



PARENT GUIDE

Newport Girls' High School

@NGHS_Info www.nghs.org.uk



“I was nervous when I was led through to my classes but the nerves eased off through the day when I realised how friendly the teachers and students are.” New Year 7 Girl



Welcome to NGHS. I trust this booklet will give you an insight into the ethos and values that our school promotes and the first-class education it provides for girls aged 11 to 18. Ofsted has rated the school ‘outstanding’ and we are usually placed in the top state schools locally and nationally at GCSE and A level.

The school was founded in 1920 to provide a grammar school education ‘aiming at the harmonious development of the whole personality’ and it continues to fulfil that aim today. Students at NGHS achieve highly academically but are also enthused to take part in the wide range of extra-curricular activities that are offered. The caring and friendly environment is often commented on and our new Year 7 pupils settle in quickly.

NGHS has increased in size over the last few years: there are presently 570 pupils on roll, including 160 in the Sixth Form. The school moved to **three-form entry**

(84 girls) in 2013. It is still small enough to ensure that each pupil is treated as an individual with an appropriately challenging curriculum in a safe and supportive environment.

Our new extension opened in February 2018. This welcome investment has complemented recent projects including our music suite and recording studio, additional classrooms, a multi-purpose hall and four humanities classrooms. Some of our Science facilities have also been upgraded and all of this has made an incredible difference to our learning environment.

I hope you will take the opportunity to look around the school and speak to students and staff to see for yourselves what a wonderful school this is. The pupils are by far the best ambassadors for the school and many have volunteered to help at the open events to demonstrate their pride in their school.

Michael J Scott, Headteacher



Welcome to Newport Girls' High School. I have been a student here since Year 7 and I am currently studying A-Levels in Geography, History and Economics. The opportunities that have been given to me during my time here have allowed me to develop not only as a student, but also as a person. I'm very proud to be a pupil here and consider my education an absolute privilege. As Head Girl, my team and I aim to integrate new students as fully as possible to make them feel included and proud of this school community. We hope you enjoy the Open Day and we look forward to welcoming you.

Bea Wilkinson, Head Girl

Welcome to our school and the exciting opportunity of becoming part of the NGHS community. NGHS is a fantastic and inspirational school to be a member of and I am delighted to be an ambassador of a school that holds such strong values; including that of pride, respect and kindness, as well as being able to undertake the role of Lower School Head Girl. I am really keen to get involved in everything at NGHS as I am passionate about creating a positive and happy learning environment for everyone.

Ellie Jones, Lower School Head Girl



NGHS ETHOS AND VALUES

Our School is a community of learning and we work hard to...

RESPECT EQUALITY

- Respect each other's right to learn.
- Follow the school's behaviour guidelines and show respect for school property and our surroundings.
- Value and celebrate others' contributions in lessons and other school activities.
- Treat one another with dignity and respect.
- Accept individual differences and support one another with patience and compassion.

FRIENDSHIP

- Actively help to integrate new members to the form and to school.
- Show commitment and courtesy to others.
- Look for opportunities to get involved in school/House activities to forge links within the school community.

CONTRIBUTE

- Put our best effort into our studies and allow others to also achieve their potential.
- Take pride in our work and in our School overall.
- Utilise the opportunities to show our talents and help others to develop theirs too.
- Encourage and participate in form, House and community activities.



PASTORAL CARE OF STUDENTS



Day-to-day responsibility for the pastoral care of our students lies with Form Tutors who are supported by the Heads of Year. Ms Capaldi (pictured above) is our Head of Y7-8.

The semi-vertical tutor groups are split into Years 7-8, 9-10, 11 and 12-13. Year 7 students are well integrated into the school through induction, form and House activities and they share school experiences with each other in family groups. In this way, students gain greater awareness of activities for particular year groups such as Year 8 Options. They also learn to communicate with students from all years and as such there is a group support system in each form. Sixth Form students act as mentors and work with Form Tutors to help organise and develop a range of activities.

Guidelines to enable the smooth functioning of the school are included in the school behaviour policy, which is given to parents of all pupils entering the

school. The emphasis is upon positive procedures and the self-discipline of the girls. The school recognises those who have displayed a positive approach to their studies and their contribution to the wider school community. This is done through a variety of means, such as House points, achievements assemblies and letters home.

Regular attendance at school is essential to ensure uninterrupted progress and to enable children to extend their potential. The attendance of all pupils is monitored closely by the pastoral team, with the school seeking to work actively with parents to ensure a regular pattern is maintained. The school's expectation is that attendance should be 97% or above.

Students are welcome in school between 8:00am and 5:30pm when there is sufficient adult supervision. There are rooms allocated where girls may do their homework or read for pleasure.

The NGHS Curriculum

Our curriculum in Years 7 and 8 aims to provide the springboard necessary for GCSE success. All students study: English, Mathematics, Separate Sciences, French, German, History, Geography, Computing, Art and Design, Music, Physical Education, Religious Education, Personal, Health, Social and Citizenship Education (PSHE) and Design Technology. We are one of a few schools still teaching 2 hours of PE a week plus a period of PSHE every week. We also ensure that two languages are taught along with three separate sciences from Year 7.

In Year 9 a core GCSE curriculum of English, Mathematics, Separate Sciences, Citizenship, Religious Education and Physical Education continues for all students. Students must then choose at least one Language, at least one a Humanity and at least one practical subject as well as one other free choice from the remaining available subjects. Further information on this process will be given nearer the time. Students then tailor their choices further in Year 10 by removing one GCSE option. At A-level we offer around 18 courses dependent upon demand.

There is **very little setting by ability** and students are taught in groups of 28 or less. All age groups are offered opportunities to participate in theatre, museum and art gallery trips plus fieldwork visits for history and geography.

Homework is set throughout the school to help consolidate work done in the classroom and to encourage pupils to conduct independent research. Work varies in time from about one hour per evening for Year 7 to two hours for GCSEs. Homework is issued as part of a prescriptive timetable.



The aims of the physical education curriculum are:

- to develop pupils' competence and confidence to take part in a range of physical activities both in and out of school;
- to provide opportunities for all pupils to enjoy and succeed in many kinds of physical activity;
- to encourage students to develop a wide range of skills and the ability to use tactics, strategies and compositional ideas to perform successfully;
- to foster an understanding of analysing, evaluating and making decisions to improve performance skills.

PE helps students to develop personally and socially through the wide range of situations they work within and learn how to play fairly gaining a sense of personal and social responsibility. They are provided with opportunities to take on different roles, such as leadership, coaching and officiating. Students learn to become effective in competitive, creative and challenging situations.

Sports taught within the NGHS curriculum:

Netball, handball, volleyball, football, hockey, tennis, rounders, cricket, badminton, pop lacrosse, tag rugby, ultimate frisbee, athletics, fitness, dance, gymnastics, sports hall athletics, strength and conditioning, team building and problem solving.

As part of the PE curriculum all students take part in two hours of timetabled lessons per week, including one games and one PE lesson. To encourage girls to participate in sport outside of the PE curriculum, a range of sports clubs are available and we also promote the importance of joining clubs outside of school.



SEND ARRANGEMENTS

The Special Educational Needs code of practice ensures that the special educational needs of all students are identified, assessed and provision made to meet such needs. The curriculum, teaching methodology and extra-curricular provision are all devised with the aim of providing pupils with a learning environment that allows each to extend herself to her full capacity.

Teachers in all subject areas plan and use differentiated materials in order to help individuals learn. It is our aim that all pupils will receive excellent teaching and therefore will make progress as a result. If this is not enough to help your child to make progress, any additional support needed is classed as special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) provision.

SEND provision can take many different forms and will be tailored to suit the needs of your child. Examples include;

- Different materials
- Special equipment
- Additional training for staff
- Individual or small group support from external agencies

The school works closely with parents and monitors pupils carefully to ensure that SEND provision meets the needs of pupils. More information is on our website or please discuss this with the SENDCO/Headteacher.









TRANSPORT TO NGHS

As NGHS is attended by pupils from a wide number of villages and towns in the Midlands, Shropshire and Staffordshire, the School does not provide any bespoke transport. However, there are opportunities to buy passes on a number of bus services. Further information is available on the school website as well as the summary below. Buses marked * are run by Adams.

TELFORD NORTH*

-  Leegomery
-  Shawbirch
-  Admaston
-  Brooklands
-  Wellington
-  Ketley
-  Oakengates
-  St Georges
-  Donnington
-  Clock Tower

TELFORD SOUTH*

-  Coalbrookdale
-  Ironbridge
-  Madeley
-  Malinslee
-  Telford Town Centre
-  Priorslee

MARKET DRAYTON*

-  Towers Lawn
-  Sherwood Crescent
-  Tern Hill
-  Hinstock

SERVICE BUSES Arriva 5 and 519

-  Stafford
-  Gnosall
-  Telford Town Centre
-  Oakengates
-  Donnington
-  Bell Gate
-  Church Aston
-  Shrewsbury

WOLVERHAMPTON*

-  Compton
-  Cosford
-  Tong
-  Tettenhall Village
-  Perton
-  Albrighton
-  Windermere Road
-  Birches Bridge
-  Brewood
-  Bishopswood

Please note T&W have decided to withdraw the Muxton route from 2018.

EXTENDED SCHOOL CURRICULUM

The school offers a rich and diverse range of experiences for students during lunchtimes, after school and on numerous school trips. There are opportunities for each and every student to get involved in and contribute to the school community.

Student Engagement

Many students are very involved in school life and seek out opportunities to volunteer and make suggestions about activities they would like to take part in. Pupil voice is embedded in school life. There is an active Student Council with representatives from all years. This is chaired by the Head Girl. There is a keen interest and involvement in both.

There is also a Lower School Head Girl Team and these girls, selected from Year 9, lead a wide range of activities for Years 7 and 8.

Clubs and Societies such as Debating, Drama, English and Science are held on a weekly basis and are attended by a vast array of students. Most department areas also offer drop-in lunchtime sessions for students to get further help with homework.

The school has also set up a **Health and Wellbeing student panel** who meet each term. As part of this we have offered 'Crafternoon' activities for one week each half term to give students the opportunity to try new crafts like



...MORE THAN JUST LESSONS!

knitting, crochet, basket weaving etc. and also to give them some time and space to relax and unwind. Students who have attended these sessions have donated money to help support the charity 'Mind'.

Music

There is an extensive range of music making opportunities in the school. In addition to the opportunity to take private music lessons in a wide range of musical instruments, weekly rehearsals are held for the Orchestra, Junior Choir, Senior Choir, Jazz Ensemble and many other smaller groups. Students are also encouraged to book rehearsal space during break, lunch and after school as needed to prepare for the next performance or recording in the school's recording studio.

House Events and Competitions

House events and competitions are a key part of school life to which students respond enthusiastically. Belonging to a House and contributing to the success of that House is a responsibility students take much pride in. Healthy competition is promoted in lots of areas of the House system, these include the main events: House Music, House Drama, House Point Cup and Sports Day.

Students are grouped into one of three Houses, **Roddam**, **Seacole** and **Austen**, which promotes a sense of identity and community within the school. Form groups meet each week for House meetings and assemblies. These involve students in the delivery of assemblies, fund raising events, celebrating achievements etc.

Curriculum Enrichment Week

Curriculum Enrichment Week is held in July and provides opportunities for cross curricular work and to enrich learning in such areas as Environmental Education, Engineering and Enterprise activities.

Trips and Visits

There is a wealth of additional opportunities for students. The Duke of Edinburgh Award is a popular activity with many students beginning their Bronze level in Year 9.

An annual French exchange takes place for GCSE linguists. 2018 sees the start of our new German exchange, too. The languages and history teams also provide a residential for Y8 in Normandy.

Visits to art galleries both in London and abroad are arranged. These include to Paris, Madrid and Florence. There is also a netball residential weekend at Condover Hall for Year 7.

Careers Information and Guidance

Careers education and guidance is embedded within the PSHE programme and begins with the introduction in KS3 to the world of work and making choices.

A programme of independent careers advice is provided for all students from Year 9 onwards. In Year 9 we have a Bright Futures programme on developing economic awareness.

In KS4 students take part in a one week work experience and receive guidance about choices at 16+.

WHAT MAKES NGHS SPECIAL?

We asked Year 7 students what they enjoyed most about life at NGHS and what they thought before they joined. Here are their thoughts:

I was really worried about coming to Newport at first as I didn't think I would fit in. However, I have the best group of friends and the best teachers to learn from in the best school! **(Lucy)**

The teachers really try to push you and they try their hardest to make the lessons understandable. I like the fact that, at lunchtime, the teachers run clubs to help you; they want you to do your best. **(Martha)**

I love this school because everybody here was very friendly when I joined. I don't have to worry about being bullied or getting lost. All the upper years are very helpful to me and they are very friendly. **(Chenxi)**

I love how diverse this school is and how many different things have been combined to make a place I feel I fit in to. **(Charlotte)**

I started Handball when I joined in Year 7 and NGHS has given me the opportunity to play for the County. **(Katrina)**

