

FRIDAY NEWS!

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



Friday 26th March 2021
Term 4 - No. 5

Headteacher's Message

This week I would like to thank the parents who have been contributing to our Future Fund. The generosity of so many has meant that we have been able to make on-going improvements to several areas of the school. We are very grateful!

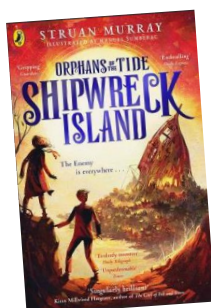
As you will be aware, we are currently encouraging pupils to spend their break and lunchtimes enjoying the fresh air outside. To make this experience even better, we will be using some of the Future Fund money to purchase additional outdoor seating, mainly in the form of picnic benches, as pictured below.



100% Recycled Plastic Picnic Bench

Library News

New books!



Reading books is very important for many reasons. It helps to expand vocabulary and allows individuals to have greater empathy with other people. Reading encourages creativity and assists with mental wellbeing.

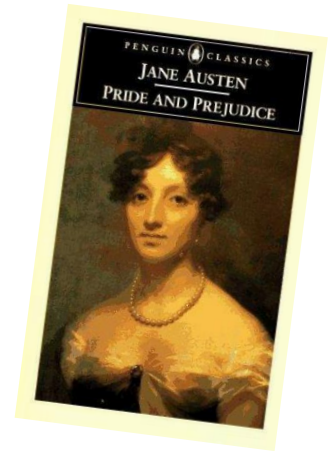
During lockdown, the Library has been adding lots of new books to its shelves and we look forward to students being able to share discussions about what they have read, as well as borrow further books from an exciting range of new and familiar authors. We have also been putting together a small eLibrary of electronic books, which will be particularly helpful for any students unable to come into school. Happy reading!

Book of the Month – March

Pride and Prejudice **By Jane Austen**

Please don't be put off by the fact that this book was written in the 19th century; the themes within it are still very relevant today. It's got silly girls, squabbling siblings, love and marriage as well as pushy parents!

Reading this book will make you understand what the life of the Georgians was really like. I recommend getting the Penguin Classic version of the book because it comes with some notes at the back which make it more enjoyable to read.



Lots of people have heard of this book and know that it involves love and romance, but not very many people know about the characters. The novel is about a young girl called Elizabeth Bennet and her family. Lizzy has a kind, older sister who is pretty and loved by all, a bookish middle sister who gets teased by her youngest siblings, and two spoilt teenage sisters who are very silly indeed.

I think that this story is great and deserves a place on everyone's bookshelf. It is also part of the Library *Classics Challenge* so reading it will get you one step closer to having your name engraved on a plaque. I hope you enjoy reading this book!

By Annabel Rozier (Y7)

Student Focus Centre

Lockdown Makeover



Whilst most people were away from school during lockdown, the team in The Student Focus Centre were busy creating an inviting wellbeing space for our pupils. As part of the refurbishment, we now have a new addition to the SFC - The Hub! The Hub will be used as both a work space and meeting place. It has been designed with a calm and relaxing theme in mind and has lots of plants and soft lighting, giving it a welcoming atmosphere.

As well as a makeover, there are also new resources for the students to use. These include wellbeing games and activities. We are looking forward to visits again in the future from Miss Capon's lovely dog Teal, who we know many of the pupils love. We really hope that The Hub will benefit our students, where help and support can be accessed when needed.





If you are finding things hard or have a problem, it is good to reach out for support. It can sometimes feel easier to speak to someone we don't know. Charities like **The Mix** are great for this.

The Mix is one of the UK's leading support services for young people (under 25). They help with any problem you may be facing, not only mental health issues. Their website is full of useful information, articles and interviews. They have an online community, social media, text service and confidential helpline. The service is free.

You can contact The Mix in the following ways:

- Phone 08088 084 994
- 1:1 chat via their website <https://www.themix.org.uk/get-support/speak-to-our-team>
- Crisis Messenger by texting **THEMIX** to 85258.

Bag2School Reminder



Please remember that on Thursday 8th April, Bag2School will be visiting Newlands to collect any unwanted clothes, which will be sorted and weighed. This event ran last year and was a great success. For every kilogram of clothing donated, the NPA will receive a valuable boost to their funds. The clothes then make their way to developing countries, where they are cleaned, reused and sold.



During this period of continued restrictions, please do take the opportunity to sort through your wardrobes and consider donating any unwanted items to the scheme. You will have the opportunity to drop your bags off on **Thursday 8th April** (a black bin liner is fine) **between the hours of 10.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m.**

Please turn in to the school car park and, when space becomes available, move forward to the drop off zone, where members of the NPA will call you forward once more to receive your bags and store them in the bicycle shelter. In order to help us maintain social distancing and keep traffic flowing, we ask parents to have their bags ready to deposit and to turn left onto Farm Road when exiting the site. Please also be mindful of the need to maintain a two metre distance from others making their donation at the same time and observe the 10.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m. window outlined above. We appreciate your support with this.

All funds raised through Bag2School will be used to support the learning and extra-curricular experiences of our students. It is also great to know that your unwanted clothing will be used sustainably to support communities across the world!

Please visit the Bag2School website for a list of what is accepted for collection:
<https://bag2school.com>

Maths Stars of the Week



The Stars of the week for Maths are:

KS3 - Lily Barnes (Y9) – She always made an awesome effort during lockdown and has continued with that commitment since we have been back at school. Well done Lily!

KS4 - Ella Sethi (Y11), Carmen Horler (Y11) and Lamma Mohamed (Y11) – These girls have worked really hard and always try their best in class. Well done girls!

Maths riddle: where do mathematical fish like to swim?
(Answer in next week's Friday News)

Answer to the riddle from last week:

After a sheepdog chased all the sheep into the pen, he told the farmer: "All 40 accounted for." The farmer replied, "but I only have 36 sheep!" The sheepdog said: "I know, but I rounded them up!"



Year 7 and Year 8 Parents' Evenings

Please see below the dates for our Year 7 and Year 8 Parents' Evenings for this academic year, which will take place via 'School Cloud'.

- Year 7 – Thursday 10th June 2021 – 4.00 – 7.00 p.m.
- Year 8 – Thursday 13th May 2021 – 4.00 – 7.00 p.m.

Further details of these evenings will be communicated to Parents and Carers nearer to the time.

Easter Holidays

Please find below details of two local Easter Rugby Camps at Maidenhead RFC. One is for children aged 5 to 14 years. The other is for Under 6 to Under 11 year-olds, plus Under 12 to Under 17. They are all being run by England Touch Rugby in partnership with London Irish RFC.

MAIDENHEAD RFC MINI MOHAWKS TAG & TOUCH RUGBY CAMPS – EASTER

COORDINATION * SPEED * AGILITY * TEAMWORK * FUN



MAIDENHEAD RFC and IN 2 TOUCH THAMES VALLEY have joined forces to bring you all the thrills and skills of non-contact tag/touch rugby. Camps are designed to equip your child with superior ball handling, evasion and decisionmaking skills in a fun and friendly environment!

For children aged 5-7 (EY, 1-2), 8-9 (Years 3-4), 10-11 (Years 5-6), 12-14 (Years 7-9)

When? Monday 12th April to Wednesday 14th April 2021 (3 Days) 9.30am to 3pm

Where? Maidenhead RFC, Braywick Road, SL6 1BN (bring water, snacks and packed lunch)

Cost: £75 for 3 days or £30 per day (10% sibling discount available for 3-day bookings)

Contact: Sammie Phillips (sammie@in2touch.com / 07766 525 938) to book!

Camps are led by international and regional touch rugby club coaches and players!

LEARN FROM THE BEST! All coaches are first aid trained and DBS checked.