

# News-Bridge

Welcome 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
Return to school: Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> April
Half term: Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> April
GCSE exams start: 12 <sup>th</sup> May
Last day of summer term: Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> July

## Curriculum Catch-up: World Book Day and Poetry Workshops

This year our World Book Day theme was inspired by the marvellous stories written by the talented writer, Roald Dahl. Again, our timetable was transformed into a jampacked day of exciting activities all focused around our love for books. Art focused on activities inspired by 'The BFG' and 'Charlie and The Chocolate factory' where students created dream jars and designed chocolate wrappers. In the drama sessions, KS3 students were able to dress up like characters from Roald Dahl books, some performed scenes from his plays, others took part in improvisation games and some students even danced part of a routine from 'Revolting Children' (in Matilda). Whilst in Science, the students made some amazing 'George's Marvellous Medicine', lava lamps and 'The Twits' toothpaste. Maths lessons were aimed around code breaking. Could you crack the code? Year 10 students were able to create theme tunes for Roald Dahl films using keyboards, whilst KS3 students used Song Maker - on Chrome Music Lab - to play theme tunes and songs from Roald Dahl films/ plays. The whole school even had time for a chocolate quiz! Which book do you think inspired that lesson? As always, students were eager to take part in the World Book Day activities and a good day was had by all. What will next year's World Book Day theme be?

Also, this half-term, we were honoured to have two visits from the inspirational, former Young Poet Laureate, Matt Windle. Matt leads poetry workshops both in schools and libraries; he engages students by bringing poetry to the level of those he teaches, using influences such as R&B and Rap music to enhance the poetic experience. Matt struggled with behavioural issues before being excluded prior to starting Year 10 himself. He then attended Wake Green Behaviour Support Centre. It was at the support centre that a teacher noticed Matt's incredible talent for writing poetry, and with support, Matt gained the confidence to enter the Young Poet Laureate competition. During the visit to Newbridge, Matt worked with the students to promote the Worcestershire's Young Poet Laureate competition. The theme for this year is 'Courage'. Matt inspired the students by reciting his poetry, talking about his journey then ran poetry workshops. Students were encouraged to brainstorm words associated by the theme of 'courage' then they identified rhyming words and phrases before using them to create their own magnificent poems. Some of the students will be entering their 'courage' inspired poetry into this year's Worcestershire's Young Poet Laureate competition.



## 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.

<b>Whole class reading Award: Class treat</b>	<b>Celebrating reading (Students who have achieved 20 reads): £5 voucher (already issued)</b>
KS3C	MS AL
<b>Extended writing: (KS4 GCSE prep)</b>	<b>Curriculum awards: £5 voucher (already issued)</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Prize £20 MS 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize £10 TK 3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize £5 MA	English – HF (LG engagement) Maths – AL Science - LH
<b>Attendance rewards (£5 voucher) already issued</b>	
KS3: MA, K-R C, LG, KH, HI Year 10: TGo, L-M M Year 11: JCo	

## Behaviour Blog: Positive communication

At Newbridge, we pride ourselves on fostering a nurturing and inclusive environment where every student, teacher, and staff member feels valued and respected. However, we must address a growing concern that threatens this harmony: verbal abuse directed at our dedicated staff.

Our teachers and staff work tirelessly to provide the best possible education and care for your children. They are here to support, guide, and inspire, often going above and beyond their roles. Unfortunately, instances of verbal abuse—whether in person, over the phone, or via email—have been on the rise. This behaviour not only impacts the well-being of our staff but also sets a poor example for our students, who look to adults as role models. We understand that frustrations can arise, and open communication is key to resolving any concerns. However, we kindly ask that all interactions with our staff remain respectful and constructive. Together, we can model the values of empathy, patience, and understanding that we wish to instil in our children. Similarly, we ask for your support in fostering a culture of respect and kindness. Please speak with your children about the importance of treating others—including their school staff—with courtesy and dignity. Together, we can build a school community where everyone feels safe, valued, and encouraged to learn and grow. Together, we can reinforce the importance of kindness, empathy, and constructive dialogue.

To address this issue, we want to remind everyone of our continued measures:

- **Clear Expectations:** We will continue to reinforce school policies regarding respectful communication and behaviour.
- **Support & Consequences:** Instances of verbal abuse will be taken seriously, with appropriate disciplinary actions and guidance to help students understand the impact of their words.

Thank you for your partnership in shaping a positive future for our students; your children.

## Safeguarding Subject – Managing Exam stress and anxiety

With exams fast approaching, it's important that we are able to manage our stress levels so that you can achieve your best possible grade! Exams can create feelings of worry and being under pressure, especially at high school where you're aiming for a GCSE'S. However, there are a range of things that you can do to help deal with the stress that you might be feeling...

**Make time for things you enjoy.** Find ways to release stress and celebrate progress. You could listen to music, draw, cook, go for a walk, play a sport or visit the cinema. It really important that you take time for yourself to relax and don't revise 24/7, your brain needs breaks too.

**Talk to others about how you feel.** Connect with other people, especially your peers who are also taking exams and might be feeling anxious too, you never alone and most of the people in your school are probably feeling the same way you are, even if they don't show it.

**Try to find balance.** Take regular breaks and be realistic about what you can do in a day. Keep things in perspective and remember that exams won't last forever- just a few weeks out of your whole life.

**Take care of your physical health.** Make sure you get enough sleep- sleep reduces stress and anxiety! food, water and exercise. If you take regular medication, keep up with your routine. Implementing a routine, as boring as it sounds, will help promote good sleep before your exams. Try to avoid drinking coffee and energy drinks these are stimulants and won't help you manage stress and anxiety.

**Focus on yourself.** Try not to compare yourself to others. Think of things you like about yourself and what you're good at.

**Ask for help** Talk through your concerns with your teacher/tutor who can let you know what support your school or college can offer you. No one is superhuman, we all get tired and overwhelmed so reach out if you need to. Your teachers are there to support you so let them know if they can help.

Give it your best shot. Challenge yourself to complete the work you find most difficult first and if you are not sure ask! Practise where you can. Review and revise. Keep calm and keep talking. You can do it!