



Newstead News

Friday 20 October 2023

Headteacher's Update

As we come to the end of this half term I would like to thank you for your continued support as we work together as a community to continue to be the very best that we can be and to transform young people's lives.

We have had an extremely successful half term and with your support have ensured excellent attendance which we know will correlate with excellent outcomes for students. This week the provisional Progress 8 measures were released and I was delighted to see that our figure had increased again from last year to 1.14. Progress 8 tells you about the progress that students make between primary school and the end of year 11. It is a type of value-added measure, which means that pupils' results are compared to other pupils nationally with similar starting points. A value of 1.14 places us 31st out of all the secondary schools in the country, and on first read, the 3rd highest grammar school. This is an amazing achievement and testament to the hard work and effort each and every member of our school community puts in each and every day.

We can often forget that what happens at Newstead Wood School, our 'normal', isn't normal for everyone and it really is a special place.

I'll keep this week's update brief as I'm about to head off to the Jollof Rice workshop over in the DT block and don't want to miss out on any of the explanations that Chef Shirley is giving. We will be holding our Food Fair at lunchtime and students will be selling their wares for a range of charities including the Red Cross and Oxfam. We're also judging our Harvest Box Competition with all donations going to the Hayes Community Food Bank. We will be needing the minibus to transport the goods as there are so many donations! Yesterday, when I was teaching Year 11, 7G had to apologise for interrupting my lesson, as 5 students carried their mammoth Harvest Box into their form room – they had been caught in the rain whilst adding their finishing touches to the paintwork! Another example of a 'Newstead Norm' that makes this such a great place.

It's been a busy time for Year 13 – over half the year group have submitted their UCAS applications, with a significant number already in receipt of an offer. University Entrance Exams have also taken place this week, bringing the next step of their education that bit closer.

After half term Year 11 have their first mock exams which are followed by Sixth Form Open Evening on 23 November, bringing their decisions about next steps that bit closer too.

Also after half term Year 12 and 13 are off on their field trips for Geography and Biology respectively... and did I mention that the French team are currently in Paris with Year 10-12 students? It's all go!

I hope you all have a restful and relaxing half term break and we look forward to welcoming students back refreshed and ready to work hard over the next half term.

Alan Blount
Headteacher

Dates for your diary

23-27 October

Half Term Break

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
Thursday 9 November	Parents' Association Disco
Tuesday 14 November	Learning Together Forum
Thursday 16 November	Year 7 Singing Showcase Evening
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
Thursday 7 December	Christmas Concert
<i>21 December-2 January</i>	<i>Christmas Holiday</i>

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

Behaviour Policy Update

Our Behaviour Policy has been updated for this academic year. Please see key information about behaviour points and detentions on our [Behaviour webpage](#). The full policy, along with all school policies, can be found on our website [here](#).

Facial Recognition Reminder

Please remember to consent to the use of Facial Recognition for payments in the canteen on WisePay if you are happy to do so. You can find this in the School Merchandise section of the Shop area in WisePay.

Around Newstead

Big House Quiz

Congratulations to our six brilliant teams who took part in the house quiz today! All the teams were made up of one student from Key Stage 3, one from Key Stage 4, a sixth former and a member of staff. They worked together to puzzle their way through questions about Newstead Wood, cocktail recipes, Super Mario, obscure TV shows and 19th century politics as well as a LOT of questions about ghosts! The quiz ended with a nailbiting tie breaker between Falcon and Griffin, with Griffin finally being crowned the winner. Well done to all the teams and their very enthusiastic supporters as well as Quizmaster Lewis and Mr Williams for a very exciting lunch break!



Food Bank Collection

This year, students at Newstead Wood have selected Hayes Community Food Bank to be the recipient for the Harvest Box offerings. Thank you to everyone that has donated items – they are gratefully received and were delivered to the Food Bank this morning.

Congratulations to the winners of the Harvest Box competition – you can see some of their amazing creations below. The winners were:

Looks:

1st - 8P

2nd - 7S

3rd - 8W

Contents:

1st - 7G

2nd - 9P

3rd - 9S

Overall Winners:

Joint 1st - 9P

Joint 1st - 7S

3rd - 9F

If you would like to make a monetary donation to the charity their details are:

Hayes Community Food Bank:

Sort Code: 20-18-93

Account Number: 23568946

Registered charity number: 1198866



French Trip to Paris



Jack Petchey News



The Jack Petchey student award winners for this term are as follows:

Tvisha S (9W) was nominated for being a friendly, kind, and supportive member of the form. She gets on well with everyone in the form.

Hanna K (9W) has been described as an Extracurricular little big star. Hanna jumped in and took charge of creating a cake for the European day for languages, inspiring two other friends to join with her. The result was an amazing cake, winning the overall prize for the competition. Hanna and her friends also produced fashion show style personal presentation ideas that inspired classmates to join in, all in German. Hanna is a great ambassador for German language.

Lily G (11F) has volunteered to help at lower school lunchtime clubs throughout this year. She helped set up equipment, led warmups and practices, umpired, and ensured safety at netball and athletics. As well as coming to coach at clubs she has also attended matches after school, where she has assisted just like another member of staff, which has been amazing! She has been exemplary in her class sports leaders' lessons, and she has regularly represented the school in different sports activities as well as her club outside of school in athletics, where she achieves at a high standard.

Elizabeth C (13H) is the first recipient of the exclusive Jack Petchey award for the Sixth Form. She was nominated for effectively and passionately contributing to Physics Society, which goes beyond the standard curriculum in Physics through presentations, demonstrations, and discussions with students during Friday lunch breaks. The research and preparation the members of society undertake is extensive and relevant. The range of students who attend the sessions is wide: from Year 7 to Year 13.

Students are also able to nominate any member of staff (teaching or non-teaching) for the Leader award. This is to also recognize adults for their commitment to young people. Nominations can be emailed to Miss Sitambuli, the Jack Petchey coordinator (psitambuli@newsteadwood.co.uk).

Sparx Reader Update

Well done all of you who have been studiously gathering thousands of Sparx Reader Points on Sparx Reader!

The top 10 students with the most Sparx Reader Points (SRP) this week are:

1. Tara N-M in 8G
2. Zainab R in 7F
3. Muna O in 8G
4. Azkadellia Y in 8N
5. Juliet J in 7N
6. Tilly H in 7N
7. Senumi W V in 8S
8. Dhiviyaa S in 8G
9. Kamna J S in 9S
10. April B-T in 7F

Amazing work!

Black Professionals Conference

On Friday 13 October we held a Black Professionals Conference for Year 12 as part of our celebration of Black History Month. A panel of guests came into school to meet with our Year 12 students. They shared their journeys and advice on achieving success.



Maypole Project – 8W First Give



8W hosted representatives from their chosen charity for their First Give Enterprise Project on Wednesday. Laura and Hannah from the Maypole Project came in to discuss the class' planned social action and to give them more information on Maypole and what they do. The class asked lots of thoughtful questions and found out lots about Maypole's projects and some of the fantastic work they do supporting families in Bromley.

In the words of 8W: 'The Maypole Project is a charity that supports families when one or more of their children have complex medical needs. Maypole are a really small charity but they help so many people by providing counselling and support. To help Maypole,

our class are going to hold an event, treasure hunt and sell badges! Keep an eye out around school for more posters and information about this!'

Year 7 Textiles

This year's Year 7 students on the Textiles rotation are completing a final product showing four techniques and demonstrating the student's ability to use the sewing machines accurately and safely. This rotation has the theme of seasons and students have chosen what they feel most represents each season to them personally.

So far, the students have been learning about Batik and Appliqué and are now moving onto couching both by machine and by hand. They have been testing each technique and reflecting on that using both self-reflection and peer feedback to inform their next steps.

The students have all been confidently working on themselves as independent learners within the learning area, setting up the machines themselves, supporting each other with problem-solving and learning to work together as a class.

The students have been asked to include what they feel they need in their books to remind them of their learning, samples and testing as well as key information or key words, therefore each student has approached this in their own unique style which is adding to their creativity and individual style. They will then have a book with a bank of techniques and revision to use for next year and each year following.

It has been really wonderful to see each student approach this project in their own way. They are due to finish this project at the end of the winter term, so if you have a student in this rotation, do keep an eye out for the finished product coming home around Christmas!





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, 1 November, 4pm:

[Shreya Srinivasan](#), Podcast Host of 'Commerce meets Law', AS CAC 2022 Winner, Future Solicitor at Skadden: *Preparing for Law*

Shreya Srinivasan is a very successful alumna of Newstead Wood, who has gone onto great early success in the field of law. She is currently in her penultimate year of studies at the Russell Group's Exeter University, where she is also Careers Officer for the Law Society. She will be talking about her journey so far, offering meaningful, relatable advice to potential students of law. Anyone who is potentially interested in a career in law should definitely attend this talk!

Thursday, 2 November, 4pm:

[Sir Graham Brady MP](#), Chairman of the 1922 Committee: *Serving notice to successive Prime Ministers and other political points of interest*

Sir Graham Brady MP has been a regular feature of British television in recent years. As Chairman of the 1922 Committee, he has been responsible for handling letters of no confidence and leadership elections for the Conservative Party, which has seen no fewer than five Prime Ministers in the last seven years. With his memoirs currently being written, and having served in such a central role during turbulent political times of late, anyone with a remote interest in politics would be mad to miss this talk!

Monday, 20 November, 4pm:

[Farooq Ullah](#), Senior Sustainability Development Advisor at the International Institute for Sustainable Development: *Sustainable Solutions*

Farooq Ullah is a senior Sustainability Development Advisor at the International Institute for Sustainable Development, having previously led on sustainable development for The B Team, and having held the positions of Executive Director for the Centre for Development Results and Chair of the Engagement Committee for Future Earth, among other significant roles in this area.

For anyone interested in the history of sustainable development and contemporary sustainability challenges, this talk is essential!

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!

F RIGHTNING FOODTECH

Can you build a spooky grazing board? We would love to see your creations! Have a go at building your ghoulish party plate and email the photos to ncameron@newsteadwood.co.uk. We will pick our favourite three and those students will win a small prize. Entries open 22nd October to 31st September.



HALF TERM FUN

Can you carve the coolest pumpkin? We are looking for creative and creepy creations this spooky season. Carve any size pumpkin. Be as creative as possible, take some photos and email the photos to ncameron@newsteadwood.co.uk. We will pick our favourite three and those students will win a small prize. Entries open 22nd October to 31st September.

PUMPKIN CARVING

Newstead Economist

Thank you so much to Ricardo Soto Zachmann, Enterprise Control Framework Lead at Citi, for taking the time to support our Newstead Economist journal team. It was a phenomenal opportunity for our students to speak to a leading expert in the field, and we are so grateful for your offer of ongoing support



Congratulations to:

- Izabelle T (9S), who participated in the British Taekwondo National Poomsae Championships last Sunday, 15 October. She was awarded a bronze medal in the U14 category.

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



Newstead's

Year 7 & 8

DISCO PARTY

9TH NOV THURSDAY
@NEWSTEAD WOOD SCHOOL

£8

DOORS OPEN @ 6:00 PM | DISCO UNTIL 8:00 PM

SNACKS & DRINKS ARE AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE

Buy tickets @ Wisepay



Organised by
Newstead Wood Parents Association



Languages News

Word of the week

Answers to this week's words of the week:

French: le car - coach

German: der Herbst - autumn

Spanish: solomillo - fillet steak

Chinese: 朋友 - friend

Japanese: いい - good

Latin: mittere - to send

The words for the week after half term are:

French: l'hiver

German: die Schultüte

Spanish: frutería

Chinese: 喜欢

Japanese: 高い (たかい)

Latin: celare



Newstead Wood School Parents' Association News



We had a good AGM last week: thanks to those who attended. We now have a full team in place, though several vacancies will be coming up next summer so watch this space!

Chair – Victoria; Vice-chair – Anmol; Vice-chair – Wealth;
Treasurer – Kapil; Vice-treasurer – Arindam
Secretary – Sara; Vice-secretary – Bola

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 Year 7 disco and the Family Quiz. We look forward to you joining us!

We are currently looking for volunteers to help with the Y7/8 disco on November 9th, to help organise a quiz in Feb/March, to help with half-termly uniform sales; and to help with the familiarisation tests on some May/June Saturdays next year.

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!

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!**





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!

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
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Prices include: VAT & UK delivery

We print labels every working day up to 3pm & send them out same day by first class post.

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Order online at www.stikins.co.uk - Pay by Credit/Debit Card, PayPal, or Apple Pay
Order by phone on 01270 668076 - 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!

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

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



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

LAMDA

For more information about our classes
visit spotlights.co.uk or call **0333 090 2501**



Institute of Economic Affairs Essay Competitions



Details on how to apply to our **Essay Competitions** for 2023-4 can be found on our [website](#). The deadline for submissions is **Friday 26th January 2024**.

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

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AMONG US

A multiplayer 'social deduction' game set in outer space, Among Us enjoyed a surge in popularity in 2020, and has since maintained a dedicated fan-base (globally, around 60 million regular players each month) thanks to its unique nature, simple premise and ease of access across numerous platforms. The game's on-screen action revolves around danger, disguise and deception – and there are certain parallels to be drawn with some of the real-life risks that parents and carers of young Among Us players need to be aware of.



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SENSITIVE PREMISE

In Among Us, up to three players are secretly assigned to be alien imposters, tasked with murdering their colleagues while the survivors try to unmask them. While the concept's not far removed from traditional games like Wink Murder or TV shows such as *The Traitors*, some parents may feel uncomfortable about their child playing a video game in which deception and killing are prioritised.

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

The on-screen death of characters may be fundamental to the gameplay of Among Us, but the majority of the animations depicting this are deliberately cartoonish and only appear very briefly. However, it is worth bearing in mind that the game has a PEGI age rating of 7 – meaning that certain elements (however heavily stylised they may be) could still upset some younger players.

CHAT BETWEEN PLAYERS

With up to 15 people participating in each game online, a large part of Among Us' appeal is speculating with fellow players who the imposters might be and making accusations. This dialogue through the in-game text chat can occasionally become heated – and could, of course, involve your child being put into contact with people (including adults) who they don't know in real life.

GOING OFF PLATFORM

While Among Us provides basic ways to communicate, many gamers prefer to use external services such as Discord – a popular app which offers voice and video chat functions. These undeniably make cooperation easier, but also create a potential route for children to hear inappropriate language – or for strangers to message them privately in an environment which isn't regulated by the game itself.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

Among Us is free to download on mobile devices, and costs less than £5 to obtain on console and PC. A related longer-term pitfall, though, is that the game also includes options to pay for upgrades such as removing ads on the mobile version or adding cosmetic touches to characters (such as different costumes). It's certainly possible that a child could spend a significant sum without realising it.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CONSIDER SOFTER ALTERNATIVES

Although Among Us is hugely popular with young gamers, it's possible that some children might find the murder themes unsettling. If so, plenty of similar social deduction games are available (in both digital and traditional board game formats) which downplay the potentially grislier elements: some centre around undercover spies, for instance, and there's even a Marvel superhero-themed variant.

CHAT ABOUT CHATTING

You might feel it's prudent to talk to your child about the risks associated with voice chat while gaming, explaining in particular that strangers online aren't always who they claim to be. Keeping the conversation relaxed will reinforce your child's confidence that they can always come to you with any online concerns – not just about Among Us, but any potential future issues as well.

DISCUSS DISCORD

In general, Discord is an excellent app for keeping online communities together because of its use of dedicated individual servers, which allow comprehensive control over who can join – and who can't. Once you're familiar with the platform, you could set up a secure server for your child and their friends to communicate during games of Among Us, with no access for people they don't know.

AMONG US, AMONG FRIENDS

When your child and their friends get together, they can enjoy a private game of Among Us by choosing a 'local' lobby – that is, only people connected to the same WiFi (your home network, for example) can enter. This prevents any random online users – who may be total strangers – from joining and removes the need for voice chat, as the players are all physically in the same location.

STOP SURPRISE SPENDING

If you're concerned about the possibility of your child racking up an unexpected bill on Among Us' microtransactions, you could consider using a prepaid card with a set limit. Likewise, you could specify in the game's options that adult authorisation is required for every purchase – or you could make sure that no payment methods are enabled on the device that your child plays the game on.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GORoom and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent who understands the value of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including iD and TechRadar.



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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](#).