



NEWPORT NEWS

A weekly update from NGHS

Volume 3 - Issue 9 - Friday 22 November 2019



Wow! Just wow! On Tuesday we received notification that we have been chosen as the West Midlands State Secondary School for 2020 by The Sunday Times. This is now the hat-trick of wins for NGHS on the back of our ranking as top performing school in the whole of Telford & Wrekin and Shropshire and our recent Ofsted outcome. Neither of these other recent accolades was a determining factor in deciding the Sunday Times award victory and we are told the Editor considered a range of criteria to reach his judgement. Last year's winner was King Edward VI School in Stratford-upon-Avon, which demonstrates the geographical scope of our win. I am so proud of our school, students and staff and congratulate everyone on this amazing outcome. We are told that NGHS will feature in this week's Sunday Times.

'This is fantastic news for Newport Girls High and a richly deserved accolade. I would like to thank all the pupils, staff, parents and governors for their hard work that has resulted in being awarded the Sunday Times West Midlands State Secondary School of the Year.'

Cllr Reynolds (Lead Cabinet Member: Children, Young People & Education, T&W Council)

In spite of our best efforts, the Quiz Evening tonight has unfortunately had to be cancelled owing to a lower than expected ticket response. However I would like to thank the parents who attended our AGM on Monday evening. Each year, the PTA raises funds, which directly benefit students at NGHS. The difficulty is that numbers of parental supporters are dwindling and this is echoed in the Chair's speech at the AGM, which is included on page 3. I am very supportive of the PTA as I also welcome the financial support we receive, but am also a realist in knowing that its future is bleak without the support of a larger cluster of parents. There is absolutely no seven-year 'ball and chain' and a bit of help organising a event is most welcome. You do not need to be a committee member or have hours of time to donate. We discussed some interesting ways to widen participation and interest in the PTA's activities and we will shortly put out a survey to parents to see which of our ideas would be best supported.

THE SUNDAY TIMES
SCHOOLS
GUIDE
2020

WEST MIDLANDS
STATE
SECONDARY
SCHOOL
OF THE YEAR

Last night I was privileged to attend the School Games Mark Award Presentation Evening to watch Megan (Year 11) and Mrs Goodall collect our gold certificate (as mentioned in last



week's Newport News). It was a pleasure to hear of the success of other schools too (in particular many of our Newport primaries) and I congratulate them all. Mrs Goodall and Megan are pictured with the T&W Sports Partnership Team.

Very best wishes for the weekend.

Mr M J Scott

Newport Girls' High School

Wellington Road
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

Christmas smile



foodbank

I am thrilled to confirm we are once again supporting two **local** causes this Christmas. Last year we donated many toys / presents to the Telford Christmas Smile campaign. This charity provides gifts to **local children and families** living in difficult circumstances. We would love you to consider buying one extra new toy for Christmas for a girl or boy aged 1-16. This should be brought into school reception before Friday 6th December.

On Friday 13 December, we will have our Winter Jumper Day. Students are invited to wear a winter jumper with jeans/trousers etc. A **minimum £1 donation is required**. This will be donated to the Newport Foodbank (as last year).

We hope that staff and students will embrace both opportunities this year.

Mr M J Scott, Headteacher



Parents should have received a separate letter from Mr Scott about arrangements for events in December and the end of term.

PENTABUS

Pentabus Young Company
Professional Workshops for Young People

Making Theatre from Scratch



Have you ever made a performance out of a real story?

Working with Artistic Director Sophie Motley you will use people you've met and things you've seen as inspiration. The workshop will allow you to experiment with sound, light and words as storytelling tools which will help you grow as an actor and theatre-maker.

Sat 30 Nov | 2pm - 4.30pm | £5 | Assembly Rooms, Ludlow

For more info and to book go to pentabus.co.uk

No experience necessary; these practical workshops are for anyone wishing to learn about or gain new perspectives in making theatre.



Attendance Update

As the dark mornings and evenings draw in and the wintery colds appear, attendance tends to dip. Since half term we have averaged 97% in week one but the figure is decreasing. Our Year to Date average is still just over 97% but please do help us to ensure that students attend school whenever they are fit to do so. A common cold should not be a reason for absence.

By comparison to other schools, staff absence through illness is very low and we have the same high expectation for pupils.

To help us - if you are needing to book a medical / dental appointment, wherever possible, please try to do this at the end of the day. If you need to book a day or more off school, please use the Leave of Absence form (from our website) and give plenty of notice so we can consider the request. However, please remember that only exceptional circumstances can lead to an authorisation of absence.

Our Wellbeing Officers and Attendance Officer track patterns of attendance and our tutors and Heads of Year hold attendance meetings with students as per our attendance policy.

Thank you for your support.

PTA Annual General Meeting

Chair's Address at AGM

It has been another successful year for the PTA in terms of fundraising and events. However, it is becoming increasingly difficult to run events – having lost some committee members in July when their daughters left the school, we are very short of hands-on help to continue our activities.

On a positive note, the PTA has continued to benefit from the improved parent communication implemented by Mr. Scott and has built a productive relationship with the him – his close involvement adds a lot of value and is much appreciated.

In terms of the PTA's two aims:

- i. We have raised a healthy amount of funds to help **improve the student's school experience** – as with last year, these funds have come from a larger number of small, standard events compared to previous years, which seems to be a more sustainable way of operating, given the limited number of helpers. A couple of new people have come forward to offer assistance, but the majority of events rest on the shoulders of the same 2 or 3 people. If the situation continues, we will need to scale back further and rely on low-effort fundraising such as the 100 Club and Easyfundraising, plus a smaller number of tried and tested events and activities which require minimal planning and manpower.
- ii. Our events have continued to be focused on our second aim – **bringing families, students and teachers closer together**. The PTA Link team, now under the management of Mrs Goodall, has continued to be a valuable resource bringing together volunteers from several year groups, particularly the Sixth Form. It remains a good way for the students to get involved in wider school life, and an invaluable support.

Most of the funds raised this year have been towards funding the laser cutter (£3000 so far, £500 remaining), a significant investment in a vital piece of kit. We also donated the funds from the Autumn Music Evening towards transport for the New York music trip. The bulk of the money comes from PTA-led events and activities. This year these have included the following:

- ⇒ **Quiz Night May 2019** – a regular event with quizmaster Martin Lucy, and fish and chips from Jones's. Great for involving parents from lower down the school in particular.

⇒ **Easter Hamper Raffle April 2019** – this was Alison Birkinshaw's final hamper stint, with Debbie Anderson taking over. Donations from parents were back to previous year's levels thanks to the mufti day when donations were brought. We also switched to a lower cost supplier to print the tickets.

⇒ **Movie Nights (various)** – we have held several successful after-school movie nights for lower-school students this year. The girls enjoy letting their hair down and socialising in the school setting. Our licence has again been renewed so we can continue next year.

⇒ **Centenary Event (July)** – the summer fair was replaced this year by the school's centenary event, at which the PTA ran a vintage tea room in a classroom in the new building. We had many cakes and scones thanks to parents' donations, and attracted a number of old girls, which was lovely.

⇒ **Easy Fundraising (Ongoing)** – take up on this shopping referral portal is slow but steady. This year we have raised another £600, making a total close in excess of £3000 since we started. As per last year, we need to consider ways to boost involvement, particularly in the run up to Christmas. This is a zero-effort activity for us!

⇒ **100 Club (Ongoing)** – Andy Harrison has done a great job of running the 100 Club this year, getting it fully in hand since he took over responsibility. We make every effort at events to encourage new members, but take-up could be a lot higher. The time is right to consider a relaunch with the possibility of a different approach. In the absence of new high-earning events, the PTA is increasingly reliant on regular earners like this and Easyfundraising.

We have also continued to provide refreshments at school events such as music and drama evenings. We are very appreciative for the raffle prizes and cakes parents have donated this year, and to everyone who has come along to our events, but the lack of new people to help plan and run events is a major concern.

I would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who has contributed this year. If you are new to the PTA and wondering whether to get involved, I urge you to take that step and get stuck in! To borrow the famous quote, "Your PTA Needs You!"

Julie Harris, PTA Chair
18 November 2019

Year 8s are very 'appy' at NGHS

For the past eight weeks we have been designing coding and publishing an app that we created ourselves. We were the first three students to publish our apps in Newport Girls' High School. We used an online application called 'appshed' to develop our app. We started with the screens and links, then we built up from there and eventually completed the program. As our app was a web app we had to use text and images to ensure our app was well suited to the audience, and we added advanced features like maps, galleries and in-frame videos to add a professional touch.

In our app we have programmed some user interaction to go along with it. Most of us did a quiz. The interaction was coded with blockly coding. At first many of us found it difficult however we soon got the hang of it. When it was all finished we published our app and downloaded it onto our phones as you can see in the photo.

Lois (Year 8)



Year 10s wowed at Birmingham Rep Theatre



As part of their GCSE English Literature course, all of Year 10 recently went to see *An Inspector Calls* in Birmingham.

On Thursday 14 November, Year 10 were lucky enough to visit the Birmingham Repertory Theatre to watch Stephen Daldry's award winning production of J.B Priestley's *An Inspector Calls*. We have just finished studying the play as part of the GCSE course and it was great to see such a unique production.

Upon arrival to the venue, we were greeted by a number of very energetic pupils from several schools, but eventually everyone settled down and the curtain rose.

Whilst many may focus on the incredible work and preparation done by the actors on stage, in particular Liam Brennan's portrayal of the mysterious Inspector Goole, I was personally blown away by the beautiful costumes and unique set design, especially after discussing our thoughts on the hidden symbolism within this production when we returned to the classroom.

For example, in the opening few scenes Sheila is depicted wearing a pure white wedding dress highlighting her innocent and sheltered nature. However, as the play progressed, this façade is dropped as her role in Eva's death is revealed. This was mirrored by the dirtied state of the dress since it becomes less and less pristine, similar to how Sheila begins to stray away from the traditional capitalist views of her parents and sides with the optimistic views of the younger generation.

As we left the theatre, our teachers were delighted when one of the ushers said that we had been the most well-behaved and polite school she had ever seen during her time at Birmingham Rep.

We all returned back to school in the evening having had a great afternoon.

Selena G (Year 10)

THANK YOU FRIDAY AWARD



| Awarded to: | Awarded by: |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| E Asaah (S6) | Mrs K Gill |
| Z Brown (S7) | Mrs R Narasimhan |
| E Charlesworth (A7) | Miss A-M Davies |
| SChatterjee (S3) | Miss T Wells |
| M Edge (S3) | Miss T Wells |
| L Edwards (S6) | Miss A-M Davies |
| O Farley (A6) | Miss A-M Davies |
| A Gaddam (S3) | Miss T Wells |
| J Gallimore (R3) | Mrs A Benoit |
| E Gregory (S2) | Mrs J Barker |
| M Hamdy (S1) | Mrs J Chandler |
| T Hardiman (A3) | Mrs L Payne |
| E Haynes (S3) | Miss T Wells |
| R Howells (S7) | Mr D Postle |
| V Jayasuriya (S3) | Miss T Wells |
| G Jinks (A6) | Miss A-M Davies |
| P Jones (S6) | Miss A-M Davies |
| S Korabandi (S3) | Miss T Wells |
| A Lynas (S3) | Miss T Wells |
| I Nicklin (S3) | Miss T Wells |
| K Norwood (S6) | Miss A-M Davies |
| A Pattar (S3) | Miss T Wells |
| E Postlewaithe (R3) | Miss A Rosbach |
| M Reade (R6) | Mrs K Wallace |
| S Reddington (R2) | Mrs J Barker |
| A Reid (S3) | Miss T Wells |
| T-M Smith (S3) | Miss T Wells |
| C Smith-Murphy (R6) | Mrs R Narasimhan |
| A Talens (S3) | Miss T Wells |
| S Thakur (R3) | Miss A Rosbach |
| A Turner (S3) | Miss A Rosbach |
| T Uppal (R7) | Miss A-M Davies |
| E Walkley (S3) | Ms J Capaldi |

Congratulations to all of our winners this fortnight



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 |



JEWELLERY POLICY REMINDER from Miss Clarke

- Jewellery is not permitted; however, a lightweight gold or silver chain with a small religious symbol is permissible.
- One single small stud in each ear is permitted; the stud must be worn in the lower part of the earlobe and should be removed for PE and games; students wearing studs in their ears, other than in their lobes, will be expected to remove them.
- Other body piercings are not permitted.

This means that students should **not** be wearing:

- ⇒ Earrings in the upper part of the ear
- ⇒ More than one pair of earrings
- ⇒ Earrings that are hooped or dangly

Form tutors will be asked to check what jewellery students are wearing and any infringements will be managed in line with our policy:

First Instance: ask your child to remove any jewellery that is not permitted

Second Instance: Confiscate the item which will be passed to Mrs Morris in reception and a behaviour point will also be added to the system. Parents may be asked to collect the jewellery from school.

Forthcoming Dates...



| Date | Event | Year(s) |
|----------|---------------------------------------|---------|
| Mon 25th | Final UCAS deadline | Y13 |
| Tue 26th | House Music competition (pm) | All |
| Wed 27th | Parents Evening, 4pm-7pm | Y12 |
| Fri 29th | Bletchley Park Trip | Y11 |
| Mon 2nd | INSET DAY— School Closed | All |
| Tue 3rd | Chemistry Lecture (evening) | Y12-13 |
| Fri 6th | Cheshire Oaks Shopping Trip (evening) | Y11-13 |

Worth a thought...

Let your smile change the world, but don't let the world change your smile