

FRIDAY NEWS!

Newlands Girls' School, Farm Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 5JB



Friday 5th February 2021
Term 3 - No. 5

Headteacher's Message

Headteacher's Update

Our Sixth Former for a Day event (Thursday 4th February) was a great success! This was the first time that Year 11 experienced their A-Level and BTEC taster lessons on-line, but, as ever, our students and teachers rose magnificently to the challenges of responding to an entirely new situation.

Please see below and overleaf for some of the students' and teachers' comments:

I found the day really useful. It was helpful to find out how the subjects at A-Level differed from GCSE.

Anna Romero

Very interesting day. I opted for two new subjects – Psychology and Politics. It was really useful to find out about the course content and structure. Thank you.

Esha Pangali

I really enjoyed the RE taster session. It is a subject I've enjoyed for a while, so thank you.

Charlie Rigg

I really enjoyed the Sixth Former taster sessions today; they were very informative and helpful. They gave me a really good insight into the subjects. Before my attendance to these sessions, I was thinking of choosing Biology, Chemistry and Psychology and by attending these sessions my decision has been confirmed that I will definitely be taking these subjects alongside the EPQ. I found these subjects very interesting, and the teachers provided a good amount of information for me to make my final decision.

Jeeya Rai

It was lovely to see so many keen and enthusiastic Year 11 students in the Chemistry taster-sessions. Their engagement was superb, taking on the challenge of applying their knowledge from the GCSE course to some new concepts studied at A Level. Some of our current year 12 and 13 students also joined the sessions to give an insight into their experiences of studying A Level Chemistry at Newlands and share their top tips. The year 11 students responded so positively and asked excellent questions. We look forward to welcoming them onto the A Level Chemistry course in September!

Mrs Baker, Head of Chemistry, and Miss Gratton, Head of Year 11

On Thursday, the Psychology department was pleased to welcome well over 100 Year 11 students for 'taster-sessions'. We discussed the elements of the course, and then all took part in an experiment, called the Stroop Test, which was a bit challenging on-line! The girls asked interesting questions, and enjoyed the day.

Dr Cavendish, Head of Psychology

Yesterday saw some of our Year 11 students participate in our first politics taster sessions at Newlands. Interest in the subject was high and pupils were actively engaged in the topics covered. These included: a comparison of the structure of government in the UK and the USA, the power of the US President and the ideas and philosophies behind the feminist movement. Politics as a subject lends itself to debate and discussion. Students embraced this, relishing the opportunity to debate the arguments about gun ownership in the USA and the importance of voting in UK elections. I was very impressed with all of those that attended the sessions and I am excited to welcome our first cohort of Politics students at Newlands in September.

Mr Evans, Head of History

Library

The Library ran a photography competition in the last issue of its Newsletter – *Beyond the Books*. We had an outstanding selection of entries and loved looking at all of them.

Congratulations to the winners. Small prizes will be waiting for collection in the Library when we are back at school. Many of the photos will be featured in the next issue of the newsletter.



Photo by Georgie Cooke

1st - Georgie Cooke (Y 7)

Joint 2nd - Helen Cooper (Y10)

- Vak Nayak (Y7)

Careers

'Buzz Quiz' looks at your personality traits and, based on these, concludes which career might be suited to you. Two of our Year 8 students have put it to the test and offered their review:

Amber Miles in 8D tells us that *"when first going onto the Buzz Careers quiz you are asked questions to determine your personality traits: introvert, extrovert, intuitive etc. Once you have done this you are given an animal. The animal I got was a Koala. I found the quiz really helpful as it gives you a breakdown of what your strengths are. There are also jobs that your personality complements and celebrities who have traits of the same animals as you. My celebrity match is Mother Teresa! I found this whole site very interesting as it presents everything in a simple way and makes you think about the careers you might want to do in the future. I would definitely recommend that you take the quiz."*



Eloise Ling, also in 8D, confirms that *"this is a very good quiz because it has a lot of information on which careers would suit you. This is very helpful for people who aren't sure what they want to do as a job. It also includes tips and advice. The quiz is quick and easy to take; it is not a problem if you haven't got much time. I would highly recommend doing it either for fun, if you are looking for a job; or even if you just want to see what your results are"*.

Why not try Buzz Quiz for yourself? The link will be added to our Careers page on the Newlands website.

If you have any questions with regards to careers, please email our Careers Leader, NataliaJandrell@Newlandsgirls.co.uk

Student Focus Centre

Meditation for Wellbeing



During lockdown, you may be feeling more anxious than usual, and our mental health must be a priority. Meditation is a great way of restoring your calm and inner peace.

When meditating, you focus your attention on eliminating the stream of jumbled thoughts that may be crowding your mind and causing stress. This process can result in enhanced physical and emotional wellbeing.

Meditating on our own is sometimes tricky and guided meditation offers a more structured way of getting the same result. Some local therapists, Marie O'Brien and Jackie O'Connor, have come

together to offer free sessions for young people. Each week they focus on a different topic including:

- Sleep
- Happiness
- Anxiety
- Honesty
- Motivation

They are also able to give young people tools and techniques to use on their own. These sessions are on a Wednesday evening and anyone is welcome via Zoom.

Please text Marie (07766 503518) or Jackie (07957 680598) to register your interest.

<https://www.facebook.com/Marieobrienph/>

<https://www.facebook.com/jackieopranichealing/>

Maths Stars of the Week



The Star of the week for Maths is:

KS4: Harini Thilainathan (Y10) – She has a great work ethic and always participates in lessons.

Maths riddle: why did seven eat 9?
(Answer in next week's Friday News)

Answer to the riddle from last week: what do hungry time travellers do? Go back four seconds!

Parent Support



Safer Internet Day 2021- celebrating remotely

Safer Internet Day is on Tuesday 9th February. The theme this year is, 'An internet we trust: exploring reliability in the online world.' The UK Safer Internet Centre has put together a helpful resource pack for parents and carers. Clicking on the link will allow you to download and look at this. It includes activities to support this theme and a family online safety plan. In the coming week, all pupils will have an assembly where this important topic will be addressed in more detail.

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2021/i-am-parent-or-carer>