



NEWPORT NEWS

A weekly update from NGHS

Volume 4 - Issue 1 - Friday 11 September 2020



The very warmest of greetings to all of our readers at the start of the academic year, in particular families who are reading Newport News for the first time. We are delighted to have welcomed 90 keen and eager Year 7s to NGHS along with over 100 highly qualified and enthusiastic Year 12s (our largest cohort ever) and also a handful of dedicated students in other years who have agreed to leave their former schools to take up a place at NGHS. Welcome to the NGHS family and thank you for putting your trust in us to educate your daughter. We look forward to working with you through this year and beyond.

Undoubtedly this academic year will add pressures not previously seen in schools across the UK. I am aware of a wide range of student and parent feelings towards school reopening from fear of becoming ill to sheer joy at seeing friends. I also carry a heavy burden as Head of the school and have made our students very aware of their role in ensuring we all stay as safe as possible with bubble distancing, face coverings and regular timetabled hand-washing. On the first day of term, I reminded students to show care, consideration and compassion to one another. **We have all been delighted with the mature approach that the girls have shown since returning to us.** Thank you also for the support messages we received during lockdown and subsequently since reopening. We are trying to do our best - some arrangements will work better than others and we will review and tweak as necessary. Your support is greatly appreciated.

May I please ask for your help with three points:

Warm / Waterproof Coats

Students in KS3/4 must head outside at break and lunchtime. This includes in drizzly conditions/light rain. The weather this week has been good, but girls must therefore have a coat. I am not fussed about the colour etc., but it should be waterproof and they are expected to have one (as noted in July letter).

Food at Breaktime / Lunchtime

Our catering partners are working very hard and with us to ensure the safe delivery of hot food onto site at

breaktime and lunchtime. Sales have not been as good as they should be and you should be reassured that we are managing a clear year-group bubble queuing system with cleaning of the sit-down space between bubbles and a staggered lunch. We hope that more girls choose to take lunch at school going forward.

Parking after school








We have had some concerns raised by our neighbours concerning parking/driveway blocking issues after school. I would strongly urge you to arrange to meet your daughters in town if you are picking them up. Neighbouring roads become blocked easily and access for emergency vehicles must be maintained at all times. The Safer Neighbourhood team did visit NGHS on Tuesday to execute parking enforcement notices in bus bays. The School played no part in requesting nor enforcing traffic measures, but does need to maintain positive relations with neighbours and of course the safety of all girls and staff at all times is paramount. Please also be reminded that the front car park barrier will be down from 8.15am until 4pm and parents are asked not to use the car park after 8.15am or before 4pm. Thank you for your cooperation.

Most year groups have an upcoming Information Evening for parents. Dates are on our the last page. We intend to run online events for now: Y12 is on next Monday evening and parents of Y12s should have received details about how to access this meeting. We hope to see you online at 7pm on Monday!

Please enjoy reading more about life at NGHS and I wish you all a safe, happy weekend.

Mr M J Scott

In this issue....

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-  Who to contact?
-  Year 12s first few days
-  Mental Health & Wellbeing Award
-  Priorities for the academic year
-  Poetry Prize winner
-  **New:** AS Physical Education



Newport Girls' High School

Wellington Road
Newport, TF10 7HL
Tel: 01952 797550

Headteacher: M J Scott BA(Hons) Exon PGCE NPQH

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

New Colleagues join NGHS Family

We welcome three new faces to the staff team at NGHS this September. We have asked them to give you a brief introduction to their lives before NGHS and their feelings about joining our wonderful school.



Ms Joanne Clarke
Teacher of History & RE

I am really excited about joining NGHS and my experience so far has been great. Everyone is really friendly and the school has real community spirit despite the changes that 2020 has brought.

I have been teaching for over 15 years and have had experience in previous grammar schools in Lincolnshire and Worcestershire. I have also spent ten years working in international schools in Europe teaching students from all over the world.

I am very much looking forward to exploring the West Midlands and teaching both History and RE to students at NGHS.



Miss Ruth Crevis
Teacher of Modern Languages

My name is Miss Crevis and I'm NGHS's new German and French teacher. I am very excited to have joined the wonderful NGHS family and I am looking forward to helping the pupils blossom into budding linguists.

I have spent three and a half years living in Germany and Austria, which will be an excellent asset in bringing the culture alive in the classroom. Also of paramount importance to me is the wellbeing of pupils and I'm taking great enjoyment in delivering PSHE lessons to the Year 7s and helping them transition to secondary school life.



Miss Emma Heyes
School Receptionist

I studied at University of Leicester and graduated with a degree in Psychology. Early in my career I worked as a medical secretary before working in the NHS as an Assistant Psychologist. I studied for a PGCE at University of Worcester and taught Psychology for fifteen years at Birmingham Metropolitan University.

A change in career beckoned after having children and, after a stint as a PA, I am now delighted to join NGHS as School Receptionist. I have been meeting students, staff and parents over the last week and everyone has been hugely welcoming. School Reception is a busy place at the heart of the school, and I am enjoying every minute in my new role.



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 their concerns, but there are certain colleagues with additional training to support you in pastoral and safeguarding matters.

SAFEGUARDING TEAM



Miss H Clarke
Assistant Head & Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Mr M J Scott
Headteacher
& Deputy DSL



Mrs F Davenport
Pastoral & Safeguarding
Administrator & DDSL



Mrs K Danby
Y7-10 Wellbeing
Officer & DDSL

PASTORAL LEADERS



Mrs K Griffin
Head of Sixth Form



Mrs D Martin
Y11-13
Wellbeing Officer



Mrs H Goodall
Head of Year 10



Mrs A Seys
Head of Year 9



Miss S Tomkinson
Head of Year 11



Ms J Capaldi
Head of Years 7&8

Who to Contact?

Our new pastoral and safeguarding teams are shown on the poster opposite. Parents and carers who need to contact school are kindly requested to contact their daughter's form tutor first either by emailing schooloffice@nghs.org.uk or by calling Miss Heyes our Receptionist on 01952 797550. If the matter is more serious, please use the same email address and it will be forwarded to the correct person. We do not give out staff emails as the person concerned may not be available and important matters could be missed. Thank you.



NGHS receives Mental Health Award

The following is a press release that was issued during August when it was confirmed that we had successfully achieved the AcSEED Award accreditation for Emotional & Mental Health provision and Wellbeing Support.

Newport Girls' High School is delighted to have been recognised for its support of pupil and staff emotional wellbeing and mental health with **The AcSEED Award**. A rigorous assessment was carried out during 2019-20 of policies, practices and an evidence trail examined by the AcSEED Team. Charlotte Gatherer, the founder of The AcSEED Initiative commented; "AcSEED promotes the adoption of best practices in supporting the emotional wellbeing and mental health of young people in UK Schools and Colleges, and provides recognition for organisations that satisfy the AcSEED criteria for wellbeing support". During their review of NGHS's approach, the Team were particularly impressed by the strong wellbeing ethos of the School, their extensive health and wellbeing provision and their comprehensive emotional health and wellbeing curriculum.

Since joining NGHS three years ago, Headteacher Michael Scott has carried out a full review of pastoral care at the Wellington Road school. This includes a strengthening of pastoral and safeguarding practices, including the appointment of a new Assistant Headteacher who leads on wellbeing, two new non-teaching Wellbeing Officers and additional Heads of Year to support pupils effectively, both emotionally and academically. He commented: "We are delighted that our work in this field has been recognised by a national award. Our Ofsted inspection last year also highlighted this among best practice nationally and it is reassuring to know that we are considered worthy of a such a prestigious award. Staff wellbeing is also high on our agenda and our NGHS Staff Charter supports colleagues internally, whilst also drawing on support from outside agencies at times of crisis. The award is a tribute to the hard work of our wellbeing team of staff".

Mr Scott would like to thank Mrs Danby and Miss Clarke for assisting him in working for this accreditation.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM



Our newly structured senior leadership team has been working hard to ensure the safest possible reopening for the school in September. During this term, they will each introduce themselves in more detail by writing the Head's Lines section of Newport News. As well as having [specific areas of responsibility](#) within the school, at a senior level, each member of the team shares a passion for the values of our school and a desire to help each student and teacher to have the tools and skills to be successful. All senior staff can be contacted via schooloffice@nghs.org.uk.

Back row: Mrs Griffin (L) & Mrs Gill (R)

Middle: Mrs Jones (L) & Miss Davies (R)

Front: Miss Clarke (L) & Mr Scott (R)

arriva Student Travel

Arriva Student Saver Tickets are valid for anyone 16+ in full time education. You will get unlimited access to travel on any Arriva bus across all of our routes in your chosen area.

These Saver tickets will not only cover your travel to and from School/College, but can also be used to travel at evenings, weekends and throughout the holidays too

Arriva's Direct Debit scheme allows you spread the cost of your ticket over affordable monthly payments. It's an easy way to pay for travel and there's no contract involved, making it an ideal way to get reduced bus travel for the whole Academic year, without paying upfront.

It's a simple process to apply, to arrange your Direct Debit please visit:

<https://www.arribus.co.uk/studentdd>

Buying a new laptop?



If you are considering purchasing a new laptop for a family member, please consider whether any of the HP Envy or Spectre models would be suitable. If you make a purchase directly from HP, the School can benefit from £200 to spend on laptops. [Click here](#) for more information on the models included.

Please ensure you choose NGHS from the school list as we have already registered. Thank you!

School Development Plan 2020-2021

Each summer, the senior leadership team prepares a Development Plan for the following academic year, which is then discussed and approved by the governing body. What is included is dependent upon the school's direction, changing approaches to national policy and developments both locally and globally. Responsibility for ensuring the Plan is implemented falls to staff in all areas of the school, led by different members of the senior leadership team. This year's School Development Plan centres largely around the return to school post Covid-19 lockdown closures, as you might expect. There are however other things we need to enhance, so four key objectives are shown below with some bullet points to explain the rationale of our work. We hope that you find this helpful as parents to understand how we intend to develop and improve provision at NGHS over the next twelve months.

To ensure the highest outcomes for all students with a particular focus on school recovery post Covid-19 closure

- ⇒ Provide reassurance and pastoral support to all those who require it
- ⇒ Deliver our own Bounce Back curriculum
- ⇒ Make full use of any financial support and extra resources to enhance learning
- ⇒ Further develop blended learning (online)
- ⇒ Improve academic support for Sixth Formers

To review key aspects of NGHS provision with a particular focus on participation, equality and diversity

- ⇒ Review curriculum content to reflect recent events surrounding inequality, discrimination and increased social mobility
- ⇒ Ensure all students join activities after positive choice and track/monitor participation levels
- ⇒ Implement new Sex/Relationships curriculum
- ⇒ Plan to enhance Arts curriculum in 2021-22

To promote the highest standards of well-being and personal development for all

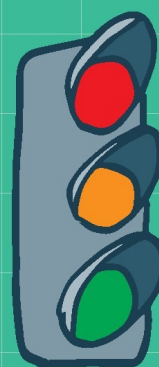
- ⇒ Continue to embed staff wellbeing strategy
- ⇒ Further enhance Mental Health provision through our Wellbeing Officers
- ⇒ Reintroduce NGHS sponsored walk in July 21
- ⇒ Develop Staff Champion scheme for training in key pastoral areas and disseminate this well
- ⇒ Support PSHE provision in local primaries

To manage the School's expansion and collaborate most effectively with others in the community

- ⇒ Complete new building programme and revise systems for the arrival of 120 pupils in Y7
- ⇒ Implement our Fair Access Partnership Programme with local primary schools
- ⇒ Foster greater links with local schools to improve their and our provision

**ON YOUR MARKS...
GET SET... GO!**

AS Physical Education begins!



Getting to Grips with the 'Bare Bones' of AS PE

September has seen the arrival of AS Physical Education on our Sixth Form Curriculum as an enhancement course. Delivered over three weekly lessons by Mrs Dainty, Mrs Martin and Mrs Goodall, the course covers aspects of Biology, Psychology, Physiology and Active Sport, in particular coaching and understanding the way our bodies react to physical activity. Our Year 12 students are thoroughly getting stuck in during their first few lessons as the photograph shows. Thank you to our local butchers for providing animal bones and joints to examine.



Settling in to Sixth Form

Laura remained at NGHS for sixth form

There was a real buzz in the atrium on Thursday as we found out our forms and found a seat for the assembly. We quickly felt welcomed into the NGHS6 family after being introduced to the Sixth Form team. It felt strange to be back but despite all the new rules, it felt familiar and nice to be in a bubble with people.

We then went to our new forms where a really integrated seating plan made a seamless transition into meeting new people and finding out common interests and subjects we had. After receiving and comparing timetables, we talked about the extensive regulations the school had put in place for our return. Once all the admin was out of the way, we got stuck in with our brand-new subjects. For those of us who had study periods, we stayed in the atrium and participated in activities organised by the Head Girl team. From a Lockdown quiz, which was surprisingly hard, to a speed dating activity, we all got to know each other really well and it really helped to find people with similar interests.

The one-way system and the new school timings are taking a bit of getting used to but we all navigated our way through the first day. Friday came and what really struck me with the return of the Year 13s was the real family atmosphere of NGHS6 from the staff to the students, new and old. I particularly found the workshop in the Hall on Friday morning with Mrs Martin really beneficial to settling back in to school. Her main message of self-care felt important as

we commence our A-Level journey, but this was also accompanied by a host of activities like debating the best character of Friends. Despite being surprisingly tired, I really enjoyed the first two days getting to know people and embarking on our new courses and A-Level journey at NGHS6.



Chloe joined from another school

The experience of starting a new school was completely foreign to me since I had not moved in five years and the experience all but forgotten in my mind. I was to put it simply a wreck. I was so worried about starting here, since I didn't know if I would like the teachers or if I would make friends.

Starting NGHS6 has been such a relief since my fellow students are lovely and my teachers are supportive and kind, the lessons have been engaging and interesting and I am so excited to spend more time at this amazing school. Though my first day was a bit daunting, the head girl team and the teachers did their best to accommodate us.

My time here has definitely been fun so far and I look forward to what's to come. NGHS6 is such a completely different atmosphere with my fellow pupils being much kinder and friendlier than my peers at my old school. It is a truly wonderful place to study sixth form.

Simon Powell Poetry Prize

Many congratulations to **Oli N (Year 12)**, who is one of the winners of the 2020 Simon Powell Poetry Prize. The prize includes a selection of poetry books and a virtual poetry workshop. The competition was judged by the award-winning poet Daljit Nagra. He had this to say about the poem:

Less-is-more in this efficient and disturbing poem. Simple language and tense free verse lines create the feeling of a fading memory that relies on reminders, 'like I'm cramming for a test'. We don't know who the person is, as though we'd forgotten them just as they are soon to forget themselves."

After winning the 2020 Simon Powell poetry prize over the summer, I took part in an online poetry workshop with renowned poet Daljit Nagra. The session began with introductions and ice breakers and it was interesting to meet the other winning poets, who were from various parts of the country. We then dived straight into the activities and we started off with writing a poem about our experiences during lockdown, which mainly consisted of drafts and ideas. It was very intriguing to see what everyone else had been up to during lockdown. I explored the fact I had taken up learning Swedish! The other students in the group had taken up typewriter restoration and cross-stitch.

After about ten minutes, we split off into smaller groups and discussed our ideas. It was very intriguing

A reminder

The bungalow is riddled with reminders,
turn this off, switch this on,
like I'm cramming for a test.

Only accessible in big bold handwriting so I
can view with some ease
what my former self wishes of me.

The calendar is my lifeline, the log of
everything and anything

from days out to nights in, it's my point of call
and prime reference.

If it's not on there, well, it doesn't exist.

and refreshing to see everyone else's style of poetry. After this, we moved onto a 'Synaesthesia' task, which Daljit said was a very important and overlooked area of poetry. I found this quite interesting, as it was not something I had experimented with before. We then moved onto the 'Golden Shovel' technique. This is where you take either a few lines or a whole poem and incorporate them/it into a new poem. This was my favourite activity of the day. Overall, it was a great experience and one that I will remember fondly. I would like to thank the English Department for giving me the opportunity to enter!
By Oli, Year 12

Wellbeing Officers are here to support!



As our first full week of the new school year comes to an end, we want to say how proud we are of all of our students for the resilience they have all shown in returning to school. We have seen lots of smiles and heard lots of laughter filling the classrooms and corridors, which has been lovely!

We want you to know that if your child is feeling anxious and worried, this is completely normal, particularly during these strange times. Some days may be more challenging than others, and on these days it is really important that they know they must always

talk to someone and let them know how they are feeling, be that a friend, their form tutor, your Head of Year or their Wellbeing Officer.

Here at NGHS the Wellbeing Officers have an open-door policy; students are always welcome to come for a chat with us. On the school website, students can find the [school worry box](#). If they would like to share a concern or request to speak to someone, they just need to leave us a note in the worry box. The worry box is monitored regularly, and we will respond to them as soon as possible, but please note that there will not be an immediate response. We will offer help and support and guide you child to signposted agencies as needed.

If you have any worries or concerns about your child, please do not hesitate to call the school and ask to speak to your child's Wellbeing Officer.

Please reassure your child that they are never alone, there is always someone here to help and support you. We are all in this together.

Mrs Danby and Mrs Martin (Wellbeing Officers)



HANDS



FACE



SPACE

FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR PARENTS

Monday 12 September	7pm	Year 12 Parents Information Evening (online)
Monday 5 October	7pm	Year 9 Parents Information Evening (online)
Wednesday 7 October	4.15pm-7pm	Year 13 Parents Evening (online, but provisional)
Monday 19 October	7pm	Year 8 Parents Information Evening (online)
Thursday 22 October	6pm	Year 7 Meet the Tutor & Information Evening
Wednesday 4 October	4.15pm-7pm	Year 10 Parents Evening (provisional)
Thursday 12 November	4.30pm-7pm	Sixth Form Open Evening for Year 11s (provisional)
Thursday 26 November	7pm	Autumn Concert (all welcome if held)
Wednesday 2 December	4.15pm-7pm	Year 12 Parents Evening
Tuesday 8 December	4pm	SEND Parents Forum
Tuesday 15 December	7pm	Carol Service, St Nicholas Church, Newport

To urgently contact a member of the senior leadership team outside school hours, please use urgent@nghs.org.uk