



# NEWPORT NEWS

*A weekly update from NGHS*

Volume 3 - Issue 20 - Friday 6 March 2020



**Y**esterday was another landmark day in NGHS's history with ten students being offered the opportunity to enter 10 Downing Street for a Reception to mark International Women's Day. Miss Tomkinson and I were invited to take ten Year 9 students and a review of the day is provided in the newsletter. Just five schools nationally were invited to visit Downing Street. Thanks to our local MP, Mark Pritchard, we were also able to visit the Palace of Westminster and spent a few minutes seated in the House of Lords Public Gallery listening to a debate about restricting gambling laws. The girls who attended were selected via an short essay writing competition and were fantastic ambassadors for NGHS. They got to pose questions to the Prime Minister, Olympic double-gold medal winner Dame Kelly Holmes, Dr Anne-Marie Imafidon, a STEM pioneer, and Hattie Brett, Editor of Grazia magazine, which we all read on the train journey down for research purposes! We also got to meet Miss Carrie Symonds at the Reception.

The school continues to receive daily updates from the Department for Education and Department for Health on Coronavirus. Where relevant, these will be shared with all parents, so apologies for the extra emails you are receiving, but we are keen to ensure you are kept in the loop. We also liaise daily with T&W authority.

Finally, we are recruiting for examination invigilators, so if you are looking for work in May / June, please feel free to apply. It is more problematic but not impossible if you are a parent of a Year 11 or Year 13 student as they are sitting public examinations this year.

With best wishes for the weekend.

**Mr M J Scott**

## EXAMINATION INVIGILATORS SOUGHT!

Please visit our website for more information.

[Click here](#) for a direct link to the recruitment page.

Closing date is 23 March 2020. Thank you.

**Newport Girls' High School**

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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)



# London Bound!

Ten NGHS students, accompanied by Mr Scott and Miss Tomkinson visited No 10 Downing Street and the Palace of Westminster yesterday. In spite of some crazy Uber taxi journeys, they all made it there and back in one piece (!) and an account is shared by Shaivi (Year 9) below.

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*'Some women fear the fire.  
Others are forged from it.  
Burn bright.'*

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As a school, we were fortunate enough to be recognised by the government and ten students were invited to visit 10 Downing Street to attend a conference to mark International Women's Day this Sunday.

Our trip to London required an early start and we assembled at Stafford Station for a few hours on the train. The iconic London traffic welcomed us while travelling to Westminster Palace. After going through the extensive security, we made our way into Westminster Palace with visitor lanyards swung around our necks. The sheer size and magnificent roof of Westminster Hall had us immediately twitterpated and feeling quite unimportant. A colleague of Mark Pritchard MP greeted us inside and shared insightful knowledge about the oldest building on the Parliamentary estate. We learnt about the architectural aspects of the roof and how it remained as one of the largest, unsupported roofs in Europe for many years. A quite amusing fact we were told was that Henry VIII held tennis matches in the hall and a tennis ball dating to the same time was found lodged in the roof. Next, we were taken into St Stephen's Hall, a rectangular room lined with statues of prominent parliamentarians and paintings which depict various significant events in British history. A highlight of the tour was the opportunity to sit in the public gallery while a debate was taking place in The Lords Chamber, an extravagantly-decorated room with solid brass gates at the entrance of the Chamber.

As the time for the conference approached, we ventured back to Westminster Hall and proceeded to walk to Downing Street. Once again, we walked through metal detectors and then walked up to the distinguished steps of the Prime Minister's residence, known colloquially as Number 10. Upon arrival, we were asked to place all mobile phones and smartwatches in a cabinet which was being overlooked by a photograph of Queen Elizabeth II. While climbing the staircase, we marvelled at the lavishly designed interior. The stone triple staircase has no visible supports and photographs of previous prime ministers decorate the walls as expensive chandeliers hang from the ceiling.

The conference took place in the State Dining Room, designed by Sir John Soane. A large portrait of George II, placed over the fireplace, overlooks the room and an exquisite carpet covers the floor. Four chairs rested on the

raised stage at the front of the room and rows of more chairs were placed for the five girls' schools which attended. To the back, cameras had been set up and photographers lingered in the room. Before the conference, each school was photographed in front of George II (photos to follow next week!) The panel consisted of Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Hattie Brett, Kelly Holmes and Anne-Marie Imafidon. Five students-one from each school-put forward questions for the panel to answer as well as numerous being posed by Hattie Brett. The questions ranged from the gender pay gap to patriarchy in today's society. Following the discussion, we went into the adjoining Pillared State Drawing Room and attended a reception. A portrait of Queen Elizabeth I hung over the fireplace and a Persian carpet covered almost all of the floor. Here, we were presented with the chance to meet influential and inspiring women, most of whom we bombarded with questions and requests for autographs. The fruit punch they offered was refreshing and the sweet delicacies were delightful.

After reuniting with our possessions, we proceeded to leave Number 10 without being graced by Larry the cat's presence. The final destination of the trip was a walk through Covent Garden, a popular tourist and shopping site. On the short walk there, we saw Trafalgar Square and gender-equal traffic lights. A trip to London is incomplete without some rain and the weather did not disappoint. Umbrellas erupted from bags and littered one's vision as puddles began to form on the streets.

Our train back to Stafford departed at 16:46 allowing us time to sample Burger King fries, which we collectively decided were far superior to fries we purchase from McDonald's. On the train ride home, the day's tiredness caught up to us and some of us dozed off while others read a book or played cards. Upon returning, the sun had set and the station was busy with commuters heading home after a day of work. The trip was motivating, to say the least, and undoubtedly evoked thoughts on our future and new possibilities. Thank you to Mr Scott and Miss Tomkinson for making this trip possible!

I would like to end this piece with a quote written by one of the women present at the reception, 'Some women fear the fire. Others are forged from it. Burn bright.'

**Shaivi (Year 9)**

## Mobile Phone Reminder

We have noticed an increasing number of mobile phones being used in form rooms before school starts.

A reminder that the school policy on this is that *"mobile phones that are brought into school should be stored turned off and out of sight. Students are not permitted to use mobile phones at any time during the school day except with the express permission of staff. Students who infringe the rules set out in this document will have their phones confiscated by teachers/support staff."* This message is also shared in the student planner.

We refer to the school day as any time that our young people are in the school building, this does not just apply from 8.50am to 3.45pm. We do allow students to use mobile phones in the atrium after school for the purposes of communicating home regarding lifts but not for any other reason. Students should not be on phones in the corridor at the end of the school day.

If in school before form time, the time can be used to talk to other students in your form, update form noticeboards, read a book, do some work etc but not to sit on mobile phones.

**Miss H Clarke, Assistant Headteacher**



## Knife Angel Artwork Competition

Congratulations to Olivia (Year 8, pictured) who won the NGHS Knife Angel Competition (you may recall seeing some entries in Newport News two weeks ago). This week she was presented with her prize by PCSO Michelle Thompson and Sergeant Lou Hickman. All of our Year 9/10 students who are not going to Iceland are visiting Telford during the school day on Monday 16 March to watch a performance by Loudmouth Theatre Company and to view the Knife Angel sculpture.

Mrs Chandler (Art department) wishes to also congratulate E Gregoy, A Agarawal and M Evans for their runners up awards in the school competition. Well done and thank you to all those who entered.

Parents will receive a letter from West Mercia Police with NN this week, too.

**Mrs Chandler**

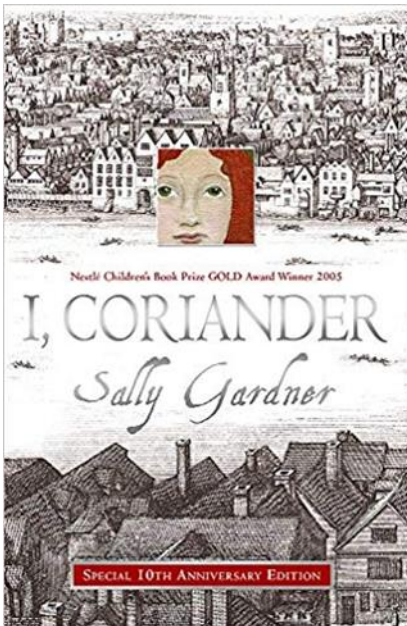
*"In these turbulent times, books embody the diversity of human ingenuity, giving shape to the wealth of human experience, expressing the search for meaning and expression we all share, that drive all societies forward. Books help weave humanity together as a single family, holding a past in common, a history and heritage, to craft a destiny that is shared, where all voices are heard in the great chorus of human aspiration."*  
 — Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO

With its origins dating back to 1920s Catalonia, World Book Day is now a global event celebrated in over 100 countries 'on a mission to give every child and young person a book of their own'.

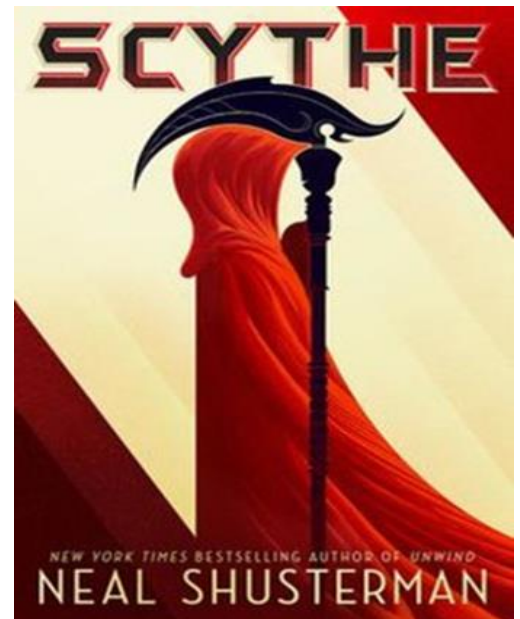
WORLD  
**BOOK  
 DAY**

Officially established in 1995 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), World Book Day is a celebration of the joy and transformative power of reading. The event is marked on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April in other countries, and on the first Thursday in March in the UK and Ireland (to accommodate school holidays and religious celebrations). In school we will be celebrating all things literary during Form-time followed next week by a whole school assembly when a number of students will be reflecting on the books that are important to them.

**Ms J Capaldi**



A book I'd recommend, one of my all-time favourites, is *I, Coriander* by Sally Gardner. Set in the seventeenth century, the novel tells the story of a girl named Coriander Hobie, who lives by the River Thames in London. After a pair of mysterious silver shoes arrive as a birthday present, Coriander engages on a riveting tale to find the mystical place in which her mother came from. Including gothic themes, this book is a must read for those who enjoy historical fiction. **Alice W. (S2)**



In a world thousands of years into the future, humans are immortal – having eradicated disease, famine and natural death. Professional scythes must kill in order to control population growth.

This thought-provoking book follows the journey of two reluctant young scythes as they struggle to navigate their corrupted world. The story also continues from other perspectives in two more volumes.

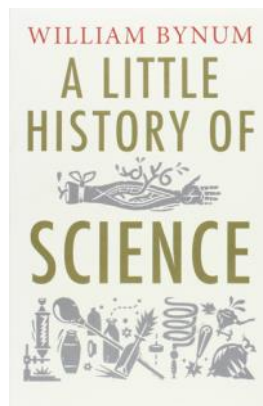
I really enjoyed this book because it contains an insightful view of human nature, while also maintaining action and immersive plot twists. It also cleverly contrasts and juxtaposes dystopian and utopian themes, as well as involving ethics and morality. Despite the utopian/dystopian genres being popular in YA fiction, 'Scythe' is always original, profound and darkly humorous.

I would recommend this book for ages 12+, however it can definitely still be enjoyed by older years. **Isobel R. (R1)**



I recently read *The Hunger Games* trilogy by Suzanne Collins. The series was truly gripping and I literally couldn't put it down until I finished them all. As you follow the story of Katniss, you sympathise and feel what she's feeling in her desperate situation. These fantastic novels have everything: action, romance and hardships. I would recommend reading the books first and then watching the films.

**Esther A. (A1)**



I am currently reading 'A Little History of Science' by William Bynum. It is a fascinating read exploring everything from the ancient Greek study of the stars to Stephen Hawking to the development of the home computer. I would highly recommend it to everyone but particularly to anyone interested in medicine, history or purely science.

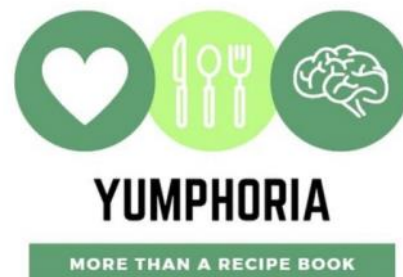
**Isabelle R. (S1)**

Last term, a group of nine entrepreneurial Year 12s embarked on an exciting opportunity: To create their own student company and develop their product. Young Enterprise is a national scheme in which students create and run their own company, designing a product from scratch which is then sold to the general public. We are Yumphoria, one of the Young Enterprise groups entering the competition this year. We are all passionate about business and brimming with creative ideas, so we were very excited to start work on our product. Now, several months on, we have developed something truly amazing which we hope you'll love as much as we do.

Introducing 'Cook Up Your Life'- a recipe book which is so much more than just recipes. Alongside our variety of delicious recipes are inspirational quotes and wellbeing tips to help you both eat well and feel good. We believe in tailoring our product to suit your tastes, so we have created 9 unique sections (one by each member of our group) centred around a range of foods: Quick Meals, Budget Bites, Family, Around the World, Vegan,

Vegetarian, Gluten Free, Healthy Desserts and Wellbeing. The latter being a section which focuses especially on mindfulness, including a weekly planner. Each section contains a number of recipes, many of which we've made with our families at home and which are close to our hearts. We have ensured that all of the recipes in our book are ones you'll want to use, which is why we've given you the option to choose which sections you want in your book. That way, more paper is saved as only the recipes you want will be in the book, and you'll be able to get the most enjoyment out of our product.

Our group have put a lot of time and effort into developing the best product we could possibly make, meeting every week to discuss ideas and improve our company with the help of the lovely Emma, a Young Enterprise business advisor who has guided us throughout the process. Fortunately, our efforts have paid off. We have been to two highly successful trade fairs where we constructed personalised books for our very happy customers, and we will soon be going to another trade



fair in March. In addition, 'Cook Up Your Life' will be available to purchase in school from March. You can purchase one of our sections for £1.50, six for £5 or alternatively you can buy the whole book for £7. Students will have access to order sheets in their registration forms and will be able to purchase the product for a limited time frame. The latest possible order will be on the 12<sup>th</sup> March. If you're interested in our company and would like to find out more about Young Enterprise or 'Cook Up Your Life', feel free to come along to our stall! Alternatively, you can follow us on social media (Instagram: @yumphoria.ye / Facebook: @Yumphoria Young Enterprise/ Twitter: @yumphoria) for all the latest updates.

#### NGHS PTA EASTER HAMPER RAFFLE



## NON-UNIFORM DAY - Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March



Please bring in your hamper donations in return for wearing your own clothes

The Easter Hamper Raffle is organised by the NGHS PTA. All money raised (£1800 last year) goes directly towards funding resources and initiatives that the students will be able to take advantage of during their time at NGHS. Your continued support is greatly appreciated



#### Donations Required

- Year 7 - Chocolate (eggs/sharing bars/boxes, etc)
- Year 8 - Bags/Boxes (biscuits/crisps/crackers, etc)
- Year 9 - Tins (soup/tuna/olives etc)
- Year 10 - Jars (jam/chutney/sauces, etc)
- Year 11 - Toilettries
- 6th Form - Bottles (wine/spirits/squash etc)

\*\*Please check that all donated products have a reasonable use-by date\*\*

#### Key Dates

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March - Please return raffle ticket stubs and money to the School Office.

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March - Hamper packing from 4.00pm in the School Library, helpers are very welcome!

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April - Easter Hamper Raffle draw will take place during assembly. A total of 30 fabulous hampers packed with wonderful goodies will be won.

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April - All hampers to be collected by an adult by 12.30pm

All pupils should have received 2 books of tickets each to sell if possible. More tickets are available from the School Office if you think you can sell more.

\*\*\*If every pupil sells at least 2 books we could raise over £5,000 to support our children. Please help if you can\*\*\*

NGHS PTA  
PRESENTS



**Film Night  
(Years 7 & 8)**

Centenary Hall, 19<sup>th</sup> March,  
4pm – 6pm

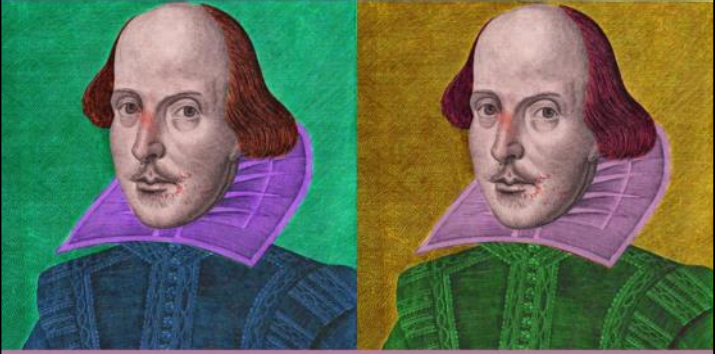
£2 entry fee buys you popcorn and a drink  
Pay on the door  
Other snacks also on sale



PTA UK  
MEMBER ASSOCIATION

**FILM NIGHT**

NGHS PERFORMING  
ARTS SOCIETY PRESENTS...



**SHAKESPEARE:  
SCENES, SONGS  
AND MONOLOGUES**

WEDNESDAY 1ST APRIL 2020  
7PM IN THE SCHOOL HALL  
£2 ADULTS £1 CONCESSIONS  
TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM RECEPTION

THANK  
you!

THANK  
you!

THANK  
you!

THANK  
you!

Congratulations to this fortnight's Thank You Friday nominees

| Awarded to:         | Awarded by:      |
|---------------------|------------------|
| E Adeniyi (A1)      | Ms J Capaldi     |
| A Aston (S1)        | Miss A-M Davies  |
| H Bates (A2)        | Mrs J Chandler   |
| A Billingham (S5)   | Miss H Clarke    |
| C Blanks (A5)       | Miss H Clarke    |
| H Blanks (A7)       | Mrs H Goodall    |
| E Charlesworth (A7) | Miss A-M Davies  |
| C Cui (S3)          | Miss S Tomkinson |
| H Davis (R7)        | Miss H Clarke    |
| L Edwards (S6)      | Mrs A Seys       |
| S Griffith (A7)     | Mrs K Griffin    |
| C Hamilton (R7)     | Mrs C Reeves     |
| C Knight (A1)       | Miss A-M Davies  |
| M Lo (R5)           | Miss H Clarke    |

| Awarded to:     | Awarded by:      |
|-----------------|------------------|
| A Lynas (S3)    | Mr A Mason       |
| B McCloy (S3)   | Miss S Tomkinson |
| E Moffat (S6)   | Mrs A Seys       |
| S Nawaid (A7)   | Mr D Postle      |
| I Pickles (R5)  | Miss H Clarke    |
| T Read (A6)     | Mrs K Griffin    |
| E Rixom (S2)    | Mrs T Fujii      |
| I Royce (S1)    | Ms J Capaldi     |
| I Russell (R1)  | Ms J Capaldi     |
| T Sherratt (R7) | Mrs H Goodall    |
| I Smith (S4)    | Miss A-M Davies  |
| T Uppal (R7)    | Miss A-M Davies  |
| G Worrall (S1)  | Mrs T Fujii      |
| A Wyke (S2)     | Ms J Capaldi     |



## 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)<br>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   |



## Earth hour

**Who:** Earth hour is a worldwide movement organised by the World Wildlife Fund for Nature

**What:** Switch off your lights for an hour on Saturday

**When:** Saturday 28 March 2020. 8:30-9:30pm

**Where:** Anywhere! You can take part at home or join a local Earth Hour event.

**Why:** Earth Hour is more than just switching off your lights – it is working towards a large positive environmental change through our collective action. Through this action, we can reduce our carbon footprints by saving electricity. Earth Hour is an easy way to promote and get involved with protecting our environment.

## Forthcoming Dates...



| Date     | Event  | Year(s)     |
|----------|--|-------------|
| Mon 9th  | Head Girl Team application deadline<br>Full Governors Meeting, 7pm | Y12<br>Govs |
| Tue 10th | Chemistry Lecture, 4pm   | Y12-13      |
| Fri 13th | Netball Weekend until Sunday                                       | Y7          |
| Fri 13th | Iceland Trip departs<br>Netball Weekend departs 4pm                | Y9-10<br>Y7 |
| Wed 18th | House Art/Photo comp. deadline                                     | All         |
| Thu 19th | Parents Evening & Film Night (Y7/8)                                | Y7          |

### 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 suggested dates from Telford & Wrekin to fit in with primary schools. We also have scheduled the full 190 statutory school days and 5 training days.