



NEWPORT NEWS

A weekly update from NGHS

Volume 2 - Issue 4 - Friday 28 September 2018

Head's Lines



It is hard to believe that a month has passed already and we are half way through a long first half term. As usual, it's been another busy week at NGHS. The **Battlefields trip** last weekend was a very moving and informative experience for all of the students and staff who took part. I must commend the students on their impeccable behaviour and genuine interest in the many different sites we visited. As well as Miss Davies's efficient organisation, the trip was truly 'made' by our guide, Robert, who kept the girls enthralled on the coach for hours at a time with his tales of life in the trenches and the historical implications for each and every battle we studied. As you might expect, it was a very emotional visit for many of the students and I hope that those who took part will share their experiences with their friends and families to honour the memory of the Great War and the hundreds of thousands who died on the Battlefields and beyond.

Yesterday saw our first ever **NGHS Bake-Off competition** and we have been delighted by the enthusiasm shown by so many students; some of whom have not always felt able to contribute to House events before. My aim is to ensure every student contributes to at least one event (plus Sports

Day) and there really is something for everyone. We have also just enjoyed our **Macmillan Coffee Morning** at breaktime **with well over £300 raised**; we will make this up to £400 to this wonderful cause. Thank you to everyone who came along, ate cake and made a donation.

Mrs Griffin (Head of Sixth Form) has told me how well our Year 12 students are settling in and I hope that they have a good time on their **residential social weekend to Liverpool**, which departs today. Year 7 tutors and senior staff enjoyed meeting parents of our youngest students last night at the **Y7 Parents' Information Evening**. We also provided some useful E-Safety information through our IT partner company, Concero. Again, this is always at the forefront of our minds as we promote safe, healthy relationships online.

Our hard-working PTA have planned a **movie night** next Tuesday for Year 7-8 students and I hope that they will support this. Further details are on the back page of the newsletter. Also, there is another popular **quiz night** for all the family in October. Please do support the PTA with these entertaining events as they directly benefit our students' lives in school.

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

GOLD CREST SUCCESS!

Congratulations to our Year 13 Gold Crest students who presented findings from their scientific studies at Harper Adams University last week. Mrs Dainty (Coordinator) and Mr Scott attended the presentations and were very impressed with the quality of research and the students' presentation skills. From the nutritional value of the food on our plate to the quality of ram spermatozoa, there was a wide range of research topics and we are very grateful for the excellent support from colleagues at Harper Adams University who kindly offer this valuable opportunity to NGHS students.



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The sight of thousands of marble stones standing in front of me, of French and British soldiers, all with the same date on their headstones, shattered my heart to pieces. The Battlefield trip was definitely worth it and I'd recommend it to anyone and everyone.' [Said in relation to the Devonshire's regiment, well over 100 of whom died on July 1st 2016 on the first day of the Battle of the Somme] **Alja Y9**

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Last weekend, a group of year 9-12s set off on the Centenary Battlefields trip. Little did we know how life changing and humbling the trip would be. Once we had collected our guide, Robert and crossed the Channel, we drove to the town of Ebbingham. There, we saw what would be the first of many cemeteries. It was a moving experience as it was the first time most people had seen a British WWI cemetery. After that short visit we arrived at our accommodation which was a beautiful château.

Day two was jam-packed with places to visit and things to do. We crossed the border into Belgium and headed to the historic town of Ypres. Here, we visited an English church full of memorials and remembrances. Our guide then led us to the In Flanders Field Museum at the beautiful Cloth Museum, where we roamed freely, looking at the various exhibits and videos. Following this, we went to a chocolate shop where we all treated ourselves to Belgium Chocolate and some of us even attempted to speak some Flemish! That afternoon, we visited a number of cemeteries in the Ypres Salient [including British, French and German], where Robert told us interesting



One of the many British cemeteries visited over the weekend (as well as French, German and Canadian memorials).

SPOTLIGHT ON Battlefields Tour



but occasionally harrowing stories of some of the men who had served in the First World War. Two cemeteries stood out particularly. One was Tyne Cot, a cemetery and memorial dedicated to the missing who had fought at Passchendaele. It bears the names of some 35,000 men on its walls and over 11,000 graves within it. The second cemetery was the Langemark German cemetery which is a mass grave for over 30,000 German men. We were shocked to find out that Adolf Hitler had once visited the cemetery and that we were walking in his exact steps. We also visited a trench museum called Sanctuary Wood where we walked through genuine British WWI trenches and saw a wide collection of war memorabilia.

Following this, I was lucky enough to visit the cemetery of my own relative, my great-great uncle, who had died at the age of 17. I had the opportunity to lay a remembrance cross at his grave, for which I am very grateful. We then attended Menin Gate ceremony at 8pm. Despite the wet weather conditions, the service was extremely moving and two students and Mrs Seys were lucky enough to take part in it, laying down a wreath on behalf of our school. The sound of the trumpeters playing the Last Post was extremely moving.

Day three was equally as busy but this time we travelled to the Somme in Picardie where we visited the Lochnagar Crater, which caused by the British in an attempt to destroy a German fortification. We visited various other cemeteries as well, including one where the last of the Hornbeam trees still grows [a relative of which we now have growing in our school field]. We also visited the impressive memorial at Thiepval, which has the names of more than 72,000 missing men on its walls -this was a shock for many of us as we found it hard to process the numbers of soldiers remembered here. In addition, we visited Newfoundland Park, where we walked in trenches and viewed a small visitor centre.

For our final day we travelled back over the Belgian border to Poperinge. Here we saw a joint French and English cemetery and we visited Talbot House. Talbot house was a soldier's club offering free food, tea and entertainment for soldiers and aimed to treat everyone equally regardless of their rank. We were relieved to discover that the soldiers did have *some* respite from the horrendous conditions of life in the trenches.

The trip was truly amazing from start and finish and helped us not only understand the global impact the war had but also the personal one. It taught us that we are so lucky to be born in this era and the stories told by Robert will resonate with us forever.

Lucy, Year 12



Prince William Award

On Tuesday 17 September, one of our year 7 students, Hannah Thorpe, was given the opportunity to go to the Graduation Ceremony of the Prince William Award's (PWA) that was being held at Birmingham University.

Hannah was one of four students selected to attend from her former primary school, Priorslee Academy, and was presented with a certificate from HRH The Duke of Cambridge, as well as books from author and comedian David Walliams.

The PWA is based upon the Duke of Edinburgh Awards but aimed at children of primary school age, helping to develop and improve life skills, such as confidence and responsibility. Well done, Hannah!



NGHS welcomes...

Mrs K Griffin Head of Sixth Form



I am delighted to be working at NGHS as the Head of Sixth Form. There is no greater privilege in teaching than working with the students, and helping them take the next step forward in achieving their life ambitions. The atmosphere, both amongst the staff and the students is warm and welcoming, and from the moment I stepped through the door, I knew it was something I wanted to be a part of.

From an early age I knew I wanted to work with young people, though I wasn't initially sure in what format. At university I studied History & Politics, and I then realised that I wanted to continue in education, hopefully sharing my passion for these two subjects with many generations to come. History was always my first love at school, as there is always something new to learn, and in my free time I love nothing more than wondering around a museum or reading the latest publication. I became fascinated with politics as a child and first wrote to the Prime Minister aged 9 (John Craven's Newsround has a lot to answer for). It is such an important aspect of our lives and I love nothing more than a really good debate.

I believe that many of our students should choose to study History and/ or Government & Politics at A level here with us at NGHS. The History course is superb, combining the War of the Roses and Russia in the 19th & 20th century. Each area is fascinating and full of political intrigue. The skills you develop are so beneficial as you learn to analyse and evaluate material, and good communication and understanding are key. Whether you enjoy economic, social or political history there is something to please everyone.

With regards to Government & Politics A level, it could never be more significant in our everyday lives. The course content covers both the UK and the USA, where you study each individually and comparatively. If you love a good debate and are able to formulate an argument, then this is the course for you. You must have a passion for current affairs and a flair for asking questions.

I love to read, and particularly like crime fiction and historical fiction. I am currently reading "The Grapes of Wrath" by John Steinbeck which is really emotive and beautifully written. I feel the pain of the American families who were affected by the 1930's depression, and Steinbeck is superb in capturing the mood of that time.

There are many historical figures that I would love to have met and have dinner with, but if I had to choose only one it would be Joseph Stalin. My dissertation at university was on one of the show trials in the 1930's, and I would love to have got inside his mind. How did he claim to believe in Communism yet justify the show trials, particularly of his comrades, and the gulags? Was he able to justify his actions in his own mind?

Over the years I have been given many pieces of great advice, however I think that one of the most important I have ever been given, and one I have already shared with the Year 13 girls in an assembly is "Be kind to yourself." I believe that compassion and support for others is crucial in society, however we sometimes forget that it is ok to be kind to ourselves too. Life is busy and we all try to help others and do as much as we can, however occasionally it is permissible to make some time for ourselves and do something just for us, without feeling guilty.



First Matches... Well Played!

On Saturday 22 September our UI3, UI5 and UI8 teams competed in a tournament at Oswestry school. The standard of netball was incredibly high and there was a lovely atmosphere amongst the players throughout the day. Pictured today are the UI3 & UI5s.

Myself and Miss Clarke were extremely impressed with the quality of netball played so early on in the season. Well done to all the girls that completed!

Mrs Goodall

Y10s Clean Sweep at Tournament

Our Year 10 netball team have started the year well by winning all their games and overall the Telford and Wrekin Schools Netball tournament hosted by Madeley Academy at Abraham Darby on Thursday 27 September. Well done girls!





PLEASE COMPLETE THIS SECTION:				
Name:			Phone: (for any queries)	
Student's Name:			Year Group:	
TICKETS	Quantity		Cost	
Tickets @£5 each			£	
FOOD ORDER	Fish & chips	Sausage & chips	Just chips	Greek salad pitta (V)
Please enter quantity				
Please state any special requirements e.g. Jones's can offer gluten free chips and fish. We will contact you in case of query.				

NOTICES

PE NOTICE

Please remind students to pack the full range of layers for their PE and Games lessons: We are continuing to teach lessons outside on the new courts in cold and wet weather and some students are attending lessons with just a skort and t-shirt. They can bring any combination of the PE layers that are available but should be bringing these already this term.

BATTLEFIELDS TRIP

Students should please complete their scrapbook, diary, poem or any other form of post-trip reflection and get it to Miss Davies by Monday 5 November please. Prizes will be awarded to the best!

CAREERS DISCUSSIONS: YEAR 11

From Monday 1 October we will be beginning a programme of 30 minute careers guidance meetings for all of our year 11 students. Our careers advisor is Leia Winch from Future Focus, who has introduced herself to our students, and is looking forward to helping them make important decisions about their future. We would encourage our students to prepare for these meetings by doing their own research, and having questions ready, which can help shape the discussion. If you have any questions about these meetings or would like to know more about our careers provision, please get in touch with Mrs Gill.

Forthcoming Dates...

Date	Event	Year(s)
Mon 1 Oct	Information Evening, 7pm	Y8
Tue 2 Oct	PTA Movie Night, 4pm	Y7 + 8
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 at Edgmond Hall DofE Silver Expedition	Y7 Y10-11
Thu 11 Oct	Parents Evening	Y13
Wed 17 Oct	House Quiz at lunchtime	All
Tue 23 Oct	Nice Trip Departs	Y9-10
Wed 24 Oct	India Trip Departs	Y11-13
Thu 25 Oct	Non-Uniform Day (School Fund) Poetry Evening, 7pm	All All



NGHS PTA
Sing-along-a-movie!


Year 7/8 Movie Night

School library, 2nd October,
4pm – 6pm

£2 entry fee buys popcorn and a drink
Pay on the door
Other snacks on sale

PTA UK
MEMBER ASSOCIATION

FILM NIGHT



**NGHS
ENGLISH
PRESENTS:**

**AN
EVENING
OF POETRY**

Thursday 25th
October
7pm
The Atrium