



# NEWPORT NEWS

## A weekly update from NGHS

Volume 2 - Issue 19 - Friday 8 February 2019

### Head's Lines



What have xenotransplantation, the Grimm brothers' fairy tales and the employment rights of women in India all got in common? Well, these are the topics of three fantastic EPQ presentations that I have had the pleasure of assessing this week. Taken by students in the sixth form, the Extended Project Qualification allows each student the chance to deepen their awareness of a topic of personal interest before putting together a 5000 word essay, a presentation to their peers as well as a production diary. A large number of students have received university offers which are lowered by achieving a good grade in EPQ and the detailed knowledge and excellent presentation skills seen this week will no doubt help to yield outstanding results in this very beneficial qualification in August. Well done to the Year 13s who have presented so far and we look forward to hearing from more students in the next three weeks.

Today is a non-uniform day for house charities and I am pleased to announce that we have (finally) received our new school uniform samples for September from the manufacturers. Our governors approved the new uniform on Monday and students have had a first look at this today in school. The uniform can be pre-ordered at the start of the summer holiday with collections from mid August. I am told that the overall cost will be roughly in line with the current uniform. **All new Year 7s will be expected to wear this new uniform.** We hope

that students in other years will move over to the new uniform in September. However, the option remains to continue wearing the current uniform until July 2020. Any students for whom the School receives Pupil Premium funding will receive a voucher to spend at our uniform supplier to purchase the new uniform for September. If students remain in the blue uniform, their uniform must fully conform to the published policy including skirt length. The mixing of uniforms will not be permitted and old uniform items will remain in stock only until the end of August 2019.

This week has seen Time to Talk Day and Safer Internet Day in school: Both essential in raising awareness of the difficulties young people can face in today's world. Reports about both are in this newsletter as well as about GCSE Science Live and the recent visit of students from Moorfield Primary to attend a heart dissection!

We finish for half term on Friday 15th February at 3.45pm. Please remember that this day is a PD Day at Haberdashers' Adams and therefore there are no Adams buses running on this day. As I am leading the school trip to Russia over half term and will be leaving at 5.30am on Friday, there won't be a Newport News next week. Any urgent messages will be conveyed by email. I hope that you all enjoy a week's break and that equal amounts of revision and recuperation feature for our exam year students. Thank you for your support this year so far.

With best wishes for the weekend,

**Mr M J Scott**

We are pleased to showcase our new uniform. The range was created by a female designer specifically for girls. This uniform was chosen by our student panel. Students have a choice of a split-free straight skirt or trousers. The jacket, knee-length skirt and trousers are cut from the same material and therefore match exactly. Requests to improve the blouse and jacket buttons were taken into account. The uniform is grey, the blouse is blue-checked and must be tucked in. There is a grey jumper option. The badge shows the logo change made a few years ago. Black tights or socks and black school shoes will be worn. Only badges issued by the School will be permitted on the narrower lapels. We hope that students will wear their new uniform with pride.



Showing grey trouser/jumper option



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# A NEW BEAST JOINS D&T!



From this to this...



You may remember last year's Beast from the East storm, well this is our very own Beast from the **North East**! We are thrilled to welcome our brand new, state-of-the-art LASER CUTTER from a company in Newcastle who specialise in the provision of laser cutting machinery to schools and large companies. Thanks to the support of the PTA who have funded over half of the cost (with the hope of funding the rest later this year), this impressive piece of kit will be faster, quieter and cut more materials in Design & Technology lessons. Our previous machine was on its last legs and Tuesday saw the arrival we had been waiting for.

Unfortunately the delivery logistics weren't too smooth and there were various 'will it or won't it fit?' moments, but with some skilful dismantling of the cutter and the removal of some internal doors(!), our caretaking, IT staff, Mr Mason and Mr Scott got the job done. The reaction from the girls has been one of excitement and curiosity and we look forward to not only being able to improve the quality of the work produced in D&T lessons in all year groups, but also to produce some of our own merchandise for the centenary. Thank you to the PTA for their generous support as we've made Miss Wells and Mr Mason very happy and relieved!

## History Fellowship for Mrs Seys!

We are thrilled to announce that Mrs Amanda Seys has become an Associate Teacher Fellow of the Historical Association. The Historical Association Teacher Fellowship is an annual programme open to just ten history teachers from UK and international schools. Teacher Fellows engage with the latest academic research in their field with a view to bringing the latest historiography and pedagogy into the classroom, ensuring a knowledge-rich curriculum for students.

The 2019 fellowship programme, led by Dr. Michael Riley, Director of the Schools History Project and UCL Teaching Fellow and Dr. Eleanor O' Keefe, Post-Doctoral Research Associate at Historic Royal Palaces, focuses on the issue of conflict, art and remembrance. The Tower of London residential weekend saw experts in the field such as Dr. Megan Gooch, lead for the Lest We Forget research project at Historic Royal Palaces, Professor Richard Grayson of Goldsmiths University and Dr. Jason Todd of Oxford University leading sessions focussed on themes such as war and remembrance in the twentieth century and languages of remembrance. Associate Fellows are now engaged in a nine week

online programme comprising of academic reading, reflection and debate. Discussion so far has addressed historiographical arguments in terms of research about the temporal and spatial placement of the First World War, with several fellows including Mrs Seys concluding that the War did not end with the Armistice of 1918 but in fact extended in an altered format until 1923! As the course progresses Associate Teacher Fellows will develop their own specialist interests within the theme of conflict, art and remembrance. Over the summer break they will develop history teaching resources to be published by the Historical Association for use by other teachers and Historical Association members.

Mrs Seys would like to thank Mr Scott and the school for supporting her in this endeavour, and also year 8 students who have recently completed some really thoughtful and mature reflections based on their preconceptions about the First World War based on cultural influences and previous educational experiences. **Well done Mrs Seys!**



# Moorfield students NGHS

On Friday 25 January, we were fortunate enough to work alongside the Biology Department in organising an engaging taster session about the heart for three groups of Year 5 and 6 students from Moorfield Primary School leading on from their class reading of the well known book, "Pig-Heart Boy" by Malorie Blackman.

This included multiple interactive activities allowing the children to explore the topic hands on. First we started off with an entertaining song packed with scientific facts which was followed by a talk from Mrs Han about the basic structure of the heart, which everyone took on board when labelling their diagrams on the whiteboards. We were very impressed with the children's extensive knowledge!

We then mimicked the gas exchange in the heart and lungs with a life sized model through a fun activity involving blue and red plastic balls and an enormous heart drawn onto the floor with chalk. This proved to be one of the highlights as it got everyone moving and discussing the process.

However we finished off with the most memorable experience that was definitely a favourite: the heart dissection.

Once all the students were kitted out with aprons and goggles, we observed Mrs Han open up the heart while describing all its features and functions. It was a truly valuable experience to see this up close and in real life, which does not usually happen in primary schools. To finish off each group got their own heart to study with syringes filled with coloured solution to resembled the flow of blood through the main heart vessels. Everyone got involved even if nervous to start with as it was an opportunity not to be missed.

Overall, the sessions throughout the day were extremely successful and we enjoyed them as much as the children did!

**Weronika Grebosz & Amber Jones**  
(Y12 Biology Ambassadors)



Photographs courtesy of Moorfield Primary School with appropriate permissions

## Travelling from Albrighton, Codsall, Tettenhall & Wolverhampton?

A renewed request for any families struggling to commute students from these areas, please get in touch. There are 7-8 families wanting to arrange a minibus and they need a few more. Please contact [schooloffice@nghs.org.uk](mailto:schooloffice@nghs.org.uk) and we will happily pass on your details to a family who are willing to organise a minibus service. Thank you.



**1 IN 4 EXPERIENCING A MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEM**

**100S OF RESOURCE DOWNLOADS**

**1,000S OF CONVERSATIONS**

**However you do it, make a conversation about mental health.**

**#timetotalk**

**time to change time to talk day 07/02/19**

let's end mental health discrimination

On Thursday it was Time to Talk Day. This is an opportunity to raise awareness about the importance of talking about our mental health. Miss Clarke provided the Health and Wellbeing Representatives with a number of activities they could have a go at during form times this week and next.

All representatives were provided with a number of booklets which introduced the BEAM service, this is a drop in clinic for any mental health needs, as well as being open with counsellors and therapists to talk to, they also run a series of specific workshops and a calendar of these has also been shared. Workshops include: ARTS AND CRAFTS, 'WHY WORRY' (ANXIETY), HOT TOPICS and SCHOOL / EXAM STRESS, if you would like further information about these sessions, please see the Health and Wellbeing Rep in your form or the Health and Wellbeing noticeboards.

We have also introduced the Random Acts of Kindness Calendar into all forms, the Health and Wellbeing Reps and myself felt it would be really important to focus on this initiative and taking small steps towards making ourselves and others around us feel happier. February is the month of caring and

showing compassion, we want our school community to show others that we care about them and for them to do the same to us. Suggestions for things so far this month have been: bringing in an extra snack or bottle of water to give to someone who is struggling, finding ways to show others that we care, offering to help another person and making sure that everyone feels included. Next week's ideas are: leaving a note of gratitude and / or thanks for someone else, lending a hand to someone else when you see an opportunity, verbally acknowledging the strengths of others and giving someone you love an unexpected hug.

Students were also using the time to talk conversation starter during form times to get conversations flowing about our own and others mental health. The key message of time to talk day is that conversations about mental health save lives and the activities that have been conducted this week are helping to do that. This is further supported by Young Minds who have a bank of conversation starters to help young people with opening up about their feelings.

Here are some of their suggestions for getting a conversation started:

What did you do today that you are most proud of?

How are you feeling?

What was the biggest issue you had today?

What was the best and worst bit of your day?

Is there anything you need from me?

Do you want to talk about what's going on?



# Safer Internet Day 2019

Tuesday  
5 February

## Together for a better internet

On Tuesday 5 February, we ran a treasure hunt at lunch around the school, where participants had to search for the answers to the quiz, which were stuck on the walls around the school. Many people entered and a prize was given to the winner. Other participants also received prizes and it raised awareness of safer internet in school. The cards that were placed around school contained statistics and facts about internet usage and opinions of 8-17 year olds. It was very enjoyable to run and we feel like we have educated lots of people about having safer internet day. Thank you to Miss Clarke for helping us to run this event.

O. Augustus, A. Bickerton, E Bower & M Reni

Below are some statistics about internet usage and young people for parents, which highlight the scale of issues we are experiencing as teachers in providing support....



On average how many **likes, followers and days in a streak** 8-17 year olds said they needed



**52 likes** and

**214 followers**

on Instagram to feel happy



**73 days in a streak**

to show that you are a good friend

On Monday 4 February, all of Year 11 travelled to Symphony Hall in Birmingham to attend GCSE Science Live. There were five speakers: Professor Alice Roberts, Professor Lord Robert Winston, Professor Jim Al-Khalili, Professor and Professor Maggie, discussing various areas of science from astrophysics to genetics. In between these session a there were also two lectures ran by the chief examiner regarding exam technique.

The examiner's sessions focused on how to be efficient and precise to ensure the maximum amount of marks can be gained. One of the key messages was to concentrate on the command words of the question to help the students understand what is required in their answers. The other session discussed the skills required in all the papers, both technical and mathematical. There was a heavy focus on the importance of clarity of working out for questions where calculation is required.

One of my favourite speakers from the day was Professor Lord Robert Winston (pictured right), who spoke about how the beginning of human life as an embryo can help us understand how cells specialise and differentiate and aid us in creating tissues, perhaps for organ transplants. He also discussed the presence of women in scientific research, encouraging us to explore the profession, in addition to the life changing effects research can have.

The lectures have not just helped me to develop my exam technique and approach, but have also encouraged me government do wider research around the GCSE specifications to deepen my understanding and knowledge, giving me many articles and books to read and lectures to watch. It was an amazing and educational day, which we all enjoyed greatly.

**Z Brown, Year 11**



## SPORTS NOTICE FOR YEAR 10



Next week all of Year 10 will competing in an inter-house football tournament during their Games lesson. Therefore, every student **MUST** have shin pads in order for the them to play to the full rules and regulations.

## Y11 Netball Tournament

Tournament on Thursday 14 February has moved from Idsall to Ercall Wood.

## U13 Handball Team

Well done to our U13 Handball team who, on their first ever outing, won the Telford School's Tournament (and all their games) on Wednesday meaning they have now qualified for the Shropshire School Games County Finals!



## Forthcoming Dates...

Date	Event	Year(s)
Wed 13 Feb	Parents Evening 4pm-7pm	Y7
Thu 14 Feb	Options Forms deadline	Y8+11
Fri 15 Feb	Half Term at 3.45pm	All
	Russia Trip leaves at 5.30am	Y9-13
	<b>No Adams Buses on this day</b>	All
Mon 25 Feb	Return to school 8.50am	All
Tue 26 Feb	Chemistry Lecture, 4.15pm	Y12-13
Thu 28 Feb	Parents Evening, 4pm-7pm	Y9
Wed 6 Mar	Options Forms to Mr Scott	Y9
Thu 7 Mar	World Book Day	All

## Health & Wellbeing Top Tip

This week try to help out at home by offering to prepare or cook some meals.