



# NEWPORT NEWS

*A weekly update from NGHS*

Volume 4 - Issue 17 - Friday 22 January 2021



## CUTTING OF THE SOD!



**T**his week saw our 'cutting of the sod'. Not quite the ceremony we hoped for, but rather a moment in history. I wonder what people will make of the photo with face coverings in the school archives in 100 years time? Pictured are three of our students who are working in school, Mrs Kathy Jones, Associate Senior Leader, myself and Roger Tew from Interclass, our construction company. More photographs can be found in our [photobook update on our campaign webpages](#). We appreciate not everyone can afford to make a contribution to Primed for Success especially those in difficult financial positions as result of the pandemic, but we hope that more families can consider supporting our campaign as the building work has now officially started.

School Covid Testing has been once again in the news this week. As you may have read, the plan has been tweaked nationally to continue with asymptomatic testing but not to use the tests for daily contact testing.

This means that, in the event of a positive test result, we would still have to conduct our thorough Test & Trace procedures. We have run three test sessions so far for the students who are working in school plus staff. The girls have been amazing at following instructions and the system is working well; we can upscale this when more students return to NGHS. Given that the Secretary of State for Education has said that two weeks notice will be given in advance of school re-opening, we will wait to collect consent for testing from you at that time.

Ofqual have launched their consultation on the grading of A-level and GCSE examinations this year. [More information can be found here](#). Parents/Students/Staff are invited to offer their response to the national consultation using the link on the Ofqual webpage.

This week, NN includes some great examples of lockdown work in art. It's lovely to see that creativity thrives in the pandemic! Stay safe and take care,

**Mr M J Scott**

**Newport Girls' High School**

Wellington Road  
Newport, TF10 7HL  
Tel: 01952 797550

**Headteacher:** Mr M J Scott BA(Hons) Exon PGCertEd NPQH FRSA

To contact the School about a general enquiry, please use [schooloffice@nghs.org.uk](mailto:schooloffice@nghs.org.uk)





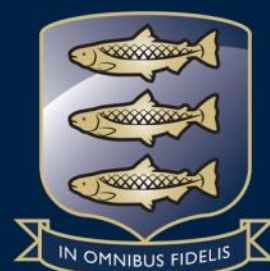
**PRIMED FOR SUCCESS**  
BUILDING UPON A CENTURY OF NGHS EXCELLENCE



# LOCKDOWN LOCKS TRAUMA?

Can't visit the hairdresser or barbers shop?  
We understand.

Why not soothe your hairy woes and donate the cost of your regular haircut to improving your daughter's education via our PRIMED FOR SUCCESS campaign? Visit [www.nghs.org.uk/PFS](http://www.nghs.org.uk/PFS) for more information.



#NGHSfamily  
#PrimedForSuccess

How's your hair? **#lockdownlocks** competition time, we want to see your fuzzy mops, wild styles, DIY dye jobs and astronomic roots!

We'd love to see your lockdown locks, all the family can take part, send us your photos to win a fabulous prize!

If you're saving money on haircuts please consider donating the value of a hair do! All money raised will benefit your daughter's education, our first round of funds will help purchase equipment in the new science facility. We'll be showcasing more details of the exciting new build at all stages with you in the coming weeks. You can find out more on the school website [here](#).

Please get involved, show us your barnets and buzz cuts and consider helping raise much-needed funds for NGHS. Thank you for your continued support in these uncertain times. Stay Safe! Don't forget tweet us your photos and follow us on Twitter @nghs\_info #PrimedForSuccess #lockdownlocks

Account Name:	Friends of NGHS Account
Sort Code:	30-96-02
Account Number:	07160712

**NGHS Fundraising Committee**





Hats off to Y12!



Mrs Fujii's Year 12 form are finding ways to raise a smile during form time. This week it was 'dress up with a hat' morning. Can any Year 12 students guess who is hiding under the straw hat? Answers on an postcard (well, an email) to Mrs Fujii (who also owns a rather elaborate hat it seems!)

# WINTER WONDERLAND



Mrs Benoit has set two of her art classes a photography challenge "Winter Wonderland" - here are two fabulous entries!



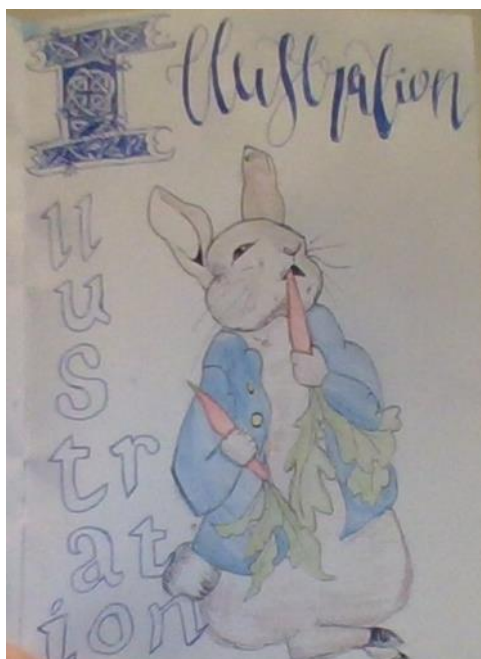
Daisy Robinson, Year 7



Anna Skeate, Year 10



# LOCKDOWN ART



## Illustration

Mrs Chandler is so impressed with her Year 9 group's illustration work at home. Students have used a range of media and these are just three of the excellent examples. Well done to Freya Tillyard, Shruti Mathew and Alice Wyke.



## Virtual Crafternoons?

Traditionally in school we have tried to offer crafternoons to students in the final week of the half term. Crafternoons have been developed by the charity Mind who believes that no one should have to face a mental health problem alone. Crafting is thought to be particularly beneficial to our mental health because you are exercising several areas of the brain, including those responsible for problem solving, concentration and creativity. There are many real-life stories on the Mind website of the positive impact that this has had on many people's lives.

If you are looking for ideas of what crafts to do there is a [find my craft quiz](#) on the Mind website which you could use. Some ideas are:

- ◆ Mindful Colouring or Painting
- ◆ Cardmaking
- ◆ Origami
- ◆ Making decorations
- ◆ Sewing
- ◆ Cross stitch
- ◆ Calligraphy
- ◆ Knitting
- ◆ Crocheting

I would like to organise a virtual crafternoon at the end of term; this invite goes out to staff, students, parents and governors.

Please have a think about a craft idea to carry out between Monday 8<sup>th</sup> and Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February. Please email in photos of your finished project or a



photo of you when you are busy doing your crafting to the school office email ([schooloffice@nghs.org.uk](mailto:schooloffice@nghs.org.uk)) please write FAO Miss Clarke – Crafternoon in the subject header so that all photos are sent to me.

I will be completing a crochet project during this week and will be sharing photos of this at the end of the week, I am planning to give this project to an elderly family member (when allowed) and hope it will bring a smile to them.

**Miss Clarke, Acting Deputy Head**



# Alumni Calling

Last week NGHS6 students were given the opportunity to have a video call with Ella, a former pupil of NGHS, about her experience with Scottish universities, particularly Edinburgh. In the ten years since leaving our sixth form, Ella has successfully completed her degree and Masters, now working in Treasure Trove Unit, which is the system for managing portable antiquities in Scotland. In the call Ella explained the duration of her course, how she was able to finance her education, what the accommodation was like, the opportunities that were available to her and how this differed to English Universities.

We also asked her many questions about her work experience as a museum curator, maintaining artefacts, exhibits and ensuring they are easy for the public to interpret and how this experience has supported her career. She also went on to explain why after completing her course on Ancient History she chose to do a post-graduate degree at Edinburgh as she needed specialist knowledge to get the job she wanted. Speaking with Ella has definitely helped me to understand how Scottish universities differ from English and how useful work experience can be to get into certain jobs. As an A level History student and Subject Ambassador, it also inspired me to think about where my future career may lie.

Aimee J (Y12)

**In the Sixth Form we are always looking for ex-students who are willing to share their experiences with our girls. If you would be willing and able to chat to students via Teams about your chosen career path and experiences, please contact Mrs Griffin, Head of Sixth Form via the school office.**

## Where are they now?

## Former student gets in touch!

We have been contacted by a lady called **SUSAN DURANT** (née **SUSAN WOOLFREY**) who attended NGHS in the 1960s. She left NGHS in 1968 and emigrated to Australia. She would love to hear from any old girls who were in her year group.

If you know anyone who attended NGHS in the late 60s and might know Susan, please encourage them to contact us via 01952 797550 or email [schooloffice@nghs.org.uk](mailto:schooloffice@nghs.org.uk) for the attention of Mr Scott, Headteacher. We would love to put you in touch again!





***How many notifications do you get on your phone, on average, per day?***

***How many notifications does your child get on their phone, on average, per day?***



**Miss H Clarke**  
Acting Deputy Head

Research shows that for young people they receive hundreds of notifications, the highest total is around 600 notifications per day. A large number of these notifications are received through WhatsApp and / or Snapchat and this is because young people are members of various groups with lots of other people.

I have posed this question when teaching PSHE lessons at school over the years and many young people would agree that this is the case and that they find the number of irrelevant messages really frustrating, however we also know that young people experience FOMO (fear of missing out) and so very often will not leave these groups due to concerns about what the group may say behind their back. We are also aware that lots of these groups remain very active late in the evening when young people should be sleeping and know that that is impacting on the amount of and quality of sleep that young people have every evening.

The best piece of advice would be to ask young people to turn off notifications at night and to keep phones / devices out of bedrooms at night-time. I would also encourage you to have a discussion with your child around this and see if there is a way to reduce the notifications that are being received to a more manageable number.

I have spoken with my PSHE class in recent weeks about having a social media cleanse, this is asking them to consider who they follow, speak to, are in groups with and consider whether these connections positively or negatively impact their wellbeing. If it is the latter I have challenged them to remove some of these connections from their phone in a bid to boost their wellbeing. I would advise all young people and indeed us as adults to do this from time to time too.

### **Online Safety Resources for Parents**

At a time when young people are on their devices more than ever I felt now would be an important time to provide a reminder about online safety. There are a number of resources with support for parents about how to ensure their child is safe online, I have signposted these below for you to use as required.



Learn more about games or apps children are using.  
Reviews/advice from other parents



Age-specific info which has been created for parents. Includes setting up devices.



Reporting concerns and general information



Our own online resources





# 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



**Miss S Tomkinson**  
Head of Year 11



**Mrs H Goodall**  
Head of Year 10



**Mrs A Seys**  
Head of Year 9



**Ms J Capaldi**  
Head of Years 7&8

## Questions to ask your child in lockdown YOUNG MINDS

What could help you to complete your school work at home? Where would you like to work at home?

Is there anything you want to talk about?

When was the last time you were very happy?

What makes you feel calm?

How can you keep in touch with friends and family at the moment? e.g. Facetime, Whatsapp

What things would you like to do in the future?

What difficulties are you facing now?

What can I do to help?

Where is a place you feel safe?

Would it be helpful if we planned each day together?

Do you have any worries about the coronavirus?

Where in our home do you feel like you can have your own space?

What are you worried about when you lie in bed and can't sleep?

Can you think of anything fun that we can do at home?

How do you feel about things changing?

How do you feel about staying at home?

What have you enjoyed about today?

**Click on the image to get more assistance and information**

To urgently contact a member of the senior leadership team outside school hours, please use [urgent@nghs.org.uk](mailto:urgent@nghs.org.uk)  
Please include your phone number and name of your daughter