



Friday 12th February 2021
Term 3 - No. 6

Headteacher's Message

Well done to everyone for an excellent half-term of on-line learning! It's now time for a break and the opportunity to step away from our screens. Just before you do, however, please take a moment to have a look at our amazing new Art exhibition. Mrs Long, Head of Fine Art, and her team have done a brilliant job in bringing together a curated selection of the wonderful pictures created by our talented students. Please follow the link below; I am sure you will be very impressed!

[artsteps | Newlands Girls' School Festive Art Competition](#)

Have a lovely weekend and half-term break.

Dr L. Ceska
Headteacher

PE

Berkshire School Games

Throughout lockdown, the PE Department has been trying to keep our pupils active in a wide variety of ways. In the first week, all girls competed in the Virtual Berkshire School Games. Every student completed three fitness challenges and submitted their results via Teams. These results were collated, averaged and sent through to the School Games team. 3,560 students from 56 schools across Berkshire took part in all age groups and our girls smashed it once again:

- Year 7 came 3rd overall in Berkshire
- Year 8 are the Berkshire Champions!
- Year 9 came 2nd in the competition



It was a fantastic effort by all, and we are now about to embark on the Virtual Winter Olympics.

Week 2 saw the whole school working on their ball skills, with a focus on juggling. The PE Department uploaded a special tutorial video to Teams (featuring the entire Department) and challenged all students to work on their technique with some outstanding results. Many pupils, who could not juggle before, have now perfected this very demanding ball skills challenge.

Week 3 was dance week and we tasked all KS3 to learn a short hip hop dance. They then worked in groups of 3-5 in breakout rooms to develop the next part of the sequence.

Recently, there has been a lot written about the benefits of exercise to support mental health. We are doing our very best to help our pupils stay active during this lockdown. Challenge Week is next!!

Careers

Virtual Work Experience Review By Charlotte Oldroyd (Y11)

On Saturday the 23rd January, I attended a virtual open day for SCAS, the South-Central Ambulance Service. I learnt a lot about the patient transport service and frontline operations, as well as the many opportunities they have to offer.

One of these opportunities included an apprenticeship, taking place over 18 months. It sounded like a really rewarding program; bringing patients home from possibly life changing treatments and seeing the impact of your work on people and their families' lives. The apprenticeship requires you to be 18 and hold a driving license. They also offer a work experience program for students aged 16+.

One of the most interesting aspects talked about was the Hazardous Area Response Team (HART), which provides paramedic level care to patients caught in dangerous situations involving, for example, confined spaces, water, radiological/nuclear hazards, and great heights. As you would expect, there is a very difficult selection process, including many tests and a final interview.

SCAS seems like a stimulating, enjoyable and rewarding service to work for and I am glad to have attended the open day and learnt so much about it.



Student Focus Centre

LGBTQ+ History Month



February celebrates LGBTQ+ History Month. The focus is on raising awareness about the proud achievements of those involved and the difficulties people have faced in the past.

For support and information about the LGBTQ+ community, please go to The Proud Trust website: www.theproudstust.org

Author Approval!



Miss Jacobson recently set her English class the task of designing a new cover for their reading books. One of these was posted on Instagram and the author, Sarah Lean, replied to the post saying:

"I love it... the cover beautifully captures the bond between Thea and the bear."

Congratulations to **Rosie Larkin (Y7)** for her brilliantly designed picture.

French Cooking Challenge!

Les crêpes du Chandeleur



Le Chandeleur is a French version of our Pancake Day. It is celebrated 40 days after Christmas (2nd February) in France, but on 16th February here in the UK. The French word "Chandeleur" translates to "Candlemas" in English. This tradition goes way back to Roman times. The Romans used to wave candle torches all night long to worship the god "Pan". Then the Pope decided to Christianise it. Religious people in France would worship Jesus by lighting



candles so that is where the name came from. Crêpes were also cooked because poorer people could use their excess flour to make them and the shape and colour reminded them of the sun, which relates to the theme of light. However, France isn't the only place where Candlemas is celebrated. People in Switzerland, Belgium and other countries mark the occasion too. We were set the activity of cooking pancakes by Miss Neveu during our offline learning day on 4th February. They were fun and easy to make, but if you do decide to have a go, be careful not to drop them when you flip the pan



because that brings bad luck! Fais attention!

I would really recommend making crêpes – it's a great way to get you away from the screen. Merci Miss Neveu pour l'idée parce que c'était vraiment amusant!



Rebecca Miller 9B and Sophie Padfield 9A

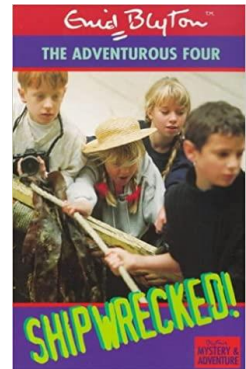
Book of the Month - February

The Adventurous Four By Enid Blyton

Everyone reading this article has probably heard of at least one book by Enid Blyton. It could be *The Famous Five*, *The Secret Seven*, or *Malory Towers*. Her books are guaranteed to be a great read for all ages. One such example is *The Adventurous Four*. I strongly recommend it.

The Adventurous Four is about four children, Tom, Mary, Jill, and Andy, who plan to go to an island for a delightful holiday. However, they find out that the island and its neighbours have a dark secret, just waiting to be discovered...It has many twists and turns, moments of suspense and joy, and there are problems sorted with the most ingenious of solutions. It may not be one of Enid Blyton's most popular books, but (in my opinion), it is one of her best.

It is for these reasons that I recommend *The Adventurous Four* as the Book of the Month for February. Since we are all stuck at home, and long for sandy beaches and bright sunshine, or indeed any sort of excitement, this book is guaranteed to satisfy your desires!



By Srilakshmi Seshadri (Y7)

Library Newsletter Competition



Great Newlands Short Story Writing Competition!

1st Prize- £20 Amazon voucher

Two runners Up- £5 Amazon
voucher

Calling all writers!

Your task is to use one of the following starter sentences or guidelines to create your own amazing short story! It can be about anything. Make us laugh, surprise us, shock us or scare us! All stories must be no more than 800 words ☺ Good luck!

Possible Starter Sentences:

- "I awoke to my first sunrise on Mars..."
- "I opened the door of the time machine and stepped out..."

Alternatively a theme of "solitude" or science fiction.

How to Enter:

Please email all entries to the Librarian –
leaevetts@newlandsgirls.co.uk

Deadline- Monday 15th March

This year, World Book Day is on Thursday 4th March. To celebrate this, the Library Newsletter *Beyond the Books* is running a short story writing competition. All winning entries will be bound together to form a book which will be kept in the Library. Good luck!

Maths Stars of the Week



The Stars of the week for Maths are:

KS3 - Claudia Ioras (Y7) – She has an excellent work ethic and is always very polite. She helps her peers find and access work on Teams when they have had internet problems.

KS4 - Amber Iqbal (Y11) – She always engages and participates in lessons.

Maths riddle: there is a mix of blue, yellow, and red balls in a box. The total number of balls is 60. There are 4 times as many yellow balls as there are red balls, and 6 more blue balls than red balls. How many balls of each colour are there?

(Answer in next week's Friday News)

Answer to the riddle from last week: why did 7 eat 9? He was told you are supposed to have 3 square meals a day.

Parent Support



The pandemic has brought about changes to everyone's lives and routines, which can cause additional anxiety. Spending time doing a positive activity with teenagers helps bring you closer together and provides a space to talk through concerns.

Young Minds is an organisation which aims to ensure that no young person feels alone. Their website has several helpful suggestions for activities you might like to do.

<https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/activities-to-do-with-your-teenager-during-the-pandemic/>