

Newlands News - Term 1 - Issue 5



A Message
FROM THE HEAD



Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

100% attendance in Year 7 on Friday last week-Well done!

I will be writing to you regularly about how we are doing and updating you on the highlights. A huge well done to year 7 last week. Now let's see if we can achieve that is every year group!

As we continue to strengthen our work around attendance and punctuality, I would like to remind families about Studybugs, our system for reporting student absence and communicating with school about attendance. Studybugs is linked directly to our registration system, enabling parents and carers to quickly tell us if their child is absent or has an appointment. It also helps us to identify promptly if a student is unaccounted for, supporting our safeguarding procedures.

We will increasingly use Studybugs for all attendance-related communication as the year progresses, including notifying families about lateness, sharing important attendance information and, importantly, celebrating improvements and excellent attendance.

We want every family to sign up. Please use the email address that we already have for you on Arbor as the systems are linked. If you have not already done so, please download the Studybugs app or register online: <https://studybugs.com/about/parents>.

Good attendance makes such a difference. Every lesson, every day and every minute in school matters, and we are grateful for the continued support of our families in helping our students attend regularly and arrive on time.

Thank you, as always, for working in partnership with us.

Jo Capon, Headteacher

Road Safety

You may be aware that one of our students was knocked over by a car on Tuesday afternoon. Fortunately, the student has not suffered any major injuries; however, this incident emphasises the need for continual vigilance when crossing the busy roads around the school area.

We will continue to address road safety as part of our Personal Development curriculum, but we politely request that you take the time over the weekend to discuss this with your daughters.

We would like to thank the students, staff, parents and carers who offered their support on Tuesday. We are proud to have such a compassionate community.





Fieldwork Trip for GCSE Geographers



Our Year 11 geographers enjoyed some geography in action this week on the River Pang as they investigated how rivers channels change downstream and assessed the flood risk of the River Pang. At each site students measured width, depth, flow rate and gradient of the river alongside assessing the risk of flooding and its likely impacts on people and property. We received expert tuition at the River Pang from our former colleague Mrs Turner, who retired from the Geography Department in the summer of 2024 after 25 years' service and now provides river studies tuition on the River Pang with the John Simmonds Trust. Staff very much enjoyed catching up with their former colleague. All students took part enthusiastically and wore their waders with pride! Being taken by tractor to each river site added to the excitement.

Students then spent a fieldwork follow up day in school on Thursday where they presented, analysed and evaluated their fieldwork which will then enable them to answer their Paper 2 exam questions. A chance to practice this will be coming up shortly in the November mocks!







School Council Elections

Well done to all the students that stood for student council. Everyone did a fantastic job.

Congratulations to the following students who have been elected the School Council for this year.

Year 7: Saskia Hobkinson and Millie- Anne Thackery

Year 8: Freya Thomas and Alaina McNamee

Year 9: Chloe Tushingham and Hana Hussein

Year 10: Khadeeja Ali and Imogen McCarroll

Year 11: Sofia Hamid and Alya Sogut

Year 12: Ylana Superlana and Annabella Farrall

Our first meeting will be held on Wednesday during lunch time in room 27. Looking forward to seeing you all there.

Ms Ortlepp, Head of PSHE, Teacher of Mathematics and Psychology

Sixth Form Prefects Announced

Congratulations to our newly appointed Sixth Form Prefects! These students have been recognised for their commitment, positive attitude and the contribution they make to life at Newlands. The Sixth Form Prefects play an important role within the school, acting as role models for younger students, supporting departments and helping to run many of our extra-curricular activities. We look forward to seeing them take on their new leadership responsibilities.

"I'm incredibly grateful and excited to have been selected as a Sixth Form Prefect. Having been part of the school since Year 7, it's particularly meaningful to now have the opportunity to give something back to the school community. I'm looking forward to representing my fellow students, supporting others, and making a positive contribution to both Sixth Form and school life."

Salsabeel (12F)

"It is an honour to be a Prefect and a role model to the younger years. It's such a good opportunity to build skills in areas such as responsibility and leadership; I hope to learn a lot from this role in the years to come."

Grace (12B)

6th Form

PREFECTS

Fatima Zahra	Ava Dirkin
Kainaath Rashid	Aekas Thiara
Samrah Rashid	Chloe Donaldson
Lola Smith	Anna Cranch
Holly Nash	Amelia Hassanuddin
Ellie Roberts	Hania Zainab
Catalina Donaldson	Mila Novobritsky
Grace Poole	Florence Murray
Eva Johal	Fatema Lokhandwala
Maya Moss	Sophia Todd
Arianna Lacciarini	Lily Rowles
Zaynah Ahmed	Fatimah Nasir
Laiba Shaheen	Emily Bradshaw
Salsabeel Riasat	Evangeline Khan
Ylana Supelana	Sophie Harris
Mahnoor Khan	Kitty Forsyth
Minaal Ashraf	



Dof E Award Winners -Bronze Award



CONGRATULATIONS



Well done to our Year 10 students on completing their Bronze DofE award. We are very proud of the commitment this group has shown to earn their Bronze DofE certificates and badges. They have all completed their expedition, volunteering, skill and physical sections – which is a great achievement!

To any Year 10 students still in the process of completing their Bronze DofE – please make sure you get assessor reports from your sections and upload them to eDofE. We are looking forward to seeing more students complete their Bronze DofE in the next weeks and months.

Mr. Key and Mrs. Matzik-Jones, DofE Co-ordinators

BRONZE

AWARD WINNERS

Sara Sovily	Scarlet Hay
Lexie Welham	Sam Hamilton
Any van der Knapp	Cynthia Guo
Hardaya Thiara	Eliza George
Flo Stroud	Erela Fung
Phoebe Spiers	Kaitlyn Eldridge
Ruby Smith-Jones	Izzy Duell
Sophie Richard	Elsa Differ
Anisha Rai	Tilly Daniels
Nika Mohazab	Phoebe Cooper
Aisha Malhotra	Amelie Butler
Cecily Kewell	Phoebe Brookes
Gia Johal	Lyla Blackburn
Maya Hussain	Zoe Barnes
Isabel Hills	Promise Afolayan
Sophie Heath	



THE DUKE OF
EDINBURGH'S AWARD



Silver Award

Congratulations to our first Year 11 fully completed Silver DofE students!

For other students, please keep going and remember you need to remind your assessors to fill in a report for you.

CONGRATULATIONS



MAKE SURE YOU DON'T MISS

Music Tour 2027 - Deadline for expressions of interest



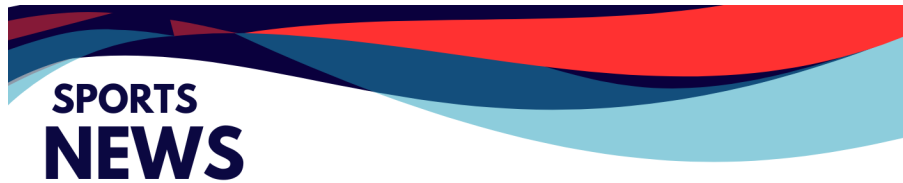
Open to students in Years 9-13, this Sunday (11th October) is the deadline for expressing interest in joining next summer's Music Tour of Amsterdam.

Building on the high standard of musical ability demonstrated by many of our students and the enjoyable experiences we have had on previous music tours, we are planning to visit Amsterdam from **Monday 13th July to Saturday 17th July 2027** (6 days/5 nights). This will be a fantastic opportunity for performers to broaden their performance experience by participating in concerts in a variety of venues across the Netherlands.

The tour will also include a range of cultural excursions, allowing students to experience some of the country's most famous attractions and traditions, including a canal cruise, a visit to the Van Gogh Museum and an excursion to Delft. To ensure that all performers are fully prepared for the tour, students will be expected to attend Senior Choir rehearsals every Thursday lunchtime. Regular attendance is essential, and places on the tour may be withdrawn where attendance or commitment to rehearsals is a concern.

For full details of the trip, including the cost and payment schedule, please see the letter which was recently sent to parents and which you can also view on the parents' section of our website: [Music Tour 2027](#) . At this stage, we are seeking expressions of interest, prior to offering the trip on iPayimpact.

Could you please complete the Microsoft form to register your interest for this trip by
Sunday 11th October: [Music Tour 2027 - Register Interest](#)



Swimming Superstars



On Friday evening eight of our swim squad competed in the ESSA Secondary Schools' Team Relays Competition regional round in Watford. Each team had to race a 4 x 50m freestyle relay and a 4 x 50m medley relay and we were up against 23 other schools in the competition. With a number of regional events occurring across the country, the top 20 across all events will progress to the National Finals. Our swimmers took on the challenge incredibly well, with some fast times in their individual legs being recorded. Over the course of the evening the Juniors came 12th in their medley and 7th in their freestyle relay and the seniors 6th in their medley and 12th in their freestyle relay.

Well done to: Lottie Ratnapala, Megan Doyle, Sienna Hamilton and Maya Karaoglan for the Junior team and Sophie Heath, Mattie Curtis-Smith, Lily Turner and Huimin Liew for the Inters!

Full Points for Netball Team



Our U13 Netball team took to the courts on Thursday this week in the SE Berks tournament. As winners of the U12 tournament last year, they had a reputation to uphold, and that they did! With a round robin format where every result counted, we played eight and won eight, and all with no reserve players - it was tiring stuff! Finishing the tournament with a total of 40 points out of a possible 40 and a huge positive goal difference the U13s were once again crowned champions - great work Lottie, Sofia, Hannah, Flo, Eleanor, Iris and Bea!

White Hat Wonders!



During our swimming lessons, we have red hat swimmers and white hat swimmers. To gain a white hat, you must swim a full length, tread water for one minute and be able to jump or dive in safely.

A huge congratulations to the following girls for gaining their white hats so far this term! You have received House Points for this achievement!

Chloe Seeley (7D)

Olivia Hadaway (9A)

Azalea Tate (7A)

Onahi Ahonye (8A)



Key Stage 3

Shiffa Iqbal (7F) for great defending and use of tactics in Kingball.

Key Stage 4

Evie Addicott (11A) for a great start to our new commercial dance team!

Key Stage 5

Megan Frank (12D) for working consistently well and making a great start to A-Level PE



Next Week's Menu

Week Commencing: 31/08/26 21/09/26 12/10/26				
CLASSIC HOT & HEARTY				
CLASSIC MAIN MEALS		VEGETARIAN MAIN MEALS		
MONDAY Mexican Beef Nacho Pasta Bake	TUESDAY BBQ Chicken with Salt 'n' Pepper Wedges, Asian Slaw & Garden Peas	MONDAY No Waste Cauliflower Cheese Pasta Bake (V)	TUESDAY Chipotle Quorn Dippers with Salt 'n' Pepper Wedges, Asian Slaw & Garden Peas (V)	WEDNESDAY Roast Pork or Salt 'n' Pepper Roast Chicken, Crisp Roasties, Seasonal Vegetables & Roast House Gravy
THURSDAY Fragrant Lemon & Herb Chicken with Spicy Rice	FRIDAY Chip Shop "Fryday" Fish, Pizza or Fishcake & Chips with Peas and Tartare Sauce	WEDNESDAY Roasted Vegetable & Chickpea Pastry Roll with Crisp Roasties, Seasonal Vegetables & Roast House Gravy (V)	THURSDAY Hot Maple & Cajun Quorn Fillet with Spicy Rice (V)	FRIDAY Crispy Chickpeas & Vegetable Pakora Burger with Mango Slaw, Chips & Peas (V)
DESSERTS				
MONDAY Sticky Lemon Sponge	TUESDAY Mixed Berry & Apple Crumble	WEDNESDAY Chocolate & Whole Banana Puff Pastry Pinwheel	THURSDAY Nut Free Bakewell Sponge	FRIDAY Hot Chocolate Rocky Road & Custard
Fruit and Jelly Pots Available Daily				
JACKET POTATOES				
Topped with a Choice of: Cheese, Tuna or Beans Available Daily				



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 Vegan Singapore Noodles (VE)	TUESDAY The Big Plant Burger (VE)	WEDNESDAY Pesto Pasta with Roasted Tomatoes (VE)	THURSDAY Onion Bhaji Skewer with Bombay Potatoes (VE)	FRIDAY Garlic & Chilli Noodles (VE)



MONDAY Pasta in Cheese Sauce

TUESDAY Tomato & Basil Pasta

WEDNESDAY Margherita or Pepperoni Pizza

THURSDAY Creamy Pesto Pasta

FRIDAY Margherita Pizza

NEWLANDS PARENTS' ASSOCIATION



The Pre-Loved Uniform Shop (PLUS)

Sunday 11th October

9.30am-11.00am



**Lots of new stock including
PE kit and coats!**

Mental Health Ambassadors at Newlands



As Mental Health Ambassadors, our role is to help promote mental health awareness and remind students that they do not have to face challenges on their own. We are here to listen, chat and help students find the right person if they need additional help.

Why Mental Health Matters

Good mental health is important because it affects how we think, feel, behave, and cope with everyday life. Although it may not always seem obvious, looking after your mental health can make a huge difference to both your emotional and physical wellbeing. When people are struggling, they may become quieter, more reserved, or isolate themselves from others. Positive mental health, on the other hand, can help us feel happier, more confident, and better able to manage challenges. It also helps us be kind, supportive, and a good friend to those around us. Simple habits such as getting enough sleep, taking breaks, talking to someone you trust, and looking out for one another can make a big difference. By looking after our mental wellbeing, we not only help ourselves but also build the strength to support others.

You Are Not Alone

Mental health challenges can affect anyone. Many well-known celebrities, including Taylor Swift, Billie Eilish, Dwayne Johnson and Justin Bieber, have spoken openly about their experiences with anxiety and depression. One example is Selena Gomez, who has shared her own experiences with mental health difficulties and the impact they had on her life. Despite these challenges, she has gone on to build a successful career as a singer, actress, and

business owner. Stories like these remind us that mental health difficulties do not define who you are or what you can achieve.

Where to Find Support

As well as understanding why mental health is important, it is also important to know where you can go for support in school. The Wellbeing Hub is located downstairs in the Year 7 block, and our Wellbeing Practitioners are on hand to listen and support students at break and lunchtime. Remember, you never have to deal with things on your own. At Newlands, safeguarding is at the heart of everything we do, and there is a strong culture of supporting students to speak up if they are worried about themselves or someone else. The school's **"Speak Up"** approach helps create a safe space where students can share concerns and access the support they need. If something is worrying you, there will always be a member of staff ready to listen and help.

A Space to be Heard

As we finish, we would like to remind you that **World Mental Health Day** takes place on **10th October**. This year's theme is **"A Space to Be Heard"**, reminding us how important it is to listen, speak up, and support one another. Whether it is thinking about things you can do to help yourself feel calmer, identifying people you can talk to when you need support, or knowing the places you can go to feel safe and supported, help is always available. Most importantly, remember that it is okay not to be okay, and that being heard can be the first step towards feeling better.

Written by Ruby, Chloe, Laya, Elenore, Genevieve, Shaan, Katie, Georgia



October 2026

NEWSPAPER CLUB

THE STUDENT VIEW

This week Chloe in Year 9 has been finding out about Black History Month

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History Month is underway, with the national theme of 'Honouring our Communities'. This year there will be a focus on everyday contributions, leadership, and the cultural impact of Black individuals. Black History Month provides awareness of discrimination that is still happening all over the globe.



TIME TO CELEBRATE



The month also helps celebrate cultural contributions that are still under represented. You can celebrate by taking part in joyful community celebrations, vibrant cultural festivals and by remembering all the achievements made by black individuals and pioneers, for example: Martin Luther King, and Rosa Parks.

Have a great Black History Month!

Update on
CAREERS

Year 11 Get Ahead with CV Writing

Our Year 11 students recently took part in a CV-writing session designed to help them prepare for their next steps. They explored how to present their skills, strengths and achievements effectively, learning how to create a CV that showcases their experience and potential to future employers.

The session gave students valuable practical advice on highlighting their personal qualities, extra-curricular activities and transferable skills, as well as the importance of tailoring a CV to different opportunities. Whether applying for a part-time job, work experience placement or a future apprenticeship, our students now have a stronger understanding of how to make a positive first impression.

"The assembly was extremely helpful and taught us things about writing a CV that we probably otherwise would not know. The two speakers were really friendly and engaging, and were teaching us from first hand experience in their own careers. The advice we received has really helped us write our own personal CVs."

Daisy Newman and Ellie Baker, Year 11

Exploring Careers in Law



This morning, students in Year 12 and Year 13 had the opportunity to hear from legal professionals at Blanchards Family Law Firm, when they visited the school to share their experiences and provide valuable insight into careers in the legal sector.

The assembly featured three speakers working in different roles within the firm: a family law solicitor, a marketing manager and a member of the HR team. Each speaker explained the responsibilities involved in their role, highlighting the personality traits and transferable skills needed to succeed in their profession. This gave students a broader understanding of the variety of career opportunities available within a law firm, beyond the traditional role of a lawyer.

A particularly interesting aspect of the assembly was hearing about the speakers' individual career journeys. They shared their experiences from school and university through to their current positions, explaining the different steps they had taken to reach where they are today.

The session provided an engaging and informative opportunity for students to learn more about the realities of working in law and related professions.

We would like to thank everyone from Blanchards Family Law Firm for taking the time to visit the school and share their knowledge and experiences with our Year 12 and Year 13 students.



Consultation on Changes to School Admissions

Please see details from the local authority about proposed changes to their admission arrangements:

RBWM must formally consult key stakeholders when proposing updates to admission arrangements. This academic year, we are running a formal consultation from 1 October to 12 November 2026 to gather feedback on our proposed arrangements for September 2028.

They are specifically consulting on three key changes; however, you are welcome to comment on any aspect of their existing arrangements. The three main proposed changes are:

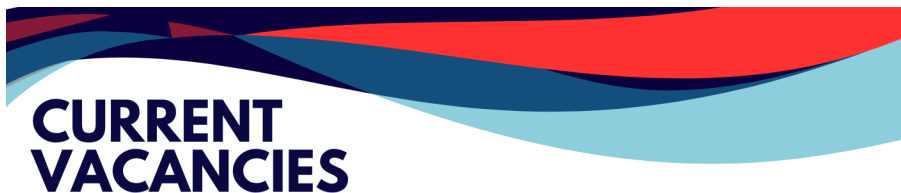
- *A reduction in the Pupil Admission Number (PAN) for Courthouse Junior School, from 90 to 60 places in Year 3.*
- *An increase in the Pupil Admission Number (PAN) for Waltham St Lawrence Primary School, from 22 to 25 places in Reception.*

- *The addition of a discrete admissions criterion for pupils for whom RBWM acts as the 'corporate grandparent', applicable to schools where RBWM is the admitting authority.*

These changes, if introduced, will take place from September 2028. Arrangements for 2027 entry remain the same as those of previous years.

Parents are invited to respond to this consultation via this [link](#).

Further details on the changes and the reasons for them are available [via the survey link](#) and in the full admissions document attached to this email. If you have any questions about the proposed plans or our wider admissions arrangements, please email rbwm.admissions@achievingforchildren.org.uk.



WE ARE HIRING

Wellbeing & Behaviour Support Practitioner

Permanent, Full-Time
£19,569.00 - £19,881.00 Annually (Actual)
Scale 3, points 5-6. FTE £28,409 - £28,861.
Pro-rata actual for 30 hours per week, term time only: £19,569 - £19,881

We are seeking a proactive, highly flexible and committed Wellbeing and Behaviour Support Practitioner to join our team. Working as a member of the Wellbeing team, this role plays a vital part in ensuring all students feel safe and supported at school.

This is an excellent opportunity for someone with experience of working with young people with emotional, mental health or behavioural needs, who wants to make a meaningful difference to young people's lives.

For full details including how to apply, please visit: [Wellbeing & Behaviour Support Practitioner at Newlands Girls' School, Maidenhead, Berkshire | MyNewTerm](#)

Closing Date for Applications: 9:00am, Monday 19th October, 2026



TAKEOVER DAY 2026

Do you want to take over someone's job in the council?

Tuesday 24 November

Have your voice heard by decision makers?
Experience real jobs
Learn and understand more about council roles

We are inviting young people aged 13 to 18 to experience working with professionals in RBWM & AfC for Takeover Day on
24 November 2026, 9am to 4.30pm
Town Hall, Maidenhead SL6 1RF

Places will be given on a first come first serve basis. Sign up by completing [this form](#), or scanning the QR code below.

Application submission deadline: 6 November
Provisional place confirmed: 9 November
Final place confirmed: 16 November
(subject to receipt of photo consent and medical form by the 13 November)

More information will follow upon sign up, but if you have any queries, please contact The Participation Team
✉ myvoice@achievingforchildren.org.uk

Places are limited

achieving for children

www.rbwm.gov.uk
Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead

LEISURE *focus*

NEW!

NEWLANDS SWIM MEMBERSHIP

ONLY
£9.99

FOR THE FIRST
3 MONTHS*

*£14.99 THEREAFTER



UNLIMITED ACCESS
TO LANE SWIMMING



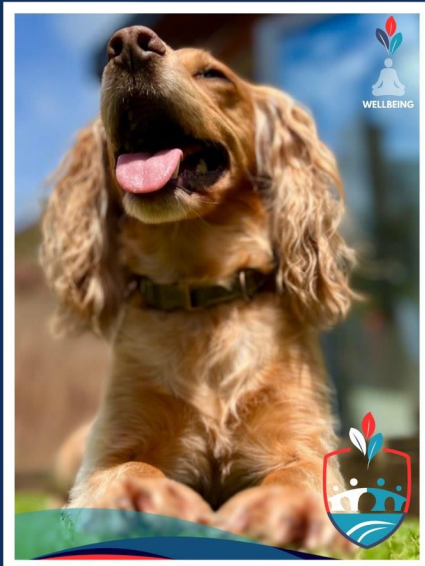
UNLIMITED ACCESS
TO AQUA SESSIONS



UNLIMITED ACCESS
TO FAMILY SESSIONS

Theme for Next School Week:

Celebrating Black History



COMING UP

MONDAY 12TH OCTOBER

Anti-Bullying Meeting -
Lunchtime

TUESDAY 13TH OCTOBER

Primary Schools Festival

WEDNESDAY 14TH OCTOBER

MFL Speaking Mocks - Start

Year 12 Geography Field Trip

Cross Country Cup 9.15am-
1.00pm

Matilda Theatre Trip - 6.00-
9.00pm

Student Council Meeting -
Lunchtime

Y13 Reports (after 3pm via
Arbor)

THURSDAY 15TH OCTOBER

Y7 Meet the Form Tutor
4.00-7.00pm

FRIDAY 16TH OCTOBER

Non-Uniform Day

6th Form Spanish Meal



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