



# NEWPORT NEWS

## A weekly update from NGHS

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**O**n Thursday, our Year 7 students were invited to Burton Borough School for the performance of a French play. *Les garçons* described an evening of babysitting that went wrong for a girl and her boyfriend. The level of language was suitable for KS3, but was still demanding for Year 7s. Nevertheless, the girls seemed to understand the gist and lots of hand signals helped. The two actors worked hard to play multiple parts and the girls particularly enjoyed the audience participation. We thank Burton Borough for hosting the play, which was presented by a touring native French company.

We have become aware this week that some students are still bringing **nut products** into school. Further to previous correspondence last term, please kindly refrain from doing this as we have a student with a severe allergy in school. Thank you.

Since last June, we have been supporting our now Year 13s with their UCAS applications and many of our students have the luxury of many varied university offers to consider. We congratulate all the students who have received offers to date and recognise those who have sought exceptionally high-demand places at Oxford or Cambridge. I am delighted to confirm that we have three girls with Oxbridge offers. To those who applied, but were unsuccessful, commiserations, but there are plenty of other fantastic institutions who will be pleased



to welcome you as a student in September. Today we send our particular congratulations to the following students who are pictured above:

- O O'Byrne                      History at Murray Edwards College  
University of Cambridge
- L Ragbourne                Classics at Trinity College  
University of Oxford
- B McCloy                     Medicine at Trinity College  
University of Cambridge

Thank you also to Mrs Griffin, Head of Sixth Form and our reference writing staff team for their support.

With best wishes for the weekend.                      **Mr M J Scott**

Our new PTA webpage has a host of information about the work that this small, but loyal group of parents carry out to raise funds for the school. It is no coincidence that the size of the small surplus we managed to hold in our budget last academic year equalled the amount donated by the PTA. The PTA donated funds to buy a laser cutter for our DT classes to use and are paying towards our new minibus this year. Without their hard work, it is unlikely that we can afford to source new equipment to best meet the needs of our pupils. Please therefore take a look at easy ways you can help by visiting the webpage links or using the QR codes below. The right-hand QR code directs you to a short survey. May I

please ask parents to complete this in the next fortnight to enable the PTA to best understand their next steps. Thank you for your assistance.

**Mr Scott & The PTA Committee**



[← PTA Webpage](#)



[PTA Survey →](#)



## PTA Update January 2020

# CASTLE COMPETITION

The Year 7 castle competition is a rite of passage at NGHS. Everyone in the school can remember the effort they put in, the stress of wondering if their masterpiece would make it to school in one piece and the amazement when they saw everyone else's creation. Every year the history department issue the challenge and every year the students rise to it. Walking into room 25 to help judge this year's competition, I was amazed again by all that effort, care and ingenuity.

The castles ranged from motte and bailey constructions straight out of the Bayeux Tapestry, to rectangular stone keeps that might have sheltered rebel barons during Stephen's reign and imposing symbols of power and prestige that Edward I would have been proud of. Some are inspired by specific locations, others are more generic but no less creative. All of them are researched as well as they're built. This is a history, not an art competition, and all entries have booklets explaining development over time, design and purpose. They've been made out of everything from cardboard and lego to cake! Painted, sculpted, drawn. Some come with their own armies, some with weapons, like the magnificent spoon trebuchet.



It wasn't easy to choose winners. Along with the rest of the judges, I want to say a huge thank you to everyone for their efforts, but prizes go to:

**R Middleton** for the best Motte and Bailey castle  
**I Jagdev** for the best stone keep castle  
**I Chadwick and H-A Manu** for the most creative castle.

We also held a 'people's vote' open to anyone who visited the display last Friday, and the winner of this was **R Middleton**.

The students are pictured above with History ambassadors Edith and Tanvi. Pictures of the winning castles will follow.

Edith (Year 12 History Ambassador)



**Join in the world's largest wildlife survey  
25-27th January**

The RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch involves over 500,000 in one of the largest citizen science surveys each year, which since it began has recorded **137 million birds**. It collects invaluable data which has been monitoring changing levels of wildlife for the last 40 years and it has found a staggering **80% decrease** in starling populations. These trends can monitor the health of British wildlife in response to issues, such as climate change. The Big Garden Birdwatch is also a great way to spend time with family and discover the wildlife in your garden. If you would like to sign up for **free** please follow [this link](#). **E Micklewright**, Gardening Club

## All Set To Swim

This Sunday, the Shropshire County Swimming Championships starts and takes place over five weekend days. This is the highlight of the Shropshire swimming calendar and consists of 18 events including 1500m freestyle, 400 Individual Medley, 200 Fly to name a few. Swimmers have to achieve qualifying times during the year to be able to compete in each event.



Aimee Corkhill (Year 7) is one of a number of NGHS girls who have qualified to compete in all 18 events, which is a great achievement and she is hoping once again to take away one of the top girl trophies.

The amount of time and dedication that girls give to swimming at this level is quite significant, Aimee trains on average 10 hours per week during evenings and weekend. On top of school work, this represents a hefty commitment to her sport and we send her, and all the other students competing, every success in the championship.





We have become aware of this app, which allows parents to be able to track the whereabouts of children/family members and it also includes a personal attack alarm system.

The school does not necessarily endorse nor recommend the app, but it has been recommended to us so you may wish to take a look. Staffordshire Police are also recommending its use.

**hollieguard.com**

The next big thing in personal safety



Congratulations to our Thank You Friday nominees this last fortnight.

Awarded to:	Awarded by:
Z Ahmed (R1)	Mrs K Danby
E Charlesworth (A7)	Mrs K Griffin
A Faisal (R2)	Mrs K Danby
P Finan (S2)	Ms J Capaldi
E Gregory (S2)	Mrs T Fujii
E Haynes (S3)	Mr A Mason
L Holmes (A3)	Mrs L Payne
I Jagdev (A2)	Mrs K Danby
N LB Swami (R1)	Mrs K Danby
C Norris (A3)	Mrs K Wallace
M Reade (R6)	Mrs K Griffin
S Reddington (R2)	Mrs T Fujii
J Slater-Morris (S5)	Mr D Postle
A Srinivasan (S3)	Mr A Mason
V Suraweera (R6)	Mrs L Roberts
T Uppal (R7)	Mrs K Griffin
A Williams (R3)	Mrs H Goodall
J Wozniak (A3)	Mrs L Payne
A Wysome (A1)	Mrs K Danby

### RODDAM CHOSEN CHARITY

Roddam have chosen to support Team Cleo Fund, in honour of Cleo who was diagnosed with a rare brain tumour (GBM4) in March 2018. No one else should have to lose their child in such a devastating way.

In order to do something constructive, the fund raises money for **The Brain Tumour Charity**, with the hope of contributing to change for other families in the future. £250 could fund a day of research to further the understanding of a particular type of brain tumour in order to provide more targeted treatments, a treatment in which, Cleo herself took part in a clinical research trial.

Brain tumours are the biggest cancer killer of children and young people. 600 children and young people are diagnosed each year with a primary brain tumour, with a quarter of these children and young people dying, one child every three days. In order to help fund research and treatment, for such a great cause, our House decided to support this fund in Cleo's memory, after her death at the age of 10.

### AUSTEN CHOSEN CHARITY

**Scoliosis Association UK** is the lone national charity that supports people with scoliosis and their families. Scoliosis is a condition in which the vertebrae of the spine form a curved line instead of being straight. Whilst a small curve is normally benign, a large curve can damage joints or cause arthritis of the spine. SAUK helps people with scoliosis by providing a helpline for people where they can call or email the SAUK team for advice, support or even someone to talk to. They also organise campaigns and activities to increase awareness of scoliosis among both the general public and health professionals.

### SEACOLE CHOSEN CHARITY

This year, Seacole is supporting the **Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI)**. The RNLI was established to provide a 24-hour rescue service in the UK and Ireland. Since 1824, the RNLI have saved over 142,200 lives with their rescue service. The RNLI have over 230 stations spread around the coastal areas of the United Kingdom, the stations are always prepared for a call out, in which the RNLI receive roughly 24 call-outs per day. Seacole's motivation to support the RNLI was when one of our house members talked about her experience with the charity and how they saved her life when she faced trouble at sea.



## 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

## Five Tips for a Sustainable New Year



- When you go shopping, try to bring with you a reusable bag (tote or bag for life) so that you don't have to buy a single use plastic bag. At many supermarkets you can also take back your bags for life which they can recycle and they will give you a new one.
- Try to reduce your meat consumption, perhaps by trying 'meat free Monday' or you could try shopping locally by going to your nearest butchers to reduce carbon dioxide from transportation.
- When you travel short distances, you could alternatively walk or bike instead of going in the car and if your distance is long, think about taking public transport or car sharing instead.
- You could try to swap plastic water bottles for reusable ones as they reduce plastic waste and you will save a lot of money in the long run.
- Go to a charity shop, reusing what others no longer need. You can also donate your own clothes and find second hand books here. Another alternative for getting books is going to your local library which reuses books that are often never read twice once they have been bought.

Katie W (Year 10)

## Forthcoming Dates...



Date	Event	Year(s)
Mon 20th	Poetry Live, Birmingham (all day) Art: Life Model painting session GCSE Options Launch, period 5	Y11 Y12-13 Y8
Tue 21st	Tennis Activator Course	Y11
Mon 27th	Mock Examination Week	Y13
Tue 28th	Chemistry Lecture, Birmingham	Y12-13
Wed 29th	Sixth Form Taster Day (internal)	Y11
Mo 3 Feb	Governors Meetings, 6pm/7pm	Govs
Wed 5th	GCSE Science Live, Birmingham	Y10+11
Fri 7th	Non Uniform Day (House Charity)	All
Fri 14th	INSET DAY - school closed	All



Don't forget to drop off any unwanted books, CDs, DVDs etc. to Reception for our **Gardening Club Second Hand Fundraiser** on 24th January. Thank you.