



NEWPORT NEWS

A weekly update from NGHS

Volume 4 - Issue 2 - Friday 18 September 2020



I hope that this week has passed normally for you and your families. I have tried to be outside school each morning this week to greet our students and it has been lovely to see them coming in good spirits (well, most of them!) and bringing in birthday presents, cards and cakes for each other. Were it not for the face coverings you might be mistaken to think that life was back to 'normal'. Sadly of course this is not the case and I am keen to reassure parents that we are just as focused in our efforts to keep the school safe as we were on September 1st. In this newsletter I am introducing two of our cleaning 'angels' who are working hard to ensure the site is safe throughout the day. Whilst our cleaners are employed through the local authority, rather than the school, our team are very much part of the NGHS family and have played an absolutely vital role during the partial and now full reopening of the school. As well as cleaning toilets after each break and all common touch-points, they are regularly disinfecting laboratories and other practical classrooms which are being used by different year groups. Thank you to them for keeping us safe!

Thank you so much for taking on board my request to improve parking and reduce use of the front car park after 8.15am. This has worked much better this week. Also, the inside take-away breaktime service (with face coverings) has started and gone smoothly.



Mrs Sobczuk and Mrs Curran hard at work keeping us safe!

Our Bounce Back lessons are going really well and I have been working with Heads of Faculty to ensure that our exam year students, in particular, have the tools they need. As a result we have placed an order for around £5000 of additional resources (workbooks, revision guides etc.) to support students now, later this academic year and of course in the event that we have to go into any form of lockdown. This edition of Newport News also gives information about how our online learning platform, Microsoft Teams, works. This is the primary form of teaching we will deploy although some staff are also trialling others e.g. Google Classroom & Wix. Please use the newsletter to familiarise yourself with Teams, in particular if you are new to the school. In the event you do not have a device (tablet, laptop, PC etc.) at home that your daughter can use if we were forced into a lockdown again, please let the IT team know by emailing ICTSupport@nghs.org.uk. Students can use a mobile phone with the Teams app installed, too if necessary.

Thank you for alerting us if your daughter is too unwell (for whatever reason) to attend school. If she is off, parents have a duty to inform the school on **subsequent days** too. This can be by phone 01952 797550 or email to schooloffice@nghs.org.uk. Attendance has been fantastic with over 600 out of 615 girls attending all week, but it is taking time to chase up any repeat absences, so your help is appreciated.

Finally, Bike to School Week takes place in two weeks time. We have facilities for bike storage at NGHS and would encourage girls who live locally to take part.

Please enjoy reading about our week at NGHS and take time to note the new restrictions announced today adjacent to our region. I wish you all a safe, happy weekend.

Mr M J Scott

In this issue....

- Our cleaning team
- Microsoft Teams overview
- Cultural Capital Challenge
- BEAM emotional wellbeing advice
- Open Water Swimming—student success
- Bike to School Week
- Cleaning staff recruitment



Newport Girls' High School

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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



MICROSOFT TEAMS

In advance of any potential disruption to learning, we would suggest that you help your daughter to install Microsoft Teams on a PC, tablet etc. at home. If the school is forced to close year groups or a whole school closure is necessary, we will use Microsoft Teams to deliver many of the lessons.

1 INSTALL TEAMS

PC: Go to the following link; <https://teams.microsoft.com/downloads>

Click on the on the

Download Teams Link;

Once you click on the download link, the application will install and ask you whether it can be "Run".

Select Run and the application will install. Once installed, you should see the icon (right) on your desktop.



Tablet: use your app store or equivalent to download the Teams app.

2 TO USE TEAMS



Click on the icon (which appeared previously).

The username is your child's school email address.
The password is your school computer password.

The system is now synced with our school management information system. Teachers will activate courses and your child will become a member of the 'class'. In the summer we used full year groups, now we have broken this down into classes for more detailed instruction/teaching. Your teacher may present a lesson via a webcam, s/he may upload files to the 'Team' (or class) and s/he may use the assignments function to hand work in.

3 NEED HELP?

If you need help, please contact ICTSupport@nghs.org.uk

It is vital that all students know their school email address and network password to use Teams at any time

Any student who does not have access to a PC/tablet at home can use a mobile phone (with app technology) to access Teams. If this is impossible, please contact ICTSupport for advice and we will try to loan a device.

4 MANAGING EXPECTATIONS

- In the event of a year closure, Teams will be used for this bubble and students will be taught as per their usual timetable, but online. The only exception will be if the teacher is ill and cannot teach a class.
- Student attendance at online lessons is mandatory unless students are themselves ill
- All work should be completed and submitted as per teacher requests (assignments on Teams/email etc)
- If a student is in 2 week isolation, resources will be uploaded to class teams for students to find/access.
- If a student is away for 1-2 days (awaiting a test result), we **may** be able to upload work on Teams, but it is more difficult to do this routinely as a small number of students may be missing from each class at any one time and some teachers teach five classes per day. We will do our best.
- If a student is absent from a lesson for any other reason (medical appointment, music lesson/exam etc.) she should liaise with her classmates to identify what needs to be caught up.



BEAM - Emotional Wellbeing Support

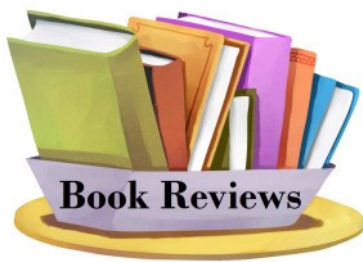


Miss H Clarke
Acting Deputy Head

BEAM have been in touch with all schools this week to send a reminder about the service being available to support young people with an emotional wellbeing concerns. Since April they have moved to a phone call back service, which is going to continue but they are also exploring the possibility of some face to face working. [Please click here](#) for a FAQ's booklet for all parents to learn more about this resource and the support that can be offered to young people.

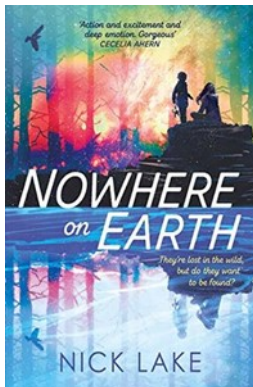
BEAM is available to support with:

- Anxiety (low-level) and worry
- Anger
- Identity
- Low mood
- Panic
- Self-esteem
- Sexuality
- Sleep
- Stress



Over the summer students were set both a 'Cultural Capital Challenge' and a wider reading challenge and Mr Postle emailed out the annual summer reading list, which included an eclectic mix of fiction and non-fiction.

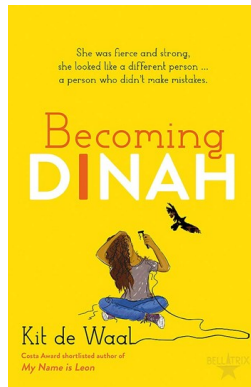
All students who completed the Cultural Capital Challenge will receive six house points and points have also been awarded for to those who entered the book review competition. Well done to all the students and staff who entered these two competitions. You can find links to the reviews below.



'Nowhere on Earth' grabbed my attention right from the start. It is jam-packed all the way through with powerful, descriptive writing that makes it impossible to put down.

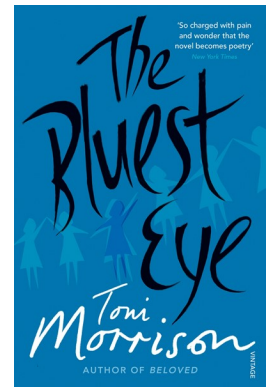
The book starts with a plane crash. Emily, a 16-year-old girl, and her younger brother, Aidan, were among the people aboard the plane. [Click here to read more...](#)

Anona R, Year 8



Who are you? If your life has been built on your parents' idea of a utopia, but it breaks apart, who are you without that? Dinah lives in the remains of a commune that was split apart when her father and her best friends' mother decide to leave their partners and the commune and live together. This leaves Dinah without her community, without her father and without her best friend. [Click here to read more...](#)

Beth W, Year 11



Reading Toni Morrison's 'The Bluest Eye' over summer was an experience that summoned the past into the present day unsettlingly seamlessly. The novel was short yet impactful, exploring real-life issues of race, social ideals, poverty and anger through a beautifully crafted narrative [Click here to read more...](#) Sarah N, Year 13

Note this novel explores some very challenging issues and is only suitable for those 16+.

Looking for work?



Telford & Wrekin Authority are looking for an additional member of cleaning staff to work at Newport Girls' High School.

If you or anyone you know would like more details, please [click here](#).

(Posted on behalf of T&W Cleaning Services)

Open Water Swimming

Congratulations to Aimee (Y8) who took part in a charity event "The Mere Mile". The one mile open water swim challenge took place at The Mere in Ellesmere. Aimee completed the challenge in 28.13mins raising £375 for The League of Friends to The Robert Jones & Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry.



Aimee has received coaching in open water swimming. It's important to reiterate that young people must not get into a open water on their own without instruction! Take care!



As pupils return to school following lockdown, active travel is more important than ever to help pupils get to school safely and healthily. The start of term is a great time to establish positive travel habits early.

Cycling to school has many benefits including:

- Pupils are more alert and ready to start the day
- Fewer cars at the school gate
- Children are more aware of road safety and feel more independent
- A boost to physical and mental health and wellbeing

NGHS students will receive more information next week, but for now perhaps give your bikes a once-over this weekend and dig out your helmet ready to take part!

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!



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



Mrs J Capaldi
Head of Years 7&8

Please use schooloffice@nghs.org.uk to contact any member of staff



HANDS



FACE



SPACE

FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR PARENTS

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
Please include your phone number and name of your daughter