NEWPORT NEWS



The fortnightly newsletter from Newport Girls' High School

Volume 9—Edition 7 8 December 2025



HEAD'S LINES

Christmas has well and truly arrived at NGHS this week! Our Head Girl Team have been busy

adding festive cheer by decorating the Christmas tree, and Year 7 enjoyed their annual trip to the pantomime, always a highlight of the season.



Last Friday, we hosted our Presentation and Awards Ceremony in school, where we celebrated a wide range of achievements. Prizes were awarded for academic excellence, leadership, music, and art, and we also presented GCSE certificates to last year's cohort. It was a wonderful occasion that truly showcased the talent and dedication within our school community. My sincere thanks go to Miss Davies for her hard work in organising such a memorable event.

Amid these celebrations, we were delighted to learn that NGHS has once again been recognised in the national Parent Power School League Tables. We are ranked in the Top 10 state secondary schools in the West Midlands and 42nd nationally for GCSE performance, placing us firmly within the top 2% of schools across the country. We are also proud to remain Shropshire's number one state school. This achievement reflects the hard work of our students and staff, supported by families and trustees, and is something we can all take pride in.

I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude for the incredible generosity shown towards the Christmas Smile Appeal. We received an astonishing number of donations, which will undoubtedly bring joy to families this Christmas. Mrs Jones and Ms Houston, along with our Lower School Head Girl Team, delivered the gifts to the Christmas Smile headquarters in Telford, where staff were overwhelmed by the scale of our contribution. In fact, NGHS has been recognised as the single largest contributor to the scheme this year, an achievement we can all be immensely proud of.

On Wednesday, we were treated to an absolute extravaganza at our House Music Competition. It was clear that pupils have been rehearsing since September, and their hard work truly paid off. The creativity and talent displayed by all three houses were nothing short of remarkable. The House Teams and particularly the Music Captains should be incredibly proud of the legacy they have created with this year's event, House Music 2025 will certainly live long in the memory!

A quick reminder that Winter Jumper Day takes place on Thursday 18 December. Students taking part are asked to bring £1 in cash, which will be donated to Newport Food Bank, a cause we are proud to support each year. This day also coincides with our Christmas lunch; tickets are now on sale from the canteen and must be purchased in advance. Please note that Christmas lunch will be the only option available on this day.

Finally, we break up for the end of term on Friday 19 December at 12.30pm, with school closing at 1pm. Our own coaches will run as usual, although we understand that Adams coaches will not operate on this day. Full attendance is expected, and some lessons will take place as normal before the early finish.

Best wishes,

Mr A Jones

Headteacher

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD GIRL TEAM

I am thrilled to share the incredible success of our annual support for Christmas Smile, a charity dedicated to bringing joy to those less fortunate in the Telford region. This year, our school community came together in an extraordinary way, donating over 1,100 gifts, our largest contribution yet!

We have proudly supported Christmas Smile for several years, and each year we've managed to surpass our previous efforts. The generosity shown by students, staff, and families has been truly inspiring. Gifts ranged from thoughtful presents for babies to wonderful items for adults, ensuring that every age group will feel the magic of Christmas.

On Friday, 5th December, all the donations were delivered to the charity, ready to be wrapped and distributed to families who need them most. This achievement reflects not only the kindness within our school but also the power of community spirit during the festive season.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated and to the volunteers who work at Christmas Smile to make this possible!



Shaan K, Y13, NGHS Head Girl

Monday 8 December YII Parents Evening

Friday 12 December Sixth Form Christmas Shopping Trip (after school)

Wednesday 17 December Carol Concert, 6.30pm St Nicholas Church

Wednesday 17 December Y14 Reunion

Thursday 18 December Charity 'Winter Jumper' day

Thursday 18 December Christmas Lunch in school (ticket only)

Friday 19 December YII End of Autumn Term 12.30pm

Monday 5th January Return to School 8.00am

NGHS PRIZEGIVING AFTERNOON 2025

Friday 28th November, On NGHS held it's annual GCSE Prizegiving Ceremony. In attendance were over 160 invited guests along with a similar number of students receiving awards and certificates. It was an opportunity to say a massive well done to the Class of 2025 on their fantastic GCSE results. Additionally, students in other year groups also received a range of awards for subject excellence, outstanding contributions to school life and impeccable behaviour and progress.

As is customary, a former pupil was invited back as a special guest speaker to share their post NGHS experiences. This



year we were delighted to welcome back Neha Patnaik. Neha was a student at Newport Girls' between 2014 and 2021 completing her GCSE and A levels at the school before starting a degree apprenticeship with JP Morgan.



A massive thank you to Neha for giving up her time to present the awards to all of our prize-winners and also share her advice and words of wisdom since leaving NGHS. It is always wonderful to see ex-students and Neha was an inspiration to all those in attendance!

HOUSE MUSIC









Wednesday 3rd December saw NGHS host it's annual House Music Competition and it didn't disappoint! With outstanding performances from Austen, Seacole and Roddam it was extremely difficult for the judges, former House Music Capatains Jessalyn Pham and Sophie Li, to separate the three teams!

However, after much deliberation, the final results were announced as:



1st Place - Seacole 2nd Place - Austen 3rd Place - Roddam



In the next edition of Newport News we will have an in-depth report from each of the three Music House captains but for now, here are a few images from a spectacular day of music!



























CHRISTMAS SMILE APPEAL 2025





THANK YOU NGHS!

We are absolutely thrilled with this years response to our Christmas Smile Appeal! Unbelievably, we actually collected over I, I 00 gifts which is a new record and these were delivered to the collection point in Telford on Friday 5th December. They will now be wrapped and distributed to families in the Telford region for who Christmas may not hold quite as much cheers as it does for most of us. Everyone at NGHS is extremely proud to be such ardent supporters of this fantastic Christmas charity and the organisers continue to be blown away by the generosity and kindness of all of the students, parents and staff at NGHS!







CHRISTMAS FAYRE!

Introduction by Evie D, (Year 12 Christmas Fayre Organiser)

NGHS is never lacking in holiday activities, a Christmas Fayre has been absent from the calendar for as long as I can remember. So this year, we've changed that with the establishment of the NGHS Christmas Fayre! The money raised will be split between two charities—Team Kenya and Freddie's Wish.

The Fayre will run on Monday 15th December from 12:00-13:35, hosting a variety of stalls and activities ranging from the classic bake sale to a Matcha Stall and handmade jewellery. Students are even running an elf trail! The festive spirit is endless with our Head Girl Team running a Santa's grotto and we will also have live music performances. Stalls will be mainly cash with some taking card; no food will contain nuts and ingredients lists will be provided. We hope to see you in the hall of the 15th of December to join the festive fun!

Reminders:

Time - 12:00-13:35

Date - Monday I 5th December

Location - Sports Hall

Payment - All stalls will take cash and only a few will take card so...

PLEASE BRING PLENTY OF CHANGE FOR THE STALLS!













Y7 STUDENT SHINES AT SHOOTING CHAMPS!



Y7 NGHS student, Demi V, was thrilled to take a silver medal at the recent West Midlands British Shooting Schools Rifle Championships. The championships were held at Aldersley NSRA (National Small-bore Rifle Association) on Saturday 25th October. As it was a schools championship she wore her school PE uniform and was also representing her scout troupe.

Shooting in the 10 metre 'sporter rifle' class, Demi was competing in the Junior category (Y6/7/8) and during the qualification round she finished 3rd to qualify for the final with the top 8 going through.

The final was a knock out format where after shooting, the lowest scoring competitor drops out, then after every further two shots another drops out and so on until there are two remaining where the highest score wins gold.

Demi shot consistently well and maintained a position in the top three right up to the last two where she was narrowly beaten for first place. From this result Demi qualifies for the National Schools Final in Cannock next February. Well done, Devi!



LONDON TRIP



On Friday 6th December a group of 26 Year 12 Economics and Business Studies A-level students had a memorable day on their 'walking tour' of London. Visiting the Bank of England the British Museum and a host of other London landmarks it was a fantastic day.

With over 11 miles covered on foot, there were a few sore feet at the end of the day but everyone agreed it was a fantastic day! Full report coming in the next edition of Newport News.



BIOLOGY LIVE

On Monday 24th November a group of Year 12 and 13 A-level Biology students and staff travelled to the University of Birmingham Great Hall for the annual Biology —LIVE! Lectures.



One of the highlight's of the day was when



Mrs Nicholls was called on stage to show how the human body responds to stress! The pictures clearly show how the human nose and lips gets colder when we are under duress! This is because blood flow is re-directed to more 'important' areas like the eyes and other vital organs in readiness of the fight or flight response!

Everyone agreed it was a fascinating experience to hear such prolific scientists speaking and to take science out of the laboratory and into the 'real world'!

Prof Sophie Scott

The Science of Laughter



A humorous look into human behaviour and the importance of laughter

Dr Tim Lamont

Hope for Coral Reefs



Presented a range of very emotional pictures of the impact of global warming on coral reef eco-systems.

Prof Adam Hart

The World in All it's Glory



Presentation looking at the staggering diversity of life on earth

Prof Jennifer Rohn

Revenge of the Microbes



Eye opening view into the problems society faces with the increase in antibiotic resistant strains of bacteria

Prof Gilly Forrester

On Humans and Other Animals

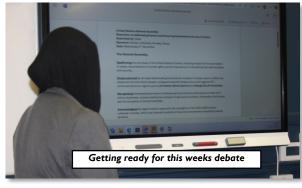


Explored the research methods for measuring anxiety in non-invasive ways. Our very own Mrs Nicholls helped with this!



SPOTLIGHT ON CLUBS - MODEL UN

MODEL UN: SHAPING TOMORROW'S LEADERS



The Model United Nations (Model UN) club continues to thrive as one of the most dynamic and intellectually stimulating groups in our school. Led by four dedicated Year 13 students - Arabella B, Muskaan S, Rebecca M and Aimee C, the club offers students an opportunity to explore global issues, develop public speaking skills, and

practice diplomacy in a collaborative environment.

Model UN is divided into two branches: Mini Model UN, designed for Years 7, 8, and 9, and the Full Model UN, which welcomes students from Years 10 to 13. Both groups engage in exciting activities such as debates on international topics, creating country profiles, and drafting solutions to tackle pressing global challenges. These sessions encourage critical thinking and teamwork while simulating the real-world workings of the United Nations.

Participation has grown significantly this year. The Full Model UN boasts a strong presence of Year 11 students, with approximately 20 members. Meanwhile, Mini Model UN has attracted around 30 enthusiastic students from across Years 7 to 9, eager to learn the art of diplomacy early on.

The club not only prepares students for future leadership roles but also fosters a sense of global citizenship. Whether you're passionate about international relations, enjoy debating, or simply want to improve your confidence in public speaking, Model UN is the perfect platform.



Interested in joining? Meetings are held weekly in Room 14, and new members are always welcome!



Thursday 18th December

Turkey and stuffing
Pigs in blankets
Roast potatoes
Sprouts
Carrots
Cranberry sauce
Gravy

Festive bake 330ml water Christmas cracker

£6.60

Brie, cranberry and potato bake (V)





YOUNG ENTERPRISE UPDATE!



CHRISTMAS HAMPER WINNER!



Fire Marshal

Eden looking very pleased with her win!

Over the last few weeks, our young enterprise team has been running a Christmas Hamper Raffle, which included over £100 of festive prizes, not forgetting the exclusive Jellycat marshmallows. This was a fundraiser with the aim of making as much money as possible to support our product development and creation at the end of this year. After a stressful trip into Shrewsbury to secure the final marshmallows in stock, and a half term full of back and forth texting on how best to run the raffle, we finally had the hamper ready to sell for the first week back after half-term.

The following two weeks consisted of me and Harnoor trekking around the school every form time aiming to sell our raffle, and even when most of our sales pitches were greeted with silence and amused looks, we persevered and by the end had eventually sold over 500 tickets - partly due to us tracking down numerous teachers to take pity on us! Despite the slight humiliation and the card machine malfunctioning half way through, our skills of persuasion proved successful and we sold far more tickets than we thought possible!

With the deals on tickets ranging from £1 for 1 to the bargain of £3 for 5, we amassed over £200, which will go towards the production of our

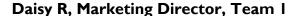
Young Enterprise product.

Congratulations to Eden H (Y7) who was drawn as our lucky winner, (pictured) with her winnings!

It was amazing to be involved in organising a fundraiser for the team, even with the daily awkward silence which we eventually took in our stride, and we are now work-

ing on our final fundraisers of the half term. This includes the Staff University Challenge, on the 11th December, which we hope to go just as successfully!







FROM THE WELLBEING TEAM

For this week's **Mindfulness Tip of the Week**, we wanted to encourage you to take a mindful autumnal walk. We're fast-approaching winter, and while sunshine and bright skies seem to be getting fewer and further apart it's still not too late to enjoy some sights as the seasons transition. It might be a good idea to take a flask of coffee or tea to keep your hands warm! If you can't take a walk outside there are plenty of benefits to visualisation.

On your walk, whether outside or in your mind, try to bring your awareness to the sights of the seasons around you. Where can you see the seasons changing? See if you can spot lingering autumnal blooms, berries burst-



ing out amongst leaves, evergreen leaves persisting despite the chillier weather. What birds can you hear - do they sound like they're singing or calling? Do any of the other birds respond? If you've heard one nearby, can you spot it amongst the tree branches or shrubbery? Some birds may dwell in Britain year-round while others may be migratory guests, visiting just for the winter. What can you smell - the crisp air, the morning dew, the wet leaves as they crunch underfoot? Focus on each of these senses, giving yourself time to register and contemplate them. As you walk, thoughts and emotions will naturally arise for you. Acknowledge them, then imagine leaving them on the path and walking onwards, leaving them behind.

When you have finished your walk, take some time to breathe deeply. Acknowledge how you felt on your walk and how you are feeling now. Do you feel calmer or more peaceful than when you began? Try to go forward with your day bringing the sense of calm along with you. **Mrs Birch (Assistant Headteacher)**



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



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 allegens 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

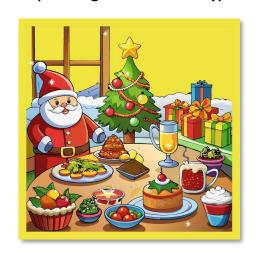
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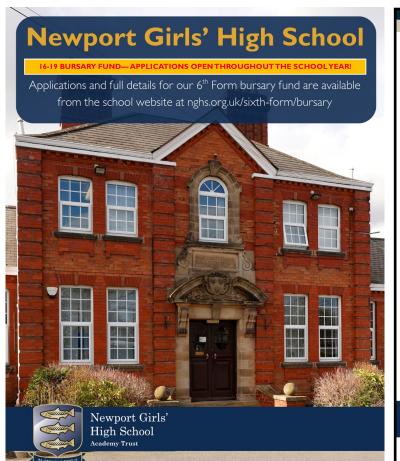
UPCOMING MENU'S FINAL 2 WEEKS OF TERM

8th December: Week 3
15th December: Week 1
Thursday 18th December
Christmas Dinner!

(Booking in Advance Only)









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)

20 Top Tips for Parents and Educators **ELECTRICAL SAFETY AND DEVICES**

Electrical safety is a vital topic for parents and educators, especially with the growing use of devices like smartphones, laptops, and power banks. Electrical fires are a major risk and are the cause of many deaths and injuries each year. There are reportedly nearly 20,000 accidental fires of electrical origin each year in the UK. This guide offers practical advice to help families and schools prevent electrical hazards, and promote safety when using everyday devices.

CHECK FOR OVERHEATING

Devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartphones can overheat if used for long periods or when charging. Ensure that children don't use devices on soft surfaces like beds or sofas, which can block ventilation. If a device becomes unusually hot, turn it off and unplug it. Overheating can lead to fire hazards if left unchecked.

INSTALL RESIDUAL CURRENT DEVICES

Ensure that homes and schools are equipped with Residual Current Devices (RCDs). These devices cut off the power if an electrical These devices cut of the power if an electrical fault occurs, preventing electric shocks and reducing the risk of fires. RCDs should be tested regularly to ensure they are working properly. More information about RCDs is available from Electrical Safety First.

AVOID OVERLOADING SOCKETS

Plugging too many devices into one socket can overload the electrical system and cause a fire. In schools and homes, ensure extension leads are not overloaded and never 'daisy chain' multiple extension cords together. Educate children on the dangers of necting too many devices to a single outlet.

POWER BANKS: SAFE USE

Power banks are a handy way to charge devices, but they can also pose a risk if misused. Ensure power banks are of high quality and comply with UK safety standards. Teach children never to leave power banks charging unattended, and to avoid placing them under pillows or bedding where they may overheat.

REGULAR DEVICE INSPECTIONS

Regularly check devices for signs of wear and tear. Frayed charging cables, cracked device casings, or devices that are slo to charge may indicate electrical problems. If any issues are noticed, stop using the device until it can be repaired or replaced by a qualified technician. This proactive approach helps prevent fires caused by faulty devices.

UNPLUG DEVICES WHEN NOT IN USE

Encourage children and pupils to unplug devices when not in use, particularly overnight Devices left plugged in unnecessarily can overheat or become fire hazards, especially if left charging unattended for long periods. Simple habits like unplugging can prevent serious incidents

USE GENUINE CHARGERS

Always use chargers supplied by the manufacturer or from a reputable retailer. Faulty or counterfeit chargers can cause devices to overheat, short-circuit, or even catch fire. Teach children the importance of avoiding poor-quality chargers, and regularly inspect charging cables for signs of wear or damage. More tips on safe charging can be found at Electrical Safety First.

WATER & ELECTRICITY DON'T MIX

Teach children that water and electricity are a dangerous combination. Devices should never be used near sinks, bathtubs, or swimming pools. Parents and educators should ensure that any electrical appliances near water sources have proper waterproof casings and are plugged into RCD-protected outlets.

KEEP DEVICES VENTILATED

Devices need proper ventilation to avoid overheating. Avoid stacking items on top of plugged-in devices like laptops or gaming consoles, and make sure there is enough sp around devices to allow for airflow. Proper ventilation helps prevent dangerous heat build-up, reducing the risk of fires.

SUPERVISE YOUNG CHILDREN

Younger children may not understand the dangers of electricity, so it's important to supervise them when they are using devices. Keep electrical cords out of reach and always remind children never to put objects into electrical outlets.

Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is an experienced health and safety expert who is a Chartered Member of the institution of Occupational Safety and Health. He provides services to educational settings as well as many other industries to help them maintain a safe working environment.



The **National** College

See full reference list on our website





/wuw.thenationalcollege



(O) @wake.up.wednesday



@wake.up.weds

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