

#### Volume 1 - Issue 19 - Friday 6 July 2018



# BUILD IS (officially) OPEN!

#### **Head's Lines**



ast night saw the **opening of our new building** by Dr David Llewellyn, Vice Chancellor of Harper Adams University. We also welcomed Cllr Peter Scott, Mayor of Newport to the ceremony and heard in his address about the School's esteemed position in

the town. The evening also included a lovely speech from Bea Wilkinson our Head Girl and three songs sung by our very talented vocal group under the direction of Mrs Chapman. Guests, who had supported the Inspiring Great Minds Campaign, were well catered for by Catering Academy and a great evening was had by all. Thank you to all those who attended and supported the event.

Yesterday was **Sports Day**. We enjoyed the sunshine and tried to ensure that everyone also enjoyed some shade. Miss Clarke and Miss Norton planned and executed a lovely day with a range of activities to suit all sporting levels and there was wonderful camaraderie and support shown between pupils. All our staff were involved in supervising events, marshalling and scoring and congratulations to Austen who were victorious (again!) When will they be beaten?

Last week was **Curriculum Enrichment Week**. Each year group had a really action-packed schedule to follow and I know how much hard work went into the planning of these activities. This edition of Newport News captures some of the activities which took place and I hope that you enjoy reading about them.

Next Wednesday is our **PTA Summer Fete** - more details below. Our students and PTA are working hard with the preparations for this and we hope that you will come along to support us. Next Wednesday is also our **Sponsored Walk**, I am pleased to see that the temperatures are set to drop a little next week. Rest assured we have fully risk assessed the activity and page two contains a sheet (for your information) which I discussed with students in assembly today.

Wishing you all an enjoyable, sunny weekend.

Mr M J Scott, Headteacher

Best wishes, The PTA



#### Newport Girls' High School

Wellington Road Newport, TF10 7HL Tel: 01952 797 550 **Headteacher:** M J Scott BA(Hons) Exon PGCE NPQH To contact the School about a general enquiry, please use **schooloffice@nghs.org.uk** 

### Wed II July - The Walk STUDENT BRIEFING

### <u>SLIPS - Permission slips must be</u> <u>returned to Reception ASAP.</u>

#### REGISTRATION

On the morning of the walk: Y7 to Library, Y8 to Dining Room, Y9/10 to Hall, Y12 to Atrium. Please be on time and be there by 8.50am. Make sure you have been to the toilet. Anyone who arrives late, please go to RECEPTION so we can be sure we have a correct attendance list. We hope to be leaving about 9.05am. If you are not completing the walk for medical reasons, please go to Rm101 after registering in the rooms above.

### WHAT DO I NEED?

<u>Packed lunch</u> – remember you can order one from the dining room and collect it from 8.30am or bring your own. Also bring snacks as you will be using up calories.

<u>Rucksack</u> – to carry your water and lunch with at least two full <u>water bottles</u>

<u>Sun protection</u> – cream, hat, glasses and <u>insect</u> <u>repellent</u>

Medication/inhalers - in your rucksack

#### WHERE ARE WE WALKING?

We are all going together! Instructions will be given to leave with Y7-8 first then Y12 then Y9-10. Lead teachers are Mr Pimm & Mrs Gill. Last teachers are Miss Davies & Mrs Payne. No-one is to walk behind Miss Davies. No-one is to walk ahead of Mr Pimm.

#### ROUTE

Designed for safety. Listen to staff instructions at all times. Be aware of narrow pavements and stay one behind one other. Keep an eye out for cars on the small sections of roadway we use. It should take about 2hr30-2hr45 to walk to Gnosall and the same on the way back.

### HOW FAST DO WE NEED TO WALK?

A **reasonable pace** will be required to get to Gnosall, have a reasonable break for lunch and walk back. If you walk slower, the break at lunchtime will be shorter.



### WHAT IF I'M STRUGGLING OR GET INJURED?

Speak to a member of staff. There will be staff marshals on the path every 30 mins or so plus staff walkers and staff cyclists who are First Aiders.

### WHAT HAPPENS AT LUNCHTIME?

In Gnosall, we will be having lunch in a shaded area. There will be toilets provided at Gnosall. Try to rest over lunchtime so you are ready for the walk back.

#### WHAT HAPPENS AT THE END OF THE DAY?

When you get back to school you must go IMMEDIATELY to the **ATRIUM** to register. Even if it's after 3.45pm. It is ESSENTIAL that we know that everyone is back safely. We hope to be back by 3.45pm but do have plans in place, just in case!

#### **MOBILE PHONES?**

Students are allowed to take phones and should register their numbers on Monday morning in registration. Phones should not cause distractions on the walk. They can be used to play reasonable volume music, but no student should be texting whilst walking for health & safety reasons.

#### LITTER

This is one of our main concerns. Do NOT drop litter, please keep it with you or use bins. We will have bin bags in Gnosall and a litter picking team on the return.

#### SPONSOR MONEY

Please bring in your sponsor money on Thursday, Friday or Monday (16<sup>th</sup>). Please take it straight to the Finance Office (old Headteacher's Office). Thank you for your efforts to make a difference!

#### CHALLENGE ~ Final word!

This will be a challenging day and you need to show some resilience. Your staff will support and encourage you. Support your friends and work as a team. If you are struggling or unhappy, let a staff member who is walking with you know.

## **VOTES FOR WOMEN!**



On Wednesday 6th June, the whole of Year 8 were set to go to the amazing People's History Museum in Manchester. We got a warm welcome from the staff and were introduced to the topic of Women and the Vote. Out tour guide had a trick up her sleeve as 'Hannah Mitchell' appeared in front of us whilst we were getting introduced to the sections and topic areas of the museum. In our group, we enthusiastically entered the gallery full of posters, information and details about key women involved and the events that got women closer to getting the vote. All gathered around, we got led to a mini theatre, where 'Hannah Mitchell' (a Suffragette from the early 1900s) re-enacted her story.

Hannah Mitchell born into a poor farming family in Derbyshire, left home at a young age to work as a seamstress in Bolton, where she became involved in the socialist movement. That journey was very difficult because women weren't seen as important as men, so it was harder to get peoples' respect. The actress engaged with us a lot and we shouted 'VOTES FOR WOMEN' and waved our banners, which was really enjoyable.

After the performance, we then went to an art workshop where we designed and made our own rosettes that was personalised for us. These were pinned onto the clothing of the suffragettes. We made them to the theme of 'protests' and were introduced to the meanings of many different symbols that were used in the early 1900s. For example 'Adam and Eve' represented 'humanity' and colours have different significances too. The suffragettes used colour, symbols, illustrations and bold words to seek public attention- we saw some of these banners at the Museum.

For the last activity, we were given a quiz to complete and we learned a lot of new facts and information that shocked, surprised and fascinated us - for example, not only the fact that women in England were fighting for the vote, but queen Victoria's goddaughter, princess Sophia Singh, who was a Punjabi princess, was a strong believer in equality for women. Not only this, but the exhibits were stunning, like the campaign posters and banners for women's rights which were huge and intricate with detail - and to think that they were hand-painted as well!

We really enjoyed tottering around the museum competitively desperately trying to find answers to questions and trying on workers' hats (of which I was enthusiastically coaxed into wearing by Miss Davies and Mrs Payne) of the 19th century, I made memories and processed information that I will never forget! Overall, the trip was recreational and educational which highlighted the topic that the students are currently learning in class: suffragettes/suffragists. The students were very engaged in the activities that had been planned for us which we found very entertaining and factual.

The activity that majority of the Year 8 enjoyed most was Hannah Mitchell's story: 'The Hard Way Up', published after her death by her family. We thoroughly enjoyed the day and learnt a lot of new things, such as how hard life was for working class women particularly and the daily hardships they had to cope with- we shouldn't take our rights for granted because women had fought so hard for it, even risking their lives.

We would like to thank all the teachers that attended and a very big thank you to Miss Davies who arranged the trip for us that we all appreciated.

#### Amardeep, Hannah, Ananya, Alja (Year 8)





Our Year 8 rounders team competed in the TWSSA tournament at Madeley Academy and, after winning their pool, (and all their games) they faced Burton Borough in a very strong final. In the end, Burton Borough won with  $9 - 3 \frac{1}{2}$  rounders but it was very much deserved as they had some fantastic batters. Well done girls!



From techno robotics to French culture, this year's Curriculum Enrichment Week was a real success. Thank you to all the staff and pupils who put so much enthusiasm into a very joyous week at NGHS. The next few pages have a flavour of what happened...

### **Black Country Museum (Year 7)**

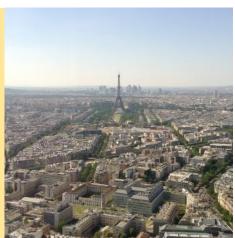
Our visit was an amazing and very educational experience. It was the very definition of history come to life! I was in Group I. We went into the coal mines in the morning, which was incredible as explanations and miners' stories were being told whilst we were going round [in the dark!] and especially the realisation that the mines were in used until 1950. It must have been a hard life.

We were able to have a look inside terraced houses that had been rebuilt in exactly the same way as they would've been in Victorian times. They were incredible and the staff there were amazing tour guides, very friendly and open to questions.

There was a beautiful bakery, with gorgeous buns and cakes – it smelt so good! Next door to it was a sweetshop with sweets such as citrusy sugar. There was a fair with Victorian style rides, such as the Helter Skelter and the Merry-goround, which were brilliant fun. We also had session in the Victorian School room, which was slightly scary as there were so many rules! I would really recommend a visit to the BCM to anyone who loves history, or even is just looking for a fun day out! Oh, and the fish and chips are amazing and very popular! I had a fantastic day out, and I will definitely be going again, but it won't be the same in the mines without the terrified whispers of the NGHS group! Some of us even got to play at skipping and the hoop game - it's harder than it looks as one of the staff demonstrated! Thank you to the staff for organising this and accompanying us, even in all that heat! Georgia Evans [7X]

### French Trip (Year 8)

The whole of Paris stretches out beneath me. Blue skies stretch as far as the eye can see. A small lonely cloud meanders leisurely across the pastel sky. The buildings do not lie in straight lines, as they do at home. They are scattered playfully amongst trees and roads. I spot the Seine, snaking its way through the heart of Paris. Its many bridges joining land to land. A lifeline, yet they go unnoticed. I look down, and my stomach flips because there is such a long way to the ground. The cars look like toys from up here. And the people barely ants. Trees with emerald green leaves rustle in the gentle wind as they line the long avenue. Like guards, protecting the people. I stare at this view in awe as the seconds turn into minutes and soon I don't know how long I've been there. I'm falling in love with Paris. (Abigail Hamilton, Year 8)



The first place we visited was the biscuit factory. When we arrived, one of the chefs showed us how to make French shortbread. Their goal was to make shortbread better than Scotland's! There were two types of shortbread to be tasted: sweet or savoury. The savoury shortbread contained parmesan cheese and the sweet ones contained almonds. The chef also gave us an offer in the shop. The biscuits were delicious; miam miam!

On the second day, we travelled to a small wheat farm. We were greeted by the couple who owned it. We were then guided into a room where the wife showed us the technique of plaiting wheat. She explained that it wasn't like plaiting hair with 3 strands but it involved 5 wheat stalks. Once the wheat was plaited we repeated the process again so we had 2 plaits. The husband took our two plaits and bent them together so they became a heart. After this, we were given cake and lemonade and we were taken to the wife's workshop. In the workshop, she showed us all of the different ways to plait wheat. It was amazing! Très bien! **(Tilly Hardiman, Year 8)** 





### **Dance The Night Away! (Year 8)**

We started off our enrichment week with a full day of dance, 'Dance the day away'. Our theme for the day was The Greatest Showman. We completed and performed 3 different dances. One contemporary to A Million Dreams and two modern jazzy dances to This Is Me and Come Alive. We learnt them all within the space of one school day and the best bit was performing them to a staff audience. Miss Clarke and Miss Norton were very accommodating to everybody's abilities and the made sure everyone was having fun. We also got to express our creative side by choreographing our own sections of the dances. Everyone had a lot of fun and the performances were amazing!

(Charlotte Phillips, Year 8)

### **Poole's Cavern Trip (Year 7)**

The first thing we did was go on a hike up the limestone hill. We learnt about the quarrying that took place about two-hundred years ago, for limestone rock (it has many different uses, including being heated to become 'quicklime', Calcium Oxide). Whilst walking, we saw crinoid (or 'sea lily') fossils, poking from the rock. These were tube and screw-shaped. Limestone is sedimentary (layers of compressed fish and corals), so the exposed rock must have once been below sea-level.



The cavern remained at a constant  $7^{\circ}$ C, so we had to bring outerlayers. The drips sent icy blasts down the backs of our necks and

we had to be cautious not to trip over the vast stalagmites on the floor. Poole's cavern is home to a strange site: orange (yolk) topped stalactites and stalagmites. The longest stalactite was about 7ft, far taller than any of us there, and would have taken at least 700 years to form! The water that churned in the Ice-age actually eroded away some of the rock in the ceiling, there was that much pressure!

Braeagh McCloy (Year 7)

### **German Animation (Year 9)**

On Wednesday 27 June, a group of thirteen Year 9s were tasked the challenge of creating an animation consisting purely of the German language, voice, props and plasticine. The task ran throughout the day and we were divided into three groups. Working with us was trainee DT teacher; Miss Hopwood and German language teacher, Mrs Payne. One of our challenges was adapting our ability so younger students (year 7) would be able to understand the script. Our only limit was our imagination, and different groups created wildly different plans, including Space, time travel and even Dinosaurs. Overall, the day was a wonderful mix of creativity and language and tested how well we could work as a team under pressure.

Jerusha Orakwue and Gabby Farge (Year 9)





### **Maths Challenge (Year 9)**

On Thursday we participated in a maths challenge. Throughout the day we were presented with several problems that we were expected to solve within prearranged groups; this gave us the opportunity to integrate with others in our year.

The first challenge we faced was the pentominoes challenge which tested our mathematical abilities but through teamwork we managed to come first. After break we were faced with 10 problems which although we found difficult we persevered through and managed to get most of the questions finished. Finally our engineering skills were tested when we were given the task to build a bridge from recyclables such as plastics and cardboard.



Despite being the only team without a plan we came out on top and overall won the challenge. This day helped us to reconsider our views on maths because it was a very enjoyable day and we are so grateful for all the planning that went into making it a memorable day for us. (Maria Rodrigues, Year 9)

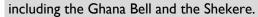
### **Robotics & Drumming (Year 8)**

On Thursday of Curriculum Enrichment Week, the Year 8s who didn't go to France, went to the Discover Digital event in Southwater, Telford. It was an event held in celebration of Telford's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, and consisted of loads of the region's tech companies and universities.



While we were there, we were able to look around the many different stalls, each one with different activities designed to help encourage and inspire kids to love technology. There was everything from the most realistic VR programs (including one where you got to walk and tightrope that was so realistic many people screamed when the fell!), to interactive games designed to test your reflexes. There was also a life-sized fruit ninja game, that to slice the fruit you had the wave your arms in the air, which was both amazingly fun, and hilariously funny. We were also given free pizza and ice cream, as well as thousands free pens and merchandise given to us by both Telford and the tech stalls. We all had an amazing day in the warm sun and most defiantly enjoyed Titan the 9ft robot that sprayed water at us.

After we returned from Telford, we took part in an African Drumming workshop. The workshop was incredibly fun, and we all learnt many different rhythms and techniques. We got to use loads of different African instruments,



We learnt how to play the drums and were taught several basic rhythms, including 'mash potato', 'fish and chips and 'peperoni pizza'. We all loved the workshop and it was a lovely end to the day.



Mollie Croughan (Year 8)



### UCAS, EPQ & Rounders! (Year 12)

Monday began with an introduction to UCAS by both Mrs Haycock and Mrs Bailey, by the end of the morning we had all logged onto our UCAS accounts and entered all of our personal details. In the afternoon, we had a talk from WhatUni in order to help us choose or decide between courses or Universities, based on our personal preferences.

The following day we were introduced to writing personal statements by Mrs Haycock who gave us all the 'do's and don'ts' regarding these. We began to plan for this amidst optional appointments with an independent careers advisor. On Tuesday afternoon, we had the pleasure of hosting an induction day for prospective year 12s who had applied to NGHS, run by Grace Todd. The afternoon ran very smoothly and all the girls enjoyed an introduction from Mr Scott, Mrs Haycock and our new head of sixth form Mrs Griffin to learn more about things like uniform and the famous Liverpool trip, along with some fun activities and ice breakers ran by current year 12s so they could all get to know each other. It finished with a drink and a snack and the chance to ask us any questions they had about starting sixth form.

A lecturer from Southampton came in on Wednesday morning to give some valuable information regarding EPQ and lots of tips we may not have yet come across, this proved very valuable later on in the day as people could continue to work on their own projects. As well as continuing with personal statements and EPQ, there was an optional talk made available by Harriet Gilbert in year 13 on 'Going Abroad'. Rosie P summarised the talk: 'Harriet came in to discuss her experience applying to American Universities with us, being a process that none of us properly knew about, we found her talk really helpful. This was not only as we were hearing about it from a first-hand perspective, but also as we came away understanding the application despite it being so different to UCAS.'

Thursday morning involved another talk on gap years by a representative of Project Trust which I know confirmed or changed a few decisions regarding whether or not to take one! Gracie G said: 'Before the presentation from Project Trust, I wasn't considering a gap year. However, it really made me realise that this would be the perfect opportunity to build upon my skills and gain once in a lifetime opportunities. Doing social work in an underdeveloped country would be an extremely rewarding experience that would also be useful for studying psychology at university.' This talk was immediately followed by a careers advisor giving a talk on interview techniques and all the different types of interviews including some activities, which proved very helpful as our knowledge and techniques were later put to the test. Mock interviews took place in the afternoon and were kindly led by a range of employers who gave us all individual feedback which was extremely useful.

An EPQ taught session was given by Mrs Kearne on Friday morning, allowing year 12s to stay ahead of schedule and to get any guidance needed. This was then followed by our epic Rounders Match as Ruby describes below....

#### Anke Gey van Pittius (Year 12)

Enrichment week for the sixth form concluded with the annual Common Room Cup competition. This particular rounders tournament is the pinnacle of competitiveness as so-called 'friends' catch you out, body balls are bowled and classmates become enemies. Austen, Seacole and Roddam took each other on in an attempt to tie red, green or yellow ribbon onto the cup. Team morale was fuelled by music and picnic food and despite the fun in the sun there, of course, could only be one winner... Doubling the scores of the two runners up (tied on 18 points) Roddam came out on top! It was a great way to finish the week especially with a win in the bag so soon before the all-important sports day. Ruby Furniss (Year 12)



### **Macbeth Workshop (Year 9)**

We were given the opportunity to participate in a drama and theatre workshop run by our former English teacher, Mr Goodier. Mr Goodier has directed numerous professional, amateur and school productions throughout his career, including Macbeth, so he was able to share his in depth knowledge of the challenges of staging the play. The day consisted of several activities such as performing key scenes in



groups and exploring the contextual themes of the play. As we were due to see the play at Stafford Castle the following week, this allowed us to understand the plot in greater depth and make the most of the experience. In the afternoon, we explored some of the disadvantages of putting on an outdoor production and the impact that costume choices can have on the audience. We all particularly enjoyed the role play based on the famous banquet scene. We had to put ourselves in the shoes of some challenging characters, giving us the opportunity to explore the motivations of the Macbeths. We were all really grateful for this experience and would like to say a massive thank you to Mr Goodier for running the drama workshop.

Maria Rodrigues and Emily Wheeler (Year 9)

### **SPORTING SUCCESSES**

As well as our Y8 Rounders Team (see page 3), our Year 9s have also been doing very well this season...

Our Year 9 Rounders headed off to Idsall last week to compete at the Summer Shropshire School Games. Due to their success in the TWSSA tournament, they had qualified for the county finals and were representing the Burton Borough area. It was an extremely hot day but the girls didn't let that phase them as they finished with 3 fantastic wins and 2 very close games which ended with only I rounder in it! Well done to all that competed.





Lucy Patrick (Year 7) finished FIRST in the 100m sprint and in the Long Jump.

At the Shropshire Schools Track and Field Championships, there were lots of medals and some new Personal Bests (PBs). Well done to: Lucy Patrick (above), Allana Williams (Third in the Shot Put) and Ella Jackson with Bronze in 200m and 800m.

# Much Ado About Macbeth

The Scottish play has taken centre stage at NGHS in recent weeks. Students in Year 10 watched a very modern production of *Macbeth* at the RSC in Stratford-Upon-Avon; students in Year 9 attended both a workshop on the play and a more traditional performance at Stafford Castle.



### 'Bold and resolute' - the Director takes the Crown at Stratford

It wasn't your typical start to *Macbeth*, and as the lights dimmed we were jolted out of our GCSE comfort zone, wondering where we were going to join the storyline. A sleeping man, onesie-clad children playing with nightmarish dolls and two isolated figures. A digital clock started an unexplained countdown. 'When the battle's lost and won' projected onto the backdrop.

The director (Polly Findlay) had gone for minimalist but atmospheric staging with supernatural lighting and electrifying, eerie music. The clock burning red in the dark ticked down to an unexpected ending. A tally was chalked up by the ever present Porter as the murder count mounted. And the witches turned 'double double toil and trouble' into a child's song you might find in a remake of *Friday the 13th* (minus the onesies). Fate and magic had the upper hand.

Christopher Eccleston's Macbeth never really stopped being Christopher Eccleston ('Is this a sonic screwdriver I see before me?'). But apart from a slight slip-up (quite literally) at the start, it was a solid performance with his northern accent making him an empathetic ordinary soldier. Lady Macbeth (Niamh Cusack) was perhaps too highly strung at the start when she is supposed to manage, manipulate and master Macbeth.

For me, the production was summed up by the final scene - a gimmick, maybe, but one which left us questioning our reading of the play, and kept us talking all the way home.

#### Edith C. (Year 10) Winner of the Creative Writing Competition

### Macbeth at Stafford Castle

The production was excellent and it was interesting to see how it was different to other productions of Macbeth. It was a contrast to the production that the Royal Shakespeare Company are currently performing which is set in modern day.

It was well performed with many of the original stage directions used. More interesting still, was how each actor chose to interpret their character. The witches were very weird with all manner of crawling and writhing. The way they performed the chants was enthralling as they were sung. It made the audience think that they were mad.

As it was performed in broad daylight a lot of emphasis was put on music and sound effects (the sound of thunder) to create tension. It made up for the darkness which features in many versions of the play. Overall, it was a very enjoyable performance and a good way to start our analysis of the play.

Jessamy C. (Year 9)



# AUSTEN ARE VICTORIOUS!

It was lovely to see such team and house spirit during Sports Day on Thursday. Whilst Austen were the overall winners, there were certificates for participants in all three houses and some new school records were broken.

Congratulations to everyone involved in the success of the day. A special mention to the Enterprise teams in Year 10 who ran stalls featuring everything from ganache to glitter! After convincing me of their business plan, they all received investment from the school and each group turned a profit. One team from Roddam managed to get  $\pounds$ 137.00 profit from their refreshments stand. Very well done! More information will follow next week.

Please see below some initial shots from Mr Hennessey who was our Sports Day official photographer.







### Forthcoming Dates...

| Date                 | Event   | Year(s)           |
|----------------------|---|-------------------|
| Tue 10th             | Parents Evening, 4pm-7pm                              | Y10               |
| Wed 11th             | Sponsored Walk (daytime)<br>PTA Summer Fete (evening) | All               |
| Thu I2th             | Sex & Relationship Education Day<br>Genocide Workshop | 9 & 10<br>Invited |
| Fri 13th             | Berlin Trip Departs                                   | 9-10              |
| Wed 18th             | House Drama<br>Special Bus arrangements in force      | All<br>All        |
| Thu 19th             | Achievement Assembly<br>PTA Film Night                | All<br>7-8        |
| Fri 20th             | End of Term 12.30pm                                   | All               |
| Wed 5th<br>September | Term Starts for ALL students at 8.50am                | All               |

### Reminder about Buses on Last Day of Term

| 12.50pm | Wolves3 Shuttle Bus to HA         |
|---------|-----------------------------------|
| 1.00pm  | HA Buses Depart to HA             |
| I.05pm  | HA Telford Buses depart from NGHS |
| I.05pm  | Muxton/Lilleshall bus from NGHS   |
| 1.05pm  | Tibberton/Sambrook bus from NGHS  |



### **Congratulations to...**

AUSTEN HOUSE who have raised £888.12 for their chosen House Charity, Alzheimer's Society across this academic year.

### **Congratulations to...**

Gwennan Ness who has achieved a Gold Award in the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge. This was a very challenging paper above the standard of A-level Chemistry. Well done also to Anke Gey van Pittius who has a bronze award in the same competition.



Mrs Davenport would appreciate any donations of clean, good quality uniform to keep a small stock in school for emergencies. In particular any uniform items that would be suitable for Year 10-11 girls. Please drop any spare items at Reception. Thank you for your support.