thanks to the authors who attended, Jarrolds for selling books and parents for getting involved! We look forward to next year's events!'

**BETHAN BATES**



# WORLD BOOK WEEK





# BBC SCHOOL REPORT

Year 10 Media students spent the entire day on Thursday 19th March taking on the role of young reporters for BBC School Report. They joined 30,000 other students across the country as they turned classrooms into newsrooms and were given a deadline of 2pm to post their stories to the BBC News School Report website! Neatherd High School had their very own newsroom for the day where the Media students took on various roles from editors to presenters. They not only worked in school but also went out and about from Dereham to RAF Marham to



interview the public and gather information and footage for their news stories. There were three different teams of reporters covering three very different stories: group 1 covered a story about the Air Defence in Dereham from the historical Zeppelin attacks during World War One to the current Air Defence system in place. Their report included an interview with Steve Roberts from RAF Marham as well as interviews with the local community from Dereham to get their comments on the story. Group 2's news story revolved around the issues facing homosexuality. They

explored issues surrounding the difficulty with being open and honest with the community and people around them. They spoke to Mr O'Brien, Assistant Headteacher in charge of Pastoral Care, on the impact of homosexuality in school and how the school can help to embrace those within the LGBT community. They also talked to members of the public on their views. Group 3 created a story on the 'internet versus reading' and reported on how the impact of the internet has affected young people's reading habits. They interviewed a local librarian as well as our very own school librarian to gather opinions on the development of young people spending more time browsing the internet than browsing bookshelves! They also looked at how technology can support readers in the modern digital world with the introduction of ebooks, blogging and reviews online. The students felt the real pressure of a newsroom as the deadline loomed. However, after they saw their finished news stories published on the BBC News School Report website, they were all incredibly proud of their achievements from the day.



Our Partner School in Shanghai, Nanyang Middle School, was very excited recently to welcome a special visitor to their school – Prince William. “He was very nice and interacted with our students,” they reported.



# BATTLE OF THE BANDS

Way back in January, 2 Year 11 students, Ben Stott and Charlie Bunting, came up with 2 different ideas for Music Department events: 1 was for a Battle of the Bands competition, the other was for a fundraising concert for the Year 11 prom! Both ideas were good ones so they combined them and came up with the idea for an evening of contemporary and rock music that would also show-case the composition and performance work of the GCSE Music students. The evening took place on Tuesday 17th March 2014 and was brilliant! The Blues Band kicked the evening off with a stylish start combining excellent musicianship from Bradley Davies, Nathan Codling, Liam Hubbard, Alex Turner and Mr Moore and wicked vocals. The band played 3 numbers and were followed by Charlie King (GCSE Music), Bradley Davies, Ismael Lopes, Josh Spinks and James Clarke. Most performers



came from Year 11 but were matched in talent and volume by an as yet unnamed Year 9 band: Lucy Kirk (vocals), Liam Hubbard (drums) and Nathan Codling (guitar). Other Year 9 performers were Hannah Bavage, Cerys Blake and Jess Irving who delivered the quirky 4 Chord Song and Harrison Matwij and Emily Gibson and Alice Bridges, vocalists with the Blues Band.

Charlie Bunting performed a range of original compositions to add balance and lightness to an otherwise loud and in-ya-face programme. The evening was closed by Loyal Kin, a band made up of Year 11 students Ben Stott, Gideon Ward, Bradley Davies and their lead vocalist Ryan Ellis who joined us from Norwich. The evening was noisy and great fun and raised just short of £170 toward the Year 11 prom. The current crop of lower school bands shows great promise and should be ready to rock next year!



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# PLAYGROUND TO PODIUM

On Tuesday March 3rd, 45 pupils attended the UEA to join pupils from a number of schools in the county to participate in the SEND Playground to Podium Sports Event. Pupils were able to receive instruction and participate in wheel chair basketball, Boccia (similar to lawn green bowling), cricket, tennis and table tennis. Pupils' overall favourite was wheelchair basketball prompting one pupil to go

home and ask for a wheelchair so that he could continue playing after the event. Every pupil thoroughly enjoyed the day and participating in the different activities and when asked if they would like to attend a future event, we were inundated with cheers and yes responses. Asking pupils to review their day, the following responses were received. Max T said, "It was a really nice day and to have a mixture of sports was brilliant!" "It was very educational," was the verdict of Hannah C and Shannon O said: "It was absolutely amazing. I would do it every day." A sea of 'thumbs up' and requests to go again rounded off a very successful, if tiring, day.



## GIRLS' DODGEBALL

After a long, and at points dangerous (we encountered not one, but three massive land formations I believe are called "hills" which pushed the mini bus to the edge), trek to Aylsham we arrived with our heads on and duck, dive, dip, dodge and as the standard plan of action. Every match was close, losing or winning by one or two players left on the court. The girls did us proud reaching the quarter finals in a tournament where Reepham A (the eventual winners) stood out as the lead wolf in a very high standard pack. The Neatherd girls were awesome. Throughout the evening they grew as dodgeballers and had a great time, coming off of every game, win or lose, with smiles beaming across their faces and wanting to get back on the court as soon as possible. Reaching the quarter finals was a massive achievement for a team that has only been playing together for 5 weeks, but that wasn't the real achievement. What

they took away from the tournament was not the results, but amazing playing, applying all the skills they've learnt in training, and developing and growing throughout the tournament.



Every match saw each girl improve, be it catching, aggression, or even the love of the game they were playing. Well done to Jasmine Munt, Jess Arujo, Gintare K, Amy Malin, Gabby L, Sasha B, Keira Plumb, Harlie Scott and Abi Foster.



# GIRLS' RUGBY

Our U13 and U15 girls recently competed in a regional rugby tournament at the Lakenham-Hewitt Rugby Club. After a nervous start, where the girls forgot weeks and weeks of me yelling "pass the ball backwards", the girls shone and were absolutely amazing. Eventually we came out as runners up in the U13 and U15 which is amazing considering none of them had played rugby before we started our training sessions. (The winners were Wymondham overall who we narrowly lost to 4-3) They all tackled hard, came back



Some absolutely amazing team and individual tries were scored with Freya Arnold diving for the line over three Thetford girls a particular highlight. I was really impressed with every single girl who did Neatherd proud both in heart, attitude and being a pleasure to take out.

Please congratulate the following if and when you see them.



with their own personal war wounds, (Eli Plomber with a particularly nice scratch down her leg) and got stuck in from the minute they stepped foot on the windy, sunny, and at one point snowy rugby pitches.

U13  
ARDEN SCOTT ©  
ELI PLOMBER (vc)  
KIERA PLUMB  
LEAH FORSTER  
GRACE WARREN  
MADDIE STREET



U15  
FRANCESCA VECCIO ©  
ELEANOR DOWDALL (vc)  
HARLIE SCOTT  
MEGAN LAIT  
ABIGAIL FOSTER  
FREYA ARNOLD

Coach Fisher





# WINTER SCHOOL GAMES

Neatherd High School pupils have been excelling again at the 2015 Winter Norfolk School games. **We started off with the Partnership County Skiing Finals held at Norfolk Snowsport Club in Trowse on Friday 27th February.**

Year 11 Becky Swales, Year 10s Megan Lait and Kyle Kerr, and Year 7 Sam Swales all qualified, but only Becky and Sam were able to actually compete this year. Brother and sister did incredibly well and along with pupils from Taverham Hall School and Reepham High, the WNDSSP brought the winning trophy home! Both Becky and Sam got



personal bests in their individual slalom races and made up the winning relay team in an exciting knockout competition.

**On Thursday 5th March, 4 of our swimmers took part in the Partnership County Swimming Finals, again at UEA.**

Year 9s Craig Fenn, Billy Payze, Alice Older and Year 8 Ellie Foster competed with the very best amongst the County. Alice took to the pool first in the Year 9 Backstroke race, finishing 7th. Billy was next in the Boys' Backstroke, finishing a commendable 5th. Billy was back in again shortly after in the Breaststroke, where he finished 5th again. The Freestyle saw Craig Fenn taking 4th place. The Butterfly finished the individual races. Ellie Foster came 4th in her race and Craig kept us on the edge of our seats with his 3rd place stormer! Ellie made up part of the Year 8 team who finished 4th. Craig and Billy gained podium prestige as they raced



in to a 2nd place finish in their relay. A brilliant day at the office, as a partnership the WNDSSP came 2nd overall, just 3 points behind the winners West Norfolk.

**On the final day of this amazing week, Friday 6th March, 24 of our pupils represented the WNDSSP at the County Indoor Rowing Finals competition.**

Year 7s Crystal Kong, Tasha Ward, Maddie Street, Jacob Thompson, James Wallis and Charlie Price, Year 8s Izzy Mcewen-Hull, Ellie Foster, Chloe Webb, Harry Gagen, Charlie Dickerson and Nathan Perkins. Year 9s Abi Foster, Abi Street, Jasmine Munt, Liam Chipperfield, James Kimber and James Melladay. Year 10s Megan Lait, Ellie Dowdall, Hannah Norwood, Kyle Kerr, Nye Liu Sully and James Rennie, all worked tirelessly in their individual races with some great results. After rowing their socks off they then had to row in their year groups of 6, the first group to row 2000m. Each competitor gained personal bests in their individual races.

Out of 24 pupils per age group we had some very impressive individual finishes: Charlie Dickerson from Year 8 7th, Year 9 Abi Foster, 9th. Year 7 Charlie Price, 12th, Year 8 Chloe Webb, 13th, Year 9 James Kimber, 12th, Year 9 Abi Street, 13th. Year 8 Joe Culyer, our lone table tennis qualifier, won 3 out of 5 of his games and contributed to the WNDSSP being placed 3rd overall. What a great contribution Joe! What a week, Neatherd!

# CROSS COUNTRY

The School Cross Country 2015 campaign began on January 7th with the annual Mid Norfolk XC, hosted by Neatherd. In the Junior Boys category, I won by a comfortable margin, breaking the 2 mile course record in the process. From there, it was the Norfolk Schools Cross Country Championships, held at Sloughbottom Park, Norwich on Wednesday 28th January. On the day, I ran the 3 mile course in a fast time, blowing out all opposition after 1 mile and winning by 39 seconds. I claimed an automatic qualifying spot for the English Schools Cross Country Championships (ESAA XC), but also was scheduled to run at the Anglian Inter County event the following week. The Anglian Schools XC was held at the Royal Hospital School, near Holbrook, Ipswich on February 7th. Unfortunately, I was ill with a chest infection coming into the race, but still managed to come 6th and 1st for Norfolk. The course was enjoyable, with a long run on an old sea wall followed up by a stretch on undulating grassland. From there, it was a case of recovering from illness and continuing hard training for the big race of the season, ESAA XC. On Friday 13th March, I arrived at Thickthorn Services, Norwich to catch the Norfolk team bus for the journey to the Championships. We were to stay overnight in a hotel in Manchester, before driving to Witton Park, Blackburn the next day. After a long but fun bus journey with a stop at a service station, we arrived at Manchester at 8:15 and got allocated our rooms. After settling in, we got to sleep, although my room-mate was sick 5 times during the night (in the toilet). The next morning, we ate a cooked breakfast in the hotel dining room, before leaving for Witton Park at nine. We arrived at Blackburn shortly after ten, with the first view

being an enormous hill towering over the other county tents already set up. After putting up the Norfolk tent, I walked the course with my U15 team mates, which included a challenging, long climb up the 'saucer', followed by a very muddy downhill section. After sorting out kit, jogging parts of the course and warming up, it was time to race. From the gun, it was an extremely fast pace and I found myself in around 75th position, but passed many people throughout the first flat lap. On the second lap going up the hill, I managed to overtake quite a few runners and established a position going into the downhill. With just 600 meters to go, I sprinted past a few more people and finally finished in 18th place, out of a field of 341 runners. I was just 10 seconds away from being selected for the English team for the International Cross Country Championships held at Dublin the following week. Overall, I was extremely pleased with my 18th place, because I exceeded my long standing target of Top 25. It gives me confidence for future championships and the target of gaining International Selection in coming years.

## JACK WHITE





# Calendar dates

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2015

Year Groups Affected					
7	8	9	10	11	
					<b>April 2015</b>
●	●	●	●	●	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> : School re-opens
●	●	●	●	●	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> : Fashion Show
			●		Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> : Year 11 Short Report Issued
●					Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> : Year 7 Parents' Evening
			●		Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> May: Year 10 Mock Exams
●	●	●	●	●	Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> : Parents Forum
					<b>May 2015</b>
			●	●	Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> to Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Duke of Edinburgh Practice Weekend
●	●	●	●	●	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> : Bank Holiday (School Closed)
		●			Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> : Year 9 Internal Exams
●					Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> : HPV Vaccination
●	●	●	●	●	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> : Non-Uniform Day
			●		Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> : Year 11 Short Report Issued
			●	●	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> June: Main GCSE Exam Period
●	●	●	●	●	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> : Community Fair and Tapas Evening
●	●	●	●	●	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> : School closes for half term



20th March 2015 was the day that many of us will remember witnessing a near total solar eclipse. Very heavy cloud cover over the area threatened to keep the big event well hidden. However, as time ticked by there were small glimpses of the sun through the mists above and many staff and pupils caught sight of the spectacular event. Whilst avoiding looking directly at the sun, cameras clicked and many 'selfies' were taken! The next total solar eclipse to be seen in the UK is not due until 23 September 2090 - rather a long while to wait.

