

NEWSLETTER

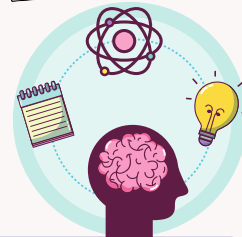
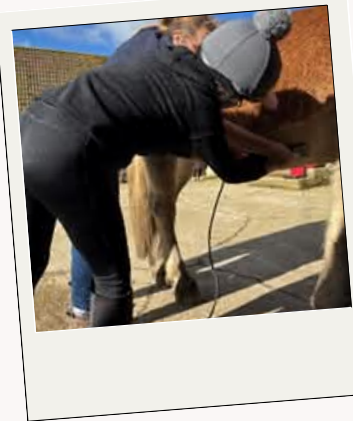
Headteachers Message

It was lovely to see the young people bounce through the door on Monday at Northcroft.

The students came into a number of changes within the school, which we know can be a challenge for them, but they had all been prewarned and had been given the heads up, which supported staff in having the expectations of these changes to be positive and staff having a shared, consistent expectation of all young people. The team has grown this week which has given the environment an additional buzz of excitement and enthusiasm for both young people and old staff.

One of my highlights this week was to see all of the students sat together eating lunch which had been cooked by Helen, the schools new cook. We get that our young people can find food and eating difficult but it's so important for their own individual personal development that they are able to sit with staff and peers and eat lunch together as part of a community. The school currently has a real push on healthy eating and is encouraging young people to take advantage of the schools amazing fruit selection which is delivered each week.

I was blown away by how thrilled they all were with the new intervention room which had been developed over the holidays and for the first time, they were all super keen to meet with Michelle and take part in their reading spelling and dictation interventions. All of which we do identify was helped by the school's new hot chocolate machine and regulation swing.



Highlights of the week

- Upper KS3 planned some amazing poetry this week after taking part in a poetry workshop.
- Upper KS3 had a great time enriching their curriculum at the Living Rain Forest on Monday.
- Year 7 loved enriching their curriculum at Beale park this week.
- Upper KS3 enjoyed clipping the horses hair at the Stables this week.
- Year 7s had a fabulous PE lesson playing Basketball at the Waterside Centre.



Reminders

Please send children in with coats as they are going for daily morning walks.

Dates for the Diary

- **Monday-** The Paddocks
- **Tuesday-** Interventions with Michelle and Gym
- **Wednesday-** Year 7 PE
- **Thursday-** Stable Futures
- **Friday-** Upper KS3 Cooking, Year 7 Personal Development



CLASSROOM UPDATES



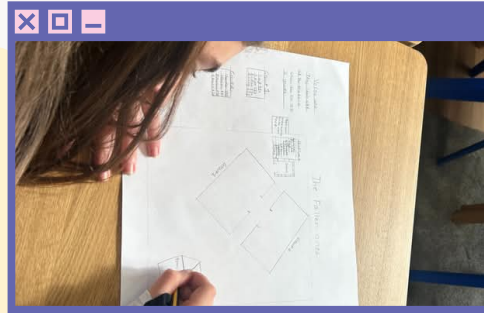
Upper KS3

Upper Key Stage 3 have had a great start following the half term break.

We started the week with a visit to the Living Rainforest and had a great time exploring the various plant and animals. The highlight for the students was a definitely the lizard which choose to interact with the students and follow their movements! We even managed to find Cinnamon, the free roaming sloth after hunting for sometime for her.

In English we are finishing are unit on poetry and students have worked hard planning their own war poems. Students will have the opportunity to type their poems next week once completed. Following this unit we will be moving on to the text 'Lord of the Flies' where we will be looking at key events within the text, how various characters are portrayed, symbolism and structure of the novel.

UKS3 had a fabulous day at the stables where students have learnt how to clip horses. Despite being covered in hair all students were successful in the task, something I know they have been wanting to learn for sometime!



Year 7

It's been a really successful first week back after half term. We have welcomed two new members of staff; Susan has joined our class as TA and students have been helping her get up to speed with school routines. Helen has been cooking for us and has up-levelled our snack break considerably! Students have shown good manners and kindness to new staff which is great to see.

Year 7 have launched into their new Sherlock Holmes unit by gathering some background knowledge about Victorian Britain. We went for a local history walk round Newbury and found out that the Queen Victoria statue in our favourite park was originally in the market square here. We discussed our preconceptions about Victorian life and reflected on the fact that the era was so long, with loads of change in daily life and things like inventions. Our first story 'The Speckled Band' has already captured their imagination and we'll be writing and presenting Sherlock podcasts linking to our Computing unit on audio edit platforms.

In maths, students have been working on multiplication and division and finished the week reviewing their learning on order of operations. In Science, we're learning about ecosystems and we looked at predator/prey interdependency this week, and focussed in detail on the relationship between the Snowshoe hare and Canadian lynx.

It was great to be back at the Stables, and the warmer weather has made such a difference to our outdoor activities this week!

