OCT' 26 | Issue 5

NEWPORT NEWS

BEING KIND | WORKING HARD | HAVING FUN!



Newport Girls' High School
Academy Trust

IN OMNIBUS FIDELIS

In All Things, Faithful

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HEAD'S LINES



There have been some very different moments at NGHS over the past fortnight, from looking ahead to the next generation of NGHS6 students to looking back at our own history.

Our Sixth Form Open Evening was a real success, with record attendance and a fantastic atmosphere around the school. It was great to see so many of our current families there, but equally encouraging to welcome so many students from other schools who are considering joining NGHS6 next year.

Our sixth form is a very important part of the school and I was incredibly proud of the way our students spoke about their experiences and represented NGHS throughout the evening.

We have also been looking further back. In my assemblies, I shared some items from the NGHS archives, including glimpses of school life from years gone by. There is something quite special about seeing the experiences of previous generations of NGHS students, and it has made us think about how we look after and celebrate our history. Just as importantly, we need to become better at recording school life now so that, many years from now, there is a record of the NGHS our students know today.

That idea of looking back took on a very different significance in this week's Remembrance assemblies. Mrs Martin created a particularly powerful assembly around the idea of the empty chair, representing those absent because of service and sacrifice. What made it especially poignant was the involvement of parents from our own NGHS family who serve in the military. Seeing them enter in uniform and take their places in those chairs created a moment that I think will stay with many of our students for a long time. My sincere thanks to them, and to Mrs Martin, for helping us mark Remembrance in such a thoughtful and meaningful way.

Alongside all of this, it was also good to welcome our Year 13 families back into school for Parents' Evening this week. For Year 13 in particular, the weeks seem to pass incredibly quickly at this point in the year as thoughts increasingly turn towards final examinations and what comes next.

Perhaps that is the thread running through much of the past fortnight: remembering where we have come from, making the most of where we are now, and looking with confidence towards what comes next.

Best wishes,
Mr A Jones
Headteacher

Form Noticeboard Winners!

This year saw an incredible array of form boards to vote from, including Disney, Musicals, Mario and Marvel, after a whole school vote, here are the results!

Yr 7 and 8
1st Place - R2
2nd Place - S2
3rd Place - A2

Yr 9 and 10
1st Place - A4
2nd Place - S4
3rd Place - R4

Yr 11
1st Place - R7
2nd Place - S7
3rd Place - R8

Yr 12 and 13
1st Place - 6S1
2nd Place - 6A3/6R1
3rd Place - 6S2

Overall Winners
1st Place - R7
2nd Place - 6S1
3rd Place - R2



R2's *'Star Wars'* Inspired board



A4's *'Alice in Wonderland'* Board



6S1's *'Project Hail Mary'* Board

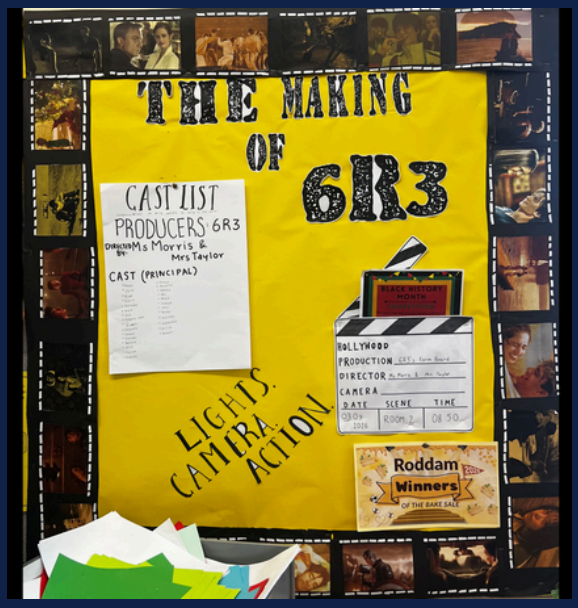


R7's *'Hunger Games'* Board
+
Overall Winner!

More of the entries!













Young Enterprise Progress

Team 2

'Our Young Enterprise team has been settling in well through our first few meetings as we get used to our roles and begin brainstorming initial product ideas and future business ventures. We are looking forward to developing these ideas further and seeing our company come together. Our next official task is fundraising, starting with textbook sales.'

If you have any KS3 or GCSE textbooks that you are able to donate, please hand them to your form tutor

Sienna R, Yr 12

Team 3

"Our Young Enterprise team has been making great progress since we first began. We meet three times a week to collaborate, develop our ideas and work towards bringing our product to life. We have now finalised our fundraising plans and established a clear vision for our upcoming product. As a team, we are excited to begin fundraising this half term and continue our Young Enterprise journey."

Freya D, Yr 12

NGHS Family Orchestra



We would like to offer parents the opportunity to join our orchestra for the Carol Service this year.

If you play a **String, Percussion, Woodwind** or **Brass** instrument and would like to take part in our orchestra, please can you ask your daughter to see Mrs Chapman to add your instrument and name to our list.

Music will be sent home and a whole orchestra rehearsal after school prior to the Carol Service will be confirmed at a later date. We hope to see you there!!

Mrs A Chapman

Remembrance at NGHS



Our remembrance assembly this year was one that I think will stay with everyone who was there for a very long time. Led by our service children, the assembly was built around a simple but incredibly powerful idea; The Empty Chair. An empty chair may not seem like much, but it can tell a thousand stories. Those we have lost, those who continue to serve, those who will serve in the future and those currently away from our families, missing out on everyday moments that so many of us take for granted.

As the assembly unfolded, we reminded everyone that every empty chair tells a different story, and we are reminded that they do not stay empty forever. The ending of the assembly was what made it truly unforgettable. That for some of our service children, the chairs are currently not empty, and parents who have been away serving our country arrived at the hall, marched in and took a seat in a chair. You could have heard a pin drop.

There was something incredibly moving about seeing the chairs filled by our service families, suddenly the message wasn't just about remembering people from history or thinking about those serving away, it was about our school family sitting right in front of us. It brought the assembly to life in a way that no words ever could. Our service children delivered a truly outstanding assembly, an assembly that didn't just ask us to remember, but one that made us all stop and think and feel.

A big thank you goes to all the parents for coming to our assemblies this week you have truly inspired everyone who listened and made the assemblies memorable. A huge thanks also goes to Mrs Martin for organizing it all, we aren't sure how she will beat this next year.

Lest we forget - ***Paige M (Yr 10)***







Post-16 options
Visit from Dudley College

As students begin to think seriously about their next steps beyond Year 11, Years 10 and 11 attended an assembly this week focused on the wide range of post-16 qualifications and career pathways available to them. The majority of our students go on to study A-levels at our excellent Sixth Form, where they continue to benefit from high-quality teaching and support. However, we are committed to ensuring that every student is fully informed about all the opportunities available to them, whatever their future aspirations.

We were pleased to welcome Sam from Dudley College, who delivered an informative presentation on alternative post-16 routes, including T Levels, apprenticeships and applied courses. Students gained valuable insight into the different pathways available and the opportunities each can offer.

This forms part of our wider commitment to providing students with meaningful careers education and guidance, ensuring they have the knowledge and confidence to make informed decisions about their future plans. The timing was particularly appropriate, as we are currently in the middle of our Year 11 one-to-one careers appointments with an independent careers adviser; and Year 10 students are exploring work experience placements. By providing regular opportunities to engage with careers and progression pathways, we aim to ensure that every student is well prepared for the exciting choices that lie ahead.

Miss L Smith
Assistant Head

FREE

WOMEN'S SELF DEFENCE COURSE



Fun, relaxed, safe environment with qualified instructors

Open to women and girls aged 12+
(Under 18s must be accompanied by a female also signed up to the course)

At The Hub
139 High St, TF10 7BH

Time
7pm - 9pm

Dates - 3 Week course
Tuesday 10th November
Tuesday 17th November
Tuesday 24th November

Run by qualified instructors from MCQC Women's Self Defence

NEWPORT TOWN COUNCIL

THE HUB NEWPORT

Scan the QR code to book your place

INSIDE SHROPSHIRE'S BUSINESS WORLD

What does the future of work look like for today's students?

"*Shropshire has an active, evolving business community, and young people have a key part to play in its future*"

When most students hear the words 'work experience', they might imagine making cups of tea, organising paperwork or watching from the sidelines. I'm pleased to report that my Year 10 placement at the **Shropshire Chamber of Commerce** was a hands-on deep dive into the multifaceted world of local business. Having shadowed the Policy, Membership, Events, Marketing, and Finance teams, I gained a unique insight into the realities of running a business in Shropshire and discovered what employers really want from the next generation.

Jenessa B (Yr 11)

READ MORE →

Shropshire Chamber of Commerce



SUBJECT SPOTLIGHT

PSHE

Year 8 Students Learn Self-Defence Skills







Over the last couple of weeks, our Year 8 PSHE students have been taking part in a series of self-defence lessons led by a qualified judo instructor.
Our sports hall was transformed into a dojo (the Japanese term for a martial arts training space), where students had the opportunity to learn some basic martial arts techniques, alongside the importance of self-discipline, respect and working together.

Through these sessions, students developed new skills, gained confidence and learned about the values and principles behind martial arts. The instructor also offered advice to anyone interested in taking up judo or another martial art outside of school.

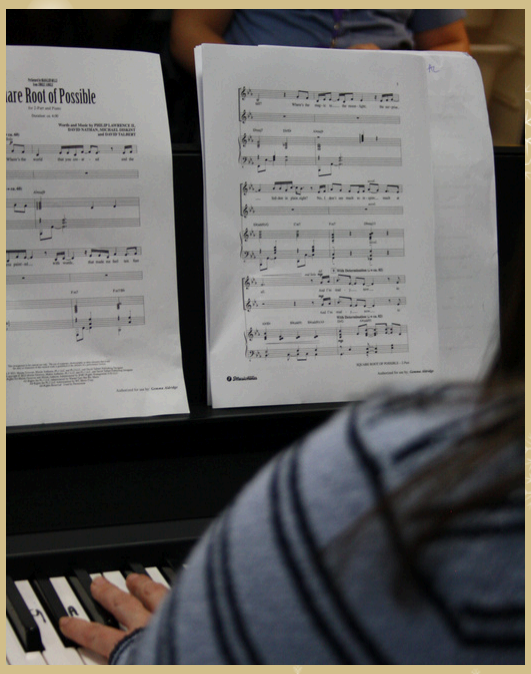
The sessions were thoroughly enjoyed by all, and provided a great opportunity to explore some of our **Fundamental British Values**, particularly mutual respect, individual liberty and the importance of following rules.
If your young person is interested in finding out more about local martial arts opportunities, information leaflets are available from reception.

A big thank you to our instructor for delivering such an enjoyable and valuable experience!

Ms Morris

Carol Service Rehearsal







As we head closer to our yearly carol service at St Nicholas' Church, our Junior choir are working hard during their lunchtimes to learn and perfect their songs for this year

When asked why they do the carol service one student said 'The atmosphere of the day is just incredible, and it really showcases the talent of our school. I love how the weeks of choir sessions, band practice and Mrs Chapman running around the school with various forms of sheet music finally pay off and the service is simply magical'

Please come and join us for the festivities on 17th December 2026 at 7:00pm

UK Linguistics Olympiad







This afternoon, our A-Level languages students took on the puzzles of the UK Linguistics Olympiad, or UKLO (pronounced yew-klow), which is a challenging test of how language works (as opposed to how individual languages work).

It is split into different levels and today was the Advanced round, targeted at 6th Form students as a super-curricular enrichment activity. Students undertaking the 2.5-hour challenge translated vocabulary in Balantak, an Austronesian language spoken by approximately 30,000 people in Indonesia; explored different number concepts in Ninggerum, spoken by approximately 3,500 people in western Papua New Guinea; and deciphered Orkhon script, in the Old Turkic language, from central Mongolia!

At NGHS we are proud that A-Levels in French, German or dual languages are thriving, with upwards of 30 students taking these subjects - completely bucking the national picture. We will receive our UKLO results in a few weeks' time and we wish all of our budding linguists the best of luck!

Mrs M Holmes

DSL SPOTLIGHT

Allergy Awareness: Understanding Anaphylaxis

A gentle reminder that allergies can be serious. Anaphylaxis is a severe, potentially life-threatening allergic reaction that needs immediate treatment.
Please remind your child to take allergies seriously, avoid sharing food and tell an adult straight away if someone appears to be having a reaction. Suspected anaphylaxis requires immediate use of the person's prescribed adrenaline auto-injector, if available, and a call to 999.

If your child has an allergy, please keep school updated about any changes to their needs or prescribed medication. Thank you for helping everyone feel safe and included.

Our Student Health and Welfare Coordinator is Mrs K Burton

Safeguarding: Please Keep Talking

A small conversation at home can make a big difference. Please remind your child that bullying can happen in person or online, including through hurtful messages, exclusion or sharing embarrassing content.

If something is upsetting them—or they are worried about a friend—encourage them to speak to their form tutor, Head of Year or another trusted adult. They do not need to wait until a concern feels "serious enough" to ask for help.

Parents and carers are welcome to contact school with concerns. Listening, sharing worries early and working together help us support students and address problems.

Attendance: Keeping Going Through Winter

As seasonal coughs and colds circulate, a friendly reminder that students can usually attend school with mild symptoms if they otherwise feel well and have no high temperature. Staying in their usual routine helps them keep up with learning, friendships and school life.

If you're unsure, the NHS "Is my child too ill for school?" guide offers helpful advice. Please report any absence through the usual school arrangements and contact us if your child needs support with attendance.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs H Birch (DSL & Assistant Headteacher)

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 term time



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



Miss N Cavendar
Head of Year 8



Mr O Green
Head of Year 9



Ms K Houston
Head of Year 10





Mrs A Chapman
&Mrs H Goodall
Head of Year 11 (Joint)



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 Headteacher and DSL



Mr A Jones: Headteacher and DDSL



Mr D Postle: Deputy Headteacher and DDSL



Mrs K Griffin Head of Sixth Form and DDSL



Miss A M Davies: Assistant Headteacher and DDSL



Ms K Houston: Head of Year 10, DDSL and CSE Lead

Abbreviations DSL: Designated Safeguarding Lead, DDSL: Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead, CSE: Child Sexual Exploitation