

NEWPORT NEWS



The fortnightly newsletter from Newport Girls' High School

Volume 9—Edition 1 5th September 2025

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Head Girl Speaks!



WELCOME BACK EDITION!



NEWPORT NEWS

A fortnightly update from NGHS

Volume 9 - Issue 1 - Friday 5th September 2025



Mr Adam Jones, Headteacher

WELCOME BACK!

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the first edition of Head Lines for the 2025–26 academic year. Whether you are returning to our school community or joining the NGHS family for the first time, I hope the summer break provided a chance to rest, recharge, and prepare for the exciting year ahead.

We begin the term with a sense of pride and celebration following another exceptional set of public examination results. At A-level, 50% of all grades were awarded at A* or A, with 78% at A*-B. Thirty-four students achieved all A* or A grades, and we were thrilled to see our students secure places at prestigious universities including Oxford and Cambridge, as well as competitive apprenticeships in law, finance, and media. At GCSE, 76.4% of all grades were at Grade 7 or above, with nearly a third at the top Grade 9. These results are a testament to the hard work, resilience, and ambition of our students, and the unwavering support of our staff and families.

As you will see in this first edition of Newport News, our site team has had a busy summer holiday developing the school site in a number of areas. We now look forward to our students benefitting from these improvements over the coming years, including updates to our Sixth Form Atrium Café and Centenary Hall. These developments have enhanced our Sixth Form study facilities and enabled us to reintroduce a library space into the school, which will be available to all students during lunchtime.



Looking ahead, I am pleased to introduce a new initiative that will help us continue to provide the very best learning environment for our students. From this term, we are launching the NGHS School Development Fund - a programme designed to support our digital learning strategy. The fund will help us increase the number of devices available to students, upgrade existing equipment, and ensure equitable access to technology across the school. A separate letter with full details and donation options will follow shortly, and I encourage all families to consider supporting this important initiative. Every contribution - no matter the size - will make a meaningful difference.

Finally, a brief message regarding the collection of students at the end of the school day. It has understandably been busy on Wellington Road, not helped by torrential downpours and a



broken pedestrian crossing. I would be grateful for your assistance in a few areas. Firstly, if you are meeting your daughter, please wait off the school site and agree in advance where you will meet. Kindly avoid parking in the bus laybys near the school, as they are in use by various school coaches and public buses at this time. As a reminder, students may remain in school until 5pm, and traffic is generally much calmer by 4pm - so if you are able to collect them a little later, this may be a more convenient option.

Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to sharing more updates with you throughout the year and celebrating the many achievements of our students.

Best wishes,

Mr A Jones

Headteacher

Newport Girls' High School

Wellington Road

Newport, TF10 7HL

Headteacher: Mr A Jones

To contact the School about a general enquiry, please use schooloffice@nghs.org.uk

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD GIRL TEAM!

Welcome Back!

The Head Girl Team and I would like to give a warm welcome to everyone as we start the new academic year! It's been lovely to see returning students and to meet those joining our school community.

Although we're only a few days in, I've already had the pleasure of chatting with many Year 7 students in the corridors and at lunchtime - it's been wonderful to see their enthusiasm as they settle into life at NGHS. Before the Summer holidays, I spent the term planning, organising, attending meetings, and presenting new project ideas to the

Senior Leadership Team, which I'm now looking forward to turning into a reality this term.

The team and I are excited to continue working together to make this term positive and memorable. Together, we are looking forward to supporting school life and helping make this year enjoyable for everyone. This term is set to be a busy one, with lots of house events, activities, and opportunities for everyone to get involved. I encourage you all to take part, share your ideas, and make the most of everything on offer.

Here's to a fantastic start to the new academic year!

Shaan K,

Head Girl (Year 13)



WELCOME TO OUR LARGEST YEAR 12 EVER!

At 8am on Wednesday morning the doors to the Atrium swung open to greet our new year 12 students and to welcome back our wonderful year 13. The students arrived looking smart in their uniform, feeling a little nervous but also excited to start the next chapter in their life. However, the first day went really well and by the second day year 12 were already looking and feeling far more confident, happily chatting about new people they had met and what they had learnt in their first lessons. We know they are going to have a great two years, create some wonderful memories and we wish them all well.

Mrs K Griffin

Head of Sixth Form



A GREAT FIRST WEEK FOR NEW YEAR 7'S

I am absolutely delighted with how well the Year 7's have settled in this week. They have been enthusiastic, resilient and have shown such positive attitudes, already beginning to form new friendships and are adapting really well to life at NGHS.

It has been a wonderful start, and I am excited to see all that they will achieve this year.

Mrs D Martin

Head of Year 7



A STRONG START FOR OUR YEAR 8

A MESSAGE FROM THE NEW HEAD OF YEAR

The Year 8 students have made an excellent start to the new school year, settling quickly into their learning and showing great enthusiasm in all aspects of school life. As their new Head of Year, I was thrilled to see the way they have stepped up as role models, offering guidance and support to the younger year group. From helping new students find their way around school to encouraging them during form times and break times, Year 8 have shown maturity, kindness, and leadership. I look forward to seeing these students flourish throughout the year.

Mr O Green, **Head of Year 8**



NGHS Social Media

Why not keep in touch with the goings on at school via our social media pages? We're on Facebook 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)

Welcome to...



Mr Mark Stevens Second in Science (Biology Lead)

As a Marine Biology graduate (Newcastle University), I've always had a passion for Science and nature. I've taught Biology for over 20 years, the last six of which I have been in charge of a sixth form in a school in Staffordshire. Whilst I loved this role, my real passion has always been Biology. As such, I want to spend more of my time dedicated to inspiring people about the wonders of the natural world and encouraging them to become the Biologists of the future.

At the end of the my first week at Newport Girls' High School I have been blown away with the enthusiasm and attitude of all the members of the school community and would like to thank you all for the warm welcome I have received. I am really excited to be a part of such a special school and look forward to working with you all in the years to come.

I am a self-confessed geek and when I am not walking my Golden Retriever, Albie, I can be found building Lego, reading a wide range of science fiction and fantasy books or watching movies.



Mrs Tarnia Hazlett Reprographics and Admin Assistant

I've recently started at NGHS as the Reprographics Assistant, where my days are spent supporting the staff and students here with all things print and production.

Before this, I worked as the Friends Membership Assistant at Ironbridge Gorge Museum, where I built strong relationships with the supporters of the Museum. It was a role that gave me a real appreciation of community, history and the importance of making people feel welcomed and valued. Outside of work, I am kept busy with my 4 children, rescue pup and 2 cats. I enjoy my (extremely) early morning dog walks, keeping up-to-date with current affairs and (badly) replicating recipes I've found on Instagram! Mostly though, if there is a football free weekend, you'll find me in inappropriate footwear, holding up the rear, atop a mountain (hill), admiring the view!



Miss Niamh Cavender Teacher of History, RE and PSHE

I am delighted to be joining the amazing staff and students at Newport Girls' High School. I will be teaching History, RE, and PSHE across a number of different year groups and look forward to working with the brilliant humanities department.

I aim to provide students with the opportunity to find something they have a keen interest in, within my subjects and look forward to promoting a love of reading and research! I hope to inspire a love for history and an understanding of the importance of different worldviews and religion in my role at NGHS. I am looking forward to getting to know the students and get involved in the house events. I am especially looking forward to the Bake Off!

I am excited to join the NGHS community and hope to foster a love of learning in my students.



Ms Jenny Parkes Teacher of Mathematics

I am excited to be joining the Mathematics department at NGHS this year. Up to now, I have enjoyed teaching in a range of schools and love the interaction with students, colleagues and parents. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to have shared the experiences and successes of the young people in my classes and form groups. Whilst passionate about teaching my subject, I also have a keen interest in sport, in particular judo and hockey.

I am currently a member of a running group and enjoy supporting new members in their couch to 5K endeavours. Having been lucky enough to travel across the world, I appreciate the value and excitement of different cultures and ways of life. The spirit of adventure is something I am also keen to foster in my own two young children Ollie and Gracie. I look forward to meeting you all and enjoying our time together at NGHS.

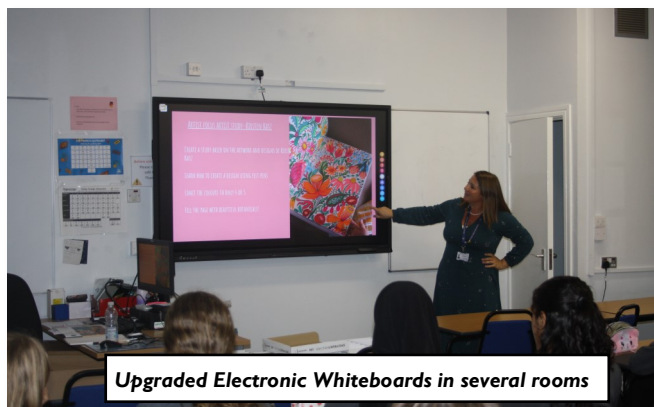


WE'VE BEEN BUSY OVER THE SUMMER!



During the summer break, the site team have been busy making lots of improvements ready for the start of term. Our biggest investment had been a complete refurbishment of Centenary Hall. It is now much more of a multi-use workroom/library for Y12 and I3 to work purposefully during the day. The Atrium remains a more sociable area for the Sixth Formers and has been improved with new carpets. Centenary Hall will also double as a book lending library for all years from 1.00pm - 1.30pm.

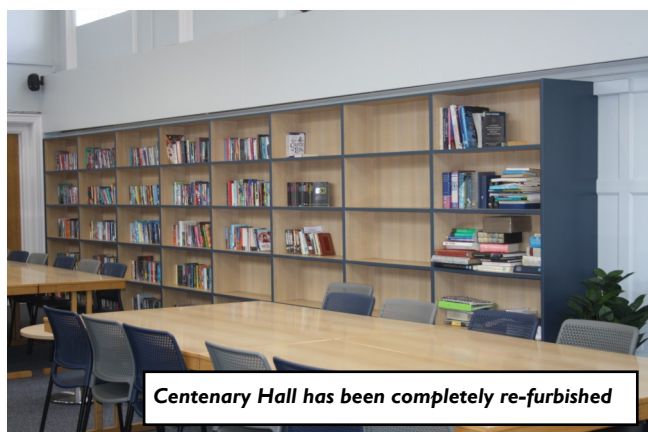
Additionally, we have had new, state of the art whiteboards installed in several rooms along with new fencing around the netball courts. This will allow them to be used more easily as visitor parking when we hold events here at school. We have also upgraded all of the IT equipment to Windows 11 and had a brand new sound system in the school hall to compliment the new projector that was installed at the end of the Summer term. With the addition of our new minibus at the very end of last term, we are always looking for ways to improve our students experience here at NGHS!



Upgraded Electronic Whiteboards in several rooms



The new minibus was delivered at the end of last term



Centenary Hall has been completely re-furnished



Updated Fencing on the netball courts

Dates for your diary

Mon 8th September - Year 7 and Year 12 Photographs

Thu 4th September - Start of Y13 Assessment Week (in lessons)

Fri 12th September - Year 11 Duke of Edinburgh Silver Expedition

Mon 15th September - Newport Girls' High School Entrance Test
(School closed to **ALL** students)

Mon 22nd September - Year 7 Edgmond Hall Trip

Thu 25th September - House Bake Off Competition

Fri 26th September - Macmillan Coffee Morning (Break and Lunch)

Friday 26th September - Year 12 Liverpool Residential Weekend

**DON'T
FORGET**

The best place to keep up to date with all of our upcoming events is the calendar section of our website:

nghs.org.uk



A SNAPSHOT OF THE FIRST DAY BACK

Lots of smiling faces and journeys to begin — especially for the new Year 7's and 12's



A somewhat wet start for the new Y12's on their first day!



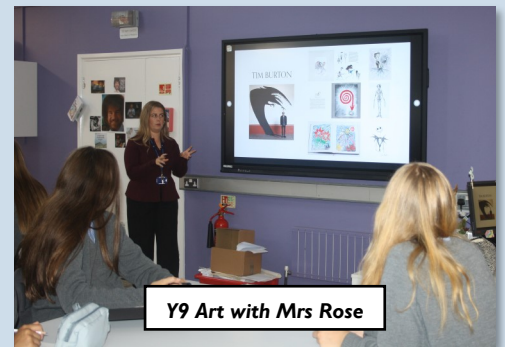
The new Costa Coffee outlet has been very popular!



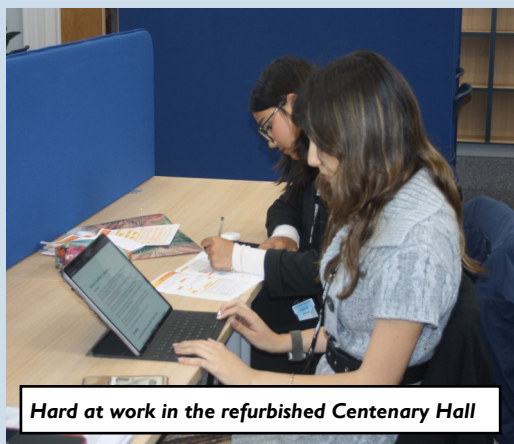
First house assembly of the year



Here we go again....another year at NGHS!



Y9 Art with Mrs Rose



Hard at work in the refurbished Centenary Hall



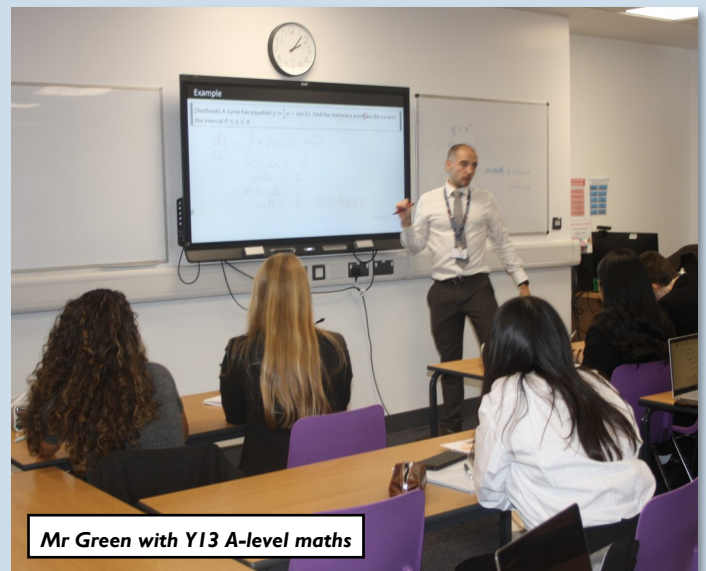
Year 7 first day assembly



Welcome Back!



Oakley the cockapoo waiting for a new Y7 at the end of their first day!



Mr Green with Y13 A-level maths

NEW COSTA COFFEE OUTLET A MASSIVE HIT AT THE START OF TERM!

One of the undoubted highlights of the new term for students and staff alike has been the opening of our new Costa Coffee outlet in the Atrium. Serving a whole range of fantastic hot drinks including cappuccino's, latte's, hot chocolate as well as cakes and pastries the response has been fantastic!

New Sixth Form Student, Connie A (Y12), declared "I've had a latte every single day and they are exquisite! I especially like the fact that they are half the price of the Costa on the High Street and they are exactly the same! The cherry on top is that Christine is always there with a smile on her face and and it's a great place to relax with my friends!"



Connie A (Y12) enjoying her latte!

OPENING TIMES

Years 7 to 11

08:00 to 08:40

Years 12 and 13

08:00 to 14:00



LATTE

CAPPUCCINO

AMERICANO

FLAT WHITE

ESPRESSO

MOCHA

HOT CHOCOLATE

TEA ENGLISH BREAKFAST



Small



Medium

£1.80

£1.80

£1.70

£1.70

£1.40

£1.90

£1.90

£1.00

£2.20

£2.20

£2.00

£1.60

£2.30

£2.30

£1.00

ADD AN **EXTRA SHOT OF COFFEE** FOR 50p OR **FLAVOUR SYRUP** FOR 50p

NGHS PROUDLY PRESENTS

Disney FROZEN JR.

Music and Lyrics by
Kristen Anderson-Lopez & Robert Lopez

Book by
Jennifer Lee

Based on the Disney film written by Jennifer Lee
and directed by Chris Buck & Jennifer Lee

**SIGN UP SHEET FOR AUDITIONS
OUTSIDE DRAMA STUDIO**

SIGN UP BY FRIDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER

CASTING CALL FOR SCHOOL PRODUCTION!

It may only be the first week of term but we are already gearing up for our 2026 school production, **FROZEN JR.** With roles including Elsa, Olaf, Anna, Queen Iduna and all the other favourites, there are also numerous other positions in the ensemble, in the band and backstage (costumes, props etc).



If you would like to have the chance to take part, make sure you sign up on the sheets outside the drama studio before Friday 12th September!



HOW TO GET IN TOUCH!

COMMUNICATION WITH SCHOOL

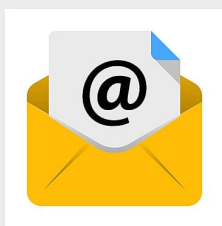
Over the course of the year, we will communicate with you in a variety of ways:

- 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



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