



NEWPORT NEWS

A weekly update from NGHS

Volume 2 - Issue 15 - Friday 21 December 2018



Head's Lines

Today marks the end of our autumn term and the end of my first year at NGHS. I hope that you feel that the School has moved forward in this time as I have been keen to build on the legacy left by Mrs Garner. I have tried to ensure that NGHS plays a bigger role in our local community as well as getting more appreciation on the national and international stage. One highlight of our community work was the **Sponsored Walk** last July (I think Mr Pimm's feet have just about recovered now!) and also our rallying around the **Christmas Smile** and **Food Bank** charities on our doorstep. The School also opened its doors to a **community concert** last Friday evening, which I very much enjoyed and it was nice to talk to some of our local residents. However, it was also regretful to hear a lady comment that she had been living in Newport for 50 years and had never visited the school before. This opportunity will arise for all as part of our **centenary** in the summer, which Miss Davies is leading and you have hopefully noted that NGHS news is featuring more regularly in the local newspapers. We also have our end of term services at St Nicholas Church in town and have strengthened our links with the Mayor and Town Council in 2018.

My parental survey last January highlighted a number of suggested areas to develop, not least **communication** and I am delighted that this newsletter and our new website have been so popular. This term we have also had more house activities to try to improve participation (the bake off was epic!) and there are now even more clubs and societies operating, including those led by students for students. We have a **House Art/Photo contest** and also our eagerly anticipated **House Board Game competition** coming up next term, too.

At the end of a long term, I would like to pay tribute to **all of our staff** who have embraced the changes I have made since joining NGHS and who work tirelessly to support students academically and pastorally. I feel privileged to work alongside teachers who are specialists in their subjects but also willing to give so much to help students achieve their best. The same is true of our support staff who keep our school running with great efficiency. Also, thank you to you, our parents, who support our staff and work with us towards the same goal of academic and wider success for every student.

This week our **netball courts** are being re-fenced as best as funds allow. In the new year, I will be working with Governors on a plan to move the school forward financially, to inject more arts into the school and to provide even more opportunities for our students, but until our funding is confirmed, I cannot confirm what will or will not be possible. As always, any suggestions, ideas or links to grants etc. would be gratefully received.

Tuesday's Carol Service was beautiful and very well executed by our singers, readers and PTA. The staff choir (supported thankfully by some senior student singers!) also did very well! It was a delight to welcome back our **Year 14 leavers** (all of whom took A-levels last summer) to have a chat and a drink on Thursday afternoon. We enjoyed hearing their stories of term one at university and our Year 13s took the chance to ask a few questions about university applications.

Today, **Mrs Herring** ends her time as a Maths Teacher at NGHS. She will continue as our SENDCo until May Half Term, when we hope to have made a new SENDCo appointment. Mrs Herring is well loved by students in all year groups and many mathematicians she has taught have gone on to top universities to study Maths, Engineering and Finance. Others who have found GCSE maths difficult have triumphed under her guidance. It isn't goodbye just yet, but we wish her well with her family in the new year and look forward to seeing her every Wednesday. In January, **Mrs Roberts** joins our Maths Department. She has taught in girls schools in the UK and Australia and is an experienced maths teacher. There are one or two class changes, but students have been notified of these already by Rev. Walters if applicable.

So, whether you celebrate Christmas or not, may I take this opportunity to wish you a lovely break from school and hopefully from work for at least a few days. Students are expected to get ample rest and recuperation after a long autumn term and we look forward to welcoming everyone back safely on **Tuesday 8 January at 8.50am**. Finally, remember that you can contact a member of senior staff in the event of an emergency by emailing urgent@nghs.org.uk during the holiday. Please include your name, phone number and a message to explain the emergency and one of us will be in touch.

Wishing you every happiness in 2019, **Mr M J Scott**

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

U14 Badminton First Place



Last night our U14 Badminton team competed in the Telford and Wrekin Schools semi-finals and finals. The semi-finals saw them compete against Idsall and win 7 sets to 1 meaning that they would be up against Williams Brookes in the final. The competition was fierce, but NGHS came out on top winning 8 sets to 0. Woohoo!

Throughout the competition the girls have been extremely professional and shown great sportsmanship not only to one another but to the other teams they were competing against. Plus, they only lost 1 set throughout the whole competition; pretty impressive!

Mrs H Goodall

SPOTLIGHT ON Year 7 Pantomime Visit



To Y7's delight, Rev Walters is left with a 'lasting' memory of his trip to Panto



On Wednesday 19 December, year seven laughed until we cried, shouted ourselves hoarse and danced with all our remaining energy. The popular tale of "Cinderella" came to life at The Place Theatre, Oakengates. From the hideous, yet beautiful, acting of the Step-sisters to the caffeine-filled, energy-packed Buttons, we were in awe. Especially Reverend Walters, Deputy Head, who witnessed the "ugly sisters" in their full masculine—oops, feminine - beauty. He was even lucky enough to leave with a bright red souvenir on his cheek!

I felt inspired, as do many of my friends. Seeing younger children perform on stage, the beautiful dances and more, even the magical sets and costumes, were uplifting for all of us, across every class.

Thank you to all the teachers and staff, for organising this mesmerising journey, and for making all of year seven welcome at this incredible school! **Maya H, Y7**

Newport Food Bank - £600 raised!



Hot off the back of our gift donations to the Christmas Smile campaign (reported in last week's Newport News), it was lovely to welcome Cat Finch and her colleagues from Newport Foodbank back to receive a cheque for £600 from our recent Winter Jumper Day. Thank you to everyone who brought a donation in to support this local cause. Cat was thrilled to receive this cheque along with some food donations which were dropped off at school and she will make sure everything is put to the best possible use over Christmas and in the New Year.



We are delighted to introduce our two History Ambassadors, Lucy & Aimé. Please let them know if you have any history-related ideas for clubs, competitions or other activities! Let the ideas flow!! @nghs_history



This term, the history department has been very busy! In September, we went on the **Centenary Battlefields trip** where we learnt about courageous soldiers from WWI whose stories were extremely inspiring. Following this, students going on the Russia trip had the exciting opportunity to visit the **IWM North Cold War Exhibition** in Manchester. Whilst there, we heard an exceptionally moving poem by Tony Walsh which had such an effect it brought us all to tears.

We have also been involved in helping the charity, Remembering Srebrenica and the group's hard work was rewarded when they received the **Community Impact Award** for their contribution to the cause. In November, our school held our annual **Remembrance Assembly** and we paid tribute not only to more well-known soldiers who laid down their lives in WWI, but also to relatives and unknown soldiers too. We had a specific focus on war poetry due to the death of Wilfred Owen one hundred years prior.

Students have also been involved in **Genocide and Human Rights Awareness Group**, which is open to all years. They assisted in the creation of a newspaper which

was presented at Parliament at the beginning of December. The students gave several presentation throughout the day. It was an amazing experience and all came away extremely proud of their achievements. In the wake of this, the group is also starting preparations for our school commemoration of Holocaust Memorial Day at end of January 2019.

Our current Year 13 history A Level group were fortunate enough to travel to Birmingham for **Russian lectures**, which will, no doubt, assist them in their preparation for their A Levels next summer!

We are honoured and humbled to have been given the position of History Ambassadors and have already begun our work starting with a Christmas History Quiz which took place on Tuesday. In the coming term we are aspiring to start preparations for the school's centenary celebrations, which could include ideas such as the compiling of a scrapbook of memories, social media campaigns and a tapestry for example.

The History Department wishes you a Merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing you again after the holidays for the start of 2019!

HISTORICAL BAUBLE COMPETITION



With 2018 marking the centenary of the end of the First World War, the History Department decided that it would be most fitting if the theme for our annual Christmas bauble competition were based on commemoration of those who served during this conflict. We have been absolutely thrilled with the many creative and thoughtful entries this year, with baubles truly commemorating all those who

served, including soldiers from the empire and commonwealth whose contribution has often been overlooked and animals such as dogs, horses and carrier pigeons. I am sure you will all agree that the 'Histree' looks stunning!

It was a real challenge to select the winning baubles from all the amazing entries. Congratulations to every student who entered the competition!

First Place: Z Reynolds, 8X [Wilfred Owen design]

Second Place: S Mathews, 7Y [Empire troops]

H Thorpe, 7Y [War dogs]

Third Place: J Pham, 8X [Watercolour poppies]

S Smith, Y12 [WW1 propaganda cards]

F Ejaz, 9X [handshake of peace]

Your designs were all superb and we were touched by the thought and care that went into them. Every student who handed a bauble in will be awarded a house point. Mrs Seys will also be embarking on a teacher fellowship program with the Historical Association in the New Year with a theme of conflict, art and remembrance. Your baubles will all be added to her scrapbook and taken to London in January to share with the other teacher fellows and course leaders.





We are Geography Society, a group of year 12 students dedicated to promoting geography. We work alongside the geography department, hosting open lunches, competitions and

other events, to further the interest from younger years, and also help strengthen the links of this amazing department within the school.

As part of this work, we recently launched the first GeogSoc Christmas snow globe decorating competition whereby entrants were required to decorate a snow globe template with a representation of a country of their choice. The competition was very well received with many entries from the younger years which were 'out of this world' and accurately represented the chosen country. The winners of the competition will be announced in the new year, along with more information about the plans of the geography society. Watch this space!

H Stocking, C Llewellyn-Smith, H Blanks and F Norris



Christmas Card Making

Our Health & Wellbeing team have been involved in some crafternoon sessions this term. The latest was Christmas Card Making and, as the pictures show, great fun was had by all. Merry Christmas!

R Furniss, Deputy Head Girl



THANK YOU FRIDAY



Well done to this fortnight's winners...

FORM	STUDENT NAME(S)
A1	B Gill-Ballard
A2	K Markworth & V Cass
A3	R Eaton
A4	A Runton & O Needham
R1	I Vickers
R3	E Owen
R4	A Girn
R5	G Turner-Tarr
S1	C Hurst
S2	R Briggs
S3	G Gabriel-Hooper
S4	X Fujii
S5	N Patnaik
S6	M James
S7	S Smith & R Naylor
HoY 7-8	R Awan
HoY 9-10	M Chilcott & A Girn
HoY 11	E Gollins, G Goring & S Cox
HoY 12-13	I Wilding
Headteacher	C Skeate

St Nicholas Church Newport Services during the Christmas Period

Coffee, Cake & Candles

Saturday 22nd December, 4pm-6pm
A time of private reflection for your loved ones.

Family Christingle

Sunday 24th December, 5pm
The Christmas Story with Carols

Midnight Christmas Eucharist

Sunday 24th December, 11.30pm
A wonderful, uplifting service to celebrate the birth of Jesus

Holy Communion

Monday 25th December, 10.30am
The real message of Christmas

New Year Holy Communion

Sunday 30th December, 10.30am



BEAM DROP IN SERVICE

If you need any support over the Christmas break, BEAM is organised by The Children's Society, which is a national charity that works with the most vulnerable children and young people. It is a drop in service who listen, support and act to help children and young people. BEAM is a multi-disciplinary team made up of therapists, youth workers and wellbeing volunteers who will offer advice, signposting and support with any concerns relating to mental and emotional wellbeing. This service is available to anyone under the age of 25 and parents and carers can also be offered support in conjunction with the young person. With BEAM there are no referrals and no appointments, those wishing to access the service can just come along to a drop in session. Further details can be seen in the attached leaflet which includes information about where to find them. There is a drop in service in Wellington and Shrewsbury. The Christmas opening hours are:

Monday 24th - 12pm-4pm at Beam, Telford
Thursday 27th - 2pm-5pm at Palmers, Shrewsbury
Saturday 29th - 11am-4pm at Beam, Telford
Monday 31st - 12pm-4pm at Beam, Telford
Thursday 3rd - 2pm-7pm at Palmers, Shrewsbury

BBC
YOUNG REPORTER
COMPETITION

find your voice

GOT A STORY TO TELL?

Share it with the BBC and it could be seen or heard by people all over the UK!

If you're aged between 11-18 the BBC Young Reporter Competition wants to hear from you.

For full terms and conditions and to apply:
bbc.co.uk/youngreportercompetition
CLOSES 6TH JANUARY 2019



NYC Busking

To help raise funds for our New York Music Tour, some members of the travel party busked at Asda Donnington on Sunday, raising well over **£200** in a couple of hours.

Thank you to everyone who stopped, listened and contributed.



DOUBLE BASS EXAMINATION

Ella Postlethwaite (Y8) recently took her first double bass examination and passed with distinction. It's a tall order playing double bass!

FENCING RESULTS

West Midland Cadet/Junior Women's Sabre Team at Millfield School Winton Cup 2018
Team comprised from NGHS: **Emily Jenkins, Hannah Shakespeare, Hannah Lewis-Tighe**

PISTOL SHOOTING

Jasmyn Slater-Morris (Y10) is now the West Midlands Champion for the intermediate age group for pistol shooting and will represent GB at the National Finals in January.

Special Thanks from ST

I'd like to wish all our Year 9 and Year 10 students and their families a lovely holiday. Special thanks this week to Amardeep G. who has surprised each member of 9X with a Christmas Card with a detailed, personalised message. Her kindness and thoughtfulness has been appreciated by many. **Miss S Tomkinson**

Forthcoming Dates...



Date	Event	Year(s)
Mon 7 Jan	Inset Day (Staff Training)	Staff
Tue 8 Jan	Term Starts at 8.50am	All
Mon 14 Jan	Assessment Week in lessons	Y12
Wed 16 Jan	Biology Live (A-level) No Y12 assessments this day	Y12
Thu 17 Jan	Parents Evening, 4pm-7pm Mock Exams begin (one week)	Y11 Y13
Mon 21 Jan	Taster Day for NGHS6 GCSE Options Launch	Y11 Y8
Tue 22 Jan	Poetry Live Trip (whole year)	Y11
Thu 24 Jan	GCSE RE Mock exam (p3)	Y10
Mon 28 Jan	SEND Review Week	
Wed 30 Jan	HPV Vaccinations	Y8
Thu 31 Jan	London Art Trip (art students)	Y12/13
Mon 4 Feb	GCSE Science Live (whole year)	Y11
Wed 6 Feb	Arkwright Scholarship Exam	Y11

Austen House Chocolastic Hampers!



A big thank you to Austen House who have managed to raise £271 from their chocolate hampers this Christmas. A special thank you to A3 for the making up of the hampers and selling of tickets, especially Maria B. and Eve M. We had some cross house cooperation too from Chloe P. in year 10 (thanks Chloe!)

The money raised goes towards our House charity the "All Sorts" café for young people with autism.

Thank you Austen – a team effort once again!

Merry Christmas!

Mrs Payne

HEALTH & WELLBEING TOP TIP!

Do some form of exercise (e.g. go to Newport Gym) to improve physical fitness and mental health. This will also relieve stress and help you achieve your goals (A4)