

# NEWPORT NEWS



*The fortnightly newsletter from Newport Girls' High School*

Volume 9—Edition 11 13th February 2026

## Charities Week 2026!



# HEAD'S LINES

As we reach the end of another busy half term, the final week has been a fitting reflection of the energy, creativity and generosity that run through our school community.

Charities Week has once again been a real highlight. Students and staff fully embraced the spirit of the week through crazy hair and hats, imaginative costumes and some wonderfully inventive “rhyme without reason” combinations, many of which proved far harder to guess than expected. There were some truly memorable animal outfits on display, including an inflatable pink flamingo that was difficult to miss.



Two lunchtime events were particular highlights of the week. The Party Animals disco created a fantastic atmosphere and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended, while the House Dance competition showcased an impressively high standard of performance, choreography and teamwork. It was a pleasure to see such enthusiasm, commitment and house pride on display.

The only real disappointment came from the weather, which forced the postponement of the much-anticipated Staff vs Students Netball match. While frustrating, plans are already in place to reschedule after half term, and this does at least allow staff a little extra time to refine their skills with Mrs Martin no doubt ensuring training remains firmly on the agenda.

All of these activities have taken place in support of our new house charities, and it has been wonderful to see such strong engagement for three excellent causes: The Haven (Austen), The Harry Johnson Trust (Roddam) and Hope House Children’s Hospice (Seacole). Thank you to everyone who has contributed so generously and helped make the week such a success.

Away from Charities Week, preparations are continuing at pace for this year’s school musical, *Frozen Jr.* Mrs Saysell and Mrs Chapman have been working incredibly hard with the cast, and the dedication and enthusiasm shown by all involved has been a pleasure to see. Excitement is building as we move closer to the final production, and I am very much looking forward to seeing the show come together on stage. Tickets are now on sale for the performances, and I would encourage families to book early to avoid disappointment.

Finally, this week also marked the launch of the Head Girl Team recruitment process with our current Year 12 students. It is hard to believe that the existing team, led so effectively by our Head Girl, Shaan, are now entering their final half term in post. They have made a significant impact on the school and have worked exceptionally well together as a team. While they will be a difficult act to follow, I am very much looking forward to forming the next student leadership team and seeing the positive contribution they will make.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I wish everyone a restful and well-deserved half term break.

**Mr A Jones**



# CHARITIES WEEK ROUND UP!

WHAT A WEEK! It's been an amazing week of events and activities here at NGHS with our annual House Charities Week. From fancy dress to sponge the teacher and everything in-between we have raised a superb amount to donate to three extremely worthy charities — The Haven, The Harry Johnson Trust and Hope Children's Hospice.

Culminating in House Dance on the last day of the half term it was a great week with lots of fun but more importantly raising a fantastic amount of money for three very worthy charities. We need to say a massive thank you to the three Charity Captains - Esme H, Muskaan S and Heidi M, who were instrumental in organising the week and also the numerous other students and staff who helped to make it such a success. Over the coming pages you will find a selection of photo's from the week. A full report on the week will follow from the House Charity Captains in the next edition of Newport after half term!



L to R - Esme H, Muskaan S, Heidi M

**House Charity Captains 2025/26**

**STOP PRESS—£3623  
RAISED IN THE WEEK!**

**Friday 23rd February** Start of Half Term 8.00am

**Wednesday 25th February** Young Enterprise Visit to PP Control and Automation

**Tuesday 3rd March** War of The Roses Conference (Year 12 and 13)

**Tuesday 3rd March** Year 10 Parents' Evening

**Friday 6th March** House Quiz

**Monday 16th - Thursday 19th March** School Production, Frozen Jr



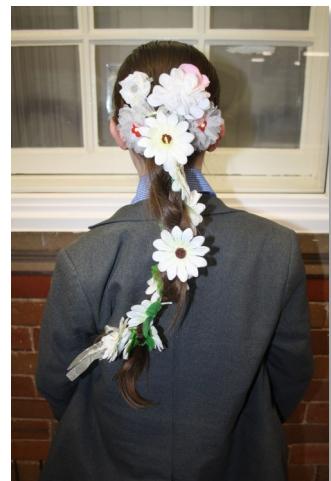
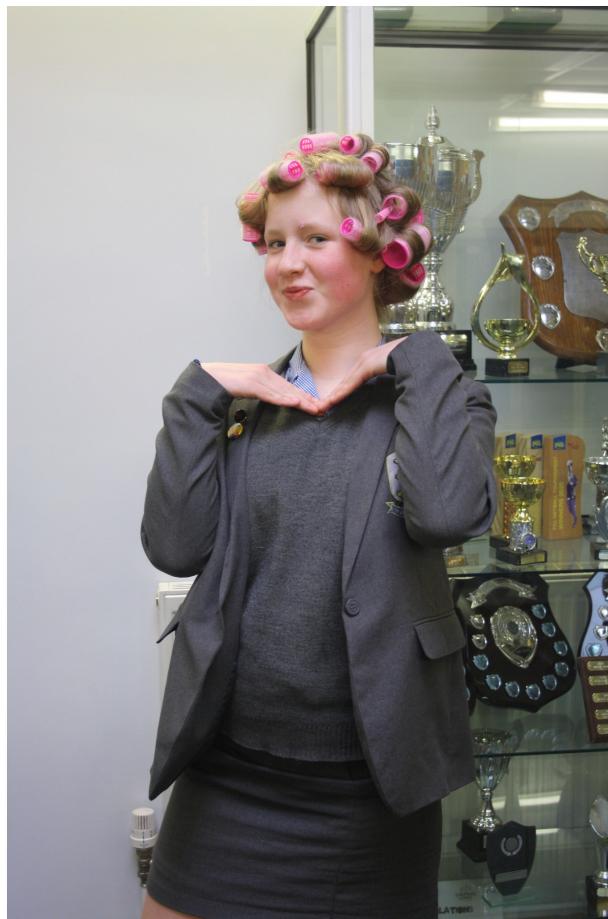
# CHARITIES WEEK 9TH-12TH FEBRUARY

## MONDAY 9TH FEBRUARY: HOODIES AND JUMPERS AND BAKE SALE



## CHARITIES WEEK 9TH-12TH FEBRUARY

### TUESDAY 10TH FEBRUARY: CRAZY HAIR AND SPONGE THE TEACHER!



# CHARITIES WEEK 9TH-12TH FEBRUARY

## WEDNESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY: ANIMAL FANCY DRESS AND LUNCHTIME DISCO



## CHARITIES WEEK 9TH-12TH FEBRUARY

### THURSDAY 12TH FEBRUARY: NO RHYME NO REASON FANCY DRESS AND HOUSE DANCE

For the final day of Charities Week, students were invited to come dressed in a complimentary costume to a friend or small group but they had to rhyme! For example, a 'cowboy' and a children's toy or a 'witch' and someone 'rich'. Below are a few for you to try and guess but after half term there will be a gallery of many more to test your deduction skills!



## STUDENT TACKLES LONDON MARATHON FOR CANCER CHARITY!

Year 13 student, Mia S, is taking on the awesome challenge of the London Marathon on 26th April to raise money for **Children with Cancer UK**. We couldn't be prouder of Mia and the fantastic cause she is helping and below she tells you all about it in her own words:

*"Hello, I'm Mia and on the 26th of April I will be running the London Marathon just days just a short time after my 18th birthday for Children With Cancer UK! After previous fundraising for cancer charities, I've decided to run the marathon for Children with Cancer UK for my friends Amelia and Anmol who both experienced cancer before the age of 16. In September 2021 Amelia was diagnosed with Acinic Cell Carcinoma and in March 2023 Anmol was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma. Since having treatment, both have recovered and are doing well! I'd really appreciate any support towards my fundraising!"*



Mia (third on right) and friends on a previous fundraising run!

**Mia S, Year 13 student and marathon runner!**



As a school we wish Mia all the very best for the big day and we are absolutely certain she will. If you would like to support Mia, you can tap the link below to visit Mia's 'Just Giving Page' where any donation, big or small, will be hugely appreciated!

[\*\*TAP HERE TO VISIT MIA'S JUST GIVING PAGE\*\*](#)



## INVESTING IN LEARNING: NEW DIGITAL DEVICES FOR OUR STUDENTS



We are pleased to share an update on a significant recent investment in digital learning at Newport Girls' High School and to highlight the important role that our parent community has played in making this possible.

The school has recently purchased 60 new Microsoft Surface laptops, housed in two new laptop trolleys, along with 30 Windows tablet devices. These new devices will be in use across the school after half term and will enhance learning in classrooms, supporting students with research, collaboration, creativity, and independent work.

This investment represents a major commitment by the school to strengthening our digital provision. We are equally grateful that parent donations through the NGHS School Development Fund have made a meaningful contribution towards the overall cost, helping us to expand what we were able to deliver and to do so more quickly and effectively.



When the NGHS School Development Fund was launched, its initial focus was to support our digital learning strategy by increasing and upgrading the number of devices available to students. Thanks to parental support, we have been able to take a significant step forward towards that goal, ensuring more students have access to high-quality, reliable technology during the school day.

The phrase shared with parents — “Every £1 donated will become a device in a student’s hands” — was never intended to suggest that donations alone would fund projects in their entirety. Rather, it reflects how contributions directly add value, extend provision, and make visible improvements to students’ day-to-day experience. The devices pictured alongside this article are a clear example of that impact.

Importantly, the NGHS School Development Fund is not a one-off initiative. We will be continuing the fund next year, with future projects shaped by school priorities and the evolving needs of our students. Contributions will continue to be ring-fenced and used to support tangible improvements that benefit learners across the school.

On behalf of staff and students, I would like to thank all parents and carers who have contributed to the NGHS School Development Fund. Your support is helping us to enhance learning now, while also enabling us to plan confidently for future developments that will continue to improve opportunities for our students.

We look forward to sharing further updates in Newport News as new projects come to fruition.



# HOUSE DANCE ABSOLUTELY THRILLS TO END THE WEEK!

**WOW, WOW, WOW!** What an end to our Charities Week the annual House Dance competition was. For a small entrance fee, students of all years crammed into the school hall to witness what is undoubtedly one of the highlights of the school year!

Austen, Seacole and Roddam always put on a simply superb show and as usual it didn't disappoint. Like every year, the level of skill, dedication, talent and sheer hard work on show is quite breathtaking from all year groups! The competition was judged by Kirsty James of the 'Elevate School of Dance' and the results couldn't have been much closer. When Mr Pointon finally announced the outcome, there were only a handful of points between the three houses. Final Results were:

**1st Place - Seacole**



**2nd Place - Austen**

**3rd Place - Roddam**

In the first edition of Newport News when we return from the half-term break, each of the three houses will give an in depth report as to how the events of the day unfolded. For now, here are a few photographic highlights from a wonderful afternoon of dance!





## SPOTLIGHT ON CLUBS - FENCING

Here at NGHS there are a multitude of clubs covering everything from sports, to music to drama to crochet! On a Thursday afternoon we are extremely fortunate to be able to offer fencing to the students at school which is delivered by coaches from Wrekin Sword Club. We caught up with Year 9 student, Isabella P, who gave us her thoughts on why she loves fencing club:



*"I've been coming to fencing club now since I started at NGHS in Year 7. It's a really fun sport and something a bit different. The equipment can be a bit expensive but here at school you can use all of Wrekin Sword Club's equipment. The style of fencing we do is called 'foil' but there are also 'epee' and 'sabre'. If you were to give it a go you do get the odd bump and bruise but nothing too bad! If you are unsure about whether to give it a try, there is a free taster session and then if you do decide to take it up, it is £5 per session"*



Fencing club is on every Thursday from 4.00pm to 5.30pm and is run and organised by the father and son coaching team of Ken and Andrew from Wrekin Sword Club. Sessions are £5 per time and that includes use of all of the equipment you will need.

## ANTHEA BELL PRIZE FOR YOUNG TRANSLATORS!

This year, our new MFL ambassadors have launched the Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators. The competition is inspired by the life and work of the great translator Anthea Bell. It aims to promote language learning across the UK and to inspire creativity in the classroom. Launched in 2020, the Anthea Bell Prize is free to enter and open to pupils aged 11-18 at all schools across the UK.

The Prize currently offers French, German, Italian, Mandarin, Russian and Spanish. The 2025-2026 Prize started on 19 September 2025, in time for European Day of Languages (26 September) and International Translation Day (30 September). The 2025-2026 competition will run from 2 February to 27 March 2026. Please see any of the staff in the MFL department or the subject ambassadors for more information!



# VIVE LA MODE! LEARNING FRENCH WITH STYLE!

Language lessons have never looked so good. Over the last few weeks students got to showcase not just their language skills but also their fashion sense. Year 7 students described their outfits in the most colourful lesson on adjective endings they've had this year!

The classroom catwalks were ablaze with colour and cool et tout le monde avait l'air très chic. **Mrs Fuji, French teacher**



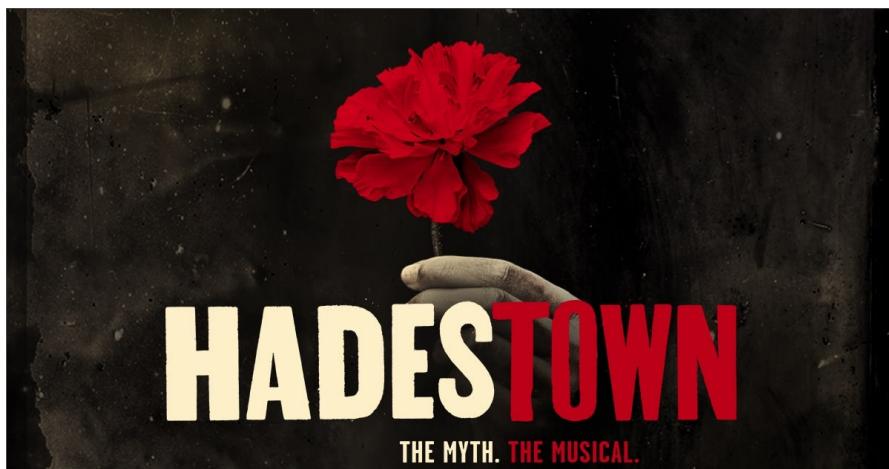
# THEATRE TRIP TO LONDON

## Special Report by Niamh S, Year 13

On Friday 6th February, students from a variety of year groups left on the coach to go to London! Our trip was packed full of exciting events, starting with our disembark where we had plenty of time for some retail therapy and lunch in Covent Garden. Then we headed to Pizza Express for dinner before the first show of the trip Hadestown. Most of us had never seen it before, or had only listened to it, as it has only been on the West End for 2 years. Seeing it together was really exciting, and it turned out to be an excellent show. We then travelled on the coach to Wembley for roughly an hour's drive from central London, including some karaoke to really tire everyone out. We each got into our rooms at around 11pm and went to sleep after a busy day.



The following morning was a 7am start where we ate breakfast at the hotel and headed to a tour of the National Theatre, which felt slightly surreal if you've seen some of the recordings available online. Many of us were particularly interested in the antics of celebrities in the theatre, like Andrew Garfield, Olivia Colman, and Helena Bonham-Carter. There was also a lot of history and fun facts about the structure of the building itself, and the tour was altogether an invaluable and fascinating experience! We then returned to Covent Garden for lunch and found ourselves doing some more obligatory shopping- for which many of our purses are not thanking us. Then finally, we made the short walk to the theatre to see the matinee show of Hercules, which is also a recent addition to the West End. This was a fun and colourful contrast to some of the mysterious and darker tones of Hadestown the night before, but both were equally outstanding performances.



After the show, we were homeward bound! And after a sleepy 4 hours, we got back to NGHS at around 9pm and, I'm sure, all enjoyed a well-deserved lie in on Sunday morning. Thank you very much to Mrs Chapman, Mrs Saysell, Mr Pointon, and Mrs Martin for taking us as we all had a wonderful time.

# CHARITY TRAITORS IN SCHOOL!



At lunchtime on Wednesday 11th lunchtime, the Geography classroom transformed into Traitors infamous castle, with the Claudia there in spirit and roles assigned our Traitors game began!

Starting out as an idea it was incredibly exciting and promising to see the active engagement and involvement of the Year 7's and 8's within our club. Set out into groups the

teams worked together to solve numerous riddles and puzzles, competitively winning points all whilst The Traitors lurked undetected set out to sabotage and cause chaos. Tense voting resulted in the banishment of players, but many mistakes were made and friends were lost as Faithfull after Faithfull left the game.

Despite the lack of cloaks and no £150,000 prize pot the satisfaction was real as one Traitor was inevitably caught.

It was incredibly rewarding to see the progression of the game and thanks must go to the students who took part whose enthusiasm meant this game of cheat and deception took on a life of its own. We look forward to future games as we hope to make this a regular club throughout the school year groups.

**Report by Freya R, Year 12**



# CALLING ALL ARTISTS!

## Young Artists' Summer Show 2026 – Entries Now Open!

We are delighted to announce that our school is taking part in the Royal Academy of Arts' Young Artists' Summer Show 2026. This national competition celebrates creativity among young people, and selected artworks are exhibited in London over the summer.

All students in Years 7–13 are welcome to take part; you do not need to be studying Art to enter. Work that is currently being completed as part of GCSE or A Level coursework cannot be entered.

Students must submit their artwork to Mrs Rose, who will review all entries and choose pieces to submit on behalf of the school. If the Royal Academy selects your work, it will be displayed in the Young Artists' Summer Show exhibition.

Submission packs (including full guidance and the required permission form) will be available in the Art room.

**Deadline for entries to Mrs Rose: Friday 27th February at 9am**

This is a fantastic opportunity for students to showcase their creativity on a national stage



# RA

## Call for entries

An exciting opportunity for students aged 4–18, who are living and studying in the UK, to exhibit their artwork on site or online at the Royal Academy of Arts.

### Open for submissions

5 January–4 March 2026

### Find out more and enter

[roy.ac/youngartists](http://roy.ac/youngartists)

@royalacademyarts

# Young Artists' Summer Show

2026

Royal  
Academy  
of Arts

Made possible by Robin Hambro



# CAMBRIDGE ADMISSIONS GUIDANCE



On Monday 9th February, we were delighted to welcome Cambridge University Access Officer, Georgia Clothier, to school on Monday, who came from the University of Cambridge to talk to Y12 about the opportunities for them if they consider applying to one of their colleges. As a Cambridge graduate, Georgia told us about the college she

had applied to – the beautiful St Johns College. She discussed the differences between the colleges, and how important it is for students to think about where their passions lie if they are considering the unique pathways that both Cambridge and Oxford offer. Aside from the collegiate system, the opportunity for weekly supervisions with respected academic specialists was emphasised, along with all the learning facilities and beautiful surroundings that you would expect. As Access Officer, Georgia gave a fantastic overview to students about the application process, and was able to answer questions and give a really interesting and insightful glimpse into life at Cambridge.



## CRICKET COACHING



**CRICKET  
SHROPSHIRE**

NGHS is fast developing a reputation as one of the strongest state schools in the midlands for girls cricket. We have won multiple local, county and regional competitions at both U13 and U15 level. In further support of this, we have been working closely with Cricket Shropshire who have been coming into school

weekly to work with Years 7-11 in their PE lessons.

Coaches, Tyler and Shannon have taken the students through their paces with a range of batting, fielding and

bowling practices as well as a range of fun and exciting modified games!

In the summer term, NGHS have entered their first ever hardball cricket tournament and getting ready and the players are all very excited for the challenge!



**We're  
Recruiting!  
For  
September  
2026**

**Assistant  
Headteacher**

**Teacher of  
Science  
(Chemistry)**



**Newport Girls'  
High School  
Academy Trust**

**WE ARE RECRUITING! TWO POSITIONS AVAILABLE FOR SEPTEMBER 2026 START.**

**Find out more on our website:**

**[www.nghs.org.uk/about-us/recruitment](http://www.nghs.org.uk/about-us/recruitment)**

## LUNCH MENU WEEK ONE

	MEAT MAIN	VEGGIE MAIN	SPECIALS	STARCHY	VEG
MONDAY	Butchers Sausages	Quorn Sausage	Daily Special	Mashed Potatoes	Choice of Vegetables
TUESDAY	Authentic Beef Bolognaise	Vegetable Bolognaise	Daily Special	Pasta	Garlic Bread
WEDNESDAY	Classic Roast Chicken	Macaroni Cheese	Daily Special	Roast Potatoes	Vegetable & Gravy
THURSDAY	Traditional Cottage Pie	Vegetable Pie	Daily Special	Choice of Vegetables	Gravy
FRIDAY	Take Away Day	Vegetarian Burger	Battered Fish	Chips	Beans

w.c – 5<sup>th</sup> January

w.c – 26<sup>th</sup> January

**FOOD ALLERGIES & INTOLERANCES**  
If you require information on allergens or suffer from a food intolerance, please speak to a team member before you order food or drinks

## LUNCH MENU WEEK THREE

	MEAT MAIN	VEGGIE MAIN	SPECIALS	STARCHY	VEG
MONDAY	Chilli	Vegetable Chilli	Daily Special	Rice	Choice of Vegetables
TUESDAY	Creamy Chicken Carbonara	Vegetable Pasta Bake	Daily Special	Garlic Bread	Choice of Vegetables
WEDNESDAY	Roast Beef with Yorkshire Pudding	Vegetable Crumble	Daily Special	Roast Potatoes	Vegetables & Gravy
THURSDAY	Chicken Curry Day	Vegetarian Curry	Daily Special	Flatbread	Poppadom
FRIDAY	Take Away Day	Vegetarian	Battered Fish	Chips	Beans

w.c – 19<sup>th</sup> January

w.c – 9<sup>th</sup> February

**FOOD ALLERGIES & INTOLERANCES**  
If you require information on allergens or suffer from a food intolerance, please speak to a team member before you order food or drinks

## LUNCH MENU WEEK TWO

	MEAT MAIN	VEGGIE MAIN	SPECIALS	STARCHY	VEG
MONDAY	Sweet & Sour Chicken	Quorn Chilli	Daily Special	Rice	Choice of Vegetables
TUESDAY	Southern Fried Chicken Wraps	Vegetarian Wrap	Daily Special	Potato Wedges	Beans
WEDNESDAY	Roast Pork & Stuffing with Apple Sauce	Vegetable Pasty	Daily Special	Herby New Potatoes	Vegetables & Gravy
THURSDAY	Pasta Bake Day	Vegetarian Pasta Bake	Daily Special	Garlic Bread	Choice of Vegetables
FRIDAY	Take Away Day	Pizza	Battered Fish	Chips	Beans

w.c – 12<sup>th</sup> January

w.c – 2<sup>nd</sup> February

**FOOD ALLERGIES & INTOLERANCES**  
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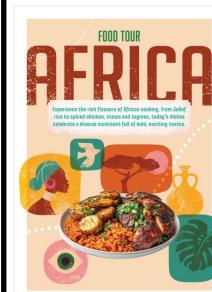
## WHAT'S COMING UP THIS TERM?



JANUARY



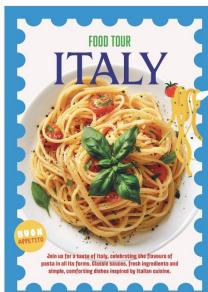
JANUARY



FEBRUARY



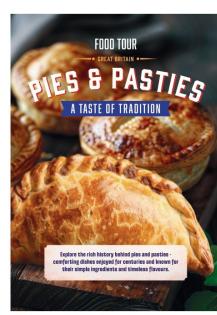
FEBRUARY



MARCH



MARCH



APRIL



APRIL



## Newport Girls' High School

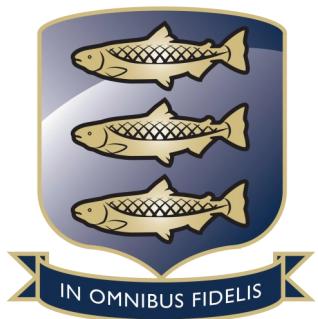
16-19 BURSARY FUND—APPLICATIONS OPEN THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR!

Applications and full details for our 6<sup>th</sup> Form bursary fund are available from the school website at [nghs.org.uk/sixth-form/bursary](http://nghs.org.uk/sixth-form/bursary)



## 16-19 BURSARY FUND

Our Sixth Form Bursary is available throughout the year for all students aged 16 to 19. Visit our website or the Sixth Form Office if you wish to make an application or find more details



## 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](https://www.facebook.com/NewportGirls) (whole school)**  
**[facebook.com/nghs6](https://www.facebook.com/nghs6) (sixth form)**



**[instagram.com/nghsinsta](https://www.instagram.com/nghsinsta) (whole school)**  
**[instagram.com/nghs6form](https://www.instagram.com/nghs6form) (sixth form)**



**[linkedin.com/company/newport-girls'-high-school-academy-trust](https://www.linkedin.com/company/newport-girls'-high-school-academy-trust)**



# HOW TO GET IN TOUCH!

## COMMUNICATION WITH SCHOOL

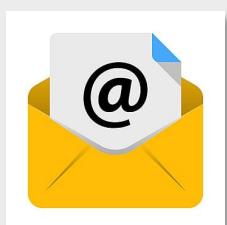
Over the course of the year, we will communicate with you in a variety of ways:

- 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.

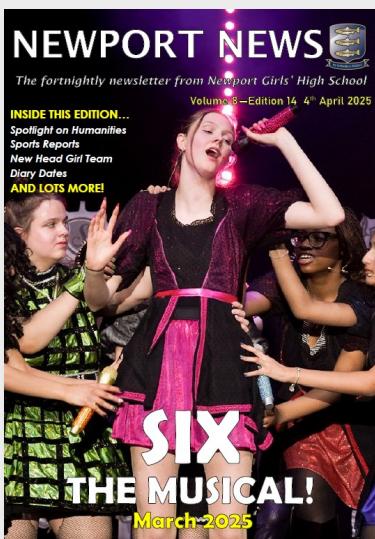
During school holidays, reception is closed and phone calls/emails cannot be responded to until we return to school. During the school holidays, **urgent@nghs.org.uk** is available to communicate key urgent information; it should not be used to send routine enquiries that can be responded to when school 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](mailto: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



**Mrs H Birch:** Assistant Head, DSL



**Mr A Jones:** Headteacher & DDSL



**Miss A M Davies:** Assistant Headteacher & DDSL



**Ms K Houston:** DDSL and CSE Lead



**Mrs Aver-Howdle**  
Years 7 - 10  
Wellbeing Officer



**Miss E Heyes**  
Wellbeing Officer  
(Y11/Sixth Form)



**Mrs V Glew**  
Administrator  
(Sixth Form)

### Abbreviations

DSL: Designated Safeguarding Lead

DDSL: Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

CSE: Child Sexual Exploitation