



# NEWPORT NEWS

## *A weekly update from NGHS*

Volume 1 - Issue 5 - Friday 16 February 2018

### Head's Lines



**A**s my first half term at NGHS draws to a close, I would like to thank all of our students and my new colleagues for their warmest of welcomes. Moving schools mid-way through the academic year is never easy, but I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know students, governors and staff. Thank you to all the parents who have given me their views about the school; many have been very positive but I have also read some largely constructive ways to improve the School and will discuss these with colleagues next half term.

This week has seen the next chapter of the School's development come to fruition as we took control of the inside of our new building. Please see page two of this newsletter for some photograph updates. There is still some work to do outside and, provided this is completed and signed off next Friday, we will be able to teach inside the building from Monday 26 February. The donations and support of everyone associated with the campaign is very much appreciated and the students who have visited the new building this week have exuded excitement, joy and enthusiasm; and this was just about the snazzy toilets! We look forward to many years of productive learning and study in our new surroundings. If you are visiting the school to collect your daughter or meet a member of staff, please be aware that Reception will be in the new building after half term.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will read how our **public speaking teams** performed very well in the annual Youth Speaks competition at Haberdashers' Adams on Tuesday night. Well done particularly to one team who will continue onto the next stage of the regional competition. We also heard on Thursday that two of our students have **won a most prestigious competition to compose a musical fanfare for the Royal Opera House in London**. This is a truly tremendous achievement and a reason to blow one's own trumpet! See below for more information. Finally, our **Year 11 A & B netball teams** pulled off a double 'medal' celebration at the Telford Schools' Tournament last night. Well done to them.

Half term marks the mid-way point in the academic year. I hope that all our NGHS families will take some time to have a well-deserved break for a few days but also prepare for the forthcoming short half term to Easter. Teaching time for Years 11 and 13 is ever decreasing and it is vital that students strive to attend school each day. Attendance is an area we wish to focus on next half term, both in terms of helping individual students to improve their attendance, but also to reward those who achieve high attendance. We would greatly appreciate your support in reading the attendance information on page 4.

Wishing you a very enjoyable half term break.

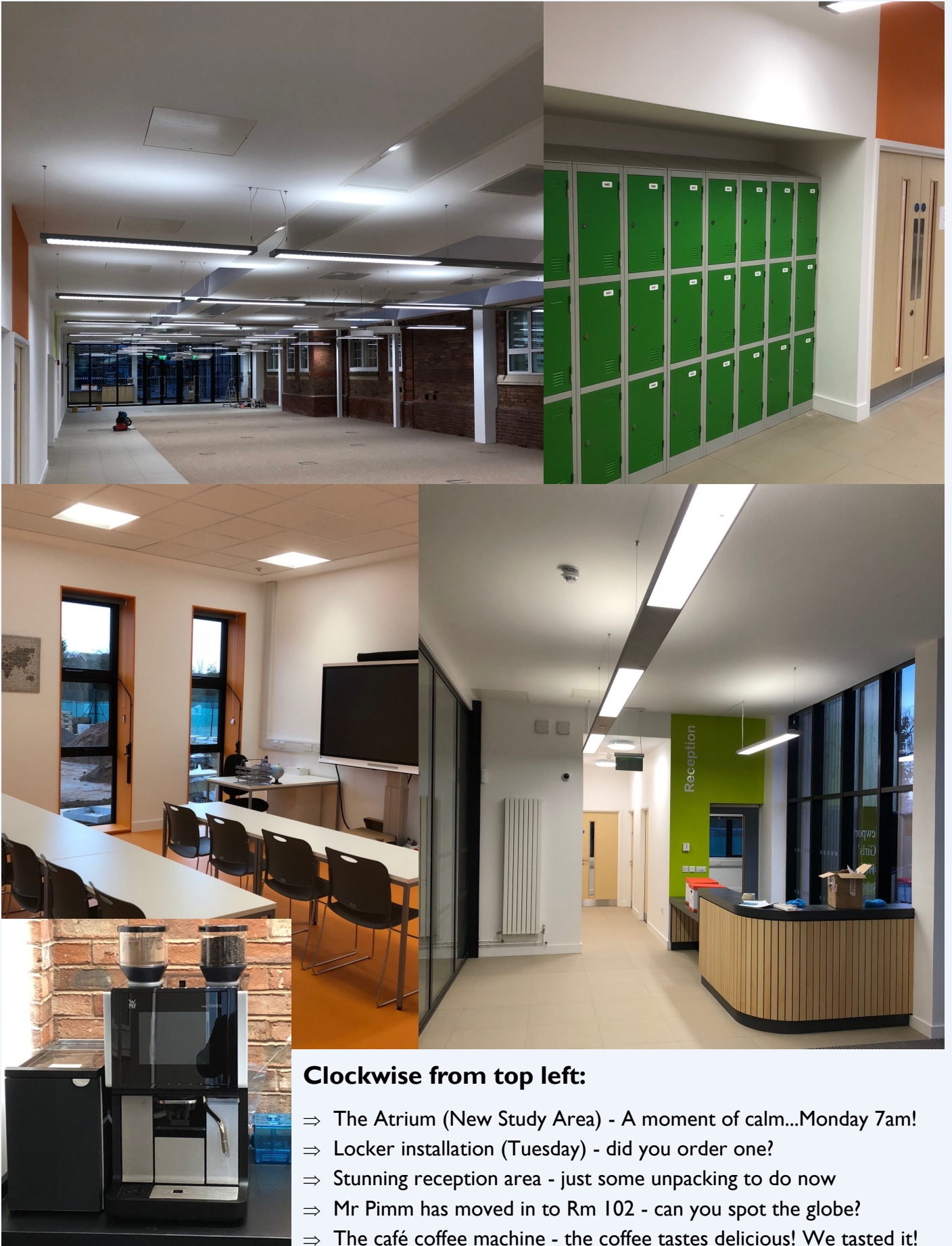
## FANFARES SOUND A JOYOUS TONE!



NGHS offers loud and proud congratulations to Abigail and Sophie who have **won the Royal Opera House London's competition to write a fanfare** for their forthcoming summer concert series. They are among ten composers who have been asked to attend a workshop at the Royal Opera House in March prior to their work being recorded by the orchestra in April. They will then return for another workshop to hear the orchestra perform their work. Their fanfare will then be played each evening at the concert series. Congratulations to both girls on this truly outstanding achievement!



# THE NEW BUILDING



## Clockwise from top left:

- ⇒ The Atrium (New Study Area) - A moment of calm...Monday 7am!
- ⇒ Locker installation (Tuesday) - did you order one?
- ⇒ Stunning reception area - just some unpacking to do now
- ⇒ Mr Pimm has moved in to Rm 102 - can you spot the globe?
- ⇒ The café coffee machine - the coffee tastes delicious! We tasted it!





## SPOTLIGHT ON *Public Speaking*



*The Telford and Wrekin heat of the Rotary Club's 'Youth Speaks' competition was contested by seven teams representing Haberdashers' Abraham Darby, Haberdashers' Adams, NGHS and Telford College. This year, we entered two teams into the competition.*

Rachel, Aisha and Caitlin were inspired by the recent work of the Year 12 historians on the topic of genocide and their presentation focused on its origins and how genocide should be taught in schools. The presentation demonstrated sharp insight into the topic and highlighted the important role schools play in ensuring that we never forget the horrors and atrocities of the past. Leoni, Phoebe and Eve then delivered a passionate and thought-provoking presentation entitled 'How Loud is Your Voice in Society?' Within their presentation, they covered a diverse range of topics, exploring why some children will listen to their grandparents more than their parents, as well as the legacy of the suffragette movement.

Both teams represented the school in a mature and articulate manner. Chair of the Judges, Jean Escott, congratulated all the competitors on their performance and on their interesting and well-researched topics before giving the result of the competition to the teams and audience. Leoni, Phoebe and Eve's team were placed second and, along with the winning team from Adams, have been invited to compete in the district final in March.

**Mr D Postle - Head of English**



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## DOUBLE RANKING IN TOURNAMENT

Miss Clarke would like to say a massive **WELL DONE** to both the Y11 A and B teams on their **FIRST** and **THIRD** place rankings in the Year 11 Telford Schools Netball tournament held at Charlton School on Thursday. They played magnificently. Well done, girls!



## Do you live near Stone or Eccleshall?

**IF YES** and your daughter travels to school by bus, you are probably aware that the **number 12 D&G bus service**, which runs through Stone, Eccleshall etc. onto Newport, is being stopped from 1 April 2018. The company are unable to continue to provide this service. However, NGHS has been approached by Mr and Mrs Blackburn who would be prepared to look into a private bus service, if there is enough interest from students/parents.

This is a very welcome and appreciated gesture. If you would like to know more or express your interest in taking a place on a bus, please contact [martblackburn@hotmail.com](mailto:martblackburn@hotmail.com) so that interest can be gauged.



# The Great War Debate

On Friday 9 February, Miss Davies, Mrs Herring and 15 Year 11 GCSE History students travelled to the John Henry Newman College in Chelmsley Wood to take part in the Great War debate. This unique opportunity was organised to mark the centenary of the end of World War One in 1918.

The event was opened by military historian, Dan Hill, who talked about life in the trenches during WWI. This was followed by a panel discussion chaired by BBC journalist, John Young, in which controversial questions really put the experts on the spot!



*I think that the Great War Debate was a brilliant experience as it helped me to see how much WWI is still affecting our society today. The amount of information that was condensed into two hours was incredible, from the interesting but fun facts (e.g. 'chatting' comes from the trenches, when soldiers would talk while decontaminating themselves of 'chats', or lice), to the more abstract, such as whether the poppy is still an appropriate act of remembrance, or a compulsory show of remembering a small group of people that doesn't really include the 'hidden heroes'. The audience debated with the panel of experts on the remembrance of animals involved in the war; on the role of the navy; the use of soldiers from the British Empire; and, how patriotism should or should not relate to war. I learnt a lot about WWI and how it affects us today, and I will certainly see Remembrance Day in a different light from now on.*

A final note: we were urged by one panellist that the next time we pass our local war memorial, to stop for a moment and consider what it means to us and how we remember those who have fallen for their country.

**Account written by  
E Jenkins, Year 11**

## LOST PROPERTY ALERT

We seem to have a lot of LOST PROPERTY in school at present. To help reunite items with their owners, **ALL LOST PROPERTY WILL BE DISPLAYED IN THE HALL** at break time on Monday 26th, Tuesday 27th and Wednesday 28th February. If students have lost something, they should pop along to see if it's been handed in. Any items not collected by the Wednesday will go to the Charity Shop.

PE kits which have not been taken home to be washed can only be 'rescued' from the changing rooms after speaking to Miss Clarke/Miss Norton first as they should be going home weekly!



**NGHS Music presents**



**Wednesday 21st  
March 2018  
NGHS Hall, 7pm**

**Tickets on sale  
after half term.  
Save the date!**





# Attendance Matters

NGHS is keen to ensure that attendance levels remain high and next half term we have set ourselves an ambitious target of 97%+ attendance. From this point forward a new attendance board by the staffroom will display monthly graphs and every time a graph is published the four forms (Y7/8, Y9/10, Y11, Y12/13) with the highest number of students hitting this target will receive a form prize for their efforts.



## **Please can families help us by:**

- ⇒ Keeping absence requests to a minimum and applying for these in plenty of time (late requests may lead to unauthorised absence)
- ⇒ Encouraging your daughter to attend school if she has a sniffle or a minor ailment (girls with sickness bugs must remain at home for 48 hours after last vomiting though!)
- ⇒ Leaving a message at the start of the school day if your daughter is unable to attend school.

**Thank you for your kind support in promoting high attendance levels at NGHS.**

## **KEEP THE DATE! KEEP THE DATE! KEEP THE DATE!**

**Join the PTA Quiz Night on Friday 16 March (new date) at NGHS for a night of fun, friendly competition and fish & chips!**



## **U15 HANDBALL SUCCESS**

Well done to the U15 Handball Team and Miss Norton for the team's success in **WINNING** the local competition and moving onto the regional round!



## **YEAR 12 LOOKING AHEAD EVENING**

Parents are warmly invited to attend our Year 12 Looking Ahead Evening at school on **Thursday 22 March, starting at 7pm**. This event will present important and helpful information about applying to university and/or apprenticeships.

## **YEAR 12 HIGHER EDUCATION FAIR**

Year 12s will be visiting the **Higher Education Fair** at Manchester University on Wednesday 14 March, leaving at 8.45am and returning by the end of the school day. This is a great opportunity to talk to university staff from different institutions.

## **UNIVERSITY FINANCE INFORMATION**

Year 13 parents might find the presentation on our website helpful in understanding more about Student Finance options. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to view it.

## **Forthcoming Dates...**



Date	Event	Year(s)
Fri 16 Feb	Half Term begins at 3.45pm	all
Mon 26 Feb	Return to School at 8.50am Boreatton Park (netball) parents meeting	all 7
Tue 27 Feb	Science Live, Birmingham Healthy Drop-in 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
Mon 5 Mar	Student Leadership Application deadline	12
Wed 7 Mar	Parents' Evening	11
Thu 8 Mar	Politics Revision conference Sixth Form Council meeting	13 12-13