



# NEWPORT NEWS

*A weekly update from NGHS*

Volume 2 - Issue 17 - Friday 18 January 2019



## Outstanding Oxbridge Offers!

### Head's Lines



I start this week by congratulating five of our Year 13s on receiving Oxbridge offers this year. Ruby and Emily have secured offers to read Geography and Medicine at Oxford and Michelle, Isabel and Gwen have Cambridge in their sights for

Engineering, History and Mathematics. Five different subjects, five colleges and five extremely proud families I am sure. Whenever these offers are made, it is also important to commend those who were unsuccessful in what is a very competitive world of Oxbridge entry and I would also like to mention the extremely high number of offers that our Year 13s have so far secured from universities of their choice, which is no mean feat. We look forward to this promising year group achieving top grades in the summer. I would like to thank Mrs Haycock our former Head of Sixth Form for all her support last summer preparing references and advising applicants for Oxbridge entry as well as Mrs Griffin, our current Head of Sixth Form who is supporting our Year 13s through the interview, offer and selection phases.

This week's edition of Newport News includes a report from our **A-level biologists** who all benefitted from an excellent lecture day in Birmingham, including a chance to meet and hear from Professor Lord Robert Winston among other eminent scientists. Our Year 13s have

now begun their **A-level mock examinations** and we wish them well. Full attendance is expected throughout the mock period and students have ample areas in which to study, including on the final day of examinations, when some afternoon lessons will recommence.

This week has seen unprecedented **political turmoil** in London and it has been really interesting to talk to some of our sixth formers about the views of the next generation. As you would expect with any political discussion, our students had their differences of opinion, but also a very respectful and tolerant approach to each others' views, which gave me a heart-warming sense of pride this week.

One of our Year 9 students has asked to arrange a **fund-raising concert** for the Music Department on Thursday 31 January. This is a commendable student-led enterprise and one I wholly support. Please try to come along - full details on the last page of this week's newsletter.

Finally, just a reminder about our winter **closure procedures**. Closing the school is always a last resort, but it is important that families check the website by 7.15am for updates on wintery days and all students must be equipped with a **warm winter coat** for school!

With best wishes for the weekend,

**Mr M J Scott**



# We are (almost) 100 years old!

**Be a part of our celebrations!**



As you will be aware from last week's newsletter, we are fast approaching the school's centenary as NGHS opened in September 1919. This is a fantastic time to be part of our school community and we would like to ask for the support of our students, parents, families, governors and local residents to join in our celebrations.

We will release more information as the term progresses, but today's announcement is that we will be having a Community Open Day on **Saturday 29 June from 10am-2pm**. There will be tours of the school (we will need student volunteers to come and help us for a couple of hours!) and a Victorian theme will be applied to some of the activities we have planned. We will be showcasing photographs and artefacts documenting the last 100 years. Everyone is welcome to visit the School on this day. Please put the date on the kitchen calendar now and please tell your relatives, especially if they are former students of all ages!

During the preceding week, which is our Curriculum Enrichment Week, groups of students will be working to prepare materials to showcase. Year 7s will also visit Blists Hill to consider how life was in Victorian schools.

## **We need your help....**

We are keen to ask you to contact us if you can help with the following:

- 1) If you have artefacts (reports, magazines, photographs, uniform) from the last 100 years related to the school that you can share
- 2) If you are a former student and would be willing to be 'interviewed' by current students to create an oral history of the school. We have some sessions earmarked in March during the afternoons and evenings for this.
- 3) If you know former students who are now living abroad...we would like to create a map showing the migration of NGHS girls in later life
- 4) If you might be able to sponsor the event, bake a large cake or provide practical assistance with display boards, catering, entertainment, fancy dress (even better with a Victorian theme), we would love to hear from you. We are praying for good weather, too!
- 5) We hope to create a time capsule to bury exciting items from 2019 - all ideas for contents are welcome.

NGHS is a very special school and we hope that this exciting event will further strengthen our links with our families and the wider community. We look forward to your support.

## **How to get in touch?**

We have created a special email account for any ideas/plans for the centenary. Miss A-M Davies is our lead co-ordinator for this day and she would love to receive emails via

**[100@nghs.org.uk](mailto:100@nghs.org.uk)**

**We look forward to hearing from you!**

**Mr M J Scott**





Biology Live is an annual event held in Birmingham, where professors and doctors of a wide range of biology fields come together to give short talks about their fields. The talks all have a link to the A level biology specification and an examiner also goes through exam technique and revision tips. It was a great day and really beneficial to consolidate our learning during our exams, as well as teaching us some new things!

Throughout the day, we listened to numerous lectures by esteemed university professors and doctors on a variety of topics which are incorporated into the A-level biology course. This helped to further and secure our knowledge of the theories and principles that we explore during class, and how they can be applied in the wider world. We started off the day with a talk from Dr Hannah Critchlow, named one of the top 100 influential women in Science by the University of Cambridge, who explored the chemical processes that form assumptions and thought patterns in the brain, and how different psychedelic drugs may unravel these assumptions for the treatment of individuals with chronic mental illnesses.

We were also afforded lectures from Professor Steve Jones and Professor Lord Robert Winston on human evolution and the genetic similarities we still share with primates along with fascinating debates on the ethics behind genetic selection. Dr Jennifer Rohn delved into the deadly potential of antibiotic resistance, rationalising the commonplace nature of bacteria in our bodies (around 100 trillion bacteria on our body at any given time!) and how these can both help and harm us. Following a quick break for lunch, Dr Ben Goldacre expanded on the idea of the human influence on the natural world and the impact that science can have on areas such as the MMR vaccine scandal in 2001. A particularly compelling point was regarding media coverage of the HPV vaccination's introduction into the UK and Northern Ireland, with the same news outlets reporting vastly different perspectives on the vaccine based on the political agendas in each country. Overall, all of the lectures we heard were not only thoroughly informative but helped foster our passion for the real-world applications of the theory we learn in class, proving inspirational for many of those who attended.

During Biology live we listened to two talks by an examiner of A-level biology exams. In her first talk we were told about the importance of active revision, such as revising by doing practice questions and making mind maps of a topic with the textbook closed, then opening the textbook and checking through for any errors or missing facts. Ensuring that your revision is active is very important, as you are actively engaging with the subject rather than just reading and subsequently forgetting the contents of the textbook.

In the second session with the examiner, we learnt about exam technique and required practical elements of the course.



We learnt that in exams, you should ensure that your answers are precise and clear, using specific scientific terminology, so that the examiner can easily comprehend what you are trying to say as they cannot infer points from your answers. Additionally, we learnt the importance of the layout of our exam answers, as listing many possible answers may make you lose points due the examiner being unable to pick a correct answer. Overall, we all found this section of the day to be very important, as it helped prepare us and give us vital knowledge for upcoming a-level exams.

Overall the day was a huge success, as we were able to expand our knowledge on topics covered in the a-level biology specification and explore how the theories that we learn in the classroom are applied everyday by scientists and doctors in the wider world, along with acquiring vital tips on exam technique from an examiner. A-Level biology live was a fantastic experience for us all, with the lectures proving inspiring for many.

**(Rosie, Victoria, Jess & Sammi, Year 12)**



We congratulate the following students on their recent achievements:

- ☑ Layla Greenwood (Y9) - gaining a distinction in her grade 3 drum examination.
- ☑ Honor Bridgman & Charlotte Williams (Y11) who have won academic scholarships

# REWARDS ASSEMBLIES THIS WEEK



This week Ms Capaldi (Head of Years 7 and 8) and Miss Tomkinson (Head of Years 9 and 10) led their Rewards Assemblies. This was an opportunity to see students in their year groups and celebrate their successes from the previous half term. These assemblies aimed to recognise students for their collection of House Points but we also celebrated some attendance awards as well.

The first award was presented to students who have received 50 House Points so far this year; these winners were awarded a certificate, pen and sticker for their planner.

## Congratulations to:

**Year 7** – A. Mangham, A. Jarrett, A. Ward, A. Wyke, A. Mangham, A. Strafford-Piper, C. Snaith, E. Gregory, E. Sambhi, E. Caudle, G. Leeper, H. Thorpe, H. Mustansir, H. Morris, I. Cooper, I. Huckin, L. Male, M. Bowen, M. Evans, N. Perumal, Q. O’Howell, R. Al-Sirat, R. Shah, S. Balaji, S. Rodrigues, S. Reddington, S. Mathew, S. Nitta, T. Adeniyi

**Year 8** – E. Raymond-Martin, J. Mooney, S. Li

**Year 9** – A. Hekant, A. Girn, A. Bickerton, A. Pattar, B. Eade, E. Bowness, E. Jackson, E. Watson-Nolan, E. Spencer, E. Anderson, O. McLaughlin, P. Rangan, P. Bolton, R. Jones, S. Hose, T. Hardiman

**Year 10** – C. Weeks, A. Humphries, C. Mahy, G. Campbell, M. Gadd-Clarke, A. Hill

Then, the forms who had collected the most house points over Autumn Term 2 were presented with a form house point cup for their form room (results on the right).

The next award celebrated the individual students in each year group who have received the highest number of house points during Half Term 2; these winners received a certificate and a sweet treat.

Form	HP	Rank
<b>A1</b>	<b>694</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>A2</b>	<b>538</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>R1</b>	<b>674</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>R2</b>	<b>633</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>S1</b>	<b>634</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>S2</b>	<b>681</b>	<b>2</b>

Form	HP	Rank
<b>A3</b>	<b>559</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>A4</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>R3</b>	<b>585</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>R4</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>S3</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>S4</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>3</b>

Name	Year	Award	Pts
Q O’Howell	7	Gold	58
A Ward	7	Silver	51
A Jarrett	7	Bronze	48

Name	Year	Award	Pts
E Jackson	9	Gold	45
A Bickerton	9	Silver	41
R Jones	9	Bronze	38

Name	Year	Award	Pts
E Raymond-Martin	8	Gold	38
S Li & N Parker	8	Silver	32
A Wu	8	Bronze	30

Name	Year	Award	Pts
M Bipin	10	Gold	36
C Mahy	10	Silver	32
C Baugh	10	Bronze	31

We then celebrated our attendance heroes, these were divided into three categories based on attendance percentage over the full academic year so far. Bronze prizes were awarded to students who have attendance between 97 and 98%, silver was awarded to students for 98-99% attendance and 99-100% attendance students received the gold award.

Finally, we wanted to recognise every student’s successes over half term 2 and so we finished the assembly with a lucky dip. For every 10 house points that students had received, they had one ticket placed into the lucky dip. Three winners were then drawn at random and they received a prize from the lucky dip box. The winner of these awards were:

Years 7 and 8: **J. Hothi, A. Strafford-Piper and P. Fowler**

Years 9 and 10: **I. Pickles, J. Upton and A. Williams**

Well done and congratulations to all of our winners.

**Miss Clarke, Ms Capaldi & Miss Tomkinson**

## Poetry Live Notice (Year 11)

Mr Postle reminds Year 11s of the following ready for their trip to Poetry Live on Tuesday:

- ⇒ Meet at 8.40am in the Hall
- ⇒ Wear school uniform and a warm coat
- ⇒ Bring a packed lunch, snack and drink
- ⇒ We hope to be back for 4pm, but make sure you can contact home if we are delayed!

## Good Luck Netballers!

We wish our Year 8 Netball Team every success as they represent Telford South in the TWSSA Winter Netball League FINAL at William Brookes on 31 January. They will play the winners of the Telford North League. **Go get the trophy!**







## Duke of York Awards

iDEA was started by the Duke of York as an equivalent for Duke of Edinburgh Award without the physical intensity basing itself more solely on computational and business skills that current employers are searching for. It stand for Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award and involves completing a selection of diverse tasks at varied difficulties across 5 categories. The tasks can range from cyber security to psychology, advertising to animation. The award can be done at all age ranges.

We both completed Bronze and Silver Duke of York Award and are excitedly awaiting the Gold Award, coming out in 2019. We hoped this club would give everyone the opportunity to develop the skills we felt we gained by completing the scheme. Not only this, we found this beneficial towards our Computer Science GCSE as a lot of the GCSE course was covered in the badges. The award was incredibly fun to complete and challenging from time to time.

On 30th November we held the inaugural Duke of York iDEA club which we have run for years 7-9, but this may expand in the future if there is sufficient interest. It was highly successful with 22 eager participants, however there is always room for more to join at any point since the award can be done independently, inside or out of school at <https://idea.org.uk/>. It was held in room 8 from 1pm on Friday and will continue for as long as possible.

Amazingly, 12 of the girls in the club have achieved Bronze already and 6 of these have achieved the Silver Award however most continue to attend and help others achieve likewise. We look forward to the club each week and hope to see more people attending in the future weeks.

**M Reade & J O'Neill – Year 11**

## THANK YOU FRIDAY

FORM	STUDENT NAME(S)
A1	A Lutzeier
A2	M Nachiappan
A3	M Bipin
R1	S Nitta
R2	D Davies & A Ward
R3	S Uppal
R4	H Bleackley
R5	H Khan & M Willis
S3	A Gaddam & S Gormley
S4	C Gemmill & L Jones
S5	M Stones
S6	M Naveed
HOY 12-13	C Srinivasan
Headteacher	M Reade

## Forthcoming Dates...

Date	Event	Year(s)
Mon 21 Jan	Subject Taster Day for NGHS6	Y11
	Poetry Live Trip (whole year)	Y11
Tue 22 Jan	GCSE Options Launch	Y8
Thu 24 Jan	GCSE RE Mock exam (p3)	Y10
Mon 28 Jan	SEND Review Week	
Wed 30 Jan	HPV Vaccinations	Y8
	London Art Trip (art students)	Y12/13
Thu 31 Jan	Music Concert, 7pm	All
Mon 4 Feb	GCSE Science Live (whole year)	Y11
Tue 5 Feb	Student Council meeting	Reps
Wed 6 Feb	Arkwright Scholarship Exam	Y11
	Sixth Form Council meeting	Reps
Fri 7 Feb	Mufti day (house charities)	
Thu 14 Feb	Options Forms deadline	Y8+11
Fri 15 Feb	Half Term at 3.45pm	All

### Health & Wellbeing Top Tip

'Not every day is a good day but there is good in every day' – S3



NGHS  
Music

Department  
Fundraiser  
Concert

January 31st 2019

7pm

In the Atrium

£3 Concessions, £5 Adults