



NEWPORT NEWS

A weekly update from NGHS

Volume 4 - Issue 3 - Friday 25 September 2020



Today would normally be our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning and the whole school would descend on the Hall at breaktime to admire and devour the remains of our House Bake-Off cakes.

Whilst we have not been able to run this event in 2020, I am keen to remind students and families of the amazing work Macmillan does - I am sure the charity is known to you and has perhaps already supported you, someone you know or a member of your family. It is a charity which has supported my colleagues personally too and therefore I include details below with a QR code to link to their donations page. Many families are enduring tough economic times, but for those who can make a donation, I would encourage you to perhaps do so this weekend. Thank you.

This week our Year 13s have had in-class assessments in preparation for the issue of UCAS grades. Despite obvious nerves, they have shown resilience and I hope that a treat from Mrs Griffin and myself in the form of a voucher for the sixth form coffee bar will help them to recover! They are also proceeding well with their Extended Project Qualification (a university-style dissertation essay on a topic of their own choice) and I am very impressed with their work ethic and fantastic attendance. Despite nearing the end of September, there is still no clarity around next year's public examinations, and whilst this is understandable in the context of the pandemic, I know it is weighing heavy on the minds of

our Year 11s and Year 13s. They should be reassured that their teachers are working hard to ensure the content is delivered and if the exams are delayed to late June, this will only be of benefit in enabling us to recap even more work from Year 12 and Year 10. I am very confident that our students will achieve their potential and I know our staff, students and families will work together to ensure this. We also have our first Microsoft Teams parents evening (for Year 13) coming up shortly. Mrs Griffin is sending details to Year 13 parents today.

I hope to be able to bring you more information about our new cashless catering system at NGHS next week. This is in advance of our eventual move to a new Dining Room. I hope to write with further details about the plans soon, particularly once the tendering process has been completed. Exciting times indeed!

NGHS was featured in a national article for school leaders about our 'Bounce Back' curriculum this week. Our positive approach has captured the interest of a range of audiences and I was delighted to be asked to pen an article about our work. See page 3 for this.

Finally, don't forget Bike to School Week takes place next week. See page 2 for more information. Students have been told in PE lessons about how this works, too.

This weekend sees some exciting filming activity at NGHS; I can't say any more yet, but all will be revealed! To avoid contact between students and visitors, but also to ensure that the school continues to operate and flourish, we are working at weekends to organise events and our Entrance Test is next Saturday rather than a weekday to hopefully keep everyone as safe as possible.

I wish you all a safe, happy weekend. **Mr M J Scott**

VIRTUAL



Why not catch up with some friends on Zoom this weekend?

Why not sit down for a coffee with your family?

Either way, please consider making a donation to Macmillan using the logo on the right or visiting their website. Thank you for your support.



In this issue....

- 👉 Macmillan Virtual Coffee Morning & Donations
- 👉 Bike Week (next week!)
- 👉 Management of medication in school
- 👉 Bouncing Back—NGHS features in national school leaders publication
- 👉 Parent App - have we got the right details?



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



BIKE TO SCHOOL WEEK!

How to get involved:



Submit evidence to Miss Clarke by emailing a screenshot of your bike route to h.clarke@nghs.org.uk

Or

Print off your route and put it in an envelope with your name and year group on. Then post it into the white box outside Miss Clarke's office.

DEADLINE: Monday 5th October, 4pm



Bikes can be locked in the bike shed but you must bring your own lock!



Monday 28th September- Friday 2nd October 2020



#BikeToSchoolWeek
www.sustrans.org.uk/biketoschoolweek





BOUNCE BACK

With so many offers of packages to support a so-called 'recovery curriculum' one school has looked to enhance its students' return to school with a bespoke 'Bounce Back' approach.

'Catch up', 'Recovery curriculum' and 'Reduce damage to learning'; three troubling phrases which landed in my inbox over the summer holiday. The language of post-Covid19 lockdown is disturbing to me as a Headteacher, as a linguist and as a parent myself. Whilst it's true that considerable learning time has been lost, why dive straight for the negative connotations of the pandemic? Why put so much pressure on students to 'recover' the moment they set foot in the door? There's a wealth of online packages ready to be purchased out there, but do they provide the tools that your students need? What about making the language more positive and pupil-engaging?

Newport Girls' High School is an outstanding (2019) school for girls in the Midlands. Like many schools we embarked on a blended learning approach during lockdown and, thanks to high levels of student and parental engagement, most students have not actually 'lost' too much of their curriculum content. However, the sense of 'loss' which every student has endured weighed heavy on the minds and hearts of my colleagues. By loss we mean not just the death of a family member (which of course has happened), but the loss of free time, activities such as their weekly gymnastics and swimming and the absence of holidays and wider family gatherings. Our school already has a strong PSHE curriculum (including being an early adopter for SRE) and the absence of face-to-face PSHE

teaching and our commitment to the subject's importance meant we were not keen to forego this time and thus sought an alternative solution. In a 'normal' year, we normally insist that all year groups have two hours of PE to balance academic performance with positive mental health and exercise, but because the school building is small we are reliant on teaching larger cohorts in our sports hall. Bubbles and social distancing guidelines verified that our PE curriculum would need be reduced to one hour of practical PE per class per week, for now, and the second period was thus dedicated to our new programme.

Choosing the right title was vital to foster positive mindsets and the right use of language. We wanted to acknowledge the milestone of our students returning to school, but also hoped to inspire a solution-focused mentality. After consideration, I chose and timetabled 'Bounce Back' for every class and my Deputy Head, Hayley Clarke, set about devising a seven-week programme of lessons to positively build on lockdown experiences. The language of lockdown also featured at our staff INSET days with a presentation by Assistant Head Ann-Marie Davies to replace 'covering ground', 'cramming in' and 'time lost' with 'consolidation', 'moving forward' and 'challenging our resilience'. This positive approach has already seen green-shoot effects as we welcomed the whole school back two weeks ago.

So what does our 'Bounce Back' entail? Seven bespoke hourly lessons start with an individual survey about pupils' views on returning to school. The results are discussed individually with students and passed through the

pastoral system of tutors and Wellbeing Officers as necessary. Whilst our pastoral team had kept in regular contact with lots of girls during lockdown, a few issues have come to light about which we had not been informed; such as the loss of immediate family members or mental health concerns having been at home for so long. After the initial survey, the Bounce Back sessions then develop to consider the way Covid19 has been reported in the media, the challenge of change, the resilience of animals, positive affirmations, mood busters, five ways to wellbeing, the worry tree and how to adopt an attitude of supporting others in a safe, controlled way. Feedback has been very positive from students, parents and governors and longer-term we hope it will enable students to strengthen their resolve, enhance their wellbeing and achieve their academic potential. With many students returning to school having suffered loss or experiencing anxiety about what the future holds, our Bounce Back curriculum hopefully goes some way to help the majority to discuss their fears, whilst also finding new ways to mature their character and resolve for the next stage in their education. And thanks to a few hours of careful brainstorming and planning, it hasn't cost a penny!

Michael Scott
Headteacher
Newport Girls' High School

This article appeared on the website of the Schools Network (SSAT) on Sunday 20 September 2020.

Medication / Prescription Medicines in School

It is very important that students do not keep paracetamol tablets on their person. The School operates a policy by which parents can consent to us giving a paracetamol tablet to students in the First Aid Room. Paracetamol consent is given via the Confidential Information Form, which has already been completed. If you need to change your mind about this, please contact the school office.

Any prescription medication can be administered by the school but a MED1 form must first be completed. It can be downloaded [here](#). Our medicine in school policy can also be found on this webpage. Please help us to ensure that we can care for our students effectively and reduce the potential misuse of paracetamol in school. Thank you.



Mrs F Davenport (Pastoral Administrator/First Aid Room)

NETWORK OUTAGE THIS WEEKEND

We have been advised that work is being done on the school's internet connection this weekend. This will affect access to student files and our email server. It will also affect urgent@nghs.org.uk email. Please use urgentnghs@gmail.com if necessary this weekend.



SIMS Parent App
Follow your child's progress

Are your contact details correct?

Our school database (SIMS) has an app which parents and students can use. Its primary function is to enable parents and students to read reports. We also ask parents/guardians to use the app to check their contact details are up to date. This is particularly important in the current climate where we might need to contact groups of parents urgently.

Please could I ask all parents to check the information we hold and to update it as necessary. Parents of students who are new to the school this academic year will be issued with log in details for the App next week.

Mrs K Jones, Data & Admissions Manager
(Senior Leadership Team)

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!



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.



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 (except this weekend—see page 4). Please include your phone number and name of your daughter