



# NEWPORT NEWS

*A weekly update from NGHS*

Volume 2 - Issue 13 - Friday 7 December 2018



## Head's Lines

Charities Week has been a huge success with a number of activities being organised by our House Charity Reps to support Allsorts Youth Club: Stafford, The Lucas Charity and Birmingham Children's Hospital. A huge thank you to all the students who supported events and to the staff who put themselves up for a challenge in the Dodgeball match and the I'm A Celebrity bush tucker trial, which appears to have been the highlight of the week! Mrs Benoit, Mrs Goodall, Ms Branson and Miss Barney were real troupers when it came to eating whole onions and garlic!

This week I have attended a two day SSAT conference including a number of workshops. One was entitled "be a flamingo of hope, not a lemming of despair". An interesting analogy and one that resonates with the situation students (and often school leaders!) find themselves in when faced with uncertainty. My message to students in assembly was that standing tall and proud and not following the crowd is one way to take control and make a positive difference. Other workshops

concerned greater mental health awareness in schools, changes to the national inspection framework (led by Amanda Spielman, Chief HMI for Ofsted) and finally a truly inspirational talk by Rt. Hon David Lammy MP about injustices in the education system from funding to child poverty to gender inequality. Whatever your political stance, his talk was balanced and well received by the thousand or so delegates. I will be using some of the outcomes from the conference to further shape the School's development over the coming two terms.

This afternoon we welcomed Kate from the Christmas Smile appeal to collect the huge array of gifts for local families who are struggling at Christmas. Please see the photograph above. She was overwhelmed by the number of donations and we would like to extend our thanks, to all those who have contributed. What a wonderful end to Charities Week.

Our pre-Christmas Year 11-13 shopping trip to Cheshire Oaks is this evening, so we will feel very festive, I'm sure.

Wishing you a pleasant weekend,

**Mr M J Scott**

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**The Maths Department recently took our Year 11 students and Year 12-13 mathematicians to Bletchley Park....**

## **SPOTLIGHT ON** *Bletchley Park Trip*



When we arrived at Bletchley Park, we were split up into groups and we started to make our way around the historically important site.

My group, led by Mr Heighway, started in Hut 8 where Alan Turing was based during the war. We saw his office and learnt about how difficult it was to be able to break the Enigma code. It was amazing to learn about the work of these undercover heroes and I found it particularly emotional discovered he took his own life after enduring two years of gay conversion therapy (an alternative to jail).

After Hut 8, we headed to Hut 11 A and 11, where we learnt about the Wrens who operated the Bombe Machines. This team of heroines were inspiring for me as they worked tirelessly in 'hell-like' conditions without fully understanding their contribution to the war effort.

We then had lunch and were taken on a tour of the site, including visiting the garages and the manor house.

As a finale to the day, we had an opportunity to do some codebreaking ourselves and touch an authentic WW2 Enigma Machine. It was an experience that not many people are privileged enough to have, in fact only 30,000 people per year get to see one in person. All in all, I found the day to be a great educational experience and I enjoyed having a break from normal lessons.

**Anne S (Year 11)**



## **UMKT Maths Challenge**

On Monday 26 November, Molly (Y13), Weronika (Y12), Emilie (Y12) and I took part in the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust Senior Maths challenge, accompanied by Mr Heighway.

The competition consisted of three time-pressured rounds, including a number crossword, during which we mainly worked in pairs within our four to get as many correct answers as possible. With 17 other competitive schools present from the Staffordshire and Shropshire region, we managed to come sixth place which we are all very proud of.

We would all encourage students to participate in this experience in the future if given the opportunity.



**United Kingdom  
Mathematics Trust**

**Anke G (Y13)**





# Year 13 Health Day Report



Year 13 enjoyed a Health Day on 29 November. Everyone came to school ready in sports kit for the days activities. We were split up into two groups to alternate between each of the sessions. For my group the day began with a driving safety course led by Mrs Griffin. We began by discussing people who we felt likely may be likely to crash and reasons for this and looked at some rather shocking statistics. This helped raise awareness of why a person may crash and definitely made everyone think about the dangers of reckless driving. Mrs Griffin then told us the tragic story of Georgia Walton, a former pupil of hers who sadly lost her life in a car crash last year. This story really hit home for all of us about the dangers of driving and how one small mistake can change your life forever. It really stressed how essential it is to take care, concentrate and be aware when driving. We then watched a number of moving and informative videos about driving and the consequences of dangerous driving. I know this session projected a really important message to all of year 13 and I know that myself and each one of my fellow pupils left with a greater understanding of how to be a safer driver and knowing it is just not worth it to touch your phone or lose concentration whilst driving.

After lunch, we had a first aid session with community first responder Russell Brooks. During the session Russell taught us what to do if a patient has gone into

cardiac arrest and how to use a defibrillator. He was really detailed and informative and repeated the procedure to make sure everyone understood and remembered. I know many of my classmates have taken first aid courses before but we all agreed this one was really useful because none of us knew how to use a defibrillator or how to tell if someone was in cardiac arrest. Each of us left the room feeling confident we'd know how to help someone if they were in cardiac arrest.

To end the day, year 13 gathered in the Hall for a clubbercise session! Everyone got really involved and had a lot of fun. The dancing was so good and the instructors were really enthusiastic and kind. Everyone was exhausted afterwards. Overall, health day was really useful and sent out some important messages that I know everyone will remember. It was really great to have a day like this at school, as I know sometimes the pressure of exams, homework and EPQ can be really hard sometimes and this day definitely helped some of us to cope.

**Imogen (Year 13)**

(The background of this article is from the Main Hall during the amazing Clubbercise session!)

## Former Student Fundraising Plea



**I was pleased to receive an email from a former student who is asking us to consider supporting her charity fundraising events. Please read more below...**

My name is Rachel Dear, I am a 2017 alumna of Newport Girls' High School. I am currently studying Law at the University of Birmingham. During my time at NGHS I was actively involved in charity appeals; most notably my support of the Seacole house charity 'SANE' 2014-15. Attending NGHS was key in teaching me the value of charity work and thus, encouraged me to continue this work at University.

In June 2019, I will be completing the Three Peaks Challenge in support of the Mental Health Charity 'MIND'. The challenge involves climbing Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon (a total of 23 miles and 3064m) in just 24 hours, with only 4 hours sleep. The challenge will be both mentally and physically demanding, however, I am keen to raise as much money as possible.

I would be delighted if NGHS families could consider supporting me. I understand that this is a big ask as I no longer attend the school, however, having experienced first-hand the enthusiasm in supporting mental health charities at the school, I feel this would be such an incredible way to raise money. Details of my campaign and the work of the charity can be found [here](#).





# Pastoral Updates from Miss Clarke

## Attendance Heroes

We are continuing to regularly monitor our students' attendance as research shows that regular attendance at school has a positive impact on student progress and on their future success. Attendance has been fantastic and well above our school target of 97% throughout September and October but I have noticed a slight decline in average attendances during November and wish to address this with students and parents ahead of the winter months. If attendance slips down to 95%, this is the equivalent to missing 9 days from school in a year, which is 45 hours of teaching. It is when attendance drops to this point that we begin our monitoring and intervention programme with regards to attendance, which is in line with our school policy.

In 2019, we will be asking our students to track their own attendance percentage in tutor time. At least once in each month to half term, students will log their attendance in their planner; this will allow students to be more aware of their attendance percentage and where this is currently against our school target. We would also ask you to look at this information through the parent app or when you sign the planners.

At the end of this term, students with an attendance figure above 97% will receive either a bronze, silver or gold certificate in their rewards assemblies each. Students who are above 97% at the end of each month also receive house points for this.

**In November our whole school average attendance figure was 96.4%. Our year to date figure is 97.1% due to the high levels shown during September and October.**

This morning we have rewarded our attendance heroes; these are the forms in each age band with the highest number of students with attendance above 97% for just the month of November. This resets every month.

**Our winners this month were:**

Years 7 and 8: **R1**  
Years 9 and 10: **S3**  
Year 11: **A5**  
Years 12 and 13: **S7**



## Young Minds Wellbeing Advent

All forms have been provided with a copy of Young Minds Wellbeing Advent and it has been lovely to hear some of the positive stories that have been shared through this activity in a morning. We will continue to follow the advent over the remaining two weeks, but you are also welcome to do this at home as a family over the next two weeks.

Click [here](#) to view this interesting resource.

## Charities Week - Thanks!

Charities Week has taken place this week, the Charity Reps have arranged a week of activities to raise money for the three house charities, further details about the charities we are supporting and the full amount raised will be shared by the charity reps next week. They have organised for a candy cane delivery, staff dodge ball, I'm a Teacher, Get Me Out of Here, Christmas carolling and an Elf Treasure Hunt. Thank you so much to all of the students for getting fully involved in support the school event and most importantly for raising some much needed awareness and money for their house charities. Particular well done to Gracie, Serena and Eve (our House Charity Reps) for all their hard work this week.

## E-SAFETY ALERT 3AM CHALLENGE

We have been made aware of a recent social media dare that is running through YouTube called the 3AM challenge.

The dare is designed for participants to perform a specific task at 3 in the morning. There are a number of challenges that participants may be given to complete at that time.

As a school we have received an advice briefing from Telford and Wrekin's safeguarding board asking us to make our parents aware of this challenge. The advice for parents is to remain involved in your child's online life through talking to them about their life online and setting up parent controls as appropriate.

Additional advice would be to consider the amount of hours your child is spending on their phone as well as questioning whether phones need to be in bedrooms at night to prevent them becoming involved in this sort of activity.



*Decking The Halls in the Atrium.*

(Spot the 'elf' and safety yellow striped tape - Mr Scott)

## Head Girl Team Update

**Ruby Furniss, Deputy Head Girl  
(Wellbeing & Internationalism)**



In the last few weeks the Head Girl Team have attended post-16 fairs across Telford and Wrekin from Charlton School, Hadley Learning Centre and Telford Priory to advertise NGHS6. The open evening was successful too, with internal and external students enjoying the workshops and talks that were offered. The toilet twinning campaign is ongoing and we have already raised enough funds to twin one toilet! The Christmas decorations in the atrium have been put up, getting everyone in the Christmas spirit ready for winter jumper day and the carol service later on in the term!

# THANK YOU FRIDAY



Well done to this week's winners...

FORM	STUDENT NAME(S)
A1	B Tibble
A2	J Wozniak
A3	S Hose
R4	E Bower
S1	V Jayasuriya
S2	M Bethwaite
S3	S Cox
S4	L Jones
S5	E Crone
S6	E Asaah, E Jenkins
HOY 11	R Ward, A Ward
Headteacher	C Hamilton, A Strickland, F Jones-Smyth, A Etherington

## Pre-Loved PE Kit

If your child has outgrown any items of PE kit or school uniform and you are thinking about throwing these items away, please consider returning items to the school reception where they can be reused by others.

## UNIFORM MATTERS

We would like to ensure that all students are correctly adhering to the uniform policy. This is including excessive make up, jewellery that is not permitted, skirt length and hoodies underneath blazers. All members of the school will be asked to support this and letters will be written home where we see persistent breaches in standards of uniform. Please support us with this by ensuring that your child is dressed appropriately in the morning. Finally a repeated reminder that **WINTER COATS** should now be worn for school, too. Thank you.

## New History Ambassadors

The History Department are delighted to announce the appointment of the first 6<sup>th</sup> form History Ambassadors at NGHS, selected from an extremely strong field in Year 12:

**Lucy Dover & Aime Tonkin**

We are so looking forward to working with them over the coming year – they both had such inspirational ideas and a clear passion for the subject, which we're sure will be contagious! Watch this space, as Lucy and Aime will be writing updates relating to developments in history in the newsletter from time to time, not least in relation to our big plans for celebrating the School's Centenary in 2019! Many thanks to all students who applied – the time and effort you put into your applications is much appreciated. We loved such a lot of your ideas and, although not appointed, we would still encourage you to join in activities and bring your initiatives to life!

**Miss Davies, Mrs Seys and Mrs Griffin**



## Ninjas vs Sharks

This week saw the end of round 1 in the Harper Netball League and it was a local Derby with two Harper v Harper games and of course the main event, Ninjas vs Sharks. The game was close, with both teams playing some fantastic netball and making both Miss Clarke and Mrs Goodall extremely proud. However, the final score saw Sharks take the win 26 goals to Ninjas 18. Sharks are now at the top of the league after playing everyone once, and matches will resume after Christmas whereby each team plays each other again.



## Last Day Of Term

Please be aware that there will be **no Adams school buses** running on the last day of term (Friday 21 December). However, it is important that students attend school and absences will be followed up in line with our Attendance Policy. Please ensure that you make alternative arrangements. Thank you.



*Newport Girls' High School*

## Christmas Carol Service

*Tuesday 18th December 2018*

*7pm*



*Tickets available from Reception*

## Forthcoming Dates...



Date	Event	Year(s)
Mon 10 Dec	Full Governors Meeting	Govs
Thu 13 Dec	Parents Evening	Y12
Fri 14 Dec	Winter Jumper Day Christmas Lunch in school	All All
Tue 18 Dec	Carol Service, 7pm, St Nicholas	All
Wed 19 Dec	Pantomime Visit (am)	Y7
Fri 21 Dec	End of term at 12.35pm	All
Mon 7 Jan	Inset Day (Staff Training)	Staff
Tue 8 Jan	Term Starts at 8.50am	All
Mon 14 Jan	Assessment Week in lessons	Y12
Wed 16 Jan	Biology Live (A-level)	Y12
Thu 17 Jan	Parents Evening, 4pm-7pm	Y11

### HEALTH & WELLBEING TOP TIP!

Believing in yourself is the first step to any challenge (R4)