



NET SCHOOL

The Net School Newspaper – Spring 2025



Artwork by Tegan H.

Net School Newspaper: A Celebration of Student Creativity

The Net School Newspaper is created each term by the dedicated student members of our extra-curricular club, who actively contribute ideas and articles for compilation in each edition. We firmly believe that it is essential for students to have opportunities to express and challenge themselves beyond their academic courses, and we are delighted by their enthusiastic participation.

New Adventures at Net School

Since January, Net School has embarked on several new and exciting adventures to further broaden our extra-curricular offering. One such initiative is the online ‘Yoga for Teens’ course, which has been running throughout the term. This course aimed to promote physical well-being and mental relaxation, providing students with a valuable tool to manage stress and enhance their overall health - especially important for those approaching their summer exams.

Moreover, we are proud to announce our recent achievement of accreditation to deliver **Trinity College London’s Arts Award**. This prestigious program allows students to explore their creativity, develop new skills, and gain a recognized qualification that celebrates their artistic achievements. We hope to feature work from the course in future Net School Newspapers!

Highlighting Student Talent

Our student newspaper team has worked diligently this term to bring together a fantastic selection of writing and artwork. Each edition is a testament to their talent and hard work, showcasing their creativity and diverse interests.

The Net School Newspaper is more than just a publication; it is a platform for students to express themselves, explore their interests, and develop their skills. We are incredibly proud of our students and their achievements, and we look forward to continuing to support and celebrate their creativity in the future.

Susan Reed

Director

Student Sports and Hobbies

by Maddie D

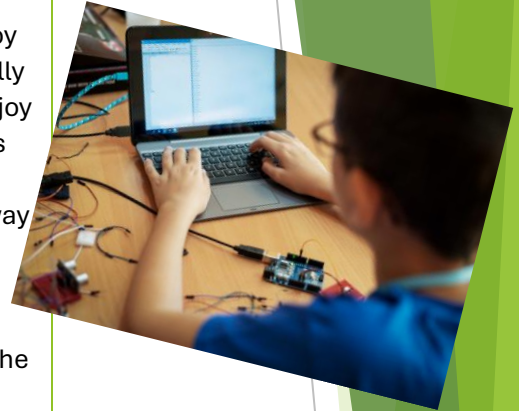
For this newspaper edition, I decided to get a better understand of students' extra-curricular activities - and how to get involved in them.

Electronics and programming (Isaac):

My favourite hobby is electronics and programming. I really enjoy it because you can make almost anything you want, and it's really rewarding when your program finally starts to work!. I mainly enjoy physical programming, so like connecting physical components such as motors and programming them to do things. Something I've done recently is build an automated model railway using sensors, so the train automatically stops when it reaches the station.

A top tip I've got is if you want to get into it, I really recommend the Raspberry Pi programming computer. I personally use the Raspberry Pi Pico, as it is so versatile and extremely cheap (around £8), or if you want a full desktop interface, you can use the Raspberry Pi 5. Take a look

at <https://www.raspberrypi.com/products/raspberry-pi-pico-2/>



Piano (Anthony):

My favourite hobby is to play the piano, I enjoy it because it's really good if I've had a stressful day, I can just sit down and play away lots of stress. It's also really rewarding when you learn new songs and then play them for other people. I started about two years ago, and I currently play a lot of Hans Zimmer, Ludovico Einaudi, and Gibran Alcocer. It may seem frustrating to start, but with practice, comes reward!

Football (Mya):

My favourite hobby/sport is football, I absolutely adore it and play 5 times a week and I am in 3 teams, it makes me feel free when I play and make those important passes that tear defences and crucial tackles to prevent counter attacks in the midfield role. I started playing when I was 9 years old in the U10 and I am now 13 years old but play up a year in a girls' team and boys' team but in my normal age group for Wycombe Wanderers. It has allowed me to grow as a person and meet wonderful people, the sport brings people together and creates a lovely community where you can either enjoy watching or play.





Victoria Sponge Cake

by Sophia H



This simple cake is a British classic. Its effortless recipe makes it perfect to whip up for any occasion. I even recently made one for my Grandad's birthday!

Ingredients:

- 225g self-raising flour
- 225g unsalted butter (softened)
- 225g caster sugar
- 4 medium eggs
- 1 tsp baking powder (optional for extra rise)
- Jam for filling
- Buttercream for filling – 250g butter and 500g icing sugar (optional 1tbsp milk)

Method:

1. Preheat your oven to 180°C (160°C fan)/350°F/Gas Mark 4. Grease and line two 20cm (8-inch) round cake tins.
2. In a large bowl, cream the butter and sugar together until pale and fluffy. Slowly beat in the eggs.
3. Sift the flour (and baking powder if using) into the bowl and fold gently using a spatula.
4. Evenly divide the mixture between the two tins, level the tops, and bake for 20-25 minutes. They're ready when a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean or you can lightly press the centre and if the springs back then it should be cooked. Leave the cakes to cool in their tins for about 5 minutes, then transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.
5. Make the buttercream by beating the room temperature butter (the more air you add the whiter your icing will be). Add the icing sugar a little at a time until its all incorporated. If the icing is a little stiff this is where you can add the milk for a creamer texture.
6. Assemble: Spread jam and buttercream between the sponge layers. Decorate if desired. I chose to decorate with fruit to add a little colour to the top.



You can check out more of my recipes on my website

theclassicbakingco.co.uk 😊

**The spring term is already over! Is it just me,
or is this school year flying by?**

If you're looking for a quick, fun activity to try during the holidays, look no further. For this spring edition of the Newspaper, I thought I'd try my hand at creating a wordsearch, celebrating all the classes and clubs here at Net School. You could have a go by yourself, or even challenge your family and friends. Remember – the words can be found **forwards, backwards, vertical, horizontal, and diagonal!**

D R A W A S T R A F E B H G N I N R A E L E X A
A F L C H D B S C I T A M E H T A M O F C N P E
G C H E M I S T R Y O X U B Y V Q F H N Q G J I
E P J C D V G N I E B L L E W O S R I R K L O M
O W K N O H Q G O Z V M X S Z U Y T P O M I S B
S L A E P S O K E L C G W C T E A C H E R S T U
T N M I N I V H M O Y A U I N L P I Q J N H N L
U H D C E L E F Y J G Z H S C E H N K U I L E C
D S V S T G I D S X O R B Y F N Z O P S G I D L
Y I W R S N U Z K T L Y A H E G I A T V Q T U A
S N B E C E H S P R O Q I P O J W O G B H E T I
K A D T H L N C F H I T L J H Q R F U R T R S C
I P J U O E V I R M B X O K X Y I L B Q U A T O
L S A P O W K E S D U N F R E N C H O E X T R S
L O U M L B P N A J X A Q D Z T P R M W O U B V
S J E O H G A C K R L F H E R C G F S T Y R P A
A V G C I S W E G A U G N A L H S I L G N E O D

1. ART CLUB
2. ARTS AWARD
3. BIOLOGY
4. CHEMISTRY
5. COMPUTER SCIENCE
6. E-LEARNING
7. ENGLISH
8. ENGLISH LANGUAGE

9. ENGLISH LITERATURE
10. FRENCH
11. GEOGRAPHY
12. HISTORY
13. LATIN
14. MATHEMATICS
15. NET SCHOOL
16. PHYSICS

17. PSHE
18. SCIENCE
19. SOCIAL CLUB
20. SPANISH
21. STUDENTS
22. STUDY SKILLS
23. TEACHERS
24. WELLBEING

The Tree

by Anthony F

In the quiet corner of a mountain, a little plant grows in the ground. Despite being gifted with a few juvenile leaves, he is resolute; young and fragile, yet prudent and earnest.

Five years later, still too meagre in height to see the world, our little plant awaits the day he is tall enough to see past his cloud enshrouded mountain. Despite the time he must wait, he does not give up. Despite malevolent winds that seek to blow his figure down, he stays strong. A tenacious tree.

Thirty years pass, and the little tree is nearly tall enough to pierce the clouds, he is excited; his whole life has centred around this one thing. A year passes and he surpasses the clouds; his view begins to stretch. Our friend does not see the beauties of this earth. Alas, he does not see the waterfalls and stunning pools. He does not see the light of the sun in a butter gold haze every morning and evening. He does not see impressive mountains shaping the earth; he sees life. Life. A life of happiness and goodness? No. He sees the lives of people saddened with loneliness. He sees governments manipulating the gullible, wars raging, and corrupt ideologies swallowing people up into despair. The things he wishes to see are not materialistic. What is truly wished to be seen is joy. Not fake joy, brought on by pleasures of Earth, but real joy.



(photo from Pexels)

And for once in his life, our friend feels sad. 'If only I could change this' he uttered through his thin branches. Would he ever find the destiny he so earnestly sought?

Many years later, our friend is towering. Breaking records by meters, he is the highest tree to exist, a testament to resilience and hope. Every day, his trunk is flooded with people, touching him, in awe of his height and splendour. Happy people. Our fellow friends are not depressed or lonely, they are brought together.

For the first time, this contemplative tree, who never imagined he could ever feel such bliss, was enveloped in the warmth of joy.

Teachers' Pets!

We know that our Net School teachers love their pets, so we asked them to share some pictures with us - and it turns out that our teachers have so many pets that we couldn't fit them all on to these two pages! There will be more Teachers' Pets in the next edition!



Steve - Ms Wilson



Amos and Bernie - Mrs Barrett



Anubis - Mrs Alcahuz



Gimli and Ivy - Mrs Papanicola



Floki - Mrs Page



Fluffy - Mrs Reed



Mollie - Mrs Williams



Donkey - Ms Moore

This is Donkey the donkey. He's 6 years old and was rescued from a field after being abandoned. He's a Poitou donkey.

He's not mine but I help look after him and his horsey friends in the mornings for an older couple who live nearby.

Donkey follows me around all the time.



Kokoraki - Mrs Papanicola

Kokoraki is the Greek word for cockerel!!



Ace - Ms Moore

A 7-year-old German shepherd/Malinois. He was from the RSPCA in England. We got him when he was 1 year old. He loves his tennis ball, he loves cuddles, he loves going for a car ride. He's a gentle giant.

Work Experience through Springpod

by Maddie D

Learning online is amazing, but it means finding work experience is a bit different than for students who attend 'bricks and mortar' schools.

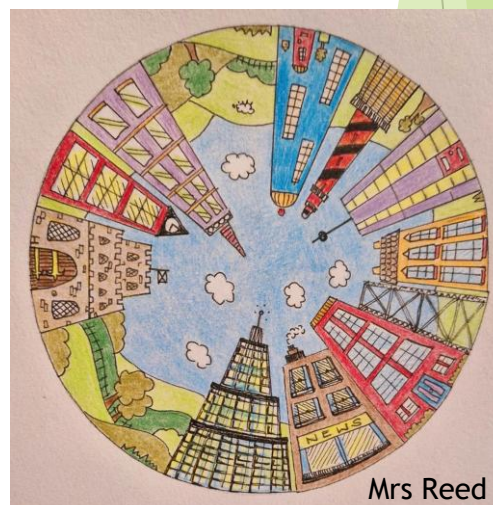
Springpod is a free online site where you can complete a huge range of different short courses on whatever you like. I decided to take a veterinary science short course and found it beneficial to extending my current knowledge. The courses contain videos, tasks and engaging slides containing information. When you finish your course, you can also access a certificate.

This site is a great way to not only add to knowledge on things you are interested in but also explore other careers across many different industries.

► To explore Springpod yourself, visit <https://www.springpod.com/>



Art Club Gallery



Tegan



Tegan created this model for a science project - but it is very artistic!

Thanks also to Tegan for the spring-themed banner on the front cover of this edition of Net School News!



Art Club is a free, extra-curricular club for Net School students. It runs on a Wednesday afternoon and all are welcome - please email the office if you are a current Net School student and would like to be added to the roster.



Lydia

Mrs Claire Laney - A tribute

Just before Christmas, our community was deeply saddened to learn that one of our wonderful teachers, Mrs Claire Laney, had passed away suddenly, following a short illness.

Her students miss her warmth and positivity, as well as the guidance and encouragement she gave them all. Since her passing, we have spent time in Social Club and Art Club (both groups which she created) sharing memories of Claire, and the students have created a tribute booklet of artwork, memories and poetry.

We remember Claire with deep affection and are thankful that we had the opportunity to know and work with her. Our thoughts remain with her family.

A photograph showing a row of students in a classroom, seen from behind, sitting at their desks and writing. The focus is on the student in the foreground, with others blurred in the background.

Year 11 Study Leave begins
Friday 9 May
Good Luck in your exams!

Would you like to see your work in the next edition of the Net School Newspaper?

The Net School Newspaper is a student led group, whose members produce work to include in each edition of the newspaper.

We welcome all contributions that can be shared with our wider community, from personal stories to creative writing, from artwork to poetry and photography and from computer tips to book and music reviews.

If you are a Net School student and have a piece of written or creative work that deserves a wider audience, why not join the Net School Newspaper group on Schoology and see it in (virtual) print next term!

Happy Easter

