



NEWPORT NEWS

A weekly update from NGHS

Volume 2 - Issue 10 - Friday 16 November 2018



Head's Lines

Last night we welcomed a large number of families to our very successful Sixth Form Open Evening. Visitors were able to talk individually to our teachers about the courses on offer as well as attending a presentation from staff and students. Our sixth form students were, once again, fantastic role models and ambassadors for the school. Thank you to all of them who stayed after school to assist us. Our Year 11s will receive their option forms in the new year once mocks etc. are out of the way and these forms are due back to school by 14 February 2019. If Year 11 parents have any questions about the sixth form, please don't hesitate to speak to Mrs Bailey or Mrs Griffin or email NGHS6@nghs.org.uk.

Monday's House Music competition was another wonderful example of the camaraderie between students in our school. Well done to Austen who I'm told won for the first time in quite a long while! One of our adjudicators, Dan Allen, even travelled from Cardiff for the event and our second judge was Nick Brown our new saxophone teacher. Organised by sixth form students under the guidance of Mrs Wallace and Mrs Chapman, the theme was 'Girl Power' and we were even treated to a visit by the 'Spice Girls' including some rather unusual looking Baby Spice and Sporty Spice members. Maybe I need to wear my glasses more....!!! It was a lovely afternoon and well done to everyone who joined in and represented their House.

Thank you to parents who have made comments about the current uniform and any potential changes via uniform@nghs.org.uk. At this stage, there is no definite decision to change the Y7-11 uniform and, to allay any concerns, I can reveal that there will not be any tartan considered for NGHS! Once the consultation has been concluded, the Governors will consider any responses and the feedback from a panel of students selected randomly from the register of each form group to look at any alternatives, if necessary. If a change is decided upon, a new uniform will be prepared (including skirt and trouser options) and any implementation of this process will be staggered. There will also be no expectation to purchase a new uniform immediately in 2019. These points form the majority of the less positive feedback raised thus far so I hope that I can allay those today.

This week's newsletter details our fabulous visit to India and the weekly rewards and pastoral updates. I am so pleased to hear such positive feedback about the newsletter at so many school events. It is lovely to share our news and the success of our students. Thank you also to our Y7 parents who have shared their views about transition and I will share this feedback next week.

Lastly, please ensure your daughter is not in school before 7.45am in the morning. There is no definitive staff presence before this time and students must not be on site before 7.45am. Thank you.

Wishing you a pleasant weekend,

Mr M J Scott

School Walk Donation

It was a real pleasure to welcome Rebecca Heron, the Education & Outreach Manager from Remembering Srebrenica to NGHS to collect a cheque for £1200, which was part of the money raised during our school walk last summer.

The charity raises awareness of the genocide and suffering in the country in the 1990s and is poised to open Bosnia House in Birmingham later this month. We have now been nominated for an award for our work and this will be presented by the Minister for Faith, Lord Bourne on 25 November. Well done to Mrs Seys and all the students involved in this project.



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

SPOTLIGHT ON *India Adventure*



Over half term, a group of sixth formers, Mrs Gill, Mr Pimm and Mrs Dainty had a life-changing trip to India. Below are the first three days of the diary that has been written about the trip. The whole diary will be published, in full, on our website this weekend. Please do visit the website to find out more about this wonderful adventure.

24th/25th October – R Pritchard

On the Wednesday morning, we all met at school at 7am bright and early, excited for the long day of travelling ahead of us. The journey down to Heathrow went smoothly and we were soon at the airport, checking in and going through security. After we had boarded the plane and settled into what would be our seats for the next 10 hours, we quickly found a list of films that we would watch to help the time pass. Several films and (for the lucky few) naps later we landed at Bangalore airport and made our way through customs. We were greeted outside of arrivals by two minibuses that took us on the hour-long journey to Sangam. This ended up being the best welcome to India that we could have had as, after arriving in the dark in the early hours of the morning, we saw the sunrise over the city and the villages and towns slowly wake up. When we reached Sangam, we were greeted by Kiran and Roshan, as well as the dogs on the Land. With many of us being very tired from our long day of travelling, we had a slow start to the day with some of us trying to sleep off the jet lag and others reading and settling into our new surroundings. Around late afternoon, we ventured out of Sangam on a walk guided by Kiran and Roshan and saw the local area, as well as meeting a few of the locals who showed us how they were adapting their farmland to the current climate, transforming it instead into other industries or selling it to property developers. We then returned to Sangam and, after sampling some more delicious curry for our tea, went straight to bed for what must have been the earliest night many of us had had in years.

Friday 26th October – E Gollins

After being woken up at 5.30am by the singing of the Church down the road, we were ready to begin our first full day of activities. The morning's cycle ride started out as a look over the picturesque scenery and an introduction into village life, but after a few unscheduled stops, I think it's safe to say that we didn't make it to the lake that day but the flexibility of the trip meant we'd definitely see it at some point. With everyone arriving back at Sangam, we tried our hand at Rangoli. It was much more difficult than it looked and the dogs rolling in the quartz powder didn't help much either, but we managed to create a few which looked excellent for our first attempts. After lunch, we tried our hand at pottery, and although most of our creations didn't make it home in one piece, we all had

fun making them. After dinner, we all chose an item of Indian significance from the temple room (figurines, jewellery etc.) and were able to ask about its origins. Sitting around the campfire that night and hearing Kiran talk so passionately about his country, cultures and traditions was definitely one of the highlights of the trip.

Saturday 27th October – S Harley

On this day, we travelled to Bangalore to explore a transect of the city, and to take in the markets and shops, including Fabindia. On the way there, we stopped off at the



site of a Hindu shrine which are found all over both the rural and urban areas of Bangalore. These are always placed next to a Peepal tree which is worshiped in the Hindu religion- this particular shrine was dedicated to the snake as they symbolise rebirth, transformation, and healing. It was a beautiful place and had a calming effect on anyone who visits it. We continued with our journey and eventually arrived in Bangalore; the city was bursting with life and there was so much to take in - no one knew where to look. Firstly, we stopped at a restaurant and the food was given to us on a Banana leaf; the flavours of the food were amazing and the chefs kept trying to give us more and more food until we nearly burst. We made our way from the restaurant to the market where we got to experience city life in India for the first time, a vibrant and busy lifestyle which still maintained a sense of community. We went around the market which was a great experience as the stalls varied so much from jewellery and clothing to souvenirs. We then made our way through the tight security at the metro station to travel to Fabindia, a shop almost like M&S or John Lewis. There was a wide range of beautiful ethically made products to buy and most of us spent a large chunk of our money on all the amazing goods there. We travelled back to Sangam, after storing up on snacks, having had the best day on the trip so far and fully experiencing the mesmerizing Indian city of Bangalore.

**...The story continues at
www.nghs.org.uk/news**

Photographs from the India Trip





On Thursday 8 November, Year 13 English Literature students watched a critically acclaimed performance of Shakespeare's *Othello* at Warwick University's Arts Centre. Phedra (Y13) has written a review for Newport News.

It was astounding to see what a creative mind can do to modernise such an authentic play as *Othello* into the somewhat satirical comedy we watched at Warwick Arts Centre. The artistic licence utilised in this version was what made it so enjoyable. This included: the laddish behaviour in the 'stag do' scene when sporting pig masks and chugging beers; the dangling microphone the Duke used, as if he was a referee at a boxing match, and Desdemona sat in her Adidas trainers, using an iPhone and meditation to drown out Othello's murderous plans for her.

The controversial themes already in the original script were amplified for a new generation in this unique production that the director, Richard Twyman, consciously crafted. This modern take on the story focused on the topical issues of: immigration, racism, xenophobia, toxic masculinity and islamophobia.

In 'A Moor For Our Time' by journalist Abdul-Rehman Malik, Malik states that '*Othello confronts all... whilst laying bare how these political and social arguments impact on our humanity*' which couldn't be more true. The production may have kept the intricate plot and the

Early Modern dialogue, but aside from that, the time period of the play almost seemed to dissipate from my mind.

The visceral performances of quite a young cast of actors stayed with me long after the curtains closed. The characters were presented by some of the most potent and eloquent actors I have ever seen. The fact that it was Victor Oshin's (*Othello*) first professional stage debut and only Kitty Archer's (*Desdemona*) second show is almost beyond belief. The genuine connection the characters shared, with attention to small details such as tender touching and adoring looks, was so wholesome and real that the tragic and tense ending was heightened to new levels.

In my opinion, the Richard Twyman adaptation incorporates everything a successful Shakespeare play should have: intense moments of pain, love, loss, controversy and humour. From the pure emotions pouring from the actors, the heart-wrenching plotline and, not to forget, the powerful, flickering halo of lights, our attention was truly encapsulated by the stage and remained there throughout.

We are seeing an ever-increasing number of students who present with serious allergies so it is important that parents/carers and fellow students understand how we support and manage students who can't come into contact with dairy products, nuts, other foods etc. Please take a moment to refer to our policy which is on our website [HERE](#).

Of most importance is the following: ***It is the responsibility of parents / carers to keep the school informed of their child's allergies to allow effective management of this in school and on trips or visits.***

Thank you for your cooperation. Please contact Mrs Davenport or Miss Clarke at NGHS for more information.

Allergy Management Policy





This morning Miss Clarke presented our monthly form attendance award. This award is presented to the form who had the highest number of students with attendance above 97% for the whole of October.

Our winners this month were:

Years 7 and 8	R2	Mrs Chapman/Mrs Fujii
Years 9 and 10	A4	Mr J Wade
Year 11	A5	Mr A Heighway
Years 12 and 13	A6	Dr S Catalan

THANK YOU FRIDAY



Well done to all those who were recognised last week for a Thank You Friday for making a difference and valuing our school ethos. For information, our ethos & values can be found [here](#).

FORM	STUDENT NAME(S)
A1	H Morris
A2	N Parker & P Kondapalli
A4	O Needham
A5	G Martin
A6	K Jong & M Harvey
R2	F Batters
R3	S Uppal
R4	B Chung
R5	N Wootton
R7	M Stones, S Cox & E Thompson
S1	M Smith
S2	B McCloy
S3	G Gabriel-Hooper
S4	L Jones
S5	L Bottomley
S6	L Evans
S7	L Bagnall
HOY 7-8	I Smith, N Parker
HOY 9-10	L Mileham
HOY 11	N Patnaik, Z Brown & C Aspin
HOY 12-13	H Stocking, F Norris

Year 9 & 10 Rewards Assembly

Form	HP Total	Rank
A3	357	5
A4	323	6
R3	504	1
R4	378	4
S3	379	3
S4	443	2

This week we had our Years 9 and 10 rewards assembly. This was led by Miss Tomkinson who wanted to celebrate the successes of students during Autumn Term 1. Our **new** rewards policy means that all staff are rewarding students with house points, this includes form tutors, subject teachers, Heads of Year and the House Co-ordinator for extra-curricular participation. Miss Tomkinson shared and celebrated the positive contribution that students are making to the school. The first award that was shared was the form competition. The winner was the form who had received the most house points over Autumn Term 1, please see the results table on the left. **Congratulations to R3 on a fantastic number of house points collected as a form during Term 1. The winning form were presented with a form house point cup which they will keep for the duration of this half term.**

The second award was to celebrate the individual students in each year group who have received the highest number of house points during Term 1, these winners received a certificate and a sweet treat as a well done!

Year 9 Students	Award
E. Spencer & P. Rangan	GOLD
A. Bickerton	SILVER
S. Garcha	BRONZE

Year 10 Students	Award
C. Weeks	GOLD
A. Humphries	SILVER
A. Hill & K. Hughes	BRONZE

Finally, we wanted to recognise every students successes over term 1 and so we finished the rewards assembly with a lucky dip. For every 10 house points that students had received they had one ticket placed into a lucky dip, 3 winners were then drawn at random and they received a prize from the lucky dip box. The winners of these awards were:

C. Mahy

L. Pye

T. Smith

Austen Victorious in House Music

By Ella, House Captain, Austen



I must begin with how incomprehensibly proud I am of Austen house. House music in general is an honour to be a part of, but leading the house to victory this year is an incomparable feeling. I was well aware that it had been 7 years since red ribbons last grace the house music cup and my intentions from the outset were clear- we were going to win! The highly anticipated event came around quicker than anyone could have imagined this term.

The build-up to the event consisted of hours of composition, auditions and rehearsals. It is well known within NGHS that house music is where the real competition happens; through blood, sweat and tears phenomenal choirs are performed, orchestral pieces are devised and soloists complete the brave task of performing alone in front of the whole school. I cannot thank each and every one of our soloists enough. They exceeded all expectations and performed with confidence and charisma. The theme was set as girl power and that clearly shone through in each performance. The variety of songs between the soloists was incredible, junior performer Natasha sang a superb rendition of Emilie Sande's 'Read All About It', our instrumentalist Meenatchi played a terrific version of 'Fight Song' on the piano, Charlotte belted out the



powerful 'Skyfall' by Adele and Lilianne performed an incredible cover of Christina Aguilera's heartfelt 'Reflection' from 'Mulan'. I was astounded by the sheer talent we as a house possess. Another element of the house music experience that I must mention is the showstopper section. I will never forget the multiple eras of Britney Spears we witnessed in one 3-minute performance, I must also apologise for the horrendous dancing of the sixth form- it really was the lower years that carried that performance! Our outstanding instrumentalists performed a magnificent ensemble to the song 'Just Dance' by Lady GaGa led by the amazing Hollie and then all that was left was the choir- by far the most stressful part of house music. However, in typical Austen fashion we pulled it off and ended up winning the category. Who knew a mash up of 'Mercy, 'I'll be there' and 'Girl on Fire' could be so successful and sound so polished. The passion and dedication shown by each and every choir member was admirable and I am so grateful to be a part of such an impassioned and spirited house. House music was an ultimate success and I'm sure the buzz of the victory won't go away anytime soon.



Austen House Choir out in force

Japanese Club... Kimono Special

Membership of our new Japanese culture and language club is growing each week and Mrs Fujii reports that this week involved something special...

This week in Japanese club we had a kimono special with girls trying on ladies kimono and gentlemen's hakama before trying to walk across the room demurely in wooden geta!





Operation Christmas Child



This year the Operation Christmas child scheme has meant that children who wouldn't otherwise get a Christmas present are receiving a hand wrapped box of gifts! The boxes were filled with everything from toothpaste and pens to bracelets and cricket balls. The participation of the forms and the help of Pauline and Joseph, the Newport coordinators, have meant that our school has produced the largest number of boxes in the area. Completing over 60 boxes in total and raising over £300, the school has received a certificate and the boxes have been taken to be processed and distributed worldwide; if you printed your own label, your box can be tracked on the website!

Please join us at our....

Forthcoming Dates...



NEWPORT GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

MUSIC CONCERT

Thursday 29th November 2018

7pm

Adults £3

Concessions £1

Tickets available from Reception

Date	Event	Year(s)
Mon 19 Nov	Mock Exam Week Physics Live	Y11 Y12-13
Thu 29 Nov	School Concert, 7pm	All
Mon 3 Dec	Bletchley Park Trip (Maths)	Y11-13
Mon 10 Dec	Full Governors Meeting	Govs
Thu 13 Dec	Parents Evening	Y12
Fri 14 Dec	Winter Jumper Day Christmas Lunch in school	All All
Tue 18 Dec	Carol Service, 7pm, St Nicholas Church	All
Wed 19 Dec	Pantomime Visit (am)	Y7

HEALTH & WELLBEING TOP TIP!

The importance of kindness

R5's tip of the week was inspired by this week's house assembly theme of kindness: One act of kindness creates a never ending ripple of happiness. (E Tracey, N Wootton, R5)