



# NEWPORT NEWS

## A weekly update from NGHS

Volume 3 - Issue 16 - Friday 24 January 2020



**W**e learnt this week that we have been awarded a Bronze Eco Award for our efforts in raising awareness about sustainability and the future of the planet. This is most impressive given the short timespan since the group was formed back in the Autumn Term. There is a real appetite for change in the school and our plastic recycling scheme is running very well. Thank you to the girls who are leading this work with Mrs Gill's support.

Last night, I had the opportunity to watch our Year 9 netball teams in action at Ercall Wood. They played brilliantly and the A team were particularly adept at transporting the ball from one end of the court to the other at break-neck speed, with just three or four passes. I also look forward to seeing our Year 11 team in action on Sunday in Bromsgrove for the Regional Finals. I wish them every success - it's an early start from school for those travelling by minibus!

In years 8 and 11, students are now underway with the process of making option requests for the next stage in their education. As ever, there is considerable support available and no such thing as a silly question. If parents or guardians have any questions, please do get in touch (Year 8 parents can also speak to staff at the forthcoming Parents Evening).

This weekend's Shropshire Star will feature NGHS as the national league tables have been published and we remain the top performing school for exam outcomes in 2019. There is also information and an advert for our Open Evening for Year 4-5 students in April. If you know anyone with a daughter who may be interested in joining NGHS in Year 7 in September, please feel free to pass on this newsletter and the advert above.

Today's Gardening Club sale was a really great success. A massive thank you to those who donated books, CDs and DVDs. Please see page 2 for some photographs.

**Ofsted**  
Outstanding Provider  
October 2019

**Top of the national league tables in Telford & Wrekin and Shropshire for the last three years**

**Daughter In Year 11?**  
Applications for our outstanding Sixth Form are open until 13th February.

**Are you looking for a school where:**  
Your daughter will be challenged each and every day?  
She can feel secure in her surroundings?  
She can succeed both in and outside the classroom?

**See what makes NGHS special at our Open Evening**  
Thursday 30 April 2020 4pm-7pm  
visit [www.nghs.org.uk](http://www.nghs.org.uk) for more information

**Newport Girls' High School**

Next Monday is Holocaust Memorial Day and two students and I have been invited to attend a service in Telford. Mrs Seys has coordinated this for us as part of our role as a Beacon School for Holocaust Education. This newsletter also features a number of pupil congratulations including two NGHS students who competed in the national pistol-shooting finals last weekend. It is always great to hear about our students' many successes and I thank those who pop down to my office to let me know what they've been up to. The next few editions of NN will focus on pastoral groups and Houses after our spotlight on faculties last half term. This week, it's the turn of Year 7 who want to tell us more about how they have settled into life at NGHS.

With best wishes for the weekend.

**Mr M J Scott**



Just a reminder to please complete the PTA Survey. Thank you to the parents who have already done so - it is much appreciated.

Mrs J Harris (PTA Committee)

[PTA Survey](#) ->



**PTA Update**  
**January 2020**

**Newport Girls' High School**  
Wellington Road  
Newport, TF10 7HL  
Tel: 01952 797550

**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)

# Two NGHS Hot Shots Compete in National Championships!

Two NGHS students, Katie Markworth (Y8) and Jasmyn Slater-Morris (Y11) competed in the British Schools Shooting Pistol Championships National Finals last weekend.

Mr Scott was delighted to discover that Jasmyn had finished seventh nationally in her seniors category and Katie (pictured) had achieved second place (silver medal) nationally in her category. This is an incredible achievement for both girls. It was also interesting to learn more about the sport and difference between laser and real target shooting. Many, many congratulations to both girls.



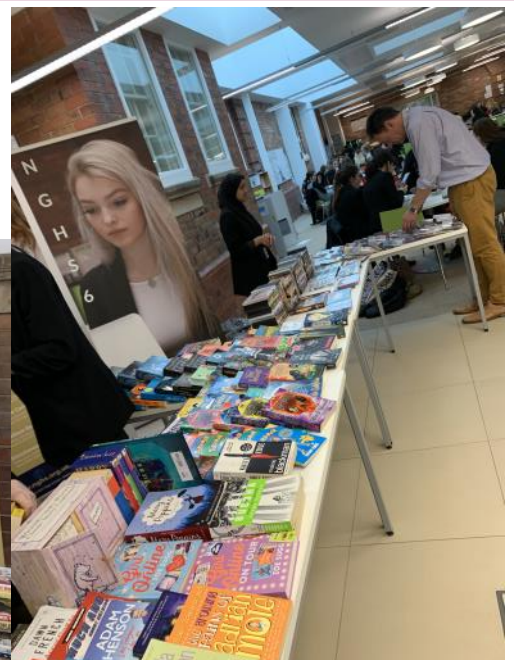
## The Historical Association GREAT DEBATE



Last night we had the opportunity to take part in the regional finals of the Historical Association's Great Debate competition. We were competing against students from several schools across the West Midlands who, like us, had already taken part in school heats before being selected to go forward to the regional finals. The theme of the debate was 'Should we judge historical figures by the morals of today?' Edith's argument centred around the idea that she would not like her actions to be judged against the unknown moral codes of the future and included powerful examples of Cook's first meeting with the Maori people of New Zealand as well as touching on difficult and complex issues such as the Holocaust. Edith argued that we should judge the actors of the past not with sympathy but with empathy. Lucy also considered shifting

moral codes over time, asking the audience how many people owned a pet and reflecting on the possibility of future generations finding such an idea abhorrent. Her speech considered the way in which we respond to Aztec religious practices, arguing that whilst these seem cruel and inhumane to a modern viewpoint the Aztecs committed daily sacrifices as they genuinely believed it was the only way to ensure the sun would rise the next day. We both felt nervous, especially when Edith discovered she would be the second person to present, but we were able to hide this well and Edith was then able to relax and enjoy listening to all of the other speeches. The quality of all the presentations was excellent and covered historical topics ranging from the suffragists to Alexander the Great. The whole experience was hugely enjoyable and was completed by Edith Charlesworth being announced as the winner of the regional heat! Edith will now be going forward to the finals which will be staged at Windsor Castle at the end of March. Massive congratulations to Edith on this achievement! **(Mrs Seys)**

**BAG A BARGAIN!** Today's Second Hand Book/CD/DVD sale for the Gardening Club was well attended and the group thank all those who made donations. Mr Scott also thanks the family who donated the Pokémon books - his son will be delighted! There is more to sell next week, so students are asked to please bring some loose change to bag a bargain at lunchtime in the Atrium.



# First Term Review

*In the first of a series of year group and House articles in NN, we learn more about a Year 7's perspective on the first term at NGHS.*

During my first term here, I have learned a lot and gained more confidence in myself. I am proud to say that I have (more than) survived my first term at NGHS!

Like most people, I imagine, I was incredibly nervous and shy when I first joined the school. However, having made a new friend, Piper, on the second Induction Day (which really helped and we've been best friends ever since) I knew that I would at least know one person. Since then, I have made lots more friends like Amy, Holly and Sanisa who you will see in the photograph.

I was also worried about getting lost, coping with the work and the homework, being in the wrong place at the wrong time, getting teachers' names wrong! However, in the last three months, I have made great new friends, found my way around, learned ways to successfully manage homework and I even get the teachers' names right most of the time – or play it safe with 'Miss'!

I have enjoyed some of the many trips - team building at Edgmond Hall, 'Jack and the Beanstalk' pantomime and the French theatre production. I've also joined some great extra-curricular activities such as Literary Society, Performing Arts Society and SustaiNGHS.

Now, at the start of my second term, I feel completely different to how I felt three months ago. I have found the perfect place to be successful in my education and myself. **(Alyssia, A1)**



**Stay tuned for reviews from other year groups and each of our three Houses in the next few editions of Newport News!**

## FREE PERIOD PRODUCTS

As you may be aware, the Government have announced that all schools are to receive free period products in the coming weeks. As yet, no further details have been received and the school has simply registered for this scheme. We already run the Red Box national initiative to provide emergency supplies to students at the First Aid room as required. More information to follow from Mrs Davenport and Miss Clarke.





## BRONZE ECO- AWARD



We have recently achieved our **Bronze Eco-Schools award**. This involved action in 3 areas and we chose to focus on waste, global citizenship and biodiversity. Since the start of SustainNGHS we have transformed the school into a considerably more sustainable place and hope to take this further.

SustainNGHS has completed an audit of everything our school is doing to become greener. The results are in:

- We scored highest in the Biodiversity category, thanks to Gardening Club, with more plans on the way to make this even better.
- The school did not score well on energy or water usage - more education and awareness need to be raised about the school's supply and demand.
- We are doing well in "Global Citizenship" but have the potential to do even better. Therefore, we are choosing this category to focus on in the next stages of our Eco-Schools Awards.
- Although we are doing well overall in the healthy living category, there is one big section we are unable to score in: the healthy food choices available.
- Littering is also an area we are always keen to work on, which we will focus on over summer when more people choose to eat outside.
- Marine Support and Transport are the categories we scored lowest overall in. We hope to rectify this with our work with Surfers Against Sewage, which should help us improve these scores.

The three categories SustainNGHS have chosen to tackle in order to achieve the Silver Award are **Biodiversity, Global Citizenship and Waste**. If you would like to help us make the school a greener place please come along to room 103 on Tuesdays at 1pm!



# WE NEED YOU

TO JOIN SUSTAINNGHS  
& GARDENING CLUB

- Help us achieve Eco-Schools Green Flag status
- Help tackle biodiversity by joining Gardening Club
  - Help us achieve Plastic Free School status
- Be apart of making our school more sustainable
  - Channel your inner Greta Thunberg
- Help address plastic waste, biodiversity and global citizenship within school

Because there is no PLANET B.

SUSTAINNGHS: 1pm- Tuesdays- Rm 103    GARDENING CLUB: 1pm- Thursdays- Rm 21

Do you know  
anything about  
TikTok?

Do your  
children use  
this app?

NGHS  
Parent  
Advisory

[Click here](#) for the lowdown on what this video-sharing app and some of the issues it can cause.



On Monday, Year 11 visited Poetry Live at Symphony Hall in Birmingham. This was in order to develop our understanding of the 'Power and Conflict' themed poems we have studied. After some A41 roadworks and a few card games, we arrived at Symphony Hall. The first session of the day was led by Peter Buckroyd who is a Chief Examiner. Throughout his session he gave us extremely useful advice in regards to answering unseen poetry questions and what to focus on in our responses. A key piece of advice was to trust yourself on what you know and to not worry about what you don't understand in the poem!

After this session, Gillian Clarke and Carol Ann Duffy enlightened us to new perspectives on their poems. Duffy talked about the different aspects of love in a relationship in 'Valentine' and how love is like an onion, truly a different perspective to take in a poem. Clarke then read 'Cold Knap Lake' which is based off of true events from her childhood, her mother was a nurse who once saved someone who was drowning. After this, Duffy read 'War Photographer' which we have analysed in class. It was interesting to hear from Duffy herself about the context behind the poem as it allowed us to relate in a way we hadn't been able to before. Then it was time for the morning break!

After we had stretched our legs, it was time to head back to our seats for the show to continue! In this next session, we were greeted by Daljit Nagra. The poems he read out were extremely comic, especially, 'Singh Song!' which was a celebration of his Punjabi heritage and identity. After Nagra, the current poet laureate Simon Armitage came on stage. First of all, he read out 'Mother, any distance' which is based on an experience he had when his mother was helping him move house, six doors down. It reminded us all of the relationships we share with our peers and how we should treasure them while they last. He then read out 'Remains' which we have studied in the cluster. This poem focuses on the PTSD a soldier faces after he returns home from battle. It was surprising to hear that it was based off of an interview Armitage had with a soldier called Rob and what he experienced at war and what he still is going through today. It reminded us of the hardships people go through every day and how war can have long-standing repercussions.

After a brief lunch break, the event resumed with a session with Imtiaz Dharker, a poet known for exploring society's obsession with division, whether that be class, gender or countries. Her poem in the bundle, 'Tissue' is notorious for its challenging nature so it was incredibly useful to get her perspective and annotations on the piece. Then we had our second session with the chief examiner focused around comparing unseen poems- the tips and examples that we gained will definitely be used in future answers!

The last session consisted of talks from two more poets. First, Owen Sheers, whose energetic and engaging manner was used to guide us through his pieces with ease. The first 'Border County', explored the leap from child to adult, and what is left behind. The second was an extract from a project in collaboration with the NHS, telling the story of the system from those who have worked for it and those who have had their lives affected by it- both recognising its importance in society today. The final poet was John Agard, undoubtedly a crowd favourite, whose Caribbean heritage has prompted amazing spoken word pieces, like 'Checking Out Me History' and 'Half-Caste'. His obvious enthusiasm and excitement about his work and inspirations was nothing short of infectious and he really brought his pieces to life, transporting us from our seats in Symphony Hall to islands thousands of miles away. The day was a complete triumph, and I, on behalf of the rest of the year, would like to thank the English faculty for organising the day- it has opened our eyes to aspects of the subject that we had never known about and it was truly inspiring to watch all of these world-renowned poets talking about their craft.

In the words of John Agard: 'Everything you see is made up of just 26 letters. **O.Needham and L.Salt (Y11)**



## Who to contact?

Please remember to use the **schooloffice@nghs.org.uk** to contact school in the first instance.

Routine Query?	Will be answered by our Reception team or your daughter's form tutor
Pastoral matter?	Form tutor or Head of Year (Ms Capaldi, Miss Tomkinson, Miss Clarke, Mrs Griffin)
Wellbeing issue?	Mrs Danby (Y7-11) or Mrs Martin (Sixth Form) or Mrs Davenport (medical)
SEND issue?	Mrs Benoit (our Special Needs & Disabilities Coordinator, SENDCO)
Subject issue?	Class teacher in first instance or Head of Faculty (via schooloffice@nghs.org.uk)
More serious issue?	The Senior Leadership Team (Mr Scott, Rev. Walters, Miss Clarke, Miss Davies) Safeguarding Team: Miss Clarke, Mr Scott, Mrs Davenport, Mrs Danby
Very urgent issue?	Email urgent@nghs.org.uk (outside of school hours) in case of emergency

## Forthcoming Dates...



Date	Event	Year(s)
Mon 27th	Mock Examination Week Oxbridge Talk, 12.35pm Life Model in School	Y13 Y11-12 Art
Tue 28th	Chemistry Lecture, Birmingham	Y12-13
Wed 29th	Sixth Form Taster Day (internal)	Y11
Mo 3 Feb	SEND Review Week Governors Meetings, 6pm/7pm	All Govs
Wed 5th	GCSE Science Live, Birmingham	Y10+11
Thu 6th	RAF Teambuilding Event	Y8
Fri 7th	Non Uniform Day (House Charity)	All
Mon 10th	PTA Film Night—Centenary Hall	Y7-8
Fri 14th	INSET DAY - school closed	All

The PTA are pleased to present a 'Valentines Film Night' for Year 7 and Year 8 NGHS students on Monday 10 February from 4pm-6pm. This coincides with the Year 8 Parents Evening which is 4pm-7pm so Y8 girls are welcome to attend and then join their parents for the last few appointments or they can remain in Centenary Hall.