



# NEWPORT NEWS

## *A weekly update from NGHS*

Volume 3 - Issue 18 - Friday 14 February 2020



**A**s this half term rapidly draws to a close, we have a number of prominent successes to report and this week's Newport News contains information about the recent Public Speaking Competition and a number of sporting wins. As ever, thank you to my colleagues who spend time outside of school hours ensuring that students are offered these wider opportunities.

I am sorry that our Year 8 Parents Evening had to be postponed on Monday. The weather forecast for the evening did not look positive and I had already heard of road closures and weather issues towards Market Drayton, Stafford and Stone. The safety of students, staff and parents is always our primary concern and we have rescheduled the Parents Evening for Monday 2 March with Year 8 Options Forms due in no later than two days later on Wednesday 4 March. The PTA will also reschedule their Film Night and an alternative date will be made known after half term. Thank you for your support and for adapting so quickly.

Today is a Staff Training Day and we are all working with West Mercia Police to learn about a number of new initiatives relating to safeguarding students. This is a vital area of our work and, as you know, we publish regular reminders to parents about apps (such as last edition's concerns about WhatsApp) and we learn a lot about how best to report any concerns we may have.

This half term has seen greater than usual absence of teachers (more because of unforeseen injury or surgery rather than illness) but we look forward to welcoming almost all of our team back after half term. We are fortunate to have had high quality supply staff on hand to step in and ensure that the curriculum can still be delivered and this is not the case in every school. I would particularly like to thank Mrs Taylor, Mrs Martin and Miss McCleary who have stepped up to support Miss Clarke during Mrs Goodall's absence to ensure that PE lessons could continue in almost every period. Mr Mason has also given up his non-teaching time to support Y11 students in Art and DT. Our students have, as ever, remained positive, helpful and able to adapt to these rare situations and I thank them for this. I wish you all a lovely half term break and we return to school on Monday 24th February at the normal time.

With best wishes for the half term break. **Mr M J Scott**



*Here is some of the fantastic Y7-8 artwork around the theme of community, courage and compassion for the Telford Knife Angel Competition. Mrs Chandler has run this competition in school and the results are amazing. Competition winners to be announced!*

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**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)

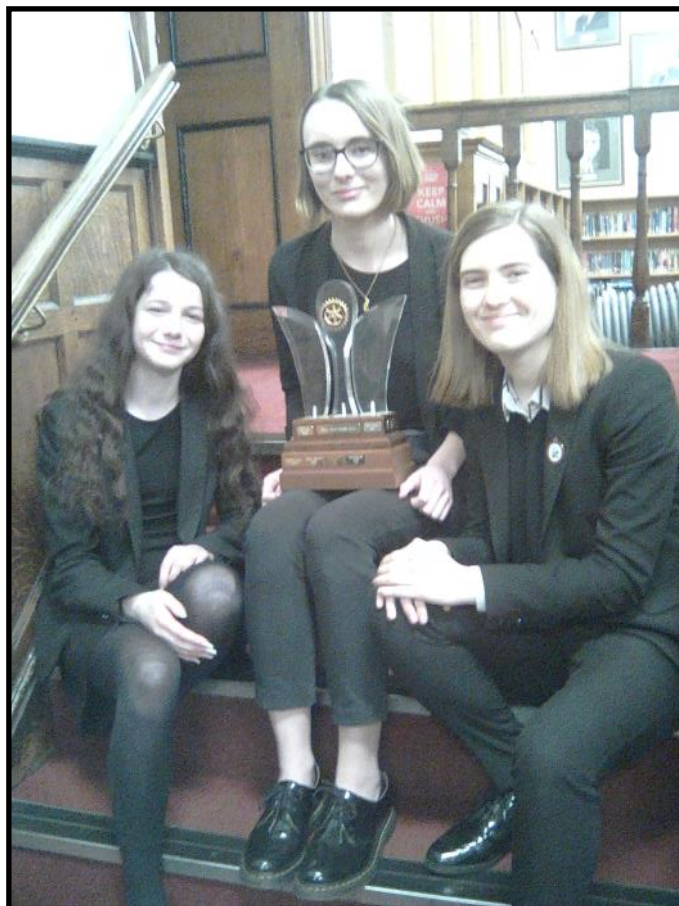
# YOUTH SPEAKS WINNERS!

On Tuesday 11 February, six Year 12 students competed in the annual Rotary Club 'Youth Speaks' public speaking competition. This year there was a new format, with students having to present two sides of an argument within their presentations. NGHS entered two teams and the students selected challenging and interesting topics.

The first NGHS team to deliver their presentation debated a motion based on whether the criminal justice system should be more focused on rehabilitation and some interesting comparisons were made with Norway's unique prison system. The team consisted of the chairperson, Ella J., the proposer, Sophie G. and the opposer Esra R.

The second NGHS group to deliver their presentation on the evening consisted of Lucy E. (chairperson), Caitlin S-M. (proposer) and Edith C. (opposer). The topic selected for debate was the censorship of culture and the arts. The debate focused on the removal of prejudiced content and outdated stereotypes from classic children's novels by Roald Dahl and Enid Blyton, as well as an exploration of the role of algorithms in online censorship.

Throughout the evening, a diverse range of topics were debated and there was lots of heated discussion during the break! All of the teams involved in the competition were commended for their outstanding public speaking skills, with the **second NGHS team winning this round of the competition**. They will now go on to compete in the next round, which takes place after half term. Esra R. was also awarded a special prize for best individual performance, as selected by the Mayor of Newport. Very well done to all of those involved and thank you to the Rotary Club for organising the competition and to Haberdashers' Adams for hosting.



**Mr D Postle**



Awarded to:	Awarded by:
L Bottomley (S6)	Dr S Catalan
Z Brown (S7)	Mrs K Wallace
E Hassall (A1)	Mrs J Chandler
L Jones (S5)	Mr D Postle
D Kynaston (R7)	Mrs K Griffin
N Parker (A3)	Mrs L Payne
M Salem (R2)	Mrs J Chandler
V Suraweera (R6)	Mrs K Griffin
R Tichford (S7)	Dr S Catalan
M Westwood (A7)	Mrs K Griffin

**Congratulations to this fortnight's  
Thank You Friday nominees**



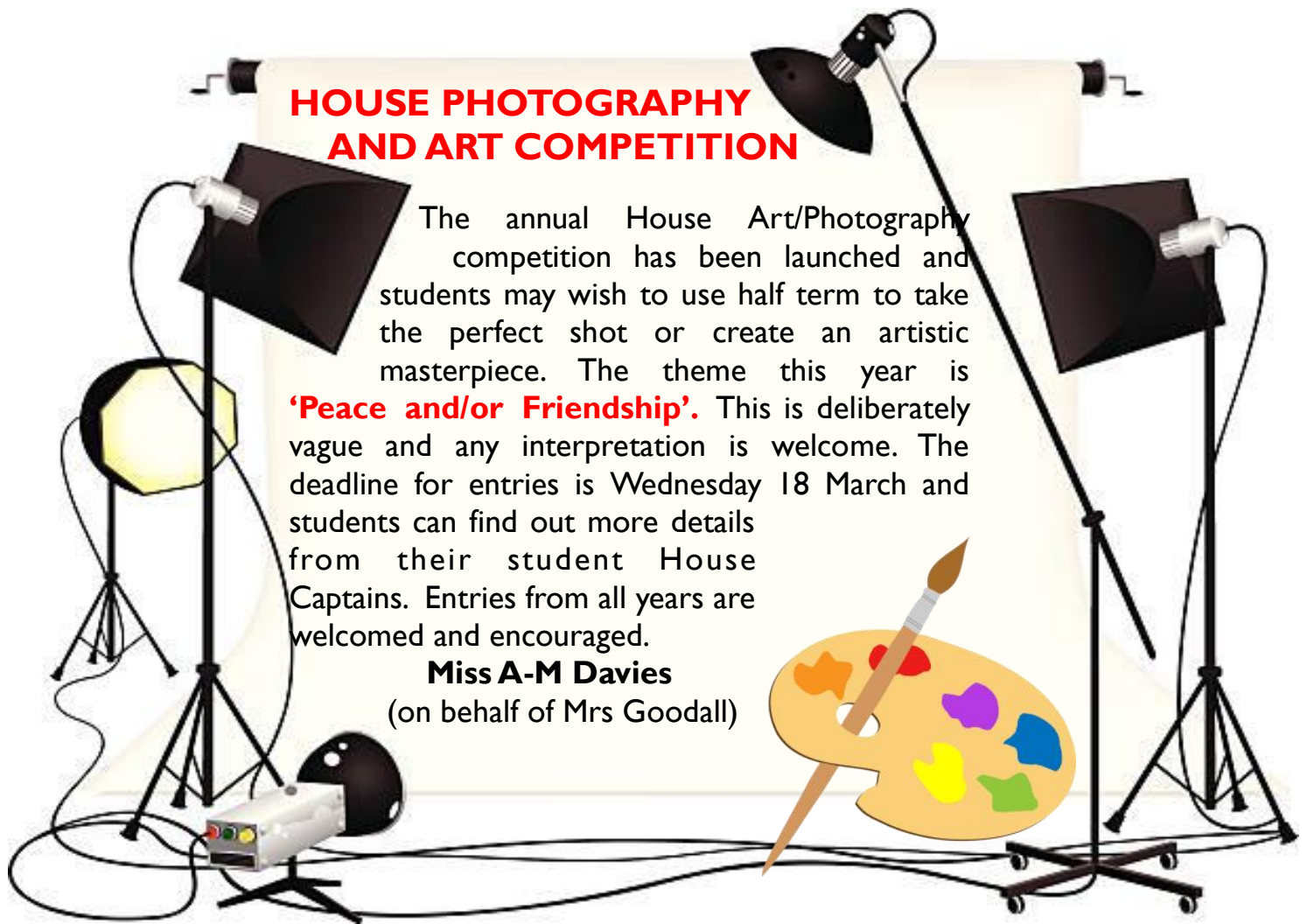
## „Wie buchstabiert man das?“

Year 7 have been working very hard on the Foreign Language Spelling Bee and today we had our Round 2 competitions in French and German. Z Ahmed and S Kang are our winners and will be going forward to Regional Finals...Well done girls!

## HOUSE PHOTOGRAPHY AND ART COMPETITION

The annual House Art/Photography competition has been launched and students may wish to use half term to take the perfect shot or create an artistic masterpiece. The theme this year is **'Peace and/or Friendship'**. This is deliberately vague and any interpretation is welcome. The deadline for entries is Wednesday 18 March and students can find out more details from their student House Captains. Entries from all years are welcomed and encouraged.

**Miss A-M Davies**  
(on behalf of Mrs Goodall)



## Introducing ... Austen House

Key characteristics of an Austen House member might include the highest levels of House spirit, constant enthusiasm and a passionate drive to win. These are particularly highlighted through winning sports day with a 99.5 point lead, near-constant choir rehearsals after which we came out on top, and entire-house involvement on the day of House music.

As with all Girls' High Houses, Austen gained its name through an inspirational woman in history: the world renowned author Jane Austen, recognised for pioneering women's writing. She has famously created incredible heroines like Elizabeth Bennet and Emma Woodhouse, protagonists from 'Pride and Prejudice' and 'Emma' respectively. It is for these reasons that every House member should be proud to be in Austen.

The House system at Newport Girls' plays a key role in day to day life. The integration within different year groups in Austen is second to none, from your very first day, giving a true family atmosphere to the House.

Throughout my time at NGHS, Austen has without a doubt given me some of the best memories that I will cherish throughout University and beyond! 6 consecutive sport day wins, whole House dances and spending hours trying to teach a choir of 50 people not only to sing, but in Spanish, to name just a few!

**Lucy Warner** (House Captain, Austen)

Just part of the Austen House Parade on Sports Day last summer



# SPORTS ROUND UP

A week of action...



U16 B team

## Last Tournament

On Thursday we took two U16 netball teams to take part in the Telford Schools Tournament at Ercall Wood. The two teams were competing in the trophy and plate competitions. Both teams played some fantastic netball and really enjoyed taking part in their last netball tournament of the year. It was such a fun and successful evening, well done to both the Panthers and Sharks teams.

**Trophy** - 1st NGHS, 2nd Burton Borough, 3rd William Brookes (Guest)

**Plate** - 1st Idsall, 2nd NGHS, 3rd Burton Borough



## Fencing Bronze

West Midlands British Youth  
Foil Qualifier,  
Under 16 Girls  
3rd Place **Sophie Li (Y9)**  
Well done Sophie!



## U13 at The Priory, Shrewsbury

On Wednesday we also took our U13 Netball team to the Priory School in Shrewsbury to take part in the Shropshire County Netball Tournament. We competed in the Trophy Competition, after the previous weather warnings that we have seen this week, it was nice to be able to play an outdoor tournament, the rain held off but we did experience some very windy conditions. Our first game was against Bridgnorth Endowed School and we won 12-7, we then came outside and in a closely contested game came out eventual winners 7-6.

The final two games of our pool were against Wrekin College and Thomas Telford and despite lots of teamwork and perseverance the team unfortunately lost these games. Overall, the team came second in their pool and progressed to the semi final stage of the competition. We took part in a semi-final against Ludlow School who had a really strong second half and progressed into the final against Wrekin College. The team therefore came 3rd overall and we are incredibly proud of the progress this team has shown during this academic year.

## Tuesday Harper League

Tuesday saw all three of our netball teams compete in the Harper Adams Netball League. The students that take part in this league have shown a huge amount of commitment and given up lots of evenings to represent the school. This week's fixtures started with Newport Jaguars playing Freshers, it was lovely to hear so many comments about the improvements that this Year 10 team have made over the course of this season. Newport Ninjas, our Sixth Form team, then played Harper 3rd's before Newport Sharks took on Returners, this was a game which would confirm the winning team in the league this year. It was great to see a Newport Sharks victory to end the evening. All three teams played some lovely netball, with just two weeks left of the season it is all still to play for.

## First Week Back Fixtures

**Tuesday 25th Feb**  
U12,U13,U15 Netball  
Jaguars, Ninjas, Sharks

**Wednesday 26th Feb**  
U13 Handball  
U14 & U15 Netball

**Thursday 27th Feb**  
U15 Handball  
Year 10 Netball



## Table Tennis Champ

Niranjana Perumal (Y8) represented NGHS in the Shropshire County Schools Table Tennis Championships. She went on to win U13 girls competition and has been selected to represent the County in the upcoming National Championships. This is fantastic—well done!

# Jurassic Efforts to Raise Cash

Sixth form student Chloe Thomas made a Jurassic effort for charity two weeks ago when she took part in a fundraising event in Birmingham.

Chloe joined her father, who is the Neighbourhood Police Officer for Newport, and about forty other police officers, police staff and supporters from around the UK, to take part in the 'LockUpLockIn' charity night at the old Steelhouse Lane cell block in the city where those taking part were literally locked in a cell all night and had to raise money for a charity called Care of Police Survivors, who support the families of police officers who died whilst on duty, and also the West Midlands Police Heritage project to open a full time police museum on the site.

But, not satisfied with just helping to raise money, Chloe decided to add a little fun to the night's events, in the form of a dinosaur race around the bottom floor of the cell block. So far, Chloe own fundraiser page has raised a fantastic £430 with the running total for the event standing at £9,070. Anyone who would like to make a donation can still do so by going to <https://chuffed.org/fundraiser/lockup-lockin-2020-12723>

Whilst at the event, Chloe also took the chance to catch up with family friend PC Dave Wardell and his now very famous police dog Finn. Finn became a worldwide celebrity after being stabbed and critically injured protecting Pc Wardell when he was attacked in Hertfordshire in October 2016 while searching for an



L to R: PC Lee Thomas, Chloe Thomas, UK Cop Humour Admin, Met Police PC's Watford & Knellar

armed suspect. Finn required major surgery to save his life but went on to make a full recovery, and as a result of Pc Wardell's subsequent campaigning, 'Finns Law' became law in 2019 making it a specific offence to harm a service animal. Dave and Finn later went on to become TV celebrities too, reaching the finals of Britain's Got Talent in 2019.



Chloe Thomas and Police Dog Finn

## RAF COSFORD VISIT

On Tuesday 11 February all Year 10 history students went on a trip to the Royal Air Force museum at Cosford to visit the Cold War Exhibition. We worked in groups to look around and answer questions in a booklet based on the displays: answers which were spread around the museum so we had to work quite hard to find them! In the first hangar, there were display boards with information to deepen our knowledge of the Cold War; there were interesting video clips and presentations in the 'hot spot' zones. There were also real-life missiles and planes which demonstrated the scale and increased our knowledge. We were allowed to explore a second hangar. This hangar consisted of not only numerous planes but interactive games and challenges to demonstrate that flying an aircraft is not as easy as it looks, as well as the science behind it- it gave us a chance to enter the cockpit of a plane and test its mechanics and see its effect on the wings and tail of the grounded aircraft.



Overall, this trip consolidated our knowledge of the Cold War as well as provide an opportunity to increase our understanding. We would like to thank Ms. Davies for organizing this trip to aid our learning at an appropriate time, whilst we were learning about the topic. It has been a thought- provoking experience and will be crucial for our successes in our Cold War assessments.

**Olivia and Rehab, Year 10**

# Life in the Sixth Form...so far

***In the latest of our series of year group updates, two of our sixth formers reflect on what they love about Year 12 at NGHS...***

Although a new and daunting experience, we started sixth form excited to see what the next two years would hold. Apart from our induction day in early summer where we met a few of our potential new classmates and a sixth form taster day in January last year, we weren't too sure what to expect from sixth form. Despite this, we instantly fell back into what felt like a normal routine at school again with the new students settling in and becoming part of the school community quickly. The main changes we experienced were going from studying ten subjects to only 3 or 4 and having independent study time in the form of free periods. It took some time to learn to use our frees in the most effective ways but we're slowly but surely getting there.

There is a significant step up in the standard of work required for A levels in comparison to GCSE but the extra hours of lessons and great teachers allow the support needed to face this change and it soon becomes normal. As well as this the wellbeing support from the sixth form staff is unbeatable and anytime we need it they are there to support us.

For us the extra-curricular opportunities that we've been lucky enough to take part in have really helped to enrich our sixth form experience so far. For example, I have had the opportunity to take part in young enterprise and I am a sixth form ambassador for economics and young enterprise and Daisy is about to begin her NHS placement. We are also given an hour of enrichment as well as an hour of PE where we choose what sports we want to do and this can be anything from benchball to yoga and meditations.

In Young Enterprise we set up our own small business and attend trade fairs to sell our product as part of a national competition, this has helped not only to develop my organisation and leadership skills but has also helped create new bonds with other girls in my team. It is a great experience to offer an insight into running your own business but also offers a wide range of roles allowing people considering a variety of careers the chance to expand their skillset. As part of being a subject ambassador I help to promote the subject to lower years for A level and if students are ambassadors for subjects taught at GCSE they help mentor any students who may be struggling in lower years.

A unique opportunity this sixth form offers us is the chance to go on an NHS placement which involves volunteering for 3-4 hours a week for sixth months as you work on wards as part of the team. It allows those



***Year 12 weekend in Liverpool is a real hit in October***

interested in working within the healthcare sector to get hands on experience with patients and wards. This is a rare opportunity I would recommend to get involved in as it is a real stand-out factor on any personal statements.

Although we aren't personally taking part in them ourselves the school also offers a further range of extra curriculums such as Harper Adams netball, mentoring and reading at Burton Borough School, Oxbridge visits and talks and medical society for students wishing to study medicine.

We are offered a range of study spaces to spend our frees in such as free rooms, the atrium and the sixth form study room. However, spending your frees in the atrium will often lead to trips to the café pod to buy food from Christine. Overall sixth form so far has been a great experience and we're proud to be able to say girls high till we die.

**Minnie & Daisy, Year 12**

## Booksale Thanks



Thank you so much to everyone who brought in donations and bought books, DVDs, or CDs! We really appreciate everyone's help to raise an amazing £171.49 from the sale, all proceeds of which will go directly to funding an outdoor learning area at school.

Many thanks again, **NGHS Gardening Club**



## Who to contact?

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

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



### SustainNGhs update

## SUSTAINNGHS NEEDS YOUR HELP!

**Teracycle:** Around school, there are boxes for your old stationery to be recycled, (e.g. pens, glue sticks, etc), it would be a big help if students could bring in any of these items they have to be recycled.

**Community links:** An important step in attaining our silver Eco Schools award is develop our involvement within the wider community. One way in which we hope to do this is visiting primary schools to educate and spread awareness about sustainability. If any parents have links to local primary schools, it would be a great help to us if we could take advantages of these. Please contact Ms Gill at [k.gill@nghs.org.uk](mailto:k.gill@nghs.org.uk).

**SUSTAINABILITY TIP OF THE WEEK:** remember to bring re-useable bags when you next go shopping.

## Forthcoming Dates...



Date	Event	Year(s)
Mon 24th	6pm Netball Weekend Parents Mtg PTA Meeting, Atrium	Y7 7pm
Tue 25th	Knife Angel Assembly	Y7-8
Wed 26th	Languages Space Challenge Manchester Grammar School	Y10
Thu 27th	Parents Evening, 4pm-7pm	Y9
Mon 2nd	Parents Evening, 4pm-7pm	Y8
Wed 4th	Options Deadline	Y8+9
Thu 5th	World Book Day	All

## TERM DATES UP TO 2023

Term dates for 2021-22 and 2022-23 are on our website (for Parents section). Unlike all local academies, we are keen to keep to the dates from Telford & Wrekin to fit in with primary schools. We also have scheduled the full 190 statutory school days and 5 training days.