



# NEWPORT NEWS

## *A weekly update from NGHS*

Volume 2 - Issue 30 - Friday 21 June 2019

### Head's Lines



**T**he last two weeks have been very busy (hence the lack of newsletter last Friday, my apologies) but my colleagues and I have greatly enjoyed being able to visit a number of primary schools to meet the girls who are joining us in Year 7 in September. It is always lovely to hear the primary teachers describing them so fondly and I have been told many times how lucky NGHS is to have these girls in our school community next year. We look forward to seeing them at their new two-day induction on 8th-9th July.

The past week has also seen the first visit of our German exchange group to Newport. Fourteen students and two staff from our partner school, Schloss Hagerhof, stayed with families of Year 10 girls and enjoyed day trips to Blists Hill, Shrewsbury and Liverpool. Many also made it to Alton Towers, but got thoroughly soaked in the wettest June we've seen for a while. Despite the weather, the feedback from the group was excellent and I would like to thank the host families who opened their homes to our guests. As someone who is still in touch with my exchange partners some 20+ years on, I hope that these friendships will continue and social media will make that a lot easier, I'm sure. The students were officially welcomed to Newport by Counsellor Peter Scott, our Town Mayor (see photo below) and they enjoyed a quick tour of the Guild Hall, too.

I hope that those who attended last night's Year 12 Parents Information Evening on the UCAS process found it to be a helpful event. Mrs Griffin provided lots of information about the process of applying to university, finance and also about apprenticeships. Next week Year 12 will visit the Birmingham UCAS convention and Birmingham University's Open Day as part of Curriculum Enrichment Week. Other year groups are enjoying day trips out, Duke of Edinburgh and a number of workshops in school. Of course most of our Year 8s are partaking in their annual European adventure and we wish them safe travels and 'bon voyage'.

Lab 15 is now pretty much completed - see page 2 for a final update. I must commend the team of workmen who worked quickly and with great precision to complete an excellent installation. Lab 15 is now bright and white and air cooled! This refurbishment is a fantastic enhancement of our science facilities at NGHS - thank you again to The Wolfson Foundation for their financial backing and support.

At Wednesday's PTA meeting we said farewell to Mrs Val Harvey whose daughter is in Year 13. Val has been the PTA Secretary for many years and we presented her with a couple of gifts at her final meeting - more on page 5.

Don't forget our Centenary Open Event on Saturday 29th!

With best wishes for the weekend,

**Mr M J Scott**



*2019 German Exchange Group at NGHS with Cllr Peter Scott*

**Newport Girls' High School**

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

To contact the School about a general enquiry, please use [schooloffice@nghs.org.uk](mailto:schooloffice@nghs.org.uk)

Photo 2

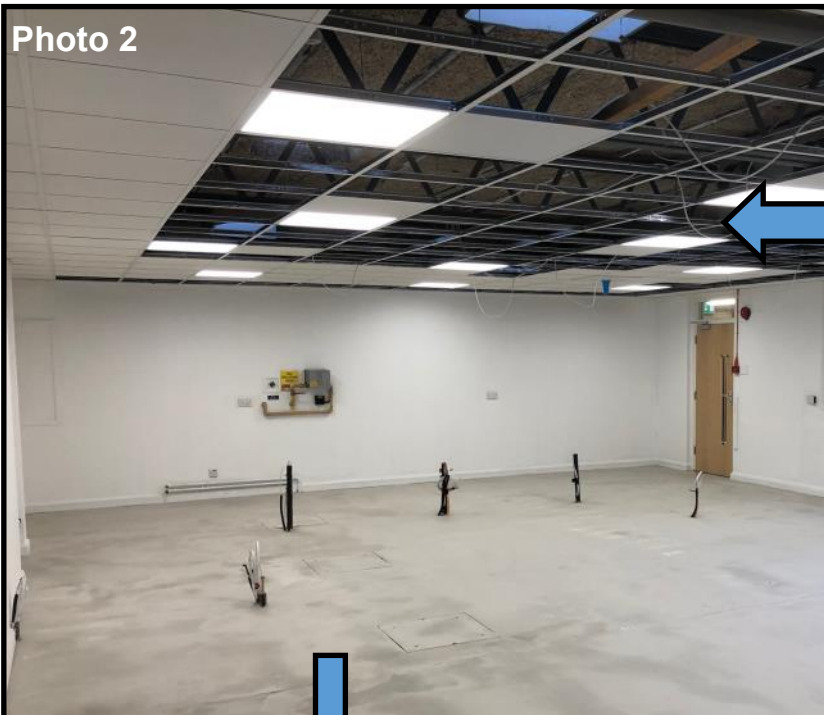


Photo1



**LAB  
15...  
JOB  
DONE!**



Photo 3



We are delighted to announce that the refurbishment of Lab 15 is now complete and ahead of schedule. The installation team have worked quickly and to an excellent standard and we are now just waiting on the delivery of stools and our new IT equipment. The Lab is unrecognisable from the old design and offers air ventilation, gas/water and tons of much-needed storage! We hope to have an official opening in early July.

Photo 4







On Friday morning, thirty Year 10 students set off to complete their practice silver Duke of Edinburgh expedition. After much rearranging of bags due to fear of the rain, we set off in six groups. It was a long day walking with a minimum of 6 hours and roughly 15 miles to cover. Finally, at 4pm our first group arrived at camp. While waiting for the rain to ease off we cooked our dinner. With dishes ranging from chilli and rice to pot noodles, it's safe to say hot meals were definitely a hit amongst the girls. Tents were put up, sleeping bags were exchanged and fluffy socks were donned. Finally the campsite fell quiet and we were able to attempt to get some sleep. Saturday came, with the rain still pouring, but we had to continue. Once pancakes and brioche were eaten the groups set off once more to complete the second day. With teams trying to keep the morale high, Pitch Perfect riff-offs seemed to be a hit. The rain eventually died out, which resulted in the teams picking up the pace and after some re-routing to keep all six teams within an 8km radius, the teams started to arrive at our second campsite. With most teams living off pasta for the next 12 hours, the groups gathered around the stove, chatted and cooked. When

10pm came, the campsite was quiet, except the sheep that never shut up. The final morning came, and after a not so good sleep, tents were put away and maps were given out. With not much energy left in the tank, there was little motivation to keep us going, but the teams wanted to get back to Dobbies as soon as possible. The final day went quickly, comprised mainly of walking through metre-wide paths with stinging nettles either side of us and counting down every step. When Dobbies was in sight the pace quickened rapidly and we eventually came to the farm house where we had to drop off all of our equipment. After team debriefs all six teams finally came together in the Gateway Outdoors shed just before the thunder and lightning had a chance to hit us. Overall, it was a weekend that we won't forget anytime soon; one that has taught us not to pitch tents on a slope and that there's no such thing as too many cereal bars. Finally, a massive thanks must go to Mr Wade and Mr Mason for giving up their weekend to listen to thirty teenagers complain about the cold, rain and lack of Wi-Fi. Also, thank you to Mrs Taylor and the Gateway Outdoors staff for helping get us through the first of our two Silver expeditions. Megan, Y10



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If you haven't already done so, please sign up to our [#easyfundraising](#) site and help us raise **FREE funds for Newport Girls' High School** PTA when you're doing your everyday shopping online. **THIS IS FREE MONEY FOR US!** Plus, when you raise your first £5, easyfundraising will match it! So far we have raised over £3,600 using the platform, and the figure would be even higher with more users. [This short video](#) explains how simple it is and it doesn't cost you anything: [Sign-up using our unique link](#) and search for Newport Girls' High School.

## Former Student Returns

On Friday 7 June, a former student came back to talk to a group of Y12's about History, university life in general and Durham University's candlelight dinners! Charli is now training to become a lawyer and began by reading history and Politics at Durham University. She advocated for arts degrees, highlighting how they can offer much more flexibility to a student entering the work place compared to other degrees. In an increasingly diverse world of work, it is unlikely many of us will stay in the same career for our whole lives, and therefore a degree that teaches transferrable skills like history is an advantage.

She went on to describe her life at Durham University through anecdotes, from her highs [the 3 course candlelight 'gowned' dinners – for £1!] and her lows [boys!], to her tips for getting into university in an increasingly competitive and challenging world. Alongside this, Charli noted how useful her EPQ result had been in helping her to stand out from the crowd!

## SPOTLIGHT ON

### Two history events

Whilst not quite all of us will be applying for an bachelor of arts degree [although more of us were sorely tempted after Charli's talk!], it was very helpful to hear the experiences and successes of a former NGHS student, who not only studied at a fantastic university, but was also able to encourage us not to worry about our careers in Y12, as converting as she did to another job role is not an impossibility in the future.

We wish Charli all the best in the future, and hope that we too can return to NGHS and share our own successes, advice and experiences in the future!

By Emily and Ebelina (Yr 12 historians)

## Year 8s Visit Manchester

Last week, Year 8 went on a trip to the People's History Museum in Manchester. We looked around the museum, saw lots of protest banners and where they get fixed, made rosettes about a topic we believe in and watched a performance called 'Strike A Light' about a match girl which was our favourite part of the day. The match girl was called Maggie McCallow and she was involved in the Bryant and May match factory strike in 1888. The workers went on strike to campaign for better rights because they were constantly being treated poorly, being fined for small errors and in high danger of getting phossy jaw. Phossy jaw was caused by phosphorus vapour used on the matches being inhaled and destroying the jaw bones.

The mainly female workers were encouraged to go off on strike by Miss Annie Besant, a women's rights activist. She wrote an article in her newspaper called 'White Slavery In London' complaining about the way women were being treated. Despite all of this, the company tried to get the workers to sign a statement saying they were treated well. A group of women refused to sign and they were therefore sacked. Eventually 1,400 workers walked out of the factory to join them. However, some people had to stay on at the factory because the money they earned put them food on the table for them and their families. Others picked fruit to earn a bit of money, but this depended on the season when the fruit grew. The rest worked from home which wasn't as dangerous and you could control when you wanted to work, but the jobs you could do at home didn't supply you with much money. Although, some people were courageous and were willing to take a chance to get better rights, including Maggie.



In the end, the factory workers received no fines and better treatment. Everyone who went on strike still had their job to return back to, but their work was changed for the better. This strike was important because it was the first time workers had succeeded in improving their conditions through collective action and it was an action taken mainly by women, some of whom went on to join the campaign for female suffrage.

As well as the match girl show, we took part in a couple of other activities. We went to the new temporary exhibition, where we learned all about protests and the suffragettes. We also drew ourselves in protest and wrote what we were passionate about. After, we went to two of the main galleries, where we saw what life was like for ordinary people before and after the world wars. Finally we did a craft workshop! We went back up to one of the galleries to get inspiration from protest banners. Then we made rosettes about what we are fighting for.

Overall we really enjoyed our trip!

Anya, Charley & Lucy



## Farewell Val!

On Wednesday the PTA said a very fond farewell to Val Harvey, who has carried out the vital role of PTA Secretary for the past few years, and served on the PTA committee before that. Val has been a whirlwind of energy and efficiency, rolling up her sleeves to get involved in a range of events over the years – including summer fetes, Christmas shopping evenings, movie nights and music evenings where she has been part of the 'dream team' refreshment stall squad along with Helen Jones, Sarah Bridgman and others. Her focus has always been to ensure maximum participation from the students in our events. As a committee member, she has also been a real asset to the team with her customary common sense approach – not to mention managing the PTA mailbox and our meeting agendas and minutes. One of the things we have raised money for during Val's time on the PTA was the mug printing machine so it seemed only fitting that her thank you gift was a personalised mug (plus a lovely bouquet of flowers presented by Mr Scott). We will miss you Val, and wish you and your daughter Meg (honorary PTA member as she has helped out at so many events!) all the very best for the future. **Julie Harris, PTA Chair**



## CENTENARY EVENT VICTORIAN TEA ROOM



The school is holding its *Centenary Celebration Event* from 10am – 2pm on Saturday 29 June, and planning is well underway! The PTA are adding our support by providing a Victorian tearoom serving tea, coffee, traditional soft drinks and a selection of scones and cakes.


The day is mainly about participation rather than fundraising, but any profits raised by the PTA will enable us to provide funds towards the various school projects and initiatives.

**We are asking parents if they can help by donating some scones or traditional cakes such as Victoria Sponge, lemon drizzle etc.** If you are able to provide a cake, it would really help us with our planning if you could let us know by sending an email to [pta@nghs.org.uk](mailto:pta@nghs.org.uk). Your scones and cakes, whether home-made or shop bought, will be most welcome and can be brought to school on Friday 28 June.

We'd also love to hear from anyone with a **traditional looking tiered cake stand** you would be willing to lend us to give an authentic feel, and anyone able to help run the stall on the day, even if just for half an hour – your assistance would be much appreciated.

Many thanks! (The PTA Committee)





**YOUR PARTICIPATION IS WANTED**  
IN OUR ANNUAL NETWORKING CHARITY QUIZ

**A fun, general knowledge quiz night. Enjoy a USA-themed, 2-course meal and relaxed networking.**

Members: £2.00 per person quiz entry.  
Non-members: £17.00 each inc. food and quiz entry.


You don't have to be in business to join us on this fun, social event

**Tues. 9th July 2019**  
**5.30pm for 6.00pm start**

**At The Shropshire Golf Centre, Muxton, Telford, TF2 8PQ**  
Plus **PRIZE RAFFLE**  
Teams of 2 to 4 (we can allocate teams on the night, so don't worry)

**Pre-booking essential. Email: [secretary@telfordbusinessclub.com](mailto:secretary@telfordbusinessclub.com)**  
(please mention any dietary restrictions)  
More info: [www.telfordbusinessclub.com](http://www.telfordbusinessclub.com)

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All money raised goes to our charity of the year