



NEWPORT NEWS

A weekly update from NGHS

Volume 3 - Issue 23 - Friday 9 April 2020



On what would have been the end of the first week of our Easter break, I write in the hope that all of our families are remaining well and are trying to balance any anxieties about this time period with an enjoyment of the seasonally good weather. As the government is keen to announce, please do remain local during the bank holiday weekend and maintain social distancing wherever this is possible. The school continues to receive daily updates from the government; any important notices are passed on and much can be found on .gov.uk websites. The school remains open to a handful of children from keyworker families and this will continue across what was the Easter holiday.

Work has been set this week but will **not** be set next week. Miss Davies wrote to parents at the start of the week whilst also detailing our expectations around assessment. After the Easter break, we will be setting some assessed work for Y7-10 and 12. In our phone calls to all students, which began this week, we were pleased to hear how they, on the whole, are managing this upheaval and you can be sure that staff (most of whom are also parents) are also finding it a very odd time; balancing the demands of working from home whilst keeping their own families safe.

This week, we have launched a few additional competitions: History have their eggstra-special egg decoration competition, the Headteacher's Challenge is still in progress (thanks for the tweeted entries!) and we have 'whose workspace is this?' on Twitter. **[I am delighted to tell you that a number of staff have also remotely recorded a song for you all - head on over to our website to watch it! We hope you enjoy it and thanks to Mrs Chapman for her guidance!](#)** Next week there's a geography challenge coming to the work portal if you fancy it.

Thank you again to all our parents who have been in touch to provide positive feedback during the lockdown. It is comforting to know that things are going as well as can be expected. I do keep mentioning the Entrance Test for Y5 families and make no apology for this. We are doing some online marketing around this but clearly are not able to get into our local primary schools to publicise the Test more and it will be quickly upon us in the autumn term. If you are on any Facebook or Whatsapp groups with parents of Year 5s, feel free to point them to our website. Thank you. We also have a high percentage of Year 11s staying with us for Year 12 and they will be joined by many girls from other local schools. Thank you to our NGHS families who have put their faith and trust in us to support current Year 11s through the sixth form. We will be in touch with Year 11s who are remaining at NGHS to sort out form groups and to fill them in about the Liverpool Weekend in the next few weeks.

As you might expect, we have had to cancel all of our residential visits between now and the end of the summer term. This is most regrettable and we are working with the tour companies to effect refunds. Some are being more helpful than others! Clearly every school is pretty much in the same position and I must thank Mrs Lane for all her help. We will be in touch to issue refunds as/when we can. All trips for the autumn term are continuing as planned.

Our PTA have kindly put together a message for parents and a chance for girls to take part in an online Movie session tomorrow. Please see page two of this week's Newport News. Other girls are getting involved safely in their communities and I have included details of two Year 13s on page 3. To those who celebrate this weekend, Happy Easter to you all and best wishes at this time.

Mr M J Scott

Accessing the Work Portal - Keep up to date

Closure information will be posted on www.nghs.org.uk and texts/emails sent to parents

Students should access work via www.nghs.org.uk (scroll to bottom of page). Click on 'Work Login'

Username: **student@nghs.org.uk**

Password: **N3wport2020**

Work may not be instantly available so students should check back and keep an eye on their NGHS emails too.

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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**



A quick update from your hard-working but now home-working PTA

Hi all from the PTA,

I hope everyone is coping with this strange and scary period we find ourselves in. A couple of people have asked what is happening to the Easter Hamper raffle... sadly we have postponed it until further notice – hoping to turn it a Summer event instead as a celebration of our freedom returning. More info will be shared as soon as the situation is clear.

In the meantime, we have been trying to think what the PTA can do to help us all stay connected. The first thing we are going to try is a movie 'Watch-Along', where anyone who wants to watches an agreed movie at the same time and tweets their reactions, observations, best bits and so on in real time. The movie chosen is a PTA Movie Night favourite, **Paddington 2**, which is showing on CBBC this Friday 10th April at 9.25am. If you want to take part, this is what you need to do:

- ⇒ Get access to an adult's Twitter account (make sure you agree it with them first).
- ⇒ Follow @NGHS_PTA.
- ⇒ Grab yourself your comfiest PJs, onesie, blanket etc. – and of course a marmalade sandwich! Add your comments and respond to those of others using the hashtag #NGHSPTAwatchalong.

Sounds easy! It's a first for us doing this kind of thing, but let's give it a go and if all else fails, at least we get to watch a fab movie.

If you have other ideas you'd like to try, please get in touch by emailing PTA@NGHS.org.uk

Wishing you a safe and peaceful Easter, The PTA.

Digital Interview (Year 9 and above)

Digital Interviews and now online assessment centres have changed the way large companies recruit. Online applications are increasingly more important than your CV but if you haven't had the chance to practice it can be daunting. So take the Capgemini mock Digital Interview and see what its like – get yourself ready for when it really matters!

You do not need a CV to do the mock Digital Interview – but you should prepare for the interview in the same way you would if you were actually applying to Capgemini (or any other company). It won't matter if your career choice isn't tech but something different like Banking, Fashion or Travel – you can still have a go!

<https://capgemini.hirevue.com/signup/j23gtr78S5GSvJv4L66chJ/>

Invitation – Women in Tech Thursday 30th April, 14:00 – 15:00

For Year 13s in particular

It's been a difficult couple of weeks. Across Capgemini our colleagues have been working hard to move just about all our global teams to a working at home model. It's been a challenge, but keeping our people and clients safe has been driving force behind this huge shift. It has helped that we've always been a flexible employer with a big focus on delivery.

The last few weeks have shown how important technology is in our society, and the way that technologists across Britain (and the world) are changing the way we live and work.

We're looking for more talented young people to join us this September in creating the future. We're particularly keen to ensure that young women hear the message, as they are under represented in the technology space, but they definitely help the tech industry make Britain a better place.

So, we're hosting an online event to encourage young ladies to understand our Degree Apprenticeship roles that bit better. We will be discussing all things apprenticeships, from grade requirements to guides for the assessment centres.

Please join us online on **Thursday 30th April, 14:00 – 15:00.**

You'll meet Dan Doherty, Early Careers Manager and the recruitment team as well as some of our current Apprentices who can share their own stories and offer some tips. We have roles available in Telford, Worthing, Manchester, Liverpool, London, Woking and Birmingham. We want to offer support and reassurance to those of you keen to start your career as technologists, and ensure that more young ladies join our industry as we endeavour to move closer to a 50% gender balance.

If you'd like to attend please register here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tech-apprenticeships-virtual-insight-event-tickets-101557394902>

Student Notices—Get involved in the Lockdown!

I was delighted to hear that a couple of our Year 13s are getting involved in exciting projects at this time. Please find below information from Ruby & Ellie. Please consider offering your support.

Calling all NGHS Musicians!

Dear Mr Scott

As predicted, NYO's spring tour is cancelled, however there will still be music making through digital platforms. Many musicians are aware that 2020 is Beethoven's 250th birthday year, and NYO were due to be performing his Ninth Symphony with Marin Alsop at the Southbank in London during mid-April.

NYO have come up with an exciting and novel idea to create a socially distanced orchestra across the nation, where every musician in the country (not just those in NYO) will play Ode To Joy together at 5pm on April 17th. Us NYO musicians are to lead this initiative and expected to take part. However I wanted to see if we could promote it further and have as many musicians as possible from NGHS take part in such a unique and memorable performance!

The performance itself will be dedicated to those who are particularly affected by the current COVID-19 outbreak, in particular key workers, those who are suffering from loneliness and/or isolation from others, and of course our incredible NHS frontline staff. Ode To Joy itself symbolises solidarity and is definitely a fitting choice to lift the spirits!

If you could share either the contents of this email or the info from www.nyo.org.uk with all students and staff, whether that's via email or Newport News / social media, then both I and NYO would hugely appreciate it!!

Ruby Howells, Year 13



To other students: If you are involved in a charity or project which is doing its best in the difficult situation we find ourselves, please email schooloffice@nghs.org.uk (as Ruby & Ellie have done) and we will look to publicise your work. We are very proud to hear of those who are safely making a difference at this time. Take care.

Medic Mentor Volunteers

Hello all, my name is Ellie Hansen, a year 13 student, and some of the year 12 students may be aware that I run the medical society in sixth form. I have also been involved in the Medic Mentor organisation now for over a year and wanted to bring your attention to a campaign in partnership with the Royal Medical Benevolent Fund.

I would like to request your support during the current COVID-19 situation. I am a student volunteer campaigner for the Medic Mentor COVID-19 vision, in partnership with the Royal Medical Benevolent Fund, to fundraise and support struggling doctors during the pandemic. The fund has been designed to support our front line doctors who are experiencing physical, psychological and financial difficulties because of the COVID-19 pandemic and we aim to raise at least £10,000 to do this. The Royal Medical Benevolent Fund has set up an urgent appeal to help thousands of doctors bravely standing between the virus and our vulnerable people in society, which Medic Mentor are supporting to actively campaign and fundraise as much as possible.

With your help, we can really make a difference to NHS doctors and their families. We can help prevent doctors under pressure leaving the profession for good, help doctors suffering with COVID-19 get back to work and continue their vital work and help alleviate further external pressures on them during the pandemic. Now is the time we need our NHS more than ever, and I hope you can support our cause. Please share and donate at <https://medicmentor.co.uk/how-to-become-a-doctor-covid-19-mission/>

Medic Mentor has been incredibly helpful to me throughout my application medicine, so I hope you will consider donating. If your daughter is interested in applying to medicine or another healthcare related career I would highly recommend looking into this organisation.

Thank you,
Ellie

