



*"I love the real world focus these students are getting. Our country is crying out for this kind of experience for the new breed of up-and-coming entrepreneurs."*

**Nicky Guy,  
Managing Director  
of Guy Marketing.**



At Newlands we take pride in developing the enterprise skills of all of our students. A great example of this is the Year 10 Enterprise Day which was designed and managed by our specialisms co-ordinator.

This year we worked in partnership with the Maidenhead and District Chamber of Commerce to develop sustainable relationships with a number of new industry partners. This has increased our contact base and given the school access to a whole new pool of expertise and skills.

**This year's Enterprise Day involved:**

- A business based challenge that involved researching, marketing, planning and designing a hair and beauty product
- Developing leadership skills, teamwork, innovation, entrepreneurial flair and presentation skills
- Working in teams of nine students with a mentor and a facilitator from the business world
- Access to expert advice from specialists in marketing, product design and finance
- Students providing a story board of their ideas and pitching their proposals to a panel of experts

**What are the benefits?**

Enterprise Day brought a whole year group together to experience activities designed to encourage their creativity and sharpen their entrepreneurial skills. This exciting day has strengthened ties between our school and local business leaders and given Newlands students a chance to develop their leadership skills in a fun, creative environment.



At the support staff conference in 2008 local support staff identified the need for collaboration between schools to promote excellent practice and offer support. As a result of this, the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM) and Newlands have collaborated to launch the Lead Practitioner project.

**What does this mean?**

- Lead Practitioners are innovative and outstanding members of school support staff who lead by example
- They support and inspire others, particularly peers, publicising best practice through subject/field network meetings, events and learning visits
- Headteachers are asked to identify possible candidates who are ready for a challenge
- The Royal Borough will then run a project group to consider the suitability of the candidate
- The project uses support staff expertise to analyse training needs for all support staff roles in schools

**What are the benefits?**

Through this project, Lead Practitioners develop and deliver induction training for all support staff roles. They are keynote speakers at Training Development Agency events providing examples of excellent collaboration, guidance and development of support staff. Newlands aims to use the initiative to increase the number of quality support staff at the school.

Since the launch of the Lead Practitioner programme there has been significant interest shown by other Local Authorities and subsequently a similar model is being implemented by another South East Training School.

Partnerships Community In  
age Innovative Opportuniti  
Progression Skills Inspiri  
tion Engagement Enterpri  
Excellence Transferable Skills

**Snapshots**



Welcome to the first edition of Snapshots, an annual publication that celebrates all that we have achieved within our three specialist areas: Technology, Training and Applied Learning.

We are extremely fortunate to be able to offer a wide range of opportunities in these three areas not only to our girls, but also to students in neighbouring schools and to members of the wider community.

Each specialism brings us additional funding which benefits our students and enhances our facilities. For example, this year we bought a state-of-the-art industrial laser cutter for the Design and Technology department. This fantastic piece of equipment puts us at the cutting edge (please excuse the pun!) of teaching and learning developments. Girls are now able to create work of an even higher standard and see their innovative designs produced to industrial level quality.

I hope that you enjoy reading our news and if you have any questions or feedback, please do not hesitate to contact us at: [newlands@rbwm.org](mailto:newlands@rbwm.org)

**Mrs Louise V Ceska MA**  
Headteacher



**What do our specialisms mean?**

- Innovations as a result of our **Technology** specialism have enabled Newlands to offer enhanced learning opportunities beyond the National Curriculum in Maths, Science, Technology and Information Communications Technology. Thanks to commercial sponsorship and additional funding from the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust both the popularity and academic success of Newlands has gone from strength to strength.
- **Applied Learning** generates transferable work-related skills and has enabled us to develop a curriculum that is exciting and relevant. In this way we are developing change makers; individuals who are prepared to continue to learn throughout life and to adapt and embrace change and challenge.
- **Training School** status has supported Newlands in developing excellent links with the local authority and local schools. It has also enabled us to increase our training provision in response to the needs of our local community and extended schools. We work with a variety of partners: Reading University, Oxford Brookes University, The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM) and The Ellington Project. Our school supports borough staff on a range of courses including GCSE, A levels, Graduate Training Programme (GTP) as well as the National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH) and Masters Degree Programmes. Many of our staff are qualified to deliver training both locally and nationally.

SPECIALISMS NEWSLETTER JULY 2010



## A Curriculum for All

*"The learning is all so up to date and real. Our teachers work well with people from industry to make it relevant and interesting."*

Year 12 student



Over the past twelve months we have created a unique curriculum tailored to meet the needs, learning styles and interests of all of our students.

The three key ingredients have been information, advice and guidance (IAG), partnerships with colleges and employers and effective use of funding and resources.

### What does this mean?

- A creative timetable has removed options constraints giving students the freedom to choose any combination of option choices
- IAG has allowed us to meet the needs of learners on specific courses and to introduce a number of new qualifications and courses
- Our partnership with Berkshire College of Agriculture (BCA) means we now offer level 2 BTEC courses in Hair and Beauty, Equine Studies and Animal Management
- Our relationship with BCA also provides access to the Diploma qualification in Hair and Beauty
- Additional support for Year 9 students to help them choose the right options
- Students are provided with a personal adviser and mentor
- A timetable which includes ongoing study support and life skills training

### What are the benefits?

The inclusion of BTEC level 2 & 3 qualifications alongside traditional GCSEs and A levels means the curriculum provides excellent progression routes into higher education and employment.

We believe that specialist status has provided us with the ability to create a 21st century curriculum in which all our students have the opportunity to be challenged, progress, and, most importantly, succeed.

*"The variety and choice at Newlands is brilliant. I have been on the taster session for my Hair and Beauty Diploma at BCA and I can't wait to start the course now."*

Year 9 student



## Excellence and Opportunity

STEM creates opportunities to inspire young people in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). This enables students to develop their creativity, problem solving and employment skills and widens their career choices. STEM helps encourage students to be well informed, to engage fully in debate and make decisions about related issues.

### What does this mean?

In light of the successful STEM projects in Mathematics this year, we are planning three STEM challenges in conjunction with Desborough School. The projects will:

- Target gifted and talented students in Year 10
- Focus on Technology
- Provide opportunities for students to get hands on experience in product design using state-of-the-art equipment such as an industrial laser cutter

We hope to showcase our projects at the University of Reading as part of the Big Bang South East Regional Fair.

We are also planning a joint project with Manor Green School, a special school in Maidenhead. This will give gifted and talented students in Year 8 the opportunity to host a catering activity for 10 students with learning difficulties.

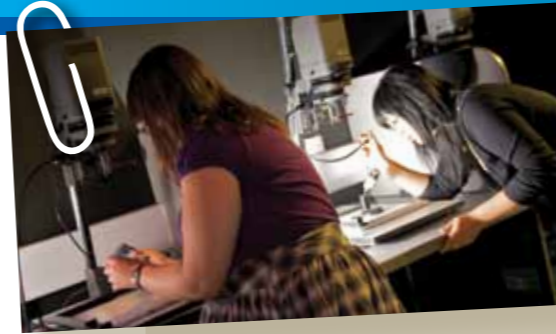
*"Lots of experiments and the teachers are great - Science is fun again!"*

Year 10 student

### What are the benefits?

STEM projects provide students with excellent opportunities for collaboration with students of various ages and abilities within the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM). Students benefit from exhibiting their work at a regional level and have the opportunity to talk to industry and academic experts who judge their projects. Finally, the STEM challenges at Newlands will open up avenues for students wishing to pursue a career in Engineering and will allow for practical opportunities to develop their skills in Technology.

## It's a Two Way Relationship



*"We look forward to continuing to build strong links with Newlands in the future. The students were a delight and we thank all who participated."*

Chairman WAMDSAD

Our specialist status has enabled us to strengthen our partnership with Windsor, Ascot, Maidenhead District Sports Association (WAMDSAD) which is a benefit for both parties. As a Specialist School we actively seek to work with our wider community. Partnerships and networks are vital to raising standards and narrowing the gap between different groups in schools and the wider community.

### What does this mean?

- Year 9 Graphics students have developed a new Junior Logo for WAMDSAD
- Students received a brief from their 'client' and had regular contact with WAMDSAD members throughout the design stages
- Working on a real design brief made the project more relevant to the world of work. A Director of WAMDSAD, and a staff member chose the final design.
- Inspirational and motivational speakers from WAMDSAD presented at Prize Giving and Sixth Form enrichment lessons
- Soon conference delegates attending WAMDSAD premises will be catered for by Newlands BTEC students using WAMDSAD's refurbished industrial kitchen
- More exciting projects are being developed in partnership with WAMDSAD.

### What are the benefits?

Students have the opportunity to follow real design briefs, liaise with 'clients' and apply what they are learning to real life work scenarios. The common features of a strong partnership such as sharing of resources, expertise and other forms of support are demonstrated through this exciting and energising initiative. Community engagement not only enriches the school curriculum, improving outcomes for our students but also opens up opportunities for all, through sharing expertise and experience.

## Support through Learning

Our 'Active Mentoring' programme focuses on raising attainment and providing impartial information, advice and guidance (IAG). Students are encouraged to identify their areas of strength and work with their mentor to plan a curriculum that enables them to achieve success.

We operate an open door policy for students who can drop in to discuss their subject targets and their ability to meet or exceed these. Areas of under-performance are identified and strategies are put in place to address any issues. Through the mentoring programme, students access support from teachers that is targeted and sympathetic.



### What does this mean?

- Every student is valued as an individual and supported according to their need and stage of development
- Developing student confidence and building a trusting relationship with their mentor
- Open door access encourages students to 'tell their friends'
- Follow up by the mentor on behalf of the student
- Form Tutors also provide additional contact and support
- Tracking and monitoring enables students to see their progress and motivates them to develop their studies further
- Identifying 'next-steps' for students' study and career options, including with work in partnership with other providers

*"The IAG mentor was really helpful. We discussed my options and career plans. We also talked through some of the subjects that I find more difficult and how I can ask for help in these."*

Year 9 Student

### What are the benefits?

- Increased student engagement
- Key decision processes such as option choices is well informed and supported. Students have become genuinely excited about their future education
- Active Mentoring is valued by parents who may find school targets and systems confusing and who appreciate the contact with the school mentor
- We aim for 100% of mentored students to meet or exceed their targets