

# NEATHERD Hi

## JEKYLL AND HYDE



HARRY POTTER  
NIGHT



FLEXIBLE  
LEARNING DAY



DANCE SHOW

# WELCOME

**Dear Readers**

**Has Spring actually sprung? I sincerely hope so, after a bit of a cold one this Winter and three days where we had to close, with many of us getting caught in the bad weather. This has been another packed term here at Neatherd and is set to be even bigger and better in the Autumn as we welcome 285 new Year 7s into the fold, the second biggest intake in Norfolk!**



**I hope you enjoy some of our memories from this term inside this edition. Highlights included Harry Potter night, so magical with another visit by our owl friends. The school play, Jekyll and Hyde, was a refreshing opportunity to watch a tense and quite scary traditional play with outstanding performances. This was followed, only last week, with a brilliant Dance Show. You will also see reports of our sporting team triumphs in this edition.**

**A final thought at this time for our Year 11s, now on the home-straight for exam success. Let's hope for some warm times this holiday and my best wishes to all readers and their families for a peaceful, relaxing time.**

**Peter Devonish**

## PRESS GANG

Meet our new school magazine club, "Press Gang", consisting of a bunch of very enthusiastic and talented budding journalists, plus Mrs Gill and Mrs Broughton at the helm. Look out for the Press Gang Logo which marks articles written by a member of the club. We hope you will enjoy reading contributions by Robert Baker, Alfie Bloomfield, Evie Hamilton, Kizzy Dosdale, Alyssa Baines (all Year 7), Clarissa Huxley, Abi Mann and Chloe Knock (Year 8) and Amy Thexton (Year 10) here and on Facebook.





# HARRY POTTER NIGHT



Dereham Neatherd High School was filled with marvellous magic on Thursday, 1st February, following the events of the annual Harry Potter Book Night. The evening was filled with magic, wonder and interesting activities that astounded all! A total of 48 people gathered for what was to be a great Harry Potter book night!

The night started with a fantastic House Sorting, where the students were sorted into the four houses: Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw and Slytherin. Afterwards, students sat at the library tables, and were given pumpkin pasties and other cakes and treats.

Students had the chance to create Mandrakes and Bowtruckles (fantasy creatures in the Harry Potter world) and prizes were given out for the best one. Nell Barkham was the

winner for the best Bowtruckle!

'Pong' Quidditch proved to be exceptionally popular, and students could have their photos taken for the Wizarding World's newspaper, 'The Daily Prophet'.

Next, there was a magical beast quiz, followed by an introduction to owls, with owl-themed gifts available.

Butterbeer was available, and with one more quiz, the winners were revealed. The winner of best costumes was Lily Arrowsmith, and the winner for best potions was Alyssa Baines.

Chocolate frogs were given out, and the magical evening was brought to a close.

**Amy Thexton, Year 10**

**PRESS GANG**



# SCHOOL PRODUCTION

Neatherd students took to the stage at Dereham's Memorial Hall at the beginning of February, performing a version of the classic gothic tale, *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*. The original novel was adapted for stage by David Edgar and incorporated the original Victorian language of Robert Louis Stevenson's text. One of the show's directors, Mrs Sanderson, acknowledged the significant challenge that this unfamiliar dialogue presented to students, some as young as 11. "It was hard work at times, just getting the cast to understand what their characters were saying; let alone learning the lines!" Dialogue was only one of the challenges faced by the indomitable young cast. In addition, they only started rehearsing in November; 2 months later than usual! The show provided an opportunity for many familiar Neatherd actors to show their incredible talent. Adam Littleproud created a compelling performance of a chilling but engaging Mr Hyde; a counterpoint to the mild-mannered Dr Jekyll played by an astonishing newcomer to Neatherd drama, Bradley Dack. The boys worked on the representation of the split



personality of Jekyll/Hyde and at times the characters would be physically close on stage then almost physically tearing themselves apart with the help of a chorus of creepy gothic "shadows", fabulous Neatherd dancers who choreographed much of their own movement.

Other notable performances came from the three female leads, Pearl Williams-Eley who offered a spirited and touching portrayal of the Katherine Jekyll, sister to Dr Henry. Rebekah Hartley and Amelia Westgate played the sparring servants in Jekyll's household with great subtlety, using facial expression beautifully to show the unspoken hatred between the women. Another great female performance came from Elsie Anderson-McDermott as Jekyll's niece. Outstanding performances came too from Ben Harvey and Eddie Hill, as astonishingly talented Year 7 boys. We will surely see more of both of them in future productions. Cameron Biro, Miguel Corte-Real and Finley Batson also contributed to a very professional production as the remaining elderly and traumatised male characters; friends and victims of Jekyll and Hyde.





# DANCE SHOW



The community that forms Dereham and Brianna Nichols dancing to 'Ocean Neatherd High School was treated to Eyes' A connection and distance was a spectacular sensational evening of shown between the girls. There was the Dance Show on 22nd March. Students rehearsed and worked relentlessly for months to produce this stunning show. The opening piece was a hip-hop piece by Ignite dance group. Other performances included two duos by GCSE dance students, a story of a relationship performed by Joe Furse and Rebekah Hartley and a piece of tension and danger, performed by Charlie



also a performance from Maddie Mower dancing to 'Naked' which flowed really well and captivated the audience. The final performance was 'Grease Lightning' and all of the performers came on stage for well earned applause. Miss

Harris, Neatherd's former Dance teacher, came to watch the show and said "I thought it was amazing, Neatherd has very talented students." Congratulations to the students and staff that took part. Special thank you to the creative arts team - Ms Dark, Miss Smith, Mrs Sanderson, Mr Owen and Mr Walden.

Clarissa Huxley

PRESS GANG



Dickerson and Joe Furse. Another piece was a performance by Molly Barrett

# TEACHER INTERVIEWS

## PRESS GANG

Members of our Press Gang have been busy interviewing several teachers from different departments as we thought that both parents and students (and also fellow members of staff) would like to find out more about them:

### Mr Anderson - Science

**Do you have any hidden talents, if so, what?**

I am an excellent freestyle dancer

**If you weren't teaching what would you be doing?**

Farming

**How do you express yourself creatively?**

Through the medium of Dance

**What award are you most proud of?**

Potato award, for the best quality potatoes

**What or who inspires you to do what you do?**

Mr Scahill

**Do you think technology makes teaching easier or harder?**

50% both ways.

**What's your most special teacher moment?**

Walking on Mont Saint Michel in France

**What's the best and worst thing about being a teacher?**

Best: Basketball club, worst: students not reaching their full potential

**Would you survive a Zombie Apocalypse?**

Yes! I have a farmer friend with guns and machinery. I would use a bike, in the films no one ever uses a bike, it would be great, you don't need petrol and I'm also a fast runner

**How do you hope students will remember you and your class?**

As a teacher that had more good days than bad.

Clarissa Huxley, Year 8

### Mr Simmonds - Science

**What's your favourite thing about being a teacher?**

The variety, every day is different.

**What do you think makes you different as a teacher?**

I'm friendly and a good human.

**What really annoys you?**

Having to repeat myself and people not following really simple instructions

**Why did you become a teacher?**

They were offering extra money for science teachers, I also get bored easily.

**How did you become a teacher?**

I applied and got an interview at the UEA

**What books are you currently reading?**

The Mayan Secrets by Clive Cussler and The Sherlock Holmes series

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

Irritating, but I was keen.

**How do you think education is changing?**

Too much pressure put on children to achieve a set grade

**Do you use sarcasm a lot in class?**

Yes, I do.

**Summer or Winter?**

Winter, because of Christmas and I prefer the cold.

Clarissa Huxley





# TEACHER INTERVIEWS

## Miss Powell-Bowns - Geography

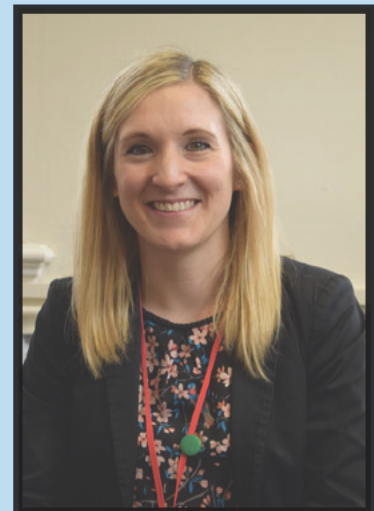
Miss Powell-Bowns said that she had no children and that she has been a teacher for 4 years. She had also said that her sausage dog is called Elmo and that she loves him very much. She said that she wanted to teach because she wanted to work with children and that she loves geography and history. She finally said that she wants to teach forever.  
**Alfie Bloomfield and Evie Hamilton, Year 7**



**PRESS GANG**

## Mrs Guy, English

"I wanted to become a teacher because I was inspired by my English teacher in school. I have two cats, one is called Max (he is very friendly) and one is called Una (she won't play with me). My favourite food is chocolate digestive biscuits, because I love dunking them in my tea. My favourite sport is swimming, because I feel like I'm in another world. If I could go anywhere in the world, I would go to space, however, I would be too scared to go in reality. If I could meet any celebrity, I would meet Tom Odell, because I love his music. My most embarrassing moment was when Miss Young cheated, then beat me on an inflatable assault course. Lastly, my favourite thing to teach in English is creative writing, because students can use their imagination to make anything happen."  
**Abi Mann, Year 8**



## Mr Covington - Science

**What was your favourite subject when you were at school?**

Science, easily.

**Why did you choose to become a teacher?**

Because I wanted to make a positive contribution to society.

**What hobbies do you do have?**

A bit of running.

**Who's your favourite Harry Potter character?**

Hagrid

**Where's your favourite part of the school?**

All of it, it's a beautiful old building with lots of character

**Which is your favourite class?**

All of them!

**Do you have any pets?**

No, I never have

**What's your favourite food?**

Roast lamb

**What are your feelings about stress toys?**

I think that some children need them and that's fine but if it's just a toy then I don't think it's great, but if it serves a purpose then it is OK.

**What do you think about the new homework system?**

I think it's going to be good, it's still early days but it addresses some issues and fills in some knowledge that the students will need when they do GCSEs.

**Clarissa Huxley and Robert Baker**



# FLEXIBLE LEARNING DAY

**Year 7** students had a day of Computer Science based activities centred around working with web pages, using html and css, coupled with a physical computational thinking exercise. The latter involved students solving a gym based problem in teams which they thoroughly enjoyed. Activities ranged from creating an interactive birthday card, designing a robot face and creating a "Wanted" poster.

**Year 9** had a fantastic day, learning about the British justice system, understanding how both court systems work and how the law is implemented in this country. This culminated in students taking part in a court room role play. Each classroom had a judge, jury, a prosecution lawyer and a defence lawyer. Students had three real cases that they had to investigate, and act as legal counsel for their client. Real evidence was investigated, and either a defence or a prosecution

case was created. Their case was then put forward in front of a jury chosen by the group. The jury had to find each defendant either innocent or guilty.

**Year 10 students** spent half the day in the maths and the other half in the English department. In maths they got the opportunity to develop their exam techniques and understanding of key exam words. They had 4 sessions each with a different focus on preparing them

for the new style GCSE exam. These included looking at key exam words as well as

looking at how pupils can check their own work to look for common misconceptions and errors. The session ended with a relay race looking at topics covered so far this year and also in previous years at key stage 3, which are included in the GCSE content.

In English the Year 10 students enjoyed an introduction to Macbeth – a key aspect of GCSE English Literature. Four 30

minute sessions gave students an opportunity to dip into key characters like Macbeth, Lady Macbeth and the witches, as well as finding out about the time in which the play was first performed and King James 1's keen interest in the

supernatural. Quick quizzes allowed students to put their knowledge of the play to the test and they took away handy plot summaries and example exam questions to help with revision.

For **Year 11** this was an excellent opportunity to deliver the final chapter of the biology syllabus, focusing on Biodiversity and Ecosystems and was delivered by all members of the science department. Apart from the separate

biologists the year was randomly allocated into classes and involved a carousel of lessons. The students started the day by looking at the implications of Human population growth and examining the impacts on land and water while considering the implications for air pollution and biodiversity.





# FLEXIBLE LEARNING DAY

The **Year 8** class of Neatherd took an expedition to Wroxham in the Norfolk Broads, to distinguish whether tourists in Wroxham would have a positive impact on the environment or a negative one. Our experience began with a cruise along the rivers in Wroxham. We were guided on to a large boat with a luxury upstairs seating area and a small balcony. As we meandered round the bends of the river, we saw a variety of wildlife, especially birds. The river landscape was breath-taking as were the avifauna. We learnt about the Broads Authority and the problems they face. Once we had eaten our lunch, we got into pairs and walked into the centre of Wroxham. On a map, there were 8 different sites to observe and rate how safe, crowded, appealing, boring etc. each location was. Most of the places were quiet busy, but attractive. In between rating a location and labelling buildings, we had a chance to talk to the public about whether they considered themselves to be a local resident or a tourist visiting Wroxham and what they thought about the area. I really enjoyed the responsibility of walking around the town. Overall, this part of the trip was my favourite, because we had a chance to hear other people's opinions of Wroxham and how tourism generally affects the town. In conclusion, the excursion was very interesting and amazing. I felt like I had learnt a lot. It was definitely the best school trip and I hope I can visit Wroxham again someday!

**Alissia Watson**





# SPORTS RELIEF

This year's Sport Relief saw a week's worth of activities put on for the children to take part in, all run by Neatherd members of staff. The pupils had the opportunity to get involved in activities such as staff leg waxing, sponge the teacher and even staff v students bench ball. The week was rounded off by a fantastic cake sale in the DT room run by Mrs Patterson. Lots of money



raised and congratulations to all who were involved! Thanks a lot for everyone involved, especially to Mr Barron

for the organisation of this fantastic fundraising event.

Photos: **Robert Baker and Kizzy Dosdale**

**PRESS GANG**



## GAMES DESIGNER AWARD

A team of four games designers and programmers (Melissa, Dan, Becky and Matt) representing BAFTA, visited the school on the afternoon of 27th February, to deliver two game design sessions. The first session was for 120 students across years 7, 8, 9 and 10. On the first session the team gave some information on their background and role in the gaming industry. Between them they have worked on Yooka-laylee, Godus, 10 Second Ninja and Sure Footing across multiple platforms. Students then took part in an hour long game design workshop to assist with ideas and get hints and tips for their own entries to the BAFTA Young Games Designer Award 2018.



In September the year 10 students studying Computer Science and ICT will be attending EGX (the largest trade fair for video games held annually in the UK) and we have been invited to meet the designers there on their stands and go behind the scenes which will be a tremendous opportunity.

The BAFTA team were fulsome in their praise for the students they worked with saying "It was an absolute

pleasure working with you and the students yesterday. We were so impressed by their game knowledge and how they quickly took on the challenges we set them. I thought they did tremendously well and we all really enjoyed our time at the school."



# TRIP TO RAF MARHAM

On the 15th of March, students from Dereham Neatherd High School attended a STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) event to celebrate 100 years of the RAF. Schools from around Norfolk were invited to build smaller model planes and have a contest to see how well it could fly. Before this, the students went around a variety of stalls which showed the students how the specific subjects operate within the RAF, such as Rolls-Royce, fuel-checking, liquid Oxygen, International Aviation Academy at Norwich, BAE systems, Pilot Equipment, Fuel tanks/



probe and the Raptor Surveillance Pod. This was hosted in a retired hangar at the heart of the base, 500 yards from the runway. At the end of the activities within the hangar, there was a fly-over made by a tornado jet.

A student from Dereham Neatherd High School won an award from BAE systems for logical thinking in the quickest time for re-arranging a pyramid. He won a model of a F-35 plane for it.

"It was a good day and I learnt lots of new things about the RAF."- Matthew Skimmings

"I enjoyed the day thoroughly as it was very interactive and the personnel that ran the event were very nice and friendly. I'm hoping they do something similar next year!"

**Adam Crowhurst, Year 9**



## SPEAKERS FOR SCHOOLS

We are really pleased that Dr Tim Minshall was speaking to our students via the University of Cambridge Speakers for Schools programme. Tim gave an upper school assembly about careers in 21st century engineering, as he said he was never told what an engineer did when he was at school (in Methwold). He later visited our STEM hub to talk to DT pupils and hopefully engineers of the future. "We are really pleased that Tim Minshall is speaking to our students via the Speakers for Schools programme. Innovation is a really important area for our students to consider. The world needs young people with ideas and the drive to put them

into practice," says Mr O'Brien, Associate Assistant Headteacher and SENCO.



# UPDATE FROM THE FRIENDS

The Friends of Neatherd High School were very pleased to be able to distribute the funds raised from last year's activities to the different departments at school which had submitted a funding application for items the school budget cannot cover. They were able to consider all 13 applications favourably with full or part funding and had enough money to fund items to the total value of £3457.44. This is a fantastic result which was made possible by the help, support and generosity from parents, students and staff. Lookout for upcoming events as the Friends will continue their activities throughout the year to help contribute towards, or pay in full for, additional resources that help boost our students, such as rewards, medals, trophies, books, sports equipment, laptops to name just a few, plus much, much more. With school budgets nationally continuing to be squeezed and the expectations and needs of young people continuously increasing, they need your help and support more than ever. There are a number of ways in which

you can help the Friends - by attending and promoting their events and also by donating raffle prizes. We also run a very successful "Win Win - Club" - our lottery where every number has 40 chances of winning each year with monthly and quarterly draws, from as little as £1 per month. You can also sign up to the Giving Machine, [www.thegivingmachine.co.uk](http://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk), choosing Neatherd as the cause. Free cash donations will then go to the school with every online purchase from thousands of your favourite online stores. If you would like more information about either of these opportunities or would like to volunteer to help the Friends or take part in any way, please e-mail [friendsofneatherd.highschool@outlook.com](mailto:friendsofneatherd.highschool@outlook.com) or find us on Facebook.



## BBC SCHOOL

On Thursday, 15th March, a group of students of Mrs Hunt's Year 10 GCSE media class participated in the BBC School Report. The day involved preparation of each group's chosen topic, and booking interviews with people for later in the day, filming and editing. The reports,

which were around two to three minutes long, were filmed in Dereham and around school. After returning, the students came back to their reports and edited them. Topics included: lack of women in sport, the importance of reading, lack of creative arts in school, negative side effects of social media, and mental health.

"BBC School Report day was really challenging. It gave us a snapshot into the world of being a journalist. We really enjoyed it despite the pressures of the day," said Amber Macey.

The new reports, and ones from previous years, can be found here: <http://schoolreport.neatherd.org>

**Amy Thexton, Year 10**



**PRESS GANG**



# EASTER BAKE OFF

We had five teams competing in the "Easter Bake Off" recently. Pupils and staff had one hour oven time to complete their dishes. The teams competing were:

**The Cavaliers** - Tamar Linder, Niamh O'Horan and Will Rodwell, accompanied by Mr Mayhew. The Cavaliers made Lemon drizzle simnel cake slices and a golden egg baked chocolate tart.

## **Bouncy Bunnies**

- Chloe Partridge, Clarissa Huxley and Angelika Jarzynska with Mr Beanland making an Easter Feast consisting of a Spring Salad, a "Good Friday Frittata" and a chocolate hot cross buns bread and butter pudding.



## **Cadbury Cavaliers**

- Harrison Cremin, Adam Goldsmith, Luke Goldsmith, Malachi Johnson and Maisie Cook

alongside Miss Sanderson and Miss Wyer. They made a chocolate milkshake, nest cupcakes and bunny cupcakes and spring vegetables with new, baby potatoes grown locally and asparagus.

**Creative Carters** - Riley Woodard, Ethan Windle and Hannah Davies with Miss Hunt. They made rice crispy cakes, Easter biscuits as well as hot cross cupcakes.

**The Easter Cookies** - Nathan Mace, Benjamin, Titus Brenton, Rebecca S and Lily H alongside Miss C and Miss J. They produced Easter Cookies in fun pastel cases, nest cakes and chocolate bunny cupcakes.

Congratulations to the Cadbury Cavaliers for their well-earned victory, everything was perfectly cooked,

the cupcakes were 'fluffy', they described their cook as 'fantastic' and 'delicious'. Mr Smith, one of the jurors, said it was 'my kind of chocolate cake'.



'The quality of the food produced gets better and better every time', said Mr Anderson, "it was a really hard decision to crown a winning team as they were all so good. We are already looking forward to our next competition."

Clarissa Huxley, Year 8

**PRESS GANG**





# CAREERS EVENTS

Neatherd's Careers department has been busy as usual with several different activities taking place and our Year 10 and 11 students receiving valuable Careers advice which has helped them to make the right decision about their next steps after leaving Neatherd. Our Careers advisor, Mrs O'Connor, has also helped several Year 9 students with their options choices. Mrs O'Connor comes in for two weekly sessions and any student who wishes to be seen for Careers advice should see their form tutor who will refer them.

In January we took some selected Year 11 students to Norwich City College and Easton College to show them the variety of courses both providers offer. The students enjoyed a private tour of the premises and were given the opportunity to find out more about the courses they were interested in.

At the end of January we welcomed over 30 different providers of apprenticeships to the school. Our Year 10 and 11 students had the chance to meet the companies, get some vital information about different apprenticeships available and to talk to the advisers about possible routes they could take into their profession of choice. Apprenticeships are getting more and more popular with the number of businesses which offer them



growing all the time. We understand that apprenticeships are not for everyone, but the Apprenticeship Fair also offered general advice about a variety of different careers.

All these intervention activities and the 1:1 careers appointments have led to the very pleasing fact that most of our Year 11 students were able to make a decision on their Post 16 provision, the vast majority of them have now applied to colleges / 6th form and different training providers in Norfolk.

The next big "Careers project" will be the Year 10 Work Experience during w/c 9th July. Most of our students' placements are sorted by now and the pupils are starting to get really excited to be able to experience a week in the "world of work".





# CZECH MATES

Neatherd High School welcomed six students from the Czech Republic to Dereham recently for two weeks of "international work experience". This project was fully funded by the European Union's Erasmus+ programme to support education, training, youth and sport in Europe. The aim of Erasmus+ is to contribute to the Europe 2020 strategy for growth, jobs, social equity and inclusion. Specific issues tackled by the programme include:

- Reducing unemployment, especially among young people
- Promoting adult learning, especially for new skills and skills required by the labour market.
- Encouraging young people to take part in European democracy
- Supporting innovation, cooperation and reform
- Reducing early school leaving

The youngster from Neatherd's partner school, Business Academy Lysa nad Labem near Prague, completed their work

experience at local schools and companies, getting stuck into administrative tasks as well as finding out how English businesses are run. The companies supporting this project were Toftwood Infant and Junior School, Breckland Council, Dereham Library, Homeworks Estate Agents, Barclays Bank and Westcotec Ltd.

"Renáta Trnková was working with us in the Finance department", says Margaret Bailey, Senior Accountant at Breckland Council, "she was extremely capable and her English was good."

"The work experience was beneficial to the school as well as the students," says Joanna Pedlow, Executive Headteacher of Toftwood Infant and Junior School. "The students learned what it is like to work in a busy office environment and the range of tasks involved. They also had opportunities to develop their language skills in the context of the workplace."



The group was staying at the Romany Rye Hotel in the town centre. Apart from shopping in Dereham, the students enjoyed trips to Norwich, Cromer, Cambridge and Great Yarmouth. "I have really enjoyed my time in Dereham, I think England is one of the most beautiful countries because of the weather and the lovely houses," says Tereza Studeničová who worked at Homeworks Estate Agents and at Neatherd High School for a week. And Renáta Trnková says about her experience: "This was a good opportunity to get to know England and learn about businesses here. The people were all really friendly."

"We are very happy to be a part of this very worthwhile EU funded project," says Neatherd's headteacher Mr Devonish, "especially during the current times it is important to show that Britain still has strong links to other European countries."

# INTERVIEW WITH HOLLY SMALE

In 2017 a huge fire ripped through a residential tower in London destroying people's homes and taking many lives. A fundraising page was set up auctioning off books, event tickets, author visits and much more. Neatherd High School put in a bid for a visit by Holly Smale, author of the Geek Girl series and we were lucky enough to win. To date the Authors for Grenfell Tower have managed to raise £181,818 for the British Red Cross London Fire Relief Fund, for residents affected by the fire. Our prize-winning bid gave us a fantastic visit from Holly Smale and I was lucky enough to interview her during her visit:

## **Why did you choose to help the residents of Grenfell Tower?**

It was a tragic event which should never have happened. I just wanted to do something to help and was happy to be involved with Authors for Grenfell.

## **What was your inspiration for Geek Girl?**

A lot of Geek Girl was based on my experiences at high school. I was bullied basically for being a geek and even had to change schools because of it.

I was spotted by four modelling agencies within the first 5 minutes of being at the Birmingham Clothes show and went on to model for 2 years (I gave up because the bullying had got worse instead of improving things which is why I had got into modelling in hope of escaping), so I used those experiences in my writing too.



## **Are you going to start a new series as you have finished the Geek Girl books?**

Yes I am, but I haven't announced it yet. More information will be available later in the year.

## **What is your favourite Geek Girl book and why?**

That's a hard one! They are all really special to me. The first was obviously special as it changed my life, but I think my favourite has to be the last one (Forever Geek) as it tied up the loose ends and brought it all together in one package.

## **Are you currently working on a story?**

Yes, I am but can't say much about it at the moment (although it is in editing and there may be more than one protagonist in this book!!)

## **Any advice for inspiring writers?**

Read lots of different types of books, try new types of writing (like a diary entry?) and practise, practise, practise! Writing a book is like running a marathon, it took me 3 years to write the first Geek Girl. Take your time writing your first novel!

**Thank you so much to Holly Smale for visiting our school and giving up her time for this interview, the talk and the book signing.**

Alyssa Baines, Year 7

PRESS GANG



# WORLD BOOK WEEK

Before the snow arrived midweek during WBW we were fortunate enough to be able to run a couple of our planned events. Our school library entered the National World Book Day Award where we were asked to create a display showing how we are

'Flying High with Reading' that also showed teamwork. After discussing with students we decided on a theme involving 'floating' balloons as they represent celebrations, fly high and look colourful. Each form was given house coloured cards to write their recommended read which was then



attached to a balloon which was hung from the ceiling in the library.

The library was a kaleidoscope of colour and looked amazing, unfortunately we did not win, however, the display provoked lots of reading choice discussions amongst staff and students so it was the perfect backdrop for World Book Week celebrations. Monday we were amazed by the wonderful edible creations entered into our Literary Cake Bake Competition. With superb cakes entered taking inspiration from Swallows and Amazons, Les Misérables, Eliza Rose, Roald Dahl, Harry Potter and Hunger Games the tasting and judging could begin. With much deliberation from our judges, Mr Taylor, Miss Manning, Mr Banks and Mr Beanland, the overall winner for taste and design was Alyssa Baines with her Mockingjay design sponge. During Monday afternoon we held our first annual Big Book Quiz for primary schools. Eight teams from local primary schools



enjoyed an afternoon battling their reading knowledge against each other. Our Year 9 Literacy Mentors helped ensure the event ran smoothly by reading the questions, marking and serving the refreshments. It was a tight competition but was narrowly won by North Elmham B team who went

home with the shield and book tokens for each team member. We look forward to welcoming the schools again next year. Tuesday we were joined by the fantastic author of the Furnace series, Alexander Gordon Smith who gave a presentation to all our Year 7 students with creative writing workshops throughout the day. Gordon has visited our school before and never fails to entertain with his lively and enlightening ideas on becoming an author. All his books are available to borrow from the school library.



Unfortunately the Beast from the East arrived on Wednesday and our World Book Week plans for the remainder of the week, including author visits and 'dress up non uniform' day, had to be postponed. Our rescheduled WBW is now renamed the Neatherd Festival of Literature and will take place the week beginning 23rd April (Shakespeare's birthday). Various events will take place- book swaps, Mad Hatters

Tea Party, sponsored read, authors visits, form quiz etc plus you can now dust off those outfits ready for the



Character Dress Up Non Uniform Day on FRIDAY 27TH APRIL!

## Literacy Mentors

Our Year 9 Literacy mentors enjoyed an afternoon at the Norfolk Children's Book Centre choosing book recommendations for the school library. None of the students had visited the wonderful shop before and all agreed that it was an Aladdin's

Cave of great literature. The books were part funded by a generous donation of art sales from Mrs Leda Hayton.



## Literary Festival at Neatherd

Neatherd Literary Festival- new dates for our postponed WBW- week commencing Monday 23rd April- authors and events throughout the week with our character non-uniform day taking place on FRIDAY 28TH APRIL- so dust off those costumes and wear with pride to raise money for our Patron of Reading, Alex Scarrow. Plenty of time over the Easter to prepare something and join in the fun!



## Carnegie Shadowing Group



The Carnegie Shadowing Group had our first meeting with the eagerly anticipated eight shortlisted books. These titles are considered the very best in YA literature and as a group we read, discuss, debate and vote on our favourites. This year we are also shadowing the Kate Greenaway Award which is presented for the best illustration and hope to visit primary schools with the books. The group are a mixture of ages including staff and the books were purchased by the Friends of Neatherd.

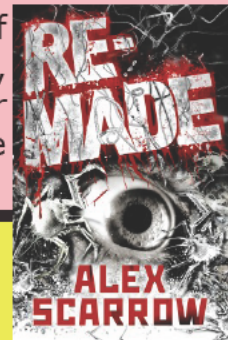


## Speed dating

In February we held a Spanish Speed Book Dating session in the library with the MFL department. Miss Collins enlightened the students on the Spanish tradition of giving books for Valentine's Day before moving around the library to choose their 'ideal book'.

## Book review for Alex Scarrow's "Re-Made":

"A fabulous book, one that is terrifically written. With more twists than a spiral staircase, Re-Made creates an eerie atmosphere, alongside an unforgettable story. An enthralling adventure, with a not-so-subtle theme of horror weaved within. Re-Made has fantastic character development, allowing the reader to fully connect with the protagonists of the book. The story leads you to an ending, but no: another unsuspected corner awaits the reader. A great book, maybe even a future classic!"



## 500 words writing competition

7 years ago Chris Evans had an idea to get children excited about reading and set up the "500 Words writing competition", for children between the ages of 5 -13, with the help of BBC Radio 2. Now, it is one of the most successful story writing competitions in the world and is massively popular with 7-13-year-olds.

In 2017, 131,798 children submitted a story in the hope of winning 1 of 3 different prizes. As well as meeting celebrities, the bronze winners won their own height in books, the silver won the Duchess of Cornwall's height in books and the gold winners won Chris Evans height in books and 500 books for their school, plus all winners were surprised with a special illustrated copy of their story.

But how do you do it? It's quite simple. Entrants must write an original story (any subject or theme) in 500 words or less and submit it online.

The competition judges this year are: Malorie Blackman, Charlie Higson, Frank Cottrell-Boyce and Francesca Simon.

In our school, many students gave their stories to our librarian (Mrs Gill) to enter in the 500 words competition and into our own school competition. We received lots of entries into the school competition which were judged by our librarian, Mrs Gill and then our patron of reading, Alex Scarrow. The winners will be announced very soon.

Overall, I think 500 Words is a great competition that lets the imagination run free. It is now closed for entries for this year, but, if you feel inspired, I would advise you to enter next year's competition if you can.

Alyssa Baines

PRESS GANG



# SNAG UPDATE

During this term's SNAG (School Nutrition action Group) meetings we have planted various herbs and vegetables like sweet peppers, sprouts, radishes, chillies, cauliflowers and aubergines. We also launched the new "Eco committee" which focuses on making the school a more environmentally friendly environment. After a set back at our Polytunnel which had been damaged, we worked on mending it and are already planning on planting more vegetables there later in the spring. Our enthusiastic SNAG members meet several times during each week to get jobs done, the community of environmental friendly students keeps growing and we hope it will continue to expand. We already look forward to our annual "Big Dig" which will

take place on Tuesday 17th April – all staff, students and parents are invited to take part in this community event to prepare our allotment for even more planting.

Clarissa Huxley

PRESS GANG

## Dereham Neatherd Big Dig!

Tuesday 17th of April 3.30 – 5.30

The SNAG team is hosting a community big dig event! We need lots of hands helping to dig the allotment for this years crops.

Parents, family and friends are all welcome!

Please bring suitable footwear and your own spade.

For more information please get in contact with Mr Anderson.



## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

On March 8th nations all around the globe celebrated all things Women. It is a day for celebrating the social, economic, cultural, social and political achievements of women.

Started in the 1900's by the Suffragettes in the fight for gender equality, the first 'International Women's Day' event was held in 1911.

The ten values that guide International Women's Day are:

Justice – Dignity – Hope – Equality – Collaboration – Tenacity – Appreciation – Respect – Empathy – Forgiveness

In a school assembly we discussed famous, inspirational women who had defied what men believed women could do, in academia, science and politics.

Some of my favourite women in history are Florence Nightingale – who was the founder of modern nursing, Amelia Earhart – the first female pilot to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean, and Emmeline Pankhurst – a British political activist and leader of the British Suffragette movement.

At Neatherd we have also got many inspirational female members of staff. One of them is Miss Manning, Science teacher, and newly appointed Assistant Headteacher of Student Development.

There are so many more inspiration women worth researching and there are plenty of resources in the library to help you with this.

Alyssa Baines, Year 7

PRESS GANG





# SKI TRIP



The Ski Trip for the Year 10 and 11 students to Tonale 2018 in February half-term was incredible! The journey in total was roughly 27 hours but was broken up by regular service stations and an hour

of the boots. We went on the ski lifts for the first time (which are not as scary as you think!). After about 3 and a half hours of skiing in the morning, we stopped off for lunch at one of



long ferry journey. We were skiing for a total of 6 hours a day which can be extremely tiring if you are not prepared to work constantly for this long. Breakfast is essential in the morning

to give you energy for the whole day. After breakfast we got to get our boots from the boot room and anything we needed from our dorms to then get on the bus at around 8:00. On the first day, we were put into groups and we had students from other schools in our groups

but it was great to socialize with different people and make friends with the same interest as you. The first day was difficult as we were just getting used to the feel



the many restaurants in the resort for an hour. All of the food was amazing. We got to choose from pizza, burgers, toasties, pasta and more.

Overall, the skiing was challenging as some of us were learning how to ski for the first time but we all soon got the hang of it... well some of us did anyway. Whilst we were in Italy we weren't just skiing, we went bum-boarding, torchlight skiing and had a pizza night. Bum-

boarding was the best activity but also one of the many funny moments of the 8 days. Many of us crashed into netting or fell off our boards and ended up rolling down the slope, but it was an amazing time with many laughs! After an amazing yet tiresome week, the Neatherd students boarded the coach again on the Friday and set off back to England. Saying goodbye to the incredible views and the welcoming people was emotional for everyone, but the memories made on the trip will last a lifetime. See you next year, Italy!



**Pearl Williams Eley, Hannah Spalding & Jess Welling, Year 10**



# PE SPRING REPORT

Just as at the start of the year, the fixture merry-go-round kept turning over the opening months of the new calendar year.

Rugby, Football, Netball and Hockey fixtures were all played with great aplomb! In Football we have had a mixed bag of results, with our entire Northgate fixtures still to come before the end of term. There were good wins for the Year 9s and Year 7s,

both against Wayland teams and a brilliant 4-3 victory for the Year 11 boys against a league chasing Icenii team. Obviously the

snow has had a mass impact on the amount of games we could play this year but these will be caught up after the Easter break. We look forward to fixtures against Northgate for Year 7, 8, 9 and 11 over the next few days and the Barcelona football/netball trip over the first week of the Easter break. In Basketball both the boys and girls clubs have shown an improved commitment this academic year with numbers up from last year in lunch time clubs. Also, we have had many boys from Years 8 to 11 turning up for 7.30am training sessions. This has been massive for the players' development with many of them starting to join outside existing clubs and some of them being fortunate enough to be given Norfolk trials. We look forward to the development



in basketball over the next few months with some local fixtures, inter-house competitions and year group games.

We have had another great season for our Hockey teams this year. Lots of children, boys and girls, have regularly attended training sessions. We have been able to field teams at every age level, and have entered all tournaments and have done well. Numbers have been so impressive, we have been able to enter two teams at both U13 and 14 level. The progress the players are making is great, and the skills and understanding of tactics that they are developing has transferred into other activities. Confidence is rising. We are looking forward to next season already.





# PE FIXTURES



Dodgeball has been as popular as ever with up to fifty pupils regularly attending an after school club. It is lovely to see our 'regulars' but also many pupils who don't attend our other extra-curricular clubs. We hope this enthusiasm for ducking, diving and dodging continues! April 1st marks the start of the Barcelona trip. 17 eager girls have been practising their netball skills and are trying to improve their games, before heading to Spain to continue their training and face other English teams. It should be an amazing week. Reports to follow on return. As we move into the Summer Term, Rounders takes off. If it's anything like the last few years we will have fantastic numbers of children who come along, play and get selected to represent

school. Hopefully we will have the good weather to enable us to attend as many games and tournaments as possible. Also keeping us busy will be the Athletics competitions at the UEA, our annual Angling competition, and a Year 7-9 Alternative Sports competition to look forward to. Roll on the Summer! Leadership is an aspect of PE that continues to inspire. In January, 32 of our Year 7s helped at the Primary schools' Swimming Gala over at Dereham Leisure Centre. As always, they were a credit to the school and themselves. They worked superbly with the youngsters, encouraged all participants and excelled in their roles. A super day, well done all! We have the Primary Netball to look forward to in the Summer term run by our Year 10s.

# Calendar dates

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April to Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2018

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

## April 2018

|   |   |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|
|   |   | ● |   |   | Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> to Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> : Trip to Barcelona |
| ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> : School re-opens                              |
| ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> : Parent Forum                                 |

## May 2018

|   |   |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> : Bank Holiday (school closed)                      |
|   |   | ● |   |   | Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> : Year 9 Internal Exams  |
|   |   |   | ● |   | Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> - Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> June: Main GCSE exams |
|   |   |   | ● |   | Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> : Year 10 Geography trip                         |
|   | ● |   |   |   | Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> : Year 8 Full Reports issued                       |
|   |   | ● |   |   | Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> : Year 9 Meningitis Vaccines                       |
|   |   |   | ● |   | Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> : Year 11 Short Reports issued                     |
| ● |   |   |   |   | Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> to Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> : Year 7 Internal Exams |
| ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> : School closes for half-term                      |

## June 2018

|   |   |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> : School re-opens                                     |
|   | ● |   |   |   | Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> : Year 8 Internal Exam Week |
| ● |   |   |   |   | Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> : Year 7 Normandy Trip Parents' Meeting             |
| ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> : Art Exhibition                                    |
|   |   | ● |   |   | Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> : Year 9 Battlefields Parents' Meeting               |
|   |   |   | ● |   | Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> : Year 10 Internal Exams  |
|   |   | ● |   |   | Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> : Year 9 Short Reports Issued                        |
| ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> : Summer Concert                                  |

## July 2018

|   |   |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Sports Field Events  |
|   |   |   |   | ● | Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> : Year 11 Prom  |
| ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> : Curriculum Enhancement Week & Year 10 Work Experience Week |
| ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> : Charity Week  |
| ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> : Non uniform day   |
| ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> : Sports Award Evening  |
|   |   |   |   |   | Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> to Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> : Intake Week for Year 6                                |
|   |   |   |   |   | Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> : Intake Evening (new Year 7 students)   |
| ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> : Science Fair   |
|   |   |   | ● |   | Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> : Year 10 Short Reports issued with exam results                                     |
| ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> : Sports Festival  |
| ● |   |   |   |   | Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> : Year 7 Full Reports Posted   |
| ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> : School Fete  |
| ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> : Presentation Day (for all year groups)  |
| ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> : School closes for Summer holidays   |