



NEWPORT NEWS

A weekly update from NGHS

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Head's Lines



This week I have very much enjoyed talking to our Year 8 and Year 11 students about their intended options for GCSE and A-level. It makes me very proud to hear of their ambitions, their subjects preferences and also the support that they have received at home when reviewing the subjects that are on offer in our redesigned option guides. I am also pleased that a large number of Year 11s want to make NGHS their home for sixth form. I look forward to working with them to help put in place my ideas to continue and improve NGHS (which relies on their support and enthusiasm!) and I am pleased that our prospective sixth formers would like to play a key role in our school's development.

This week saw the publication of national league tables for 2018's public examination results and we are delighted that **NGHS is once again at the very top not just in Telford & Wrekin but also in Shropshire, too.** I would like to offer my congratulations and thanks to all students and staff for their hard work and dedication. You may have seen coverage of this news in the Shropshire Star and Newport Advertiser.

At a recent trip meeting, I was astonished to find that some of the emergency contact details we had distributed were incorrect, in particular also that two families had moved house and not let us know! Please do ensure that we have accurate contact details by logging into the SIMS Parent App and verifying that all is well. Also, at the student council meeting last week, a request for more vegan food was raised. Looking on our database, we only have four students in the school who are listed as vegan and we share this information with the catering company. Four students does mean only a limited choice is available. If your daughter has changed her dietary needs, please also ensure this is updated so we have an accurate picture of our school population and can advise our catering company accordingly.

You may recall that our U14 Badminton had qualified for the County Final. This was played on Tuesday and they competed hard against other schools. They won every single match and have been crowned county champions. The next stage is the regional competition and we congratulate the team on this magnificent achievement.



BREAKING NEWS NGHS is thrilled to once again be the #1 school in Shropshire.

Well done and thank you to our hard-working students, staff and parents who have made this possible.

Our regular readers will have noted that there was an absence of Newport News last week. Please accept my apologies. Unfortunately a combination of a very busy week along with a day of absence meant I was unable to complete a publication. I am pleased to be back on track now, if not still as busy and this week's bumper edition shows what's been going on. We have information about our new STEM challenge, which involves a group of Year 9 DT students. Led by Mrs Gill and Miss Wells and with the support of Schneider Electrical and the Shropshire Star it promises to be an excellent project. Staying with our STEM theme, we have been involved in the Cyberfirst challenge again this term and you can read more about it on page 2. Also, our Year 11s really enjoyed their trip to Poetry Live last week, which linked directly with their GCSE studies.

Our hard-working PTA have put a box at Reception for any raffle donations. These are used at events which are supported by the PTA and all donations are welcome. If you have any unwanted Christmas gifts, now is the time to put them to a good cause! Thank you!

Finally, please remind your daughter about how to safely cross the road outside school! It sounds patronising, but my colleagues have had to speak to a number of girls this week who have darted across the crossing on red or have not used the crossing at all. Especially given the weather this is a major cause for concern! Thank you.

With best wishes for the weekend,

Mr M J Scott

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

U14 Badminton County Champions



On Tuesday afternoon our U14 Badminton team represented the Telford and Wrekin- Burton Borough Area at the Shropshire School Games after winning the TWSSA league and qualifying. The team competed against other schools from across the county. However, the team won all of their matches and were crowned the overall county final winners. Well done to the team, now onto regionals!



Join
cyber
first.

Cyberfirst Challenge

For the past week, many Year 8 girls, including myself, have taken part in an annual competition known as the

Cyberfirst Girls Competition. In groups of four, we were tasked with completing as many computer-based missions as possible in a week.

The race was on as soon as it hit 12:00pm on Monday 21st January – every team wanted a spot at the grand finals. There were four sections to conquer – cryptography, cyber security, logic and coding, and networking. In each category, there were beginner, intermediate, and expert challenges; and although ‘beginner’ may suggest these puzzles were a walk in the park, they weren’t!

My team got straight to work as soon as we could on Monday. We started with cryptography, learning how to use Cyberchef (a handy tool that allowed us to decode many different ciphers), and quickly getting into the

swing of things. We were set on winning, as the overall winners bag £1000 worth of computers for their school! By the end of day one, we had completed 25% of all the challenges and I was feeling lucky.

Team 1 pushed into the lead, having completed around 50% of each category by day 3. They stayed consistent throughout the week, staying ahead of the other teams for the whole competition.

The whole experience was exciting and, at some points, stressful, but it gave everyone an extra challenge, as well as being a great bonding and teambuilding experience. I would definitely recommend getting involved next year, especially if you’re passionate about coding, maths, or computing.

M Turner, Year 8

Below..Martha’s team’s scores



Cryptography



62% completed



Cyber Security



60% completed



Logic & Coding



53% completed



Networking



78% completed



gcse poetry
live!



On 22 January 2019, our year (Year 11) were given the amazing opportunity to leave behind our usual Tuesday lessons and instead attend GCSE Poetry Live!

Despite the early start for some people and the inevitable issues we faced travelling into Birmingham at 9 o'clock in the morning on a weekday, our spirits were high and had been for the days leading up to the trip! Many of us were excited to hear some of the poets who we had studied as part of our course read their works aloud, in order to gain a better understanding of the meanings of the poems and their significance based on the poets' lives and experiences. Poets that performed included Imtiaz Dharker, Carol Ann Duffy (our Poet Laureate!) and Simon Armitage. However, I believe that all who attended the trip would agree that the poets who really stole the show were Grace Nichols and John Agard, whose dynamic and expressive performances left us all smiling and humming to the swing of their poems long after the day had ended!

The poets themselves read and explained at least 2 poems each, from varying anthologies, which included both poems that we had studied and those we hadn't as part of our course. We were given booklets to write notes in which also gave us some insight as to the poets' backgrounds and influences which I believe was particularly helpful as we could follow along and make extra notes on the poems that were read, regardless of whether we had looked at them in our poetry lessons.

The poems and explanations we heard and received ranged from sombre and moving, to jovial and playful. I really think that one of the most important things this trip taught us was about the fluidity of poetry, how wildly different interpretations of them can be and how that is more than welcomed, which is truly beautiful.

To round it all off, between readings we had "examiner sessions" in which Peter Buckroyd, who has worked as an examiner for many years, gave us tips and advice as to how to approach unseen poetry and comparison questions. As the language used in mark schemes can be mystifying, I can confidently say that this advice was greatly appreciated and I will be sure to exercise the techniques I learned in an exam setting, I am sure my peers feel the same!

All in all, the trip was a huge success and a marvellous experience! We thank the school for allowing us to enjoy this day out in interest of our studies, as well as for a bit of fun! In particular, a huge thank you to our English department who organised the trip and to all the teachers who came to enjoy the day with us, the day could not have gone forward without you.

By Sarah N (Year 11)



Y7 Book Club

For the last few weeks, the Year 7 Book Club – which meets every Monday at 1pm in Room 203 – has been reading and discussing 'Salt to the Sea' by Ruta Sepetys. This is the bittersweet, heart-breaking tale of four young adults, each seeking refuge, each with a dark secret. If you enjoy historical fiction or interesting narratives, then this story of friendship, hope and revenge will warm your heart, make you laugh, make you cry. This novel shines a light on stories of hope in the German, Polish and Jewish communities during World War 2. Ultimately, this is an amazing tale told from four amazing perspectives, and definitely worth reading. Our next Book Club selection is 'Dreaming the Bear' by Mimi Thebo. Come along and join us!

I Link and I Russell

Attendance Matters

We are continuing to monitor attendance at school and have recently celebrated attendance awards in Rewards Assemblies for all students who have attendance above our school attendance target of 97%. Congratulations to the high number of students who received a certificate from their Head of Year.

As we are at the end of another month I would like to share the results of the form attendance competition for both December and January. As we have had Mock Exams in the hall and haven't been able to have a whole school assembly I have been holding back the prizes for December. These have now been shared with students in assembly this morning.

Every student who has achieved 97% or higher attendance during the month contribute towards their forms total for the month. The winning forms are the

ones who have the highest number of students above our school target percentage. The winning forms will receive a box of Heroes and every individual student will receive a House Point.



Our form winners so far this year:

	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Y7-8	R1	R2	R1	R1	A1
Y9-10	R4	A4	S3	A4	A3
Y11	A5	A5	A5	A5	R5
Y12-13	A7	A6	S7	A6	S6

We are also keen to keep working with students to boost attendance as there is a link between good attendance and academic outcomes. It is important that students have an understanding of what their attendance percentage is and form tutors do have that information and can discuss attendance matters with all students. As always, if there are any concerns that you wish to share with the pastoral team about attendance matter please contact the school office and make an appointment to talk to your daughter's Head of Year.

Pastoral Matters - Polite Request

If you would like to discuss a pastoral matter with your daughter's tutor or Head of Year, could you please call the school telephone number or email schooloffice@nghs.org.uk to make an appointment at a convenient time.

THANK YOU FRIDAY



FORM	STUDENT NAME(S)
A2	K Markworth & L Rawson
A3	T Hardiman
A7	H Stocking
R2	E Howe & L Chilcott
R3	E Owen
R5	M Batkin
S2	M Edge
S3	E Haynes
S4	N Musadiq & E Watson-Nolan
S5	Z Brown
HOY 7-8	I Russell & I Link
HOY 9-10	S Nawaid
HOY 11	T Uppal & J Sanghera
HOY 12-13	S Brown



Safer Internet Day (5 February 2019) is celebrated globally each year in February. Its aims are to:

- Promote the safe and positive use of digital technology for children and young people
- Inspire a conversation about using technology responsibly, respectfully, critically and creatively.

In school this is something the Health and Wellbeing Committee feel is important to raise awareness of with our student body and, as a result, next week the Year 9 Health and Wellbeing Representatives will be arranging a Treasure Hunt around school one lunchtime as well as a form time Kahoot.

Further information will be shared with students at the start of next week about these events.

Y7 German Fashion Show ...Language Learning with style!

7X and 7Y German lessons this week had a whole new look, with a chance for girls to describe their own outfits in German and then take to the improvised room 11 catwalk!

Sehr schick und modisch!



NGHS joins prestigious STEM Challenge

This week has seen the launch of the Shropshire Star STEM Challenge 2019 with our year 9 design and technology students. The brief for project is for a team of 6 pupils to design a product which improves the lives of an individual or group and the environment, or just the environment.

We have been partnered with Sam Waters and Martin Berewolitz from Schneider Electric who are going to support the group throughout the process, along with our year 12 Subject Ambassadors, R Arachchi, C Llewellyn-Smith and R Monteith. This is an exciting project for the school, which is one of 17 Shropshire schools taking part.

Applications were open to year 9 DT students. We are now shortlisting these and we look forward to working with the selected team to help the project to take shape. The awards day for the project is 4th July. Good luck to the team!

Mrs Gill & Miss Wells



HEADLINE SPONSOR



Mental Health Awareness with Anna Freud Institute

EBPU
Evidence Based Practice Unit

A partnership of



Our school is an official Research Partner in the Education for Wellbeing programme.

We are working in partnership with the Evidence Based Practice Unit (Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families and UCL), which has been commissioned by the Department for Education. Together we are investigating the impact of five innovative approaches that aim to promote pupil wellbeing.

This cutting-edge research trial is the largest of its kind in the UK. Our contribution will improve understanding of how best to support children and young people's mental health and wellbeing.



Year 8 Options Fair

On Tuesday 29 January, a group of Year 10 students led the second annual Options Fair. It can be a daunting thought to make GCSE options choices in Year 8 and the current Lower School Head Girl team were keen to help make this process easier.

The Options Fair was an opportunity for students in Year 8 to come along and speak to GCSE students about their experiences of taking different options. The students were also able to look at work in folders and exercise books. The event was very well attended and there was a really positive buzz in the room.

Here are some comments made by Year 8 students who attended the fair:

"I saw a lot of students' work and it helped me think about which options to use." (Pranavi)

"It was good to get a fresh perspective on options. Looking at their work was informative and interesting and I found new things out about the different subjects." (Emi)

"The options fair was really helpful and gave me an insight into the content of the subjects in Year 9." (Anna)



A special thank you must go to all of the Year 10 students who helped to organise the event. It was a huge success!

Miss Tomkinson, Head of Years 9 & 10



On Wednesday our U15 Handball competed at Telford Langley School in the Shropshire School Games Qualifier. The competition was fierce, but in the end NGHS came out on top and **won the tournament overall**. It was great to see that the profile and overall standard of handball had improved from last year. Well done ladies!

Also to **Neha Patnaik and Miri Taneichi** in Year 11 (pictured below). Neha has passed both Grade 8 Singing with two of the examination boards; ABRSM and Trinity London and Miri has achieved grade 7 in her violin examination. At this stage in Year 11, these are tremendous achievements. Well done, girls!



Forthcoming Dates...

Date	Event	Year(s)
Mon 4 Feb	GCSE Science Live (whole year)	Y11
Tue 5 Feb	Student Council meeting	Reps
Wed 6 Feb	Arkwright Scholarship Exam	Y11
Thu 7 Feb	Parents Evening 4pm-7pm	Y8
Fri 8 Feb	Sixth Form Council meeting Mufti day (house charities)	Reps
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 No Adams Buses on this day	Y9-13 All

Health & Wellbeing Top Tip

Save up and treat yourself to something special. It doesn't have to be a big thing. Just make yourself feel good... (anon)