



# NEWPORT NEWS

## *A weekly update from NGHS*

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**H**olocaust Memorial Day on Wednesday evoked in me a strong sense of reflection about the suffering of others not just in bygone days, but also in more recent years and closer to home. Mrs Seys has sent me a reflective blogpost by one of our Beacon School Ambassadors and I include this on page two. Back in 2019 I was invited, with Mrs Seys and three girls, to attend the opening of Bosnia House in Birmingham, in part owing to fundraising efforts of our students in helping to furnish and equip a community centre for those who had fled persecution and civil war in the former Yugoslavia. This humbling event still resonates with me and Catherine's thought-provoking blog post on page two reinforces this year's theme of 'Be The Light In The Darkness'.

Whenever an announcement concerning schools is made by the government we see an understandable flurry of contact, concern and questions from students and families. Precise details are unclear at this stage regarding 8 March onwards. Our wellbeing team are doing a great job in supporting students who are finding lockdown difficult: I am sure we are all finding things difficult but at a variety of scales and levels. As ever, NGHS will await further information and try to make rational decisions. This week's NN contains some of the excellent work we are seeing during lockdown, which colleagues have forwarded to me. Whilst nothing can really replace classroom learning and interaction, it is clear that our students are doing their best as we move forward with the curriculum. I hope that parents are coping as well as can be expected as supportive home educators, too.

Next week is Children's Mental Health Week. Mrs Martin and Mrs Danby (our Wellbeing Officers) have launched our 'Express Yourself' campaign. There is a short video featuring a number of colleagues about how we all try to unwind. [Please click here to find out more.](#)

Two weeks ago, I mentioned that three NGHS students had received offers from Oxford. We are delighted that **three further students** have now received offers from Cambridge, too. We send our congratulations to all six Oxbridge students. I feel this year has been particularly tough as, through no fault of their own, Year 13 have been competing against a much larger number of students nationally who left their schools/colleges last summer trying to secure places that were withdrawn at the time of the grade fiasco. To have six Oxbridge offers



## PRIMED FOR SUCCESS

BUILDING UPON A CENTURY OF NGHS EXCELLENCE



Despite the snow, the builders have continued to make progress this week. The ground clearing works are pretty much completed and attention has turned to some indoor works with piling rigs expected next week to begin to put in a steel structure to support the

upper floor which will comprise four classrooms, an IT suite and some more much-needed new toilets! Here's a photograph of Room 24 which 10z will recognise!

from 72 students is the highest percentage for a number of years and shows not just the ability but resolve of our Year 13s. We are also delighted to see university and apprenticeship offers continue to flood in for Year 13s. It is still a nervous wait for our medics as their offers come in the next few weeks. All of Year 13 have also worked hard on their formal assessments this week.

Just a reminder that the Ofqual consultation concerning a replacement for this year's GCSE and A-level examinations closes today. [You can find more](#) here and responses can be made by families as much as by staff.

I hope that you are well and staying safe.

**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)



# Be The Light In The Darkness

'Be the light in the darkness' - a phrase that many of us have heard in our lives but what does it mean? How can we be the light? What does it mean by darkness? Are all decisions as simple as black and white? Well, not really. It is hard to categorise decisions especially when they seem to be difficult or controversial. But being the light isn't always about making the right choice, especially when sometimes it doesn't seem like there is one; it's about adding positivity and hope to unfavourable situations.

The prejudice that enabled the Holocaust was akin to a pandemic; spread not by a virus but by the myths and rumours of people filled with the mistaken belief that they were superior to others. The hatred that fed and enabled the Holocaust and the organised murder of millions of lives was a result of centuries of prejudice and marginalization that presented Jewish people as 'the other', a threat that was born out of ignorance. This type of classification of people and 'them and us' thinking is typical of the first stage of genocide.

Now how does being a light link to the Holocaust? One of the most tragic parts of the Holocaust is the fact that we still don't know how exactly how many lives were claimed or what happened to *each* of the six million individuals who entered the Nazi death camps but did not leave. This is the darkness; the horror of the act of genocide, the loss of innocent life along with concealment of this crime and the attempt to erase the evidence of the lives of the individuals who were killed from history. It is important that we remember and reflect on this darkness, that we shine a light through our remembrance; a protest against forgetfulness of what occurred. Another light in the darkness is in the fact that despite the countless tragedies that took place, many lives were saved through the courageous acts of numerous selfless people. An example of one of these selfless people is Johan Van Hulst. Johan Van Hulst was a teacher who saved hundreds of Jewish children by hiding them in baskets and sacks. They were then transported out of Amsterdam by bicycle. These children were saved by Van Hulst and his colleagues during the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands.

In 2008 a museum called 'The Silent Heroes Memorial Centre', was set up in Berlin to honour the lights in the darkness who risked their lives to save others. 'The Silent Heroes Memorial Centre' commemorates more than 27,000 women and men who risked their lives to aid those seeking protection. People like Johan Van Hulst are the perfect examples of what I would consider about being the light. Perhaps a definition of the being the light in the darkness could be to save those who are being oppressed or to help others when they need it.

So how can we be the light in the modern world. Fortunately, there's a simple solution to this: to be the light we need to understand what darkness is. In this tumultuous year, to say the least, we have all experienced loneliness, exhaustion and anxiety. These are all examples of darkness in our lives. Furthermore, in the year 2020 there has a huge effort in the Black Lives Matter movement. Mass protests took place globally to show that the murder of Black people in the streets was not acceptable. Personally, I see darkness in those who judge or murder people as a result of skin colour and religion. To the millions of people who took to the streets and signed numerous petitions to display the importance of this movement, you radiate light. The death of George Floyd instigated a world wide movement and brought awareness to other unnecessary deaths of Black, Indigenous, and other people of colour (BIPOC). The fight for equality for all people has lasted centuries but thanks to all those who contributed, we seem to be closer to equality for all. Further light in the darkness can be seen in the recent attempts by the House of Lords to act against countries who are committing genocide in the twenty-first century through their proposed amendment to the Trade Bill via a genocide clause which would have forced ministers to withdraw from any free trade agreement with any country which the High Court rules is

committing genocide. Whilst it is deeply disappointing that this amendment failed to pass, the close vote of 319 to 308, the rebellion of some backbenchers to vote against their leader in support of the amendment and the reporting of the vote in the mainstream media all demonstrate that a light is being shone on modern day genocides and some of those you wield power are attempting to make 'never again' a reality rather than a catchphrase.

So what's the answer, how can we be the light in the darkness? Well from a simple text to check up on our friend or family to supporting those who need our help, we as individuals can do much to brighten up not only our lives but the lives of our friends and family. The importance of the little things should never be underestimated. To be the light in the darkness, you don't have to save lives or provide solutions to everyone's problems, you can simply provide companionship. We can also continue to pressure those in power to act against the darkness of discrimination and prejudice. Finally, we can ensure that in our daily lives and interactions we are not bystanders to hatred; that we challenge the ignorance, misinformation and lies that lead to a 'them and us' mentality and that we ourselves are critical consumers of information in a world where a lie or a harmful word can spread as quickly as a virus.

**Catherine Nitta (Year 12)**  
Beacon Schools Ambassador

[Click here for a wonderful selection of student work to recognise HMD.](#)

NEWPORT GIRLS  
HIGH SCHOOL  
HOLOCAUST  
MEMORIAL  
ART/POETRY  
COMPETITION

Deadline Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February  
2021

**To enter:** Produce a piece of artwork, a photograph or poem/prose related to the theme 'be the light within the darkness'.

Entrants must state their name, house and form in their entry as three winners will be picked from each house, and the winning art/poem displayed on a notice-board within school.

To enter, email Mrs Seys your entry to [a.seys@nghs.org.uk](mailto:a.seys@nghs.org.uk)  
Any questions email [chloe.nock@nghs.org.uk](mailto:chloe.nock@nghs.org.uk)





NGHS offers our heartiest congratulations to SIX of our Year 13 students who have secured Oxbridge offers this year. This is the highest number for several years and comes in a year when competition has never been greater owing to a large proportion of students in the year above having to reapply after last year's grading process. The following Oxbridge offers have been made for such a variety of courses. Congratulations to all of these students on their tremendous achievement.


Student	College	Course
Edith Charlesworth	Selwyn College, Cambridge	History of Art
Sophie Griffith	St. Edmund's Hall, Oxford	Earth Sciences
Ella Johnson	Queens College, Cambridge	English
Ellie Micklewright	Hertford College, Oxford	Geography
Molly Reade	Murray Edwards College, Cambridge	Mathematics
Geraldine Slater	Worcester College, Oxford	Theology

# Work Experience Opportunity

Next week is Children's Mental Health week so for the month of February, EduKit is offering hands-on work experience on their new **Wellbeing Mobile app** for teenagers. This opportunity is open to **years 7 -13** and participants can choose to be a **Design Consultant**, a **PR / Marketing Consultant** (helping to promote the app in the press) or a **Product Tester**. By taking part you will be getting valuable experience working with a tech business, work (remotely) alongside the EduKit team, understand and experience the different roles available in tech and get involved in Children's Mental health week in a hands-on, creative way. All students who complete their work experience will be awarded an EduKit Certificate Of Achievement and can add the experience to their CV. If you are interested please **email Mrs Gill**, [k.gill@nghs.org.uk](mailto:k.gill@nghs.org.uk), with your name, year group and the role that you would be interested in by the **1<sup>st</sup> February**.



# LOCKDOWN MFL



le mercredi 20 janvier  
c'est la terreur jaune! c'est très gentil, mais un peu effrayant. il a un œil vert et deux cornes vertes. il a aussi une grosse tête jaune. il a deux dents sales qui sont noires. il a les jambes rouges et blanches. il est petit et moelleux.  
↑ fluffy

Le monstre

Le monstre est très gros, mais il est long. Il est noir avec un ventre orange. Son visage est blanc avec grosses cornes et a les yeux noirs. Il a des cornes noires sur son dos et ils sont assez grands. Il ressemble à une araignée, mais avec quatre jambes et deux bras.



Mon Monstre

Mon monstre est très gros! Il a une grosse tête violette, et un long cou rose. Ses joues sont bleues, et ses oreilles sont rouges! Ses yeux sont noirs. Il a trois jambes oranges, et six pieds jaunes! Son ventre est vert. Il est totalement terrifiant!!



Mon monstre

Mon monstre s'appelle Barry, il a 10 ans. Il a 3 bras et 2 doigts et une très longue tête. Son corps est couvert de fourrure verte et a de très gros oreilles, il a quatre oreilles, il a quatre sur chaque pied. Il n'a pas de sourcils car sa tête est couverte de fourrure. Il a un ventre assez gros et des lèvres massives! Il a de larges épaules et un grand cou, son menton est pointu et a un renflement pour le nez, il a aussi les yeux bleus et une paire de cornes.



Ms Branson was most impressed with her Year 9s drawings and descriptions in French of some scary looking monsters!

**Bravo Uma,  
Lena Thea et  
Leana!**



# LOCKDOWN MFL

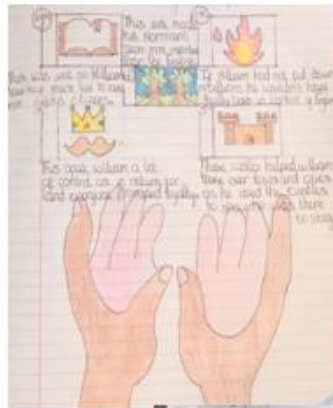
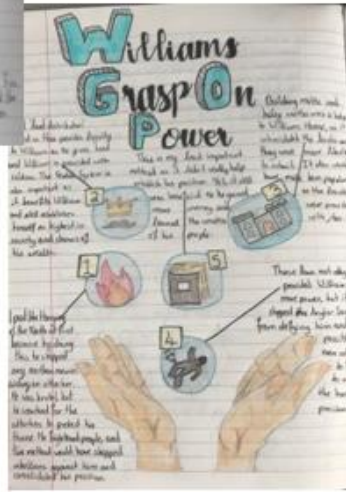


Miss Crevis was bold over by Year 9s attempts at creating traditional German dishes whilst at home. Bread, Strudel, Gingerbread, Cream Cakes. Mr Scott is very jealous and wonders if a take-out option exists?

**Das schmeckt  
super! Toll!**







Miss Davies is delighted with the work that 7Aus and 7Rod have been doing on how William consolidated his power in England after the Battle of Hastings. It's clear Year 7 haven't just understood the topic, but they have done a lot of extra research!

# History

**Next week: A focus on English!**

NGHS

# OUR MILES FOR YOUR MINDS.

*The NGHS family is in this together.*

We are never alone. This message has always been at the heart of our school community, but since our first lockdown began, it has never been more prevalent.

NGHS staff miss having our students with us in school. We want you to always remember that we will continue to support you with your mental health and wellbeing throughout this challenging time.

With this in mind, we have decided to lead by example and use physical activity in a way that will show you how

important your mental health and wellbeing is to us and, simultaneously, also improve our own mental health through exercise.

Throughout the month of February, staff will be pledging to complete as many miles as possible to raise money for MIND, the wonderful mental health charity dedicated to ensuring that no one faces a mental health challenge alone.

Each week staff will provide updates of how they are getting on via social media and in the newsletter. This will include some pictures of their NGHS 'our miles for your minds' journey. Whatever your situation, you are never walking alone. We will be walking with you.

Wellbeing

## Take Part in Musicals: The Greatest Show!

BBC Radio 2 and BBC One are raising the curtain with a very special show—direct from the West End—featuring a glittering cast of UK and international stars performing songs from the musicals.

A nationwide choir is being sought to join in with **Any Dream Will Do**. [Please find more information here](#). We hope some NGHS girls might wish to take part!

MUSICALS  
THE GREATEST SHOW





Our new feature includes how NGHS students are making the most of their time at home to do good deeds for others. Tell us about any good deeds you're doing at [schooloffice@nghs.org.uk](mailto:schooloffice@nghs.org.uk) (include a photo!)



Evelyn Larkin (Year 12) has been busy knitting baby hats for the 'Warm Baby Project' a project, which sees people from across the country knit baby hats for premature babies in NICU wards.

Evelyn will be sending her hats to the Birmingham Children's Hospital. We are very proud of her.

For more information on the Warm Baby Project [please click here](#).



## YEAR 13 REWARDS ASSEMBLY

Last week we had our final rewards assembly of the half term for our Year 13 students using Teams.

The first award that was presented was the inter form house point cup. The winning form was **Roddam** who received 253 house points during half term 2.

The next award was to celebrate individual achievements for those students who had received the most house points.

Year Gp	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Year 13	M Reade	Z Brown	E Rowley

The final award that was presented was our lucky dip. For every 10 house points that students have received one ticket gets added to the lucky dip box.

Our Year 13 winner was: C Aspin.

Well done to all of our winners. A reminder that rewards assemblies are based on achievement each half term and so the totals have been reset to zero for this half term. Teachers are still rewarding house points as they would usually throughout this lockdown period.

We will be holding our next round of rewards assemblies after February half term to celebrate successes from this half term.



# Congratulations!

**THANK YOU FRIDAY**

**Congratulations to this fortnight's winners...**

To: Student	From: Teacher
N Athwal (9S)	Mr M Ley
H Bates (8A)	Mrs K Wallace
B Bince (7R)	Mrs J Chandler
M Bowen (12N)	Miss A-M Davies
R Briggs (9S)	Mrs K Griffin
L Chilcott (10Z)	Miss A-M Davies
L Clayton (7A)	Miss T Wells
A Corkhill (8R)	Mrs A Seys
M Croughan (11Y)	Miss A-M Davies
E Haynes (11Z)	Mr D Postle/Mrs A Seys
L Hicklin (8A)	Mrs H Furnival
A Hill (12H)	Mrs L Roberts
L Jones (12G)	Mrs T Fujii
S Kang (8A)	Mrs C Reeves

To: Student	From: Teacher
L Lo (10Z)	Mrs C Reeves
S Lyall (11Y)	Miss A-M Davies
S Machineni (7A)	Mrs J Chandler
C Nitta (12G)	Miss A-M Davies
M Padkin (11Y)	Mrs T Fujii
N Parker (10Z)	Mrs C Reeves
E Rixom (8S)	Mrs J Chandler
E Rowley (R7)	Mrs K Wallace
H Simmons (12G)	Mrs L Roberts
R Tagg (8A)	Mrs A Seys
E Walkley (11Y)	Mr M Ley
I Waters (10Y)	Miss A-M Davies
A Watkins (9S)	Mrs J Chandler
C Watkin (12G)	Mrs L Roberts

## 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



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 YOUNGMINDS

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 have you enjoyed about today?

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?

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