



Newbridge School

Newsletter December 2022

Contents

Page 2 - Ending the 2021-2022 School Year

Page 3 - Starting the 2022-2023 School Year

Page 4 - Charity at Newbridge School

Pages 5 - 7 - Educational Trip & Visits

Page 8 - English Department at Newbridge School

Page 9 - Pupil Achievements

Page 10 - Sporting Achievements

Page 11 - Festive Celebrations

Page 12 - Extracurricular Activities & Dates for the diary

Headteacher's Introduction

Newbridge School is a truly exceptional school and one which we are all proud to be a part of. We are a genuine community school, with pupils, staff and families coming together to ensure the best future for everyone.

This newsletter attempts to capture some of the highlights of this term. It ranges from the end of the summer holiday, where we received an outstanding set of GCSE results for our outgoing Year 11 pupils, to the last week of term where we celebrated with a sold-out Christmas Concert for over 400 parents and family members and in excess of 100 pupils involved.

As a school we believe in the highest of standards, with our students inspired to excel in life. Hopefully you agree that the items captured in this newsletter are helping our pupils to do just that.

For more information and up-to-date events and news, please follow us on Twitter @NewbridgeSch

All of us at the school wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful Happy New Year.

Mr. A. Thompson



Ending the 2021 - 2022 School Year



A Night at the Musicals

This year's school production 'A Night at the Musicals' was a resounding success. It consisted of a medley of scenes and songs from 'Oliver', 'Matilda', 'High School Musical' and 'School of Rock'. This was our first live production since the covid 19 pandemic and all the pupils did an incredible job. We would like to extend our gratitude to all of the staff who helped and all of the families who came along to watch and support.

Eisteddfod

We finished the 2021 -2022 academic year with a whole school celebration of our very talented pupils and the native language of Welsh.

This year's Eisteddfod was the best yet. We were even privileged to have a visit from Newbridge Schools very own Backstreet Boys!

Summer 2022 Exam Results

In August we celebrated the incredible GCSE results achieved by our Year 11 pupils.

Pupils achieved our highest ever GCSE examination results in all measures with 44% of all pupils securing 5 or more A*/A grades, 80% of pupils attaining at least 9 C grades and 94% of pupils receiving at least 5 C grades.



Starting the 2022 - 2023 School Year

New Staff

In September, we strengthened our team by welcoming 6 new members.

English

Miss Ponfield

Maths

Mr Jones, Mr Mason & Miss Sinclair

Technology

Mr Dallimore

We also welcomed Miss Plumley Family Engagement Officer.

Curriculum for Wales

This term, we are very excited to have launched the new 'Successful Futures' Curriculum for Wales with our Year 7 pupils. Pupils will be following a more 'joined-up' curriculum with links across subjects, and a clear focus on Wales and the local area.

We look forward to sharing updates with you in the New Year.

The Black Mountains Activity Centre Visit

In September, we welcomed our new cohort of Year 7 pupils. After a few weeks of adapting to life at Newbridge School, they attended a visit to The Black Mountains Activity Centre in Brecon, where they took part in various sporting and team building activities. This visit also helped them to build new friendships, and to develop good working relationships with the form tutors. A great time was had by all!



Food Hygiene Rating

A very big well done to our canteen team on securing a Food Hygiene Rating of 5 'Very Good' and for continuing to provide our pupils with healthy and nutritious meals during the school day.



Charity at Newbridge School

Macmillan Cake Sale

In September, pupils and staff of Newbridge School raised £172.72 by joining the 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning'.



Remembrance Day

On Saturday 12th November, representing Newbridge School, Head Boy and Head Girl, George Ayling and Hana Cho, attended the Remembrance Sunday service held at the Newbridge War Memorial in the museum at St Fagans.

At the memorial, George & Hana laid a wreath on behalf of the students and staff of the school to give thanks for their sacrifice.

Whilst George & Hana officially represented the school, many other Newbridge School students took part with different



Children In Need

In November, pupils and staff of Newbridge School raised £800 by wearing non-uniform to support Pudsey and the Children In Need.



organisations, such as the Cadets, Guides and Scouts to name a few. Newbridge School prefects Elishka Carpenter and Shannon Johnston are pictured with George, Hana and Miss Morgan at the war memorial.

Food Bank

Pupils and Staff are supporting the Panside food bank with much needed items including :

- Cereal
- Soup
- Pasta
- Rice
- Biscuits
- UHT Milk
- Fruit Juice
- Tinned Items
- Tea & Coffee

Christmas Jumper Day

Pupils and Staff will be supporting 'Save the Children's' Christmas Jumper Day by wearing their festive jumpers on Thursday 22nd December 2022. Look out for these festive jumpers in our next newsletter.



Educational Trips & Visits

Panto 2022

In December, nearly 300 of our year 7 and 8 pupils visited The Riverfront Theatre in Newport to watch this years pantomime, Robin Hood. Pupils and staff had a great time...Oh yes they did!



Duke Of Edinburgh Award

39 year 10 pupils have signed up to participate in the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award programme. The pupils must complete 3 sections volunteering, skill development and physical activity over 3-6 months, then take part in an expedition over 2 days in June. The group have already started on their varied challenges, from dancing to DIY!



Whole School Council Visit to the Senedd, Cardiff Bay, November 2022

Our trip to the Senedd was an amazing experience for all our school council members. We took a tour around the building, visiting different rooms including the main chamber, and met our local MS, Rhianon Passmore.

Additionally, we were given the opportunity to use the old debating chamber to discuss a ban of single-use plastic. This was a unique experience that we all thoroughly enjoyed. We used the microphones to discuss and debate the issue and then used the voting buttons to vote. The results of the vote was then projected on the screen for us to see.

Not only did we gain insight into the politics of Wales, but we also learnt about the Senedd building itself, and how it is designed to be sustainable and more eco-friendly. We even managed to catch a glimpse of the First Minister Mark Drakeford, as there was an event which coincided with our visit.

Newbridge School Retweeted



Rhianon Passmore MS · 24/11/2022
It was great to see students from @NewbridgeSch's school council visiting the #Senedd. I was delighted to field questions about their perspectives and views on the challenges facing Wales. #Newbridge School means a lot to me as I'm a former pupil.

This felt rather surreal, to be so close to the First Minister himself. Overall, we were made to feel very welcome and encouraged to ask questions, and it was an educational trip that we all benefited from, so we would like to thank all those who made the visit possible.

Hana Cho
Head Girl



Educational Trips & Visits Continued



the score at full time was 0-0 and the girls were treated to a further 30 minutes of exciting and skilful football. Wales eventually went on to win in extra time with a superbly taken goal by Jess Fishlock.

At the end of the game, Jess and the rest of the Wales team came over to thank the crowd and the girls were delighted to have the opportunity for autographs and selfies with the players.

A fantastic experience for all the girls - one that they will remember of a very long time!

STEM Competition

A group of Year 10 pupils recently visited Coleg Gwent as part of a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) Transition Event. Pupils competed against other local schools to write computer code to fly drones. During the session they learnt how to write algorithms for their drone to make it take-off, land, perform flips and somersaults. The Coleg Gwent staff were very impressed with the analytical and problem-solving skills shown by our pupils. Despite the other competitors all being in Year 11, our pupils were judged to have written the best code – their winning entry synchronised two drones to perform a dance with each other!

Women's Rugby & You

There was a fab day for year 10 girls at the 'Women's Rugby & You' event, which gave our pupils a great insight in to careers for girls in rugby and fun activities.



Women's Football World Cup Qualification

In October a group of 37 girls from Years 7 to 11, accompanied by Miss Bishop and Mrs Llewelyn, were very fortunate to be able to attend the Womens' Football World Cup qualifying match between Wales and Bosnia-Herzegovina at the Cardiff City Stadium.

The game was extremely exciting with Wales dominating play and having plenty of shots on goal. So much so, that twenty minutes into the game several Year 7 pupils asked, "Can we come again?" Despite the Welsh dominance throughout the game,



Educational Trips & Visits - Continued

Krakow Visit

During October half term, the Religion, Values and Ethics department took 29 Religious Studies and History GCSE pupils to Krakow, Poland. This was the first foreign school trip since Covid-19 and for some pupils it was their first time flying. The aim of the visit was to learn more about the Holocaust and to gain a greater appreciation of the human experience of World War II. We stayed in a hotel a few minutes' walk from the centre of Krakow. This provided us with the opportunity to

explore the centre of Krakow by visiting the cloth tower and the famous St Mary's Church. During the trip, our pupils also met a Holocaust survivor who spoke about how she lost most of her family in the Holocaust. We also visited Schindler's Factory, the Jewish quarter, the Ghetto, Hero's Square and Auschwitz-Birkenau.

In Auschwitz-Birkenau we saw Jewish prayer shawls, glasses, shoes, hair and suitcases with names on. We also visited the gas chambers and the dungeons where the famous Catholic priest Father Maximilian Kolbe died. We also saw the wooden living barracks and walked along the train track that is often seen in documentaries about the Holocaust. At the end of the train track we reflected about those who suffered and how lucky we are

today. The visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau was a deeply moving experience for our pupils as they saw the impact of war on human life.

We ate in some traditional Polish restaurants, used a tram and many of our pupils enjoyed using their Polish Zloty in the local shops. Our pupils were very polite and respectful during the trip.

It was a valuable experience for them; one we are sure they will always remember.



BBC100

As part of the BBC 100 celebrations, the BBC sent a team in to speak with pupils in years 8-10. The team spoke about their roles within the BBC and also shared stories of overcoming adversity. Pupils were also given the chance to ask questions about the stories and job roles.

The BBC team also introduced the BBC Young Reporter competition to pupils. This is a competition where young people are invited to submit their own ideas for news stories.



English Department at Newbridge School

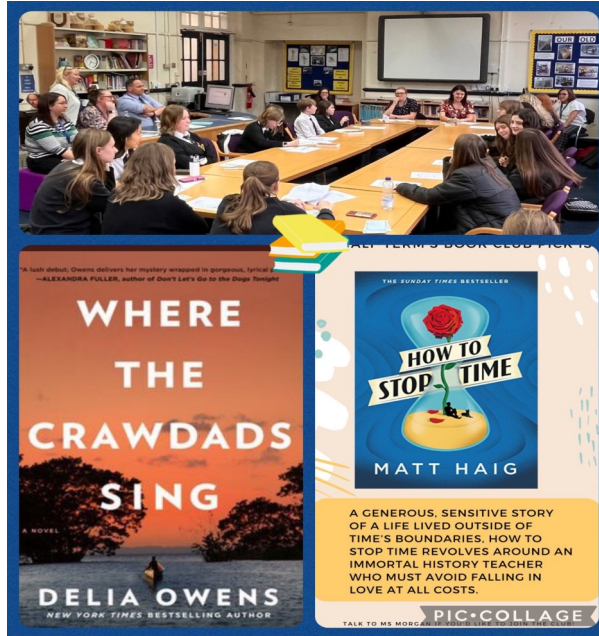
Book Club

This term our Staff and Student Book Club have read and reviewed 'Where the Crawdads Sing' and 'How to Stop Time'.



Book Fair

Newbridge School hosted the annual Scholastic Book Fair in the library from Monday 5th to Friday 9th December. Every lunch time pupils were able to visit the library to browse the fantastic range of books and stationery on offer. There was much excitement on the part of the pupils and many of the more popular books sold out on the first day. Yet again the Fair was a great success with over £500 worth of stock being sold which will, in turn, generate book vouchers for the school library.



Creative Writing Competition

This term saw a host of student participate in our creative writing competitions. We had some fantastic winners for our Gothic Short Story Competition and the Christmas Writing Competition, which closed on 20th December.



Book Club Reviews

When I was told that we were getting a book club in school, I was overjoyed! Now that it's actually here, it is better than I ever could've imagined. It has a very open environment and friendly participants that make you feel welcome. It is the perfect place to discuss your favourite literature with like-minded people. Also, there's tea and biscuits! I could not recommend it enough!

Isabelle Edney Year 9

Book Club is Newbridge School's finest afterschool club! At the end of every half term, Ms Morgan (who runs the club) gathers a large group of both students and teachers, making it an all-inclusive activity. With snacks and beverage provided, it makes the half termly meet up a very friendly and enjoyable time!

I've been to two meet-ups since the club began in September of 2022, so can confidently say that Book Club is brilliant. The warm and friendly atmosphere and the amazing attendees combine to create a wondrous time. So far we have read 'Where the Crawdads Sing' by Delia Owens and are currently reading 'How to Stop Time' by Matt Haig. My favourite part of the club is the discussions. After reading the book, we discuss key aspects such as characters and symbolism. It's an amazing experience and I absolutely love it.

Jack Reagan Year 9

Pupil Achievements

Scientists of the fortnight

The Science Department have been nominating pupils from each year group to be "The Scientist of the Fortnight" who are pupils who have developed their planning, practical and analysis skills, or shown creativity in scientific thinking. These pupils are then celebrated with their photo on the department inspiration board, shared on Twitter and given a badge to wear with pride! It has been very difficult to choose, with so many nominations coming in.

Newbridge School Alumni

Congratulations to former Newbridge School pupil Grace Bayton who holds the distinction of being the world's youngest chartered management accountant registered with the industry body the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants.

Head Boy & Head Girl

Following a very thorough process, we are delighted to introduce to you our new Head Boy, George Ayling, and Head Girl, Hana Cho, for Newbridge School 2022-2023! We would like to congratulate them both on this well-deserving accolade.



City of London Essay Competition

Congratulations to Oliver, a fantastic young writer who won the City of London Essay Competition. A wonderful experience collecting his award from the Chamberlain @GuildhallLondon.



Senior Prefect Team

Working alongside George and Hana are our senior prefects: Iestyn Burns, Iestyn Kerr, Isaac Jones, Kiel Higginson, Lewis Lundy, Jenson Harris, Lily-May Willsher, Miesha Hale, Rosie Morgan, Shannon Johnston, Sophy Cadman and Yi Shi Chi.

All pupils were democratically voted to these positions by both their peers and staff. School staff are very much looking forward to working alongside these elected pupils over the next academic year.



Sporting Achievements

Holly Lunn

A very big congratulations to Holly Lunn who has been selected for the Wales Netball Celtic Dragons U17 Squad.



Kiel Higginson

A very big congratulations to Kiel Higginson who has signed a contract with Swansea Football Academy following his trial period.



Ioan Rees

A very big congratulations to Ioan Rees who has had an incredible year shooting. Ioan has represented the Welsh Senior Archery Team at Commonwealth Euro nations in Scotland, has been selected for Team GB Youth National



Archery Squad and will spend this winter training ready for the World Championships next summer and has finished the year as Under 16 & Overall Junior British Compound Archery Champion, even finishing in 12th place in the Senior British Championships.



Abigail Brewster

A very big congratulations to Abigail Brewster who has recently been crowned Girls Welsh Youth Masters Darts Champion. Gaining the title has enabled Abigail qualify to represent Wales in the World Darts Federation Youth World Masters Championships in Holland.

Newbridge School Sporting Success

Congratulations to all current Newbridge School pupils who have achieved sporting success in district, regional and national teams this year.

Newbridge School Alumni

Congratulations to former Newbridge School pupils for their sporting success

Connor Chapman - Wales U20s Rugby

Morgan Williams - Wales U18s Rugby

Jack Woods - Dragons Under 18s

Logan Franklin - Dragons Under 18s

Natalia Barnes - Dragons Academy and Wales 7s Urdd

Festive Celebrations

Carol Service

In December our school choir joined the community of Newbridge in singing at Tabernacle's Christmas Carol Service. A very big thank you to Reverend Cho for the invitation.



Christmas Dinner

On the last full day of the school term, our pupils enjoyed a 'special' Newbridge School Christmas Dinner complete with dessert and Christmas cracker. Thank you to all the staff who made this possible.

Christmas Concert

On Tuesday 20th December Miss Evans held her first ever Christmas concert at Newbridge School, and what a night it was! Over 120 pupils performed to a sold out audience. It was a treat to see all their faces light up and a reminder of why the arts are so important to so many young people. Miss Evans is very proud to have created this experience for our pupils. We're very excited to see what next year's concert will bring!



Extracurricular Activities & Dates for the diary

Humanities Club

Pupils of Year 8 Humanities Club brought a whole new meaning to pumpkin decorating by creating these fantastic 'Global Pumpkins'.



Science Club

Science Club had an amazing afternoon on Wednesday where they arrived to a crime scene! They used the forensic analytical skills they have developed this term to analyse all of the evidence, including fingerprints, food testing and handwriting

School

Production 2023

After the success of the 2022 school production 'A Night at the Musicals' we are pleased to announce the school production for 2023 will be 'Mary Poppins'.

Auditions will be held in January 2023 and dates will be shared on pupils returning to school next



Dates for the diary 2023

January

- 9th - Start of Spring Term
- 16th - Flu Immunisation Mop Ups
- 18th - Year 7 Parents Evening
- 20th - Year 11 Taster Day, Coleg Gwent Cross Keys

February

- 8th - Year 8 Parents Evening
- 17th - Year 11 Photos
- 27th - Inset Day

March

- 8th - Shakespeare Festival
- 31st - Last Day of Term

| | Lunch time | After school |
|------------------|--|---|
| Monday | French Club – Yrs 7 & 8 Maths UKMT Challenge – Yrs 7 & 8 Welsh Club - Yrs 7, 8 & 9 Football, Rugby, Basketball – Yrs 7 - 11 | Rugby – Yrs 7 & 8 Shakespeare Festival – Yrs 7, 8, 9 & 10 |
| Tuesday | Choir – Yrs 7, 8 & 9 in Drama Studio Football, Rugby, Basketball – Yrs 7 - 11 | Geography – Year 11 Skittles Club (LGBTQ+) - All pupils Maths – Yr 11 Shakespeare Festival – Yrs 7, 8, 9 & 10 Minecraft Coding Club (Mr Ratcliff) – Yrs 7 & 8 ICT Homework Club – All pupils Humanities Club – All pupils |
| Wednesday | Acts of Kindness Club – All pupils (Yellow week only) Ciw Cymraeg – All pupils Vocal Club – Yrs 10 & 11 Football, Rugby, Basketball – Yrs 7 - 11 | Art workshops – All pupils Media Club – All pupils French Club – Yrs 9, 10 & 11 Geography – Yr 11 Newbridge School Band – All pupils Shakespeare Festival – Yrs 7, 8, 9 & 10 Science Club – Yrs 7 & 8 |
| Thursday | Italian Club – Yr 9 Choir and Rock Band - All pupils Football, Rugby, Basketball – Yrs 7 - 11 | Coding with Python (Mr Dallimore) – All pupils Drama Club – Yrs 7 & 8 Football with Mr Catley – Yr 7 (Blue week only) Geography – Yr 11 Maths Homework Club – All pupils Football with Mr Catley – Yr 9 (Yellow week only) |
| Friday | Ukulele Group – Yrs 7 & 8 (H3) Chess Club – all pupils Italian – Yrs 10 & 11 Italian Taster Club – Yr 8 Football, Rugby, Basketball – Yrs 7 - 11 | Football with Mr Catley – Yr 8 (Blue week only) |