



NEWPORT NEWS

A weekly update from NGHS

Volume 2 - Issue 28 - Friday 24 May 2019

Head's Lines



Just a few words from me this week. Our Year 11 and Year 13 students' external exams have started and they have been magnificent in their approach to this crucial part of their education at NGHS. Work has begun on our two science lab projects - as you are aware we are renovating our main Physics lab and we are also trying to improve the quality of another laboratory through redecoration and upcycling of furniture. It should look great.

Our House Board Game Competition was a real hoot this week. This is one of the new House competitions I introduced in September and, again, it provides an opportunity for girls to come together and try their hand at a skilful game and/or one which is just FUN! From Chess to Battleships to Hungry Hippos, the Atrium was full of the sound of laughter and merriment at lunchtime on Wednesday. Please see the photographs in this week's newsletter.

Last weekend, we had students out on the PGL Netball Weekend and the large Y12 Biology Fieldwork Residential. Students in Years 7-9 also enjoyed a trip to see the musical 'Grease' last night. Thank you to all of the staff who freely give their time to offer these additional opportunities to our students.

This week's newsletter also includes an in-depth 'Think Piece' written by three Year 12s who recently benefited from the outstanding Lessons from Auschwitz project. Having done this myself as a teacher, I know what an impact this trip has and I hope that you agree their account is very befitting.

Just a reminder, we recommence our final half term of this year on Monday 3 June at the normal time! I also hope that all of our NGHS families enjoy the Bank Holiday weekend.

With best wishes for the half term break, **Mr M J Scott**

Higher Education Evening

On Thursday 20 June at 6pm there will be an information evening for parents/carers of Y12 students. The focus of the evening will be sharing knowledge about the UCAS application process and how you can best support your daughter with her forthcoming application. I will talk through the process and any recent changes that have been made, application deadlines, early entrants and what support you can expect to receive over the forthcoming months. It will also provide you with an opportunity to ask any questions you may have. I look forward to seeing you there.

Mrs K Griffin
Head of Sixth Form



Do you have access to a transit van?

We require help getting some borrowed display boards for our Community Day in June. If you can help to transport them w/c 24 June and back after the event, please contact

Miss A-M Davies at
100@nghs.org.uk

Thank you



A Level
Exhibition 2019

Newport Girls'
High School



Venue-
library - 4-6pm
Date: 6th June



Newport Girls' High School

Wellington Road
Newport, TF10 7HL
Tel: 01952 797550

Headteacher: M J Scott BA(Hons) Exon PGCE NPQH

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

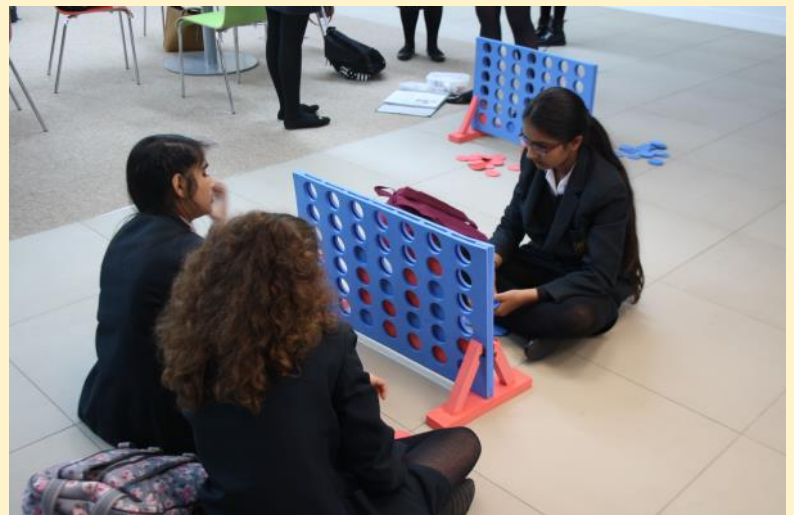
PGL Netball Weekend

A three hour coach journey and a long week of exams, was well worth it when we finally arrived at PGL Liddington. After dinner and an hour of team building, we headed back to the rooms for our vital beauty sleep. With Mrs Goodall as our 6:30am alarm it was no wonder that some of us were still half asleep at breakfast but our spirits were lifted as soon as we stepped out onto the courts for our first day of netball. Day 1 saw us off to a promising start, with lots of goals and a number of wins. Miss Tomkinson and Mrs Gill really got into the spirit of things and were jumping around, cheering for their teams. After a long, tiring day of netball, we were glad to have some time to put our feet up and watch a film that night but the year 10's weren't as lucky as they used this time to revise for their upcoming RS exam. Another early start and the second day of netball had begun. With just as much success as the day before, it was clear that every team had grown in confidence, thanks to the unbelievable support from not only the team leaders but also the teams on the side-line. Newport 1, 7 and 9 all made it to the finals of their respective year groups and team 1 and 9 won their age groups with 7 placing a well-earned second. The excitement at the results were clear and at least four of the teachers cried with happiness or perhaps relief. Overall, the weekend was a huge success with all our nine teams showing determination and most of all improvement.



E Jackson, Year 9

On Wednesday a number of students from years 7-12 competed in the first ever NGHS House Board Game Competition. This was the new house teams' first house competition and everything went smoothly. The house teams were incredibly organised and got involved by supervising the games and cheering on their competitors.

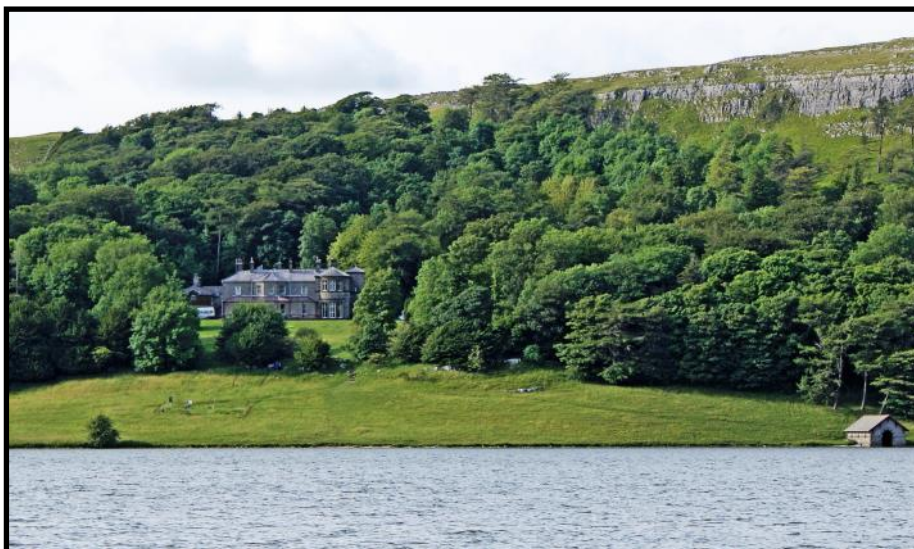


HOUSE BOARD GAME COMPETITION

Biology Fieldwork Adventure

On Friday 17 May, the A level Biology students set off for an adventure to sunny Malham-Tarn in Yorkshire. Upon arriving in the middle of nowhere (aka. Malham Centre) we were notified that we had a 20min minibus ride as our coaches couldn't fit down the narrow country roads. After a short, bumpy ride down the country roads we finally arrived at the Field Study Centre where after a short tour of the accommodations, we delved straight into the task of vegetation studies. We went down by the Tarn and learnt how to use a range of different equipment used for sampling. We then went on a scenic walk to the Scree Slope while we looked at the growth of plants going up a hill.

On arrival back from the chilly hillside we went to drop our bags off at our rooms and went to get a much needed hot meal of jacket potatoes with Chilli and Bolognese. After dinner we set out to make some small mammal traps, the next morning after a filling breakfast we went to check if we had caught any mammals. To much disappointment, we hadn't caught anything, despite setting 15 traps! Nevertheless we carried on with the day's activities by walking down to Gordale Beck to study all the different kinds of invertebrates that resided in the stream. After doing an experiment to test where in the stream different invertebrates were most common we decided to take a lunch break on the hillside surrounded by the Belted Galloways (which are black cows with a distinct white stripe down the middle). After we arrived back from lunch we had a short classroom session where we statistically



interpreted our data. We then went to do more vegetation studies down by the Tarn and later interpreted this data before we went for supper.

After we ate supper we were lucky to have had the chance to go on a walk with two people from the National Trust who explained to us how Malham-Tarn came to be how it is today and how they plan to improve the landscape in the future and keep a greater diversity of plants in different areas. They also talked about the importance of preventing the spread of invasive species. We also decided to try once more to catch one of the small mammals in the mammal traps.

When we came to check the traps the next morning we found out that second time round we had hit success as one out of our 15 traps had caught a small mouse (which we later named Billie). We then set off in groups to do our independent experiments, this is where we got to plan our entire experiment from where we did the experiment to what we wanted to test. After collected our data we then bid farewell to Malham-Tarn and set on back home to Newport.

H Raiyat, Year 12

SALTERS CHEMISTRY FESTIVAL

On Thursday 9 May we took a team of four year 8 students to Keele University to the Salters' Chemistry Festival. This was a competition involving two problem solving activities based in the University laboratories.

The group managed to win a prize for their excellent work and they were a credit to themselves and the school.

Mr C Tolley, Science Faculty





Lessons from Auschwitz

This year, four of our A Level History class were selected to participate in the Holocaust Educational Trust's annual programme, Lessons from Auschwitz, accompanied by Mr Postle. We travelled to Birmingham to attend a seminar to prepare us for the trip. On our first seminar we discussed our preconceptions of Jewish life throughout Europe before the Second World War. Throughout the day, we met in small groups, ours led by the knowledgeable team leader Imogen, and learned more about the similarities and differences of Jewish culture compared with the non-Jewish population beside whom they existed. We learnt about the discrimination the Jews faced before the Holocaust, and the destructive extent of anti-Semitic rhetoric pervading the time. Dividing into smaller groups we saw the personal impact of the Holocaust on individuals; personally, I saw a photo of a Jewish couple that had been taken in a café. It was just a picture of a young couple that looked normal and completely

happy. Hearing the individual testimonies and stories of the survivors and victims drives home the personal impact of the six million deaths; we focused on the individuals as well as the bigger picture, so that the personal stories would evoke grief and a deeper level of personal understanding instead of shocking us into numbness with the sheer scale of death. We were also lucky enough to hear the testimony of **Mala Tribich** (MBE), who pointed out that our generation will probably be the last to hear survivors' stories first hand. Mala's story was heart-breaking but filled with tremendous hope as despite all that she endured; the disappearance of her cousin Idzia, the loss of her mother and eight-year-old sister after they were taken from the ghetto, her separation from her father and brother, and her time in the camp, Mala survived. To hear about her time in Ravensbrück and later Bergen-Belsen was horrendous and emotionally challenging but necessary. We all left that day with an enlightened perspective on the

individual horrors faced by the victims. She was reunited with her brother Ben (who later became an Olympian) in England in 1947 and was able to learn English, attend secretarial college, and get a job within a year. In the years following the Holocaust Mala did not discuss her experience with those around her; her husband and children knew that she was a survivor, but did not know her personal story. Yet in the last twenty years, having found a growing interest in the Holocaust, Mala accepts invitations to speak in schools whenever possible (she has spoken at NGHS before) as she feels it is her duty to speak for those who no longer can for themselves. It is Mala's 'greatest hope that something positive will be handed to the future generation.'

A few days later we began our journey to Poland. As we arrived in Krakow we were brought to Oświęcim, where the Jewish community had been obliterated, contrasting the previous years where 58% of the population were Jewish. We focused on the idea of

'presence of absence', thinking not solely about what was there, but what was missing, for example the streets that once were filled with the flourishing Jewish Community. We visited a Jewish museum, which again emphasised the normality of Jewish life within Poland prior to the mass alienation of the community. We were then taken to Auschwitz, immediately struck by the presence of coaches packed with tourists, alongside a café and giftshop, which seemed to strangely disrespect the atrocities that occurred just metres away. However, once we began our tour the heavy atmosphere remained with the group throughout the entirety of the trip. The infamous 'Arbeit Macht Frei' gates loomed over us as we entered, destroying any remnants of the tourism we had seen on arrival. One moment that will remain with us all was the room filled with the hair of women and children, tonnes of real hair reminding us of the lives stolen. On the walls, there were innumerable portraits of the unnamed victims of the Holocaust, reminding us of the personal horrors. Each individual had their head shaven and striped clothes, dehumanising the victims and detracting from the diversity and individuality. Underneath the portraits were the dates of arrival and death in the camp, and we were struck by how many people didn't last more than a couple of months. Before we left, we were shown something often overlooked. The Commandant of Auschwitz (Rudolf Hoess') living quarters, and the place he was hanged. His wife and children lived with him, his wife dubbing the time 'the happiest years of their lives'. The house was newly built, well-furnished and comfortable, and all in full view of the gas chambers, crematoriums and the barbed wire tracks. As we returned to the coach, it was a noticeably more sombre atmosphere, barely a word was spoken as we journeyed to Auschwitz-Birkenau. Upon arrival, we were struck once more by the presence of absence, and the sheer

scale and vastness of the camp. A marked difference between this camp and Auschwitz I was that Auschwitz I was converted from an army barracks, whereas this was a purpose-built extermination camp. The ashes from those cremated at Auschwitz I somewhat symbolically were used to solidify the grounds upon which Auschwitz-Birkenau was built. This added to the bleak atmosphere created by the railway line that extended to 26 countries but terminated here. It seemed like there was no hope. The Jewish community, Roma, Sinti, the disabled, prisoners of war and many other persecuted groups were transported here in dehumanising freight trains, and as they arrived, they were divided into men and women and then into the weak and the strong, where those deemed not physically capable were marched immediately into gas chamber, with no record of names or even existence. Some of the stronger men were designated to the post of Sonderkommando, whose role partially involved the disposal of those murdered due to the regime, this meant that many would have played a role in the deaths of their own families. We walked the road they were forced to on the way to their death. There was no life, no birds, we were wrapped up in coats and scarves yet were still shivering in mid-March. It is not possible to even begin to imagine how these people felt, wearing virtually nothing, mothers and fathers separated from their children and each other. They were isolated within the crowds of people who were all identical in appearance and struggle. Rabbi Marcus spoke to us about religion within the camps, telling how some exchanged food rations for time with the contraband prayer book. He always reminded us of modern day anti-Semitism and the presence of hatred in the world today. We were also shown the dire living conditions. The barn-like structures, some still unfinished, were filled with three-tier bunks, built on a slant to fit more in, once more

dehumanising the inhabitants. It's hard to imagine the contrast between the lives of the perpetrators and their victims. The latrines were primitive and unhygienic, however almost a place of sanctity as the guards were too disgusted to venture in. A poignant moment was the testimony of a Jewish man who took pride in keeping clean and smart as a form of resistance to the Nazi regime. Another form of silent resistance was a prisoner who secretly took photographs of women and piles of bodies in the woods. One example of physical resistance was the obliteration of 2 or 3 crematoriums by Sonderkommando. As the sun set, we walked towards what was the final destination for many victims. The journey included a head-shaving room and a shower room, and it was haunting to walk the same path that so many innocent people did. The solemn day concluded with a religious ceremony led by the rabbi, including prayers and poems written by and about the victims. One that remains with us was a poem written by a thirteen year old Jewish boy whilst in the camp. Hearing his beautiful words reminded us of the duty we have to never let this dark period be forgotten. Upon returning to England, we took a few days to recover, but we are now planning on organising events throughout school to spread what we have learned, and develop understanding of the personal horrors of the Holocaust. Our time in Poland will never be forgotten and we believe that this is without a doubt the most important trip that we will ever take.

C Lloyd, O O'Byrne, L Ragbourne and E Asaah
(Year 12)

Farewell Lab 15!



Over half term, work will start to rip out the old 1960s Physics laboratory and replace it with a shiny, modern and fit-for-purpose science laboratory with new ventilation, sinks, disability friendly benching and technology.

Former students who read the newsletter, mothers, aunts and former staff will perhaps remember Lab 15 fondly. Unfortunately it has had its day and the Science Faculty are very excited about the transformation which is about to begin.

We will keep you updated on progress. We are also very grateful to the Wolfson Foundation for their generous grant of £40,000 towards the renovation works.

Mr M J Scott

Forthcoming Dates...

| Date | Event | Year(s) |
|----------|--|------------|
| Mon 3rd | Term Restarts at 8.50am | All |
| Wed 5th | People's History Museum visit | Y8 |
| Thu 6th | 4pm A-level art exhibition (Library) | All |
| Fri 7th | Centenary competitions deadline Silver DofE Practice Expedition | All Y10 |
| Wed 12th | German Exchange students arrive | Y10 |

ADVANCED NOTICE

There will be no Adams buses on the **afternoon** of Wednesday 17 July as HA have Sports Day at Oakengates Stadium.