

Newlands News - Term 1 - Issue 1



A Message
FROM THE HEAD



Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

As we begin another exciting school year, I would like to take the opportunity to welcome everyone back. It has been wonderful to see how positively students have returned to school and how quickly they have settled into routines, especially Years 7 and 12! I have really enjoyed seeing the whole school in assemblies this week as well as chatting to them on duty. What a great start to the year.

We continue to build on our work to ensure highly effective teaching in every classroom. Our approach is grounded in evidence-based research and focuses on developing consistent classroom routines and teaching techniques that help all students learn as effectively as possible.

What does this look like in practice? All students are expected to contribute, think deeply, and take an active role in lessons, with support provided to help them build confidence and resilience. We want students to understand that making mistakes and not always getting the right answer are important parts of learning. However, learning is most effective when students are willing to engage, answer questions, and embrace challenge. I explained to everyone that making mistakes is good, means you fit into our team here and it's how we push all our students to achieve brilliant outcomes.

Teachers use strategies such as mini-whiteboards, regular quizzing, choral response techniques, hands-down questioning, and actionable feedback. These approaches ensure

that every student is involved in their learning and has frequent opportunities to think, participate, and succeed.

We encourage you to speak with your daughter about what she is learning, the topics she is finding challenging, and the feedback she receives from her teachers. Working together, we can continue to support her progress and ensure she has a successful and rewarding year ahead.

Can I remind all parents that we are now smartphone free! It has been a joy to see students leaving the site chatting to each other without their heads buried in their phones. If you do have a message to pass on to your daughter then she is able to check her brick phone (if she brings one) after school, and in addition, we use a whiteboard in the Main School Hall to display parental messages received during the day. Please remind your daughter to check this. A reminder that if we do find any smartphones in school in Years 7-11 they will be confiscated for a period of four weeks.

A final word about uniform. We have had a small minority of students arrive this term wearing black trainers. We know how confusing it can be for parents when shops sell trainers in their school section. The philosophy behind our school shoes policy is very much about our students representing the school and our brilliant community looking really smart. We will continue to monitor this on an individual basis. Please see the Behaviour Policy for an image of the style of shoe we would consider inappropriate.

I am looking forward to a really exciting year ahead!

Miss Capon, Headteacher





A Warm Welcome to Year 7 and Sixth Form

Last week, we were delighted to welcome our new Year 7 and Year 12 students to Newlands. Their induction days provided an opportunity to meet their teachers, find out more about the academic year ahead, reconnect with existing friends and, hopefully, begin to form new friendships.

For our Year 7 students, getting to know their way around the school was an important part of the day. They took part in a specially designed treasure hunt, which helped them find their way around the main teaching blocks while also introducing them to key members of staff.

One of the best ways to make the most of your time at Newlands is to get involved and take advantage of the huge range of extra-curricular activities on offer. Our Year 7s were invited to a Clubs Fair last week, where they could find out more about the lunchtime and after-school clubs and societies available and sign up to those that caught their interest. If you haven't yet decided what to join, you can find a full list of clubs on our website: [NGS – Clubs](#).

In the Sixth Form, we were pleased to welcome back our existing students, alongside those who have joined us from other schools. They began their Sixth Form journey with an engaging workshop from external speaker Sander De Groot, entitled *Stepping Up to Sixth Form*. The session introduced students to a range of techniques designed to help them study effectively and retain information throughout their courses.

"The Stepping Up workshop, delivered by Sander De Groot, aimed to teach us methods which we could apply to our classes in order to retain information successfully. We were taught about the Cornell Method, as well as Active and Critical Reading for efficient study sessions."

Valentina and Bella, Year 12

"It was an interesting experience that aided my knowledge of studying for Sixth Form. I feel prepared for this new year and strive to achieve the best marks with his methods."

Layla Craig, 12F

And, of course, our Year 12s weren't going to miss out on some fun! They finished their induction day with a House challenge in the form of a *Traitors*-style treasure hunt, putting their teamwork and problem-solving powers to the test.

We wish all our students a very happy and successful year ahead and look forward to seeing them embrace everything that Newlands has to offer!



1 - Stepping Up to Sixth Form



2 - Year 7 Clubs Fair

Please Park Considerately



Could we please remind all parents to park considerately when dropping off and collecting their daughters from school?

We are regularly receiving complaints from residents of Farm Road and the surrounding streets about parents blocking driveways, which is understandably causing frustration.

We greatly appreciate the vast majority of parents who already park thoughtfully or choose to drop off and collect their daughters a little further away from the school. Your consideration helps us maintain good relationships with our neighbours and ensures everyone can access their homes safely.

Stepping Up - Our New Music, Sport and Drama Leaders

Congratulations to the students who have recently been chosen as our Drama, Music and Sports Prefects and Captains, it's a great achievement being selected for these roles and they all give up so much of their time to help others. We are very proud of all of them and look forward to the year ahead!

Music Prefects



**BIG
BAND**

Hannah Miller
Niamh Mahler

**CONCERT
BAND**

Amaris McNally

**CHAMBER
CHOIR**

Marianne Flack

**SENIOR
CHOIR**

Jade Chong

**PERFORMING
ARTS CHOIR**

Lois Marshall
(Isabelle Cooper)

JUNIOR BAND

Lizzy Fielding



**JUNIOR
CHOIR**

Isabelle Cooper
(Lois Marshall)

**STRING
ENSEMBLE**

Melissa Lattimer

**JUNIOR
PERFORMING
ARTS CHOIR**

Georgia Pavely
and Elena Clark

JAZZ GROUP

Anna Burnage

**SENIOR STEEL
PANS**

Isabel Crowe and
Jess Clutterbuck

**JUNIOR STEEL
PANS**

Catalina Donaldson
and Maya Moss

**KEYBOARD
ENSEMBLES**

Srilakshmi Seshadri

**GUITAR
GROUP**

Emily Bradshaw

**DJEMBE
ENSEMBLE**

**Elsie-Rose Taylor
and Amelie Morley**

**PERCUSSION
ENSEMBLE**

Lilia Mohazab



Drama Prefects



Layla Craig

Ava Jeffery

Imogen Stacy

Abi Wheeler

Sports Captains & Prefects



**SWIMMING
PREFECTS**  Emily Heath, Eloise
Lathwell and Lily Turner

**CHEER
CAPTAINS**  Evie Gray and Eryn
Dewey-Bruce

**CHEER
PREFECTS**  Amber Duxbury, Savannah
Lowrie, Rosemary Lucas, Polly
Stock-Hoy and Eliza Stock -Hoy

**DANCE
CAPTAINS**  Seren Lewis and
Sophie van der Knaap

**DANCE
PREFECTS**  Imogen Stacy, Sophia Lane-
Chow, Alissia Thomas,
Rosemary Lucas, Polly Stock-
Hoy and Lizzie Cook

**CROSS
COUNTRY**  Emily Bradshaw
and Jude Francis

**HOCKEY
CAPTAIN**  Hannah Miller

**HOCKEY
PREFECTS**  Gena Benwara and
Chloe Donaldson

**GYM
CAPTAINS**  Eleanor Phelan and
Laurine Collomb

**GYM
PREFECTS**  Ellie Roberts, Amber
Duxbury, Sophie van der
Knaap, Megan James and
Savannah Lowrie

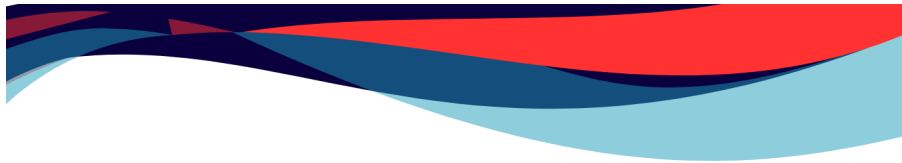
**NETBALL
CAPTAINS**  Eva Johal and
Evie Khan

**NETBALL
PREFECTS**  Norah Keaveny, Ellie
Baker and Abi McMichael

**FOOTBALL
CAPTAIN**  Lucy Coughtrey

**FOOTBALL
PREFECTS**  Erin Eckersley, Chloe
Donaldson and Jude Francis

**SWIMMING
CAPTAIN**  Amy Woolland



MAKE SURE YOU DON'T MISS

Music - Extra-Curricular Timetable

Are you passionate about music? Whether you love to play an instrument, sing, perform, or simply enjoy making music with others, we have a wide range of ensembles and groups for students of all ages and abilities. Please see the timetable below and explore the exciting opportunities available this year:

Percussion Ensemble: Sixth Form students only

Junior Steel Pans: Years 7-8, no previous experience required. Come along and give it a try!

Big Band: By invitation only, open to students across all year groups who play a saxophone or brass instrument.

Performing Arts Choir (PAC): Our all-singing, all-dancing choir, performing songs from the world of musical theatre. Audition information coming soon

Senior Steel Pans: Years 9, 10 and 11, no previous experience required.

String Ensemble: Open to students across all year groups who play the violin, viola, cello, double bass, or harp.

Junior Performing Arts Choir: Audition information coming soon for our all-singing, all-dancing choir, performing musical theatre favourites.

Jazz Group: By invitation only.

Junior Band: Years 7, 8 and 9, for students who play a woodwind or brass instrument, regardless of experience level.

Guitar Ensemble: Open to students across all year groups who play the guitar.

Concert Band: Open to students across all year groups who play a woodwind or brass instrument.

Senior Choir: Years 9-13, welcoming singers of all abilities.

Junior Choir: Years 7-8, welcoming singers of all abilities.

Chamber Choir: Audition information coming soon for our premier choral ensemble for dedicated and accomplished singers.

Djembe Ensemble: Open to students across all year groups. No prior experience necessary.

Keyboard Ensemble: Open to students across all year groups who play the piano or keyboard.

Get Involved! Whether you're an experienced performer or looking to try something new, there's a place for everyone in our music community. We encourage all students to get involved, develop their skills, make new friends, and experience the joy of making music together.

We look forward to welcoming you!

Mr Beach, Head of Music



Music Department

Extra-Curricular Timetable 2026-27

To find out how to get involved in any of these groups, please speak to your music teacher!

DAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
LUNCHTIME 12.30-13.00	Percussion Ensemble (Mu1) Junior Steel Pans (Mu2)	Senior Steel Pans (Mu1) String Ensemble (Mu2)	Junior Band (Mu1) Guitar Ensemble (Mu2)	Senior Choir (Mu1) Junior Choir (Mu2)	Djembe Ensemble (Mu1) Keyboard Ensemble (Mu2)
AFTER SCHOOL 15.15-16.15	Big Band (Mu1) Performing Arts Choir (Hall)	Junior Performing Arts Choir (Mu1) Jazz Group (Mu2)	Concert Band (Mu1)	Chamber Choir (Mu1)	

Learn a Musical Instrument

On Monday, we hosted the music instrument taster event aimed at Year 7 pupils. There were lots of very excited young people in attendance; students got try a whole host of different instruments.

Learning a musical instrument is one of the most rewarding opportunities available to students. Our experienced specialist teachers provide high-quality tuition in a supportive and inspiring environment, helping students to develop confidence, creativity, discipline, and a lifelong love of music. Instrument lessons offer the perfect opportunity to develop new skills, perform with others, and become part of our thriving musical community.



Learn an instrument at Newlands Girls' School

Music is a huge part of life at Newlands

We have over 170 pupils learning an instrument in school every week and this number continues to grow. We're incredibly proud of our team of instrumental teachers that support and nurture these students, encouraging them to practise and make the most of their lessons.

What are the benefits to learning an instrument?

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Develops patience | Increases memory capacity |
| Builds confidence | Cultivates Creativity |
| Encourages self-expression | Reduces Stress |
| Increases reaction time | Builds personal discipline |
| Strengthens immune system | Improves time-management skills |
| Improves coordination | Betters academic achievements |

and so much more!



There are **two pathways** to learn an instrument, depending which instrument your child wants to learn.

1 Flute, clarinet, saxophone, bassoon, violin, viola, double bass, guitar, ukelele, bass, drum kit & percussion

Instrumental tuition for these instruments is delivered by our music HUB **Berkshire Music Trust**. To sign your child up for lessons at school, please head to berksmusictrust.org.uk

For further information or any queries, please email: admissions@berksmusictrust.org.uk

2 Voice, piano, oboe, trumpet, trombone, euphonium, tuba & cello

Instrumental tuition for these instruments is delivered by private tutors that visit school.

To sign your child up for lessons, please use the email addresses below and include: *your child's name, year group & whether they have any prior musical experience.*

Voice - Tara Chapman : sflhtch@gmail.com

Piano - Kat Forster : katforster@icloud.com

Oboe - Helen Turnbull : h.turnbull40@gmail.com

Cello - Sally Whale : sewhale@yahoo.co.uk

Trumpet, trombone, euphonium & tuba - Simon Davie :
simon.davie@hotmail.co.uk

For any general queries or advice, please do email Mr. Beach
chrisbeach@newlandsgirls.co.uk

Music Tour 2027



We are delighted to announce our forthcoming Music Tour to Amsterdam in July 2027, open to all students in Years 9 to 13. Whether students are experienced singers or have never sung in a choir before, we warmly encourage them to take part. The only requirement is a commitment to joining Senior Choir this year and attending rehearsals. The tour will provide an exciting opportunity for students to develop their musical skills, perform in a series of concerts across the Netherlands, and gain valuable experience performing for international audiences.

Alongside their musical commitments, students will enjoy a range of cultural and educational visits, including Amsterdam's famous canal network, the Van Gogh Museum, the historic city of Delft, and the traditional Dutch towns of Alkmaar and Volendam. The itinerary also includes a full day at Efteling Theme Park and opportunities to experience Dutch culture through cheese-making and clog-making demonstrations.

We are looking forward to what promises to be an unforgettable experience, combining music, culture, and adventure, while showcasing the talent and enthusiasm of our students on an international stage.

A letter will be sent out shortly with details on how to register your daughter for a place.

Mr C. Beach, Head of Music

Newlands in the Saddle



Calling all students who own/share or have access via a riding school to a horse or pony

Our Raising Achievement Mentor, Mrs Holder is a keen equestrian in her own time and is offering students the chance to compete in equestrian events for the school.

The [National Schools Equestrian Association \(NSEA\)](#) runs many inter-school competitions and if there is enough interest from students who would like to compete and represent Newlands, Mrs Holder would like to set up an NSEA School Team.

You do need to have your own horse or pony and be able to get to the competitions which are usually approximately 1-2hrs away although there are some competitions held at Berkshire College of Agriculture which is very local. Classes range from 40cm – 1.05m for the Show jumping, intro upwards in Dressage and there are also some One Day Events which would be from around 70cm upwards. There is also an online Winter Dressage series called 'Pop Up Dressage', this is ideal if you have access to a horse/pony but don't have transport or you could ride a test on a riding school pony if you ride regularly somewhere, as you just need to record the test and send it in for judging. There would also be an NSEA membership fee of £21 for the year and an entry fee for each event.

If you are interested, please pop in to Room M4 at breaktime on Wednesday 16th September have a chat and talk a bit more about the process of getting started with Mrs Holder.

Let's celebrate linguistic diversity!



Do you speak a language other than English at home? We are looking for students to take part in our *Celebration of Languages* assembly, which will take place during the week commencing 21st September.

Participants will be asked to prepare a few sentences in their home language, along with an interesting fact about their country of origin to be shared in English.

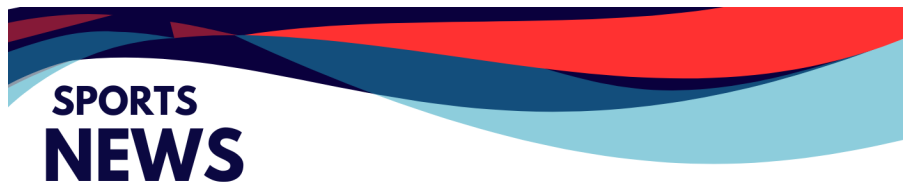
If you are interested in participating and have not yet expressed your interest, please come to L1 on Monday 14th September.

We look forward to celebrating the rich linguistic diversity within our school community.

A Spanish Summer for Sixth Form Volunteers



This summer, two of our sixth formers Charlie Stapleton and Sophia Hills, were lucky enough to have the opportunity to spend two weeks volunteering in Albacete, Spain. Alongside helping Spanish teenagers improve their English, they worked on many team projects including formulating a business idea to pitch to local councillors and creating their own music videos. It was an incredible experience which helped them to cultivate many skills including teamwork and self-confidence, as well as make friends from all over the world.



PE Clubs

A reminder that **ALL** PE clubs will be in full swing from **next week!**

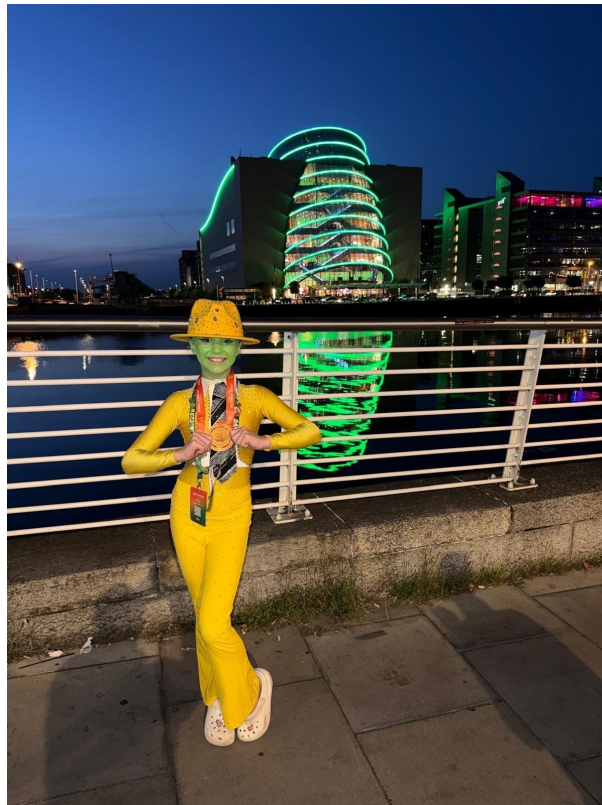
If you are attending a **morning club**, please make sure you enter school via the **Newlands Drive gate** – NOT the main gate or through the car park.

Students are reminded to take extra care when arriving, as this is also a busy time for staff entering the school site. Please arrive in your PE kit and make sure you have packed your full school uniform, including the often-forgotten **school shoes!**

Smartphone Reminder 📵

A reminder that in line with the school policy smartphones are not permitted, this rule also applies **between 4:30–5:00pm when leaving after-school clubs**. Please make sure phones remain away in line with the school's expectations.

Summer of Dance Success for Piper



We are always interested to hear of our students' sporting successes outside of school. Piper who has just joined us in Year 7 had an amazing summer competing at the Dance World Cup, bringing home six world medals including one Gold and most impressively together with her partner Millie, a 3rd place out of over 70 competitors in the Children's Jazz Duet category.

Piper also competed at the prestigious All England Finals in Eastbourne and brought home an amazing seven medals! To round off her successful summer, she also completed her first professional role-ice skating as a body double in an advert that has been screened in cinemas and TV and also won advert of the week!

Well done Piper and welcome to Newlands!

Daisy Serves Up Success



Another student who has just joined us in Year 7 is also celebrating a recent success. Daisy is a rising tennis star and recently won the 12U singles and 14U doubles at the Berkshire County Championships. Congratulations Daisy and welcome to Newlands, we look forward to following your tennis journey.



Key Stage 3 – Ines Tome (9D)

For a fantastic and proactive start to her Leadership course. Well done, Ines!

Key Stage 4 – Reyah Hassan (11C)

For a great first circuit training session as part of her GCSE PE coursework. Organised, focused and determined – well done!

Key Stage 5 – Alissia Thomas (12D)

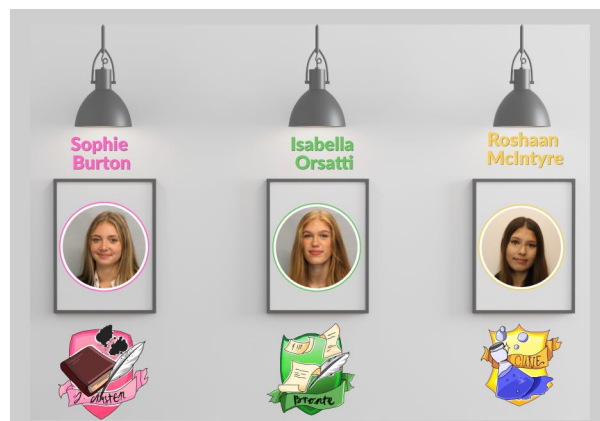
For fully embedding herself in the NGS PE Department during her first full week at the school. Alissia has helped at Dance auditions, volunteered to support Rugby Club and has been a friendly and enthusiastic face throughout the department. It feels like she has always been part of our school!

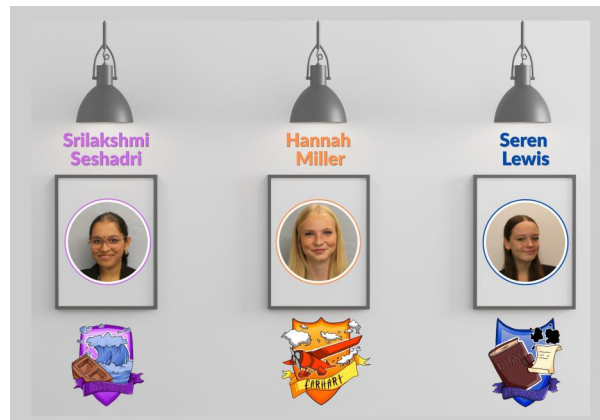


House Captains

Congratulations to Sophie Burton, who has been promoted to House Captain for Austen this year. A big thank you to Nevaeh Oliver for all her help during the Summer Term. All other House Captains remain the same.

Information will be shared with Year 12 students next week about how to apply to become a **Deputy House Captain**.





Becoming a DofE Ambassador

"In June, with the support of students and staff at Newlands (thank you!), I was selected as one of 29 DofE UK Youth Ambassadors for 2026–27 after a competitive application process. Since completing my Bronze Award in Year 9, becoming an Ambassador was always something I hoped to achieve, and I've loved every moment so far.

Youth Ambassadors promote the DofE nationally at major events such as the London Marathon, Gold Award celebrations and political, education and youth conferences. We represent young people's voices on issues that matter to them and support the charity's social media and fundraising campaigns.

Recently, our cohort had the privilege of speaking with Ed Jackson, an ex-England rugby player who became paralysed from the shoulders down after a freak accident. His recovery, charity work and public speaking were incredibly inspiring to hear about first-hand.

This month, I have two exciting opportunities. I've been asked to co-host a DofE drinks reception in London, attended by the Duchess of Edinburgh (a big confidence challenge for someone who isn't naturally a public speaker!). I'm also travelling to Liverpool with two fellow Ambassadors to attend the Labour Party Conference, where we hope to speak to MPs and ministers about the DofE Award and youth issues important to us. I'm particularly interested in mobile phone use and social media, 14–16 education in England, and mental

health services within the NHS. We'll also attend workshops, speeches, and a dinner reception in the evening.

Very soon, you'll be able to find profiles of this year's Ambassador cohort on the official DofE website, and you may see some of us appear in local newspapers. If anyone is considering applying next year, I'd be more than happy to chat further about the application process and the role. I'm only three months in, but I'd highly recommend it!"

Evie Kewell, Year 13



3 - Evie pictured in the first row, third in from the right.



Next Week's Menu

Week Commencing: 24/08/26 14/09/26 05/10/26 26/10/26				
CLASSIC HOT & HEARTY				
CLASSIC MAIN MEALS		VEGETARIAN MAIN MEALS		
MONDAY		MONDAY		
Pork Sausage (Beef Casing) or Halal Chicken Sausage (Beef Casing) & Mashed Potatoes with Onion Gravy		Vegan BBQ Boston Bean Sausage Casserole & Mash (VE)		
TUESDAY		TUESDAY		
Cajun Chicken, Tomato & Sweetcorn Wholewheat Pasta Bake with House Salad		Lentil & Chickpea Dahl with Roasted Tikka Cauliflower & Steamed Rice (V)		
WEDNESDAY		WEDNESDAY		
Roast Breast of Turkey, Crisp Roasties, Seasonal Vegetables & Roast House Gravy		Cheese & Potato Pie with Roast Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables & Roast House Gravy (V)		
THURSDAY		THURSDAY		
Sweet & Sour Chicken with Carrot Rice		Crunchy French Onion & Leek Macaroni Cheese with House Salad (V)		
FRIDAY		FRIDAY		
Chip Shop "Fryday" Fish, Salmon Fishcake or Pizza with Chips, Peas & Tartare Sauce		Vegan Moroccan Spiced Butternut Squash Pasty with Chips & Peas (VE)		
DESSERTS				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Chocolate Sponge with Chocolate Sauce	Pear & Apple Orchard Crumble	Cocoa Bread & Butter Pudding	Jam & Coconut Sponge	Apple Traybake
Fruit and Jelly Pots Available Daily				
JACKET POTATOES Topped with a Choice of: Cheese, Tuna or Beans Available Daily				



**MADE
YOUR
WAY!**

**CHOOSE IT!
ADD IT!
TOP IT!**

Switch up your flavours with our street food-inspired range, available **Tuesday to Thursday**.
With weekly rotating choices, there's always something tasty.

Choose a base, add protein, and top it your way!

Visit the restaurant to check out what's on offer each week

NATURALLY

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Garlic and Chilli Noodles (VE)	Singapore Fried Rice (VE)	Lentil & Chickpea Dahl with Crispy Bombay Potatoes (VE)	The Big Plant Burger (VE)	Vegan Singapore Noodles (VE)

TRATTORIA

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Pasta in Cheese Sauce	Tomato & Basil Pasta	Margherita or Pepperoni Pizza	Creamy Pesto Pasta	Margherita Pizza

5 DAILY MEAL DEALS
Bringing You Great Value Every Day!

CHOOSE ONE FROM + **CHOOSE ONE FROM**

1 Main Meal
Choose from our daily changing main meals

2 12oz Pasta Pot
Daily changing sauces

3 Jacket Potato
with 2 toppings

4 Sub Roll
Made fresh on site daily

Dessert Of the Day
or
Piece of Fruit
or
Bottle of Water

ALL MEAL DEALS
£2.90

or

5 chill deal
Choose 4
1 Filled Roll,
1 Snack Pot 4oz,
1 Small Home Bake,
1 Drink

IT'S IMPACT FOOD

For
PARENTS AND CARERS

School Payment System - Automatic Top-Ups

iPayimpact is the school's electronic payment system and is used to pay for both purchases at the canteen and school trips.

Did you know you can enable iPayimpact to **automatically top-up** your child's School Meal fund? You can either set a weekly amount for them to spend, or you can set it to auto-top-up the amount you choose, when the balance on your child's account falls below a certain value – enabling you to relax knowing your child won't run out of funds at the till. (You can keep an eye on purchases via the Transaction History facility). Of course, if you want to, you can cancel or amend your chosen amount, or the threshold balance which triggers a top-up, at any time.

The images below will help you set up an auto top-up (just remember to set your Auto Top-Up Amount to be higher than the 'when balance below' threshold – otherwise the auto top-up may not trigger a second time).

For any questions about iPayimpact, including to request your child's unique account code if you haven't registered yet, please email finance@newlandsgirls.co.uk.

Payment system update
Over the coming weeks, iPayimpact's payment system will be updated. When this happens, any saved cards you will need to save a new card and reapply it to your settings.

Create Automatic Payment

Name

Fund Name

Regularity*
Change 'Regularity' from 'Weekly' to 'Top-Up' using drop-down menu

Start Payments From*

When Balance Falls Below*
Remember to make the Automatic top-up amount higher than the 'When Balance Falls Below' threshold (otherwise the top-up may not trigger a second time)

Automatically Top-up*

Payment Method*
Finally, select your payment card using drop-down menu

Is Active ☒

iPayimpact

Payment system update
Over the coming weeks, iPayimpact's payment system will be updated. When this happens, any saved card details will be removed and you will need to add your card again. If you use automatic payments, you will need to save a new card and reapply it to your settings.

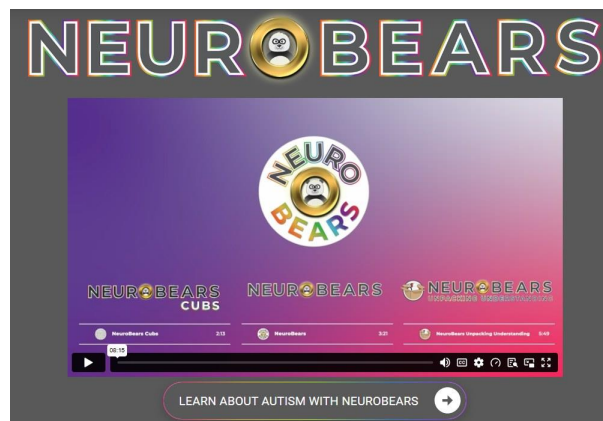
Your child's name
Newlandsgirls Girls' School

add Funds

add money
£10.00

In your child's account, open School Meal fund and click on the AutoPay button

Support for young people with autism



A website run by Reading University offers some useful information and support for young people with autism (up to the age of 14) which may be helpful for some of our KS3 students or students who have recently received a new diagnosis and their families: [Working with Young People - Centre for Autism](#).

Find out more about Clare's Law

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DISCLOSURE SCHEME CLARE'S LAW

**IF YOU ARE WORRIED THAT YOU,
OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW,
MAY BE AT RISK OF DOMESTIC ABUSE...**

...you can ask the police to check whether their current or ex-partner has a history of abusive or violent behaviour.

This is known as making a 'Right to Ask' request under the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS), also called Clare's Law.

Clare's Law covers all forms of domestic abuse – physical violence, controlling or coercive behaviour, economic or sexual abuse.

**Make a Clare's Law application
to Thames Valley Police**

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO ASK



**For further
information visit**

victims-first.org.uk/crime-info/guidance-and-support/domestic-abuse



Matthew Barber
Police & Crime Commissioner
for Thames Valley



Information about
SAFEGUARDING



On Monday morning, an assembly on Safeguarding was delivered to the whole school. Students were reminded of the importance of speaking up and were signposted to support both in and out of school. The presentation served as a reminder that we are all members of a community and we must look out for each other.

We would like to share the key messages from this assembly with you over the next few issues of 'Newlands News'.

What is Safeguarding?

We start every academic year with a whole school safeguarding assembly and that is because safeguarding is **everyone's business** and that includes the students too.

Safeguarding means to protect children and young people from harm. This could be harm happening within the home, outside the home or online. It is important to recognise that not all safeguarding concerns happen in person.

Our responsibility as a whole community is to ensure that help and support is provided as early as possible, when needed, to ensure all of our students can thrive and succeed to the very best of their ability.

Safeguarding Team

At Newlands, we have four members of staff who have a particular additional responsibility for safeguarding. These posters are in all of our classrooms and communal spaces:

			
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
MRS SUZANNE NUTTYCOMBE	MRS KATE KALINOWSKI	MRS HELEN PRESCOTT (Tuesday to Friday)	MISS CHARLEY YOUNG
ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER (Office in Maths Block)	ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER (Office next to Q-Space)	DEPUTY DSL (Attendance Office)	HEAD OF YEAR & PE TEACHER (KS4 HOY Office)

"Everyone at Newlands Girls' School cares about your welfare. We are a listening school. If you are worried tell somebody. Do not feel you have to keep a concern to yourself. The staff are trained to help you."

Protecting Young People from Serious Harm



Child abuse is when anyone under the age of 18 is either being harmed or not properly looked after. There are four main categories of abuse:

- **Physical abuse** is when someone hurts a young person on purpose and could include hitting, beating or punishing with an object.
- **Emotional abuse** happens in many different ways but includes being made to feel worthless, inadequate, constantly criticised, frightened or unloved.
- **Sexual abuse** is when a child is enticed or forced to take part in sexual activities.
- **Neglect** is when a young person's basic needs, like food, clothing and shelter, are not being met continually.

What characteristics might a student experiencing abuse or neglect demonstrate?

All of these signs could be a cause for concern and should be reported.

- Anxiety, depression, self-harm, being withdrawn
- Physical injuries
- Substance misuse
- Eating disorders
- Self-destructive behaviours
- Offending/violent, anti-social behaviour
- Inappropriate sexualised behaviour
- Poor hygiene, unclean uniform, hunger
- A change in behaviour

Students were reminded that the most important thing to take away from the assembly was that if they have a concern, about themselves or someone else, they must **DO SOMETHING**.

Students were encouraged to speak to a friend, their Form Tutor or Head of Year, a member of the Student Focus Centre Team or one of their subject teachers – anyone they trust.

If you have concerns or worries, please share them by contacting the school and asking to speak to one of the Safeguarding team.



Summer Reading Challenges



It's been wonderful to meet our new Year 7s and to find out about the books they've been reading over the summer. The response to the reading challenge set during their induction day at the end of last term has been truly amazing. If you haven't yet handed in your reading record to claim your bookmark, there's still plenty of time at either a break or lunchtime or during the Library induction visits which will be starting from next week. Look out for details of the most popular books as recommended by Year 7 in a future edition of *Newlands News*.

For existing students, we ran a Track My Read Summer Challenge - many thanks to all of you who took part and congratulations to Mishika (9B) for winning the competition overall and to runners-up Hannah (8A) and Miraya (9D) - please come to the Library to collect your prizes.

Mrs Flood, School Librarian



Students Shine During Work Experience Placements



Our Year 10 and Year 12 students completed their work experience placements before the summer holidays, and we are delighted to report that the programme was an outstanding success.

Stepping into a professional environment can be daunting, but our students embraced the challenge with enthusiasm, maturity and determination. Throughout their placements, they demonstrated excellent communication skills, professionalism and a willingness to learn, making a positive impression on employers across a wide range of industries.

Work experience provides students with a valuable opportunity to develop workplace skills, gain insight into different careers and build confidence outside the classroom. Our students rose to the occasion, adapting quickly to new environments, taking on responsibilities with commitment and pride, and dealing admirably with any challenges they encountered along the way.

The feedback received from employers was overwhelmingly positive. One employer commented:

"Students were absolutely excellent throughout the course of their time with us. Each one proved to be a punctual and dedicated worker for a week, and they completed a substantial number of administrative tasks that would not have been done in such a quick timeframe otherwise."

Another organisation praised a student's contribution, saying:

"Your student has been fantastic to work with and has made a great impression on our members and on the team."

Employers were particularly impressed by our students' initiative and work ethic. One supervisor shared:

"Your student was a hard worker, used her initiative and could be left to work through tasks. No tasks were a problem, she just got on with it and worked so hard."

These comments reflect the dedication, resilience and positive attitude shown by our students throughout their placements. Many students found themselves undertaking tasks and responsibilities that were completely new to them, yet they approached every opportunity with confidence and professionalism.

The experience has not only helped students develop important employability skills but has also given them a better understanding of the workplace and potential future career paths. We hope the insight gained will inspire them as they continue their educational journey and begin making decisions about their futures.

We would like to thank all the employers who generously gave their time and support to provide these invaluable opportunities. Their guidance, encouragement and willingness to invest in the next generation have helped make this year's work experience programme such a success.

Congratulations to all of our Year 10 and Year 12 students for representing the school so positively. We are incredibly proud of the maturity, commitment and professionalism you displayed throughout your placements. Their success is a testament to their hard work and willingness to step outside their comfort zones, embrace new experiences and make the most of every opportunity.



September Schedule

TUESDAYS

Run & Coffee **6.45am** **5km**

Meet @ Cracknells

THURSDAYS

Run **7.00pm** **5km**

Meet @ Cracknells

Run as you like it

WEST WYCOMBE CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL 'About Time'



Lawrence Power
Artistic Director.

'One of the top 10 musical events'.....The Guardian * * * * *

17-19th September 2026

St. Mary the Virgin, Hambleden RG9 6RX



Festival Website

WEST WYCOMBE CHAMBER MUSIC @ HAMBLEDEN

Welcome to the 2026 West Wycōmbe Chamber Music Festival

"ABOUT TIME".

This year I wanted to take the idea of 'Time' as a rather interesting jumping off point. Not just hopefully creating a fun Musical journey across the ages but also exploring music that relates to various aspects of time in our five concerts. Starting in 16th-century Florence with the extraordinary story of the lute playing Galileo family and the son whose intellectual and artistic vitality would go on to change the world and the very nature of time. As well as other extraordinary time related works by such composers as **Beethoven, Schumann, Bach, Vivaldi, Mendelssohn, Faure, Shostakovich** and even **Edith Piaf** to name a few.

As always I will be joined on this journey by some of the most exciting musicians performing in the world today.

I so look forward to seeing you in September.

Lawrence Power
Artistic Director.

Artists

Violins - Stephanie Gonley - Annabelle Meare - Charlotte Spruit

Viola - Lawrence Power | Cello - John Myerscough

Piano - Simon Crawford Phillips | Lute - Sergio Bucheli

Plus some very special young musicians for the annual Young Artists Concert.

Gabriel Power - Piano | Fabian Broman Crawford-Phillips - Cello

Fidelio Coles - Violin

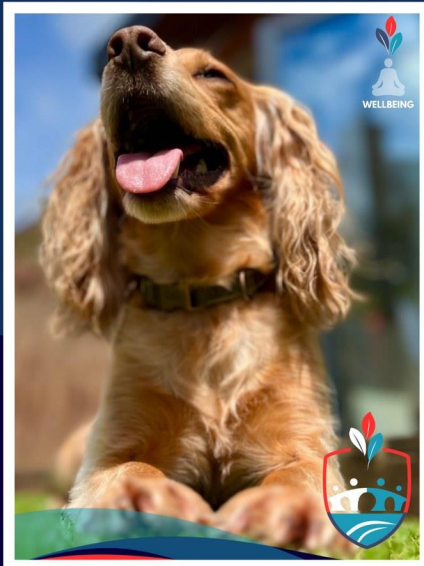
Festival Pass £100 - Evening Concerts £25 - Daytime Concerts £20 - Students £5 - Children free

BOX OFFICE: 01494 528659 - 07948 897148

www.westwycombemusic.org.uk

Theme for Next School Week:

Democracy in Action



COMING UP

MONDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER

House assemblies:
Curie Hall, Darling Gym,
Frank Sports Hall

TUESDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER

Year 9/10 Parents DofE
Information Evening
6.00pm

WEDNESDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER

Rescheduled Year 10 Art
Trip - V&A - all day

THURSDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER

Year 10 Information
Evening 6.00pm

FRIDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER

House assemblies:
Austen Sports Hall, Bronte
Hall, Earhart Gym



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