

News-Bridge

Welcome to our second edition of News-Bridge. In our newsletter, we will aim to share relevant news, reminders, celebrations, achievements and/or let you know of any upcoming events for the diary!

Dates for the Diary

Tuesday 7th January: Pupils back to School!

27th January – 7th February Formal assessment fortnight (KS4)

14th January Workplace Visit to Timber - AG - year 10 students

17th January Tennis taster day (students to be confirmed)

14th February Last day of term

Curriculum Catch-up:

We've had another fun-filled and productive half term with students throwing themselves into their learning both in and outside the classroom. Here at Newbridge, we embrace all that school life has to offer. We value every learning opportunity and promote bringing 'learning to life' outside of the classroom to enhance learning outcomes through showcasing course content as it exists in the world. Learning experiences can answer questions like "how does this apply to me and others?" and "what does this look like in real life?" With this in mind, we have had lots of different activities including sports events and a Christmas Fayre that welcomed our parents in to school to purchase gifts made by students during construction lessons. It truly was fantastic to see so many parents and carers support their children and share in their successes.

In other news, students continue to embrace the house points system with a little healthy competition by earning points for displaying teamwork, resilience and respect. These are core values Newbridge actively encourages to enable young people to become successful and well-rounded individuals. Well done to the winning house 'Severn' who were rewarded with an ice skating trip for their efforts.

Achievers:

Initials only will be published in the newsletter to safeguard our students but rest assured, parents/carers will be messaged directly to say their child has been mentioned specifically.

Whole class reading Award: Class treat	Celebrating reading (Students who have achieved 20 reads): £5 voucher (already issued)
11b - "For engaging with their RSHE read as a group "	LT KS3, LMM Yr10, WN yr11, JC KS3, CM KS3, MD KS3
Extended writing: (KS4 GCSE prep & writing to inform KS3) £5 voucher	Curriculum awards: £5 voucher
1 st Prize £20 KS3 LRM 2 nd Prize £10 KS3 HF 3 rd Prize KS3 £5 JC 1 st Prize £10 yr11 LH 2 nd Prize £5 yr11 LS	English – LM yr11 for his independent writing Maths – TB yr11 for his resilience and engagement Science - JC KS3 excellent contribution in physics
Attendance rewards (£5 voucher) already issued	
MA (KS3), TB (yr11), HF (KS3), LF (KS3), LH (MO)	

Behaviour Blog – Meet the Team!

Farewell Mr. Clarke

After over 10 years at Newbridge, we say goodbye to Mr Clarke who is leaving at the end of term for pastures new. Over his time with us, Mr Clarke has fulfilled a number of roles culminating in being our Assistant Head Teacher. We'd like to wish Mr Clarke every success in the future as he continues his career in education.

"My love and passion for teaching, supporting and caring for students has always been real, authentic and relentless and it will remain this way for as long as I remain in education. I will always vouch that I have continued to learn just as much (if not more) from the students I have had the honour to work with; as they have learnt from me. Positive relationships and valuable life-long learning has been at the forefront of my time at Newbridge and this place will always hold a huge place in my heart".

Mr Clarke

Safe behaviours with technology.

We'd like to take this opportunity to bring your attention to a documentary that aired on Channel 4 on the 11th December 'Swiped. The School that banned smartphones'. The two episodes follow the challenges a group of Year 8 pupils face at a School in Colchester who, as part of an experiment, give up their smartphones completely for 21 days.

The concept of giving up our smartphones would be something all would struggle with to some varying degree but the effects of these devices on children's behaviour and safety were plain to see and sadly alarming.

Sadly, global safety measures are still struggling to keep the internet safe for our younger generation and algorithms are still targeting inappropriate and unlawful content towards vulnerable groups.

If at all possible, we would encourage all parents and carers to watch this documentary (if you haven't already) to highlight the possible harmful content being made available without them intentionally searching for it and to recognise the effects of excessive use of smartphones on learning behaviours and mental health.

Safeguarding Subject – Mental Health

The Christmas holidays have a lot of strong stereotypes and imagery - happy families and lots of fun, social activities - surrounding them. These are so heavily emphasised in our lives through TV and social media; for some that may be the way their holiday goes but for others they may struggle, and it can be hard to cope when you may feel as though you should be happy at Christmas - the way you see others feeling. For those who may struggle, we want you to know that you are not alone in feeling this way, and we have compiled a few tips to help deal with feelings of sadness and loneliness over the holiday.

To begin with, it is important to keep a routine: make sure that you're looking after yourself in the ways that you would in the school term, making sure to get enough sleep (and at the right times). Keeping a routine helps you to feel more productive and reduce stress, and things like a consistent sleep schedule and your habits before bed can help boost your mood and energy.

Make sure you keep in touch with the people you would normally, such as friends or family that you usually see often. Or maybe you could check in on someone you haven't spoken to for a long time and you should make sure you have someone to go to if you need to talk. If you're struggling, there is also advice and ways to talk at <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>. Dedicating quiet, alone time for relaxation is also important if you're feeling overwhelmed; you could do something you enjoy such as reading, watching a movie you like, playing games, or you could go out for a walk (keeping active is also a good way to boost your mood). So, if you feel down this Christmas, remember you are not alone – talking about your feelings is very important, so remember to talk to the people you trust and make sure to look after yourself over the holiday!

