



Newstead News

Friday 24 November 2023

Deputy Headteacher's Update

Long, long ago in the early years of this century there was a car advert which seemed to be constantly on screen whenever I went to the cinema and on prime time TV. The hero of the advert was a middle-aged chap with a wistful look in his eye driving down a suburban high street in a sensibly priced family car. The slogan at the end said: "Of course you're an explorer. Of course you're adventurous. You just happen to live in Orpington, that's all."

Orpington, I suppose, was seen as the most boring and unadventurous town the ad agency could come up with, a place which people fantasise about escaping from - how rude! What an insult to our fair community!

Perhaps it's true that Orpington is not the most adventurous of places - although it is believed to have been named after a farmer named Orped, whose name means 'bold' or 'active'! But in our corner of Orpington we are proud to be a community of bold, active explorers who are not afraid to be adventurous: to be courageous, to take the untrodden path, to take risks, to learn new skills, to take pleasure in journeys into the unknown.

Our students may indeed *just happen to be* in Orpington but we're always proud of how adventurous they are: up for a challenge, up to take the harder road, up to push themselves to discover new things about themselves and about the world.

Our Year 13 Biology students are away this week on an adventure in a beautiful part of Suffolk - applying everything they have learnt in the lab as they explore the diversity of the salt marshes around Dedham Vale and the river Stour. Year 13s are at that stage of the year where the university offers - and interview invitations - are coming thick and fast, and we are proud of the courage of our students as they look forward to the next stage of their life's adventure.

Many Year 12 students have shown courage too this week in putting themselves forward to be student leaders. They have given thoughtful, articulate and thoroughly inspiring speeches in our assemblies this week and last, and three of our leadership candidates also spoke brilliantly from the stage at our Sixth Form Open Evening last night. It takes real courage to put yourself forward to be our head student and we are delighted that we have a field of terrific candidates, who will be able to make a real difference to the school. The elections will take place next week.

Our Year 8 students too have been discovering new things about themselves through the 'First Give' charity project, which reaches its climax next week. Our students have shown terrific independence and creativity in devising ways to raise funds and awareness for local charities - genuinely making a difference to the lives of people in our local area. They have definitely shown themselves to be explorers, discovering all kinds of new

things about their local community, about the way charities are funded and the work they do as well as exploring their own capacities to make change happen.

Our Year 11 and Year 9 students too are about to make crucial choices about the future pathways of their studies. It was really inspiring to be able to speak to so many thoughtful, ambitious, bold young people and their families at our Sixth Form Open Evening last night, and we look forward to the opportunity of meeting Year 9 families too at our Options Evening in the new year. Our young people are on the adventure of a lifetime and we're proud that they have the confidence to make bold choices.

Finally, I wanted to mention Year 7 students as our ears are still ringing from last week's extraordinary singing showcase. It was such a joyful and inspirational evening - and what was so wonderful was the way that both the soloists and the ensemble performers were really pushing themselves and each other to perform at a really exceptional level. I have no doubt that our Year 7 students are going to continue to achieve extraordinary things across the next six-and-a-half years of their Newstead adventure.

So yes - we may 'just happen to be in Orpington', but I know that we will continue to be bold, ambitious, and adventurous!

All the best to all our Newstead families for an adventurous weekend,

Jonathan Lewis

Dates for your diary

Thursday 30 November	Year 13 Parents'/Carers' Evening
Tuesday 5 December	Year 8 Curriculum Evening – Studying for Success in Year 8
Thursday 7 December	Christmas Concert
Wednesday 13 December	Christmas Dinner
Friday 15 December	Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Fair
<i>21 December-2 January</i>	<i>Christmas Holiday</i>
Wednesday 3 January	CPD Day – School Closed to Students
4-19 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

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



guest
speaker



We have some fantastic speakers for you in our Autumn Term Guest Speaker Programme. These talks are open to students and parents. To book a place, click on the name of the speaker.

Wednesday, 29 November, 4pm:

[Zara Loughridge](#), Senior Economist at Oxford Economics: *Economics improving lives*

Zara Loughridge is a Senior Economist in Oxford Economics' Economic Impact Consulting team. Recently, she has worked with Amazon and the US Department of Labor. Prior to joining Oxford Economics, Zara spent three years as a Government Economist, working at the Department for Education and Department for Work and Pensions. She is passionate about economics that is accessible and improves lives. For anyone studying Economics or looking to study it in the future, this is a must!

Wednesday, 13 December, 4pm:

[Dr Emily Emmott](#), Lecturer and Teaching Fellow in Biological Anthropology, University College London: *Adolescent Sociality across Cultures & Academic Career Advice*

Dr Emily Emmott is a Human Behavioural Ecologist at one of the leading universities in the world, who studies how the social and physical environment influences human development and behaviour. Her academic interests focus on child-rearing systems and their implications for health and wellbeing. She will be talking on her research into fascinating areas of biological anthropology, as well as giving academic career advice. Anyone interested in attending a top university, establishing an academic career, or who is interested in Dr Emmott's areas of study should absolutely attend!

Speaker News

Thank you so much to Farooq Ullah, Senior Policy Lead of the International Institute for Sustainable Development, Farooq Ullah, for his fascinating and insightful talk on the history of sustainable development and its future.



Around Newstead

Sixth Form Open Evening

It was a pleasure to see so many of our Year 11 students and parents attending our Open Evening for internal students last night. We are so proud of all that our Year 11s have already achieved and understand that choosing the right subjects at the right sixth form can be really challenging. That's why our dedicated staff are happy to take the time to support our students to make the right decision for them, by explaining course content, key differences between GCSE and A Level and highlighting the necessary skills required to study their subject.

If any Year 11 student would like to discuss their A Level choices further, the Sixth Form Team are on hand to support – please contact sixthform@newsteadwood.co.uk or pop along to the Sixth Form Office where Ms Dalton will be happy to meet with them to look at options. We are also planning further events to support Year 11s in making the right choice for them in the Spring.

The application form for Year 11 students to apply for sixth form is [here](#), and students need to submit their applications by Tuesday 20 February. All of our Year 11 students are guaranteed a place in Sixth Form subject to meeting the [entry requirements](#) and an application by the deadline will secure a place on their chosen courses.



Student Leadership Candidates

Well done to our student leadership candidates who have given presentations in assemblies over the last two weeks: Ayomide, Lucy, Siniva, Lan, Chloe, Micah, Ashvini, Arya, Lauren, Joella, Kayani and Whaishnavhy.

Interviews and voting will take place in the coming week.





New House Captains

The new House Captains are now in place and have been busy introducing themselves to their form groups all week. They are really excited about organising the next lot of House events and they have already shown their enthusiasm by taking on the Christmas carol competition!

Nightingale

Senior (KS4) - Harshina J
KS5 - Benjamin E
KS3 - Elizabeth G

Wren

Senior (KS3) - Evie P
KS4 - Alice T
KS5 - Joana T

Swift

Senior (KS5) - Phoebe F
KS4 - Aimee B-R
KS3 - Nethra A

Falcon

Senior (KS3) - Maliha SuhSail
KS4 - Koshitha S
KS5 - Terry M

Griffin

Senior (KS3) - Sasha S
KS5 - Vivia S
KS4 - Saiesha N

Phoenix

Senior (KS3) - Jennifer W
KS4 - Ananya S
KS5 - Sherina M

Football Report

Last Tuesday, the Under 12 football team went to Harris Garrard Academy with Mr Bournat for our first cup football match. Unfortunately, there had been some miscommunication and Harris only had a boys' team ready! But that didn't stop us from playing – we decided to mix our teams around and play a match anyway, which we all enjoyed a lot. Charis (7S) and Zuha (7W) were named player of the matches along with two of the boys from Harris.

The under 12 girls get an automatic 2-0 win which means we progress to the next round of the cup.

Florence (7N) Anisah (7W)

Valuables in School

We'd like to remind you that the school is not able to take responsibility for personal items, and valuables are brought into school at students' own risk. We would ask you to remind students not to bring large amounts of cash or any valuables to school. We are a cashless site and, with the exception of occasional charity events where students may like to bring small amounts of cash, students generally do not need to bring cash to school. Jewellery should be kept to an absolute minimum. On the days when students have PE, please remind them not to wear jewellery to school.

Sadly, we have had to investigate a small number of incidences over the past week where unattended valuable items have been taken from the cloakroom.

African Caribbean Education Network (ACEN) Anti-Racism Conference

Twelve of our wonderful students, Mr Daley and Mrs Bongout attended the ACEN annual conference at City of London School at what proved to be a fantastic and deeply enriching event. The aim was for these students to be inspired, share, network and interact with corporate partners offering world experience, graduate schemes and other initiatives specifically for students of African Caribbean heritage. Students were motivated, challenged and inspired by a truly remarkable guest panel: Kwesi Bimpong, Co-founder of the Black Apprentice Network & Degree Apprentice at Goldman Sachs, Abimbola Johnson, Human Rights Barrister and Chair of the Police Independent Scrutiny & Oversight Board, Lavinya Stennett, Founder & CEO of The Black Curriculum, George the Poet, Sagan Daniels, Youth, Inclusion and Community Programme Director and Co-Founder of the Rugby Black List.

We are looking forward to next year already!



Engineering Fair Trip

Last week the Careers Team ran a trip to an Engineering Careers Fair, organised by AFBE (Association for Black and Minority Ethnic Engineers).

'The engineering fair was a unique opportunity to learn from the most successful businesses in the industry. The wide range of companies I was able to talk to, from the automotive manufacturers at Mercedes AMG to the UK Atomic Energy Authority, allowed me to understand how varied the job market within engineering really is. In particular, the speed-networking provided the chance to explore the specific roles within industries that are available, depending on which field of engineering is most appealing to me and most appropriate for my chosen A-Levels.' Arina K (12W)



Media Arts Lab Trip

Last week the Careers Team also organised a trip to the Media Arts Lab, an advertising agency.

'Last week, I went on a Year 12 Media Lab trip in London where we learnt about advertising as well as many other interesting careers and jobs in the industry. We got to speak to professionals who talked to us about what they do and gave us plenty of useful advice! Next, we were split into two teams and each group had to do a task where we planned an advert and musical video featuring a famous artist/group to advertise the new iPhone. My group did an advert and music video for the ABBA song "Dancing Queen", which we planned in great detail, before pitching to everyone which was a lot of fun. The trip was really informative and it's definitely given me a better idea of what I would like to do in future.' Nicole N (12W)



Sparks Update

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

- Zainab R in 8F
- Livia T in 7P
- Senumi W V in 8S
- Juliet J in 7N
- Aleeza R in 9W
- Elizabeth B in 7P
- Kinjal K in 7G
- Ruby T in 7W
- Ella M in 8N
- Tara New-Mella

GCSE Music Mock Performance

Year 11 Music students gave exceptional GCSE mock performances this week.



Young Reporter Scheme

Last night, I had the incredible opportunity to visit The Shard, having been invited there after an article I wrote as part of the Young Reporter scheme caught the eye of the iconic building's PR team. The tour was led by a Gold Manager of the security team, who first took us down to the underground emergency bunker, and then to the highest level of the tallest building in Western Europe. With the weather being relatively calm, we were even lucky enough to go above the inside viewing platform and to an exclusive level of The Shard's spire, from where we could enjoy an uninterrupted view of the entirety of Central London.

The Shard will soon light up with three dynamic, mosaic-inspired designs on its spire, which can be seen from up to 40 miles in every direction across the capital. Having had the opportunity to interview the artists and creatives behind this novel idea, I am writing an article, which will be available to read online before the big Switch On Event on Tuesday. This should also be broadcast live on BBC London from the studio across the river, so make sure to tune in!

Arina K (12W)



Congratulations:



- Sarah T (13P) was awarded the Inspirational Volunteer Award by Women Achieving Greatness in Social Care at an awards ceremony in London on Tuesday. This award celebrates 'inspirational women for their impactful volunteer work in the sector, either at grassroots or a national level'. Well done, Sarah on an amazing achievement!
- Hanny D (13B) achieved a distinction in her Grade 8 Piano and merit in her Grade 8 Violin.
- Saffron R (9P) achieved a distinction in Grade 7 Cello.
- Aksha D (8P) passed her Grade 1 Guitar.

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

Badminton Success

The Road to U13 Badminton Nationals

During the October half term Olivia M (8S) entered the U13 Gold in Milton Keynes, where the top 20 girls and top 20 boys played. She played and won the Gold medal in the Girls Singles Gold category.

Two weeks later Olivia then went to play the U15 Silver in Berkshire. Here she had to play with girls who were up to 2/3 years older than her. Winning against some of the top seeded girls (and boys for mixed), Olivia walked away with the Gold medal for girls singles and a bronze medal for girls doubles with partner Chinmayi.

England U13 Badminton National Championships Medals

Last weekend the England Under 13 National Championships was held in Milton Keynes. Olivia first won her group stage for the Girls Singles, beating the 4th seeded girl in England 21-18 then 21-17, to progress onto the quarter finals. Taking it to 3 sets, Olivia won the quarters and moved onto the semi finals. Playing the Number 1 seeded girl in England, who is on the England Junior Pathway, Olivia fought and walked away with the bronze. She also went on to win a bronze medal for the Girls Doubles event with partner Chinmayi.

The Nationals is one of the most important tournaments of the year, where the girls and boys of England come together to compete for the title.

Winning 2x bronze medals is a great achievement and establishes Olivia's position as one of the top playing girls in England.

Olivia's resilience and positive attitude on the court impressed the Club and England Junior coaches. She appreciates and is thankful for all the work put in from her coaches and the support everybody has shown from her family, badminton friends and the community. With lots of lessons learnt and still enjoying her badminton journey, Olivia looks forward to the next part of her adventure.



Canoe Success

Over the autumn half term holidays, Arina K (12W) competed in the Canoe Slalom British Open at her home course, the Lee Valley Whitewater Centre just outside London. The event also acted as the selections for the 2024 Senior team, from which the Paris Olympians have now been chosen, so the pressure was on to put down some good runs. Saturday's course was quite demanding and combined with some unfavourable weather conditions, Arina finished 4th, then 2nd junior in kayak, and 2nd, then 3rd junior in canoe. Sunday proved to be much more successful in terms of weather and results, with Arina placing as the top junior after four runs in both classes. Arina's clean sweep on the second day of racing meant she claimed the Junior British Open title in canoe and defended her Junior British Open title in kayak. Amongst the Seniors and U23s, the paddler took six top 8 finishes out of a total of 8 runs across the weekend. This race marked the end of the 2023 season, and Arina will next race in April 2024 wearing bib number 9 in canoe and number 8 in kayak.

Following an equally successful international season, Arina has once again been nominated for British Canoeing's World Class Programme, which is UK Sport's National Lottery funded initiative to enable athletes to achieve excellence and be capable of medal-winning performances at Olympic Games and Senior Championship events.

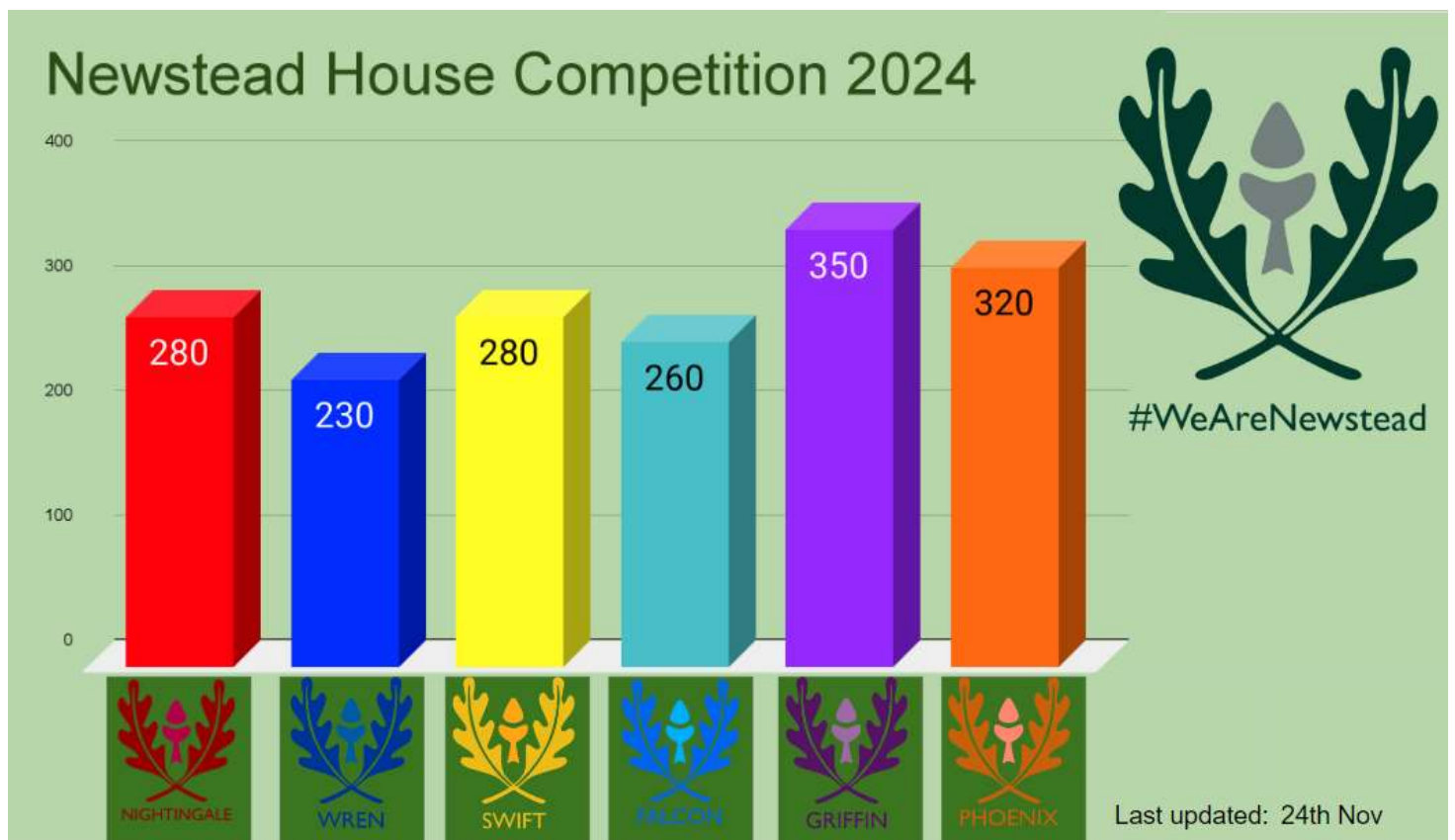


House Competition

The house competition is as fierce as ever with Griffin holding onto the lead, and Phoenix hot on their tails. The Harvest Box competition was won by Swift whilst Griffin submitted the most entries for the Poetry competition (in total over 100 entries across the houses). The English Department are judging the finalists currently and the winner will be announced soon, with the winner becoming the "Newstead Poet Laureate". I was amazed by the level of detail in the Pumpkin Carving Competition, with Erin K in 12H claiming victory for Nightingale with her musical Smashing Pumpkins theme. The Big Fat House Quiz was amazing and I was blown away by the students and staff who participate or simply attended and cheered on their houses.

Upcoming competitions include Welly Wanging, Christmas Carol and the Senior Music competitions alongside the whole school competitions of Attendance and Punctuality (which will be announced at Christmas).

It is all still to play for, which House will win? #WeareNewstead.



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: 9P Year 10: 10S Year 11: 11G		
Top Students of the Week		
★ Year 7 ★		
Katie M 7F Hannah D 7W	Dia M 7F Priyanka C 7W Tamara C 7W	Shivya M 7F Siddhi I 7W
★ Year 8 ★		
Jessica P 8W Izzie B 8W	Farrah M 8W Bella J 8W	Ayla S 8W
★ Year 9 ★		
Elise B 9P	Tanika T 9P Rachna P 9P	Prajnaa D 9P
★ Year 10 ★		
Tingting H 10G Ansharah A 10S Rebecca W 10N	Joanna O 10G Pavela D 10F Zam B 10P	Aayushi K 10N Vaasvi A 10S Shriya P 10S
★ Year 11 ★		
Arunima K 11N Eden L-S 11W	Hermione K 11S Nancy H 11F	Jaeda K 11S



Languages News

Word of the week

Answers to this week's words of the week:

French: le verre - glass

German: die Mannschaft - team (sports)

Spanish: lirio - lily

Chinese: 听音乐 - listen to music

Japanese: わるい - bad

Latin: felix - happy

The words for next week are:

French: le bois

German: der Schnee

Spanish: heladería

Chinese: 滑雪

Japanese: かわいい

Latin: maximus



Newstead Wood School

Exam Invigilators required for 2024

We are currently seeking to recruit Exam Invigilators to assist in the smooth running of public and internal school exams throughout the academic year, but predominantly May to the end of June.

You will need to work professionally as a member of a team ensuring that JCQ regulations are followed. Successful applicants should be available daily between the hours of 8.30am and 4.30pm.

Experience of working in a school environment preferred but not essential as training will be given. Good time keeping, availability, flexibility and reliability essential.

Please apply here [Current Vacancies \(newsteadwood.co.uk\)](https://www.newsteadwood.co.uk) and email your completed application form to recruitment@newsteadwood.co.uk

Applications to be received by Monday 4th December

Newstead Wood School is an equal opportunities employer and requires enhanced DBS clearance as part of its commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. We expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

We are committed to equal opportunity for all staff and applications from individuals are encouraged regardless of age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief and marriage and civil partnerships.

Newstead Wood School, Avebury Road, Orpington, BR6 9SA

01689 853626 www.newsteadwood.co.uk



Newstead Wood School Parents' Association News



Our next meeting will be on zoom at 7pm on Wednesday 29th November: all parents and carers are welcome to attend. Joining details below: please join us!

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/83926190734?pwd=pQQhlyjBXR2nZsGcOFxBmG3j5Hzazp.1>

Meeting ID: 839 2619 0734
Passcode: Ayc8Bp

Thanks so much to all those involved in making the recent Y7/8 disco such a success; £1,360 was raised and a great time was had by all!

We're currently looking for **helpers for the uniform sale** on Tuesday 5th December at 3.15pm. If you can't make that but would like to do some sorting before then, please get in touch and just suggest a date and time that suits you.

We are also looking for **volunteers to organise a quiz** in Feb/March, and to help with the **familiarisation tests** on some May/June Saturdays next year. And perhaps a **Summer Disco**!?

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 join the zoom meeting next week, or get in touch** at pa@newsteadwood.co.uk Thanks!

STIKINS® Name Labels
SIMPLY STICK IN & STAY IN
NO SEWING & NO IRONING

Save time and money with one multipurpose name label for clothes, shoes, lunch boxes, and all school items

SUPPLIED SINCE 2003
MILLIONS IN USE
TO ORDER VISIT:
WWW.STIKINS.CO.UK

STIKINS® Actual Size

Fastening Method: Sewing Ironing

If your school has a fastening method, please state it when you order. (Default is iron up to 10% commission)

How to use: Press firmly onto the smooth open label of clothing, never directly onto the fabric or any other label.

Use many names labels with multiple uses for all items of personal items, including clothes and shoes.

Item	Price	Notes
100 Stikins® Name Labels (White)	£12.00	
50 Stikins® Name Labels (Blue)	£7.00	
25 Stikins® Name Labels (Pink)	£4.00	
10 Stikins® Name Labels (Green)	£2.00	
5 Stikins® Name Labels (Yellow)	£1.00	
1 Stikins® Name Label (Purple)	£0.20	
100 Stikins® Name Labels (Mixed)	£12.00	Includes all colors

Order online at www.stikins.co.uk • Pay by Credit/Debit Card, PayPal, or Apple Pay
Order by phone on 01273 648976 • Pay by Credit/Debit Card

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!



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

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!

Greetings from the IEA!



We once again remind you that applications are open for the IEA's Future Thought Leaders' Programme 2024. This **week-long programme** for **sixth formers** is a way to get experience discussing economic ideas and concepts beyond the exam curriculum. The week will include lectures, discussions, and debates with expert economists. Participants will hear from people working in academia and politics about career opportunities, and at the end of the week the interns will debate on current affairs. Students can apply via our [website](#).

Wishing you a pleasant weekend.

Regards,

The IEA Team

e-scooters are illegal in Bromley
except on private land with the landowners permission!

e-scooters and the law
 Under Government regulations, e-scooters are classed as 'powered transporters' – a term used to cover a variety of novel and emerging personal transport devices which are powered by a motor.

This means they are treated as a motor vehicle and subject to the same legal requirements such as MOT, licensing, tax and insurance.

As e-scooters don't have number plates, signal ability and don't always have a visible rear light, they can't be used legally on the roads.

Their use is also prohibited on cycle lanes and pavements.

e-scooters are currently only legal to ride on:
 - private land with the landowner's permission, **or**
 - as part of a Government trial rental scheme, which Bromley is **not** part of.

Any **illegal** e-scooters stopped by the Police can be seized, and riders can be **fined in excess of £300.**

Supported by   

Scan the QR code for more information 

Community Safety Partnership Safer Roads Event

Saturday 25th November 2023 10am-2pm @ The Walnuts, Orpington Market (outside the ODEON)

The event will be attended by various agencies offering lots of advice and guidance including:

- LBB Road Safety Team
- LBB Trading Standards
- LBB Public Safety Team
- LBB Anti-Social Behaviour Team
- MET Police Safer Neighbourhood Team
- MET Police Roads and Transport Team
- The London Fire Brigade
- Phoenix Motorcycles

In addition to this the MET Police Cadets will be offering Bike marking and LBB Cycle team will be running a Dr Bike session.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SMART TVs

Smart TVs connect to the internet without the need for a set-top box or streaming device, letting users access a range of features through the TV set itself, from on-demand content apps like BBC iPlayer to streaming services such as Netflix, as well as connecting to smartphones and other wireless devices. Most new televisions are internet enabled – so whether you're thinking of upgrading your home viewing system or buying an additional TV for your child's room, it's now even more important to consider the online safety aspects.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

From Netflix to Disney+ to Prime Video, there is a plethora of streaming services available. While these services offer content catering for younger viewers, they also provide material for more mature audiences. If you don't have parental controls set up on your accounts, your child could find themselves being exposed to shows and movies with adult themes, strong language and violence.

INCREASED SCREEN TIME

The array of content available through smart TVs could lead to your child spending excessive amounts of time in front of the screen. Not only can prolonged screen time distract from important activities such as schoolwork or exercise, but experts have also warned that endless hours in front of the box can lead to health problems including obesity, poor sleeping patterns and depression.

REMOTE-CONTROL RETAIL

Like many online devices, smart TVs facilitate digital purchases: buying a new app or the latest season of a favourite show, for example. If your child has access to a bank card and isn't restricted by spending controls on the system, they could run up a sizeable bill through a smart TV fairly quickly – especially if they're not quite old enough to fully appreciate the value of money.

UNCONVINCING SECURITY

As Internet of Things (IoT) devices, smart TVs can be uniquely vulnerable to attack. Experts warn that internet-enabled TVs tend not to support high-level security software, so you won't always be able to download strong antivirus programmes like you would on a phone or computer. Being targeted by hackers could be deeply upsetting for your child, as well as putting their personal data at risk.

A SILENT SPY?

Some smart TVs already collect data on users' viewing habits and then display targeted advertising based on that personal information – while there have also been reports of internet-enabled TVs (and the apps installed on them) being used to 'eavesdrop' on owners. In models with a built-in microphone (for voice activation), third parties could potentially listen in on someone's home life.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

Many smart TVs can be used for web browsing, social media and live streaming – all of which could allow unknown users to contact your child (or vice versa). If your child engages with these functions of the TV, a stranger could potentially discover their contact information and potentially then use it to obtain even more sensitive personal details, such as your home address.

Advice for Parents & Carers

MAKE IT A FAMILY THING

Family TV time is a great way to model the responsible enjoyment of technology – showing your child how to use the smart TV safely for when they're old enough to watch it independently. You could also take this opportunity to establish some healthy TV boundaries, such as time limits on their daily viewing or how to make sure they're only watching content that's appropriate for their age.

CREATE CHILD PROFILES

Much like with smartphones and tablets, apps can be downloaded onto smart TVs: from free content platforms such as BBC iPlayer to paid-for services like Prime Video. Most of these apps allow you to create a separate account for your child which has different settings to your own – suggesting more child-friendly material and reducing the possibility of them viewing explicit content.

SET UP PARENTAL CONTROLS

It's likely that your smart TV has built-in parental controls, which not only let you filter out age-inappropriate shows, movies and games but can also restrict in-app purchasing, so your child can't accidentally spend money through the device. When you've enabled these safeguards, have an open conversation with your child about the reasons, helping them to understand the potential risks.

CONSIDER THE LOCATION

If you're concerned about the online safety hazards that a smart TV might pose to your child, you could consider where in your home you put the device. The safest option would be to place the smart TV in a shared family space – so that an adult is usually nearby and able to supervise while your child's watching it – rather than in the relative privacy of a bedroom.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

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

Follow us on Social Media



@NewsteadWood @NWSchoolFund @NWSGEnglish
@NWSGMaths @NWSGScience @NWSGLangs @NewsteadPE @MusicNewstead @NWSLibrary
@NWSSixthForm @NewsteadWoodPPE @NWSGTech



@newsteadwoodschool @nwschoollibrary @newstead_art @newstead_food @newstead_textiles



www.facebook.com/NewsteadWood



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](#).