Newlands News - Term 2 - Issue 2



A Message FROM THE HEAD



Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

This week, we came together as a school community for our Act of Remembrance, taking time to reflect on the sacrifices made by others and to remember those close to us whom we have lost. It was a moving occasion with Years 7 and 8 together in the Hall, made especially poignant by the beautiful performance of the Last Post by Lizzie and Anna. Their playing provided a powerful reminder of the importance of remembrance and reflection. A special well done goes to our History Prefects, who did an excellent job leading the assemblies and helping our school community reflect on the significance of remembrance.

Alongside this, we have been celebrating all things House during our House Assemblies. It has been great to recognise the enthusiasm, commitment and achievements of students across all our Houses, and to see the strength of our school spirit on display. We look ahead to the Bake Off, Deck the Doors and House Dance before the end of term!

It has been a particularly busy week, ending with our Children in Need Pyjama Day. Thank you to everyone who took part and supported this important cause.

Have a restful weekend.

Jo Capon, Headteacher

Hot Chocolate with the Head





ATTENDANCE MATTERS

A Fantastic Effort from Our Students

I am delighted to share that our whole-school attendance remains exceptionally strong at **95.5% year to date**, reflecting the commitment our students and families continue to show towards learning and being in school every day.

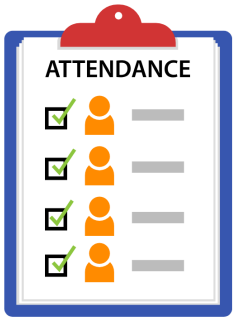
There are some particularly encouraging highlights:

- **Year 7 are leading the way with an outstanding 97.9% attendance**, demonstrating a fantastic start to secondary school life.
- **Years 8 and 9** are also performing extremely well at 96.7% and 96.2% respectively.

- **Year 11**, where attendance has risen by 0.3% to 92.6% as students continue their preparations for examinations. Keep going Year 11!
- **Year 9**, which has improved to 96.2%.

A special mention goes to some of our highest-attending tutor groups:

98.5%	7C
98.4%	8E
98.4%	7D
98%	7F
97.9%	9A



These figures demonstrate the positive culture our students have developed around attendance and the understanding that every lesson counts. Thank you to our students, parents, carers and staff for working together to ensure that attendance remains a strength of our school. Every day in school provides opportunities to learn, achieve and thrive. Let's keep up the excellent work! As we head into the winter season let’s not lose focus on the importance of being at school. It makes such a difference to outcomes for everyone and there is so much to look forward to this term.

Remembrance Day





Despite the rain moving our annual Remembrance Day assembly indoors this year, the Newlands community came together to mark this important occasion and remember all those who have served and sacrificed their lives for their country.

Miss Capon was joined on stage by our students who are members of uniformed organisations outside school, including the Sea Cadets, Army Cadets and Girlguiding. Their involvement provided a meaningful reminder of the many ways in which young people can continue to show commitment and service.



On Remembrance Sunday Gemma (7D) also took part in a parade with the Junior Sea Cadets, a group she has been a member of for several years. Gemma was recently very proud to be awarded the Eilean Musdile Trophy, the award recognises consistent effort, commitment, and dedication over the years.

An NGS Night at the Musicals







Thursday night saw the inaugural 'A Night at the Musicals'. This was a concert designed to give students an opportunity to perform a solo or duet from their favourite musical. We had 47 students take part, from almost all year groups, including seventeen Year 7 students! There was a fantastic range of songs on offer, from the rousing chorus of *Oom-Pah-Pah* from

Oliver, the heartbreaking ballads of *On My Own* and *I Dreamed a Dream* from *Les Misérables* to the beautifully touching songs *My House* and *Quiet* from *Matilda*. The students showed extraordinary courage to sing in front of an audience of roughly 150 and should all be very proud of their achievements. Thank you to the NPA for providing refreshments.

Mr Qureshi, Teacher of Music



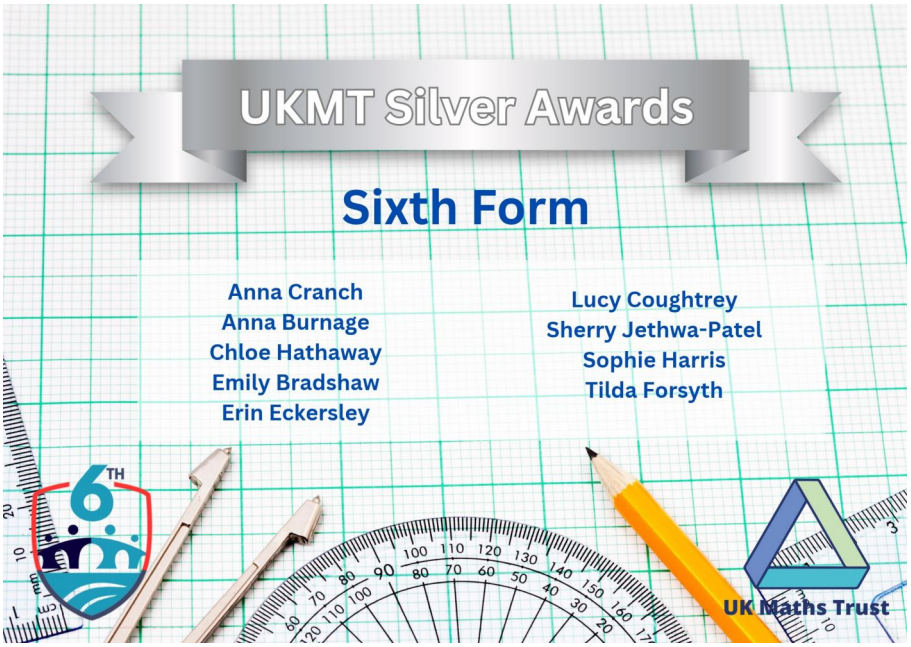


UKMT Maths Challenge

The UK Maths Trust is the leading charity which works to advance the education of young people in Maths, each year they run competitions aimed at different school years, all with the aim of inspiring a love of problem solving. It was recently the turn of our Sixth Form

students who took on the Senior Maths Challenge where they faced 25 multiple choice questions which had to be completed within 90 minutes.

Congratulations to the following students who performed particularly well in the Senior Challenge:





Pyjama Day for Children in Need



Staff and students swapped their usual school clothes for something a little more comfortable as Newlands took part in a pyjama day in support of Children in Need!

From cosy dressing gowns to colourful onesies and favourite PJs, everyone got into the spirit of the day, helping to raise awareness and support the fantastic work of Children in Need.

A big thank you to everyone who took part and helped make the day such a fun way to support a very worthwhile cause!





MAKE SURE YOU DON'T MISS

Open Evening



Come along to our Sixth Form Open Evening on Tuesday 24th November, 6–8pm and find out what life at Newlands Sixth Form could look like for you!

SPORTS NEWS

Berkshire County Netball Tournament





On Saturday our U16 and U14 Netball Squads attended the Berkshire County Netball Tournament at Wellington College. They were facing opposition from schools right across Berkshire to win a place at the South round of this national competition. The vast majority of the schools were private schools, in fact there were only three state schools competing across the entire competition.

Both squads started extremely well against some very strong teams and both came out of the first round of two matches as winners.

There were two more matches in Round 2 and the teams needed to win both to proceed to the Cup Competition. The U16s were first up and confidently won both their games and proceeded to the Cup. The U14s were next and just missed out on a place in the Cup competition after losing by one goal to St. Georges, so they were then competing in the Plate competition.

The Final round was a round robin competition with four teams in each of the Cup, Plate and Bowl competitions.

The U14 convincingly won all their Plate matches against Marist, St Barts and Queen Anne's to be crowned Plate winners. The team gelled extremely well, played some fabulous netball and learned a great deal from the experience.

Then it was the U16 team's turn in the Cup competition against the other three Round 2 winning teams.

We only had seven players in the U16 team and they had already displayed some incredible netball. First up was Queen Anne's who we had drawn 12-12 with in Round 1. In another neck and neck battle both teams gave it their all and at full time the score was 11-11.

Our second game against Claires Court was a little less stressful to watch and resulted in a convincing 15-5 win.

Our last game was against Wellington College, who had just beaten Queen Anne's so we knew it was going to be a tough match and our draw against Queen Anne's meant only a win would ensure we definitely made it to the next round. Another neck and neck game ensued where every player on the court gave it everything they had and by half time we were down by one. After an inspiring half-time team talk from Kat, the team took the court with what I can only describe as fire in their bellies. Three quick turnovers put us two then three ahead of Wellington but they kept fighting back and finally the whistle blew with the final score of 12-10 to Newlands!

They had done it! Berkshire County Champions and a place in the South Region Final in February!!

A Credit to NGS

We were so proud of all our players at this tournament. They were a huge credit to the school and their sportsmanship and determination was a pleasure to watch.

The PE department would like to say a huge thank you to Kat Ratnapala who gives up her time to coach these girls every week and makes such an impact on their performance, and also thank you to all the parents that transported students and stayed to support them. It was so lovely to have you all there and your support is so appreciated.





Congratulations to all of the Netball Squad on their determined, goal-getting performances at the tournament:

U16

Grace Speller, Norah Keaveny, Ellie Baker, Charlotte Camp Overy, Bonnie Hutchinson, Abi McMichael and Aiza Khan

U14

Eleanor Riches, Ruby Cairncross, Alice Hampson, Aurelia Hargroves, Iris Keaveny, Lottie Ratnapala, Caitlin Griffiths, Flo Bedwell, Flic Baker and Izzy Johnston





Regional Cross-Country Cup



On Saturday 7th November six of our hardy cross-country runners competed in the regional round of the National Schools Cross Country Cup. This year it was held at Taunton racecourse which meant an early meet at school for a long drive to the competition.

Our Junior team was the first age group to compete and their 2.5km course looped twice around parts of the racecourse in a much more forgiving course than the first round – less hills and less mud!

With 56 runners in the competition, we knew we needed some high-placing finishers to have a chance of finishing high up in the team competition. Bea Francis and Marnie O'Connell rose to the challenge, working together as they ran, finishing in a fantastic 8th and 9th position. Lucy Ellis was our third finisher in 22nd position and Alice Rees, Lexi Davies and Maiya Puddephatt soon followed her to the finish line.

After an anxious few minutes wait, the scores were announced and we were delighted to be placed in 4th, out of nine teams. The top three teams qualified for the National Finals, so we were so close! Next year this is a definite possibility with the increasing numbers and improving talent at Monday's Cross-Country Club!

A massive well done to all six of our runners! The next competitive opportunity for cross country will be on Saturday 16th January which is the Berkshire Cross Country Championships, which is a team competition – runners need to pop the date in their diaries now!

Newlands PE Instagram



The PE department would like to remind everyone that we have an Instagram account to do with all things PE!

Please follow along to find out about fixtures, our girls' achievements and opportunities for them in PE and extracurricular sport at Newlands. It will also be a useful platform for any last minute cancellations (often weather-related this time of year!) and we will aim to update any fixture changes on Instagram for parents to see.

Follow us here: Newlands' Girls School Sports (@newlandsgirlsschoolsport) • Instagram photos and videos

Scan the QR code or search @newlandsgirlsschoolsport on Instagram.

Gym & Dance Show Viewing

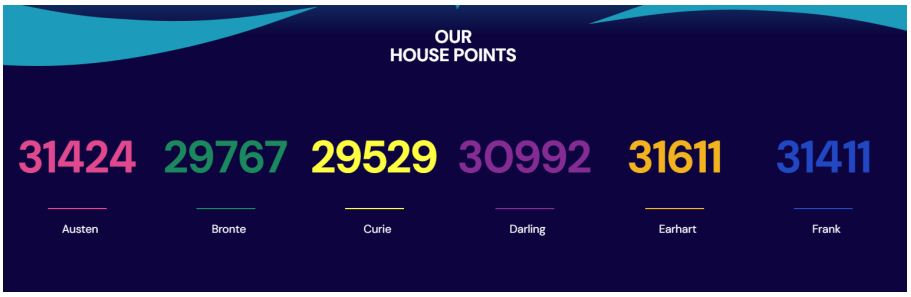


A reminder of the 2026 Gym and Dance Show DVD viewing. Tuesday 17th November 5-7.30pm in the school hall. Open to all of Newlands students, whether or not you were in the show last year! If you weren't this is the ideal opportunity to see what it is all about and get involved this year.

Payment details are all on iPayImpact – Please sign up ASAP!



House Points Update



House Dates for your Diary



NEWLANDS
PARENTS' ASSOCIATION



DONATE YOUR PRE-LOVED CHRISTMAS JUMPERS!

Spread a Little Christmas Cheer

As the festive season approaches, we are asking for donations of Christmas jumpers to sell at our Pre-Loved Uniform Shop (PLUS).

If you have any Christmas jumpers at home that are no longer needed, we would love to give them a new lease of life! Donating them to PLUS is a great way to help other families, save money and support a more sustainable approach to clothing.

Jumpers in all sizes are welcome, provided they are clean and in good condition. Please drop off any donations at the school Reception.



Gather your teams for Quiz Night



The Newlands Parents' Association (NPA) invites you, your family and friends to join us for our ever-popular annual Quiz Night, hosted by our fantastic Quizmaster, Ben Cooke, on **Friday 4th December at 7pm**.

Tickets cost just £5 per person, with teams of up to six people. There will be a licensed bar, soft drinks and a raffle, as well as a prize for the winning team – so start brushing up on your general knowledge!

Quiz Night is a wonderful opportunity to get together with fellow parents, carers and friends to enjoy a fun evening. Best of all, the proceeds from the event will go directly towards supporting Newlands' students.

For full details, including how to purchase tickets by bank transfer, please see the letter sent to parents and carers this week.

We look forward to seeing you there!

For

PARENTS AND CARERS



Impact@NGS

CATERING NEWS

WEEK 2

Week Commencing;
26/10/26, 16/11/26, 07/12/26, 28/12/26, 18/01/27, 08/02/27, 01/03/27, 22/03/27

CLASSIC HOT & HEARTY

CLASSIC MAIN MEALS	VEGETARIAN MAIN MEALS
MONDAY Pork Sausage (beef casing) or Halal Chicken Sausage (Beef Casing) & Mashed Potatoes with Onion Gravy	**MONDAY** Crunchy French Onion & Leek Macaroni Cheese with House Salad (V)
TUESDAY Classic Beef Lasagna with Homemade Garlic Bread & Garden Peas	**TUESDAY** Vegan BBQ Boston Bean Sausage Casserole & Mash (VE)
WEDNESDAY Sweet Chilli Chicken Kofta with Lemon & Herb Roasted Potatoes, Seasonal Veg or Salad	**WEDNESDAY** Greek Style Quorn Fillet with Lemon & Herb Roasted Potatoes, Seasonal Veg or Salad
THURSDAY Chicken & Chickpea Korma with Carrot Rice & Spiced Roast Cauliflower	**THURSDAY** Cauliflower & Chickpea Korma with Carrot Rice & Spiced Roast Cauliflower (VE)
FRIDAY Chip Shop "Fryday" Fish, Salmon Fishcake or Pizza with Chips, Peas & Tartare Sauce	**FRIDAY** Vegan Moroccan Spiced Butternut Squash Pasty with Chips & Peas (VE)

DESSERTS

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Waffle Berry Pudding	Apple & Cinnamon Pie	Lemon Sponge & Custard	Baked Churros with Chocolate Sauce	Fruity Fridge Cake

Whole Fruit, Fruit Pots and Jelly Pots Available Daily

FRESHLY PREPARED SALAD BAR
Available Daily

JACKET POTATOES
Choose 2 Toppings: Cheese, Tuna or Beans Available Daily





Recently added to the Library ...

A selection of the new titles now available on the Library shelves. If you would like to reserve any of them please contact the Librarian, Mrs Flood.



Written by the author of the excellent **The Final Year** and **The First Year**. The story follows Alfie, who has recently and very suddenly, lost his mum. In the aftermath, he finds himself living back with his dad, baby sister and step-mum and the six weeks of the summer holidays feel like an eternity stretching ahead of him.

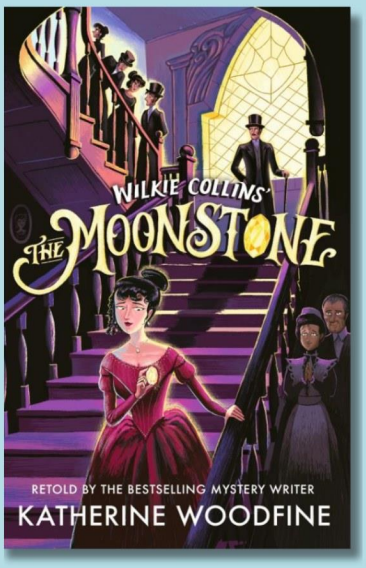
A highly emotional read which captures the depths and complexities of grief but is also full of light alongside the shade.

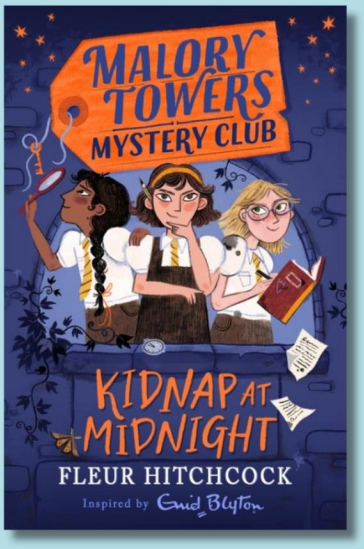
Recommended for Year 7+

Well loved author Katherine Rundell has adapted and updated Wilkie Collins' classic mystery story.

The Moonstone is a priceless yellow diamond, looted from an Indian temple by a murderous British colonel.Years later, it is given to young heiress Rachel Verinder as an eighteenth birthday present but it seems to only bring danger and misfortune. On the night of Rachel's birthday, the gem is stolen once again...

Recommended for Year 7+





Fleur Hitchcock's latest mystery series has taken the characters from the much loved books by Enid Blyton.

New girl Emma can't wait to explore the famous Malory Towers. Together with her new-found friends she quickly settles into school life, but soon there are big questions to be answered...What is their classmate Margaret hiding? Why is she lurking around the stables? And could there really be a kidnapper on the loose? An engaging read, which has retained all the elements of building friendships and starting a new school of the originals.

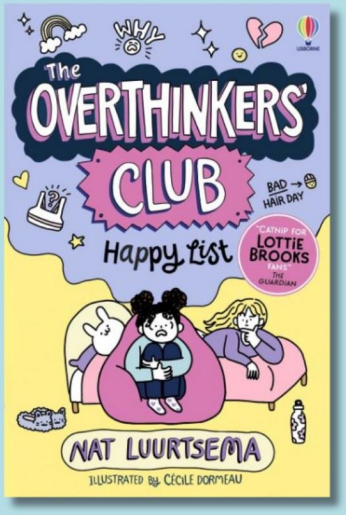
Recommended for Year 7+

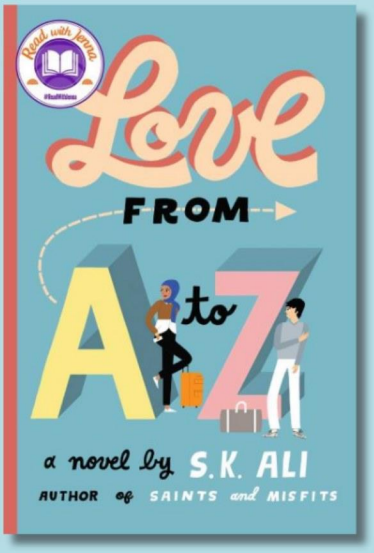
A new series which should appeal to fans of Lottie Brooks.

Birdie is an overthinker, and she has a lot to overthink. Her BFF Chloe wants new friends (BETRAYAL), she will be a teenager in one year (BREATHE), and a boy at school maybe has a crush on her (BUT HOW TO BE SURE?!) Lots of funny moments and relatable characters alongside self-help tips.

Overthinkers of all ages could enjoy this one!

Recommended for Year 7+





A readable romance about a group of teens facing an astounding variety of issues.

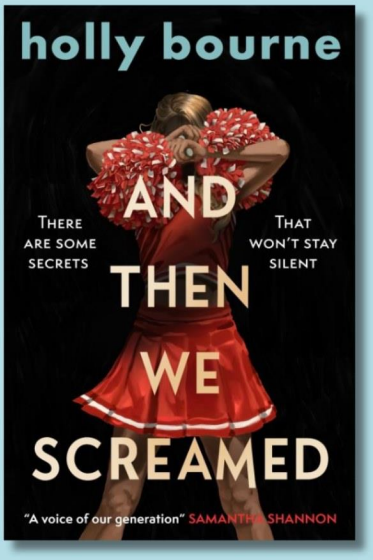
Love from A to Z unfolds in Doha, where Zayneb, suspended after challenging a teacher's prejudice, vows to reinvent herself. Adam is quietly coping with a recent multiple sclerosis diagnosis, hiding his struggle from his family. Their chance meeting sparks an unexpected connection through their shared journals.

Recommended for Year 8+

High school photographer Clover and her aspiring journalist friend Brady uncover some dark secrets in their cosy small town after an epidemic of screaming hits the town's teenage girls.

Full of mystery and conspiracy, it begins with the feel of a horror story but gradually turns into a cleverly worked tale of the things the young people feel forced to hide, and the result when the pressure finally gets too much.The characters and their reactions feel real and sympathetic. All in all an absorbing read.

Recommended for Year 9+



Don't forget to start your Christmas Card!



This weekend could be the perfect opportunity to create your entry for our annual Christmas Card Competition.

To enter, simply design the front of a Christmas card. Your design can be anything you like, from a magical winter scene to a more traditional festive image. The competition is open to students in all year groups, including the Sixth Form.

The winning designs will be professionally printed as glossy Christmas cards and sold in the Library during December. All money raised will go towards purchasing new books for our Library.

Get creative and enter! Please submit your designs to the Library by Friday 27 November.

November 2026

NEWSPAPER CLUB

THE STUDENT VIEW

This week Emma in Year 7 writes her debut article about Remembrance Day.

WHAT IS REMEMBRANCE DAY?

Remembrance Day is an international memorial day observed on 11th November to honour armed forces members who have died in the line of duty.

It's a special day when people say "thank you" and remember the brave soldiers who worked to keep us safe during wars. It is a time to think about people in the military who helped protect our freedom and make the world a better place.



WHY 11TH NOVEMBER?



It happens every year on November 11th. This date is important because a big war (World War I) officially ended on that day a long time ago in 1918.

IMPORTANT SYMBOLS

The Red Poppy: You will see lots of bright red paper or fabric flowers. After battles ended long ago, red poppies were the first flowers to grow back in the empty fields. Now, wearing a poppy is a quiet way to show you remember.



The Two-Minute Silence: At 11:00 AM, people stop what they are doing to stay quiet for two whole minutes. This quiet time lets everyone think kind thoughts and feel thankful.

HOW DID THE POPPY COME TO BE A SYMBOL ?



Moina Michael: Inspired by a poem American academic Moina Michael campaigned to make the poppy a national symbol of remembrance and sold silk poppies to honour the dead. She became known as the 'Poppy Lady'.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Anna Guérin: French lecturer promoted the idea of making fabric poppies to raise money for orphans and devastated regions of France. She brought the idea to veteran organisations, including the Royal British Legion, who then held their first official Poppy Day Appeal on November 11, 1921

WHY DO WE STILL LEARN ABOUT REMEMBERANCE DAY ?

- **Understanding History: Helps younger generations connect with the past and understand why society pauses to honour service members.**
- **Values and Empathy: Schools use the day to teach about community responsibility, mutual respect, and democracy.**



- **Appreciation for Peace: Children learn to value quietness, safety, and the importance of resolving conflicts peacefully.**

Update on CAREERS

Reflections on Work Experience



As part of our careers programme, students have the opportunity to explore different sectors and industries through work experience. While many students attend placements in person, virtual work experience can provide equally valuable insights into a range of career pathways. In the article below, one of our students reflects on her virtual work experience, sharing what she learned, the skills she developed, and how the experience has helped shape her future aspirations:

"On Tuesday, during the holidays I took part in some work experience with Browne Jacobson, it was a virtual event lasting from 9am - 4:15pm with breaks included. There was a variety of fantastic speakers who talked not only about law but the other careers connected to the law, they shared their experiences as well as talking about the different paths I could take. Personally, I had always had trouble deciding whether I actually wanted to go into law or what exactly in law I wanted to do. This event answered so many of the questions that I had and reassured me that there is no rush to find a specific route into law. I felt that the sessions didn't try to convince me to do law but were designed to aid me with my decision.

The speakers were wonderful, and listening to experts in that field made me realise that with the right motivation and effort you can succeed, one of the speakers who didn't do very well in her A-Levels explained how she still managed to excel in the field and she also emphasised the importance of work experience.

At the end of the session we were given a certificate. I would recommend doing work experience if you wish to gain information about a career you're thinking of going into and if you find out it's not for you then you've just broadened your knowledge of another field!"

Samrah Rashid, Year 12

In your area

WHAT'S ON

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

EMPOWERING
YOUNG PEOPLE
IN RBWM

achieving for children

WHAT MATTERS TO YOU?

Mental health? The environment?
Young peoples rights? Accessibility?

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

in your local community by joining the
RBWM Youth Council or RBWM Girls Forum.

SCAN ME



SCAN ME

Join the Youth Council

Join the Girls Forum

RBWM YOUTH COUNCIL

For more information contact us via....

girls forum RBWM Est 2018

@RBWM_YC @FHSRBWM

@rbwmyouthcouncil @girls_forum_rbwm

YouthCouncil@rbwm.gov.uk girlsforum@achievingforchildren.org.uk

"You are able to make change with people who become like friends to you."

"The Youth Council was an amazing opportunity to start voicing my opinion where I knew I would be heard."

More about us.....

- We aim to represent the interests of young people of the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead and create REAL change.
- Both groups meet twice a month face-to-face in Windsor or Maidenhead.
- Girls Forum meet on Thursdays.
- The Youth Council meet on Mondays.

More about the RBWM YOUTH COUNCIL.....

- We were established in 2021
- We have an elected Chair, Deputy Chair and Secretary, as well as created sub-committees within the council;
- Connect with other Youth Councils across the country and overseas,
- Conduct surveys and write reports on current issues concerning young people such mental health, lighting in public spaces and transportation;
- Attend conferences and conventions;
- Consult with councillors on the RBWM Budget and other issues;
- Collaborate with partners on projects that are relevant to young people
- Take part in training, campaigns, fairs and lots of other events
- and much much more!

More about the RBWM GIRLS FORUM.....

- We were established in 2018
- We have a Book Collection in collaboration with RBWM Libraries;
- We host Girls Empowerment Events which include high profile keynote speakers;
- Raising money and volunteering with local charities that support and promote inclusivity is something we are passionate about;
- Collaborate with local organisations and businesses to bring girls' perspectives to the fore;
- Challenge women in positions of power to deliver;
- Consult with the council on issues important to young girls
- and much more!!!

"I wanted to be a part of the change in the wider community - not just at school."

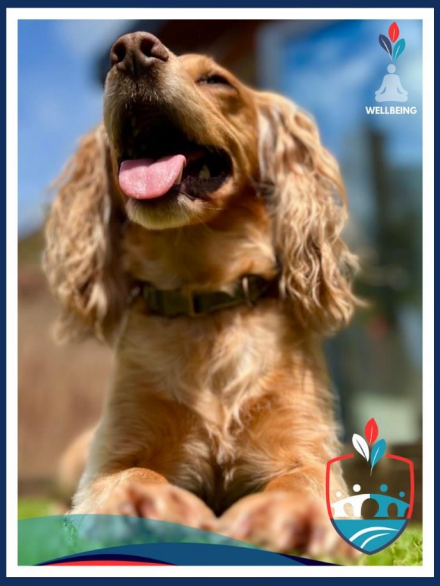
"Even in a short space of time, I've had so many incredible opportunities to represent and help young people."




Paint It Neon
BEN& JACK STUDIO
Glow & Paint Christmas Party
Your December night out just got a neon upgrade!
Get creative after dark. Paint your own neon leopard, no art skills needed! Step-by-step guidance, a live DJ and dance breaks.
Scan for tickets
Paint. Sip. Glow. Dance.
Thu 17th Dec 2026, 7-11pm
Ben&Jack Studio, Unit B Reform Rd, Maidenhead SL6 8BT
£35pp early bird (until 30th Nov), then £40pp. Includes a welcome drink & your leopard canvas to take home, plus a Paint It Neon Christmas party you won't forget!

Theme for Next School Week:

Safe on our Roads



COMING UP

MONDAY 16TH NOVEMBER

Frank House Assembly - Main Hall

Governors' meeting - Resources, Audit and Risk

TUESDAY 17TH NOVEMBER

End of Y11 Textile Mock Exam

Gym & Dance Show viewing 5-7.30pm

WEDNESDAY 18TH NOVEMBER

End of Y11 Textile Mock Exam

THURSDAY 19TH NOVEMBER

Y11 Fine Art Component 1 - outcome

Y11 Photography Component 1- outcome

EHCP Moving Up Careers Event Form-P3

FRIDAY 20TH NOVEMBER

Y12 Progress Reports (after 3pm via Arbor)

Y12 Careers Assembly

Y11 Fine Art Component 1 - outcome

Y11 Photography Component 1- outcome



CONTACT US

Farm Road
Maidenhead
SL6 5JB

Telephone Number: 01628 625068
Website: https://www.newlandsgirlsschool.co.uk/
General email: office@newlandsgirls.co.uk
Facebook: @NewlandsGirlsSchool
Instagram: @newlands_girls_school