



# NEWPORT NEWS

## A weekly update from NGHS

Volume 2 - Issue 1 - Friday 6 September 2018

### Head's Lines



**W**elcome back to everyone and a special welcome to all who have joined our school community this week. Whilst only a short week for students, our Year 7s appear to have settled very quickly into our NGHS routines and I hope that they thoroughly enjoy the next seven years here. We have also welcomed a number of students into Year 12 from a range of local schools and a couple of students into Years 8 and 9 where spaces permitted. We wish everyone a safe, happy and successful year at NGHS.

NGHS has a number of staff in new positions:

- ☺ **Miss H Clarke** is promoted to Assistant Headteacher with specific responsibility for Safeguarding, Wellbeing and Rewards.
- ☺ **Mrs K Griffin** is our new Head of Sixth Form. She joins us from a local school where she held the same post and teaches History and Politics. Her specialism is in Russian History and she has a lot of experience supporting sixth formers to reach their potential.
- ☺ **Mr O Pointon** joins us from a local girls school to teach Psychology and RE, Philosophy and Ethics to A-level. He has a particular interest in outdoor education and will also be our Duke of Edinburgh verifier.
- ☺ **Mrs J Wallace** is our new Exams Officer
- ☺ **Mr J Huber** is our new German Assistant and one of four we will welcome during 2018-19
- ☺ **Mr T Lewis** and **Miss H Barney** are our new IT and PE apprentices.

Over the summer, vital works have taken place to improve the security of our school site including electronic door locks and the provision of sixth form ID badges. The sports courts have been tarmacked and re-lined and the final phase of our window replacement project is done. I have plans to further improve the school site as and when finances permit!

The next few weeks will see a **Welcome / Introduction Evening** for parents of pupils in all years except Year 11. Today's additional letter is to Year 9. The dates for all the Evenings are on the final page of this newsletter. In lieu of an Introduction Evening, I am also keen to offer a Revision Evening for Year 11s and parents later this half term.

Hopefully you will have seen our congratulation adverts in the local press in late August. Our GCSE students once again made themselves (and us!) proud with 100% achieving a strong pass (9-5) in Maths and English as well as 74% of exams graded 9-7 (old style A\*-A) grades. This places NGHS comfortably within the **top 40 state schools in the country**. Following the publication of A-level results, around 85% of students got into their confirmed university choice with subjects as diverse as Medicine, Fashion Journalism and Marine Biology and 40 students achieved straight A\*-B grades.

Outside of lessons, Mrs Wallace and I have added a number of **new House events** to the calendar this year to widen participation in our House system. These include; House Bake-Off (to coincide with our new Macmillan Coffee Morning in a few weeks time), House Quiz, House Board Game Competition, House Art/Photographic and House Dance. We expect all students to contribute to at least one activity (as well as the usual sport, music and drama events) and trust there is something here to suit all tastes! We have also purchased outdoor field games including Jenga, boules and Connect4 which are already proving popular!

2018-19 will no doubt be an action-packed year at NGHS. I hope that everyone embraces the chance to succeed both in and outside the classroom. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any queries or if you feel support is needed. Our **new school website** has a range of resources to help you address any wider issues such as stress and anxiety as well as alerts about dangers e.g. nitrous oxide, which is the news at the moment. (Please see Care & Support and For Parents). Feedback on the new website is always welcome, so please take a moment to visit [www.nghs.org.uk](http://www.nghs.org.uk).

Wishing you a pleasant weekend, **Mr M J Scott**



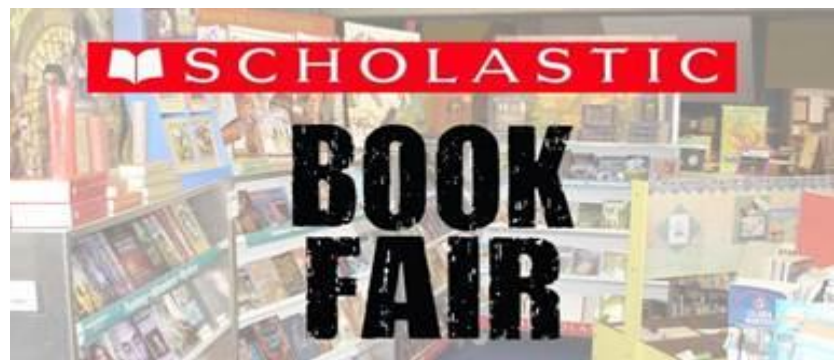
## SPOTLIGHT ON *Gold Games Award!*



We are extremely proud and excited to announce that we have been awarded a GOLD School Games Mark. The School Games Mark is a government led awards scheme launched in 2012 to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community.

Participating in this process allows schools to evaluate their PE provision and assists them in developing an action plan for future progress. NGHS was awarded this mark after demonstrating dedication to the School Games programme through its offer to both its students and the community.

We are offering a number of new activities this year thanks to the addition of our new member of the PE team, Miss Barney. Please visit our webpage in the "Wider Life" section of our website.



### Book Fair Gets off to a Flying Start

The annual scholastic book fair started on Thursday and it has already been very busy. Many of the staff have fond memories of browsing book fairs during their own school days, so they have been as enthused as the students by what is on offer!

There are fiction and non-fiction books to cater for all tastes and ages, items of stationery and a selection of posters.

The book fair is open from 1pm during lunchtime, with the final day being Tuesday 11 September. Every item sold raises additional money for the school library and there are leaflets within each form room containing details of the books that are on offer.

Mr Postle, Head of English



## FRENCH ASSISTANT SOUGHT

Do you know anyone who might like to volunteer as a French Assistant for a couple of hours a week to support our A-level French students? A native or near-native speaker would be welcome and the timetable could be fitted around any other commitments. If you are interested in finding out more, please email Ms Branson via [schooloffice@nghs.org.uk](mailto:schooloffice@nghs.org.uk)





# Dangerous App disguised as School Dating App



We have been made aware of an app that is going viral among primary and secondary school aged students called 'DOKI DOKI (literature club). The app begins as a colourful and light-hearted game but takes a sinister turn within an hour of children playing where their online friend starts to talk about depression and eventually commits suicide. The game is advertised as a school dating app and does not require parental checks to download. It is a free app and although users should be 13+ years children can easily agree to being over the age. Once downloaded, children have ready access to their own account.

If you have any concerns about your child's use of technology or online safety, support can be found on the school website under the care and support section or you can contact the school to discuss this with your child's head of year.

## DOKI DOKI

A green poster with the text 'TALK TO US' in large white letters. Below it, in smaller white text, is 'If things are getting to you'. At the bottom, there is a phone icon, the number '116 123', and the word 'FREE' in a speech bubble. Below that, it says 'This number is FREE to call round the clock'. At the very bottom, the word 'SAMARITANS' is written in green inside a white box with a black border.

In partnership with Telford Public Health and Telford Community Safety Partnership

[samaritans.org](http://samaritans.org)  
A registered charity



## Congratulations to...

**Harriet Simmons (Year 10)** pictured right who was chosen as a super-fan of Harry Potter (out of millions of fans) to travel from Manchester on the Knight Bus (with only 10 other fans) to London King's Cross, to be there for the departure of the Hogwarts Express on 1st September. Jude Law (who plays the young Albus Dumbledore) and Eddie Redmayne (who plays Newt Scamander) in the new Fantastic Beasts film were there too.

It was an incredibly exciting event - there were lots of wizarding activities on the Knight Bus, loads of gifts and those invited were treated to a tour of the Harry Potter studios too.





## EARLY FINISH - ENTRANCE EXAM

### Monday 17 September

Please be aware that NGHS will close at 12.00pm on Monday 17 September to enable us to accommodate Year 6 students who are sitting the Entrance Test for Year 7 2019.

If students travel by a bus through Adams, a shuttle will pick students up at 12.10 to transport them to Adams ready for a 12.20 departure from outside Adams.

The Telford North & South coaches will pick up outside NGHS at 12.25pm.

Mrs Davenport will confirm next week if any arrangements can be put in place for other coaches/bus routes that are run via Telford & Wrekin.

## BATTLEFIELDS TRIP

It's not long now before we are heading off to France for this historic 'end of WWI' centenary experience. For all Y9-12 students involved, please note the following:

- Parent meeting on **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> Sept 6-6.30pm** in the Atrium – this is information for parents – please bring EHCs
- Pupil meeting on **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September at break** in room 2 – final important information to be given out;
- Deadline to submit your statement for the Menin Gate Wreath Laying opportunity is morning registration on **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September** [to Miss Davies or Mrs Seys].

The countdown has begun!!!

## Forthcoming Dates...

Date	Event	Year(s)
Mon 10 Sep	Book Fair at lunchtime Health & Wellbeing Student Meeting at lunchtime	All All
Tue 11 Sep	Book Fair at lunchtime	All
Wed 11 Sep	Olympic Park Geography Trip HPV Vaccinations Battlefields Trip Meeting, 6pm	Y11 Y9 Y9-10
Thu 11 Sep	Information Evening, 7pm	Y9
Fri 12 Sep	UCAS <b>Early Entry</b> Personal Statement Deadline	Y12
Mon 17 Sep	Entrance Test (see information top left). Information Evening, 7pm	Y6 Y12
Thu 20 Sep	Information Evening, 7pm	Y10
Fri 21 Sep	Battlefields Trip Departs until Monday	Y9-10
Mon 24 Sep	Assessment Week in Lessons	Y13
Thu 27 Sep	Information Evening, 7pm House Bake Off Competition	Y7 All
Fri 28 Sep	Macmillan Coffee Morning Liverpool Residential Trip DofE Silver (Wkend)	All Y12 Y10+11
Mon 1 Oct	Information Evening, 7pm	Y8
Wed 3 Oct	Additional Open Morning 9.30-12pm	Y6
Thu 4 Oct	Jodrell Bank Physics Trip National Poetry Day	Y13 All
Fri 5 Oct	Induction Day for new Y7s at Edmond Hall DofE Silver Expedition	Y7 Y10-11
Thu 11 Oct	Parents Evening	Y13

**Youth Café**   
St John's Church, Muxton  
Every Friday 4-6pm  
(During term time - School Yrs 7-9)

 **Happy Birthday**   
**sub:Zero!**

To members and leaders old and new. We would like to invite you to join us in celebrating **sub:Zero's** 10th anniversary on **Friday 14th September** at 4pm.

## Do you need to contact School?

Please email [schooloffice@nghs.org.uk](mailto:schooloffice@nghs.org.uk) or call 01952 797550.

If it is an emergency at a weekend or in the holidays, please email [urgent@nghs.org.uk](mailto:urgent@nghs.org.uk)