Newport News



The bi-weekly newsletter from Newport Girls' High School Volume 9 Edition 3 06.10.25



HEAD'S LINES



It's hard to believe we're already well into the first half-term of the academic year. September flew by in a blur of activity, and it's been wonderful to see our new Year 7 and Year 12 students settling into the NGHS family so confidently. Year 7 have already enjoyed their visit to Edgmond Hall, which helped them bond and build friend-

ships outside the classroom. Meanwhile, our Sixth Form students have returned from their Liverpool weekend, a muchanticipated trip that always helps to strengthen connections and create lasting memories. A huge thank you to the staff who gave up their time to make this possible.

One of the highlights of the term so far has been the House Bake Off. The creativity and effort from students were truly impressive, and the judging panel had a difficult job choosing winners, particularly in the Irregular Ingredients category, which certainly lived up to its name! A special mention must go to Mrs Parkes for her dedication to the judging process, sampling every bake in that category and still managing to make it into school the next day—no small feat!



The Bake Off was followed by our Macmillan Coffee Morning, where the remaining cakes were enjoyed by staff and students alike. The bake sale was a great success, and judging by the number of empty cake boxes, it's safe to say that most people indulged. Thanks to everyone's generosity, NGHS has been able to make a substantial donation to a very worthy cause.

We were also honoured to welcome back a group of former students who left NGHS in 1975, fifty years ago! Their reunion was a heartwarming occasion, full of stories, laughter and nostal-gia. You can read more about this special event in this edition of Newport News.

Looking back, the standout moment of the last academic year for me was our school production of Six: The Musical. The talent and energy on display were simply phenomenal. This year, we've been thrilled to see the number of students auditioning to be involved in this year's production, Frozen. Casting details are included in this edition, and I know Mrs Saysell and Mrs Chapman, along with our dedicated students, will work incredibly hard to make it another unforgettable show. I can't wait to see how it develops!

As always, thank you for your continued support. I hope you enjoy reading this edition of Newport News.

Best wishes,

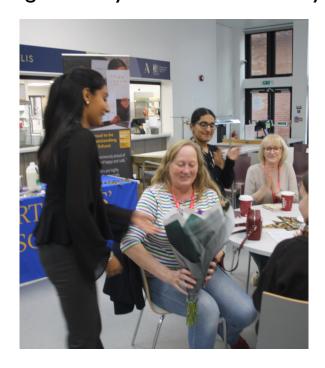
Mr A Jones, Headteacher



A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD GIRL TEAM

Last week we had the pleasure of celebrating the 50th anniversary with the class of 1975! This included Niamh S,Y13, Deputy Head Girl a tour of the school, where we heard many stories and anecdotes of their time at NGHS, as well as a chat over afternoon tea. Myself and the rest of the Head Girl Team felt privileged to hear all about how the school has changed, but also about the small things that were just as they remembered.

It was a wonderful experience for both us and our visitors, as we all enjoyed chatting to one another about the one thing we all have in common: NGHS. It was fascinating to find out what the ladies were now doing, and how their lives had changed since leaving school 50 years ago. We are incredibly grateful to Mr Whitehouse and the Class of '75 for this experience, and are now eagerly awaiting our very own reunion in 50 years' time!



YOUNG ENTERPRISE BEGINS!



NGHS has a long and proud history of participating in the national 'Young Enterprise' competition. In the last two years, teams from NGHS have been named Shropshire and West Midlands champions and competed in the national finals finishing in the Top 10 in 2025 and third in 2024! This is all competing against over 800 schools across the whole of the UK!

As we approach the end of the first half term, last years teams have been busy interviewing prospective members for the three teams that will be formed to enter this years competition.

Current Y13 student, Mia S, was heavily involved in Young Enterprise last year and below she outlines the interview process for this year:

"On Monday 29th and Tuesday 30th the previous Managing directors held the interviews for the new Young Enterprise teams! It was amazing to see the enthusiasm and drive the Year 12s had to be involved in of the competition, with the interviews showing very strong candidates. The selection process was incredibly



hard for all 3 teams due to the standard of applications being beyond our expectations! The 3 new teams are now fully appointed and I cant wait to see them come together to create their ideas! The new teams will have guidance from Tulsi, Grace and myself aswell as business advisor Tony Hague who has a wealth of knowledge in the world of business and guided us last year to win 7/10 trophies from the Shropshire final and take Tag-Along to the national final! Whilst the bar has been set very high, I'm confident the newly appointed teams will top the competition and I am excited to see the product ideas come to life!"



Regular updates are always posted on the progress of our Young Enterprise teams in Newport News and on our school social media pages so keep checking to see if this years teams can emulate the great success of the last two years!



50TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION CLASS OF '75



On Friday 26th September we were thrilled to welcome 12 former students to NGHS to celebrate 50 years since leaving! In 1975 there were only 28 students in a year group so almost 50% of the school year were in attendance!

The VIP guests were greeted at reception by the Head Girl Team before having a guided tour to see just how much the school has changed and grown in the last 50 years. This was followed by afternoon tea in

the canteen and a chance to swap anecdotes and tales with the current students. It was also an opportunity to see old photographs and enjoy the hospitality of our amazing catering team!

The whole afternoon was a roaring success and following the

obligatory photographs everyone left in high spirits.

Not only did the visiting former students have a wonderful time but the Head Girl Team also thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon.

Current Head Girl, Y13 student Shaan K declared, "The whole team thoroughly enjoyed the day and it was incredible to hear about all their experiences at the school - thank you so much for the opportunity to meet you all!"





Speaking on social media, returning 50 year student Carol Reid, commented about the day, "We had a wonderful ternoon looking around the school and meeting some of the staff and Sixth Form

Head Team. We were made so, so welcome." Sue Enmarch, the driving force behind the reunion added, "Very many thanks - you really rolled out the (figurative) red carpet! It was amazing to see how diverse and dynamic the school has become, a very far cry from our day!"

Look out in future editions of Newport News for more Alumnae stories and in depth interviews with the Class of '75!



CROSS COUNTRY SUCCESS!

Congratulations to our Cross Country Teams

On Wednesday Mrs Birch took 17 students to Longford Hall for the English Schools Cross Country Cup competition.

We had 6 runners in Junior and Intermediate Girls and 5 runners in the Senior Girls event. Each team was running for the chance to represent Shropshire in the regional section of this competition.

In order to progress each team needed to finish in the top 2.

Junior Girls

Our junior girls team was led in by Annabel W-Y who finished in 5th place, then Lucy G came in 8th and Sophie B in 9th with the rest of the team Melanie G, Louise B and Tabitha H coming in 11th, 12th and 13th position. This saw the team score 33 points and they were the second team to qualify.



Intermediate Girls

Our intermediate girls team all had fantastic runs and they were our only team to qualify in 1st place with a team score of just 26.

Special mention to Annabelle W who won this race and an amazing team performance from Philippa G, Ivy B and Shaan K who finished in 3rd, 6th and 11th places respectively. The team



was also made up of Sophie S and Sahana A who finished in 14th and 17th position.

Senior Girls

Apologies to the senior girls as I didn't get a team photo on Wednesday. Again a huge congratulations to this team who came 2nd with a score of 33. Well done to the team of Easha K, Elia R, Hannah S-S, Ellen C and Eadie B who finished in 6th, 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th place respectively.

We are so pleased with the performances and look forward to progressing onto the regional round in November.

Congratulations to you all! Mrs H Birch, Assistant Headteacher



SIXTH FORM CHEMSITRY LECTURES

On Tuesday 23rd September, Mr Wade, Mr Wright and 10 sixth form students visited Birmingham University for the annual Chemistry lectures. Held in the Howarth lecture theatre, this years topis was the fascinating subject of **Astrochemistry!** Approximately 100 students from all around the West Midlands



attended to learn all about the topic which is defined as, "The study of the abundance and reactions of molecules in the universe, and their interaction with radiation."

After leaving NGHS at 4.00pm with a visit to the campus for coffee and refreshments, the staff and students returned to home at 9.00pm having had an 'out of this world' day!

UPDATES FROM OUR SAFEGUARDING TEAM



Protect, care and invest to create a better borough





Protect, care and invest to create a better berough









RAPID RISE FOR YEAR 13 REFEREE!

NGHS Student Referee's National Final!

Now in her fourth season as a football referee, Y13 student Grace J, officiates to level 7 in the men's game and level 4 in the women's. She refs all ages men or women as well as boys and girls.

Having taken charge of 7 local finals in Shropshire last year, her outstanding highlights were being selected for the national finals at West Bromwich Albion by the English FA and just last week by the International school's FA to cover the Houston Final at Lilleshall! This was the final between the winners from Northern Ireland and Wales. A growing presence in the world of refereeing, Grace is very much respected by people in the game!



UPDATE ON FROZEN AUDITIONS

Cast List Announcement!

Over the past few weeks, Mrs Chapman and I have been holding auditions for our upcoming production of Frozen, and we are thrilled to share that the cast list is now officially confirmed! A huge well done to everyone who auditioned and signed up to take part — we had an incredible 209 students get involved, which is just amazing. We are so proud of each and every one of you for your enthusiasm, talent, and dedication. This is going to be a fantastic production, and we can't wait to see it all come together! Mrs N Saysell (Second in English and Performing Arts)



Please see the following page for the full principal cast list!



Character	Blue Cast	Orange Cast	Green Cast
Elsa	Harriet E	Calen M-P	Edie W
Anna	Alice R	Bella H	Molly B
Hans	Athena P	Emily G	Eve W
Kristoff	Fikayo O	Tabitha H	Elle W
Olaf	Nelly A	Makena M	Athena P
Young Elsa	Freya A	Lily K	Matilda S
Young Anna	Sophie H	Grace C	Hargun D
Sven	Edith S	Alice Gillies S	Phoebe H
Weselton	Freya P	Freya P	Freya P
Oaken	Eve W	Lauren W	Eve W
Pabbie	Iretomiwa A	Paige M	Nancy S
Bulda	Makena M	Fikayo O	Rhema Joelle S
Bishop	Olivia S	Zoe M	Clara D
Queen Induna	Esmee H	Aishwarya V	Chloe G
King Agnarr	Zoe M	Bethan H	Olena B

Lead Dancers
Grace C
(Choreographer)
Annabelle M
(Choreographer)
Violet W
(Choreographer)
Isabelle V-S
(Dance Captain)
Liv W-J
Amala W
Nancy S
Emily G
Amelia T
Sophia T
Esther B
Saanvi R
Niharika J
Isla J
Hope L





FITNESS CLUB!

Every Wednesday morning between 08:15 and 08:45 Mrs Martin and Mrs Cowell-Saunders are running a brand new beforeschool fitness club! Students can come to school in PE kit but must get changed into their normal uniform afterwards. It's a great way to start the morning by being active and getting moving - different fitness sessions each week! Open to all year groups.









EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

European Day of Languages – Friday 26th September

Always a highlight at the start of term, the European Day of Languages is a great chance for the MFL department to promote language learning with some fun and exciting activities.

Activities this year included:

- Creating a poster illustrating the motto "Languages open hearts and minds!"
- Create (and perform) a multilingual anthem
- Immerse yourself in books or films from a different European language
- Adopt expressions or identify words and phrases from other languages (cul-de-sac, déjà vu)
- Enter the 'Anthea Bell Prize' competition to translate poetry/ prose from your target language to English! A national competition run by Oxford University with regional and national winners (not starting until February 2026)

All results will be announced later in the term and well done to everyone who took part!



THANK YOU FRIDAY!

Each fortnight we recognise students who have gone the extra mile to help a member of staff. Parents will receive recognition of the child's success through a postcard home and publication in Newport News.

Angie	Year 12	C.Audouin
Magdalena Av	Year 12	C.Audouin
Zaara A	Year 13	C.Audouin
Alice A	Year 13	C.Audouin
Alice R	Year 13	C.Audouin
Piper F	Year 13	C.Audouin
Marin H	Year 12	L. Roberts
Magdalena A	Year 12	C.Audouin
Aafiya S	Year 13	C.Audouin
Riya G	Year 13	J. Clarke
Austina V	Year 12	L. Roberts
Samuella B	Year 12	L. Roberts
Millie P	Year 9	T.Fujii
Igra H	Year 9	T.Fujii
Zunairah W	Year 9	T.Fujii
Alyssa L	Year 9	T.Fujii
Sanjana S	Year 9	T.Fujii
Shravni A	Year 9	T.Fujii
Rosie T-M	Year 7	T.Fujii
Izzy M	Year 7	T. Fujii



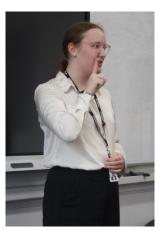
THANK YOU FRIDAY

Congratulations to this fortnight's winners...



FOCUS ON CLUBS—BSL (BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE)

In each new edition of Newport News, we are aiming to take a closer look at one of the many extra curricular sport and activity clubs that are on offer to the students here at NGHS. First off this term is a new club that is being offered by Y13 student, Fenella M. We caught up with her following one of her recent sessions:



How long have you been learning British Sign Language for? About two and a half years

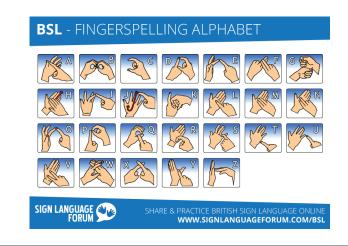
Why did you start learning it? My mum started going deaf so we started learning BSL as a whole family

How many attend your club? Approximately 12-15 people What year groups attend? It's open to all years but at the moment there are a lot of Sixth Formers with a few Y8's and 9's. I'm certainly hoping to get more people from all year groups attending! What do they learn at BSL Club? I have a different theme each week. So far we have looked at letters and numbers (fingerspelling) and this week it was useful signs in an emergency such as first aid, calling emergency services etc.

Where and when is your club held? It is from 1-1.30pm on a Tuesday in Room 16

What would you say to anybody thinking of coming along? Just pop in and give it a try! It's not actually that hard and most of the signs are pretty logical. Before you know it you will be able to at least start communicating using BSL!







HOUSE NETBALL RESULTS!





Following seven days of intense action, this year's House Netball champions have been crowned! Organised and umpired by the Sixth Form house teams each separate competition was intensely competitive with some matches going down to the last second and even the last shot!

When all the points were calculated across Year 7-Y11, the final result could not have been any closer:



Total Points

Seacole 44 points
Austen 44 Points
Roddam 38 Points

Goal Difference

Seacole +5

Austen +2

Roddam -7



Overall Winner, separated only by Goal Difference:

SEACOLE!









HOUSE BAKE OFF!

Every year, the House Bake Off Competition is eagerly anticipated at this part of the new school year. Featuring 4 categories of: Continental Creations, Showstopping Savouries, Is it Cake? and Irregular In-



gredients and Funky Flavours it is no exaggeration to say the standard was even higher than last year!

After much deliberation by the staff judges we are delighted to announce the following results:

FINAL PLACINGS



1st place Seacole 68 Points2nd place Austen 66 Points3rd place Roddam 62 Points



INDIVIDUAL WINNERS

OVERALL STAR BAKER Maya B (Y13)

Is it Cake? Scarlett W (Y12)

Savoury Show Stoppers Sanjana S and Saranya M (Y9)
Irregular Ingredients and Funky Flavours Maya B (Y13)
Continental Creations Molly B (Y13)





YEAR 12 RESIDENTIAL TO LIVERPOOL

Sixth Form Trip to Liverpool: Culture, Music, and Memories!



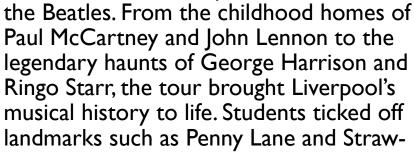
On the weekend of Friday 26th-28th September, 100 of our sixth form students swapped classrooms for culture on our annual social and cultural trip to the vibrant city of Liverpool.

Our adventure began on Friday with a stay at the Youth Hostel on the famous Albert Dock. Students set out to explore the city: from Liverpool's stunning cathedrals to world-class museums and galleries, and some more unusual attractions such as the Quirky Quarter and es-

cape rooms. Later, everyone enjoyed the independence of arranging their own evening meals before returning to the hostel for a lively Quiz Night, hosted by Mr Wright. In true tradition, the staff team were defeated once again!



Saturday started in style with an open-top bus tour, where we traced the footsteps of



berry Fields, but the real highlight was our guide, Tocky Tom. With his unique mix of enthusiasm, humour, and encyclo-

paedic knowledge, he had everyone laughing and singing. His poignant poetry also brought tears to a few eyes and we were left feeling uplifted and in-

spired.

The afternoon gave us time to explore even more of Liverpool, from the haunting beauty of St Luke's "Bombed Out Church" to the inspiring independent



bookshop News from Nowhere, a community-run space on Bold Street. After a meal back at the hostel, we rounded off the day at the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall with a fascinating show about the night sky and another opportunity for Mr Wright to answer our questions on light years, red dwarves, black holes, and the definition of a vacuum.

On Sunday morning, we returned home—tired, perhaps, but carrying plenty of shopping bags, new experiences, and stronger friendships. The trip was a wonderful celebration of learning, culture, and fun, and would not have been possible without Mrs Glew's tireless work to plan the trip, and the support of all the staff who gave up their weekends to ensure things ran smoothly.



Miss Heyes (Well-being and Progress Officer, and Liverpool fan!)

"All I can say is that when the past year 12s told us the Liverpool trip was one of their favourite school trips ever, they definitely weren't lying! The whole weekend was so much fun, we had lots of free time to do escape rooms, fun experiences, and plenty of shopping! The Beatles bus tour was definitely a highlight, and our guide Tocky Tom made the whole experience 10x better- his love for both the Beatles and his hometown was really touching even to someone who admittedly is not the biggest fan of the Beatles! The school also organised for us to see a very interesting show and a quiz that got everyone, both from the school and new involved and having a laugh. With plenty of new friends and the best memories made, it was certainly a trip to remember!" Izzy W (Y12 Student)



Friday 10th October is "Hello Yellow" day in school. Don't forget to accessorize!



Wear yellow this World Mental Health Day, 10th October, and donate to Young Minds to support young people's mental health.

#HelloYellow

M&S YOUNGWINDS

YoungMinds, registered Charity in England (1016968) and Scotland (SCO39700



LUNCH MENU A Butchers Quorn Mashed Choice **Daily Special** Sausage Vegetab Sausages Potatoes Authentic Vegetable Bolognaise **Daily Special** Garlic Br Pasta Bolognaise Classic Roast Macaroni Roast Vegetabl **Daily Special** Chicken Cheese Potatoes Gravy Traditional Vegetable Choice of **Daily Special** Gravy **Cottage Pie** Vegetables Vegetarian Burger Take Away **Battered** Chips Beans Day w/c 1st September w/c 22nd September w/c 13th October FOOD ALLERGIES & INTOLERANCES If you require information on allergers or suffer from a food intoler.

	LUNCH MENU WEEK D				
		MEAT MAIN	VEGGIE MAIN	SPECIALS	STARCHY
	MONDAY	Sweet & Sour Chicken	Quorn Chilli	Daily Special	Rice
	TUESDAY	Southern Fried Chicken Wraps	Vegetarian Wrap	Daily Special	Potato Wedges
	WEDNESDAY	Roast Pork & Stuffing with Apple Sauce	Vegetable Pasty	Daily Special	Herby New Potatoes
	THURSDAY	Pasta Bake Day	Vegetarian Pasta Bake	Daily Special	Garlic Bread
	FRIDAY	Take Away Day	Pizza	Battered Fish	Chips
ı	FOOD If you	rALLERGIES & INTOCERANCE equi e information on allergens	• w/ • w	c 29 th Septemb c/c 20 th Octobe	oer er
		FRIDAY THURSDAY WEDNESDAY	Sweet & Sour Chicken AND Sweet & Sour Chicken Southern Fried Chicken Wraps AND Pasta Bake Day Take Away Day FOOD ALLEGES & BITG BEARCH	Sweet & Sour Chicken Southern Fried Chicken Wrap Roast Pork & Stuffing with Apple Sauce Pasta Bake Day Take Away Day Pizza Popalitreis antolerances	Sweet & Sour Chicken Southern Fried Chicken Wrap Roast Pork & Stuffing with Apple Sauce Pasta Bake Day Pasta Bake Day Pasta Bake Day Pizza Battered Fish W/c 29th Septemb w/c 29th Septemb w/c 20th October

LUNCH MENU C MEAT MAIN VEGGIE MAIN SPECIALS STARCHY VEG Vegetable Chilli Choice of Chilli **Daily Special** Rice Vegetables Creamy Vegetable Choice of Chicken **Daily Special** Garlic Bread Carbonara Roast Beef with Yorkshire Vegetable Crumble Roast Vegetables & Gravy **Daily Special Potatoes Pudding** Vegetarian Curry Chicken **Daily Special Flatbread Poppadom Curry Day** Take Away **Battered** Vegetarian Chips Beans Day w/c 15th September w/c 6th October

UPCOMING MENU WEEKS UNTIL HALFTERM

LUNCH MENU WEEK R

VEG

Choice of

Vegetables

Beans

Vegetables &

Choice of

Vegetables

Beans

6th October: **Menu C**

13th October: Menu A

20th October: Menu B



Please note: While we endeavour to provide the dishes indicated on these specific dates there may occasionally be times where we cannot do so (ingredient shortages, supplier failures etc.). In these circumstances an appropriate alternative will be provided



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Mon 6th October Carding Mill Valley Geography Trip (Y11)

Friday 10th October Hello Yellow (Mental Health Awareness day)

Thursday 16th October Y12 and 13 Politics Trip to the Houses of Parliament

Tuesday 21st October Y13 Parents Evening

Friday 24th October End of Half Term - 3.45pm

Monday 3rd November Start of new Half Term. Gates open 8.00am

NGHS SOCIAL MEDIA

Why not keep in touch with the goings on at school via our social media pages? We're on Face-book and Instagram. Make sure you follow, like and comment to keep up to date with everything that is going on.



facebook.com/NewportGirls (whole school) facebook.com/nghs6 (sixth form)



instagram.com/nghsinsta (whole school) instagram.com/nghs6form/ (sixth form)

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH!

COMMUNICATION WITH SCHOOL

Over the course of the year, we will communicate with you in a variety of ways:

- Every two weeks, we publish **Newport News** on the school website. This document includes news from school, highlights upcoming events, and recent achievements. A link to each edition is sent home by email.
- An annual **Parents' Evening** to update you on your daughter's progress.
- **Grade sheets** and/or **written reports** to update you on your daughter's progress.
- An annual **parent information evening** to outline the key information relevant to each year group. This is in person for Year 7 and remote for other year groups.
- Relevant letters to your daughter are sent home via email.
- If teaching or pastoral staff have any concerns relating to your daughter, they will contact you **by phone** or **email.**

Occasions may arise when you need to contact the school to share information or raise concerns. There are several ways in which you can do this, including:

- By telephone **01952 797550** If possible, your call will be put through to an appropriate member of staff. Where this is not possible (member of staff is teaching/not in school/unavailable), a message will be taken and passed to an appropriate member of staff. You should expect a response to your call within 24 hours.
- By email schooloffice@nghs.org.uk You will receive an acknowledgement email once this has been received and be notified that the email has been passed to the appropriate member of staff (this may not always be to whom the email was addressed). You should then expect a response within 24-48 hours of this acknowledgement.
- By **letter** to the school.
- By **recording a note** in the communication section of your daughter's **planner** to be shared with a member of staff.

During school holidays, reception is closed and phone calls/emails cannot be responded to until we return to school. During the school holidays, **urgent@nghs.org.uk** is available to communicate key urgent information; it should not be used to send routine enquiries that can be responded to when school is open again. This account will be checked once every 24 hours by a senior member of staff. They will then make an appropriate response to any email that has been received.



schooloffice@nghs.org.uk



01952 797550



NEWPORT NEWS

Out fortnightly during



Letter to school



Note in Student Planner



NGHS PASTORAL TEAM WHO'S WHO?

At NGHS, the safety of students, staff and visitors is our top priority. Students can speak to **ANY** member of staff about any concerns, but there are certain colleagues with additional training to support you in pastoral and safeguarding matters.

Heads of Year



Mrs D Martin Head of Year 7



Mr O Green Head of Year 8



Ms K Houston Head of Year 9



Mrs A Chapman &Mrs H Goodall Head of Year 10 (Joint)



Ms J Capaldi Head of Year 11



Mrs K Griffin
Head of Sixth Form

Wellbeing Team



Mrs Aver-Howdle Years 7 - 10 Wellbeing Officer



Miss E Heyes Wellbeing Officer (Y11/Sixth Form)



Mrs V Glew Administrator (Sixth Form)

Safeguarding Team



Mrs H Birch: Assistant Head, DSL



Mr A Jones: Headteacher & DDSL



Mrs S Martin: Deputy Headteacher & DDSL



Miss A M Davies: Assistant Headteacher & DDSL



Ms K Houston: DDSL and CSE Lead

Abbreviations

DSL: Designated Safeguarding Lead

DDSL: Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

CSE: Child Sexual Exploitation