



Newstead News

Friday 15 December 2023



Headteacher's Update

If you, like me, are carefully working out exactly how much food you need for Christmas dinner, spare a thought for our fantastic catering team who prepared and served over 1000 meals this Wednesday for our annual Christmas Lunch. The preparation started back in September and orders were placed so that we could ensure we didn't have a repeat of last year's "Pigs-in-blankets-gate" saga where we simply couldn't get enough from the suppliers.

As we work out how big a Turkey we need, and then 'add a bit' or throw that extra bag of potatoes and brussels into the trolley 'just in case', they prepared 46 Turkeys, 145kg of potatoes, over 60kg of pigs in blankets, and 12 kg of stuffing. Alongside this, there was nearly 300 vegetarian Quorn roasts plated up. This was followed by 700 mince pies, 400 handmade festive cookies, 650 slices of yule log and 250 portions of Christmas pudding. All washed down with numerous gallons of gravy and custard. I could turn this into a maths problem and ask you to divide it by the 8 members that make up our catering team and I think you'll find that the answer on the calculator comes out as 'amazing'. A very special thank you goes out to everyone who made Wednesday's lunch such a success.



We often talk about a 'Traditional Christmas Dinner' but I don't actually think there really is such a thing as we all have our own variations and individual twists that we put on things. In my family, we have to cater for gluten and dairy intolerances and with a growing awareness of sustainability and reducing our carbon footprint, many are reducing meat. Hot off the press, our Carbon Council have published their latest edition of 'Lettuce Talk' which gives you all the best places to purchase your plant-based Christmas dinner. I share with you the editorial introduction. If you'd like to read more, please see the News section of our website:

"With climate change on the rise and scientists working quickly to find solutions, why not do the easiest change to reduce your carbon footprint and eat plant-based? Christmas is the season for giving, so let's give back to the planet and the animals through eating a plant-based Christmas meal. Let's extend this season's kindness and mercy to the farm animals we have never met, because they too feel love and also deserve to spend the holidays with their families."



Also on Wednesday, our choir joined members of St. Paul's, Crofton as they sang at the church, and our A level artists took part in the ARTiculation heats. The annual ARTiculation Prize invites students aged between 16 and 19 to deliver a 10-minute presentation to an audience about a work of art, architecture or an artefact in a museum or gallery setting. Schools are required to hold internal school heats to select a student to represent their school at regional heats or regional finals which take place at museums and galleries across the country. Adjudicators then assess each presentation as a whole, looking at content, structure, delivery and the speaker's original approach and unique potential.

I'm delighted to say that on Tuesday Year 12 Art students took part in the school heats for the Articulation Prize competition, where they presented speeches about art works of their choice. All four judges: Miss Faith, Mr Lewis, Mx Pimpicka and Ms Moorhouse unanimously agreed on Holly G (12G) as the winner! Congratulations Holly and the runner ups: Davina and Leo, as well as Megan and Hansali for taking part.

Holly will represent us in the regional heats during the new year at the Courtauld Institute with her presentation on the work of Hirohiko Araki, the manga artist who created JoJo's Bizarre Adventure.





And for those of you looking for a little quiz-based entertainment over the break, this year's [GCHQ Christmas Challenge](#) features seven complex puzzles, masterminded by the GCHQ in-house puzzlers. They are designed to test a range of problem-solving skills and encourage the use of teamwork to reveal the final festive message.

The card design includes a nod to our wartime home at Bletchley Park with a rare image of the snow-covered mansion. It was taken in January 1940, before a photography ban was introduced there, and was discovered in the personal family album of codebreaker Joan Wingfield.

I'm delighted to say that we've raised over £900 for Crisis at Christmas with today's Christmas Jumper Day.

This is the final newsletter of the year, and so I'd like to wish you all a safe and merry break and look forward to seeing students back at school on 4 January 2024.

Alan Blount
Headteacher

Dates for your diary

21 December-2 January Christmas Holiday

Wednesday 3 January CPD Day – School Closed to Students

4-18 January Year 13 Mock Exams

Wednesday 10 January Learning Together Forum

Thursday 11 January Year 11 Parents'/Carers' Evening

Tuesday 16 January Year 9 GCSE Options Evening

Wednesday 24 January School Photos

24-26 January School Production – Oliver!

Wednesday 31 January Year 9 Parents'/Carers' Evening

Friday 9 February CPD Day – School Closed to Students

12-16 February Half Term Break

Term dates for 2023-4 and 2024-5 can be found on our website [here](#).



Around Newstead

Christmas Concert

Well done to all the amazing performers who put on such a great show at our Christmas Concert last week!

You can find some videos on X: [Senior Orchestra](#) in rehearsal, [Chamber Choir](#) and [Waltz of the Flowers](#).









Thank a member of staff this Christmas!



Christmas is a time for gratitude: to thank all those who have made a difference to our lives over the past year.

As in previous years, we are asking students, staff, parents and carers to take a moment to recognise members of staff at school who have made a difference to them over the past year. Please complete the form here with a short message of thanks: <https://forms.office.com/e/2nqGwcHe8J>

In past years we have had thousands of thank you messages. It really does make a genuine difference, to the giver of the 'thank you' as well as the receiver.

Thank you messages will be sent out to staff on Wednesday 20th December, so we need you to complete the form by lunchtime on Tuesday 19th please.

Thank you in advance for your thank you messages!



Sparks Update

Well done to this week's top 10 Sparx Readers:

- Zainab R in 7F
- Kinjal K in 7G
- Elizabeth B in 7P
- Livia T in 7P
- Muna O in 8G
- Avni S in 8N
- Azkadellia Y in 8N
- Zara F-D in 8W
- Sadhana G in 8W
- Erika O in 9F

Year 8 Netball

Last week the Year 8 Netball A and B teams played their league matches against Bromley High.

Both teams had amazing games with our strong defences continually intercepting and reversing play, giving Bromley High few scoring chances and our attack feeding the circle with great accuracy and speed.

The final scores were 22-5 and 10-3.

Well done to all of those who played:

Ruth, Leah, Mollie, Rebecca, Zara, Dami, Bryony, Madeleine, Jean, Satara, Ipin, Ria, Lottie, Lesedi, Dolapo, Bella and Jessica.

Also, a big thank you to Mrs Coulson for helping with transport to the game!



Year 9 DT Monster Project

You may recall from a previous newsletter that the Year 9 students on the Textiles rotation have been working with Year 3 students from Crofton Junior School to make monster toys. The students in 3C and 3O designed monsters and then each Year 9 student was given a drawing to make into a real-life toy. This past week the Year 9s have completed their toys and been taking them out for delivery!

9S and 9F met with 3O and 3C to exchange their monsters and get feedback on the final products they made. This enabled them to develop their evaluation skills when working with a client. There was a huge level of excitement from both parties, especially as one of the delivery days was also Crofton's Year 3 disco – so there may well have been some dancing monsters that afternoon!

The students were welcoming, excited and happy, and they gave some great feedback, talking to our students about improvements and changes they would make, whether they felt their monster matched their design and if they were pleased.

The Year 3s were chatty with their allocated Year 9, and it was hard to pull them away to bring them back to school!

Before taking the monsters to Crofton, some of the students took their monsters out and about around the Newstead grounds to take photos, so we can make a stop motion animation at the end of the year showing what all the sneaky monsters got up to before finding their owners at Crofton!

This has been a hugely successful project between both Miss Formoy and Miss Wright at Crofton Junior and the DT department at Newstead which we will be continuing throughout the year.

The next two sets of monster drawings were delivered from Crofton this week ready for 9N and 9P to start after the winter break!







Year 7 Geography

Year 7 students have been working extremely hard on their contour models and getting to grips with constructing a model and understanding contour lines and topography. All had a wonderful time with this and some have kindly agreed to have their photo in the newsletter for you all to see. Well done to all the Year 7 forms who have been working so hard on this project and producing such amazing pieces.



KS3 English Club

The Christmas Crossword competition was won by Elizabeth B (7P) who solved the puzzle in 5.25 minutes. Close runners up were Nora (7N), Iris (7N) and Myah (7F).

Congratulations!

Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Letters have been sent to Y12 students and parents about the Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award. If any Year 13 students would like to take part, please contact Mr Davis.

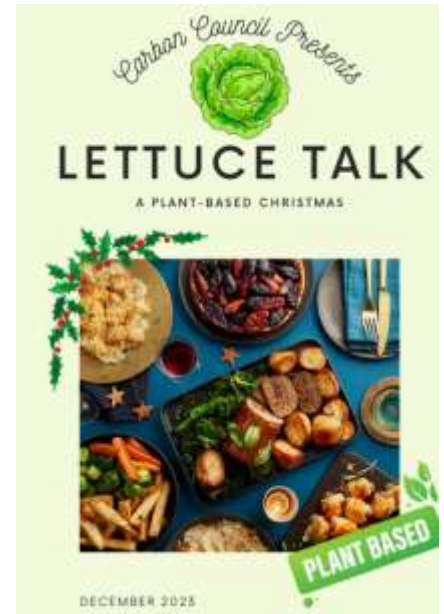


Lettuce Talk

With climate change taking a prominent part of the news cycle at the moment, you may be looking at ways of reducing your Carbon Footprint. The food we eat can have a big collective impact on tackling the Biodiversity and Climate Crisis - so why not look through the latest edition of [Lettuce Talk](#) for some ideas on how to reduce your Christmas Dinner Carbon.

Whether you have vegetarian / vegan family members you are catering for or you are looking for some sustainable options to choose, we hope you enjoy the information!

A big thank you to Tabitha and the Carbon Council for this edition.



History Newsletter

The latest edition of the History Newsletter is out now. You can read it on our website [here](#). Meet the History Department, find out what the History Club have been up to, and read some fantastic articles written by students.

Thanks to Aayushi K in 10N for putting it all together and for everyone that contributed!



Speaker News

Thank you to Dr Emily Emmott, Lecturer in Biological Anthropology from University College London, who came to speak about 'Adolescent Sociality across Cultures' as part of our speaker programme this week.





Congratulations:

- Nancy C (7F) received a special mention from the judges in the [Einstein Mad Hat Awards 2023](#) and was featured in a [New York Times article](#) about the competition.
- Tingting H (10G) and Laya K (9G) played in the Badminton Crossfire Young Stars competition on Sunday 10 December. Tingting received 2nd place and Laya received 3rd place in girls' singles. Both girls played very well.
- Lucy B (8G) successfully auditioned and was cast as one of the Spirit Boys by the English National Opera.
- Charlotte H (13W) passed Grade 8 Oboe with Merit.
- Elias H (10G) passed Grade 7 Flute with Merit.
- Ondina S (9N) passed Grade 6 Piano with Merit.
- Vanessa I (9N) passed Grade 4 Oboe.
- Mollie B (8N) passed Grade 3 Flute with Distinction.
- Nandana G (10G) passed Grade 3 Piano with Merit.
- Leila N-W (9S) passed Grade 1 Piano with Distinction.
- Tammy A (8F) completed her ABRSM Prep Test successfully.





Interhouse Netball

Over the past two weeks every student in Years 7-9 has taken part in interhouse netball, with Year 10 leaders running the event. All students who took part played their hearts out. There was excellent competition, with clear progress from Year 7 to 8 and 9. The results are below for each year group. Excellent teamwork and communication was shown throughout the tournament with students showing excellent skill, technique and strategy.

Year 7 Results:

- 1st Nightingale
- 2nd Phoenix
- 3rd Swift
- 4th Wren
- 5th Griffin
- 6th Falcon

Year 8 Results:

- 1st Griffin
- 2nd Nightingale
- 3rd Wren
- 4th Swift
- 5th Phoenix
- 6th Falcon

Year 9 Results

- 1st Swift
- 2nd Nightingale
- 3rd P
- 4th Wren
- 5th Griffin
- 6th Falcon





House Competition





Achievement Points

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

Top Tutor Groups of the Week		
Year 7: 7F Year 8: 8W Year 9: 9F Year 10: 10W Year 11: 11F		
Top Students of the Week		
★ Year 7 ★		
Nancy C 7F Priyanka C 7W	Katie M 7F Shivya M 7F	Elizabeth B 7P
★ Year 8 ★		
Bella J 8W Priyanka K 8W	Farrah M 8W Tara N-M 8G	Madeleine S 8W Ellie H 8W
★ Year 9 ★		
Inaaya D 9F Savannah D 9F	Erika O 9F Sofia G 9F	Sarrinah A 9F Ihla O 9F
★ Year 10 ★		
Oluwatoni A 10W	Alexandra E 10F Aayushi K 10N	Shreya B 10F
★ Year 11 ★		
Sarah M 11F	Zahra A 11P	



Languages News

Word of the week

Answers to this week's words of the week:

French: la mode - fashion

German: die Plätzchen - cookies

Spanish: bocatería - snack shop

Chinese: 圣诞老人 - Santa Claus

Japanese: すばらしい - wonderful

Latin: poena - punishment, penalty

The words for next week are:

French: un cadeau

German: fabelhaft

Spanish: calamares

Chinese: 圣诞节

Japanese: かつこいい

Latin: spectare



Es weihnachtet sehr!

Frohe Weihnachten und ein schönes Jahr aus dem Newstead German Department!



Christmas presentations

To get ready for the Christmas season, students prepared lovely presentations on German Christmas traditions, food and customs. They shared them with their classmates to immerse everyone in the festive spirit and learn about the rich cultural heritage of German speaking countries during the holiday season.



Die Newstead Weihnachtbäckerei

As part of our Christmas celebrations, we turned the DT classroom into a Weihnachtsbäckerei and baked some delicious Lebkuchen. Here are some impressions of our festive baking session!



Newstead goes German Olympiad

Have a look at what our Year 10 German student Maria-Alexandra has to say about the Oxford German Olympiad that she won the first price in last year. We are really proud of your achievement!

Du bist dran dieses Jahr!

My Experience With The Oxford German Olympiad

In March 2023, I competed in the Oxford German Olympiad and won first place for my video in the Y9 student category across the whole country. The video had to contain a German or Austrian recipe with details on how to cook it. For me, creating the video was extremely difficult and took hours of work. Not only this, but the editing, animation and adding the audio took over 30 hours. However, all the stress hard work and invested time was worth it, when I was invited to the awards ceremony in Oxford. The ceremony included talks from various members of the GOETHE INSTITUT and announcement of the winners. Overall, the experience was intense, but extremely rewarding.

Maria-Alexandra (Y10 German)

OXFORD GERMAN NETWORK



Where will the Olympiad take you this year???

talk to Frau Lacey to participate in the 2024 Oxford German Olympiad!!





Mock Interviews

Over 60 students have received invitations to interview for a wide range of degrees including medicine, archaeology and engineering and all students have received a mock interview. Thank you to all staff who have helped. Good luck to the students.

Careers@Lunchtime Event – 7 December

Two of our alumni, Abbie and Lottie, currently studying medicine at Kings, ran this event for Year 11, 12 and 13 students interested in studying medicine. It was a Q&A session which enabled students to have their specific questions answered. Abbie and Lottie also talked about their own experiences.

"It inspired me to want to do medicine even more and made me think about my A level choices." Hermione, Year 11

"It was very informative especially as it was targeted to our questions." Rose, Year 13

Apprenticeship Opportunity

Hogan Lovells, in partnership with City Century, is offering six-year Solicitor Apprenticeships (four as an apprentice and two as a trainee solicitor) to A-level students across UK. At the end of the apprenticeship students will achieve an LLB and qualification as a Solicitor in England & Wales (SQE route). £25,000 starting salary, plus a £1500 sign on bonus. Applications close on 29 February 2024. [More details here.](#)

Hogan
Lovells



Futures in STEM programme

[Futures in STEM](#) (part of the National Levelling Up: STEM programme) provides two years of free online academic tutoring and pastoral support to Year 12 students.

We've now launched applications, so if you have students considering studying Chemistry, Maths, or Physics, then this support programme is for them!

[More information and apply for Futures in STEM](#)

They need to complete the application form, which includes a short (250 words maximum) statement about why they want to take part in the programme. Applications are open until **Wednesday 31 January 2024, at 11.59pm (GMT)**.

Why apply?

They'll receive a guaranteed conditional offer to study Chemistry, Maths, or Physics at Durham (conditions apply) subject to meeting the degree requirements if they've fully engaged with the programme.

Participation in the programme gives access to:

- Academic tuition, mentoring, and support to develop skills in their chosen subject
- Guest lectures from world-leading academics
- The chance to be part of the Durham community.

Our programme is great preparation for life at university. You can read more about the programme, including selection criteria, on our [Futures in STEM pages](#).



Newstead Wood School Parents' Association News



We had a good uniform sale last week and have managed to raise £600 from uniform sales this term for the benefit of the school, parents and the environment. Next uniform sale is on Wednesday 17th January 2024 at 3.15 - 4pm. We encourage parents to volunteer.

We also encourage parents to attend PA Zoom meeting on Wednesday 17th January 2024 at 7pm. Link will be sent prior to the meeting.

The PA also attended curriculum meeting last week for year 8 and organised evening social event afterwards which many parents took part. Sincere thanks go to Victoria, Aneta and few parents for organising.

Our upcoming events include:

Evening Quiz to be around March 2024

Familiarisation test to be around April/May/June 2024

We are currently looking for volunteers to help with half-termly uniform sales; to help organise a quiz in Feb/March; and to help with the familiarisation tests on some April/May/June Saturdays next year.

All parents and guardians of Newstead Wood students automatically become members of the NWPA so we hope you can join us in organising and attending some events this year. We aim to enrich the school community by helping at school events like plays and open days; we provide practical services, like the secondhand uniform sales; we encourage parents to support each other through social events and the individual class WhatsApp groups; and we run fundraising activities like the Summer disco and the Family Quiz. We look forward to you joining us!

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

There's something for everyone, please get involved!



**Revision books, uniform, PE kit: for sale from the PA Hut on
Wednesday 17 January 3.15 - 4pm**

Volunteers welcome 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!

We've raised £600 this term from sales: thank you for your support as we help the school, help the environment and help you with your shopping!



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Price	POSTAGE	Notes
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500 Stikins (5000 labels) - £65.00	£13.50	
1000 Stikins (10000 labels) - £125.00	£27.00	

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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!

Please take care of your library books

Treat them like you would treat your phone - with care and respect.

Treat them carefully when taking them home and reading them.

Keep them safe - they are your responsibility when borrowed.

Make sure they are kept clean.

Remember - other students want to read your favourite books too!





Autism Parent and Carer Group

NHS
South East London

Tuesday 9th January 2024, 10.00 - 11.30am.
Committee room 1, Civic Centre, Stockwell Close, Bromley, BR1 3UH.



Are you a parent or carer of an Autistic child, young person or adult or do you have concerns about your child's social communication?

Do you want to

- Know more about Autism
- Find out how and where you can get support
- Talk to other parents
- Share ideas to help improve your experiences

Please come along to our parent and carer groups, run as part of Bromley's All Age Autism Strategy Partnership.

If there are any specific areas, you'd like to have discussed, please contact:

colette.shrimpton@bromley.gov.uk



Autism Parent and Carer Group

NHS
South East London

Teams meeting: Tuesday 9th January : 6.30pm to 8pm.
Please use the email address below to request the link.



Are you a parent or carer of an Autistic child, young person or adult or do you have concerns about your child's social communication?

Do you want to

- Know more about Autism
- Find out how and where you can get support
- Talk to other parents
- Share ideas to help improve your experiences

Please join our evening teams meeting for our parent and carer groups, run as part of Bromley's All Age Autism Strategy Partnership.

If there are any specific areas, you'd like to have discussed, please contact:

colette.shrimpton@bromley.gov.uk





Autism Young People and Adults Group

NHS
South East London

Come along and join other autistic young people and adults who often meet up.

**Wednesday 17th January 2024 @ 12 to 1.30pm,
Rhiannon's café, United Reformed Church, BR1 1RY.**



The Bromley All-Age Autism Board are organizing these subgroups to hear your views, wishes and ideas on the following areas:

- Increasing awareness and understanding of Autism
- Education and training
- Independence skills and employment
- Accessing health services and appointments

Please use the email below if you wish to attend or ask any questions:

colette.shrimpton@bromley.gov.uk



Autism Young People and Adults Group

NHS
South East London

**When is it: Wednesday 17th January 2024,
18:30-19:30 on Microsoft Teams**



The Bromley all-age Autism board are organizing these subgroups to hear your views, wishes and ideas on the following areas:

- Increasing awareness and understanding of Autism
- Education and training
- Independence skills and employment
- Accessing health services and appointments

Please use the email below if you wish to attend or ask any questions:

colette.shrimpton@bromley.gov.uk





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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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](#).