

News-bridge (25-26)

Spring 1



Welcome to 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!

Term dates for 25-26



Term Dates September 2025 – July 2026

Professional Development (PD) Days are allocated for staff training and school is closed to all pupils

AUTUMN TERM 2025

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY (1)	Monday 1 st September
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY (2)	Tuesday 2 nd September
TERM STARTS FOR PUPILS	Wednesday 3 rd September
HALF TERM HOLIDAY	Monday 27 th October – Friday 31 st October
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY (3)	Monday 3 rd November
RETURN TO SCHOOL	Tuesday 4 th November
END OF TERM	Friday 19 th December at 12:00pm

SPRING TERM 2026

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY (4)	Monday 5 th January
TERM STARTS FOR PUPILS	Tuesday 6 th January
HALF TERM HOLIDAY	Monday 16 th February – Friday 20 th February
RETURN TO SCHOOL	Monday 23 rd February
END OF TERM	Friday 27 th March

SUMMER TERM 2026

TERM STARTS FOR PUPILS	Monday 13 th April
MAY DAY HOLIDAY	Monday 4 th May
HALF TERM HOLIDAY	Monday 25 th May – Friday 30 th May
RETURN TO SCHOOL	Monday 1 st June
END OF TERM	Friday 17 th July at 12:00pm
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY (5)	Monday 20 th July

Dates for the Diary

What's next:

Monday 23rd February - Students return to school

Friday 6th March- World Book Day & Year 10 Careers trip to Mazak

Wednesday 18th March - Year 11 Bishop's Wood and Wyre Forest Geography Trip

Friday 27th March - House Points Trip to the Sea Life Centre Birmingham

Curriculum Catch Up



This spring term has been a vibrant and enriching period of learning, both inside and beyond the classroom. Our students have engaged in a wide range of educational visits that have broadened their understanding of the world and deepened their appreciation of different cultures, histories, and communities. These experiences have complemented their classroom learning, where they have explored how societies develop, how communities work together, and how cultural perspectives influence the way people live and learn.

Through trips to local and regional sites, as well as focused study across subjects, students have examined the impact of cultural diversity, the different roles of a community, and the pathways available to them as they look ahead to college and future opportunities. Each

experience has been designed to strengthen their curiosity, build their confidence, and help them make meaningful connections between their studies and the wider world.

Careers - HoW Visit

Year 10 students visited the Heart of Worcester College for a dedicated careers experience. During their time on campus, they explored a wide range of course pathways, including engineering, sport, and childcare. The visit offered valuable insight into the different qualification levels available, the progression routes each subject can lead to, and the breadth of opportunities that extend far beyond what many students had previously imagined.

Students were also able to tour the college's facilities and meet members of the pastoral team, gaining a clearer understanding of the support systems in place and what day-to-day life at college is really like. The visit proved both informative and inspiring as students begin to consider their next steps in education.

Life Skills - Recycling in the Community

KS3 students took part in a local community fieldwork visit to investigate how rubbish, recycling, and waste collection are managed in our area. During the trip, they identified the different types of bins in use, examined the variety of litter found in local parks and streets, and explored how waste-collection systems operate under Worcester County Council. This hands-on experience helped students develop a clearer understanding of environmental responsibility and the importance of effective waste management within a community.

Hospitality and Tourism - An Mediterranean Twist

Students across the school have been busy creating a range of delicious Italian and Spanish dishes this term. Both KS3 and Year 10 have developed their culinary skills by preparing meals such as chicken pasta Florentine, courgette and lemon risotto, and chicken fajitas. These practical sessions have given students the opportunity to explore new flavours, build confidence in the kitchen, and deepen their understanding of international cuisine.

RE - Investigating Islam

This half term, our KS3 students have been exploring key aspects of Islam, focusing on the reasons people choose to convert to the faith and the significance of birth rites within the religion.

Students learned that, in Islam, the *adhaan* (the Muslim call to prayer) is traditionally the first set of words a newborn hears. The father gently recites it into the baby's right ear, declaring: "God is great, there is no God but Allah. Muhammad is the messenger of Allah. Come to prayer." They also discovered that a baby's first taste is often something sweet. Parents commonly soften a date and rub a small amount of the juice onto the baby's gums—a practice that originates from the Prophet Muhammad and is believed to help stimulate the digestive system.

To deepen their understanding, students even had the opportunity to try dates themselves, bringing the learning to life in a memorable and engaging way.

Geography - Human Geography

Our Year 10 students recently visited Birmingham as part of their human geography studies. During the trip, they took photographs from the past of historic locations and compared them with the same sites as they appear today, analysing how the city has evolved over time.

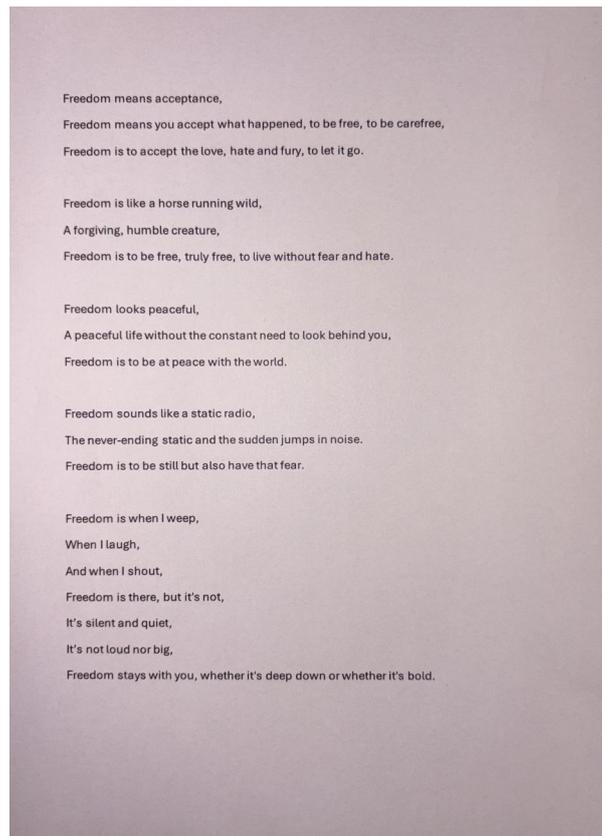
Students also carried out an environmental assessment, evaluating Birmingham's cleanliness, visual appeal, and overall urban environment. In addition, they engaged with members of the public to gather their views on the city's development, as well as to learn where visitors had travelled from and the purpose of their visit.

Literacy at Newbridge

Last term was a busy and exciting one for literacy across English and the wider school. Students took part in an extended writing challenge based on the British Value of **individual liberty**. Students explored the meaning of freedom, what it means to them, read a range of poems, and created their own original pieces of poetry (pictured below). We are really proud to see some students take the next step by entering their work into the Young Poet Laureate competition!

Alongside this, we relaunched the **reading and PSHE programme**, with tutor groups reading a range of books and taking time to talk about the ideas and messages behind them. It is our hope that these discussions will help build students confidence as readers, develop their vocabulary, and think more deeply about important themes linked to PSHE.

Watch this space for all things **World Book Day** on 6th of March, we are excited to celebrate reading and books across the school.



1 - A poem written by a student about freedom.

Our Christmas Projects

At the end of the term, during the Christmas season, our Year 10 and Year 11 students took part in an exciting new project.

The Christmas Fayre was a wonderful opportunity to welcome parents and carers into our school community, and we were delighted to host visitors from our neighbouring school, Fort Royal. Our students enjoyed showcasing their creativity, supporting guests, and helping to create a festive and memorable experience for the Fort Royal pupils. A non-verbal child gently touched Santa's beard and softly said 'ho ho ho'—a brief moment that captured the magic of the season.

Alongside the Fayre, students also ran a pop-up shop in the Kingfisher Centre. Over three days, Year 10 and Year 11 worked together to manage the shop, gaining invaluable work experience while contributing towards their qualifications. It was fantastic to see the pride they took in explaining how their products were made—90% from reused materials, reinforcing the importance of sustainability and “helping save the planet.”

Between the Fayre and the pop-up shop, an impressive £450 was raised. These funds will go directly back into the school to support future trips and projects.

Thanks to generous donations from Poundland, every student left with a Christmas gift bag, along with a poem they had written or selected to share with a friend or family member. Students with pets also received a special pet gift bag, adding an extra touch of joy to the celebrations.

Our next project - The re-decoration of the library. Stayed tuned for the next newsletter!



2 - A pop-up shop display



3 - Student gift bags



4 - Student's pet's gift bags



5 - The Fayre

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.



Celebrating reading (Students who have achieved 20 reads):

£5 voucher (already issued)

TG Yr 11

TG Yr 11

KC KS3

HF Yr 10

Curriculum awards: £5 voucher (already issued)

English – DP (yr10)

Maths – MS (KS3)

Science - NB

Attendance rewards:

(£5 voucher) already issued

LG KS3

NRN KS3

KC KS3

HF Yr 10

JS Yr 10

KG Yr 10

AT Yr 11

AL Yr 11

AD Yr 11

SC Yr 11

TGo Yr 11

Extended writing challenge (Autumn 2 results):

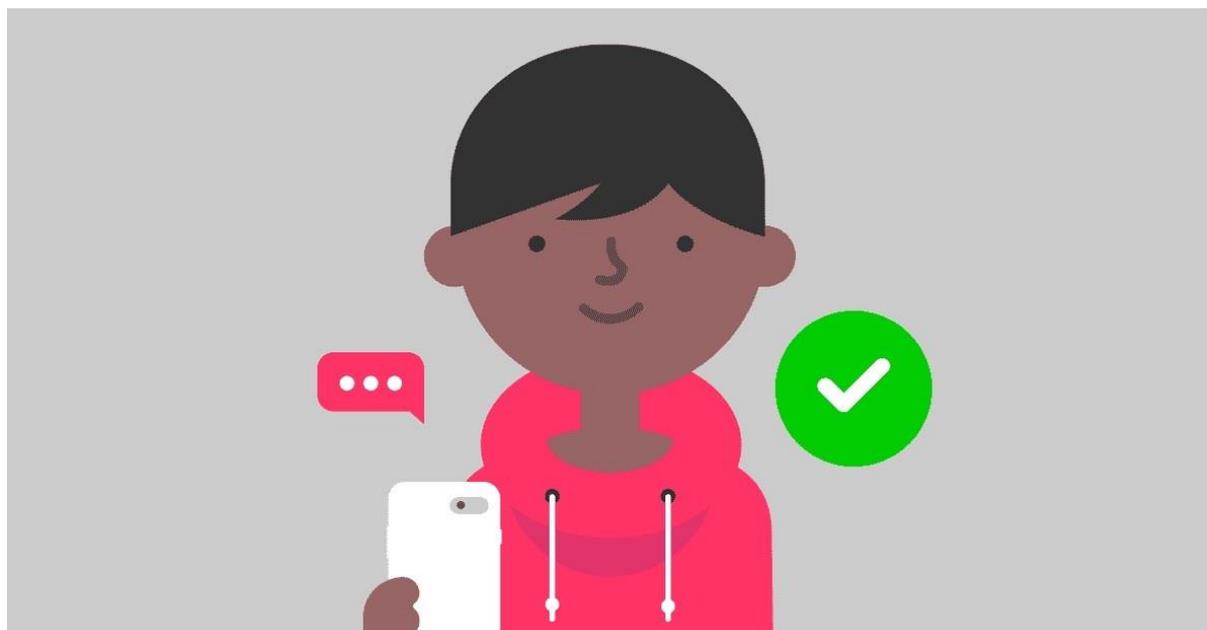
Voucher already issued

1st place: MA (KS3) £20

2nd Place: OS (KS3) £10

3rd Place: LG (KS3) £5

Behaviour Blog - Online Safety



We are continuing to experience incidents of conflict in school linked to students' online behaviour and interactions on social media. We ask parents and carers to remain vigilant regarding their child's use of online platforms and access to digital content.

Bullying, intimidation, or threatening behaviour conducted online is taken extremely seriously at Newbridge School. Such behaviour may lead to school-based consequences and, in some cases, involvement from external agencies, including the police.

If parents or carers have concerns about their child's online activity or would like guidance on supporting safe online behaviour, please contact the school team for support and advice.

Safeguarding Subject - Taking Care of Your Health



It can sometimes be hard to find the time or motivation to get your self to a medical appointment, but it's so important that you see the doctor, dentist or optician when you need one to keep your body functioning and healthy.

What ever medical professional you need to see will not only be able to help with any pain, discomfort or support with diagnosis, but they will also be able to spot problems before they've even started and give advice on how to avoid future problems. Because of this it's important you go for regular check ups to make sure everything is ok.

Similarly to this, those who have medication for any reason must remember to take it! Your medication is given to you for a reason, and it will help

Key Reasons for Medication Adherence in Children

- **Healing and Symptom Management:** Medicines are designed to cure, stop, or prevent illnesses. They are crucial for managing long-term conditions like asthma or diabetes and treating acute infections. Similarly medication can help you to ease the symptoms of your diagnosis so you can function more efficiently.
- **Preventing Complications:** Missing doses can allow infections to return or symptoms to become severe, requiring more intense treatment later.
- **Safety and Efficacy:** Children respond differently to medicines than adults, so, in consultation with a doctor, it is essential to follow the correct instructions and timing, even if they feel better.

Tips for Helping Kids Take Medication

- **Create a Routine:** Set a consistent time for medicine to help build a routine.
- **Be Honest and Positive:** Explain in simple terms that the medicine will help them feel better and explain how the medication works. Maintain a positive attitude, as children pick up on anxiety.
- **Give Control and Rewards:** Allow choices, such as whether to take the medicine before or after a snack. Use reward charts or stickers for taking medication.

Attendance



The Importance of School Attendance

At our school, we talk a lot about the value of good attendance — and for good reason. Every single day in the classroom makes a difference to a child’s learning, wellbeing and future success. Recent national research has highlighted just how crucial regular attendance is for children across the country, and we want to share why it matters so much.

Good Attendance Shapes Future Opportunities

Attendance doesn’t just affect school results — it influences life chances. Research shows that pupils who are persistently absent from secondary school could earn **up to £10,000 less by age 28** than peers with strong attendance.

Each additional day missed during Years 7–11 may reduce lifetime earnings by an estimated **£750**. This reinforces a powerful message: helping children attend every day sets the foundation for long-term success.

How We Work Together to Support Good Attendance

National guidance emphasises that schools and families must work hand-in-hand to overcome barriers to attendance. This includes:

- Building strong, positive relationships with families
- Understanding the reasons behind absence
- Creating a welcoming, inclusive school culture

These principles form part of the UK government's current attendance expectations for schools from 2024 onwards. We are committed to working with every family to ensure children feel safe, supported and excited about coming to school each day.

What Parents Can Do

Here are simple ways to support strong attendance:

- Establish consistent morning and bedtime routines
- Plan medical or dental appointments outside school hours where possible
- Keep open communication with school if any challenges arise
- Celebrate milestones like weekly or termly full-attendance streaks

Small steps make a big difference.

Our Shared Goal

We know children achieve their very best when they attend school regularly. With your support, we can help every child build the habits, relationships and confidence they need to thrive — now and in the future.