NEWPORT NEWS



The fortnightly newsletter from Newport Girls' High School

Volume 9—Edition 5 10th November 2025



Newport News



The bi-weekly newsletter from Newport Girls' High School Volume 9 Edition 5 10.11.25



HEAD'S LINES



I hope you and your families enjoyed a well-deserved half-term break after what was a very long first eight-week period. This half term has already begun at pace and promises to remain busy, with parents' evenings, open events, mock examinations, house activities and, of course, the usual pre-Christmas celebrations.

On Wednesday evening, we welcomed parents into school for the Year 7 Information Evening. This was

an opportunity to attend information talks, meet Form Tutors and, more informally, learn more about the school and the experiences that lie ahead over the coming years. Form Tutors play a vital role in our pastoral care, seeing their form daily and acting as an important point of contact for parents throughout their child's time at NGHS. Thank you to those who were able to attend; we hope you found the evening helpful. If you were unable to join us, you should have received the presentation slides we shared afterwards.

This week, several of our students contributed to our Remembrance Assembly by sharing their experiences as children of service men and women. The assembly was reflective and moving, and I would like to thank all those who took part. On Tuesday, Remembrance Day, at I Iam, we will pause to remember those whose lives were tragically lost in World War I, as well as in other conflicts—many of which, as we heard in the assembly, have a personal impact on members of our NGHS family.

Looking ahead, our Sixth Form Open Evening for Year 11 students



and parents takes place on Thursday, 13 November, from 4.30pm to 7pm. NGHS6 is an integral yet distinct part of our school community, and we are delighted with our current Year 12 cohort, the largest in our school's history. We expect many Year 11 visitors from other schools too, and the evening will be a chance to learn more about our excellent curriculum, pastoral care and leadership opportunities in this highly successful Sixth Form. We hope you can join us; limited parking will be available on the Courts via the North Car Park.

Best wishes,

Mr A Jones

Headteacher

Tuesday 11th November Year 13 Economics Trip to Manchester

Tuesday 11th November National Arboretum Visit - Service Children

Thursday 13th November Sixth Form Open Evening 4.30-7pm

Monday 17th November Mock GCSE Examinations including MFL Speaking (all week)

Tuesday 18th November A-level Physics - LIVE!

Monday 24th November A-level Biology - LIVE!

Friday 28th November GCSE Prizegiving Afternoon



A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD GIRL TEAM

At the end of October we had a professional video production company in school to shoot for our new Sixth Form promotional video to be used on Open Evening and also online. Myself along with various members of the Head Girl Team and other Sixth Formers were involved as 'interviewee's' giving our thoughts on a range of aspects of school life!

It was a fascinating and somewhat nerve-wracking experience to be interviewed by a former BBC journalist with a professional lighting set up and experienced cameraman! However, I'm sure the end result will be worth the wait and I'm really looking forward to seeing it on 13th November at our Sixth Form Open Evening and then on our school website.



Grace B, Y13, Deputy Head Girl, Academic Chair



Join us on 13th November to see why NGHS is the number one ranked state school in Shropshire for A-level results!

No booking required - just arrive from 4.30pm onwards to see all that our Sixth Form has to offer! Presentations at 4.45pm, 5.30pm and 6.15pm.

GB SELECTION FOR YIO STUDENT!

We are always super proud to share the national and international success of our students in a range of sports and other activities. Below, Newport Cycling Club outline the outstanding achievement of Year 10 NGHS student, Fay J, and her call up to the GB Youth Squad. Massive well done Fay, and we look forward to hearing about your cycling adventures in the future!



"We're absolutely delighted to announce that Newport Cycling Club's very own Fay J has been selected for the National School of Racing in the Track Sprint discipline.

This is effectively the GB squad for Youth category riders. Fay was recently awarded

her GB jersey in a ceremony at the Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome in Glasgow.

We're absolutely delighted to see Fay in her jersey, a first for our cycling club! Fay has had an incredible season, winning the National Sprint Futures Series and taking the Silver medal in the National Youth Girls Sprint Championship.





As if she hasn't got enough on her plate with her travels to velodromes in London, Glasgow, South Wales, Manchester and Derby, Fay has been volunteering at Newport Shropshire Cycling Club weekly coaching sessions and she has even enrolled on a Coach Education course in November! Well done to Fay, her supersupportive parents, and her amazing coach Chris Pyatt!"

Newport Cycling Club





FORM NOTICE BOARD WINNERS!

Every year, there is a house competition where each class decorate their form notice boards around a particular theme. It is always keenly contested with great effort going into the designs as the classes compete for bragging rights!

This year the theme was particularly challenging with every single item used having to be re-cycled or re-used! Even with this stipulation, the student's pulled out all the stops and created some fantastic designs. After being judged by the three House Communication Captains, the overall winners were as follows:



SEACOLE

Ist Place A4 (HMS Ladybird)

2nd Place **S4 (Recycle)**



Joint 3rd RI (How to Train Your Bee)



Joint 3rd **S7 (Ninja Notice)**



NEW STAFF UPDATE

Mrs Hazlett Reflects on her first term at NGHS

What has surprised you the most since starting in September?

I suppose it must be the amount of variation in my job! Although I am officially in charge of reprographics I get called upon to do all sorts of things. These have included: taking biometric fingerprints, administering first aid, creating and maintaining displays around school, producing certificates and of course all of the staff and student photocopying requests!



How have the students and staff welcomed you to NGHS?

I have to say that the other members of staff have all been great, helping me find my feet and pointing me in the right direction when I'm unsure about something. Of course, the students have been great too, although they do keep me on my feet with their photocopying demands!

Have you had anything you have been particularly pleased with since you started?

I suppose that since settling into the role it has been sorting out all the different storage solutions and processes to make the whole job of reprographics more easy to manage. I'm always extremely busy so finding the best way that works for me has been crucial!

Is there a specific event or incident that has been a particular highlight of your first half-term?

Having had two of my children sit the Entrance Test it has been really interesting to see the process from the other side. I thoroughly enjoyed helping out with the Entrance Test day - from sorting out exam papers, showing students to the bathroom or giving them words of encouragement if they were a little bit nervous - it was really rewarding to be a part of helping the day run as smoothly as possible for the Year 6 students.



ALL WE HEAR IS...RADIO IN-TUNE!

Report by Phoebe F-G (Y12)



On Wednesday 15th October, Lara C (Y12) and myself attended a radio experience day along with other young people from across the area as part of Youth

Awareness Day. The event took place at the Darwin Centre in Shrewsbury and we got to take part in various discussions throughout the day, concerning issues such as public transport, youth clubs, mental health, and the importance of mu-



sic and a feeling of community.

The day gave us experience in broadcasting and journalism, giving us a greater understanding of what goes on behind the scenes of audio entertainment. We were also given the chance to meet with some incredibly talented musicians who performed live on the radio. Also, we were both lucky enough to speak live on InTune Radio! A great day and a big thank you to Mrs Aver Howdie for going with us!







STUDENT OF THE HALF-TERM

There was much excitement as the students came back from the break to see who had won the subject awards for Student of the Half-Term! Awarded by the teachers, it is always a thrill for the recipients. The complete list for the first half term can be found on the notice board outside Centenary Hall. A massive well done to every single winner!



ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 2025!



On Monday 10th November the students were all invited to wear odd socks to show support for anti-bullying week. The Head Girl Team are also organising a poster/poetry competition around the theme of 'Power for Good' and we will bring you the winners in a future edition!











NGHS AUTUMN CONCERT

On Thursday 23rd October, students form all years treated the assembled audience to a real treat with a fabulous Autumn Concert in the school hall. Featuring nearly 150 students, an audience of over 200 were thrilled by the standard of musicianship, dedication and sheer enjoyment on display.



There really was something for everyone on the night including: Lower School Choir, string ensemble, orchestra, piano and vocal solo's, Sixth Form Band...and lots more! Head of Music, Mrs Chapman, commented:

"What an amazing way to end the half term! A wonderful performance from all the students whose talent and commitment really shone through. The next event for the Music Department will be our Carol Service at St Nicholas Church on Wednesdasy I 7th December in Newport."

NEWS FROM ACADEMY CATERING

asian street food market





Coming

Wed 11th November

Festive Christmas Dinner News!

On Thursday 18th December we will be having our ever popular Christmas Dinner! Tickets will be available to purchase exclusively from the canteen later this month. You can only take part by pre-purchasing your ticket as there are no sales on the day!





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

 $w.c - 3^{rd}$ November $w.c - 24^{th}$ November $w.c - 15^{th}$ December

FOOD ALLERGIES & INTOLERANCES

Houseauige Information on altergeneral suffer from a food intolerance, please speak to a team member before ye



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 – 17th November w.c – 8th December

FOOD ALLERGIES & INTOLERANCES
If you require information on allergens or suffer fro



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 November 10th w.c December 1st



FOOD ALLERGIES & INTOLERANCES
If you require information on allergens or suffer from a food intolerance, please speak to a tea

UPCOMING MENU'S UNTIL CHRISTMAS

10th November: Week 2

17th November: Week 3

24th November: Week I

Ist December: Week 2

8th December: Week 3

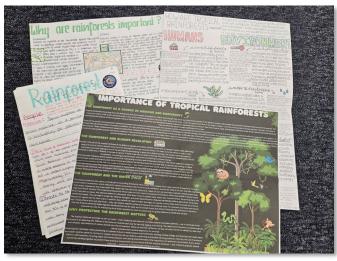
15th December: Week I





SUPER GEOGRAPHY WORK!

Excellent homework effort in Geography by Year 10!



Mrs Martin would like to say a huge well done to her Year 10 Geographers who have worked exceptionally hard over the last half term. Their positive attitude to learning and their work ethic is excellent, and she is very proud of them all. Most recently, they were asked to complete a piece of homework on the value and importance of the rain-

forest and as you can see the level of effort they put in was brilliant and deserving of many 'H' points!

REMEMBRANCE ASSEMBLIES



Throughout all of last week, the assemblies in school were led by students who come from service families. In the lead up to Remembrance Sunday and Remembrance Day on 11th November, the students asked the rest of the school to reflect on the sacrifices made by service men and women in defence of our country.

At 11.00am on the 11th of November, all students and staff in school will observe a 2 minute silence. We have once again been taking part in the Poppy Appeal as

we do every year and next Tuesday, Mrs Martin will be taking the students who delivered the assembly to the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas, Staffordshire.







YOUNG ENTERPRISE UPDATE!

As we move further into the term, all three of this year's Young Enterprise teams have been busy fundraising for their teams as well as finalising exactly what they are going to produce, market and sell. The as yet un-named teams have been having plenty of guidance and support and they are now very close to finalising their products and announcing them to the public!

First Mentor Meeting for Each Team

Each week, Mr Tony Hague kindly comes in to school to give each team the benefit of his huge experience in the world of production and running successful companies. Managing Director of Team I, Debbie Z, commented: "Tony has been great, guiding us to key points that we need to look at in terms of our products!"

Marketing Update

On Tuesday 4th November, our Young Enterprise teams had the pleasure of welcoming Sali Morris, head of marketing and global communication at Moveero, a manufacturer of wheels. Sali shared with us many tips on marketing, especially in the importance of brand building, market research, and promo-



tion. We gained valuable insight into understanding how to effectively promote our business and learnt about the steps to building an impactful and successful brand. We can't wait to put what we've learnt into practice, and we hope that everyone can look forwards to what we have in store for our businesses! Quynh D (Marketing Director Team 2)



ENTERPRISING SCHOOL





YOUNG ENTERPRISE UPDATE!

Chocolate Hamper Winners!

In the picture opposite, you can see Sumuella B (Y12) who is the events and Social Media Director for Team 2. Also pictured are two of the winners of their chocolate hamper competition—they are looking very pleased with their winnings! A great fundraiser to get started and all of the money generated will be used to help produce and sell their product when it is finally ready!



Update from Team I Managing Director, Debbie Z

Already we are seeing progress, from setting up fundraisers, meeting new people and brainstorming ideas for products. Last half term, we hit it off with our first fundraiser, the GCSE book sale, which went really well, as we sold all of our revision guides despite having some reserved book mishaps! As a group, we are adapting to the new responsibilities and roles that come from being a Young Enterprise team, and I'm looking forward to seeing where that takes us. One of our priorities as a team is hearing from you guys so if you have any product or fundraiser ideas that you would like to see, feel free to reach out on the Young Enterprise e-mail ye@nghs.org.uk Our ongoing fundraiser is the Christmas Raffle. Enter the raffle for a chance to win a selection of products worth over £100! AND a chance to win the limited edition Jellycat Mashmellows!

£1 - 1 ticket £2 - 3 tickets £3 - 5 tickets

Tickets are being sold outside the hall or canteen every lunchtime,

Another upcoming event fundraiser is 'Sponge the Teacher' on the 24th November, and we encourage you all to come!

Follow our instagram, @yenghs, and TikTok, @ye_nghs, for more updates!



Staff v Students Tag Rugby!

On Thursday 14th November, Team 3 are organising a staff versus students tag rugby match as their first fundraiser of the year! With fifteen staff signed up it will be an 'interesting' spectacle for the paying crowd as most of the staff have never played rugby before or else it was many, many years ago! Make sure you go along at lunch time to see just how it goes!

NEWPORT COTTAGE CARE

Report by Emily R, Deputy Head Girl, Community

Recently, we have organised a volunteering scheme with Newport Cottage Care as part of our aim to strengthen links between our school and our local community. This provides the opportunity for both Year 12 and 13 students to spend time each week interacting with residents at the local care home, allowing students to make a positive impact within the local community.



Through volunteering, we aim to form meaningful connections with the residents as well as offer them companionship in order to reduce feelings of isolation and loneliness, which are commonly felt among residents. During the visits to the care home, students spend time interacting with the residents through a range of ways, such as through conversation or participating in activities like playing board games or even doing arts and crafts with them.

It has been amazing to hear how much both the students, and the residents have enjoyed the scheme. The students have, in particular, enjoyed getting to know the residents and listening to their stories of their own life experiences.



ROMEO, OH ROMEO...



Year 9 Shakespearean Mask Project

After studying one of Shakespeare's most famous plays, Romeo and Juliet, our Year 9 students have produced some outstanding work as part of a Shakespearean mask project. Drawing on their understanding of the play's themes, characters and context, students designed and created beautiful masks inspired by key figures from the tragedy.

Each mask was accompanied by a detailed written analysis, in which students explored and justified their creative choices. They discussed the imagery, colour, and symbolism used, and linked their ideas to key quotations from the text as well as providing contextual insights. The project brilliantly combined literary analysis with artistic expression, showcasing both the students' creativity and their deep engagement with Shakespeare's work.

Can you guess which character these masks represent?

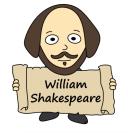


















YEAR I2 AND I3 VISIT THE SEATS OF POWER!

An in depth report by Violet W, Year 12

Despite the abhorrent 6:15am start, Y12 and Y13 students thoroughly enjoyed the entirety of the politics trip to tour the Houses of Parliament as well as the Supreme Court: places that many of us had previously only visualised.

Once the odd feeling of arriving at school in utter darkness passed and the coach ride had begun there was a familiar sense of excitement only achieved by the magic of school trips. Haribo packets were opened, headphones were placed upon ears and then subsequently shouted over and through the window the joys of Shropshire's countryside got further and further away. Until eventually (after a much-needed trip to the services) it became completely replaced



with motorway and then London itself! As required, we took numerous of pictures as we passed iconic sights such as The Natural History Museum, Hyde Park and Harrods.

Shortly after this, we noticed arguably the most iconic sight of them all. Adorned with genuine gold leaf that combatted the dull grey of English October, Big Ben stood tall above the greenery. An image that just had to be photographed, leading all of us to cluster together on Westminster Bridge for the mandatory school photo that will inevitably be featured on some social media platform or other!

But alas, we were eventually herded inside into the Houses of Parliament and those of us who had opted to wear jewellery seriously regretted their life choices as they triggered every single metal detector! This was long forgotten though as our lovely guides equipped us with a headset that felt very futuristic, allowing us to hear all their extensive knowledge of Westminster Hall. Learning that we had stood at the exact same spot as key figures such as former US President Barack Obama and Nelson Mandela. Sure, they delivered speeches and probably weren't in their jeans, but they still stood exactly where we did!

This was almost (but not quite) as amazing as getting to witness the House of Lords in action. Something that Y12 student Nell T found particularly fascinating, reporting that it was 'by far her favourite part of the day!' Honestly, I'd struggle to disagree myself, because it was quite calming to see the Lords who have such influence over our country. For me this was the moment. The moment when politics was no longer about what was written in textbooks but what was happening in front of us. Dynamic, yet in reach - in the reach of every student in attendance.

This feeling only intensified when we entered a workshop and were told to make up our own political party before campaigning against each other. A challenge readily accepted. Practically tearing the piece of paper, we jotted down our ideas related to policy, all certain we were going to win but also wanting to listen to everyone else's opinions. Forgetting temporarily that it was a small exercise and not actually a national campaign. It's easily done, obviously!

Then after wolfing down a quick lunch, we took the three-minute walk to the Supreme Court, marvelling at how approachable the building itself felt. It wasn't dominating the landscape, and it wasn't particularly extravagant

(though the gothic architecture did have its own charm). No, somewhere that carries such immense authority welcomed rather than intimidated those who entered.

If the staircase hadn't been so ornate, I would've complained about the sheer volume of steps, but laziness aside it was definitely worth it. Especially because upon entering Court Room One our guide encouraged us to take a seat anywhere we would like. Now, this may not initially be seen as a big deal, it's just a chair after all.

Only that's not the case. Because there was a race to sit on the raised benches at the front of the courtroom where the Supreme Court Justices sit, positioned in order of superiority, alternating left and right of the centre seat.

The same exact seat that Baroness Hale of Richmond had sat numerous times before. Where many highly influential people have debated the biggest legal and constitutional questions in the UK. Going further than the typical 'guilty or innocent' to instead discuss what the law itself actually means and how to apply it.

The same exact seat that I have now sat in myself! Grinning ear to ear like an idiot as I inwardly (and rather childishly I might add) celebrated that my microphone, unlike everyone else's, had an override button. Revelling in the huge volume of power! Clearly, it's not gone to my head or anything - I can contain my excitement when it's brought up in conversation.

But the excitement didn't just end there because we went to the other courtroom and got the incredible opportunity to debate an actual past

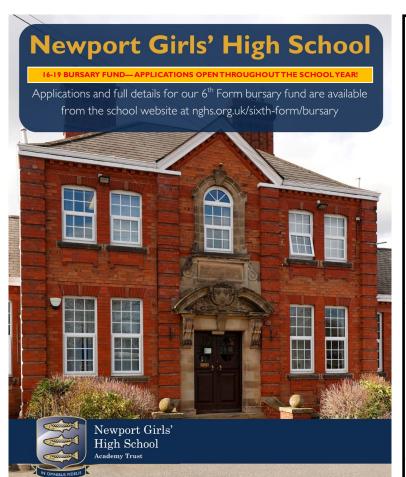
case. Remaining calm as people purposefully played the devil's advocate, eyes bright with that dignified exasperation only exposed in situations such as these.

That brightness was still there as the day concluded - kept somewhere special as we were rounded back onto the coach. Blearily blinking as the missed sleep finally caught up on some of us. It was certainly quieter on the way back. Maybe people were sleeping or catching up on the 'Traitors' with bated breath.

Or maybe there was a group sense of reflection as people mentally recalled the day itself. Not actually imagining but instead *genuinely seeing* themselves in the Houses of Parliament wearing a power suit and carrying a briefcase. Swivelling on fancy chairs for hours on end. Working with some of the brightest people in the country to try figure out the most complex legal scenarios.

After all, I know I did!







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)

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

AI-GENERATED VIDEOS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS? Al-generated videos are increasingly difficult to spot and easy to share. From fake news clips to deepfake abuse, children and young people face new risks every day online. These videos can imitate real people, spread false narratives or even generate harmful content from scratch. Understanding these dangers is crucial for schools and families who want to protect children in a fast-evolving digital world.

RECTOR

DEEPFAKE ABUSE CONTENT

Shockingly, artificial intelligence is now being exploited to create child sexual abuse material (CSAM). These synthetic images and videos are a form of digital abuse, often generated by manipulating real children's photos, including ones shared innocently online. Worryingly, the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) has identified a sharp rise in this disturbing trend. Whether real or Al-generated, this content causes lasting trauma – and its creation or possession remains a criminal offence under UK law.

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BLURRED REALITY

Regular exposure to fake content can erode a child's trust in real-world evidence. If everything can be faked, they may begin to question genuine videos – including actual abuse or injustice. This is known as the 'liar's dividend', where real harm is dismissed as fake news. It can discourage victims from coming forward or speaking up.

USED FOR BULLYING

Deepfake technology is already being used by peers to create embarrassing or explicit clips of classmates. These videos can be edited to appear as though a child said or did something they never did. Once shared, they are almost impossible to delete completely.

Al-generated bullying adds a new layer of harm that is deeply personal and difficult to prove.

EMOTIONAL MANIPULATION

Al-generated videos can be used to provoke strong emotions, including fear, anger or guilt. False footage of crying children, injured animals or burning buildings may be created purely for clicks, donations or political influence. Children may feel upset or powerless, unaware that what they are watching has been digitally invented to manipulate their reaction.

DISINFORMATION

Al-generated videos can spread fake news, making it harder for children to separate fact from fiction. False clips may include deepfake interviews, hoax disasters or fabricated health claims. Al is already being used to produce misleading or persuasive material that appears authentic. If they don't develop media literacy, children may accept false content as truth.

IMPERSONATION AND SCAMS



FAKE NEWS

With just a few photos or voice clips, AI tools can imitate someone's appearance or speech. This makes it easier for scammers or bullies to create fake videos of children, teachers or celebrities. These impersonations can be used for fraud, harassment or humiliation — and can spread quickly through social media or group chats, due to the viral potential of video, in particular, on social media.

Advice for Parents & Educators

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TEACH HOW IT WORKS

Explain to children that videos can be faked – and show them how.
Demonstrating side-by-side examples of real vs AI-generated clips
helps to build awareness. Discuss how faces, voices and even movements
can be copied by machines. Understanding the technology reduces fear and
builds confidence in navigating digital content safely.

TALK ABOUT TRUST

Always keep lines of communication open. If a child sees something upsetting or unbelievable, they should feel safe discussing it without judgement. Create an environment where they know they will not get in trouble for asking questions. This also helps you step in quickly if harmful content has been shared; trust is vital and needs to be nurtured.

ENCOURAGE CRITICAL QUESTIONS

Help children question what they watch. Who made this? Why was it made? Is it trying to persuade me? These habits encourage digital thinking, especially when videos seem too shocking or convenient. Reinforce that not everything shared by friends or influencers is true, even if it looks convincing at first, and that the initial approach should always be one of speculation.

STRENGTHEN PRIVACY SETTINGS

Advise children not to share voice notes, selfies or personal videos on public platforms. Al tools often scrape content from social media to create deepfakes. Use privacy controls to limit who can see their content and turn off facial recognition where possible. Fewer public images means fewer opportunities for misuse.

Meet Our Expert

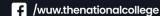
Brendan O'Keeffe is a headteacher and digital education consultant with over a decade of experience in education. As Director of Digital Strategy across multiple schools and an advisor to The National College, he specialises in digital safety, PREVENT, and pastoral care.





National College









Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 12.11.2025

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