

NEWPORT NEWS



The fortnightly newsletter from Newport Girls' High School

Volume 9—Edition 13 23rd March 2026



FROZEN Jr

HEAD'S LINES

We began the last fortnight with our celebration of International Women's Day, built around this year's theme, Give to gain. It felt particularly fitting for our school community, where generosity, commitment and quiet determination are lived out every day. With over 900 women and girls learning and working together at NGHS, this spirit has been evident across school life in recent weeks, from leadership and teamwork to creativity and performance.



That sense of giving back has been especially clear through our student leadership work. We have now completed the recruitment process for the next Head Girl Team, with over 50 students putting themselves forward. The calibre of applications was exceptionally high, making the process both challenging and genuinely uplifting. It is always encouraging to see so many young women willing to step forward, take responsibility and serve the wider school community. The formal handover to the new Head Girl Team will take place at our end of term assembly, where we will also thank our outgoing leaders for the time, energy and care they have given this year. We will introduce the new team fully in our next edition of Newport News. Before then, our current Head Girl, Shaan, and her team have one final opportunity to represent the school at Open Evening next week, a role they will undertake with the warmth, confidence and pride they have shown throughout their time in post.

Teamwork and good-natured competition were also on display at the rearranged Staff vs Student Netball tournament from Charities Week, which took place at lunchtime. The extra preparation paid off for the staff team, who recorded a clean sweep of wins against the Sixth Form House Teams. A special mention must go to Mrs Parkes, whose calm accuracy as goal shooter made a real difference. Events like this remind us of the positive relationships that underpin school life, and the value of staff and students coming together in shared moments of fun and challenge.

The past fortnight has also been dominated by the extraordinary success of our production of Frozen Jr. Across six performances, our students performed with confidence, professionalism and real joy, involving a remarkable number of young people on stage, backstage and behind the scenes. The production was a true example of giving to gain: students committing their time, energy and trust, and gaining confidence, friendships and unforgettable experiences in return.

I want to pay particular tribute to Mrs Saysell and Mrs Chapman, whose leadership, care and sheer determination made this production possible. The time they gave, often unseen, and the belief they showed in our students was felt by everyone involved. It is clear how much our students value them, not just for their expertise, but for the encouragement, warmth and ambition they bring to every rehearsal. Their work reflects the very best of what International Women's Day represents, and we are incredibly grateful to them both.

As you read through this edition of Newport News, you will see many more examples of our students stepping forward in similar ways: leading events in school, working with local primary schools, representing NGHS in sport, and giving their time and energy beyond the classroom. Together, these stories paint a powerful picture of young women who are confident, outward-looking and prepared to make a difference.

We finish the term on Friday 27 March, with students leaving at 12.30pm and the school closing at 1.00pm. I wish you all a restful and enjoyable Easter break. Best wishes,

Mr Jones
Headteacher

NEW HEAD GIRL TEAM TO BE ANNOUNCED!



Following a thorough selection process over the last couple of weeks, we are very pleased to say that the new Head Girl Team has now been chosen and will be formally announced on the last day of term. As we approach the time of year when Year 13 go on study leave, it is always an exciting time as the previous team hand over the reins as they prepare for their A-level exams.

In the next edition of Newport News we will have interviews with all of the incoming Head Girl Team. Additionally, this year's team will reflect on their extremely busy and successful 12 months!

To find out exactly who the team are for the coming twelve months, please check the school website and social media on the last day of term, Friday 27th March.

Tuesday 24th March Open Morning/Evening 9.30-11.00am and 4.30-7.00pm

Thursday 26th March Newport's Got Talent Grand Final

Friday 27th March End of Spring Term - Students finish 12.30pm

Friday 27th March Ski Trip to Austria Departs 7.00am

Saturday 4th April Ski Trip returns to NGHS (anticipated 6.30pm)

Monday 13th April First Day of Summer Term - School Open to Students at 8.00am

Monday 13th April Year 10 Individual Portrait Photographs and Year 13 Leavers Photo (Whole Year)

Tuesday 14th April Year 7 Parents' Evening



DATES FOR
YOUR DIARY

FROZEN JR. DELIGHTS AUDIENCES IN A MAGICAL WEEK OF PERFORMANCES!



The school production has once again proved to be a highlight of the year, captivating the community with six unforgettable performances—four incredible evening shows and two packed matinees. Over 1,300 audience members joined us throughout the week, each treated to a spectacular celebration of music, storytelling, and creativity.



From the moment the curtain rose, the talent and dedication of our students

shone brightly. The show was filled with breathtaking moments: spellbinding songs that lifted the roof, beautifully crafted puppets that brought beloved characters to life, and dazzling special effects that transformed the stage into the magical world of Arendelle. The energy and professionalism displayed by both cast and crew made this production truly extraordinary.

A massive thank-you goes to Mrs. Saysell and Mrs. Chapman for their leadership, vision, and tireless commitment in guiding this year's show. Their passion continues to inspire our young performers. We also extend heartfelt appreciation to every member of the cast and crew—on stage, backstage, and behind the scenes—for pouring their hearts into creating another outstanding production.



Congratulations to everyone involved for delivering a performance week that will be remembered for years to come!

The following pages are just some of the highlights from an amazing week of performances. After Easter there will be a full gallery photographs on the school website!









NGHS SWIMMERS SOAK UP THE GLORY AT TELFORD GALA!



On Wednesday 11th March 2026, Wrekin College hosted this year's Telford Schools Swimming Gala, where NGHS entered three girls' teams across the junior (Years 7–8), intermediate (Years 9–10), and senior (Years 11–13) categories.

The atmosphere was buzzing from the start, and our swimmers rose superbly to the occasion. The Senior Girls produced a phenomenal team performance, securing first place in their age group with a commanding total of 67 points, well ahead of second place on 54. Impressively, every

NGHS senior swimmer finished either first or second in their individual races, demonstrating the squad's depth, consistency, and competitive edge throughout the afternoon.

The Junior Girls matched this achievement with a flawless set of performances that earned them the top spot in their age group. Every junior swimmer also won their race—an exceptional and rare accomplishment that reflects the talent and potential of our youngest competitors.

The Intermediate Girls also performed admirably, finishing a very respectable third. Their consistent results across all events showcased determination and teamwork resulting in another podium finish!

When all age groups' points were combined, the overall trophy went to Wrekin College (combined across boys' and girls' teams). However, had the girls' scores been counted separately, NGHS would have claimed the overall title by a significant margin!

Team Captain Eve W (Year 11) expressed immense pride in the squad, saying:

"I was absolutely thrilled with the performances of every single NGHS swimmer! Coming 1st, 1st and 3rd in the three age groups means we were by far the strongest girls' team at the competition. Special mention goes to Allisa N (Y7), who was taking part in her first ever competitive gala. This is a great achievement and she absolutely smashed it in the free-style relay!"



A huge well done to all our swimmers for their fantastic achievements and outstanding team spirit.



CRICKET TEAMS FALL JUST SHORT IN COUNTY INDOOR FINALS!



On the 12th and 13th March, our U13 and U15 cricket teams delivered outstanding performances in the County Indoor Cricket Championships, narrowly missing out on securing both titles. Across the two days of competition, both squads went undefeated until their final matches, showcasing superb batting, disciplined bowling, and exceptional fielding throughout.

The U13s faced Ellesmere College in a tense final

showdown. In a match that had spectators on the edge of their seats, the girls pushed the game deep into the last over, ultimately falling short by just five runs. It was an agonisingly close finish that highlighted their determination and teamwork.

The U15s faced the very same opponents and demonstrated equally impressive skill and resilience. Despite a spirited and passionate effort, they too were edged out by Ellesmere in another competitive and high quality match.

Although both teams were just pipped at the final hurdle, their performances across the tournament were outstanding and a credit to the school.

Attention now turns to the upcoming outdoor season, beginning after Easter. Both age groups will be striving to defend their Shropshire County and West Midlands titles and with the form they've shown indoors, they look ready for the challenge ahead!



BADMINTON TEAM AT THE WEST MIDLANDS FINALS!

On Monday 2nd March, the schools KS3 badminton team went out to represent Telford and Wrekin in the Shropshire County Badminton Finals. We played three schools, Newcastle-under-Lyme School, Tudor Grange and Kings Worcester. We won against King Worcester, but lost a very close game to Newcastle-under-Lyme school, only losing by four points. Although we didn't win, we improved the more matches we played, and was a great experience!

Mrs H Birch, Assistant Headteacher



U12S & U19S COMPETE AT SAME EVENT FOR FIRST EVER TIME!

In a first for Newport Girls' High School, we had two teams from the very youngest to the very oldest competing in the same netball event! The U19 and U12 teams both travelled to Shrewsbury High School for friendly matches against a well known competitor. The U19s won their match and the U12s competed very strongly and gained valuable experience.

However, all agreed that the most important aspect was the shared spirit and camaraderie between the two teams.

The U12s loved having the older girls to look up to and aspire to, and the U19s were fabulous role-models and mentors to the younger players showing them where they could be in six or seven years.

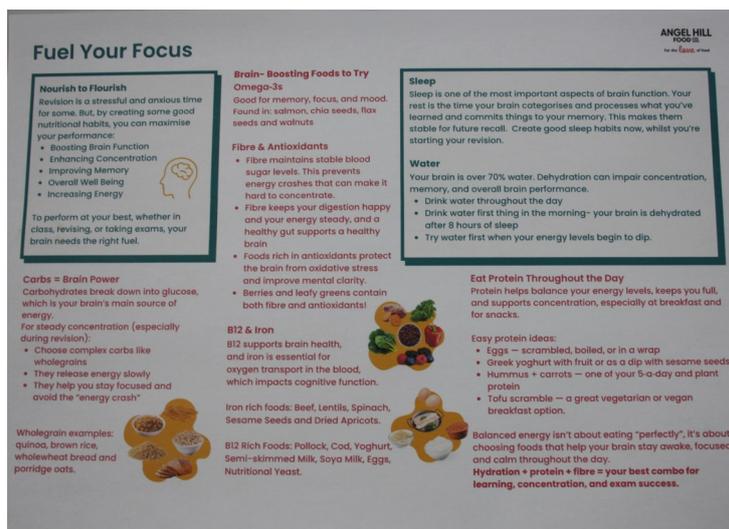
NGHS netball coach, Mrs Martin, commented: "It was delightful to see our newest and most experienced players share some great sporting moments together. We have never had this opportunity before and I know that both sets of players thoroughly enjoyed it!"



NEWS FROM THE CANTEEN

On Thursday 18th March we welcomed Hannah, Academy Caterings nutritionist in school to deliver a pop up around brain health during lunch time. We had taster pots of 'Apple and Cinnamon Bircher', which all students were able to come down and help themselves to along with engaging with Hannah. Pop ups are arranged with our nutritionists, and are very popular with students. Watch out for our next one coming soon.

Leesa Owen, Academy Catering Manager



FROM THE WELLBEING TEAM

A GUIDED SPRINGTIME WALK – MINDFULNESS



Before you embark, take some deep breaths. This time is for you to slow down, letting yourself detach from any worries you may have. If thoughts pop into your head, allow yourself to dismiss them and refocus on your surroundings.

Take a deep breath.

Maybe you can smell morning dew or the iron-rich scent of wet soil. Soon the bare branches of trees you can see may be heavy with blossom. Inhale deeply, im-

agining the smell of nature filling you up and allowing yourself to rejuvenate.

Perhaps you can see flowers lining a path. What colours can you spot - paper white snowdrops, soft purple crocuses, butter yellow daffodils?

If you challenged yourself to mindfully look at them for a minute, what little details do you think you would spot? If you see a body of water, consider what new life will soon be appearing there.



YEAR SEVEN CASTLES COMPETITION!

This month saw Year 7 enter their creations in the Great Year 7 Castle Competition. In groups and individually, Year 7 students used a range of resources to create their own Motte and Bailey Castles. Maisie, Liv and Evie (the History Ambassadors) had a hard time judging due to the quality of the entries, but the winners were as follows:



Overall winner was Melanie G from 7S for her excellent model complete with information sheet on the key features of her castle:

Runners up were:



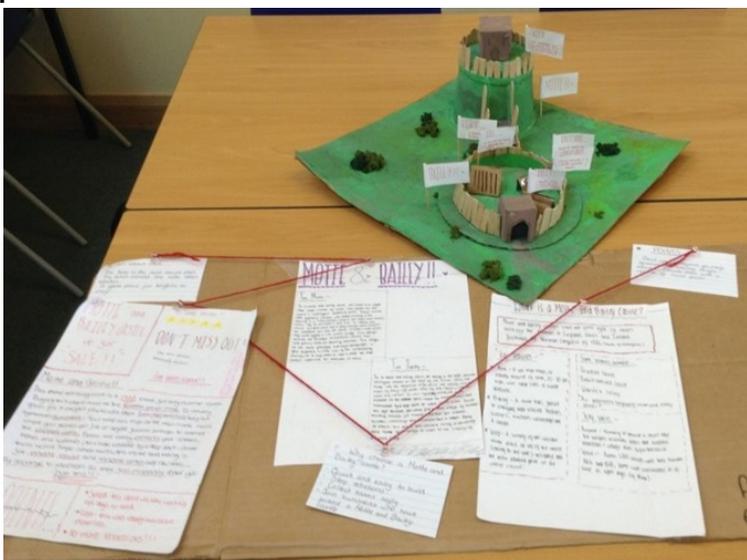
Eden H and Ellie M from 7S for the Castle with the Most Detail. Sophie B and Lucy G from 7S for the Most Accurate Castle. (The Ambassadors loved the sheep and pigs too). Fay R and Eliza Q from 7H for The Most Informative Castle. Two entries were completely edible, and both cake castles win a Runner Up prize for The Most Creative Castle.



These were made by Izzy M in 7N

and Lily O and Rosie T from 7N.

A well done to all who entered. House points are awarded to everyone who took part.





On Tuesday 3rd March, Year 12 and 13 students had the exciting opportunity to join with schools across the country to watch a War of the Roses conference held by the Richard III society.

It was a day of incredible lectures and historical insights presented by renowned historians and authors. A particularly appreciated presentation was done by author Lauren Johnson on Margaret Beaufort's involvement. Freya (Year 13) believed that she 'provided a unique perspective of women' within the context of the wars of the roses. Calen (Year 12) also enjoyed Johnson's lecture immensely, describing it as an 'engaging and fascinating presentation'.



Lauren Johnson

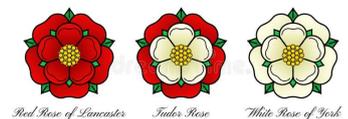
A particular highlight was the debate between Dr Hannes Kleineke and Dr James Ross over the success of Edward IV in 1471. Liz (Year 13) remarked that it was 'helpful to develop our own judgments' and was 'really relevant' to the current studies of the year 13 students. Ronnia (Year 13) also found it 'very enjoyable', commenting on how it 'allowed [her] to see what a focused argument looked like'.

Following the debate Year 12's were given the privilege of attending a UCAS presentation by the University of York, which discussed History at university level giving an insight into the courses available, personal statements and careers. Liv (Year 12) commented on the presentation saying it 'Solidified [her] decision to study History at university'



Overall, the day was enjoyable and informative for everyone, we would like to thank the History department for this brilliant opportunity.

History Ambassadors.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2026

NGHS STUDENTS CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2026



Sunday 8th March marked International Women's Day, an important celebration to commemorate women of the past, present and future. This year's theme was "Give to gain" encouraging generosity and collaboration in supporting women's advancements. International Women's day is not just about women but the girls who will lead us next. At school it is important to celebrate the day and what it stands for.

During 'FemSoc', we held a meeting where we discussed the significance of the day and created decorations for the school. Mainly we focused on individually decorated bunting which presents the suffragette colours, inspiring quotes and creative art. Other than that we also made paper chains in purple (representing justice and dignity) and white (representing integrity with the goal of equality). We later worked as a team to display these in reception for all the school to see. **Nell T, (Year 12)**



YEAR 12 PRIMARY READING SUPPORT



Six Year 12 students have begun visiting a local primary school to support Key Stage 2 pupils with their reading. Working closely with teachers, the volunteers spend time listening to children read, offering guidance, and helping to build confidence and fluency.

The initiative aims to strengthen literacy skills while fostering positive role model relationships between older and younger learners.

A new group of Year 12 students will take part every six weeks, ensuring many pupils benefit from the programme throughout the year.



FOCUS ON CLUBS—ALTERNATIVE MUSIC AND FEMSOC



On Thursday 19th March, Alternative Music Club and Femsoc came together to host Stephanie Phillips, a black feminist punk musician, festival organiser, music journalist, and author. She spoke to us about her band "Big Joanie", her thoughts when writing her book "Why Solange Matters", her experiences as a woman and person of colour, and what she plans to do next!

She also gave some very valuable advice for aspiring professional musicians, as well as those who dream of working behind the scenes, regarding passions, ambitions, and efforts that are crucial when it comes to "making it" in an ever-changing music industry - as shown by the collaboration of these two school clubs to discuss something so important and celebrating our common ground. And all of this is thanks to the amazing Stephanie Phillips, as well as the leaders of our Alternative Music Club and Feminist Society." **Akshara and Phoebe (Year 12)**

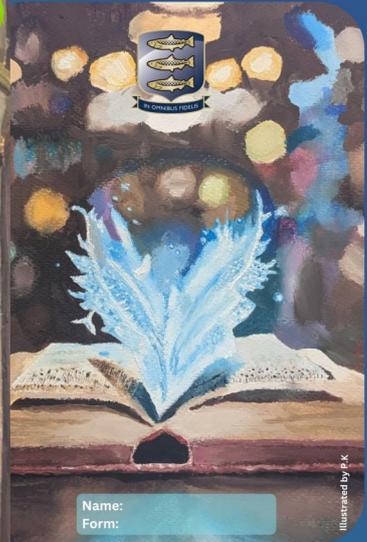


YOUNG ENTERPRISE NEWS

On Friday 6th March, one of our Young Enterprise Team (Neorla) were interviewed by NGHS Alumnae Becca Simmonds, who is now a BBC journalist!

The interview took place at the Telford Young Enterprise Trade Fair earlier this month. It was a real treat for an ex-pupil to come back into contact with NGHS in a professional capacity and you can listen to the full interview here by clicking the button opposite below and forwarding to 2.34





SCHOOL PLANNER COMPETITION 2026 -2027

CALLING ALL CREATIVE MINDS!

We're on the hunt for fresh, vibrant, and inspiring planner cover designs for the upcoming academic year. After the incredible success of the past three years, we're excited to continue this wonderful tradition by giving our talented NGHS students the opportunity to design the next official student planner covers.

Please hand in or email entries to Mrs J Rose or Miss AM Davies. Please send photos and digital pieces via email (JPEG or PNG file type).

DEADLINE

Friday 5th June

We need a cover for KS3 /KS4 and Sixth Form- you can submit one entry for a specific key stage or multiple entries for different key stages. The cover designs need to link to NGHS and capture what makes us so special. This could be based on things like learning, a sense of community or the architecture of the school.

▶ COULD BE CREATED BY HAND

▶ COULD BE A PHOTOGRAPH

▶ COULD BE A DIGITAL PIECE

▶ HAS TO CONSIDER A SPACE FOR 'NAME AND FORM'



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 Bolognese	Vegetable Bolognese	Daily Special	Pasta	Garlic Bread
WEDNESDAY	Roast Of The Day	Macaroni Cheese	Daily Special	Roast Potatoes	Vegetable & Gravy
THURSDAY	Traditional Cottage Pie	Vegetable Pie	Daily Special	Choice of Vegetables	Gravy
FRIDAY	Chicken Wraps	Pizza	Spice Chicken Goujons	Wedges	

w/c 16th March

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 Of The Day	Vegetable Pasty	Daily Special	Herby New Potatoes	Vegetables & Gravy
THURSDAY	Pasta Bake Day	Vegetarian Pasta Bake	Daily Special	Garlic Bread	Choice of Vegetables
FRIDAY	Chicken Wraps	Pizza	Spicy Chicken Goujons	Wedges	

w/c 23rd March

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 Of The Day	Vegetable Crumble	Daily Special	Roast Potatoes	Vegetables & Gravy
THURSDAY	Chicken Curry Day	Vegetarian Curry	Daily Special	Flatbread	Spiced Vegetables
FRIDAY	Chicken Wrap	Pizza	Spicy Chicken Goujons	Wedges	

w/c 9th March

FOOD ALLERGIES & INTOLERANCES

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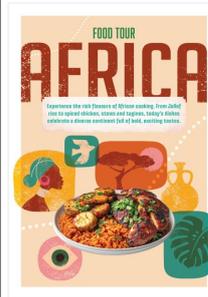
WHAT'S COMING UP THIS TERM?



JANUARY



JANUARY



FEBRUARY



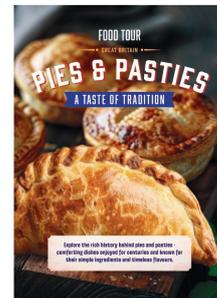
FEBRUARY



MARCH



MARCH



APRIL



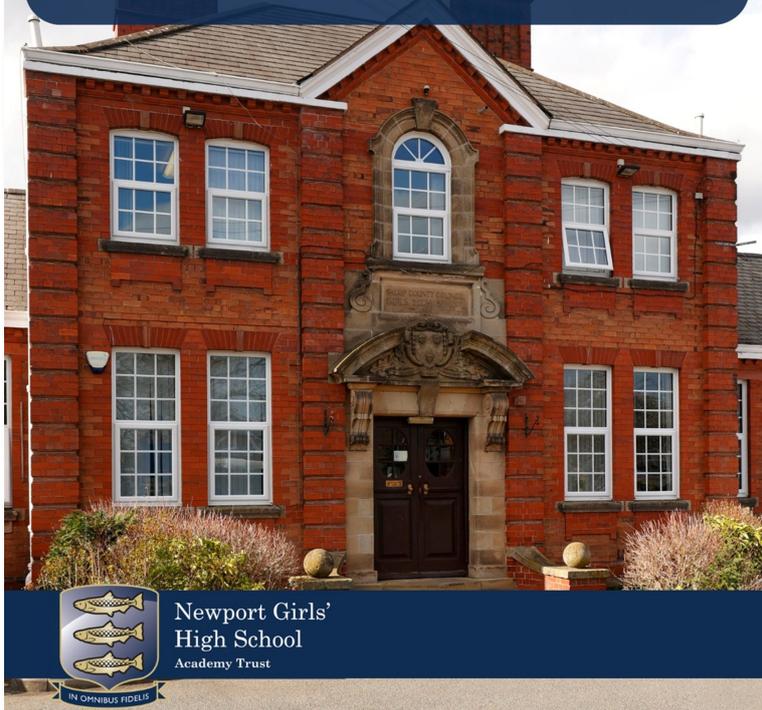
APRIL



Newport Girls' High School

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

Applications and full details for our 6th Form bursary fund are available from the school website at nghs.org.uk/sixth-form/bursary



PARKING REMINDER

Could we please remind all parents and visitors to park considerately of our neighbours when visiting the school. Please do not block driveways or access points in the roads adjacent to school as this can cause problems for the residents. Thank you.



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)



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.

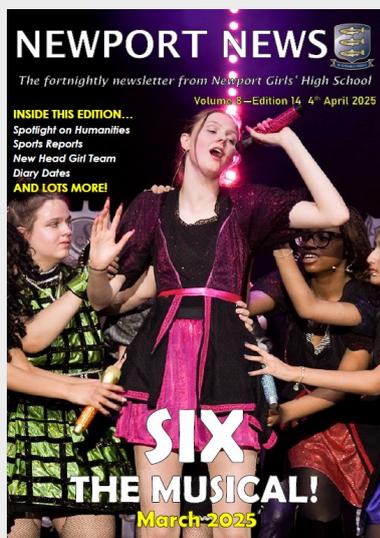
During school holidays, reception is closed and phone calls/emails cannot be responded to until we return to school. During the school holidays, **urgent@nghs.org.uk** is available to communicate key urgent information; it should not be used to send routine enquiries that can be responded to when school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



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)

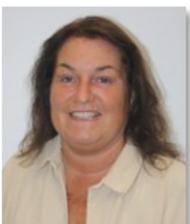


Ms J Capaldi
Head of Year 11



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



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