



Neatherd

Annual 2016-17



A year in the life of our school . . .

Welcome

Welcome to our 6th Neatherd Annual which celebrates the huge achievements of our talented students and staff during 2016-17, and shows you some of the fun we've had along the way!

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Headteacher's Introduction

Dear Readers

I hope that you enjoy reading our sixth Neatherd Annual. Now, having completed ten years as Neatherd's Head, I look at the pages here and marvel at what can be achieved by nurturing the talents of our students. We continue to enjoy strong support from the parent body and the Neatherd staff work with tireless professionalism to create the very special school we have.

We have spent time reviewing what it means to be part of Neatherd and we think it is captured in the line, 'Traditional, inclusive, supportive.' I reflect on these words as I remember, in particular, the activities students have engaged in over the final two weeks of the academic year. These have been the culmination of so much hard work, including Curriculum Enhancement Week, The Sports Festival and our Prize Giving assemblies. These memories have created great joy and pride for us at Neatherd, watching students work and have fun together, achieving personal goals along the way and celebrating their successes. In every memory, and others in this annual, I hope you will see these three 'golden threads' run, powerfully, throughout.

Peter Devonish
Headteacher



Business Studies

Another busy and enjoyable year in the world of Business Studies at Neatherd – it was a real pleasure to teach the 2017 leavers and we would like to wish them all the best for the future.

Congratulations

I would like to congratulate the year group 2015-2016 on such exceptional results. For the fourth year running Business students achieved excellent residuals, with 86% of them getting A*-C, and in all three components they averaged above other centres across the UK. This meant for the second year running Business Studies students achieved positively significant results by national indicators. This is a fantastic achievement and hopefully come September, the 2017 cohort will have been equally successful.

Apprentice Day

The whole of Year 9 took part in an Apprentice Day. The students were in mixed groups and took part in a number of different challenges. The challenges included making a business pitch after having researched a product, producing a promotional video, researching effective suppliers for a product, making products and then taking part in a team building activity. Each challenge was assessed by the teacher, with points being awarded for the strongest performers.



Year 10 Business Studies students

Year 10 Business students have been working hard on investigating small businesses. They have been learning about marketing, finance, human resources and production. They have also started their controlled assessment. This involves students collecting market research on a local business to see how e-commerce is used. The investigation focuses on describing the current e-commerce provision, explaining some potential improvements and then recommending one development they could make.



Creative Arts

Art

The work of our older students was showcased at the annual summer exhibition. This year work was also on display for the Fashion Show. In addition to the superb displays of Year 11 GCSE coursework and exam pieces there were also some excellent examples of Years 7, 8 and 9 work as well as homemade crafts made by our Art Club.

Year 9 students made a series of murals to update the existing displays in the English corridor. Images used were based on famous paintings and even portraits of staff.

Students have also been making 3D clay sculptures inspired by dragons and Edvard Munch's 'Scream' Painting.



Creative Arts

Dance

Dance Show - March

In March, Neatherd held their annual dance show – 'Dynamic' – at the Memorial Hall. The evening comprised of many different acts from all year groups. Notable performances were from Sparks, one of Neatherd's dance groups, and the dance club who performed a fantastic, upbeat and groovy dance to 24 Carat Magic. The performance also showcased some of the outstanding GCSE and A Level work that had been created for students' examinations and Obsidian's competition pieces. Scarning Primary and Hockering Primary got involved too with almost 50 primary school students performing alongside Neatherd students! The show also welcomed another High School to the stage with 30 girls from Downham Market Academy performing for the very first time in Neatherd's dance show.



Can You Dance? - April

Obsidian took their competition performance to Can You Dance? which was held at the UEA in Norwich in April. Ignite also attended the event and got to take part in three masterclasses with professional dancers. A day cram-packed with movement came to a close with a competition between all of the attending Dance Schools. As Neatherd was the only High School present, they were over the moon to bring home first place and an invitation to the grand final in Liverpool in October!



Make Your Move – Red Cross Competition – April and July

In April, Obsidian, Neatherd's competition dance group, went to Dulwich, London, for a dance competition that raises money for the Red Cross. As a team, the group raised just under £700 for the Red Cross and with their moving dance piece based on the struggle of refugees, they brought home first place and a trophy! The grand final was at the O2 in London in July and was an awesome experience for the group who got to perform on such a large stage. They came home with first place and a special commendation for best choreography!

City College Dance Workshop - June

In June, four dance students from City College visited Neatherd to run a dance workshop with our GCSE students. The Year 9s who have chosen dance as an option also got to take part in the event. It was a brilliant workshop that gave students the chance to learn set repertoire from older and more experienced dancers. It was also excellent that the set phrases were combined with our own students' creative work to create a short piece by the end of the workshop.

Creative Arts

Drama

Neatherd's Got Talent – November

The Friends of Neatherd High School gave students the chance to show-case their talents as dancers, actors, musicians and singers. Sparks dance group was awarded the Audience Prize for their slick and focused contemporary dance performance. Runner-up for the Audience prize was talent-show newcomer Sorrel McDermott. Sorrel sang in Japanese and delighted the audience with a smiley, up-beat electro-disco-inspired Jap-pop-song. The Judges' Vote was awarded to Year 9 students Luke Maxwell and Hannah Coe. The duo performed "Popular" from the hit West End musical, "Wicked."

School Production - February

The big events this year in drama have included our amazing school production which took place in February. Our students are always inventive and this year they excelled themselves. Miss Harris offered the thinnest of storylines as a starting point and a few odd-ball props from the drama department cupboard. She asked the cast to come up with something amazing – and they did!

Finch's Tale was the story of a boy separated from his parents at the start of the show. Through many adventures involving the cruellest orphanage matron imaginable, a pack of pirates, a wicked queen and a magical wishing well, the boy, Finch, is reunited with his mother and learns the true value of friendship.

Shakespeare Festival

Students from Years 9 and 10 performed a stunning performance of William Shakespeare's "The Tempest" as part of the acclaimed National Shakespeare Festival. Neatherd's performance was praised by festival organizers for its energy, originality and physicality. Directors Mrs Sanderson and Miss Costenbarder were rightly proud to boast that "tonight our students created pure magic from one of Shakespeare's most magical plays," bringing home first place and an invitation to the grand final in Liverpool in October!



Neatherd's Got Talent



School Production



Shakespeare Festival

London Theatre Tour – Residential Drama Trip

The drama department ran its annual residential trip to London in June where students were given the opportunity to see three outstanding West End shows and take part in professional dance workshops at Pineapple Dance Studios. Students loved the wide range of theatre in their programme and delighted in the chance to see some of the sights of the capital close up.

Creative Arts Evening – July

Finishing the year off was the final celebration of Neatherd's performers at the Creative Arts evening. As ever, spectacular singing, dancing and acting was on show in a fine end to the creative year.

Creative Arts

Music

This year began in earnest for our musicians with a concert in September. This took place in Norwich and was a combined concert and prize giving, celebrating the achievements of students (and staff) who had gained grades through the London College of Music examination board. The concert was in conjunction with Framingham Earl High School, giving our students a fantastic opportunity to play within a larger ensemble.

Next up was the Christmas concert. Students who participated all had to perform a piece with a Christmas theme, which led to some interesting arrangements, most notably from the Ukulele group who performed 'Yuletide.' This was a re-working of the Vance Joy hit 'Riptide', arranged by Year 8 student Oscar Futter. Other performers at the concert included the school choir 'Kaleidoscope', the Neatherd Buskers, the Neatherd All-Skas and of course our hugely talented and enthusiastic solo singers and instrumentalists.

The "Summer Concert" (which actually happened in March) had a Stage and Screen theme, with students again having to think carefully about their choice of music. But as always, they pulled it out of the bag and gave audience members an excellent evening of entertainment. It was at this concert that we sadly had to say goodbye to our talented Year 11 students, but they made sure they went out in style by performing an impromptu version of Bohemian Rhapsody.



Design & Technology

Construction

It's been a very busy year on the BTEC Construction course this year with pupils learning about preparation of walls prior to applying paint. Along with learning about starting their careers in the construction industry, they have also been improving their Joinery and Plumbing skills.



Child Care

The Child Care babies continue to help increase the pupils' experience of looking after young children. The babies are of a realistic weight and are programmed to simulate a life-like experience of caring for them. They monitor temperature, clothing changes, feeds, handling, head support, burping and sleeping position to ensure these babies have the correct care. When returned, the simulation programme then gives each pupil a report to tell them how well they have done.

"It was a fun but challenging time to have the baby," says Lucy. "However I feel like it is not accurate as it cried more than a normal baby. Otherwise I found

it a great experience and I think everyone should experience it, so they know what it is like to have a newborn baby. I had to take my baby on the bus and I found this quite fun and everyone loved it, but it did start crying at 4 o'clock whilst I was waiting for the bus. I was worried about it waking my family up, however it did not and I found it embarrassing looking after it in front of my family." Melissa said about her experience: "When I took the baby home I was worried about looking after it in front of my family, but my mum was keen to help. My baby cried a lot throughout the night. It wouldn't put me off having a real baby if I wanted one though."

Design & Technology

Food Technology

Firstly, we would like to say thank you and best wishes to Mrs. Philippon and Mrs. Vaughan for all their hard work in the Food Department this academic year and thank you to Mrs. Patterson who, as ever, holds the whole department together! With the refurbishment of the Food room, pupils have far more room to prepare their dishes and enjoy the ingredients provided by the department for the first time. Each pupil in KS3 is now able to cook every lesson and forgetting their ingredients, and so being unable to cook, has become a distant memory! Particularly popular dishes have been Rock cakes (Year 7), burgers made from scratch (Year 8) and fajitas (Year 9). We have now finished with the Hospitality and Catering Course, for which our Year 11 group have taken their exam, and we have completed one year of the two year course of Food Preparation and Nutrition with the Year 10 group. With very good mock results, we expect excellent GCSE results next year. Good luck to all our Year 11 pupils in all they do in the coming years, especially the 4 pupils who have chosen to carry on with their Catering Studies.



Design & Technology

Graphics

Year 7

This year the students have been studying paper mechanics as well as modern children's illustrators. They have been applying this to their own work by writing and making their own pop-up books. All students have really enjoyed this project as it gives them so much opportunity for their own input and creativity.

Year 8

The students have been learning about digital design packages and using these to create their own 'race and chase' themed board games. They have all got to grips with the package quickly and created some very exciting, as well as fun to play games.

Year 9

The Year 9 students have had a fantastic time this year, designing their own contemporary jewellery. They have been looking into the work of three contemporary designers and using this as the influence for their work. They have also been investigating different types of net design to create their own product packaging.

GCSE

This has been an exciting year for KS4 Graphics as the Year 11 students completed their coursework projects. We had a number of very impressive projects from the students who really showed off all their broad range of skills. A few projects that really stood out were Lauren Richeda's 'Meet the Mini Monsters', Ellie Jackman's 'Maze Daze' and Sophie Ebbage's 'Mythical Monsters'.



Resistant Materials

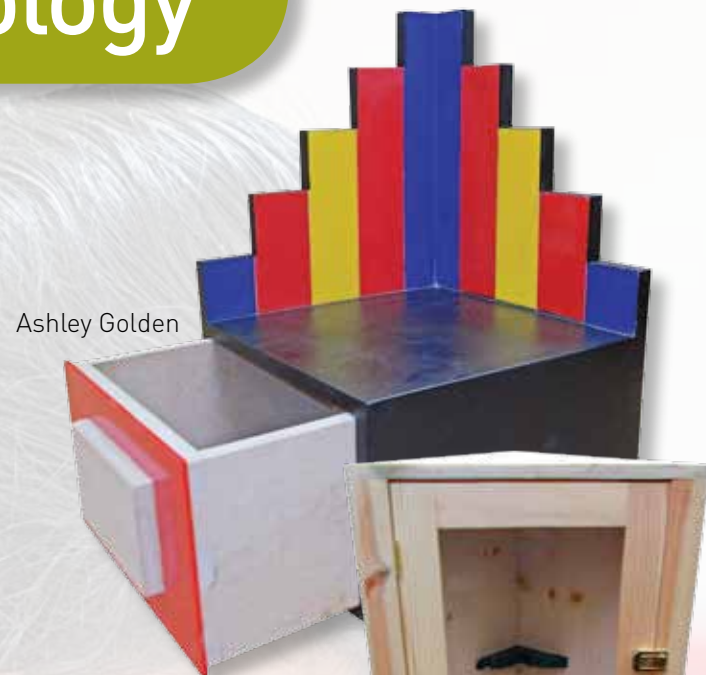
This year in Resistant Materials has been busy as usual. Year 11 pupils have been super creative with their final project. Many have produced products of shop saleable quality. Highlights include Adam Hatson's novelty American football-shaped stress ball holder.

Francesca Reid produced an inspired coffee table, mixing traditional woodworking techniques with the modern, putting the school's laser cutter to good use.

Callum Gamble's head phones stand was another good mix of traditional/modern techniques. He used CAD/CAM (Computer Aided Design/Computer Aided Manufacture) to create his frame and then used flexiply to create the curve. Easily good enough to go on sale!

Other excellent projects include Charlie Smith's Air Rifle Cabinet and Ashley Golden's Gadget Storage unit.

Ashley Golden



Frankie Reid



Charlie Smith



Adam Hatson



Callum Gamble



System & Control

System and Control is an exciting area of DT. Pupils have the opportunity to work with some advanced equipment. Given an array of resources, and the correct skills, pupils have produced some very high quality and exciting pieces of electronic gadgetry. PICAXE chips have proven really successful and allowed pupils to program a number of pieces of built hardware.

In KS3 the Steady Hand games continue to improve with many pupils developing good basic soldering skills and a knowledge of components. The Mechanical Toys have had a revamp, with the use of Laser Cut pieces meaning movement is now far more complex and production time has been cut.



Design & Technology

Textiles

Year 10 students attended the Harry Potter Studios tour this year and gained inspiration for their own design work. Students' technical skills have developed throughout the year so that the class was strongly represented in this year's fashion show which showcased Year 10 and 11 work. The fashion show this year made a departure from previous shows with students' own work being joined on the catwalk by high street fashion from local shops: Chattels, Emma's Boutique and M&Co. Staff and students modelled garments and were highly praised for their professional conduct by store managers. Also on show was work from Miss Jay's art club and local craft shops, artists and organisations.

Special thanks must go out to the staff who have taught Key Stage 3 Textiles this year and to staff and helpers who have kept Textiles Club going this year. Lower school pupils have been inspired to produce amazing products, and their technical ability never fails to amaze. On top of that achievement, the homework produced by many students has been of exceptional quality.



Food for Life

Sustainable Nutrition Action Group (SNAG)

The SNAG club has been hard at work and pupils are finally reaping what they have sown: the first crop of the year was harvested in May, delicious broad beans! All of the Gardening Club members took home as many as they could carry, whilst the surplus was donated to the canteen who put them into the vegetarian dish of the week.

The potatoes planted in early March are looking fantastic in the newest garden plot. Two different varieties are being grown in the school growing competition against other secondary schools in the area.



June saw the largest and most successful Food for Life event of the year taking place, our Summer Spice themed cook off. We had 8 teams competing and this raised the standard of the meals being cooked. None of the meals was overpowered with spices, which was fantastic news for the judges!

The winner of the evening was Mrs Fitt's Cavell team consisting of Elsie Anderson-McDermott, Ellie Dolan and Ella Barnard. They showed valuable teamwork skills which paid off, with their homemade tortilla nachos and guacamole complimenting their lettuce leaf fajitas, with a quorn and red pepper filling. They earned themselves a bar of chilli chocolate each for their victory. All participants in the top 4 went home with a jar of hot sauce. The 4 runners up had a shared bag of spicy plantain crisps as a consolation prize.

The SNAG group have also been on their annual farm visits, this time to Norton's dairy farm, Crush Foods and Nurtured in Norfolk. Pupils got first-hand experience in milk production, condiment creation and greenhouse skills for growing fruits and vegetables.



Roald Dahl Week

The new school term always begins with the celebration of Roald Dahl Month. We enjoyed lunchtime readings by members of staff, quotes adorning classroom doors, a lunchtime form quiz and staff displaying their favourite character badges.

Professors of Hogwarts Harry Potter Night

Once again we were transported through Platform 9 3/4 to a magical transformation of the library, under a floating candle sky, to celebrate 'Harry Potter Night'. We were delighted to welcome a selection of live owls from 'Norfolk Wild Encounters' that muggles and wizards alike were able to meet and greet, watching in wonder as they swooped through the corridor and across the library.

World Book Week (WBW)

We celebrated World Book Week in style with an abundance of authors and activities. We once again welcomed back author Julian Sedgwick who captivated Year 7s and visiting Year 6s with his tales of China and his daring juggling skills before hosting Year 7 and 8 creative writing workshops. World Book Day was a colourful non-uniform delight as staff joined students in dressing as book characters, with money raised funding our Patron of Reading, Alex Scarrow, enabling the whole school to benefit from working with an established published author who also joined us for the day. The week finished with an upper school assembly by author Alexander Gordon Smith, followed by an amusing talk to Year 8 and Year 9 students and workshops throughout the day.

Other activities during the week included our popular lunchtime Book Swap, inter-house form book quiz and our hugely successful Literary Cake Bake Competition.

Carnegie Critics

A mixture of enthusiastic reading students from all year groups came together to shadow this year's Cilip Carnegie Award. Meeting each week in the library, we discussed the shortlisted books that had been read, ate cake and picked our winner- although this year we were divided with our choices. This year the group also attended the Norfolk County Library award morning where they discussed the titles and shared their opinions of each book read. Carnegie winner 2017 was Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys.

The Reading Cloud

Students are now able to access the school library system at school, home and on the move via their smart phone, tablet or ipod. Once signed up, they can view and reserve books, visit linked websites, write reviews, view author videos, loan e-books, read 'what next' features based on their previous titles borrowed and much, much more, including making their personalised reading avatar!

Literacy Mentors

This year we have chosen Year 9 and Year 10 students to work as Literacy Mentors, actively supporting reading with identified Year 7 and Year 8 students during form time. They have made a positive contribution to the success of the students' improvement in literacy skills and reading levels.

Kids Lit Quiz

Two teams of avid readers from Year 8 represented the school at the regional heat of the popular Kids' Lit Quiz. The competition was fierce as they battled their book knowledge against 22 other school teams, but both teams were positioned in the top 7 teams this year- a fantastic effort.

Accelerated Reading Programme

Accelerated Reading Programme (AR) has once again proven very successful this year with all Year 7 and Year 8 students enrolled on the system. Teachers are able to monitor individual reading progress whilst ensuring pupils are choosing books within their reading ability and challenging them to read wider genres.

Authors

As well as the authors during WBW, we were delighted to welcome author Juno Dawson as part of LGBT week. Juno spoke on behalf of Stonewall to all Year 8, 9 and 10 students. Her informal talk covered her personal views and experiences as a transgender person and her work as a successful YA (Young Adult) author.

A group of Year 7s were delighted to meet the amazing author, Anthony Horowitz, at the "Open" in Norwich. Anthony spoke eloquently about his latest Alex Rider novel, Never Say Die, his love of writing and the importance of reading.

During Curriculum Enhancement Week, 30 Year 7 students spent the day at the UEA Festival of Young Literature listening to YA author Claire Furness, Rap artist BRIES and energetic author Marcus Alexander.

Book Fairs

This year we have held three successful Book Fairs in the library. Following the success and obvious interest from students, further fairs will be held in the future.

Flexible Learning Days

Students at KS4 used the Flexible Learning Days this year to get ahead in English. Back in November, Year 11 students participated in a series of workshops designed to support preparation for the mock exam and in March the Year 10s enjoyed a carousel of activities which introduced them to Macbeth - their Shakespeare exam text. In a range of sessions delivered by department experts, students became familiar with the historical context and each key character in the play. Year 10 student James Partridge said: 'The introduction to Macbeth was actually really useful. I enjoyed the range of activities that were offered - especially when we had to read the witches' chants and spells! - and it has made me feel much more confident when studying Macbeth in lessons.'



Media Studies

Warner Brother Studios- Harry Potter- Year 10

In March, GCSE students from Media Studies, Graphics and Textiles embarked on a magical tour of Harry Potter at Warner Bros Studio in London. Students spent the whole day exploring the elements of how the Harry Potter series was created across each different creative subject. Students took part in two workshops where they learnt all about film making and costume characterisation; they even got to explore parts of costumes from all the characters in the franchise! The second workshop explored the graphics design features in set design and concept art. All of the workshops were useful for their GCSE and the students absolutely loved the trip.



BBC School Report 2017 Year 10

Year 10 Media students spent an entire day taking on the role of young reporters for the BBC School Report. They joined 30,000 other students across the country as they turned classrooms into newsrooms and were given a deadline to post their stories to the BBC News School Report website. Students had their very own newsroom for the day where they students took on various roles, from editors to presenters. They not only worked in school but also went out and about in Dereham interviewing very helpful members of the public and gathering footage for their news stories. The students felt the real pressure of a newsroom as the deadline loomed, but had a fantastic day!

Curriculum Enhancement Week 2017

BBC Voices Year 9:

Year 9 students who have chosen GCSE Media Studies as their option next year had a taster of life at the BBC during Curriculum Enhancement Week. They visited the BBC Voices Studios in Norwich to learn about film making. They were asked to create a short film about Norwich and were given the opportunity to film around the city before returning to edit their work and showcase it to the class. They rounded off their trip with a visit to the BBC News Studio and BBC Radio. 'It was a fantastic trip. I want to go again - it was so good! I learnt a lot and am looking forward to studying GCSE Media Studies next year.'

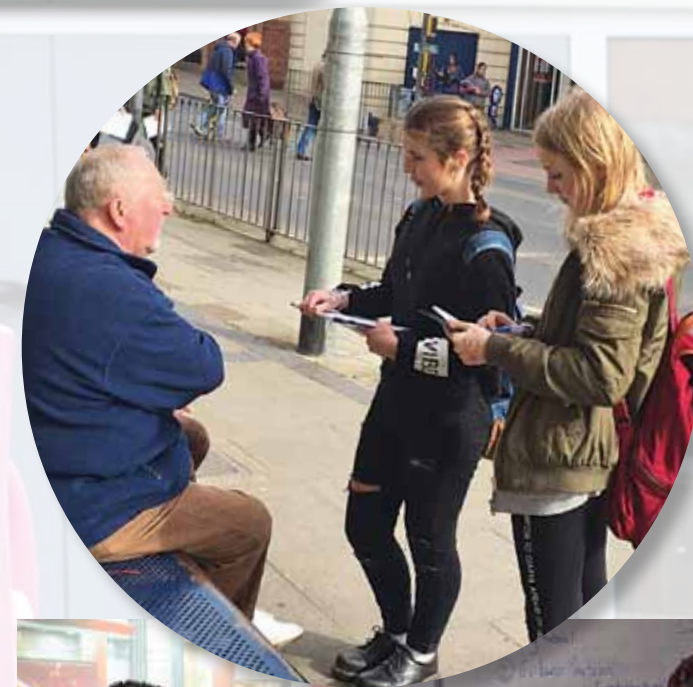
BBC School Report Year 9:

The Year 9 students who have chosen GCSE Media Studies next year spent their Friday of CEW researching, planning and interviewing to create their own news stories centred on issues that interest them. They chose stories such as the importance of social media, the development of Dereham, crime and youth in Dereham, and the Dereham Carnival. 'Today has been a good example of the sorts of things we will do in Media Studies for GCSE, and also when we have finished our GCSEs' said George. 'I have loved every bit of it!'

Flexible Learning Days

In November, Neatherd had its first Flexible Learning Day (FLD), where normal timetabled lessons were suspended for the day and pupils had the opportunity to learn something new and exciting which isn't part of the everyday curriculum.

Some pupils enjoyed a sunny trip to Wells and Overstrand in North Norfolk to look at the processes of Coastal Erosion as well as coastal defences at the two sites. Other pupils went to the Natural History Museum in London to look at the variety and diversity of life on earth! In school, some pupils looked deeper into discovering their own identity while others experienced Capoeira Dance, a form of Brazilian fighting movement!



The second FLD took place in March. Again, there was a range of exciting and different activities on offer, such as writing and recording songs at a local Music Academy, a trip to Wroxham to conduct surveys looking at tourism on the Broads and a chance in school to be journalists for the day! Lots of Year 9 students had the chance to bang drums with STOMP (yes, the world famous STOMP dance troop!), others enjoyed an eye-opening "Crime and Consequences" Day that involved role plays and interaction with multiple external organisations.

Curriculum Enhancement Week

What an absolutely superb and inspiring week Curriculum Enhancement Week 2017 has been! Lots of exciting trips out and many different activities in school, where pupils have been thrilled to have whole days to focus on one topic.

Year 7

Around half of the year group spent the week in Normandy, which included enjoying food and flowers from the Deauville marché and visiting Monet's house and gardens. In school, pupils have enjoyed various different days, with the highlight being the Creative Arts day when pupils got to try Bollywood dancing with an experienced visiting dancer. Pupils also made music by playing huge kettledrums, and there was a drama session and an art session, both exploring different cultures. Many pupils took a trip to Africa Alive to investigate the evolution of animals and a few pupils had the opportunity to enjoy the Fly Literature Festival in Norwich.

Year 8

The majority of the year group enjoyed two nights camping at an outdoor education centre at Bramley Lakes. Those pupils lucky enough to go the second half of the week missed the torrential rain! But even that didn't dampen the spirits of the pupils who showed superb team work and were enthusiastic with the climbing, high ropes, raft building, zip wire, canoeing, camp craft and abseiling sessions. In school, there were initiative tests and science rocket building to stimulate the mind.

Year 9

Over 30 pupils travelled to the battlefields of the First World War in northern France and southern Belgium, visiting museums, reconstructed trenches and even an old mine that was used by the Allies to launch an attack at Arras. Our students laid three wreaths on behalf of the school: one at Tyne Cot Memorial for the missing, one at the German cemetery at Langemark and one at the Menin Gate ceremony in Ypres. In school, pupils loved the new code-breaking activity from the Maths department and also the Festival Activity from the Technology department when pupils made bunting, a website, cakes, posters and a wrist band all for the launch of their new



festival. An Apprentice Day to start the week saw the pupils impress a Lord Sugar-type CEO by completing tasks to promote a selected product. Pupils will also have benefitted from a Sex Education day and ended the week with a taster day from one of their Key Stage 4 options.

Year 10

Pupils had a Work Experience Week to understand and learn about life in the workplace. There was a huge variation in the places visited: Swanton Morley barracks, a toy maker, car dealerships, football kit printers, Norfolk Constabulary and even a firm of surveyors in Manchester! A really beneficial week for our hard-working pupils.



Friends of Neatherd

The Friends of Neatherd High School have had another very busy year. We continue to offer refreshments at school events – such as intake and parents evenings – in return for small donations.

We have continued to try to provide students, staff, parents and carers with a range of fun events to attend, whether it be the Easter or Christmas tombola, cake sales, Summer Fete, our very popular quiz and chips or "Neatherd's got talent".

Doing these events helps us to raise the much-needed funds the school needs and in the last year we have raised enough money to fully or part fund all of the applications we received from Subject Leaders in February, which makes it all worthwhile for us as committee members.



At the end of the term we held another very successful Summer Fete which all our students got to enjoy in glorious sunshine on the field. There were numerous activities for them to get involved in, including Segways, an inflatable assault course, Bubble Football, facepainting, games, the raffle and the very popular "Splash the Teacher."

We would just like to thank everyone for the donations we receive. Without your support, we could not continue.

Brilliant Club



A select group of Neatherd pupils started the Brilliant Club's Scholars Programme in February 17 with a launch trip and the first tutorial at Trinity Hall College, Cambridge University. The Scholars Programme is a comprehensive course aiming to inspire pupils and raise their aspirations to apply for highly selective universities such as Oxford, Cambridge and Russell Group universities.

On the launch trip at Trinity Hall College, Cambridge, pupils had their first tutorial which introduced them to their topic based around the question "How do we tackle the biggest killer of humans: the mosquito?" and also set the pupils their first of four weekly homework tasks.

Pupils then took part in four tutorials in school from their own PhD Tutor, Rebecca, who is a graduate scientist from the UEA who is using her specialism to deliver fun, small group sessions to our students which culminated in preparation for the 2,000 word assignment answering the topic question. All of our pupils passed the assignment with a 1st or a 2:1, which is absolutely SUPERB!

At the graduation ceremony in May pupils enjoyed a sun filled day at the UEA. Pupils had a study session, a tour and general university session. Parents joined pupils for a couple of the sessions, but also had their own tour and an information session about university.



School Leadership

We would like to congratulate Charlotte Welling and Sam Lockhart on becoming our new Head Girl and Boy respectively. Furthermore, Kallum Brown, Ewan Wickers, Rosie Stanford, James Partridge, Ellie Foster, Ellena Meachen, Jamie Barrett and Alice Bridges have become House Captains and deputy House Captains. This is a fantastic achievement considering the challenging process they had to go through in order to be selected!

School Council

The Neatherd School Council meets once a month and it is made up of 20 core members. Each house has one council member per year group. The Head People, House Leaders and "School Prime Minister" each have a place on the school council.

The school council have discussed the following things: The new school behaviour policy - How to improve the feel of the school at lunchtime - The school curriculum - The homework students have to do - How we fundraise at Neatherd and the charities that we support.

The school council is also involved in interviewing new members of staff. Being a part of the school council is excellent experience and allows you to represent others and have a say in how the school is run.

The Gateway

Set up to, primarily, provide academic support to Pupil Premium students, the Gateway has become widely recognised as a place of support for the whole school since it opened its doors 4 years ago, with the provision of wraparound homework and revision support. Open from 8.00am in the morning, the Gateway is available to all students before school, during break time, lunch and after school, finally closing its doors at 4.30pm. Students have access to laptops, a printer and support from one of the three Gateway team members.

During core lesson time, the Gateway provides small group support to Pupil Premium students across the school in English, maths and science (Year 10/11). For new Year 7s this could be our Secondary Ready English and maths programmes or, for Year 9, our GCSE Ready programmes. This intervention typically lasts 12 weeks based on 1 session per week with programmes tailored to meet the students' needs. Year 11 students, who have an adjusted curriculum, receive tuition in English, maths and science which supports their GCSE work in those subjects.

The Gateway works closely with the maths, science and English departments: ensuring that students receive the most effective intervention required to 'plug the gaps' in their knowledge. The Gateway receives many positive comments from students such as: "Being in a small group means it is easier to ask questions and have group discussions," "It has helped boost my confidence" and "I have thoroughly enjoyed this intervention."

In the Gateway we really pride ourselves on having a bright, friendly, welcoming and engaging learning environment. The team is dedicated to raising the achievements of all students and we keep a close eye on Pupil Premium students' progress as they advance through school.

Parents Evenings

The Gateway is keen to establish links with its parents and as such opens its doors on Parents Evenings. Parents Evenings are an opportunity for parents to have an insight into the work carried out by their children during their time in the Gateway as well as discussing ways of supporting their children at home.



ASD Base

The SRB is the school's Specialist Resource Base for autism. We have 23 students and 10 members of staff. We have a wonderful area of the school to work in, with our own garden and kitchen. In the garden we grow vegetables and flowers and the students help to look after the plants. The students often make use of the kitchen for cooking and baking as a treat, creating delicious cakes and savoury treats. Older students have the opportunity to go out into the community, going to the shops and to cafes.



The Link



Welcome to The Link, Neatherd's dedicated SEND Resource Base which is located opposite Reception at the front of the school. Within The Link we provide support for students, both here and across the school, in a variety of ways to meet their range of needs.

The Link is open daily to students from all year groups before school, at break, lunch and after school. During these times, students are able to access a wide range of resources including games, Lego, construction items, computers for homework and subject based software packages, as well as to socialise. On Fridays, a small group of students play Dungeons & Dragons, a strategy role-playing game. Our photographs provide an insight into the ways in which we learn within The Link, during timetabled lessons or at other times during the school day.

At lunchtime, students are free to eat their lunch in The Link whilst socialising with friends, playing card and board games, making Lego models, joining other students playing on Wii Sports or just to chat and socialise.

Students with additional reading, spelling and numeracy needs are supported in The Link in small group timetabled lessons and at form time. A multi-sensory approach is used to develop students' confidence and to develop core literacy and numeracy skills, within a structured, well-resourced environment.

Students requiring emotional and social skills intervention, either individually or in a small group, are supported in sessions with our Cognitive Behaviour Therapist.



Geography

The year in the geography department has again been dominated by trips across all year groups:



Year 7 – Wells and Overstrand

During the first Flexible Learning Day, Year 7 students visited the North Norfolk coastline at Wells-Next-The-Sea and Overstrand. Students worked in small groups assessing at first hand the impact that coastal erosion is having in these communities and the different ways that this is being managed.



Year 8 – Wroxham and the Norfolk Broads

In March, the whole of Year 8 took a boat along the River Bure examining how pressures from tourism are managed in the Norfolk Broads. The rest of the day was spent working independently in small groups around Wroxham, helping develop their field data gathering skills. They produced some fantastic pieces of work based on the data that they collected back in the classroom.

Year 9 – Norwich

During curriculum enhancement week, over 60 students who have chosen GCSE geography next year visited Norwich to undertake some fieldwork skills to prepare them for their next two years.



Year 10 – Iceland

We again teamed up with our Northgate counterparts to take over 50 students (mostly from Neatherd!) to Iceland, during October half-term. Students were able to climb an active volcano, walk on a glacier, view some of Europe's largest waterfalls, shop in Reykjavik and walk down the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. Each day ended with a swim in a geo-thermal pool, including one in the famous Blue Lagoon!



Year 10 – Holkham

In May, geography students from Year 10 spent a day in Holkham investigating sand dune succession as part of their GCSE. Both groups were blessed with glorious weather! They have since been busy writing up their findings back in the classroom.

History



2016-17 has been an eventful year, as it always is, in the History Department at Neatherd High School . . .

Year 9 Battlefields Trip

Our annual trip to the Battlefields took place during Curriculum Enhancement Week. Pupils were very fortunate to be guided around the sites by an accredited First World War Battlefield guide. Over the next 4 days, pupils visited a range of sites that focussed on different areas that saw heavy fighting and looked at different battles from the First World War. Pupils focussed on the battles that raged around Ypres, explored the Battle of the Somme and looked at everyday life for the soldiers. During the trip pupils laid wreaths on behalf of the school at Langemark Cemetery, Tyne Cot and during the Last Post ceremony.

Key Stage 3 Homework Projects

Year after year we are amazed by the incredibly high standard of homework projects that are produced by our students. The high quality of work produced by all the different year groups has illustrated the focus, commitment and determination of our pupils.

As we always say, pupils should enjoy their work and we encourage creativity. This year we were lucky to offer students the opportunity to work with Alex Scarrow, the school's patron of reading, to help them consider how to research a historical novel. Some excellent Year 7 castles were produced, showing clear understanding of the different types of castle that had developed over time. Year 8 pupils have some budding game designers amongst their ranks, with some excellent Monarchopoly© board games being made. As ever, our Year 9 pupils excelled when producing their First World War trenches, which were detailed, well researched and helped to show the hardships faced by the soldiers in the trenches.

EGGcellent Competition

This year we had some brilliant entries including EGGraham Lincoln, Eggy Stardust and Olaudah EGGuiano. A special mention should go to Katharine Thomas' The Great EGGscape, based on the film/book exploring an escape from a prisoner of war camp in the Second World War. These really cracked us up!



ICT & Computer Science



The changes to the National Curriculum relating to computational thinking and programming have meant that we are making several further changes to the curriculum in both KS3 and 4. There is a greater emphasis on the computing elements in the current framework and in addition to having new units in Years 7, 8 and 9, we are introducing a new ICT based course at KS4, the Technical Award in IT.

Minecraft Club

Minecraft continues to grow in popularity and is a very successful daily club for students in all year groups. We are increasing the number of machines available at lunchtimes and students are able to book regular sessions each week. Everyone who wants to participate can!

Programming in Python

Python is a relatively new high level programming language and is widely used in schools and in industry. We are introducing two units into the KS3 offer next year which will enable students to benefit from learning a language that is growing in popularity. Students will gain a broad skill base and will be programming a range of things, including games.

Digital Leaders

2017 will see the launch of our Digital Leaders scheme which gives students with a particular interest in the subject the opportunity to apply for the role. From September students will have more details about what this involves. It will be an excellent opportunity for them to develop their skills in the subject and leadership, help the IT support team, other students and teachers. Information will be available in the first half of next term.

EGX 2017

Year 10 students taking GCSEs in Computer Science or the IT Technical Award have the opportunity to attend the leading gaming show at the NEC in Birmingham in September. As well as being able to play games, discover some of the INDIE producers (and chat to them), experience eSports and tournaments live, students will be able to learn from developers themselves. The event also hosts the GamesIndustry.biz Career Fair where students will be able to find out what a career in the gaming industry is like.



Maths

Revision techniques

Throughout the year we have been helping students to work towards a full understanding of topics taught, and have used many techniques along the way. We wish Year 11 every luck in their results and whatever they decide to do next.

Competitions

We run several competitions, and this year has been no exception. We've had the form time challenges and we have entered students into the individual maths challenges, and sent a team to the UK Maths team challenge (see below).

Maths Challenge

In March we took a team of two Year 8 and two Year 9 pupils to take part in the UKMT Maths Challenge. The competition combines mathematical, communication and teamwork skills and offers pupils another way to express and develop their enjoyment of Mathematics. Considering it was the pupils' first competition, they held their own and finished a very respectable 9th place up against some tough schools!



Salad days

SALAD days were an opportunity for us to try something different in the Maths department. We had games of Taboo to practise our communication skills, functional games to put our mathematical skills into practice and even made some human graphs!

Maths Quiz

June arrived and it was time for a new competition and a brand new team. This time we took four Year 8 pupils to the Inter-Schools Maths Quiz at the University of East Anglia. This was a brand new competition for us so we didn't know quite what to expect. However, the girls all tried their very best, doing Neatherd proud, and were simply unlucky in the last round so did not make it into the final. Next year we hope to return even stronger!



Modern Foreign Languages

Latin Lessons

In this third year running, top set Year 7 students have had an hour a week in the Autumn Term of Latin provision as part of their language curriculum. It has proved to be very popular with the students who have been keen to extend their knowledge of the language and culture of the Romans, and many of them have continued to research aspects of the culture in their own time. As Latin is the base of all Romance languages and has had an enormous impact on the English language, students are very quick to identify patterns and use their knowledge of Latin to improve their vocabulary and understanding of grammar across all languages.

British Sign Language

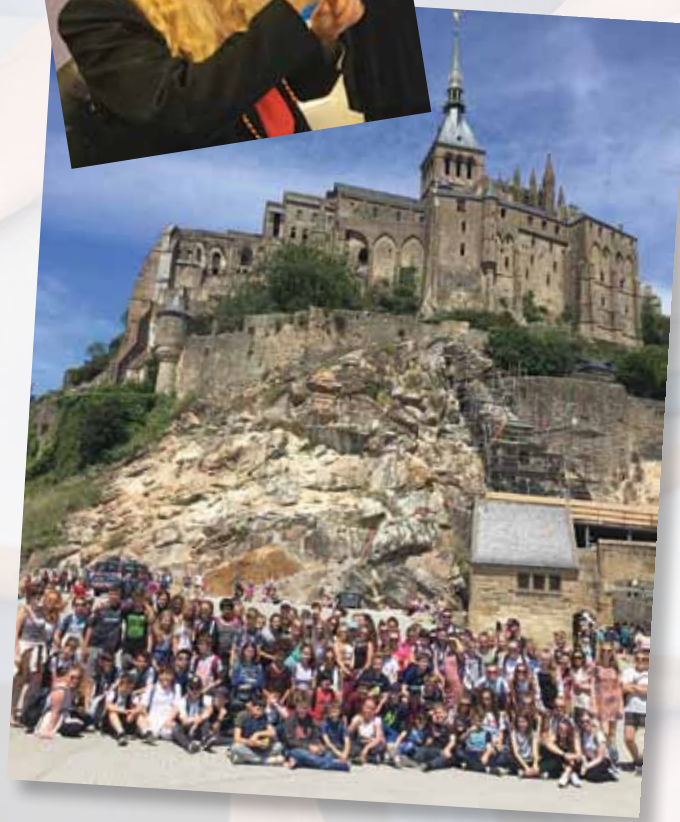
The MFL department was very happy to run some taster British Sign Language sessions at a series of lunch times. Students learned how to greet and introduce themselves, how to use the BSL alphabet, and how to talk about where they live.

Language Society

Keen linguists came along throughout the year to Language Society where a variety of foreign films were shown and different holidays and customs celebrated. For example, students painted skull window hangers to mark the Mexican holiday Day of the Dead.

Year 7 Normandy Trip- July 2017

This year, 94 Year 7 students travelled across the channel for a truly French experience! The group were welcomed by Madame and Monsieur l'Hôtel to their historic 15th century château, where students ate traditional French meals for breakfast and dinner. On the second day, students were able to use their French learned in lessons to order food in the Deauville marché in their group effort of making the best French picnic. Afterwards, students took pictures of the beautiful flowers in Monet's gardens at Giverny in the hope of winning the photo competition. Students were able to discover medieval and more recent history at Bayeux and Arromanches by first seeing the Bayeux Tapestry that recounts the Battle of Hastings. On Friday, students were able to explore at their leisure the delights of Mont St. Michel. C'était un voyage magnifique!



Sports Festival



Neatherd's second annual Sports Festival was one of the highlights at the end of the school term – a school sports day with a difference. As well as the traditional track and field athletics, deputy head of PE, Carl Barron, organised thirty-five (35) additional sports and leisure activities to ensure that all students could get involved.

The day's events read like an encyclopaedic list of sports, from archery to boules, boxing to cricket, darts to golf and all the way to Zumba and Zorb football. Strictly fans even had ballroom dancing lessons to enjoy!

The logistics of getting over 800 high school students active all day was made even more demanding this year as Neatherd's new intake, over 215 year 6 students from the Dereham Cluster of Primaries, are also here all week and getting involved.

"I am proud of our achievements today, all the children are engaged with the wide range of activities in this fantastic sunny day, the atmosphere is brilliant", said Mr Barron.

"It was the best Sports Day ever", says Ella Handel from Year 6, "I had so much fun today trying Handball out and play Hockey and Table Tennis – I can't wait to start at Neatherd in September."



Physical Education



2016-2017, another "full on" year for Neatherd's PE Department.

From being committed to team sport practices and competing in house-matches to playing league, cup fixtures and tournaments, representing the school in our sports teams, and representing the school in more individual activities such as cross country and athletics. Students have also been participating in Partnership qualifying events to represent the West Norwich and Dereham Schools Sports Partnerships at the Norfolk School Games. From Leadership experiences in lessons to supporting at our Annual Primary Schools High Five Netball tournament, Partnership Swimming Galas, Quadkids, Athletics events and local Infants and Primary schools on their Sports Day events. From rising to the challenges of our residential at Bramley Lakes as part of the school's Curriculum Enhancement week for Year 8s, to taking part in a variety of activities in our Sports Festival. From attending Partnership Leadership Academy and SEN Leadership opportunities and events, to taking on the responsibility of Sports Captain as part of the House system's Leadership roles in Year 11. Many fantastic memories were brought back from our Barcelona Sports Tour trip, and of course, the ski trip. The opportunities for pupils in all things PE and Sport are vast and our



pupils never fail to embrace some/most/ all of it! These achievements are celebrated at our Annual end of year Sports Awards Evening.

A special mention must go to our badminton club players who had an extraordinary first season. After successfully trialling the club for a term, we entered two KS3 teams (boy and girls) into Badminton England's National Schools championships. In the Norfolk County round, the boys played valiantly, but were unable to overcome the stronger teams in the competition. The girls, however, took the competition by storm and took first place, securing a place in the next round to take on the top schools from the East of England.

In the East of England round, the girls stood their ground and breezed past Cambridgeshire 5-0 and then against Bedfordshire 4-1. This set up a final against Essex. Essex fielded a team of extraordinary talent, with two of their players regularly playing at national level. Despite the girls' spirited effort, they could not get past the strong Essex team, leaving Neatherd as runners up and narrowly missing out on a place in the National Finals.

The school is very proud of club members and team players, all of whom have trained hard and played with great sportsmanship. A picture can say a thousand words, so take in and enjoy.

Physical Education



Science



It's been a really busy and successful year for the science department, thanks to all the hard work of our wonderful students and hardworking staff.

Year 6

To ensure our Year 6 students are ready and willing to become enthused by science, the transition day for science was full of colour and light, where the students were given the opportunity to create rainbows in a petri dish, and discover the secret elixir behind the colourful potions of Harry Potter.

Year 7

The Science Fiction Club has also gone from strength to strength and, under the watchful eye of Ms Mullineux, has shown such modern classics as Back to the Future, Iron Man and The Planet of the Apes. It is open to all years but year 7 have a soft spot for the movies. The Year 7 students have also been involved in some heated discussions about the creation of the Universe on our very successful speaking and listening days.

Year 8

Year 8 pupils were given the fabulous opportunity during Curriculum Enhancement Week of building a rocket projectile and firing it across the sports field. Some very funky designs were created, and the most successful ones flew for over 70 metres. Year 8 were also given the opportunity to complete some biology



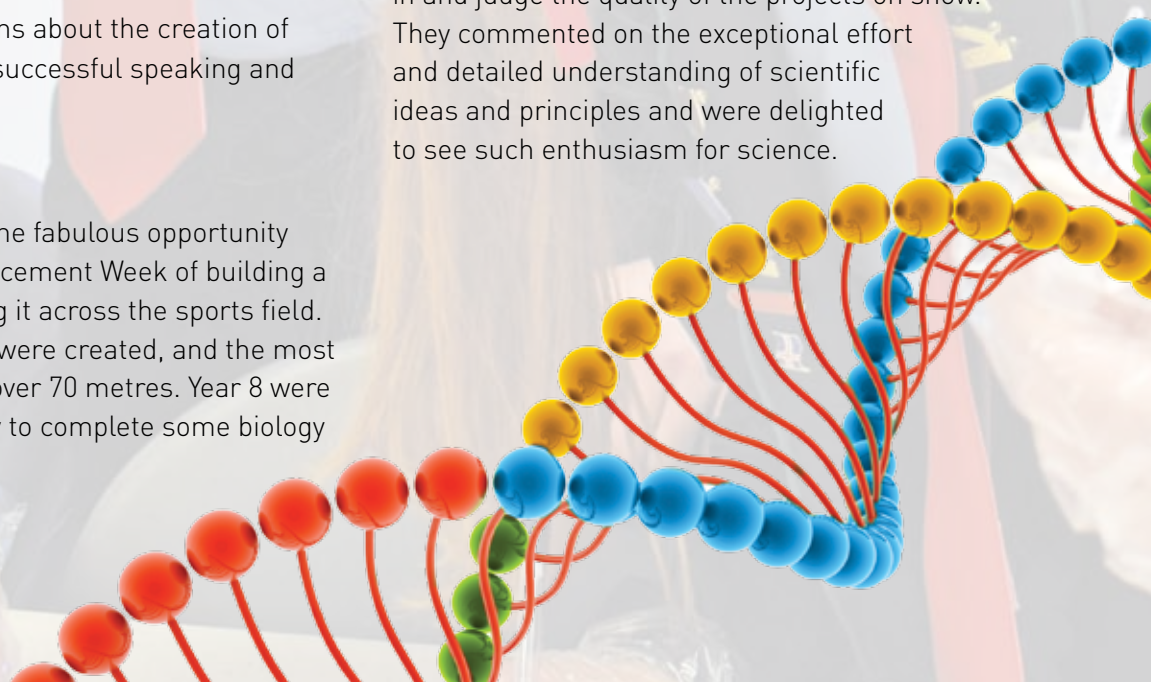
research, so they had the task of designing and building some pretty fantastic looking insects.

Year 9

As has become a tradition with Year 9, it was an early morning start in November with the scientific explorers off to visit the Natural History Museum. One of the highlights of the visit was the earthquake simulation, which the students didn't want to leave. There was also an opportunity to take part in a show about the classification of organisms, with the students given the chance to touch a model of a very large squid. The students were also expected to complete a booklet, and prizes were awarded to the students who could show how much information they had learned.

Key Stage 4

These students worked very hard on preparing for their exams and taking part in catch up, intervention and revision sessions, which have been ongoing throughout the year. Other highlights throughout the year have included our Science Fair, which was a huge success, and we were lucky enough to have two research scientists from the John Innes Centre come in and judge the quality of the projects on show. They commented on the exceptional effort and detailed understanding of scientific ideas and principles and were delighted to see such enthusiasm for science.



Society & Ethics

The Society and Ethics Department has enjoyed this academic year immensely, with every year group facing new and exciting challenges and rising to them with enthusiasm and a thirst for learning.

Students are continuing to investigate a variety of topics within the Year 7 syllabus, from Religious Studies, Citizenship, Work Related Learning and Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE). Alongside this, we have created new resources that greatly improve knowledge and understanding of Islam and Christianity. This is something that we continue to work on and we will have an entirely new syllabus for next year.

Year 8s enjoyed an incredible Flexible Learning Day this year with an amazing level of engagement with our chosen topic of celebrating individuality within our community. Once again, the critical thinking unit has been a student favourite, with so many students talking about it outside of lessons and hugely improving their ability to formulate a persuasive argument. They have also had some essential lessons on understanding terrorism and extremism which have been incredibly well received with maturity and sensitivity and have had particular poignancy this year.

Year 9s continue to rise to the challenge of beginning the GCSE curriculum one year earlier than other subjects. We have learnt about fundamental Christian beliefs, as well as matters of life and death, marriage and the family. Students have a full day in Curriculum Enhancement week for vital information regarding safe sexual health. We will be having a number of external visitors who will be providing useful and



insightful information to help students with the level of knowledge and understanding of healthy and happy relationships.

Year 10s have been learning about Islamic beliefs and their ethical approaches to peace and conflict and crime and punishment. Psychology students are doing incredibly well, and the passion for the subject in school continues to grow with an ever increasing cohort. We are really proud of this and student feedback about the subject is very positive.

Year 11 students have worked incredibly hard and had huge levels of support throughout the year and a number of them came to our revision sessions every week. Psychology had a large revision turnout in Easter when we spent the entire day preparing for the summer examinations. It will be the Department's first set of Psychology results, so fingers crossed for the students!

Finally, we appeared in the paper this year due to our mock general election. What fun it was! The candidates were outstanding and their Hustings truly blew staff and students away. Their level of professionalism and political knowledge throughout the campaign was outstanding and we see a future Prime Minister in there!



Careers

2016/17 was another very successful and busy year for our careers team at Neatherd. The team consolidated upon the prestigious Careers Mark award and we have continued to evolve the work we do. The last three years of activity survey data has shown that our students have been engaging in post-16 activity above the Norfolk average level.

A new development was the mentoring programme that was provided by business professionals to our year 11 students. In total 31 students were involved in this project where they received 1 to 1 support with a business mentor. Students liked being able to talk to non-teachers about the future and felt comfortable doing this.

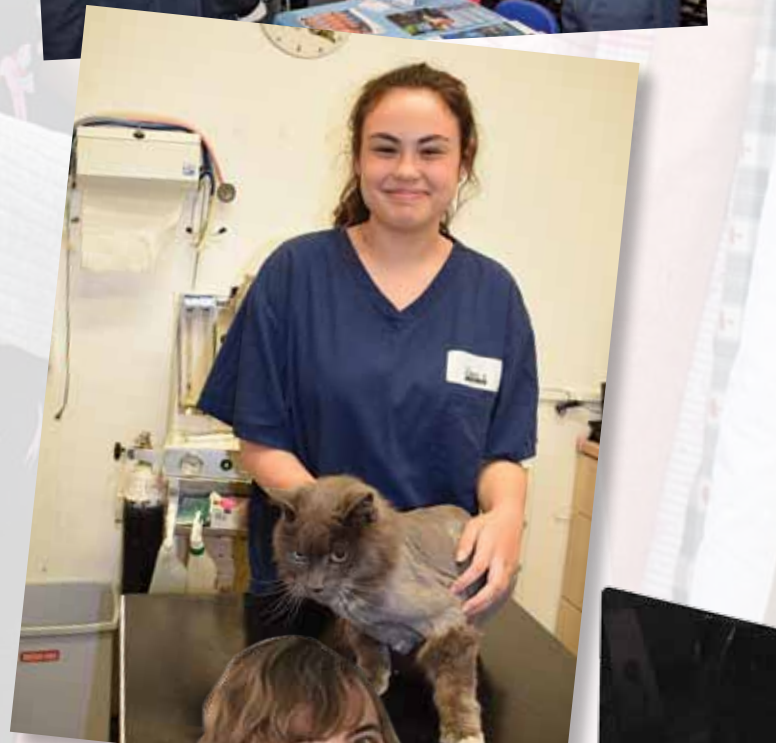
Another new initiative was the Business Breakfast that we organised in co-operation with Breckland Council. Thirty-six students from years 7-9 attended the event where they spoke to nine different business professionals. This ranged from the police to people working for the council.

A change this year was the format of the apprenticeship event which we moved to take place during the school day. This meant every student in Years 10 and 11 had the opportunity to attend and it was still open to parents after 3.30pm.

We continued with our usual provision with another packed post-16 options event. We also had a number of people delivering assemblies to help support our students when making post-16 decisions. We continue to support work experience and our Year 10 students had another successful week with 212 of them finding placements. It is such an enjoyable week and it is great to see such a wide variety of placements.

Our Year 11 students were also involved in mock interviews again where representatives from local businesses come in to give each student a proper job interview in preparation for their future college interviews.

We are extremely grateful for all the support that we receive from local businesses and organisations in helping us put together our events and if you feel you could support our careers work in any way we would love to hear from you.



Summer School



The weather may not have been great this summer, but there was a carnival atmosphere in the air at Neatherd High School at the end of August. 140 brand new Year 7 pupils got a head start for the new school year when they completed a week of Summer school at the end of the summer holidays. The boys and girls who joined their new school "properly" in September engaged in fun activities on the theme of Carnival.

Students were divided into five different groups based on current famous festivals – Notting Hill, Rio, Santa Cruz, Cologne and Mardi Gras. They went to several different creative sessions to prepare for their Carnival Parade including fun workshops in Dance, Art, Creative Writing, Textiles and Music. On Wednesday we were also joined by a local performer for a Circus skills workshop. The week culminated in a performance in front of parents on the last afternoon that brought all the colours of the carnival to Dereham.

"The move from Primary to Secondary School is an exciting but challenging moment for young people", says Nick O'Brien, Assistant Headteacher at Neatherd. "The purpose of this week is for them to spend time at their new school, for us to get to know them better and for them to make new friends. The Carnival theme was great at engaging them and using their creative skills".

"I really enjoyed the Summer School week", says Charlie Ellis from group Santa Cruz, "you can get to grips with how school works and everything will not be so scary when we start in September."

"It was awesome", was the verdict of Maisie-Ella Cook, "I liked the idea of the carnival, it was great fun to sing, dance and play music."



Results

The big day! On Thursday 24th August, our Year 11 leavers queued up from 8.30 in the morning to collect their exam results. The long wait over the summer had finally come to an end and it was time to face the music. It was sometimes hard to tell who was the most nervous: students, their parents or members of staff? And what was going through students' minds as they waited for the doors to open? Had they revised enough? Had they followed their teachers' advice? Would they get that one particular grade they so desperately wanted in order to get into the Sixth Form or College of their choice?

At 9am, students came into the Drama Studio and collected their brown envelopes. Some quickly disappeared to open theirs in private. Some were seen taking deep breaths before finally taking the plunge and tearing at their envelopes eagerly. Others counted down with their friends and then all opened theirs together.

This was the first year of the reformed (and tougher) GCSEs, with English and maths being graded from 9 to 1 instead of A* to G, but students were already well-trained on what the different grades meant and on what they should be aiming for.

Overall, the Class of 2017 did themselves proud! Every student left the school with at least 3 GCSE passes, 99% of them with at least five passes. 62% achieved a grade 4 or above in both English and maths, which was a fantastic result given the challenges of the new GCSEs. For some students, the news was truly beyond expectations. Forty-two members of the year group achieved A*/A/7-9 grades in at least five subjects. Nine of them achieved A* in



all three sciences. Then there was the much sought-after new grade 9 in English and maths, awarded to just the top two or three percent of students in the country. Seven Neatherd students achieved this highly prestigious grade in maths and eleven were rewarded with a grade 9 for their efforts in English.

Special mentions this year go to Jack White, Harlie Scott, Abigail Foster, Emily Jessop, Rachel Harvey, Ellie Jackman and Emily Gibson, all of whom achieved straight A*/A grades across the board – a truly remarkable achievement! Other students showed outstanding progress in their learning over their five years at Neatherd, with particular congratulations going to Nikita Oda, Moira Maguire, Ben Whitehair, Gemma Beesley, Charlie Hubbard, James Melladay, Erin Cooper and Sophie Ebbage. Our students from the Specialist Resource Base for Autism did themselves proud too, all achieving between five and nine grades A*-G in their GCSEs.

So congratulations to the Class of 2017 for all your hard work, and many thanks to your parents, teachers and other members of staff for their support (and, at times, patience!). Whatever your plans are for the future, we wish you all the very best of luck. Do keep in touch!



Prom

This year's prom was held at Wensum Valley Golf and Country Club in Taverham on Friday 30th June 2017.

The night was made possible by the hard work and commitment of the Prom Committee and Miss Ford. Students arrived to the prom looking smart and glamorous and in real style; vehicles included lorries, vintage cars, a limousine and an array of high performing sports cars. The evening was enjoyed by all with the photobooth proving to be extremely popular.

We would like to wish all the students every success for the future and congratulate them for being an amazing class of 2017.

Photography was provided by 2UP Photography



