

Headteacher's Message

We have had another excellent week at Newlands with no cases of Covid-19. Many thanks to parents and carers for their continuing support.

Please see below for the four things that I would like to bring to your attention.

1) River Safety

I have been asked by our local PCSO team to inform you about a wooden bridge located in Mill Lane, Taplow. Young people have been seen climbing over the fencing and jumping into the Jubilee River that runs below. This bridge is closed because the structure is damaged and in a dangerous state. Please talk to your child and ensure that they understand the need to keep well away from it.



2) New Head Girls

I am delighted to announce that after a round of rigorous interviews, two new Head Girls have been appointed. They are Lily Hall and Anna Robinson. Congratulations to them both!

I would also like to say that the panel was impressed by all the applicants, who were most articulate in demonstrating their enthusiasm and dedication to the school.

3) Letter to parents

The Secretary of State for Education has written an open letter to parents, which can be found [here](#).

4) **Non-Uniform Day**

We will be holding a non-uniform day on **Friday 2nd July 2021**. The charity, which has been chosen by our Head Girls, is 'Action Aid', which is working to help fight COVID in India.

Students are asked to donate £1.50 to wear their own clothes. Please log on to your daughter's sQuid account and click on "Non School Uniform day – 2nd July 2021" to make the £1.50 payment.

Girls are welcome to wear an outfit of their choice, but we do not allow high fashion items. Please also note that the rules regarding hair, jewellery and make-up remain as normal. If your daughter has PE, please ensure that she is wearing suitable sports trainers.

Finally, please see attached the latest edition of our excellent Library Newsletter.

Have a lovely weekend.

Dr L.V. Ceska
Headteacher

Safeguarding

You may be aware of the recent Ofsted report which reviewed sexual abuse in schools and colleges. Inspectors looked at how sexual harassment and bullying is experienced by pupils across a number of different settings nationwide, and the findings are illuminating. I wanted to take this opportunity to reassure everyone that Safeguarding is at the heart of what we do at Newlands. The findings offer suggestions for how schools might develop approaches to combating unwanted sexual attention and empower pupils to have a stronger voice. Reporting concerns both in, and out of the classroom is essential. Recently, we provided information about the **Gurls Out Loud** campaign in *Friday News*. There is a very quick video on the homepage which could begin a discussion at home, and we urge parents and carers to share this and create the opportunity for debate. You can access the video [here](#)

Our PSHE and pastoral programmes cover a broad range of topics and have been fully evaluated and reviewed in preparation for next year, thus ensuring they cover issues in an age appropriate way. I will also be organising a focus group prior to the summer break, which will explore how our own pupils view the subject, and use the outcomes to consider what more we can do to raise awareness about this important matter. In the meantime, your daughter can access support at school by contacting her Head of Year, or the Student Focus Centre for advice and guidance.

Miss J. Capon
Pastoral Deputy Head and Designated Safeguarding Lead

Issy on the Airwaves!



My name is Issy Holmes. I am a current Year 10 pupil who has been at Newlands since the beginning of this school year. Presenting has always been a career path that really interests me. I recently approached a brand new, up-and-coming local radio station called **River Radio** to see if they were planning to offer any form of work experience. Initially, all I expected was a gentle let down due to COVID restrictions or possibly some advice to help me in the future. However, the email I received was in fact the complete opposite! The station was more than happy to show me the ropes and even train me up for a potential career in presenting. This was

so exciting, as after months of little happening, I was really looking forward to getting stuck into something new.

I now help both behind the scenes and on-air at the weekend request show 'It's the Weekend' with the presenter Mike and his awesome dalmatian Bruce. I take requests from the listeners, organise the playlists, find stories, announce songs and get involved with some general chit-chat too. The experience I have gained so far has been invaluable because it has shown me potential career paths and opened my eyes to what is involved in putting on a radio show.

You can listen to River Radio on their website (river.radio) on their app, or by asking Alexa to play River Radio! It will also be available on DAB very soon. They have a multitude of different shows to suit whatever your listening preferences are. Maybe you love musicals? Perhaps you are more interested in celebrity gossip? Could local politics be more up-your-street? If you would like a request or just want to celebrate someone's birthday, then please email me at issy@river.radio and it might just be played!



By Issy Holmes (Y10)

Student Focus Centre



Online mental Wellbeing support

Whilst there is always plenty of help available in school, Kooth is a fabulous website offering online wellbeing support outside of school hours.

"If it's bothering you, it's worth talking about."

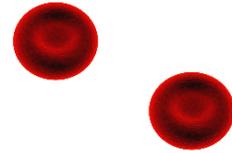
You can create an account with an anonymous user name and access the instant chat function, or view discussion threads with other people's real-life experiences. There is also advice on offer to equip you with the skills needed to help manage your own mental health.

<https://www.kooth.com/>

Science Facts



Fun Science Facts of the Week



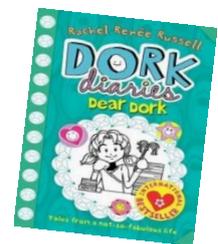
- There is enough DNA in the average person's body to stretch from the sun to Pluto and back — 17 times!
- An individual blood cell takes about 60 seconds to make a complete circuit of the body.

Library News

Book of the Month – June

Dork Diaries: *Dear Dork*, By Rachel Renée Russell

Dear Dork by Rachel Renée Russell is a great book. It is very interesting, funny and most importantly a fantastic read! This book is the fifth in a long series called *Dork Diaries*. Nikki is the main character and it is about what happens to her and her friends during the school year.



The blurb on the back says: “The mean-girl Mackenzie is planning to use the school newspaper column to spread rumours about Brandon, so Nikki decides to join the paper to keep an eye on her!” Nikki wants to make sure she doesn't say anything horrible. If you enjoy this book, try another one from the series!

By Emily Heath (Y7) and Aimee Gbaja-Biamila (Y7)

Governor Vacancies

We still have some vacancies on the school's Governing Body, and hope that there will be parents who would want to support their daughter's school by becoming a Governor. While we would value adding further expertise in finance/accountancy in particular, we would like to hear from anyone who is interested in joining us on the Governing Body.

Governors attend 8 to 10 meetings a year in their role as support and as a critical friend to the Senior Management of the school. Training is provided.

Would you be interested in supporting your daughter's school? If you want to understand more about the role, there is a good summary on the RBWM website (<https://www.rbwm.gov.uk/home/schools-and-education/school-governors/school-governors-frequently-asked-questions> or search for 'RBWM school governors frequently asked questions'); alternatively I would be happy to talk it over with you. If you are interested in becoming a Governor, please email lizbateson@newlandsgirls.co.uk.

Mr Stephen Bridge, Chair of Governors

Maths Stars of the Week



The Stars of the week for Maths are:

KS3 – Anjali Patel (Y9) – Anjali always accesses extension activities and has an amazing work ethic.

KS4 – Amelie Daems (Y10) – Amelie produces some fantastic class work and is great at participating.

Maths riddle: an odd job person was hired to do eight jobs around the house. Why did he only do 4 of them?

(Answer in next week's Friday News)

Answer to the riddle from last week: if 4 comes after 3, and 7 comes after 6, what comes after 10?

The Jack (from a deck of cards)

Cookham Guides



If you (or someone you know) is between the ages of 10 and 14 and wants to have fun, build brilliant friendships, gain valuable life skills and make a positive difference to your community, come and join us. We have a fabulous space and are planning some exciting adventures.

Girls at Guides won't be your average friends. They will be the girls who want to go on adventures with you, who encourage you to try new things and who celebrate when you have pushed yourself to achieve something special. You can try new sports, have a go at performing arts, run a debate or even brush up on your first aid skills. Guides is a place where you can make a difference. You will be encouraged to speak out about what matters to you and to do something about it.



For more information about joining us, email us at 1stcookhamguides@gmail.com or register directly at <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus/>.

<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/>

Music Showcase Concert - Reminder

Last Chance to Enter!

Please remember that before the end of the Summer term, the Music Department is hosting a virtual music showcase concert. We are looking for submissions from students from all year groups, who will need to submit a one-minute video of themselves playing an instrument or singing to chrisbeach@newlandsgirls.co.uk.

The deadline is **8.00 a.m. on Monday 28th June 2021** and the very best performances will appear in our showcase video that will be available to view on the school website during the first week of July.

Mr C. Beach
Acting Head of Music

