



NEWPORT NEWS

A weekly update from NGHS

Volume 1 - Issue 4 - Friday 9 February 2018

Head's Lines



This week has seen two monumental anniversaries which have helped dispel division and enable inclusivity to prosper. Tuesday marked one hundred years since the Representation of the People Act which gave women the right to vote. This decision was the first step in determining gender equality and whilst there is still some way to go in terms of equality in pay, conditions and opportunity, it is encouraging to hear NGHS girls making their voices heard and actions felt within the school, the community and even further afield. Additionally, this week saw the number of days of German unity exceed the number of days of division by the Berlin Wall between 1961-1989. Women have held the right to vote and be counted for 100 years. Germany has been freer for longer than it was separated. For me as a leader of a girls' school and a passionate Germanist, both are truly monumental anniversaries in promoting an inclusive future.

This newsletter captures some of the many activities this week at NGHS. Tuesday was **Safer Internet Day** and students have worked in their form groups to consider their behaviour and decision-making

online. Thank you to Mrs Herring for coordinating this. Our A-level Biologists recently visited Birmingham to take part in the **Science Live** lectures. As mentioned last week, our Year 8 students have concluded their **Cyber Challenge** and the winners table is on page 3. On Wednesday I also attended our **Student Health & Wellbeing Group** meeting and heard some ideas from students to improve awareness of wellbeing throughout the school. I have also been negotiating some improvements to **catering at NGHS** and all of our staff attended a very informative **safeguarding refresher course** last night.

Finally, you should have already received information about our Parent Governor nominations. Any parent or guardian of a current student is welcome to stand. Please ensure a nomination form is returned to Reception by Friday 16 February if you would like to stand. Your support is welcome in the next stage of the School's development and particularly any career/professional expertise in the areas of development highlighted in the letter.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the School.

Mr M J Scott, Headteacher

COMPUTER EQUIPMENT CLEAROUT?



We would be very interested to hear from any parents who work for companies which are looking to replace their IT equipment (in particular monitors, networked printers, projectors and multiple/sets of laptops). Whilst all schools are facing tough economic times, we are aware that large companies replace IT technology far more frequently than schools can and we would love to hear of any opportunities to upcycle IT equipment at NGHS. Any sets of laptops or PCs donated would be re-imaged for use throughout the school and all company donations will be fully acknowledged.

Please contact the School Office in the first instance if your company is able to help. Thank you.

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To contact the School about a general enquiry, please use **schooloffice@nghs.org.uk**

YOUNG MUSICIAN

As reported in last week's newsletter, a number of students took part in the local Rotary Young Musician competition last Saturday. NGHS congratulates everyone who entered and in particular:

- ☺ **R Macpherson : Senior Vocal Winner**
- ☺ **N Patnaik : Senior Vocal Runner Up**
- ☺ **N Parker : Junior Vocalist Winner**

SPOTLIGHT ON Music success



Picture courtesy of Shropshire Star

FUNDRAISING CONCERT HITS THE RIGHT 'NOTE'

Last weekend **Ruby Howells (Year 11)** and fellow Royal Northern College of Music Junior Musicians helped raise much-needed funds for the JRNCM Endowment Trust by giving a concert in Market Drayton. The Trust supports JRNCM students learn their craft and access music tuition and support. Attending weekly tuition at RNCM is a costly business and Ruby is proud to have raised over £800 at this concert. As well as entertaining an impressed audience and raising money for JRNCM, the concert provided a useful opportunity to develop confidence as a performer and all the musicians enjoyed the experience. Well done, Ruby!



Mrs Chapman was immensely proud of everyone who took part.

NGHS would like to thank the Rotary Club for their ongoing support and keen encouragement of music in the area.



Options Forum

The incoming Lower School Head Girl Team hosted a new event on Wednesday lunchtime, hoping to assist Year 8 students in making their options choices. A number of Year 9 students set up a station for each subject and displayed the work they had completed throughout their GCSE studies so far. The event proved very popular; many Year 8 students came along to see exactly what the GCSE courses entailed and to reflect on their initial thoughts about options. Here are some comments from Year 8 students about the event:

'It offered a very good insight into the expectations of GCSEs and the areas covered, as it is an honest representation' (Sunita)

'This was extremely helpful as we could get an insight into similarities & differences to our current work' (Ella)

'I think that this event was extremely useful. It helped me to be prepared for next year. I now have an idea of the topics studied in each subject. This has made it easier for me to choose my options.' (Alja)

Many thanks to all the Year 9 students who helped out at the event and those who donated their work.

Watch this space for more events led by the new Lower School Head Girl Team!



Miss Tomkinson (Head of Y9 & 10)



BIOLOGY LIVE

On Wednesday 7 February, a group of Sixth Form Students visited Birmingham Town Hall for A-Level Science Live: Biology. The students listened to lectures from five scientists with different areas of expertise, the first of whom was Professor Sophie Scott, a Research Fellow at UCL, who gave an engaging and at times humorous presentation on the Science of Laughter.



Doctor Adam Hart was next to take the stage and was quick to captivate us with his analogies, which helped us to comprehend the staggering biodiversity of planet earth. In perhaps the most enjoyable lecture of the day, Doctor Adam Rutherford, former editor of the journal 'Nature', linked Genetics with History by detailing the family trees of King Edward III through to their descendants; Danny Dyer, and the rest of the UK population.

After a nutritional lunch of Birmingham street food, we watched two more lectures by Doctor Jenny Rohn and Professor Steve Jones, who delved into the subjects of antibiotic resistance and evolution. The day was both enjoyable and educational, helping students to build on their Biology knowledge and link different areas of the syllabus as well as honing their exam techniques with tips from an examiner.

H Gilbert (Year 13)

A last minute change of fortune saw a new team race to secure NGHS's **FIRST PLACE** in the **GCHQ CyberFirst Challenge**. Year 8 all took part and the 'Schuyler Sisters' led the way for most of last week; it was only over the last weekend when the 'Kadjar Crew' put in a late effort to race to victory. That said, there was superb cross-team support with some

students from Schuyler helping out the opposing teams; what a great gesture! Most members of the top three teams logged on every day, spent break and lunch times in Room 8 and were even logging on at home in the evening and at the weekend. Well done to the 'Kadjar Crew' (pictured below) comprising: Anna, Harriet, Portia and Emie. **Mr S Hennessey**

It was relatively easy at first then it got a lot harder, but we pushed on! (Lily)

The competition was split into four categories - each was further split into beginner, intermediate and expert. I particularly found cybersecurity difficult. (Emie)

I really enjoyed the competitive aspect of the competition at it was lots of fun (Harriet)

It was a fun and enjoyable educational experience that broadened our knowledge of cybersecurity. (Anvita).

Winning Scores in the challenging challenge!

Team Name	Logic & Coding	Cryptography	Networking	Cyber Security
Kadjar Crew	67%	59%	78%	42%



CYBER CHALLENGE



On Tuesday 6 February, we learnt about internet safety and digital wellbeing as it was Safer Internet Day.

Digital wellbeing is all about looking after yourself and others online so we also learnt how to cope with things that take a negative turn. Our form were given helpline numbers and identities of staff who could help us if the content online makes us uncomfortable/upset.

The online world is such a big part of our lives that it is vital for us to stay positive and kind so as not to spread unkind content.



Rhianna and Prerna (Form S2)

Parents are also encouraged to download a helpful [“Digital Five A Day” E-Safety guide by clicking here to open a PDF.](#)

Catering Update



Following some Student Council concerns and a very productive meeting with our Catering Manager, I am pleased to confirm changes to our catering offer. From this week:

- ☺ The price of a main meal is reduced from £3 to £2.80
- ☺ Portion sizes are more consistent
- ☺ Single items of fruit are reduced to 30p each
- ☺ Chicken Burgers have been replaced with 100% breast chicken goujons (which are proving very popular!)
- ☺ A more varied menu will feature
- ☺ A new water fountain will be investigated for the PE area
- ☺ A ‘foodie’ group comprising a student from each year group will meet each half term with the Catering Academy team.

PARENTAL SURVEYS

I am working my way through about 200 parental surveys and will report back an action plan before Easter. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Mr Scott



NOTICES

SPORTS CONGRATULTIONS

Well done to K Jong who has moved up the rankings in the Badminton U18 age group. She is now 18th nationally. In the U19 age group she is 21st and in the senior age group 64th. She won a regional U19's tournament on Saturday and is competing in the nationals this Friday. Good luck!

Further congratulations go to H Lewis-Tighe who moves up to **SECOND** in the **Under 15 Girls Sabre LPJS UK ranking**. Tremendous work!

HISTORY HAPPENINGS

Lessons From Auschwitz: Four Y12s (Ashton, Bea, Isabel & Mary) are participating in an inspiring project run by the Holocaust Educational Trust. It involves a three part programme with a visit to Birmingham, where they had the privilege to hear from a Holocaust survivor. Next Tuesday, they travel to Poland to visit the camp at Auschwitz, followed by a de-brief seminar over half-term. We wish them well on their travels and look forward to hearing about their experiences after half-term.

Medieval Extravaganza weekend to Leicester [Richard III Exhibition Centre, followed by a medieval style banquet!] & Warwick Castle, to coincide with the Wars of the Roses course taught at A level, takes place from Sunday 25 to Monday 26 March for Y10-12s. Please see Miss Davies for a letter if interested.

ENGLISH COMPETITIONS

Reminder for students about **competition deadlines**:

- ☑ Poetry Games competition: Friday 16 February
- ☑ Radio 2 500 words: Thursday 22 February
- ☑ BBC Young Writers' Award: Monday 12 March

Year 12 Youth Speaks Competition

The students involved in this competition will need to be at Haberdashers' Adams by 6.10pm on Tuesday 13 February. Family and friends are welcome to attend as spectators. We wish both teams the best of luck!

Forthcoming Dates...



Date	Event	Year(s)
Tue 13 Feb	Healthy Drop-In Session (lunchtime)	all
Wed 14 Feb	Silver DofE Expedition presentation (lunch) PTA Valentines Film Night	12 7-8
Fri 16 Feb	Half Term begins at 3.45pm	all
Mon 26 Feb	Return to School at 8.50am	all
Tue 27 Feb	Science Live, Birmingham Health Drop-in at lunchtime (Pastoral Rm) Chemistry lecture after school	11 all 12-13
Wed 28 Feb	Maths lecture - Birmingham University	12-13
Thu 1 Mar	Russian History Lecture	13