



# Newstead News

## Friday 22 September 2023

### Headteacher's Update

As you know, today is our entrance test day for prospective students. With just 13 days of the academic year under our belt, we're already well into the cycle for 2024/25!

I was a pleasure to see so many Year 10 families on Wednesday evening at our Curriculum Evening. One of our school priorities this year is to further develop our parental engagement strategy, and it was really heartening to be part of the Q&A session that followed the presentations.

Evidence from the Education Endowment Foundation highlights that parental engagement has a positive impact equivalent to around 4 months' additional progress. It was clear from the feedback we received that you as parents are 100% committed to your children's education, and many parents on Wednesday were seeking further clarity on how you can further support your children in their learning.

As you know, we have moved from Satchel One (Show My Homework) as our homework setting platform to Microsoft Teams this year. We have made this move in common with a number of other schools as we feel it is a better platform to use. Unfortunately, the parent interface was not released in time for September, and I appreciate that parents cannot see homework set at this time. Microsoft have told us this is due for release in November. We could have waited and made the switch mid-year, but we felt it was better to start September on the new platform and so I do thank you for your patience while this comes on stream.

Please be assured that homework is being set, and that you can all ask your children to show you their homework on MS Teams in the meantime. We know that homework and independent study is an important part of the learning process, but we do insist that teachers do not set homework due for the next day – we appreciate that students do a lot outside of school, and we want to allow them scope to manage their time to do this. We also maintain homework-free weeks in the week before a holiday.

There is a wealth of information about our curriculum on our website [here](#), including topic outlines for each subject, and exam information for KS4 and 5. We confirmed our Assessment Calendar for the year at the start of term, and our assessment window for each year group will be added to the school calendar imminently. Prior to each assessment window, you will receive a detailed timetable via Arbor. Our new website is under development and I hope this will meet with your approval when we launch later this term.

You can view your child's timetable via the Arbor App and you can look up their teachers here too. Should you have any questions you can contact the subject teacher, alternatively, please view the staff list [here](#) to find the relevant Subject Leader/Head of Department and you are welcome to make contact with them directly.

One area of discussion at our Curriculum Evening was around the use of ChatGPT and AI and the implications for schools. ChatGPT was released in November 2022, and so is less than a year old. It had more than one million users within the first five days of release, making it the fastest growing app ever. It will impact how teachers teach and will change how students learn. Next week I meet with all the Headteachers within our Trust for our first conference of the year. The impact of AI is on the agenda and we are going to be discussing this new technology and how we might respond to it as a sector. As teachers, we know that new and evolving technologies will continue to feature. We successfully welcomed the internet and said goodbye to CD-ROM and Encarta! We will navigate the impact of Chat GPT in the classroom and we will balance the positive and negative sides of this technology. It may contribute to the development of personalised learning, and may increase accessibility for some. It will probably play an integral part in language learning and I am sure that in the future it will contribute to us creating even more engaging and effective learning environments. However, we must balance potential positives as we seek to balance the amount of screen time for young people, and a potential overreliance on technology. If we simply accept what this technology tells us there is a potential for misinformation, and an impact on data privacy.

What is certain is that we are running to keep pace with the technology and are aware of the impact of its presence. I am still heartened every day when I see young people playing outside, especially on the field at the moment, having lunch on the picnic benches and reading books around school. This will not change, and the human and physical world is definitely here to stay at Newstead!

Wishing you a good weekend,

Alan Blount  
Headteacher

## Dates for your diary

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
5-17 November	Y11 Mock Exams
Tuesday 14 November	Learning Together Forum
Thursday 23 November	Sixth Form Open Evening for current 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

### Congratulations to:

- Bryony C (8F) who was part of the Beckenham U13 girls cricket team who are now the Kent U13 Girls Eighty Champions. They qualified for the Finals Day on Saturday 9 September, where they beat Linton Park in their semi final so making it through to the final against Penshurst CC which they won.
- Reika L (8S) who competed in the Sankey Badminton Under 13 division for Girls’ Doubles at Milton Keynes with her partner Eunice last Saturday and won a silver medal.

We’re keen to celebrate students’ successes outside school – please email us with any achievements at [news@newsteadwood.co.uk](mailto:news@newsteadwood.co.uk).







## Caius Explore Day

In the summer, I was selected from among 350 applicants to the Caius Explore essay competition as a winner in the history strand. I was invited to come to Cambridge for a celebration lunch and meet the directors of studies.

I decided to enter Caius Explore after seeing the competition on LinkedIn profiles from people who had greatly benefited from their experiences. My task was to concentrate on a certain object and research its history for the history thread. I had intended to write about Nazi Germany for my essay, but I was unable to figure out how to do so. But after seeing the recent sale of Hitler's pen on the BBC's Instagram reel, I immediately started researching its background. By reading various articles surrounding the sale and differing views on it, I came to my own conclusions.

While the sale of such an object encouraged anti-Semitism and idolised a person who was responsible for the deaths of millions of people, it raises concerns about the attitudes of Jews who lived during Hitler's time and may have had access to more significant artefacts to illustrate a historical journey. I was able to put into perspective the Jewish objects that have such profound importance, yet no one would pay £34,000 for a Jewish item, by sharing my attendance at the Holocaust Ambassador Conference 2023. While Nazi memorabilia downplays the scale of the harm it wrought in its advertising and construction. Nazi zealots are a frightening group of individuals who fantasize about establishing a Nazi Germany state in contemporary democratic society, fostering the growth of perilous radical ideas. For instance, Pergozhin and his Wagner group support numerous Third Reich ideals through tattoos in contemporary Russian politics. As a result, I published an essay titled 'Nazi memorabilia: Historical artefacts or murderous instruments', while researching historical accounts of the time the pen was made as well as current news pieces.

Writing this essay was a lot of fun for me because I was able to connect many historical sources—such as survivor testimonials and historical information on legislation passed—to create a broad summary. In the end, the history department's director of studies noticed this work and chose me as the winner of the history strand. The lunch in the Hogwarts-like hall was the day's high point, among many incredible moments, such as meeting like-minded students. Understanding the opportunities at Cambridge and the application process was also made possible for me by meeting the admissions tutor. This celebratory day served as a reminder of my success as well as a motivation for me to continue exploring my historical interests and think about applying to Cambridge.

Ananya C, 13N



## GCSE History Trip to Berlin

We left Gatwick Airport at around 7am, and when we arrived in Berlin Airport, we got the train to our hostel, where we dropped off our luggage. We then had a short walk into the city centre of East Berlin, where we all went off to have a brief lunch before the walking tour.

The 2-hour walking tour of Berlin was highly informative. We visited lots of different types of buildings and statues, all of which we were told some relevant history about. Places that we visited included the TV tower on Alexander Platz (one of Berlin's most prominent landmarks), a memorial for Jewish people who had died in the war, and the Brandenburg gate.



After this, we had some free time where we all went out to get a drink and do some souvenir shopping, and then we headed out for dinner, which we had at an American diner set in the 1950s. Eventually, we returned to the hostel to settle in, and that was Day 1 complete.

The next day, we woke up early to have breakfast at the hostel and got the coach to the Sachsenhausen Memorial where we had a self-guided tour while looking around the memorial, and we all learned so much.

We then returned to Potsdam for lunch, and then went to the Topography of Terror Museum, which was all about the Nazi party in the 1930s and 1940s. The next museum we went to was the Checkpoint Charlie Museum, which told us lots about what life was like on either side of the Berlin Wall, and even stories of people trying to escape from East to West.



After dinner in the evening, we went to look at remnants of the Berlin Wall at the East Side gallery, before heading back to the hostel.

On the final day, it was another early start, and we walked to the DDR museum. This was an interactive museum which showed us what it was like to live in East Berlin after World War Two. We were shown around and told personal stories and experiences by a man who grew up as a child in East Berlin, which was really engaging. Then we looked around the rest of the museum ourselves.

After lunch, we then headed back to the airport to catch our flight back to England. It was a really interesting trip, with lots of important information, and the teachers were all so lovely and informative the whole time! Thank you!

Holly K and Sophie M, 11N



# Year 12 Art Summer Work





## Languages News

### Word of the week

Answers to this week's words of the week:

French: la canicule - heatwave

German: der Flughafen - airport

Spanish: churrera - device to make churros

Chinese: 美丽 - beautiful

Japanese: おもしろい - interesting

Latin: iubere - to order

Next week's words are:

French: le recyclage

German: die Süßigkeiten

Spanish: panadería

Chinese: 天气

Japanese: たのしい

Latin: unde?





# Languages Week 2023

Mon 25 Sept – Fri 29 Sept

**Guten Tag! Добър ден! Bonjour! Здравствуйте!**  
**Buenos días! Привіт!**



Exciting news. Next week is Languages Week! You are all cordially invited to join in and celebrate with us. We have an amazing selection of top-rate events in store for you and all our school community to enjoy. Our Week's Motto this year is: **United in Diversity** 😊



1. **The Great Newstead MFL Bake off is here** - Thank you for spreading the news. The judging of the cakes will take place on **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September at 1.15pm in the Main Hall**. If you are taking part – do bring your European inspired creations **before AM Registration in the MFL Office**. Then all students and staff, will come and sample some of the students' efforts; (a small monetary donation also gratefully received). **All donations will go to Bromley Food Bank**. There will be prizes for the winners and the runners up in the different categories & more House points to be won.
2. **A multitude of Quizzes to do in form, with your class teachers or individually** - take part and enjoy discovering new facts and knowledge!
3. **Treasure Hunt – TUE 26<sup>th</sup> Sept** can you guess what languages your teachers speak? Look out for the clues when passing classroom doors!
4. **Lunchtime Crafts, Games, Virtual Tours & Jigsaw Extravaganza**: Open to **all Year Groups in L21 on TUE 26<sup>th</sup> and FRI 29<sup>th</sup> Sept**. A plethora of activities to choose from: make a paper necklace in the French, German, Spanish national colour themes, a language bookmark, flags and bunting, learn & play some traditional foreign country games. Take a photo to remember with some fabulous props or some that you have created. How many people will it take to complete a **500 pieces Jigsaw of the Chateau de Langeais? Or the European Countries and British Isles ???**



**\*\*\* AND Something to look forward to an Interactive Talk: Come and see a real size Penny Farthing Bike** and learn more about its origin and current competition and clubs.  
**When?** w/c 9<sup>th</sup> October – details: TBC



Come and be part of all the festivities, and let us celebrate – Together, as a community, *United in all our Diversities!*

***Tschüs! Пока! Au revoir! До свидания! Adios! До побачення!***  
***Довиждане!***

**All donations go to:**



The MFL Department is happy to announce:

## The Great Newstead MFL Bake off 😊 2023



1. Enter your name by Tue 26<sup>th</sup> Sept in MFL office with Frau Lacey & fill in the form
2. Entry is £1 donation
3. Bring your European inspired cakes on Thur 28<sup>th</sup> Sept in MFL office before AM Registration
4. Cakes judged at 1.15pm in the Main Hall

All donations go

Bromley Borough  
to:  
**foodbank**



Languages Week



### Info:

- + Cakes will be **judged for** flavour, presentation and texture and there will be one overall winner as well.
- + **Prizes:**
- + jump the queue pass at lunch with a friend.
- + Chocolates and more treats.
- + Students can pair up with someone else & bake together



## Achievement Points

Here are this week's Achievement Point totals. Congratulations to the following students and tutor groups.

 <b>House Totals for the Week</b> 		
<b>Griffin</b>		<b>164</b>
<b>Swift</b>		<b>141</b>
<b>Phoenix</b>		<b>109</b>
<b>Wren</b>		<b>98</b>
<b>Falcon</b>		<b>83</b>
<b>Nightingale</b>		<b>75</b>
<b>Top Tutor Groups of the Week</b>		
Year 7: 7G Year 8: 8N Year 9: 9S Year 10: 10G Year 11: 11S		
<b>Top Students of the Week</b>		
<b>★ Year 7 ★</b>		
Tara G 7G	Charis P 7S	Ramiyah A 7G
Aniela D'S 7G	Owi J 7G	Daniella J 7G
	Mila S 7G	
<b>★ Year 8 ★</b>		
Hannah F 8P	Ming Hui L 8P	Leah A 8N
	Valerie S 8P	
<b>★ Year 9 ★</b>		
Isabell R 9F	Emily B 9S	Ivy C 9F
Layla C 9F	Celia G 9S	Raina S 9W
<b>★ Year 10 ★</b>		
Oluwatoni A 10W	Tilly F-J 10W	Raha H 10G
<b>★ Year 11 ★</b>		
Maydelia B 11N	Gabriella B 11S	Iona H 11S
	Aoife O'M 11G	





# 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](mailto:pa@newsteadwood.co.uk) Looking forward to a great year at Newstead!

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**

**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), 6<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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	£13.80	
	60 STIKINS® Name Labels - N60	£10.80	
	30 STIKINS® Name Labels - N30	£7.80	

Order online at [www.stikins.co.uk](http://www.stikins.co.uk) - Pay by Credit/Debit Card, PayPal, or Apple Pay  
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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!



# CALLING ALL PUPILS AT NEWSTEAD WOOD FOR SATURDAY PERFORMING ARTS CLASSES, SHOWS & LAMDA EXAM CLASSES

Stars 1, 2 & 3 (7-18 Year Olds)

**FREE** trial class this September

Expert tuition in drama, dance & singing from specialist teachers

**LAMDA Exam Classes also available**

Regular performances and shows - Classes streamed by age

Make new friends - Learn new skills

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Classes at Newstead Wood  
on Saturdays  
10.30am to 1.30pm OR 2.30pm to 5.30pm

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**FREE** trial available on  
Saturday 16th, 23rd & 30th September  
Use this QR code to book

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For more information about our classes  
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**After School Arabic language, Quran, Tajweed and Islamic Studies.**

Taught by Imam Abu Ilyas from Jordan

Monday 4pm - 6 pm

Boys and Girls aged 5 - 18

Cost £10 per week

Starting Monday 25th September 2023

For more info and to book please contact Imam Abu Ilyas 07701 091428 [Info.abuilyas@gmail.com](mailto:Info.abuilyas@gmail.com)



# JOIN OUR TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS!

**The Maypole Project** provides a lifeline of support to children with complex medical needs and their families. We have a huge range of rewarding volunteer roles available so why not join us and be part of something special!

Without our team of fantastic volunteers we could not reach out to as many families as we do.

## GET INVOLVED

☎ 01689 851 596

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PROJECT**

[themaypoleproject.co.uk](http://themaypoleproject.co.uk)



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# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# THREADS

AGE RESTRICTION  
**12+**

However, Threads' reliance on an Instagram login effectively makes it 13+

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Threads is currently the number one trending social media app. Developed by Meta, the company behind Instagram and Facebook, Threads is a clear rival of Twitter (now known as X) in that it's a text-based conversation platform which allows posts of up to 500 characters, with the option to include links, photos and short videos. Threads is connected to a user's existing Instagram account, which lets people get started on this new app straight away: their followers and favourite creators will be imported from Instagram to their freshly created Threads account.

## DIFFERING OPINIONS

Meta claim they will encourage friendly, positive engagements but haven't specified how they plan to moderate this. As we have already seen on the likes of Twitter, Facebook and so forth, any app where users can talk freely about topics meaningful to them also contains the possibility of offence being caused or hatred being spread.

## ENDLESS SCROLLING

Threads doesn't currently have the facility to search for content – only for other users. Someone's feed, therefore, is made up of either threads from people they follow or content that Meta's algorithms have recommended. This could result in users endlessly scrolling for long periods of time through nothing of particular interest, simply in search of that feeling of connectedness.

## ACCOUNT DELETION IS COMPLEX

As Threads is linked to a user's Instagram account, it's comparatively tricky for someone to completely remove their Threads profile without automatically deleting their Instagram as well. Most 'insta' users, having spent considerable time building up a bank of posts and followers, will absolutely not want to lose them and could therefore feel pressured into keeping their Threads account active.

## OPEN NETWORKING PROTOCOLS

Reportedly, Meta's plan is for Threads to be compatible with ActivityPub, which will allow users to connect and share content more easily across different apps. If your Threads account is set to 'public', therefore, your posts would be accessible from other linked apps. What's more, people using these compatible apps would be able to interact with Threads users without needing an account.

## DATA COLLECTION

In Threads' privacy policy, Meta states that certain data about users will be collected and linked to that person's identity, including details relating to (among other things) health and fitness, financial information, browsing history, usage data, purchases, location and contacts. This can paint a very detailed picture of a person's life, and Meta does not explain why it needs all this information.

## POTENTIAL FOR EXCESSIVE TRACKING

Its tracking of every interaction, engagement and activity gives the impression of Threads being a sophisticated data-collection tool. There are no adverts on the platform right now, but – given the sheer volume of information being gathered and Meta's history of selling data for advertising purposes – it may not be long before ads start appearing on young people's Threads feeds.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### READ THE SMALL PRINT

Privacy policies for apps are usually long and probably the last thing young people read (if at all) when signing up for a trending new platform. However, we'd advise parents and carers to take time to look through Threads' policy and see if they agree with their child's data being collected. Think critically about why Meta needs all that personal information, where it goes and what's done with it.

### FILTER OUT OFFENSIVE WORDS

Like Instagram, Threads has an option to hide replies that contain offensive words, phrases or emojis. These are predetermined by Meta, but you can also customise the list with terms that you deem offensive or which you don't want your child to read. Usefully, there's a crossover between the two apps, so words that you select to screen out on Instagram will also be hidden on Threads.

### HIDE THE LIKES COUNT

Research has shown that young users often feel anxiety over how many likes they receive for their social media posts – and question whether this reflects their real-world popularity. Through the settings menu, Threads allows users to hide the likes count on their (and others') posts. While your child's posts won't display an exact number of likes, they'll still be able to see who *did* like their post.

### GO PRIVATE, AND STAY ALERT

Even if your child's Instagram account is already set to private, they'll need to select this option again in Threads (it's one of the first things the app asks at sign up). You can also edit who can mention them in a comment. Try to keep a regular eye on your child's account as Threads' popularity and number of features increases, so will opportunities for potentially harmful content to slip through the net.

## Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



Source: <https://www.bitesizeonline.com/technology/2023/jul/1/threads-app-privacy-user-data-meta-policy/> | <https://time.com/6292588/privacy-concerns-threads-meta/> | <https://about.fb.com/news/2023/07/introducing-threads-new-app-text-sharing/>



## Contact us and keep in touch

General email enquiries [office@newsteadwood.co.uk](mailto:office@newsteadwood.co.uk)

Attendance reporting [attendance@newsteadwood.co.uk](mailto:attendance@newsteadwood.co.uk)

Need to contact a subject? Email the subject name e.g. [science@newsteadwood.co.uk](mailto:science@newsteadwood.co.uk)

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Follow us on LinkedIn

## Easyfundraising

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](#).