



# NEWSTEAD WOOD SCHOOL

*"creating opportunities for success"*

THE SUNDAY TIMES

SCHOOLS GUIDE  
2025

STATE SECONDARY  
SCHOOL OF THE YEAR  
LONDON

18 September 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

## Young Reporter Scheme

Following the success of the Young Reporter Scheme over the past few years, we are delighted to be participating in this innovative project once again. The scheme provides students with the opportunity to join a team of young reporters and generate content for a real live online newspaper.

As well as gaining an invaluable insight into the work of a journalist, students develop a range of highly regarded transferable skills, including research capabilities, improving writing skills, building up confidence and the ability to work to a deadline. The programme is recognized and supported by universities nationwide.

In summary, this excellent scheme offers your daughter/son:

- Eight months of valuable work experience.
- The ability to build up a portfolio of published work – students will write eight articles over the eight months.
- Every article is uploaded onto the website: [www.youngreporter.co.uk](http://www.youngreporter.co.uk).
- Opportunities to cover various press events, for which they can compete, such as Immersive Game box, Monopoly Lifesize and Theatre productions.
- A letter of recognition upon completion for inclusion on their CV and as part of their UCAS application. It can also be used towards Bronze or Silver DofE.

Students will take part in two lectures. The introductory lecture is optional but will cover writing articles, uploading them, finding ideas, where to go to source articles etc. The Defamation lecture is mandatory for all students, who are expected to attend this lecture otherwise their permissions will be suspended until they do. This lecture is to safeguard them against uploading anything that would be libelous or subject to copyright, which can have serious consequences.

**Headteacher:** Mr Alan Blount, MA, BSc, QTS

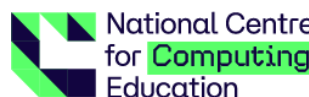
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If your daughter/son is interested in participating, please ask them to email me at [jclarke-mcdermott@newsteadwood.co.uk](mailto:jclarke-mcdermott@newsteadwood.co.uk) with their full name and year group. They should **not** email the Young Reporter Scheme directly. The cost of the scheme this year is £35 which includes the two online training sessions.

To secure your child's place, please make your payment using WisePay **by Friday 26 September** at the very latest. Please note that if fewer than 21 students show an interest in participating, we may be unable to run this scheme, in which case you will be refunded any money paid to WisePay. If you have any financial concerns about the cost, then please contact [finance@newsteadwood.co.uk](mailto:finance@newsteadwood.co.uk) in confidence.

If you have any queries, please contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J Clarke-McDermott', with a long, flowing horizontal line extending to the right.

**Mrs J Clarke-McDermott**  
**Careers Leader**

# CALLING ALL BUDDING JOURNALISTS...



## RECRUITING NOW FOR SEPTEMBER

### WHO ARE WE?

The Young Reporter Scheme is a schools programme, giving every student an opportunity to write for real live online newspapers.

It is a fantastic way for you to be able to showcase your published work and build up a portfolio over the period of time that you work with us.

We believe all young people have a right to speak about what is important to them and what they are passionate about.

### HOW DOES IT WORK?

The scheme is open to school years 10 to 13 and runs from September through to April, with students signing up through their school to write 8 articles during the 8 month period. You are given deadlines to work to and categories to write within and all your articles are published.

At the end of the scheme there is a competition, where you can submit 3 of your chosen articles to be judged against other students in your age group.

In June each year we run an Awards Ceremony, where the winners are then announced for that academic year. The two Top Reporters of each year group also go on to become the faces of the scheme for the following year.

### WHERE DO YOU UPLOAD?

We are in partnership with Newsquest Media Group, so your work will be published on your local Newsquest online paper.

### OPPORTUNITIES

Students are given plenty of opportunities to cover, including press events such as Up at the O2, Immersive Gamebox, Monopoly Lifesize, The London Dungeon, Backyard Cinema, The Roman Baths, various theatre productions, and many more. These opportunities give you the chance to see what it is like to be a real journalist.

By doing the scheme, you are also able to be fast tracked onto the Newsquest Media Group Apprenticeship Programme.



### DUKE OF EDINBURGH

If you are doing your DofE Award, you can use The Young Reporter Scheme as your skillset.



### SUCCESS STORIES

Having run the scheme since 2008, we have watched our Young Reporters go on to achieve great things. To name a few:

- **Abdoulie Jammeh** - Project Manager at the United Nations Office in The Gambia
- **Ezekiel Bertrand** - Apprentice News Reporter for Newsquest Media Group and latest winner of the L5 Apprentice of The Year at the 2025 NCTJ Awards
- **Jonelle Awomoyi** - Broadcast Journalist & Presenter for the BBC
- **Liberty Martin** - Financial Times Reporter
- **Lucy O'Brien** - Social Media Journalist for The Times and The Sunday Times
- **Marianna Spring** - Social Media Investigations Correspondent at the BBC
- **Monica Charsley** - News Reporter for the Daily Mirror