



Eco-Schools
Bronze Award



PARENT GUIDE

**Newport Girls'
High School**

@NGHS_Info www.nghs.org.uk



I was really scared when I first started and worried that I wouldn't fit in but my class socialised right from Term 1. NGHS is really fun and my class always works well together. The teachers work very hard and are really kind. (Nivedha, R1)



Welcome to NGHS. I trust this booklet will give you an insight into the ethos and values that our school promotes and the first-class education it provides for girls in Years 7-13. In 2019, we were visited by Ofsted who reconfirmed that our school is 'outstanding'. We are usually placed in the top 100 state schools nationally at GCSE and A level.

The school was founded in 1920 to provide a grammar school education 'aiming at the harmonious development of the whole personality' and it continues to fulfil that aim today. Students at NGHS achieve highly academically but are also enthused to take part in the wide range of extra-curricular activities that are offered. The caring and friendly environment is often commented on and our new Year 7 pupils settle in quickly.

NGHS has increased in size over the last few years: there are presently 620 pupils on roll, including 160 in the Sixth Form. The school admits **four-forms of entry**

(120 girls). With most schools having 150 -250 students in a year group this is still a small school. We ensure that each pupil is treated as an individual with an appropriately challenging curriculum in a safe and supportive environment.

Our latest extension opened in 2018 and complemented our previous new music suite, recording studio, additional classrooms, a multi-purpose hall and four humanities classrooms. Some Science facilities have also been upgraded and all of this has made an incredible difference to our learning environment. There is more planned for 2021 with our new kitchens, dining room, Drama Studio and science, computing and maths classroom block.

I hope you will take the opportunity to look around the school and speak to students and staff to see for yourselves what a wonderful school this is. Our girls are by far the best ambassadors for the school and many volunteer to help at open events to demonstrate their pride in their school.

Michael J Scott, Headteacher

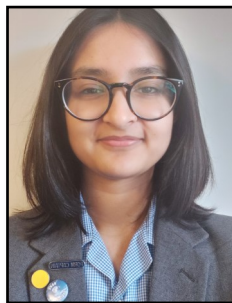


Since the age of 11, I have had the privilege of being a member of the NGHS family and I have chosen to continue studying my A levels here. The opportunities and support offered by NGHS have helped me meet some of my closest friends and created some of the best memories of my life. One of my duties, along with my team, is ensuring that fellow students have the same wonderful experiences that we've had, helping girls to settle into our community seamlessly and offer as much support and guidance as we can. I thoroughly hope you enjoy your visit and hope to welcome you and your daughter in September.

Abigail Laycock, Head Girl

The familial environment of NGHS as well as the affable teachers makes the transition much less daunting than you might expect. While the older students may seem intimidating, I can assure you that we are anything but. NGHS offers a wide range of activities and focusses largely on our mental health. Such opportunities and support, alongside our invaluable education, allow us to cultivate our skills and prepare ourselves for the future. While I did have aspirations to work towards in primary school, my time at NGHS has broadened my horizons and I have refined my ambitions. I'm sure you will too!

Shaivi Thakur, Lower School Head Girl



NGHS ETHOS AND VALUES

Our school is a community of learning and we work hard to...

RESPECT EQUALITY

- Respect each other's right to learn.
- Follow the school's behaviour guidelines and show respect for school property and our surroundings.
- Value and celebrate others' contributions in lessons and other school activities.
- Treat one another with dignity and respect.
- Accept individual differences and support one another with patience and compassion.

FRIENDSHIP

- Actively help to integrate new members to the form and to school.
- Show commitment and courtesy to others.
- Look for opportunities to get involved in school/House activities to forge links within the school community.

CONTRIBUTE

- Put our best effort into our studies and allow others to also achieve their potential.
- Take pride in our work and in our School overall.
- Utilise the opportunities to show our talents and help others to develop theirs too.
- Encourage and participate in form, House and community activities.



PASTORAL CARE OF STUDENTS



Day-to-day responsibility for the pastoral care of our students lies with Form Tutors who are supported by the Heads of Year. Mrs Goodall is Head of Year 7.

Girls will join Year 7 and will be divided into four tutor groups. They all have a Year 8 buddy and are well integrated into the school through induction, Form and House activities. They share experiences with each other in family groups. In this way, students gain greater awareness of activities for particular year groups such as Year 8 Options. They also learn to communicate with students from all years and as such there is a group support system in each form. In addition, Sixth Formers act as mentors and work with Form Tutors to help organise and develop a range of activities.

Guidelines to enable the smooth functioning of the school are included in the school behaviour policy, which is given to parents of all pupils entering the

school. The emphasis is upon positive procedures and the self-discipline of the girls. The school recognises those who have displayed a positive approach to their studies and their contribution to the wider school community. This is done through a variety of means, such as House points, achievement assemblies and letters home.

Regular attendance at school is essential to ensure uninterrupted progress and to enable children to extend their potential. The attendance of all pupils is monitored closely by the pastoral team, with the school seeking to work actively with parents to ensure a regular pattern is maintained. The school's expectation is that attendance should be 97% or above.

Students are welcome in school between 8:00am and 5:00pm, when there is sufficient adult supervision. There are rooms allocated where girls may do their homework or read for pleasure.

OUTSTANDING! OCTOBER 2019



Despite being exempt from routine inspection as an outstanding school, NGHS was visited by a team of senior inspectors in October 2019 under the new, more rigorous school inspection framework. During their time here, they examined school documentation, spoke extensively to staff and students and concluded that NGHS continues to provide an **outstanding level of education** in **all aspects** of the school.

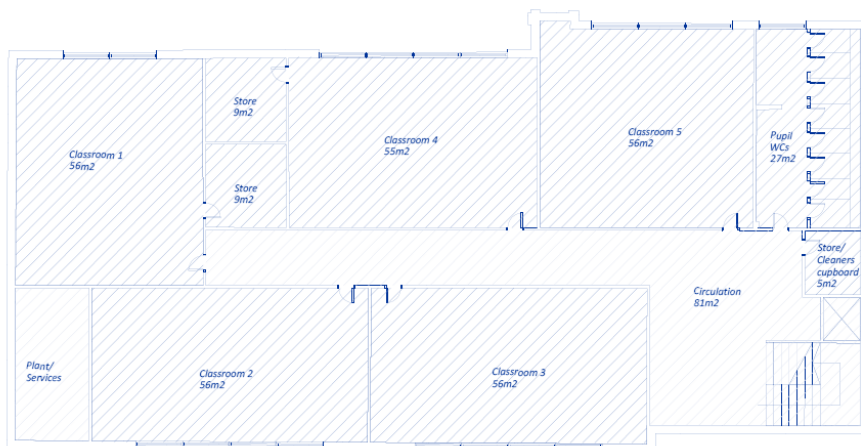
Of particular merit were our safeguarding and recruitment checks, which were described as 'exemplary'. Parent feedback was also most complimentary. You can view our full report on our school website (www.nghs.org.uk) in the About Us section and here are some of the highlights as noted the Lead Her Majesty's Inspector, Jane Spilsbury:

"There is a real buzz across the school about learning, the curriculum and the best ways to teach."

"Pupils receive high-quality feedback from teachers. They have time to digest this and reflect on their progress"

"Pupils show humility and respect to each other and to adults. One pupil's view was representative of many when she said 'Everyone gets on here. It's like a family'."

"Leaders have ensured the curriculum is adapted to suit the needs of all pupils including the most able and those with SEND."



SCHOOL EXPANSION FROM 2021

From rather modest beginnings, the school has been on a journey of growth. In the 1980s there were 32 students in a year group, this rose to 56, 84 and now 90. From 2021, we will be welcoming 120 students into NGHS. We are committed to ensuring that the ethos and values of the school remain as they ever were (see page 4) and that we plan effectively for the additional numbers.

We are in the midst of an ambitious programme to develop the school site with the provision of new kitchens, a new dining room, science laboratory, drama studio and a suite of five classrooms including one new computing suite. These facilities will ensure that the school remains at the forefront of high quality education, health and wider curriculum provision.

The building work began in January 2021 and, despite the pandemic, things are on track for the new building to be opened in November 2022.

The revised expansion admissions policy continues to include the catchment area of Newport and its surrounding villages. There is however an additional section in the policy to offer up to 15 places to students from so-termed 'disadvantaged backgrounds' (the government's terminology, not ours). The primary schools these children attend receive additional funding to support their time at primary school in the form of Pupil Premium. If a child currently, or in the past six years, has received Free School Meals or is an Armed Forces Service Child, they will be eligible, but additional evidence will be required at the time of registration.

The school's governing body is committed to widening access to the school without prejudicing those who live close to the school.

For more information, please speak to the Headteacher or a member of the senior leadership team at NGHS.

The NGHS Curriculum

Our curriculum in Years 7 and 8 aims to provide the springboard necessary for GCSE success. All students study: English, Mathematics, Separate Sciences, French, German, History, Geography, Computing, Art and Design, Drama, Music, Physical Education, Religious Education, Personal, Health, Social and Citizenship Education (PSHE) and Design Technology. We are one of a few schools still teaching 2 hours of PE a week plus a period of PSHE every week. We also ensure that two languages are taught along with three separate sciences from Year 7. The KS3 curriculum is covered in two years at NGHS.

In Year 9 a core GCSE curriculum of English, Mathematics, Separate Sciences, Citizenship, Religious Education and Physical Education continues for all students. Students must then choose at least one Language, at least one Humanity and ideally one practical subject as well as one other free choice from the remaining available subjects. Further information on this process will be given nearer the time. Students then tailor their choices further in Year 10 by removing one GCSE option. At A-level we offer around 20 courses dependent upon demand.

There is **very little setting by ability** and students are taught in groups of 30 or less. All age groups are offered opportunities to participate in theatre, museum and art gallery trips plus fieldwork visits for history and geography.

Homework is set throughout the school to help consolidate work done in the classroom and to encourage pupils to conduct independent research. Work varies in time from about one hour per evening for Year 7 to two hours for GCSEs. Homework is issued as part of a structured timetable.



The aims of the physical education curriculum are:

- to develop pupils' competence and confidence to take part in a range of physical activities both in and out of school;
- to provide opportunities for all pupils to enjoy and succeed in many kinds of physical activity;
- to encourage students to develop a wide range of skills and the ability to use tactics, strategies and compositional ideas to perform successfully;
- to foster an understanding of analysing, evaluating and making decisions to improve performance skills.

PE helps students to develop personally and socially through the wide range of situations they work within and learn how to play fairly gaining a sense of personal and social responsibility. They are provided with opportunities to take on different roles, such as leadership, coaching and officiating. Students learn to become effective in competitive, creative and challenging situations.

Sports taught within the NGHS curriculum:

Netball, handball, volleyball, football, hockey, tennis, rounders, cricket, badminton, pop lacrosse, tag rugby, ultimate frisbee, athletics, fitness, dance, gymnastics, sports hall athletics, strength and conditioning, team-building and problem-solving.

As part of the PE curriculum all students take part in two hours of timetabled lessons per week, including one games and one PE lesson. To encourage girls to participate in sport outside of the PE curriculum, a range of sports clubs are available and we also promote the importance of joining clubs outside of school.



SAFEGUARDING & WELLBEING

Our Wellbeing Team comprises of two Wellbeing Officers (one for Years 7 to 10 and one for Years 11 to 13), who introduce themselves below. NGHS has a four-person safeguarding team, whose role is to support students and work closely with external agencies to ensure that families are supported throughout times of difficulty. We have two in-school counsellors, who students can be referred to as required. NGHS also works with a range of organisations (see right hand page).

We also support Pupil Premium and Service Premium students and their families. Our aim is to ensure that students are happy and fulfilled and making progress in line with their peers. We use this funding to help students with attendance at school, with supporting academic progress and with any social or emotional support that is needed. We have a personalised approach to Pupil Premium and each student has a termly meeting with one of the pastoral team to reflect on their time in school and for us to review the support that is needed; this is matched to individual needs at different stages in their lives.



Introducing our Wellbeing Officers...

NGHS not only provides a great setting for achieving academic success, but we also aim to provide an exceptional pastoral care system.

It is our belief as Wellbeing Officers that wellbeing is at the core of feeling supported. We endeavour to equip our students with the necessary tools and strategies to manage their emotional health. This, in turn, helps them to enjoy positive relationships and successful educational outcomes.

We provide one-to-one meetings and an open door policy within our pastoral and sixth form hubs, so students know they can access help and support at any stage.

We are available throughout the school day to offer support and help when needed. We are there to listen and signpost to the relevant agencies and support networks. We offer ongoing care complementing any referrals that may need to be made.

We place value in the importance of strong relationships with parents for the best possible outcomes. We give regular updates, support and reassurance that their children are in safe hands.

Mrs K Danby & Mrs D Martin (Wellbeing Officers)

**Family
Connect**



Anna Freud
National Centre for
Children and Families

NHS

hope house

we're here for children



Healios



**West Mercia
POLICE**

KOOTH.com
FREE ONLINE ADVICE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



Here are some of the external agencies we work with regularly to best support our NGHS students & families.

*A group of Year 9 girls got to visit
Prime Minister on International*

*Downing Street to meet the
Women's Day 2020*



SEND ARRANGEMENTS

The Special Educational Needs code of practice ensures that the special educational needs of all students are identified, assessed and provision made to meet such needs. The curriculum, teaching methodology and extra-curricular provision are all devised with the aim of providing pupils with a learning environment that allows each to extend herself to her full capacity.

Teachers in all subject areas plan and use differentiated materials in order to help individuals learn. It is our aim that all pupils will receive excellent teaching and therefore will make progress as a result. If this is not enough to help your child to make progress, any additional support needed is classed as special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) provision.

SEND provision can take many different forms and will be tailored to suit the needs of your child. Examples include:

- Different materials
- Special equipment
- Additional training for staff
- Individual or small group support from external agencies

The school works closely with parents and monitors pupils carefully to ensure that SEND provision meets the needs of pupils. More information is on our website or please discuss this with the SENDCO/Headteacher.









TRANSPORT TO NGHS

As NGHS is attended by pupils from a wide number of villages and towns in the Midlands, Shropshire and Staffordshire, the School does not provide any bespoke transport. However, there are opportunities to buy passes on a number of bus services. Further information is available on the school website as well as the summary below. Buses marked * are run by Adams.





TELFORD NORTH*

-  Leegomery
-  Shawburch
-  Admaston
-  Brooklands
-  Wellington
-  Ketley
-  Oakengates
-  St Georges
-  Donnington
-  Clock Tower

TELFORD SOUTH*

-  Coalbrookdale
-  Ironbridge
-  Madeley
-  Malinslee
-  Telford Town Centre
-  Priorslee

MARKET DRAYTON*

-  Towers Lawn
-  Sherwood Crescent
-  Tern Hill
-  Hinstock

SERVICE BUSES Arriva 5 and 519

-  Stafford
-  Gnosall
-  Telford Town Centre
-  Oakengates
-  Donnington
-  Bell Gate
-  Church Aston
-  Shrewsbury

WOLVERHAMPTON*

-  Compton
-  Cosford
-  Tong
-  Tettenhall Village
-  Perton
-  Albrighton
-  Windermere Road
-  Birches Bridge
-  Brewood
-  Bishopswood

There is also an NGHS only Wolverhampton minibus (run by Boulton Travel).

EXTENDED SCHOOL CURRICULUM

The school offers a rich and diverse range of experiences for students during lunchtimes, after school and on numerous school trips. There are opportunities for each and every student to get involved in and contribute to the school community.

Student Engagement

Many students are very involved in school life and seek out opportunities to volunteer and make suggestions about activities they would like to take part in. Pupil voice is embedded in school life. There is an active Student Council with representatives from all years; this is chaired by the Head Girl. There is a keen interest and involvement in both.

There is also a Lower School Head Girl Team and these girls, selected from Year 9, lead a wide range of activities for Years 7 and 8.

Clubs and Societies such as Debating, Drama, English and Science are held on a weekly basis and are hugely popular with students. Most department areas also offer drop-in lunchtime sessions for students to get further help with homework.

The school has also set up a **Health and Wellbeing student panel** who meet each term. As part of this we have offered 'Crafternoon' activities for one week each half term to give students the opportunity to try new crafts like



...MORE THAN JUST LESSONS!

knitting, crochet, basket weaving and also to give them some time and space to relax and unwind. Students who have attended these sessions have donated money to help support the charity 'Mind'.

Music

There is an extensive range of music-making opportunities in the school. In addition to the opportunity to take private music lessons in a wide variety of musical instruments, weekly rehearsals are held for the Orchestra, Junior Choir, Senior Choir, Jazz Ensemble and many other smaller groups. Students are also encouraged to book rehearsal space during break, lunch and after school as needed to prepare for the next performance or recording in the school's recording studio.

House Events and Competitions

House events and competitions are a key part of school life to which students respond enthusiastically. Belonging to a House and contributing to the success of that House is a responsibility students take much pride in. Healthy competition is promoted in many areas of the House system including in the key events: House Music, House Drama, House Point Cup and Sports Day.

Students are grouped into one of three Houses - **Roddam**, **Seacole** and **Austen** - which promotes a sense of identity and community within the school. Form groups meet each week for House meetings and assemblies. These involve students in the delivery of assemblies, fund-raising events and celebrating achievements.

Curriculum Enrichment Week

Curriculum Enrichment Week is held in July and provides opportunities for cross curricular work and to enrich learning in such areas as Environmental Education, Engineering and Enterprise activities.

Trips and Visits

There is a wealth of additional opportunities for students. The Duke of Edinburgh Award is a popular activity with many students beginning their Bronze level in Year 9.

2018 saw the start of our new German exchange. The languages staff also provide a residential for Y8 in Normandy or the Rhineland area of Germany. We support families to pay for the Year 8 trip if required.

Visits to art galleries both in London and abroad are arranged. These include to Paris, Madrid and Florence. There is also a netball residential weekend at Boreatton Hall for Year 7.

Careers Information and Guidance

Careers education and guidance is embedded within the PSHE programme and begins with the introduction in KS3 to the world of work and making choices.

A programme of independent careers advice is provided for all students from Year 9 onwards. In Year 9 we have a Bright Futures programme on developing economic awareness.

In KS4 students take part in a one week work experience and receive guidance about choices at 16+.

WHAT MAKES NGHS SPECIAL?

We asked Year 7 students what they enjoyed most about life at NGHS and what they thought before they joined. Here are their thoughts:

Starting secondary school was a daunting thing for me but in my first few days all the staff and students were so kind and helpful. I knew and felt like I was a NGHS girl.

Tulsi

At first, I worried that I might not fit in but NGHS has a real family-feel to it and all the teachers and older years are really supportive. I love coming to NGHS.

Akshana

When I first started at NGHS, I was surprised at how the school felt so much like a family. Everyone has been so welcoming and loyal to me and I soon felt confident and happy.

Anna

I found it really easy to settle in at NGHS. Everyone was so nice and making friends was easy as all the girls are so lovely. NGHS is just the most amazing school to be a part of.

Isabel C

NGHS is a special place because all the staff and pupils are really supportive and friendly.

Zara

