



Newstead News

Friday 8 September 2023

Headteacher's Update

I'd like to offer a very warm welcome and welcome back to the new school year. I do hope that you have had a good summer and have kept cool in the record-breaking temperatures we have experienced this week!

It was a pleasure to welcome back our students this week and I have enjoyed hearing about their summer break. As always, I think the new Year 7 students will sleep well this weekend as it's been a full on few days for them. Year 12 is brimming with excited students ready for the next stage of their education. It was also great to join over 200 families last night for our first online Learning Together Forum of the year. I look forward to seeing more of you online in due course, and to meeting our new Year 7 families in person next Tuesday here at school.

We also welcome a number of new staff to our team at Newstead and I'd like to introduce them to you as follows:

Miss Jarvis - IT Technician
Mrs Burchill - Sixth Form Administrator
Mrs Chidgey - Teacher of DT
Mr Inman - Teacher of DT
Mrs Cameron - Head of DT
Miss Sivapooranan - Teacher of Chemistry
Mrs Masters - Teacher of DT

Miss Lu - Teacher of Chemistry
Miss Mallett - Teacher of Drama and Performing Arts
Madame Tebib-Deverson - Teacher of MFL
Mr Flanagan - Head of Music
Mrs Moorhouse - Art Technician
Miss Cummings - Art Technician

Mrs Brown is staying on at Newstead as our Careers Advisor, and will work alongside Mrs Green who has been promoted to Careers Coordinator; Mrs Frost will take on the role of Performing Arts Curriculum Assistant. We wish them all well as they start the next chapter in their career at Newstead.

It will come as no surprise that it was a very busy summer here at school. The highlights obviously were when we were able to celebrate with our Year 11 and 13 students as they received their GCSE and A level results. Whilst there was much speculation in the news about the downward pressure on the top grades, we were delighted to celebrate 79% A*-B grades with Year 13, and 85% grade 7-9 at GCSE. This is a super achievement and we're really proud of our cohort of students. Many of our Year 13 cohort are eagerly preparing for university or degree apprenticeships now, and I've included a summary of destinations on the following page.

At school, a number of building projects have been undertaken. The audio-visual system in our Main Hall was in desperate need of an upgrade. The old halogen lamps and sound and light deck have all been replaced with new coloured LED amps and a state-of-the-art control deck. The stage has been fitted with a top-notch electronic backdrop which can display straight from the computer. Our school production in January is going to be stunning. Please do 'consider yourself' invited!

We've also been busy renovating the Sixth Form Block. New floors, lighting, toilets, furniture and a full redecoration have been completed. We're still awaiting delivery of a couple more digital screens, but the block is unrecognisable. I've included a few pictures of the block and, more importantly, the new wall art.

Mr Williams has written separately about the importance of regular attendance. All students have received a copy of their attendance summary from last year with a note of how they should strive to improve on this. We have a target for everyone of 96% attendance. Attendance in September is a predictor for attendance patterns across the whole year. Students who miss two to four days in the first month of school are likely to have a poor attendance record later, so we really need everyone to make a concerted effort to attain the very best attendance level this term to get into the best habits for the rest of the year.

There is wide agreement among health professionals and educational professionals that school attendance is vital to the life chances of children and young people. Being in school improves health, wellbeing and socialisation throughout the life course. The greatest benefits come from children and young people attending school regularly.

I would like to share with you this information from the NHS: ['Is my child too ill for school?' guidance](#) which has further information about when to send your child to school, and when you should keep them at home with mild illnesses. It is usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild respiratory illnesses. This would include general cold symptoms: a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat. However, children should not be sent to school if they have a temperature of 38°C or above.

Many thanks for your support in ensuring great attendance in 2023/24.

Wishing you a good weekend,

Alan Blount
Headteacher

Driving and Parking Near the School

We would like to remind you that if you are driving in the vicinity of the school, please drive and park with consideration for our neighbours, other road users and pedestrians. For the safety of our students, local residents and other road users, please think carefully about where you are parking and park slightly further away from school if necessary in order to avoid obstructing the road and blocking traffic. Please do not park across residents' driveways or block the road at any time.

Please consider encouraging your child to use public transport to travel to school. As well as reducing congestion and pollution and improving road safety for everyone, there are health benefits to students in walking to and from the station or bus stops, and using public transport helps build students' independence.

University Destinations 2023

13	University of Nottingham	3	Imperial College London	1	University of St Andrews
13	University of Southampton	3	Lancaster University	1	Brunel University London
12	University of Warwick	3	LSE	1	Kent and Medway Medical School
11	King's College London	3	Royal Holloway	1	Keele University
10	University of Leicester	3	University of East Anglia UEA	1	Aston University, Birmingham
8	Durham University	3	University of Exeter	1	University of York
8	UCL (University College London)	3	University of Oxford	1	Queen's University Belfast
8	University of Manchester	2	Kingston University	1	University of Plymouth
6	University of Bristol	2	Medway School of Pharmacy	1	Arts University Bournemouth
6	University of Sussex	2	Newcastle University	1	University of Reading
5	Loughborough University	2	Queen Mary University of London	1	University of Greenwich
5	University of Birmingham	2	St George's, University of London	1	SOAS University of London
5	University of Liverpool	2	University of Glasgow	1	University of Aberdeen
5	University of Sheffield	2	University of Kent	1	Swansea University
4	City, University of London	2	University of Surrey	1	University of Leeds
4	University of Bath	1	Royal Veterinary College	1	University of Portsmouth
4	University of Cambridge	1	Cardiff University	1	University of Westminster
		1	Goldsmiths	1	University of Brighton

University Courses 2023

17	Biological, Biomedical, Biochemistry, Neuroscience	6	Geography / Earth Science/ Geoscience	2	Dentistry
15	Medicine	6	Computing Science and Combined Honours	2	Robotics Engineering
13	Psychology and Psychology Combined Honours	5	Accounting and Finance	2	International Relations
12	Philosophy, Politics and Economics/ PP/PPL/Philosophy/ RPE	5	Physics and Combined Honours	2	Design Engineering/Graphic Design
10	Mathematics	5	Business and Management	2	Archaeology, Anthropology, and Art History with a Year Abroad
10	Economics and Combined Honours	4	Biomedical Sciences	1	Veterinary Medicine
9	Law	4	Accounting and Finance	1	Sport and Exercise Medical Sciences
8	Architecture	3	Politics and Economics	1	Social Anthropology
8	English Literature, English Language, Combined Honours	3	History	1	Natural Sciences
8	Engineering - Mechanical, Chemical, Electronic, Civil	3	Criminology	1	Animation Production
7	Computer Science	3	Classics	1	Actuarial Science
7	Pharmacy/ Pharmacology	3	Aeronautics and Astronautics		

Our new Sixth Form Block





Dates for your diary

Tuesday 12 September	Year 7 Curriculum Evening – Welcome to Newstead!
Tuesday 19 September	School Photographer – Individual photos
Wednesday 20 September	Year 10 Curriculum Evening – Making the most of the GCSE years
Friday 22 September	Selection Test Day – School closed to students
Thursday 5 October	Year 12 Curriculum Evening – Welcome to Sixth Form!
Wednesday 11 October	Year 11 Curriculum Evening – Building Momentum to GCSE
Monday 16 October	Flu Vaccinations Y7-11
Wednesday 18 October	Sixth Form Open Evening for students new to Newstead Wood
<i>23-27 October</i>	<i>Half Term Break</i>
Monday 30 October	CPD Day – School closed to students
Wednesday 1 November	Year 13 Curriculum Evening: Key messages for A Level success
Tuesday 14 November	Learning Together Forum
Thursday 23 November	Sixth Form Open Evening for Newstead Wood students
Thursday 30 November	Year 13 Parents’/Carers’ Evening
Tuesday 5 December	Year 8 Curriculum Evening – Studying for Success in Year 8
<i>21 December-2 January</i>	<i>Christmas Holiday</i>

Around Newstead

Welcome to our new students!

It has been an absolute pleasure to welcome our new Year 7 students to Newstead Wood School this week. The students have been prompt, polite, and perfectly attired, so are off to a flying start! All of the smiling faces suggest they have enjoyed their introduction to secondary school life and are looking forward to the year ahead. I have had great feedback from the tutor team, and we are all excited to be working with such lovely students.

Mrs Brazier, Head of Year 7



We were delighted to welcome 240 Year 12 students to Newstead Wood Sixth Form this week. They were treated to lectures from University of Durham, University of Warwick and the University of Exeter and took part in teambuilding activities with 8 Billion Ideas. Students have made a terrific start to their lessons.

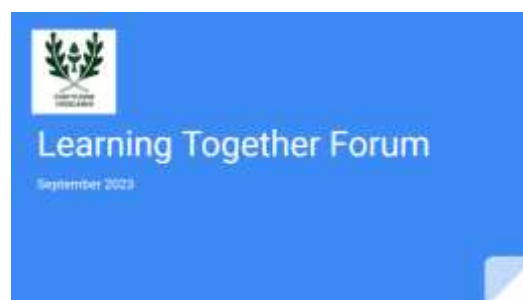
Ms Dalton, Head of Sixth Form

Learning Together Forum

Thank you to everyone who joined us online for our Learning Together Forum last night. We had over 200 families watching online as we shared news from the school and discussed attendance, recognising achievement and assessment.

You can catch up with the recording here:

<https://youtu.be/hP9SAj7efyo>



Canoeing Success

This summer Arina K (12W) competed internationally in Canoe Slalom this summer. As a result of performing well across the British selections back in April, Arina was selected to represent Great Britain at the Junior European and World Championships in both the kayak cross (KC) and canoe (C1) disciplines.

Two weeks of intensive training at the whitewater course in Bratislava, Slovakia, allowed her to continue her medal-winning streak, following a European bronze medal in KC last season, and win the Silver in the C1 team event. Arina narrowly missed out on another medal with her teammates at the World Championships, held in Krakow, Poland, taking 4th place in the kayak team event.



This summer also held several individual best results for Arina as she progressed to her first international C1 final in Krakow, finishing 9th and improving upon last year's World Championship result of 12th . As only the top 10 paddlers from each category progress up from the semi-final stage, Arina narrowly missed out on another final earlier on in the season at the European Championships, finishing 11th.

Congratulations to:

- Ananya C (13N) who won a Gonville and Caius essay competition over the summer holidays. The task was to write a 'biography' of any object in historical context and you can read her winning essay [here](#).
- Olivia M (8S) who achieved a bronze medal for girls' singles and a silver medal for girls' doubles in Badminton at the Oxfordshire U15 Bronze tournament. She went on to get a silver medal for girls' singles and a silver medal for girls' doubles for the Sankey Milton Keynes U15 Bronze tournament.



We're keen to celebrate students' successes outside school – please email us with any achievements at news@newsteadwood.co.uk.



Languages News

Word of the week

Word of the week is back! Every week, the MFL department will choose a word in the target language, which will be shared in the Head's Update and also be displayed on the board between L21 and L22. If you can tell your language teacher, or anyone in the MFL department the meaning of the word in English and use the word in a sentence in the target language, they will award you with achievement points. You can do as many of the words as you wish!

Next week's words are:

French: la santé

German: die Einwanderung

Spanish: churrería

Chinese: 狗

Japanese: 日本

Latin: diligenter

Answers will be revealed in next week's update!



Newstead Wood School Parents' Association News



To all the new arrivals: **A warm welcome to Newstead Wood School from the Parents' Association!** All parents and guardians of Newstead Wood students automatically become members of the NWP. We aim to enrich the school community by helping at school events like plays and open days; providing practical services, like the secondhand uniform sales; encouraging parents to support each other through social events and the individual class WhatsApp groups; and running fundraising activities like the Year 7 disco and the Family Quiz. We look forward to you joining us!

To those returning: **Welcome back!**

Please get involved! The calendar is filling up with events already :) If you have any questions about the Parents' Association, would like to know how to join your class parents' WhatsApp group, need information on uniform, or would like to volunteer to join one of our teams, please get in touch at pa@newsteadwood.co.uk Looking forward to a great year at Newstead!

Tues 12th September

Uniform sale 3.15-4pm (Volunteers needed 2.30-4 please)

Y7 welcome evening 6-7pm (Volunteers needed 5-8 please)

Monday 25th September

PA meeting on zoom 7-7.45pm

Thursday 5th October

Uniform sale 3.15-4pm (Volunteers needed 2.30-4 please)

Y12 welcome evening 6-7pm (Volunteers from 5-7.30 please)

AGM 7.30-8.15 in person

Y7/8 Disco: suggested dates were Oct 19th, Nov 9th, Nov 16th (Volunteers to organise please)

Tuesday 5th December

Uniform sale 3.15-4pm (Volunteers needed 2.30-4 please)

Y8 curriculum evening 6-7pm (Volunteers from 5-7.30 please)



Revision books, uniform, PE kit: for sale from the PA Hut on

Tuesday 12 September 3.15 - 4pm

Thursday 5 October 3.15 - 4pm

Tuesday 5 December 3.15 - 4pm

Volunteers are needed from 2.30pm to 4pm

Great condition... great prices... great for the environment...and great for the school!

Jumpers (£3 each/2 for £5), 6th form blazers (£5), Skirts (£3/£4), shirts (£2 each, 3 for £5), trainers and astroturfs (£3), umbrellas (£1) and other items are also available, plus textbooks and revision books (£2 each, 3 for £5) in many subjects. Payment by cash or card.

VOLUNTEERS to help for an hour or so occasionally would be very welcome, please email pauniform@newsteadwood.co.uk for more information. No special skills needed, all training given!

DONATIONS of uniform, PE kit, coats etc. all welcome and can be left at reception anytime. Please remove or cross out names if possible and label the bag 'donations'. Thanks very much for all the donations we've had so far; keep them coming!

Thank you for your support as we help the school, help the environment and help you with your shopping!

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	90 STIKINS® Name Labels - N90	£43.80	
	60 STIKINS® Name Labels - N60	£30.80	
	30 STIKINS® Name Labels - N30	£17.80	

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The PA are excited to announce that we have teamed up with Stikins to offer parents the opportunity to purchase quality labels for your children's school uniform, whilst earning the school commission at the same time! This money can then be used to continue to help purchase some of the fantastic resources that benefit our children's learning.

As we all know, lost property is a problem in all schools and I am sure we are all familiar with our child, at some point, coming home from school with a missing item. As parents, we are aware that time is precious, which is why we think these labels are such a great idea; they simply stick onto the wash-care label of clothing. They can even be used in shoes! Naming of clothing is a school requirement and we are hoping that with this opportunity we can start to eliminate some of parents' frustrations that surround these issues.

How it works:

Each order placed quoting the school reference number **14318** will provide the school with 30% commission. If you use the link on our school website's [Uniform Page](#) to order your labels online, the number is filled in automatically for you!

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FEEDBACK

ON CHILDREN AND
YOUNG PEOPLE'S
ASTHMA SERVICES
IN BROMLEY

If you're under 18 and you have asthma, or you're a parent of a child with asthma, your experiences can help us to improve Bromley asthma services

**Scan the QR to complete
our quick survey**



SCAN ME



Your voice matters! Help improve asthma care for children and young people in Bromley by sharing your experiences. If you're under 18 and have asthma, or you're a parent or carer of a child with asthma, we want to hear from you. Please take a few minutes to complete this quick and easy survey: forms.office.com/e/HEhjeFSG6a.

Your feedback can make a real difference!



You are invited to our Mosque Open Day!

Saturday
23
SEPTEMBER 2023

11am
to
4pm

at

AL-EMAAN CENTRE
Croydon Road
Bromley, Keston
Kent BR2 8HF



Please join us, forward this message and bring some friends!

Al-Emaan Centre is again hosting our **Mosque Open Day** , welcoming neighbours of all faiths and none. The Open Day intends to foster better community relations and cohesion for the good of society as a whole.

It will:

- Give a more **enlightened** appreciation of Islam and Muslims in the wider society. 💡
- **Celebrate** the vast array of charitable, outreach and social action projects performed by mosques in Britain and by our mosque. 🤝
- Provide knowledge on Islam and richness of what Islam offers thus increasing people's **understanding** of Islam. 📖
- Improve and extend **relationships** with local institutions and their understanding of the role of the mosque. ❤️
- Create **awareness** of the mosque's existence to the wider community and what good the mosque offers to the community. 🏠

There will be **free henna** and **complimentary food and refreshments** available* throughout the day!



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about ONLINE FINANCIAL SCAMS & EXPLOITATION

To date, nearly 43 million UK internet users have encountered a financial scam online; roughly 20% of those victims wound up at least £1,000 out of pocket as a result. The number of con artists plying their trade in the digital world has grown in recent years (a worrying trend which, unfortunately, appears likely to continue), and their methods have become increasingly creative. It can, therefore, be difficult to recognise an online financial scam – let alone to safeguard our children against them – but it's not impossible. Our guide offers a few pointers on what to look out for.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

PHISHING SCAMS

Scammers often use deception to obtain personal and financial information from their target. They might pose as legitimate organisations, such as pretending to be HMRC and threatening legal action for unpaid tax unless the victim provides their National Insurance number. Their efforts have been getting more convincing recently, so be mindful of any unexpected or unusual emails.

IDENTITY THEFT

Criminals can manipulate someone into providing personal data, then use it to assume their identity online and commit fraud, make unauthorised purchases or engage in other illegal activities. Identity theft can be accomplished by tricking victims into downloading malware that scans their device for information; by figuring out passwords to social media accounts; or through phishing scams.

FRAUDULENT INVESTMENTS

Fraudsters might lure victims into offering their hard-earned cash for a "one-of-a-kind investment opportunity" promising high returns or quick profits – such as the many cryptocurrency scams currently circulating online. Some unscrupulous influencers have even used their status to tempt their followers into paying for courses which promise to help them become rich and more attractive.

DECEPTIVE ADVERTISING

Many online sellers use false or misleading advertising to persuade consumers to spend money or supply personal information. Certain websites, for instance, have become notorious for using attractive images to advertise their products, promising to deliver an item for a fraction of its usual price – only for a cheaper-looking, poor-quality reproduction to arrive in the post instead.

SOCIAL MEDIA SCAMS

Scammers use social media to manipulate or deceive victims, often by posing as a popular influencer and exploiting their audience – such as posting a link to a "giveaway" which actually siphons money or personal data to whoever is behind this false identity. This type of scammer commonly impersonates influencers with a younger fan-base, as children tend to make more naive targets.

Advice for Parents & Carers

EDUCATE YOUR CHILD

Talk to your child about the risks of online financial scams and encourage open communication about their digital activities. Make sure they know the kind of ruses that are out there, and what to look out for when encountering a potential scam. Foster their critical thinking skills – and emphasise that if something they see on the internet seems too good to be true, then it probably is.

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Almost all devices that children typically use to access the internet have built-in safeguards like parental controls and monitoring tools. Stay aware of the options available to you, and make use of them to shield your child from possible exploitation as best as you can. This, combined with common sense and critical thinking, should go a long way towards keeping them safe.

STAY INFORMED

Try to keep your knowledge of current and emerging scams in the digital world up-to-date, so you can help your child stay safe. New methods of exploitation are developing all the time, but thankfully it's not all doom and gloom. There are plenty of sources – such as Ofcom – that keep a record of online scammers' methods, plus lists of which sites or schemes to be wary of.

PRIORITISE PRIVACY

Teach your child to value their own privacy: that is, to respect the value of their personal data and be cautious about sharing it online. It's especially important that children know to safeguard their financial details and other sensitive data – and never to provide that information to anyone online, unless they're absolutely certain that it's safe, secure and for a legitimate reason.

REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

Encourage your child to report any suspicious or potentially harmful online encounters to you or another trusted adult. Make it clear that that they will never get in trouble for telling you about what's happened. Fraudsters often attempt to play on children's fear of getting into trouble, so cancelling out that notion robs internet scammers of one of their greatest weapons.

Meet Our Expert

Rosa Savage has a proven track record in countering financial crime, having spent 13 years with UK law enforcement – specialising in money laundering investigations and asset recovery from organised criminal groups. She now holds senior visiting expert positions at various organisations and delivers customised training and consultancy to government and private-sector clients worldwide.



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#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://www.ft.com/graphics/visualizations/data-spotlight/2022/12/who-experiences-scams-story-all-ages> | [https://www.abc.org/articles/scams/26828-2021-bbb-scammer-tracker-tracker-report](https://www.abc.org/articles/scams/26828-2021-bbb-scammer-tracker-report) | <https://www.ofcom.gov.uk/news/2023/03/scale-and-impact-of-online-fraud-revealed> | <https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/younger-people-scammed> | <https://www.ukfinance.org.uk/system/files/road%20to%20acts%202021-%20FINAL.pdf>

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Contact us and keep in touch

General email enquiries office@newsteadwood.co.uk

Attendance reporting attendance@newsteadwood.co.uk

Need to contact a subject? Email the subject name e.g. science@newsteadwood.co.uk

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Help out when you check out! Support Newstead Wood School Parents' Association

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/newsteadwoodschool>

Thank you to all of you who are supporting the school through a monthly donation – if you still haven't got round to setting this up, forms can be [found here](#). And thank you to all of you who are supporting the school library through our [Amazon Wishlist](#).