



NEWPORT NEWS

A weekly update from NGHS

Volume 3 - Issue 2 - Friday 20 September 2019

Head's Lines



Another busy week ends at NGHS! Monday saw our Entrance Examination afternoon and we welcomed a number of Year 6 girls who impressed staff with their impeccable behaviour and ever-apparent desire to do their best despite understandable nerves. We all appreciate that it is a nervous time for parents too and if you have a younger daughter who sat the test I hope that she found it accessible. I would like to thank my colleagues for administering the test so well and all of our sixth form helpers without whom we could not run the test afternoon. From organising toilet queues to simply having a smiley face, they were excellent ambassadors for our school.

This week also saw the start of our **Parent Information Evenings**. On Monday we welcomed Year 12 parents, several of whom had their first evening engagement at NGHS. It was lovely to receive a couple of emails of thanks on Tuesday - it is reassuring to learn that the information conveyed was helpful and particular thanks to one parent who commented on the warm welcome she had received, but also, more importantly, her daughter had received since joining NGHS a few weeks ago. Last night saw our Year 9 evening. Again, a good turnout and Miss Tomkinson spoke on a number of topics including the support we offer to all of our students and some key messages about resilience and E-safety. Next week we take a break, but come back the following week with the **rearranged PTA meeting** on Tuesday 1st October and the **Year 7 Information Evening** on Thursday 3rd October.

CALLING ALL BUDDING JOURNALISTS

Do you like writing? Are you interested in journalism? Would you like something interesting and compelling to put in your CV in later years? If the answer to any of the above is 'yes', Newspaper Club could be for you! Come to room 8 on Friday 27th at 1pm if you're interested in joining. There are only 10 spaces available so if you would like to join please make sure to come along!



Clubs and activities are well underway now, next week sees our first house competition (bake off time!) and the new lunchtime arrangements we have put in place seem to be running smoothly. Thank you to all of our students for their cooperation with these. We have seen a massive reduction in litter and lingering food smells in classrooms. Remember that the clubs and activities list is on the website and more activities are actually being added now thanks to the willingness of older students to devise and run their own clubs for younger years. There is a new Y7 art club on a Tuesday lunchtime and a very exciting venture I've been keen to get off the ground; our new student newspaper (see above) - if your daughter is a budding journalist, please encourage her to go along and find out more!

Wishing you a lovely weekend and good luck to our DofE expedition team, who hopefully will enjoy some good weather.

Mr M J Scott



Silver Swallow comes to Telford!

You may have read in the Shropshire Star that one of our Year 8 pupils, Charlotte, won a competition to name the new bridge in Telford. A Facebook poll rated her choice of name, Silver Swallow, very highly. It was chosen to reference the colour and roof design and beat rival names of famous Telford people including Captain Webb, Billy Wright and Sir Gordon Richards. Charlotte has won an I-Pad (much to the envy of her brother) and the bridge has also been nominated for an award by the Institution of Civil Engineers.

Charlotte and I were invited to the bridge to meet Councillor David Wright (Cabinet Member for Housing, Transport and Infrastructure) and we look

forward to seeing a plaque on the footpath recognising the chosen name and Charlotte's involvement in this in the near future. Well done to Charlotte for this fantastic choice of name.

Mr M J Scott

Newport Girls' High School

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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



This year our 'Thank You Friday' nominees don't just come from form tutors.

All staff are asked to reflect on whether any student from their form, class they teach, club they run or even just from an action they observe around the school is worthy of a special mention.

Well done to this week's winners who will receive a postcard home with details of their nomination.

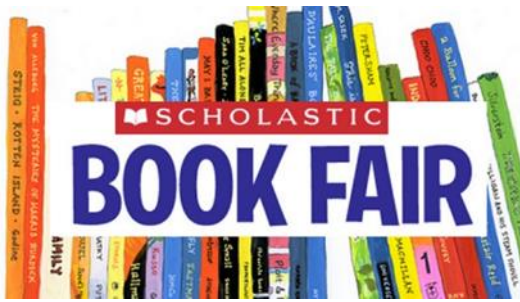
This week we have held our first **Health and Wellbeing Committee** meeting of the school year. One of the areas that the student group and our wellbeing officers (Mrs K Danby and Mrs D Martin) have been working on is sharing a little kindness around the school. Students who are taught in the atrium may have seen our new noticeboard which promotes self help when needed but also doing a random act of kindness to continue to make the school environment a lovely place to be.

The inspiration for this board was taken from the website www.randomactsofkindness.org who do have calendars with ideas for spreading a little joy every day and helping us remember to prioritise our own self-care during our busy lives.

Please see the table below and perhaps join us in our mission to show some kindness to yourself or others next week too:

Awarded to:	Awarded by:
A Aston (S1)	Ms D Branson
C Bickerton (R1)	Ms J Capaldi
O Bolton (A6)	Mr D Postle
Z Brown (S7)	Miss H Clarke
K Cox (S6)	Mrs K Gill
M Hamdy (S1)	Ms J Capaldi
E Haynes (S3)	Mr A Mason
J Hothi (A2)	Dr S Catalan
A Jackson (R3)	Mrs T Fujii
V Jayasuriya (S3)	Mrs T Fujii
L McCarthy (A7)	Mrs K Griffin
L Rawson (A2)	Dr S Catalan
A Rothwell (A2)	Dr S Catalan
S Smith (S7)	Mrs A Seys
C Thomas (A6)	Mrs K Griffin
K Tichford (S4)	Mrs H Goodall
C Toogood (A2)	Mr M J Scott
I Turner (A4)	Mrs J Chandler
E Watts (R7)	Mrs C Reeves

Date	Option 1	Option 2
Friday	Start reading a new book.	Write positive messages and put them in trouser pockets at a clothing store.
Saturday	Take time to reflect and journal about what makes you tick.	Forgive someone that you've been holding a grudge against.
Sunday	Make a list of 10 random acts of kindness you'll get done by the end of this week.	Volunteer to support a local charity.
Monday	Sign up to volunteer with a community organisation you are passionate about.	Set an alarm on your phone to remind you to do (at least) one RAK a day.
Tuesday	Sign up for a free online class.	Make the time to talk to a friend or colleague today about how they are.
Wednesday	Listen to your favourite song from when you were a teenager.	Introduce yourself to someone new in your class or job.
Thursday	FREE DAY! Do something meaningful today.	



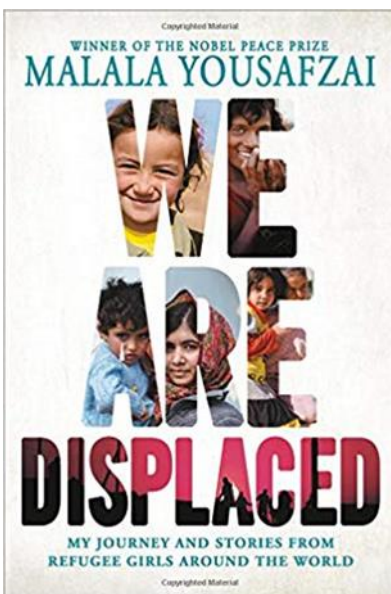
Over the summer holidays, students were issued with a reading list that was curated by the English Department and the school's literary society. Students were also encouraged to enter our annual book review competition and you can read the winning reviews in this week's newsletter.



In addition to this, it has been very busy in the atrium this week with students browsing the shelves of our Scholastic Book Fair. The Book Fair runs until 25th September and there is a great selection this year. Phillip Pullman's *His Dark Materials* trilogy has been very popular amongst our students in recent months and is included in this year's fair. Our Year 7 students study the first novel in English lessons, so many have been keen to read the rest of the trilogy and there is a new BBC adaptation of the series that is due to hit our screens very soon.

NGHS students spend one morning form period each week completing independent wider reading of fiction or non-fiction, but we would encourage all students to read every day. Even just thirty minutes before bed can have a positive impact on literacy, cultural knowledge and general knowledge. We hope you enjoy reading the reviews below and prizes will be awarded shortly!

Mr Postle, Head of English & Arts Faculty



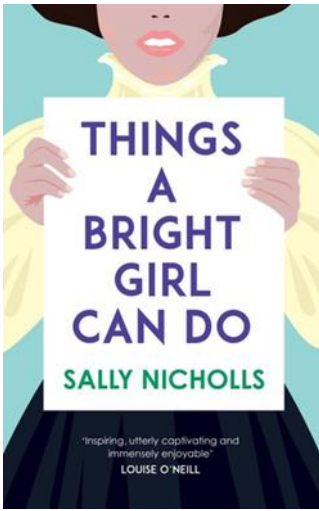
This eye-opening book gripped me from the start, unlike the dystopian fiction I find myself absorbed in, 'We are displaced' is not set in some fantasy realm, characters; mere figments of imagination and words on a page, no the people and the horrors that they faced are real and living on the same planet as you and I.

The book is in two halves, Malala's story and several short stories of other displaced women and girls. Having read Malala's autobiography before, I think that readers who had heard her story from elsewhere would be surprised, as the account in this book is very different from what we have heard before. It focuses on comparing the two halves of her life; before and after she became displaced showing the hardships and trials of the experience. Although it was distressing to read what she had gone through her positivity and drive shone through.

The latter part of the book contains further examples of courage in the face of adversity. One of the stories that stuck with me the most was Marie Claire's, after fleeing war in the Congo Marie and her family travelled to Zambia looking for refuge and safety but were not met with such. Her mother was killed in front of her and her father was shot and barely survived. She and her family moved to America where they were met by volunteers to help them settle in, their amazement at the taps, microwave and bathroom showed how much we take for granted in our daily lives, complaining because of a cold shower when some people are dying from dehydration. Marie Claire fought to attend school—even though she has missed lots of her education due to her childhood fleeing from the Congo and Zambia when she finally got to attend school she didn't let the fact that everyone in her class was younger than her hold her back. Her strength and determination is admirable as shown throughout her story and her eventual graduation.

This book was both humbling and uplifting and it has made me feel very privileged to have all of the amazing opportunities that have been given to me. When I wake up early in the morning for school or have lots of homework I will try to remember that this is all part of a wonderful privilege that I should not take for granted. I think that the message in this book is about resilience, learning to cope with situations no-one should face, and putting a new perspective on what is important in life and that home is an idea that is bigger than a building or a country.

Beth W. (Year 10)



I found *The Things a Bright Girl Can Do* a very inspirational book. I thought that it was really effective that it was written from the point of view of three very different girls, in different Suffragette parties, including the WSPU (Women's Social and Political Union), suffragists and the East End Suffragettes. This was a very well written book that explored a very significant issue.

I liked the way the author explored what it was like for Suffragettes in prison. The book's three main characters come from very different backgrounds: Evelyn, who is from a very privileged background; Nell, who comes from a poverty-stricken area in the East End, and May who is middle-class. I love how the book unites these three incredibly different characters in the simple goal of allowing women the right to vote.

This book conveys some really important issues in a way that is easy to read. The characters are incredibly likeable, inspirational and courageous. I believe this book is so important for girls and boys alike to read as it helps bring to life the struggle that women went through to get the vote. It serves as a reminder to all women that they should never take their vote for granted. I find it very important that women realise how crucial it is that they value their vote. I would very much recommend this book.

Georgia E. (Year 9)



This fantasy trilogy tells the thrilling tale of two young children; Will and Lyra, and their adventures through a series of parallel universes. They live literally worlds apart- Lyra scampers half-wild around the streets of an alternate Oxford, while Will struggles to care for his mentally ill mother. However, when their two worlds collide, they must unite, travelling far and beyond their own homes. Navigating through unfamiliar lands and people, they will experience soul-eating spectres, fallen angels and the beautiful but sinister Mrs Coulter. In the end, their choices will affect the destiny of both the living and the dead, the religious and the scientific, the spirits and the animals. The fate of every single existing universe rests on them.

This trilogy consists of three equally exhilarating books: *Northern Lights*, *The Subtle Knife*, and *The Amber Spyglass*. The first book revolves around Lyra's world and is from her perspective; the second is predominantly focused on the "real" world, from Will's perspective; while the final is a culmination of events resulting in an uprising against the forces of heaven and a return to peace. All three books are full of mystery and surprise, and Pullman draws inspiration from the Bible, Greek mythology, Homer, and Milton's *Paradise Lost*. The combination of all these great pieces of literature is evident in his books, and Pullman weaves together a plot that includes physics, fantasy and religion in a way that will enrapture every reader. In conclusion, I would recommend this to any reader aged eleven and over, who is looking for a novel similar to *Lord of the Rings*, the *Narnia* books, and the *Harry Potter* series. Fans of science fiction may also enjoy the scientific allusions. *His Dark Materials* was a very enjoyable book that I will revisit for years to come.

Sophie L. (Year 9)

The Subtle Knife by Phillip Pullman

The Subtle Knife is a book by Phillip Pullman. It is part of a trilogy-*His Dark Materials*. This is the second book of the series. *The Subtle Knife* moves through 3 universes- 2 of which we are familiar with and 1 which we haven't come across yet. One universe where Lyra is from, one where we are from and one different to Lyra's and ours. There people have no demons and are in a world where they have to always move around.

This story is about a boy, from our world. His name is Will whose mum is scared by some unknown people and has a father missing. He had disappeared somewhere in the arctic whilst on an expedition. Soon Will finds out that the men are breaking into his house. He finds out that they are looking for a green box which contains something that only his mum and dad know. But, Will finds that he has just killed a man and is on the run. On his way, Will finds a window, a mystery window cut in the air. He goes through and finds himself in another world.

There he meets Lyra who is searching for dust. His mission and Lyra's are mysteriously linked as if by invisible threads. Both Will and Lyra meet different people on the way. Some are to be trusted but others aren't. Lyra finds that a wealthy man is from her own world and works with the enemy (the church). She also finds out that a scientist is also looking for the same thing as she is but, in the world she lives in, it is called dark matter. With the help of angels, witches and an alethiometre, Will and Lyra have to escape the grasp of Mrs Coulter and her group of people from church. But they soon find that the alethiometre is stolen and the thief wanting another powerful and secret object.

On the hunt for this mysterious thing, Will finds himself to be the bearer of it. He is the bearer of something that everyone wants. Will finds himself in danger and doesn't know what to do. Will soon come past his dad who is under another name. He too had found a passage connecting two worlds together but something tragic happens. His dad, being a lover of a witch, finds himself dead. The only thing he said to his son was that the knife he found was to be given to Lord Asriel. With one mission finished, another pops up after it. But Lyra soon goes missing. Without her, Will must move on in his journey.

I recommend this book to readers who love adventure and fantasy stories. I advise them to start from the first book of the trilogy or otherwise it would be a bit confusing. I really enjoy this book as it is really engaging. I love the way the universes are all linked. I give this book a 5-star rating.

Rutvi S. (Year 8)



**NGHS ENGLISH
& SUSTAINABLE
NGHS**

**PRESENTS:
AN EVENING
OF POETRY**

**Thursday
17th October
7pm
The Atrium**



WINTER COAT ALERT!

This week has seen some pleasant temperatures outside but as October approaches, it is time for my 'regular reminder' about the need for a warm coat. Provided it is not raining heavily, we still expect students to get some fresh air at lunchtime and therefore they will need a coat as the temperatures drop. Our uniform/coat policy is quite open and simply says 'a plain, suitable coat for cold/wet weather (not denim, brightly or multi-coloured, leather or suede).' Thank you for your assistance in keeping students healthy!



Following their successful concert last year, we are pleased to welcome back the Junior Royal Northern College of Music for another evening of classical and contemporary music.

The evening will showcase four young musicians including Market Drayton's 17 years old flautist, Ruby Howells. Ruby is the 2018 British Flute Society's Young Performer and a member of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain.

The JRNCM provides expert tuition and training for young people with exceptional musical ability. Past students at the JRNCM have crafted professional music careers, been winners of national music competitions, including the BBC Young Musician Competition, the BBC Proms Inspire Young Composers' Competition, and British Junior Eurovision Song Contest. Many are also members of either the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain or one of the National Children's Orchestras.

Join us for an evening of live entertainment, to hear the music of tomorrow's classical stars today, so that you can say that you saw them here first!

Date: Saturday 5th October **Junior RNCM**

Performance: 7:30pm ROYAL NORTHERN COLLEGE of MUSIC

Tickets: £10.00 Under 18 £5.00 A private hire promotion

www.festivaldraytoncentre.com

Box Office 01630 654444



ACCESS TO SCHOOL SITE

We allow pupils onto the school site from 7.45am (no earlier please). If students arrive at 7.45am, they should be in the Centenary Hall until 8.15am where they can read or complete school work. After school, students may stay to complete work. The

ATRIUM is the location they should be in (nowhere else unless attending a club) and they must have left the school site by 5.30pm prompt. Both areas are remotely supervised (i.e. staff are around but not in direct supervision). Parents who are dropping early or collecting late should be aware of this.

Students must be engaged in school work if they are staying late and mobile phone usage should be kept to a minimum, please.
With thanks, Mr Scott (Headteacher)



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



WHOLE SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPH

The photograph is available to view in Reception. Order forms will be coming home next week as you may wish to order one to have at home or for your daughter to keep for the future. The photograph has come out very well and we are delighted with it.

Wellbeing Quote of the Week...

Wellbeing is not something you do once; it is what shapes our lives and what we do on a consistent basis.

Form A1
(Y7/8)

Forthcoming Dates...



Date	Event	Year(s)
Mon 23rd	ASSESSMENT WEEK	Y13
Tue 24th	Assembly: Liverpool Trip Japanese Cultural Day at NGHS	Y12 Y5
Thu 26th	House Bake off competition	ALL
Fri 27th	Assembly: Euro Day of Languages Macmillan Coffee Morning—Break Liverpool residential departs 12.35	All All Y12
Tue 1st	Chemistry Lecture: Birmingham	Y12/13
Thu 3rd	National Poetry Day Information Evening, 7pm with appt	All Y7
Fri 4th	Induction Day, Edmond Hall Senior Netball Weekend	Y7 Y10+

NEXT FRIDAY!

Students are encouraged to bring £1 to join our Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 27 September. They will get to taste and enjoy the cakes from the Bake Off competition. Full



ingredient lists will be provided with each cake. This will take place at breaktime in the Main Hall. Reminder no nuts are to be used at all.