

# NEATHERD HI



NEATHERD'S GOT TALENT



FLEXIBLE LEARNING DAY



YEAR 11 INTERVIEWS

# WELCOME

Dear Readers

Welcome to the latest edition of Neatherd Hi! The sheer volume of contributions is testament to another very successful, hard-working and happy term for all in the Neatherd family. I continue to be immensely proud of all that our pupils have achieved, with the constant support of parents and an excellent staff team. As you will now know, I am moving into the central Trust team to become Director of Education for our newly merged Trust – Enrich Learning Trust, in January. This brings to a close over eleven years as Headteacher here at Neatherd, a post which I have been honoured to serve. I have felt very nostalgic as I have been sorting things in my office and remembered so many of the key points in our journey. This school has always attracted very high calibre staff, who have been supportive, caring and enthusiastically professional. What makes this school is our children, who continue to make me very proud; they are a delight! I am very pleased that Chris Smith, currently Deputy Head, is becoming the Headteacher in January. He will be only the fourth since 1971 (over 47 years!) when Annette Cheeseman and then her deputy, John Horsfield, were the Headteachers. Chris will be a fantastic Head and take this school on to its next exciting chapters and successes. I wish all of you and your families a very happy and peaceful Christmas holiday.

Peter Devonish



I feel delighted and privileged to be taking on the role of Headteacher from January and cannot wait to get started. I have worked in Dereham for over 12 years now, having previously worked at both Northgate and Dereham Sixth Form. I know the area well and I am pleased to be able to continue to serve the community in the future. Neatherd is a wonderful school that I have thoroughly enjoyed working in since I joined in 2014. To be able to take on my first Headship in a school that I love being a part of so much, is something for which I am very grateful. I look forward to working with pupils, parents and staff on improving this already great school.

Chris Smith

# CHRISTMAS CONCERT



Neatherd Music department held its annual Christmas concert on 17th December. The evening started with a performance from the ukulele group and vocal group, featuring students from Years 7 to 11. Katie Lee took to the stage performing her own original song 'Love can be cruel', which was received very well by the audience. Layla Tarabay, Naomi Vogel and Nathan Mace continued to impress the audience with their solo pieces. The first half was brought to a close with Luke Toner-Walsh and Luke Sewell performing their version of the classic Beatles song 'Blackbird' and George Crisp shredding his way through the guitar solos of 'Don't let the bells end' by the Darkness.

The newly-formed Neatherd vocal group opened the second half, featuring their skilful use of vocal harmonies. Three talented solo acts then followed: Isabella Green with 'Hallelujah', Esmé Findlay performing her own composition 'For the Angels' and Lilimae Nicholson performing 'What if'. The evening was rounded off with the energetic resident school rock band 'The Cheapskates' performing their versions of 'Granddaddies', 'Sweet child o'mine' and the Christmas classic 'Merry Christmas everyone'.

Many thanks to Ms Selwin and Ms Slater for accompanying, to staff helpers and to our amazing student performers.



# CHICAGO



'Chicago', the first musical to be performed at Dereham Neatherd High School for over ten years, was an absolute smash hit! The two shows, held on the 29th and 30th of November, were sold out and the audiences were wowed by the professionalism and slickness of the production. We have a huge talent for all three performing arts mediums (singing, dancing and acting), and I know that the next musical, which will be announced in the New Year, will have as amazing a cast as we have had for this one. All students, including



the fantastic technical crew, Aaron, Connor and Adam, should be very proud of themselves and I know that they had a great time taking part in the show. The next musical, which will be held in Feb/Mar 2020, will be open to all year groups and I am sure it will also be a smash hit. Thank you to all students, staff and families that made this workshop performance possible. It really made the school realise how much talent we have here at Neatherd and how much more there is yet to uncover.

Ms E Dark

# NEATHERD'S GOT TALENT

November saw the return of our very own talent show "Neatherd's got Talent". As usual the field of competitors was very strong, with 14 talented acts taking part:

- Hayleigh (piano) and Isabella (vocals) - 6 song mash-up
- Lee (vocals) - Faster Car
- Damien (piano) - 1000 years
- Lilimae - Dance solo
- Luke (vocals) - The Wizard and I
- Robyn (vocals) - Empty Space
- Esmé (vocals and piano) - own composition
- The Cheapskates (Hannah - Vocals, George - Lead Guitar, Luke - Rhythm Guitar, Ben - Bass, Adam - Piano and Ryan - Drum kit) - Sweet Child o' Mine
- Ciara (vocals) - All of me
- Robyn (Vocals), accompanied by George (guitar) and Adam (piano) - The Dr. Said
- Hannah (Vocals) - Skin
- Maddison - Dance solo
- Layla (Vocals and Ukulele) - Muscle Museum
- Isabella (Vocals) - Hallelujah

The judges for the evening were Mr Humphreys, Mr O'Brien, Amber (Head Girl) and Adam (Head Boy). They had the very tough choice of picking the winner for the judge's award. After much deliberating, this went to Luke, who performed the song 'The Wizard and I' from the musical

Wicked. The judges were impressed with Luke's vocal range, control and his theatrical interpretation of the song. There were also two audience prizes; the runner-up prize went to Layla for her awesome version of the



Muse song 'Muscle Museum' (vocals and ukulele) and first prize went to 'The Cheapskates' for their outstanding version of the Guns N' Roses classic, 'Sweet child o' mine'.

"A massive congratulations to everyone who took to the stage and performed and a special mention to the tech crew for the evening: Connor, Aaron and Charlie - the show couldn't happen without the tech crew," says Mr Owen, Head of Music.



Evie Hamilton & Alfie Bloomfield, Year 8

PRESS GANG

## PRESS GANG

Members of our Press Gang have been busy interviewing more staff, and even a whole department, so that pupils, parents and other staff can find out more about them:

### Miss Medcraft, Science teacher

#### What do you like about Neatherd?

I like Neatherd because it is a calm community, there are no differences in groups like the LGBT group and everyone is equal.

#### What was your favourite subject in school?

Science, but I also liked PE.

#### What were you like as a student?

I was quite studious, I always had my homework in on time and I was kind.

#### What is your favourite science experiment?

I have one for each science. For Chemistry, it is exothermic reactions, for Biology it is heart dissection and for Physics it is heat capacity.

#### What is your favourite music?

Dance type music with a high tempo, like Ed Sheeran or Rita Ora.

#### What is your favourite film of all time?

My favourite 'old' film is Titanic, my favourite new film is The Greatest Showman.

#### If you weren't teaching, what would you be doing?

I would still be working with children.

#### Have you ever had any experiments go really wrong?

An eye experiment. Pieces of eye went everywhere!

#### Where in the world would you really like to visit?

I would like to visit New Zealand.

#### Do you have any hidden talents and if so, what?

I am good at arts and crafts and I used to play Netball, although that was a while ago!

Alyssa Baines and Jessica Day, Year 8



### Mr Wright - DT & Art teacher

#### Chocolate or strawberry ice cream?

Chocolate, definitely chocolate.

#### If you could have one superpower, what would it be?

This is a hard one. Probably to clone myself, so I could have one of me going to work and the real me could stay at home, crafting things.

#### What's your favourite part of being a teacher?

I think it's seeing the students. They make the school what it is.

#### What were you like as a kid?

Really good at school. I took the sensible approach that the better you do at school the better you'll do in life.

#### What do you do in your spare time?

I make things, it's more like a second job.

I made a Wendy house for my daughter.

One day, when we were coming home from watching Fantastic Mr Fox, she asked if I could make it into

a fox. So now there's

a wooden fox in my back

garden.

#### Anything else?

I like walks in the woods,

and playing music.

#### What kinds of books do you enjoy reading?

Norse mythology mainly. Neil Gaiman.

#### What is your favourite Roald Dahl book?

When I was a kid, it was probably the Twits.

Now I'd say it's Matilda as my daughter

enjoyed me reading it to her.

#### What do you do in the holidays?

Hang around with my family. Decorate my studio - it's covered in odds and ends. I cut scrap pieces up and stick them around the

room. I use pinecones and I even stuck parts of a piano to my ceiling.

#### If there was one place in the world you would go where would it be?

Anywhere woodland.

#### Which film is your favourite?

Everything is illuminated.

#### And finally, to go with the Christmassy theme, which is your favourite reindeer?

Sven from Frozen.



Lizzie Copsey, Tilly Dunn and Liliana Cott, Year 7

#### Why did you choose the subject History?

Miss Cross: Because it is the most interesting for me.

Mr Foulger: I had a fantastic teacher that inspired me to be a history teacher.

Mr Humphreys: Because I got a degree... and I'm passionate about it.

Mr Mayhew: Because it's the best subject! I'm passionate about it.

#### What would you add or remove from the school system, if you could do anything you wanted?

Miss Cross: I would have a shorter lunch and a longer break.

Mr Foulger: Nothing.

Mr Humphreys: I would make the subject of Welsh compulsory.

Mr Mayhew: More History Lessons.

#### If you could go back in time, when would you go to?

Miss Cross: I'd go to 30AD, so I could meet Jesus and see biblical events.

Mr Foulger: I would go to 1066 Hastings, the time of the US Civil Rights Movement and see Norwich castle over time. I basically need a time machine! Although I wouldn't go to any World Wars.

Mr Humphreys: Hmmm... every part, but I would especially like to see the beginnings of Britain and America.

Mr Mayhew: Most parts of History are very dangerous, even so I would go see Ancient Roman times as it is my speciality, but no gladiators!

#### What's the best/worst thing about your job?

Miss Cross: The best is getting to know students.

The worst is marking.

Mr Foulger: The best is having the opportunity to teach lots of different things to lots of different students.

The worst is having to listen to Mr Mayhew every day!

Mr Humphreys: The best is simply, teaching.

The worst has to be Meetings, Meetings, Meetings!

Mr Mayhew: The best is telling children the amazing stories of history, because children are important. 'I believe the children are our future, teach them well and then let them lead the way.' (Quote from Whitney Houston)

The worst is any paperwork.

#### What's your favourite unit to teach?

Miss Cross: WW2, because it's the most interesting.

Mr Foulger: Always the one I currently teach.

Mr Humphreys: Slavery and World War units.

Mr Mayhew: All of them!

#### What's your favourite book/movie?

Miss Cross: The Tattooist of Auschwitz (Book).

Mr Foulger: My favourite book at the moment is Stickman as I read it to my sons, it's very sad. I don't have a favourite movie.

Mr Humphreys: My favourite book is Catch 22, written by Joseph Heller. It talks about the madness of bureaucracy, management and war. My favourite movie is 'Trading Places', a comedy from the 1980's about the evil of money.

Mr Mayhew: My favourite book is Homage to Catalonia, by George Orwell. My favourite movie is 'The Empire Strikes Back'.

#### In your opinion, what makes a great teacher?

Miss Cross: Someone that's interesting, consistent and fair.

Mr Foulger: Somebody who is passionate about their subject and about students.

Mr Humphreys: They need personality, the ability to engage people who do not want to be there, a sense of humour,

patience and a wealth of knowledge about their subject. It is like the X Factor for great teachers.

Mr Mayhew: Somebody who listens to students, is passionate

#### In 3 words, what were you like in high school?

Miss Cross: Hardworking, engaged & motivated.

Mr Foulger: Chatty, disorganised & football.

Mr Humphreys: Distracted, distracting & underachieving.

Mr Mayhew: Confident, cheeky & mischievous.

#### In your opinion, what's the biggest challenge that students face today?

Miss Cross: Struggling with mental health. I would want more resources to help them because it's hard to help them.

Mr Foulger: Having to remember everything.

Mr Humphreys: The new GCSE. It has more content and reading meaning you need to work harder.

Mr Mayhew: Organising, lots of stuff to do.



# CAREERS

The Careers team has been extremely busy with several events taking place, especially for our Year 11 students who are now starting to prepare themselves for the time after they leave Neatherd. The first opportunity to help students and parents find out about future careers was the Post 16 Options Evening which took place in October in the Sports Hall. Over 30 college and apprenticeship providers were on hand in the Sports Hall to inform about different options available. Thank you to parents and students who supported the event in great numbers.



Over two days in early November our Year 11 students then had the chance to experience what a real job interview is like when business professionals came in to school to give each student a "Mock Interview" (see article below). Some of the interviewers – and other local employers

January. A letter will be sent out about this because parents will have an



On both the 8th and the 9th of November, all Year 11 students had mock interviews, each lasting around 15 minutes. Students were asked to come in formal dress (of their own choosing), or uniform for their scheduled time and day. After completing an application form for their chosen job, students were matched with an interviewer that was most suitable for the student's job role. The interview would consist of advice and information that would help for future (legitimate) interviews and meetings. Students were also asked typical interview questions, such as 'tell me about yourself' or 'what made you choose this job?' with quick feedback on their performance. Students found this very beneficial and relieved some stress from those who were nervous about real interviews. It was a very nervous, yet exciting day for 2018's Year 11s.

Amy Thexton, Year 11

– now come in for extra, 1:1 mentoring sessions with those students in Year 11 who need a little more guidance and support in their focus on their GCSE exams and future careers.

We also launched our work experience for Year 10 with an Information Evening which was well attended and hopefully proved useful in terms of support students in finding placements. The students will be going out to local employers in July next year.

One of our upcoming Careers events is our Apprenticeship Fair for Year 10 and 11 students in the afternoon of 15th

January. A letter will be sent out about this

opportunity to attend as well.

All the hard work of the Careers team has been rewarded as we were recently assessed for the re-accreditation of our Career Mark, which was successful, the assessor complimenting us on our variety of offers available to our young learners.

# ROAST DINNER DAY

To celebrate National Roast Dinner Day, on Wednesday, 14th November, Dereham Neatherd High School invited members of the local community to sit down to a roast put on by the school's catering staff. Attendees included children and staff



event promoted by the Soil Association in partnership with their Food for Life programme. As Neatherd is an Ambassador school which holds the Food for Life Silver Award, it was essential that we allowed members of the community to experience the

from Toftwood Infant School, Church Infant School, Kings Park Infant and Scarning Primary School alongside some of the residents of Eckling Grange Care Home.

The Norse Kitchen staff prepared a selection of roasted meats including gammon and turkey. This was served alongside roast potatoes, carrots, broccoli, pineapple and all the trimmings. It was a great opportunity for the visitors to sit down with people from a different generation and share this experience. Head Teacher Mr Devonish, alongside Neatherd's School Nutrition Action Group, helped to serve the students and residents their dinners so that they felt like they had been given top quality service. "Our School Nutrition Action Group (SNAG) aims to promote healthy eating and living across the school and will continue to do so during the whole school year", says Mr Anderson, Leader of the SNAG group. National Roast Dinner Day, is an annual



type of food and service that the high school students receive on a daily basis.

There was lots of positive feedback during lunchtime. "I have enjoyed coming to Neatherd High School. The dinner and pudding were really yummy", said Beatrice Green from Scarning Primary School.

In addition to this, Neatherd hopes to continue its community engagement by working alongside residential homes such as Eckling Grange in particular. Many of the residents expressed that "it is so lovely to be here" and Margaret Friday, resident at the Grange, added: "This is very nice food. I used to have school dinners when I was at school in London. I think now the food is more interesting and more varied."



# KIDS LIT QUIZ

In November Neatherd held the regional heat of the Kids' Lit Quiz with 33 teams from 19 Norfolk schools taking part. Neatherd was represented by two brilliant teams from Years 7 and 8 finishing 9th and 15th overall. The sports hall was buzzing with excitement as teams battled their book knowledge on various topics competing against each other and our visiting authors Alex Scarrow, Alexander Gordon Smith, Helen Moss and Hayley Long. Huge congratulations to Litcham High School B who won the quiz - even beating both author and librarian teams - a tremendous victory! Good luck to the team representing Norfolk in the UK final on 4th December. Also congratulations to the two runners up: CNS B (2nd place) and Taverham (3rd place). "I'm always astounded by the wider reading knowledge shown in this competition which just brings a warm, fuzzy glow to any librarian!", says Mrs Gill who organised the event.



## BRITISH LEGION VISIT

Dereham Royal British Legion Visit Neatherd High School. Neatherd was delighted to welcome both Hugh King (Publicity Officer) and Dennis O'Callaghan (President) from the Dereham branch of The Royal British Legion on Friday 16th November.

They were kind enough to give out certificates and prizes to students who



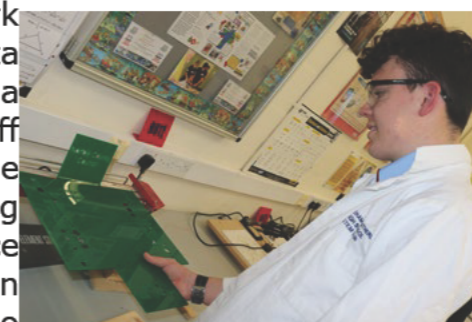
entered the Remembrance Day creative writing competition.

The winner was Beth who wrote letters from a soldier at the front line to a loved one, plus a reply. Runners up were Alyssa and Bethany. Entries will be displayed in Dereham library.



# FLEXIBLE LEARNING DAY

**Year 7** went on their first trip at Neatherd, visiting the North Norfolk coastline to assess the impact of coastal erosion and examining the strategies used to protect the coast. The year group was split into two, with one-half visiting Cromer in the morning and then the other half visiting East Runton. At each location students completed fieldwork collecting data on the angle of a slope and the cliff appearance. The data collected during the day has since been used back in the classroom to support their learning of coastal erosion and the management of this in North Norfolk.



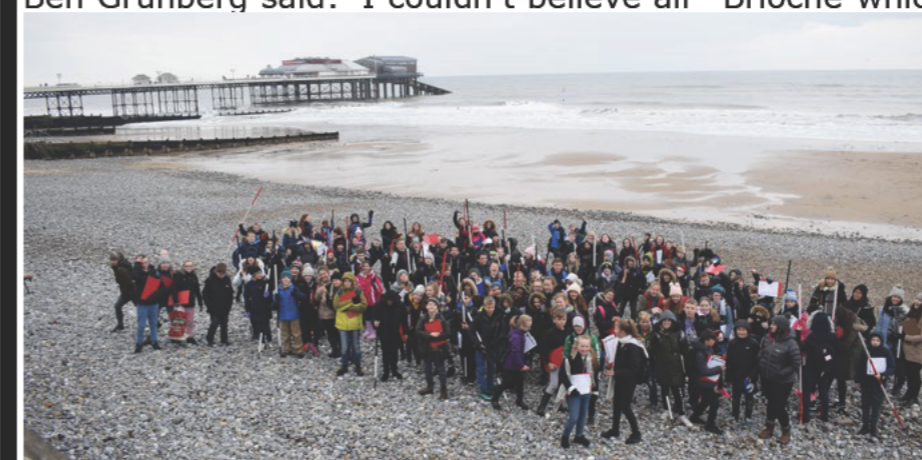
FLD went swimmingly for the **Year 8s**! For half the day pupils were in Maths, taking up the challenge to crack the Enigma in their teams. You could hear a pin drop with the focus and concentration portrayed by the students when important clues arrived via Morse code. For the other half of the day pupils enjoyed a fantastic time in English with visiting author William Hussey. They participated in his thrilling Witch Finder Experience, listened to his presentation on The Origins of Gothic Literature and finished the session with a creative teacher-led drama workshop. Ben Grunberg said: 'I couldn't believe all

Grey-Read agreed: 'It was fascinating!' **Year 9s** had an excellent day, learning some vital lifesaving skills with a member of St John's Ambulance giving them CPR training. We also had a number of visitors talking to students about relationships and sex education.

**Years 10 & 11** both spent valuable time on one of their non-Ebacc options, giving some amazing feedback about the worth of the day. In Art students loved producing a tonal sculptural drawing of a head and appreciated having time to complete a painting of it. In Design Technology the new GCSE specification requires pupils to demonstrate a design solution to a real problem in a very short period of time. The final pieces were outstanding, and great skills were refined in 2D design and modelling, design illustration and explaining production processes! In



the Food GCSE students made fantastic Brioche which is an enriched dough that would never have been possible to produce in normal lesson time! This was bake off technical challenge and pupils created their own time plan and action plan before they had to select their own equipment and weigh all their ingredients accurately. All of this is excellent practice for the controlled assessment. Many other similar stories were relayed from the different subjects!



the gruesome ways people used to try and discover if someone was a witch.' Katelyn

## An evening with Patrick Ness:

Recently, I visited Waterstones in Norwich for a book signing event with Patrick Ness.

The venue was full to bursting and once we were sat down he began his talk about his books and introduced his new book, 'And the ocean was our sky'.

The evening was very entertaining, he was informative and funny and answered many questions during the event.

After the talk we lined up and got our books signed, and there were many people who brought lots of books with them.

His trilogy 'Chaos Walking' is being adapted into films with the first being released in 2019. Many of his books are available to borrow from the library so if you are interested ask Mrs Gill for a recommendation. By Alyssa Baines, Year 8

PRESS GANG



## Free books for Year 7 students

All our Year 7 students selected a free book this term from a choice of 17 titles which they received as a gift from our library. The Bookbuzz programme from Book Trust aims to help schools inspire a love of reading as they begin their secondary education and as our ongoing commitment to literacy we provided every Year 7 pupil with a free copy of their choice - keep reading!



## News from the Creative Writing Group

Recently our Patron of Reading Alex Scarrow presented prizes for the Halloween Creative Writing Competition. All entries were awarded a certificate for their spooky stories which Alex had kindly read and judged. Congratulations to Dali for winning with her spine tingling tale with George and Alyssa creeping up as second and third.

Later on in the term Alex Scarrow was in again to help with creating suspense/tension, character development and the all-important plot twists! Some really strong ideas emerged from a very talented group.



## Spooky stories for Halloween

Lights were lowered and flameless candles lit as tales of terror descended on the library whilst students gathered around the smoking cauldron to hear and share spooky stories at lunchtime in the library. This is always a popular event and many were inspired to create their own story for the creative writing competition.



## Half Price Book Fair

The Half Price Book Fair has arrived at Neatherd's library. There are over 200 titles for you to browse through, starting at only £1.50- there's sure to be a book for everyone to enjoy. Titles available include Mortal Engines, My Mum Tracy Beaker, Mary Poppins, Ice Monster (David Walliams), What Monster, Tom Gates plus many classics and other great reads to snuggle down with. The Book Fair is still open in the New Year, until 4.20pm on Tuesday 8th January.



# DANCE COMPANY

We are thrilled to announce that the groups that regularly meet and dance with Miss Carter De Bois in school at lunch times and after school will become collectively known as Neatherd Dance Academy.

Miss Carter De Bois who is a qualified IDTA dance teacher as well as being a highly regarded member of Neatherd's staff will lead NDA. She will be supported by members of the Creative Arts Faculty, especially Miss Dark who is a dance graduate with experience with professional dance companies in addition to her teaching experience.

Our aim as NDA is to offer classes and workshops covering a range of styles, including ballet, contemporary, tap and musical theatre. We hope that the move to one collective group will give students a sense of identity as Neatherd dancers, as well as a feeling of inclusivity within a forum where dancers of all ages and abilities are welcomed and supported.

Miss Carter De Bois and Miss Dark hope to offer familiar performance opportunities such as participation in the talent show, dance shows and the school production.

Miss Carter De Bois is also exploring possibilities for inviting dance professionals into school to work with our students during after-school sessions. Proposed trips and events will include excursions to see live dance at local venues such as the Theatre Royal and to experience dance festivals and competitions.

The re-branding of Neatherd Dance will also include a bespoke "dance uniform". We hope that this will promote a collective identity and will give students a sense of pride when they represent themselves and their school during trips and events.



# BEBRAS CHALLENGE



The Bebras Computing Challenge is organised and run by Oxford University. It is organised in over 40 countries and designed to get students all over the world excited about computing. It introduces computational thinking to students.

The aim is to solve as many as you can in the allotted time and the competition has a two-week window.

The top achieving students in the four oldest age groups nationally are invited to attend a final round and celebration in the new year. This will take place in Hertford College and the Computer labs at Oxford University. The top 10% of students in these age groups will also be invited to enter the TCS Oxford Computing Challenge. We have had an incredible 52 students qualify for this next stage, which is an online competition in March 2019. Schools are encouraged to help prepare students for this next stage, as the level of skill increases, and practice will be essential, so these students will have the opportunity to prepare at the BEBRAS

Challenge Club starting in January. This will run on a Monday lunchtime in ICT-1 and students will be welcome to attend a few sessions in order to prepare with support from Mr Gibson.

This year we entered all year 7, 8 and 9 students and those in years 10 and 11 who study GCSE computer science. This was also a house competition with a total of 42,936 house points being gained by students!

Entries and results:

|        | Total Entries | Distinction | Merit | Participation |
|--------|---------------|-------------|-------|---------------|
| Yr 11  | 21            | 9           | 3     | 9             |
| Yr 10  | 23            | 4           | 7     | 12            |
| Yr 9   | 212           | 64          | 55    | 93            |
| Yr 8   | 197           | 41          | 47    | 109           |
| Yr 7   | 261           | 71          | 47    | 109           |
| School | 716           | 189         | 159   | 332           |

Best in School Award (highest points scorer in each age category):

|                          |       |          |         |     |
|--------------------------|-------|----------|---------|-----|
| Juniors (age 10-12)      | Ethan | Barrett  | Year 7  | 145 |
| Intermediate (age 12-14) | Louis | Molenaar | Year 9  | 160 |
| Seniors (age 14-16)      | Peter | Bavage   | Year 11 | 167 |

House Competition Results:

|        | Points |
|--------|--------|
| Carter | 10130  |
| Cavell | 10455  |
| Fry    | 9844   |
| Kett   | 9768   |

# SNAG COOK OFFS

This term, three teams competed for first place at the Halloween cook-off. Our first team was 'Go-Kett': Ellie Playford, Rebecca Skeet and Mrs Medcraft. This group displayed great baking skills but sometimes their methods were a bit "messy". Go-Kett aimed high from the start, aiming to bake a Butternut Squash soup, a fruit smoothie, cookies and a cake. They had the best teamwork in the eyes of the judges and used half a hollowed out pumpkin as a bowl for their soup, all of this landing them in 1st place. The next team was 'Food For Life' or the SNAG team, made up of Josh Blackburn, Ethan Pedlow, Emily Aldus and Mr Taylor who made ghost milkshakes, Bloody Cups (raspberries inside chocolate cups) and Quesadillas. They showed us awesome teamwork and a very tidy workspace. During judging, they landed 3rd and their bake was described as 'a really simple, nutritious meal', 'brilliant' and 'Halloweeny'.



The group that came second was the 'Creepy Cavaliers': Malachi Johnson, Maisie Cook, Emily Cook, Lara Bennett, Harrison Cremin and Miss Sheldrake. They made Brownie Ghosts, Milkshakes and spaghetti bolognese inside of bell peppers, like pumpkins. They seemed to have a lack of instruction, however, their end result overruled all of that and they worked with a cleanliness.

Clarissa Huxley, Year 9

PRESS GANG



Congratulations to Miss Witton and her 'Kett For The Win' team taking first prize at the Neatherd Christmas Bake Off! They made a delightful share and tear

bread and cheese dip alongside an 'ugly jumper' chocolate cake.

The team consisted of Georgina Whitehead, Ellie Slade, Abi Mann and Miss Witton. Their food was absolutely impeccable, the cake was cooked to perfection and the contrasting flavours in the bread and dip made a creamy taste. "Pudding Squad", another Kett team, took 2nd place. It was made up of Miss Medcraft, Keeley Walsh and Abbie. They cooked up mince pie brownies and a cake shaped Christmas pudding which went down very nicely with the judges.

The Fry-Team "Champions", Leigh Mangan, Sophie Kimber, Toby Towns and Miss Clarke, took 3rd place. Crinkly Christmas Pies and Lentil and Cranberry Bake was on their menu.

Another brilliant event! Thanks to Mr Anderson and the SNAG team for organising.

Josh Blackburn, Year 9



# AUTHOR VISITS

This term was another busy one for the school library with our wonderful librarian Mrs Gill organising for four authors to come in and speak to our students. This represents a great opportunity for children to meet authors and to reinforce the love books and for reading.

Robin Moore was the first author to visit (see separate article below) followed by author William Hussey on Flexible Learning Day, presenting his 17th century witch trial experience and an introduction to gothic horror followed by teacher led workshop sessions enhancing their



current scheme of work.

He also spent lunch with our LGBT group, Strive for Pride.

In December the school welcomed award-winning US author, Neal Shusterman who delivered an interesting presentation on his new book "Dry", a gripping and all too plausible novel about survival in Southern California when the water runs dry. Year 10s asked some interesting questions about his book, writing, America and climate change.

Following on from our Year 7 transition giftbook, "Marius and the Band of Blood" we welcomed the very entertaining author



Christopher William Hill who delighted Year 7s with his humorous presentation, culminating in a competition between two students to make a cat from cake! The joyous laughter from the talk could be heard across the school- a perfect end to this term! Selected students who had reached their Accelerated Reader target or shown tremendous literacy effort in the Link were also rewarded with a 'hands on' creative writing workshop.



**Robin Stevens** visited our school recently - offering an unmissable opportunity to meet her and hear what inspired her to write her 'Murder Most Unladylike' series and her stand-alone sequel to 'The London Eye Mystery' by Siobhan Dowd. She signed books and launched her new MMU mystery, 'Death in The Spotlight'. Students from Years 7 and 8 at Neatherd as well as from Litcham High School, Beetley Primary, Toftwood Junior and Mattishall Primary attended the event, and enjoyed an informative and interactive presentation by Robin herself! Afterwards there was the chance to meet Robin and buy a signed copy of any (or all) her books. It was definitely a huge success which many will remember. I, for one, as a massive fan of Robin's books, thoroughly enjoyed the experience and found it really interesting to find out a bit about her inspiration for the characters and the plot of her stories. A brilliant visit from a brilliant author! **Melissa Crumpton, Year 9**

# DT: DESIGN SCHOOL

The Design & Technology department of Neatherd have been successful in securing funding via the Norfolk Community Fund, in partnership with the Dudgeon off shore windfarm, for an out of hours design school.



exercise. In order to complete the project Neatherd welcomed speakers from Norfolk County Council regarding road safety. Also representatives from Paul's Cycles of Dereham came in and demonstrated basic bike

The school-based Community Design School, formed on the 'Maker Shed' principle, allows teaching staff and pupils that have an interest in the STEM (Science Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) subject areas to engage with the needs of the local community. Key Stage 3 (KS3) pupils will support and help local businesses, community groups, or individuals with IT, CAD/CAM, Science and Engineering problems, providing pupils with the opportunity to engage with and resolve 'real word' problems that have genuine impact on their local area.

Students taking part in this project have just completed their first project, "On yer bike". Recent studies suggest that more students are now cycling to school and it is proving a popular way of gaining some healthy

maintenance and repairs. Another local company, Westcotec, demonstrated their development in road signs (including the incredibly powerful LED lighting they are working on) to the students.



"We are really pleased with the outcome of this project", says Mr Chapman, Head of Design & Technology at Neatherd. "Our pupils were able to improve their skills in basic bicycle maintenance and they have also gained valuable skills in identifying parts of the bike to repair and maintain."

The funding the school received was used on this project to provide pupils with a set of lights and a cycle helmet. The funding also supplied pupils with equipment to use microcontrollers and rapid prototyping.

# PE UPDATE

Mr Miller was off to a flying start with the first tournament of the year! 16 Year 9 boys went off to Norwich Rugby Club. They were in a very tough pool, but played well as a squad and showed real spirit and superb attitudes. It was then the turn of the Year 8s. The squad played really well – and won every game except for one draw. Tremendous improvement in all the players – we will be in the elite pool next year, then we will see how they have come on. Finally the Year 7s, bearing in mind they had only been training for 4 weeks, showed confidence and determination all the way through, and made it to the semis to boot!

Following closely behind was Mrs Topping with her U16 and U14 7-a-side Hockey Tournaments. These qualifying County rounds played at Greshams gave the opportunity for winners and runners-up to play at Redbridge in London at the Regional Finals. The U16s finished runners-up to Greshams, winning their League and semi-final games convincingly. They had a super tournament in un-seasonally hot conditions.

It was then the turn of the U14s, who once again battled away in really warm weather for October! We finished 5th out of 10 teams. We can take solace in the fact we only lost 2-0 to the eventual overall winners. A very close tournament! The U16 Finals day arrived and after a long minibuss journey we

got to work! Although we didn't win the tournament, we played some great hockey. Our defensive game was strong, unfortunately we couldn't score more than our opposition on this occasion! However, our results were really close and our goal difference was a lot lower than some of the teams that gained more points than us! Our U14 and U16 teams have also been doing well in their 11-a-side League matches. The U14s have lost two and won one at the moment, with two more to play. The U16s have won one, drawn one and lost won, with one more to play. Again all scores have been close and some great passing hockey has been played. They are really coming along nicely. The U13s and U12s have tournaments to look forward to in March, and we are now in the process of getting ready for our first friendly games of the season. With around 35 Year 7 and 8s training regularly, they can't wait to get started! We are also hoping to cater for the interest shown by our boys, with games also arranged for after the Christmas break.



# PE UPDATE



# PE UPDATE

The **Football** season has shown a promising start with the highlight being the new Year 7 team performing really well by beating both Thetford and Wayland by a single goal to win their first two games. The only blotch of the results sheet shows a close loss to Wymondham College in a cracking game on Neatherd astro that finished 3-2 Wymondham, our boys being very kind in giving them a 2-0 head start early on. The year 8s and 9s have had an indifferent start losing the three games they have played between them so far, some strong performances in their opening fixtures shows promise for both teams, especially as they have had limited fixtures thus far. The Year 10 and 11 teams have shown some classic Neatherd football performances, dominating large spells of the games they have played but not gaining the results from their fixtures the performances perhaps deserved. The Year 10 have played three games and lost all three closely contested games and the Year 11 beat their Wayland opponents in their only fixture so far this year.

In amongst these we managed to squeeze some **Handball** in. In November we attended our first U13 Handball tournament. A qualifier for the Norfolk School Games, we went along to gain some experience and have some fun! As usual with so much interest we were able to field two teams. The passing and movement was just great to watch. Defending play

made it difficult for the opposition. It was really impressive! Each team played with real determination, so much so, that one of our teams came first! "Everyone who went had a good time and an even better time celebrating our victory. We are now



off to the County Finals in February", says Kizzy Dosdale, one of the players.

Our **netballers** have had some brilliant results, with some fantastic individual performances contributing to a great team effort. Both U14 and U16 teams have been playing their league fixtures with drive and enthusiasm, and they have reaped the benefits so far!

In addition to competing, we have once again had the opportunity to help at the Primary Schools' Tag Rugby Competition and the Primary Schools' Swimming Galas, embracing a different aspect of PE and Sport. Our helpers were fantastic as always, doing themselves and Neatherd proud, not only with their exemplary attitudes but also their approachable manner with the youngsters and their words of encouragement. As with all PE and Sport here, we try to encourage everyone who enjoys what we have to offer to 'have a go'. Sometimes we win, sometimes we lose, but we always have a lot of fun trying!



# Calendar dates

Thursday 3rd January to Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019

| Year Groups Affected |   |   |    |    |
|----------------------|---|---|----|----|
| 7                    | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |

## January 2019

|   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | Thursday 3rd: School re-opens                           |
|   |   |   |   | ● | Thursday, 10 <sup>th</sup> : Year 11 Mock Results Day   |
|   |   |   | ● | ● | Tuesday, 15 <sup>th</sup> : Apprenticeship Afternoon    |
|   |   |   |   | ● | Friday, 18 <sup>th</sup> : Year 11 Short Reports issued |
|   |   |   |   | ● | Thursday, 24 <sup>th</sup> : Year 11 Parents' Evening   |

## February 2019

|   |   |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|
|   |   | ● |   |   | Friday 1st: Year 9 Full Reports posted   |
|   |   | ● |   |   | Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> : Year 9 Options Evening                                       |
| ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | Thursday, 7 <sup>th</sup> : Harry Potter Evening                                       |
| ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> & Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> : School production in Memorial Hall |
| ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> : School closes for half-term                                  |
|   |   | ● | ● | ● | Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> to Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> Ski trip                        |
| ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> : School re-opens  |
|   |   | ● |   |   | Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> : Year 9 Parents' Evening                                    |
| ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> : Year 11 Photography & Sports teams                        |
|   | ● | ● |   |   | Thursday, 28 <sup>th</sup> : Year 8 & 9 HPV Jabs                                       |

## March 2019

|   |   |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|
|   |   | ● |   |   | Friday 1st: Year 9 Options Deadline for returns  |
| ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> : World Book Week                               |
|   |   |   | ● |   | Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> : Year 10 French Exchange Meeting   |
| ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | Tuesday, 5 <sup>th</sup> : Flexible Learning Day 2   |
| ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> : Non Uniform Day (World Book Day)                                      |
|   |   |   | ● |   | Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> to Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> : Year 10 Spanish Trip                         |
|   |   |   | ● |   | Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> & Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> : Year 10 Geography Trip                     |
|   | ● |   |   |   | Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> : Year 8 Short Reports Issued  |
|   |   |   |   | ● | Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> : Year 11 Mocks in English, Science and Maths |
|   |   |   | ● |   | Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> : Year 10 Full Reports posted  |

## April 2019

|   |   |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|
|   |   |   | ● |   | Tuesday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Year 10 Parents' Evening        |
| ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Friends Bingo Night            |
| ● |   |   |   |   | Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> : Year 7 Short Reports issued     |
|   |   | ● |   |   | Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> : Year 9 Meningitis Vaccines      |
| ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> : School closes for Easter holidays |