

LET RIGHT BE DONE



New Mills School Newsletter

December 2020



Contents

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Cover | Artwork by students and Staff |
| Page 1 | Contents and Heads' Message |
| Page 2 | Heads' Message and UKMT 2020 Senior Maths Challenge success |
| Page 3 | A Fond Farewell |
| Page 4 | Children in Need, Cans For Grans! and Etwinning |
| Page 5 | English News |
| Page 6-10 | English News and Art News |
| Page 11 | Art News |
| Page 12 | New Mills Tennis Club |
| Page 13 | Library News |
| Page 14 | Christmas Lunch |

Heads' Message

Happy Christmas Holidays to you and all in your bubbles! We hope it is followed by an excellent New Year.

All the staff at New Mills School are sending our very warm wishes to our students and their families at the end of term. And what a term it has been!

The whole school community has adapted to all the demands placed on us to remain open throughout Wave 2 of the Coronavirus crisis in the UK.

Since September, teachers will have sanitised thousands of hands as well as assessing learning loss from lockdown and adapting their subject curriculum and teaching to start the long process of catch up for our students. The need to run five separate lunchtimes for each year group means our catering team have seamlessly delivered over 350 meal sittings to keep our year bubbles separate. The teaching assistants, year managers and all in the inclusion team have been a patient, reassuring presence for all, providing extra support to those students struggling and guiding them to make the most of their opportunities in school. Our admin team have managed to make us a cashless school and the site-management team have dealt with the massively increased cleaning demands of being a Covid-aware school. This is only a tiny flavour of the extraordinary efforts our team have made to ensure your children are receiving a varied and full education in the safest way possible. We cannot thank them enough.

Our students have played their part too. They have worn their facemasks, wiped down desks 6 times a day and followed one-way systems (even though it is the long way round!) day in and day out. Their maturity and co-operation has been a credit to their families who we know have supported them throughout this term; helping them readjust to the structures and demands of school so that we can continue to work together to provide them with the best possible education these circumstances allow.





Heads' Message Continued ...

Our school newsletter showcases and celebrates some of their achievements over this long, wintry term. In some ways, it is strange and a little bit sad to read a NMS newsletter that doesn't brim with news of trips and extra-curricular activity, all of which the Coronavirus crisis has made impossible this year. Yet, it is impressive to see what some have achieved, amongst all the other pressures young people are facing as they cope with this unfamiliar and worrying time. So, please, amongst the Christmas cheer, the baubles and the bubbles do take a moment to celebrate the work of NMS students by reading our newsletter.

Best wishes,

Ms A Barker & Mrs C Jesson

UKMT 2020 Senior Maths Challenge success

We are so proud of our mathematicians who sat this national competition this year. Congratulations to Oliver, Sam, Sam, Louise, Sophie and Alicia who won the Bronze certificates in the UKMT 2020 Senior Challenge. Samuel Bennett also won the 'Best in School' award.

The Senior Mathematical Challenge is open to year 11 and A level students to encourage mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems.

A huge well done to everyone who took part in the competition and it is great to see their excellent performances.

We wish them all the best in their next intermediate competition in February.

Ms. Ku, Head of Maths



A Fond Farewell

The end of this term sadly sees official goodbyes to three long standing members of staff.

Mrs McGloin, as you are aware, has taken up the post of Executive Headteacher of Glossopdale School permanently. Mrs McGloin joined New Mills in 2014 and led the school from “Special Measures” to being judged as a “Good” school by OFSTED in September 2017. Her drive, determination and commitment to the students was second to none, and she has left a great legacy in place so New Mills can go from strength to strength.

Secondly, our Reprographics Manager, Richard Barclay, decided that he enjoyed the extra time that the lockdown afforded him, and retired this year. Richard joined the school in 2002, so has clocked up an impressive 18 years’ service in a role that morphed significantly in that time as technology developed. A much loved member of staff he was never without a story, perhaps about a new galvanised chassis for his beloved Morgan, or a tale about

dropping his favourite screwdriver into his septic tank and fishing it out with a specially bought super strong magnet! Richard always brought a smile to people’s faces and we all wish him well in his retirement with his wife and donkey on the farm.

Finally, Mrs Simms is leaving the school after a truly impressive service of 28 years. She was initially employed as second in the PE department and went on to hold many and varied roles including Deputy Head of Sixth Form and Assistant Head. Beginning her tenure as Miss Jones, she has taught the children of New Mills PE, Maths and more recently Science, and has continually enriched the curriculum for the students here. Mrs Simms was one of the major driving forces on the senior leadership team with Mrs McGloin, and her determination, commitment and flexibility are unparalleled. She is now teaching the children of the children from her early years at the school, and, in her words, needs to finish before the grandchildren start coming to school! The esteem that

Mrs Simms is held in was demonstrated by 50 well-wishing messages being sent in over the first 12 hours of the news being made public. She will be deeply missed by students, staff and the community and we all wish her the very best time in her retirement.



Children In Need

This year New Mills School took part in a non-uniform day to support Children in Need. The event raised £723 which is fantastic! Thank you to the 193 families who donated to raise money for the event.



Cans For Grans!

Unfortunately, our normal Elderly Friends' Christmas Party cannot happen this year due to Government restrictions. As an alternative, our students have been collecting donations of cans, chocolate, toiletries, biscuits and tea / coffee to create hampers for guests who would usually attend the event.

THANK YOU for all the donations we have received. Hampers will be distributed within the local community during the last week of term.

Etwinning Project

We are very excited to have launched our first Etwinning project with year 8 this half term. Year 8 will be part of a project with schools from across Europe, including Spain, Turkey, Italy and Macedonia. Our aim is to create a European cookbook which we hope to share with you before Christmas.

The students from all schools have been asked to submit their family recipes and photos of their creations to go into the book, we have had some wonderful recipes so far and we are really looking forward to sharing them with you.

For the next part of the project, we will be asking students to have a go at making some of the recipes and reviewing them to share with our partner schools. We hope you will enjoy discovering new cuisines and cultures and sharing our culture with others.



A EUROPEAN RECIPE BOOK

SHARE YOUR FAMILY RECIPES WITH
EUROPE!

An Etwinning project

EMAIL YOUR RECIPES AND A PHOTO TO
SSALTHOUSE@NEWMILLSCHOOL.CO.UK





English News - Halloween Poetry Competition

1st Place - Maddy Hampson 7MWH
2nd Place - Florence Heyes 7JWO
3rd Place - Cameron Whittaker 7MWH

Highly commended poems -
Olivia Speakman 7MWH
Bailey Ellise 7BBO.

Ghost

At first you didn't know me.
I made myself present, though never distinct.
When you would sit at your desk, I would creep near you like a question.
A thought would scurry across the front of your mind I'd be there, ducking out of sight.
You must have felt me watching you, my small eyes fixed on your face.

In your house, in your garden, in corridors, in your nightmares where I finally tell you my name.
By Maddy Hampson 7MWH

Halloween Poem

All Hallows' Eve, when the dead come back to life.
Graveyards and cemeteries with ghouls, they are rife.
Headless horsemen and witches, to name a few,
I'm not sure I want to risk going out.
How about you?

I will carve a pumpkin and leave sweets at my door,
For all the children who take the trick or treat tour.

By Bailey Ellis 7BBO

The Haunted Church at Halloween

I am walking through a deserted graveyard.
I hear a scratching noise coming from the church.
I step closer to have a peak and this is what I see...

A rusty, golden door knocker in the shape of a serpent.
I see horrifying scratches down the church door.
Bats flying high around the twisted church steeple.
Footsteps of blood on the floor.

Terrified, I slowly open the rotten door.
It opens with an ear-splitting screech.
I hardly dare to look inside and this is what I see...

Dead and decaying pumpkins lying on a dusty shelf.
I see cobwebs covering a cracked bowl of last year's sweets.

A child's skeleton lying on a broken chair.
And maggots dancing in their empty eyes.

And I scream!!!

By Florence Heyes 7JWO

Halloween! Halloween!

We mask our faces

And wear strange hats,

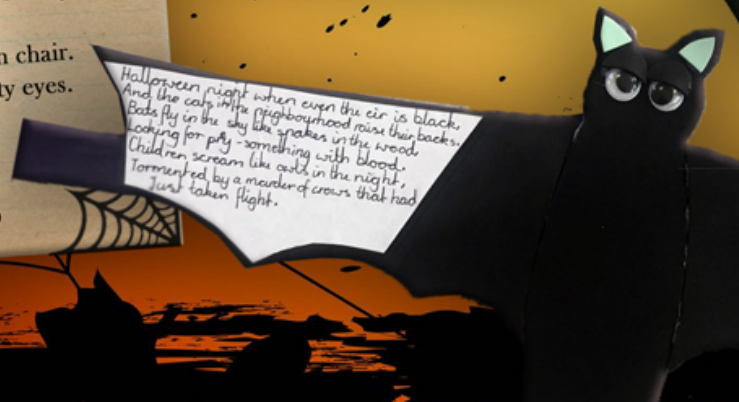
Then screech like cats

And jump like goblins,

And thump like elves

And almost manage to scare ourselves!!!

By Cameron Whittaker 7MWH



Halloween night when even the air is black
And the cats in the neighbourhood raise their backs.
Bats fly in the sky like snakes in the wood,
Looking for prey - something with blood.
Children scream like owls in the night,
Tormented by a murder of crows that had just taken flight.

Witches cackle and zombies groan,
Parents moan as their kids throw up.
A vampire holds a cup of blood and starts to sup.
Halloween night when even the air is black.
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By Olivia Speakman 7MWH





English News

Young Writers' Competition

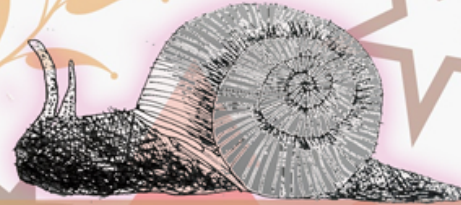
This term our Year 8 students have been busy writing their own mini-sagas with the title 'Trapped'. Many of these students wrote their fantastic entries at home showing great independence and resilience. The Young Writers' group have been really impressed with our entries and many students have received certificates of commendation for their pieces and their writing will now be published in an anthology that will be read nationwide. Well done to everyone who entered. We are really proud of your efforts.



ART News

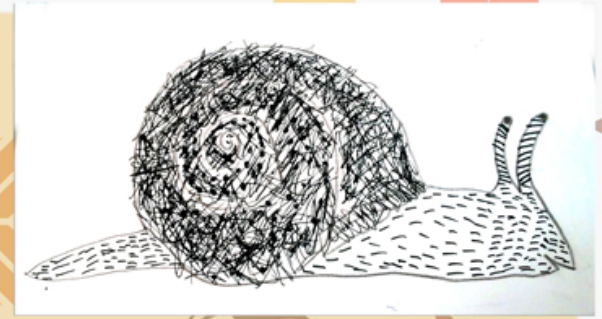
Artwork of the Week

Every week in the Art Department, we choose an "Artwork of the Week". It can be an individual's piece of work, or a group, and is featured on the New Mills School social media sites. Here are the ones we chose in the second half term this year:



Artwork of the Week 9:

Inky Snails by 8MKe. Stunning examples of mark making techniques, celebrating Inktober. Finished artwork here by Charley, Gene, Billy, Connor, Edward, Hannah, Anna, Luc, Isabelle, Ava, Myles, Grace, Milli, and Lily. #Inktober2020





Art NEWS - Artwork of the Week

Artwork of the Week 10:

Year 8 3D Craft Bugs. Half term holiday homework completed by pupils from across the Year 8 cohort - we are so impressed with the variety of Caterpillars, Dragonflies, Bees, Ants, Spiders and Ladybirds!



Artwork of the Week 11:

Portrait of her brother by Lily Longman Year 10 - stunning!

Artwork of the Week 12:

Anya Gallaccio research by Bridie Harwood Year 11.

The painting of the ice cubes is in response to the artist and has been created with acrylic paints and is an outstanding example and shows Bridie's technical ability in observation and interpretation.



Initially creating more metaphorical and physically 'tender' images, set down in a perspective form - one challenge to one single point in my medium here. As that metaphorical seems most appropriate for ice based pieces, however not all of my other images have that lightness of form or translucence which adds this particular quality. There are a lot of interesting elements: dark colours, white reflections, metallic surfaces, objects showing through melted ice, objects allowed to melt on, textured and glass, various glass etc. - the transparency of form in the sense of the partially melted cubes and the cohesion form of the glass 'beads'. Yes - like the different textures, the textures and colours created by the different types of the ice. The light is also interesting, reflecting to a substance on surface yet then contrasting with the texture of the inside however.

Art - Year 8

3D Craft Bug

During the October half term holiday the Art department set a challenge for Year 8 – to craft their own three dimensional bug! They had to choose out of a lucky dip and were given either a Caterpillar, a Dragonfly, a Bee, an Ant, a Spider or a Ladybird!

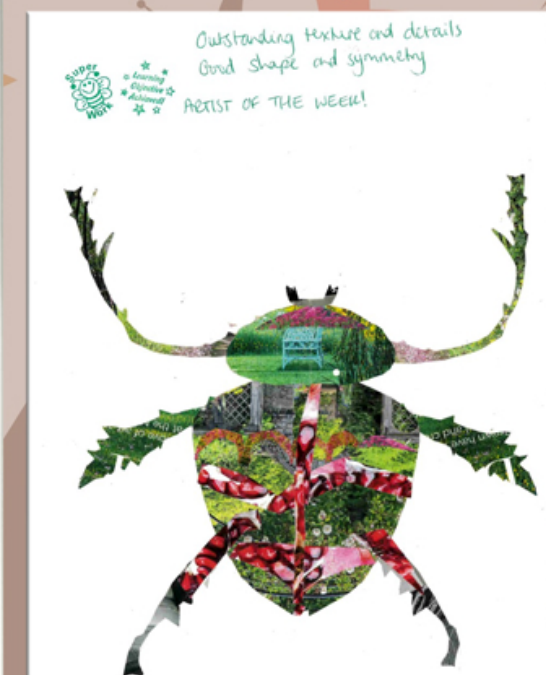
Over the most recent fortnight of Year 8 having to self-isolate, Miss Ashton has been very busy displaying all these wonderful creepy-crawlies into their collective noun displays around the Art department. We hope Year 8 feel as proud and as pleased with the displays as we are!



Art - Year 8

Magazine Beetle Collages

In class, Year 8 have been learning how to create a symmetrical, textured, and detailed beetle collage made from recycled magazine papers. Miss Godley and Miss Ashton are extremely proud of the amazing effort and attention to detail most of Year 8 have shown. Here are a few favourites who deserve a special 'well done' – by pupils from 8PAs: Mianna, Harry, Sophie, Liam, Konni, and Luca.



Art - Year 10

Year 11 Photographic work in response to the work of the artist Anya Gallacio

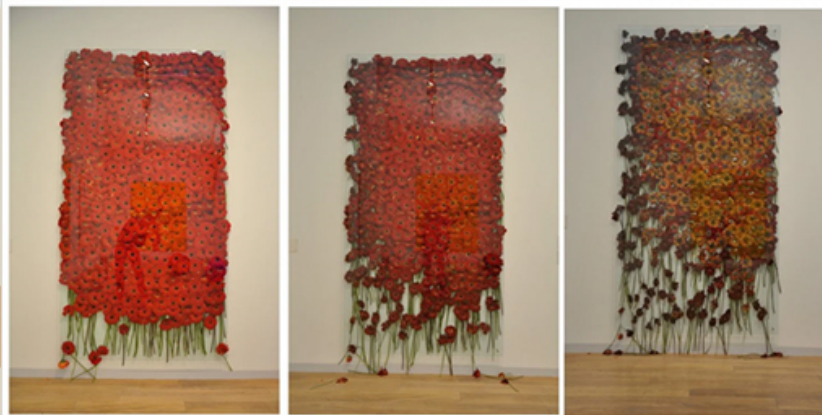


Anya Gallaccio (born 1963) is a British artist, who creates site-specific, minimalist installations and often works with organic matter (including chocolate, sugar, flowers and ice).

Her use of organic materials results in natural processes of transformation and decay, meaning that Gallaccio is unable to predict the end result of her installations. Something which at the start of an exhibition may be pleasurable, such as the scent of flowers or chocolate, would inevitably become increasingly unpleasant over time. The timely and site-specific nature of her work make it notoriously difficult to document. Her work therefore, challenges the traditional notion that an art object or sculpture should essentially be a monument within a museum or gallery. Instead her work often lives through the memory of those that saw and experienced it - or the concept of the artwork itself.

Pupils analysed two pieces, 'Preserve Beauty' and 'Intensities and Surfaces' before taking their own series of photographs inspired by the themes of organic matter, ice and decay. Y11 have almost completed their paintings from the following photographs, which themselves are beautifully composed pieces of art. Photography is an important element in GCSE art and can gain valuable marks in assessment objectives 1,2 and 3. Showing that pupils can develop their own ideas in response to an artist, working in a broad range of ambitious materials. Photography is another effective means of composing a drawing and demonstrating a series of ideas and thoughts.

All year 10 and 11 GCSE art pupils will be taking part in a photography lighting and composition homework to develop and refine their photography skills before the Christmas break.



Preserve Beauty

Intensities and Surfaces



Art - Year 10

Year 11 Photographic work in response to the work of the artist Anya Gallacio



New Mills Tennis Club



Despite the pandemic, New Mills Tennis Club have managed to increase their membership to around 105 members this season. The club has a focus on families and juniors, and this year has joined the LTA. The Club has ambitious plans to resurface the tennis courts next year, enabling the whole community of New Mills and High Peak to benefit from the use of the improved facilities. New Mills School would also be able to use the facilities during PE lessons.

As part of the project, the club is looking for pupils and parents who may be interested in helping with crowdfunding (setting up a website, social media presence and community outreach). There are also environmental aspects to the project and the club is looking for help with landscaping. These two areas could also be of interest to any year group from year 7 to year 11.

This is a wonderful opportunity to be part of something, that will be an asset to the community and the school for the next 20 years. The project has the support of our school and many local primary schools. Please see recent news articles about the club. If you think you can help in any way, please contact the club at the two email addresses below:

chrismorton99@btopenworld.com

john.early@btinternet.com

<https://www.buxtonadvertiser.co.uk/sport/anyone-tennis-new-mills-look-encourage-youngsters-take-sport-post-lockdown-2538889>

<https://www.buxtonadvertiser.co.uk/sport/other-sport/new-mills-tennis-club-looking-forward-bright-future-2994051>

Library News



Dare to Read

Congratulations to the winners of our Dare to Read Competition. For a chance to win, students were asked to read a mystery, scary book and write a review on it



Florence Heyes, won our Trick Or Treat Chocolate Hamper and Ivan Hardy-Birt and Amelia Kacar won chocolate too.

Christmas Jumper Competition

For this years' Christmas Competition we gave students and staff a card template on which to design their own Christmas jumper.

We had lots of amazing entries which made it very difficult to chose the winners, in the end it took a Librarian, an Art Teacher and some very helpful Year 11s to make the final decision!

Student Winners Staff Winners

Harry Baugh



Mrs Godley



Masie Ball



Miss Ashton



Jack Beck



Miss Cohen



Students' Christmas Dinner



The catering team has been working extremely hard since the beginning of term, serving three sittings a day to the separate year group bubbles, either in the canteen or at the pod.

Following the new lunchtime arrangements, the catering team prepared and served students with an enjoyable Christmas dinner. On Wednesday 9 December, three separate sittings saw over 400 of the Year 7, 8 and 11 students sit down in the canteen to their festive dinner and on Thursday 10 December, over 200 of the Year 9 and 10 students enjoyed theirs. The catering team had just 25 minutes per year group (137 children in Year 7) for hand sanitisation, serving, eating, clearing plates and hand sanitisation. This was no mean feat!



The students enjoyed a delicious Christmas meal of roast turkey, roast and mashed potatoes, carrots, sausages and gravy followed by a choice of chocolate and vanilla ice cream, Christmas pudding and white sauce or a cupcake. There was also a vegetarian option of quorn fillet, which was also scrumptious.

Thank you to Sue Perkins and the catering team for all their hard work for providing a lovely Christmas dinner to our students in incredibly challenging circumstances.

