



NEWPORT NEWS

A weekly update from NGHS

Volume 4 - Issue 4 - Friday 2 October 2020



October has arrived and we pass the half way point in this half term. Day in, day out our students remind us how fortunate we are as a school community to be working together and we have made it through the first month. The heating has now been turned on (although it took a while to heat up on Monday) but we are having to balance warming the school with the necessary ventilation to satisfy the risk assessment and it has taken a few days to facilitate this balance. We have also had to implement some stronger measures in the sixth form concerning the wearing of face coverings in larger work spaces. This is not because of any reported cases linked to NGHS students, rather a regular review of our safety measures by the senior leadership team, a few cases at a neighbouring school and ultimately the overriding desire to **keep the school community safe**. I know this has not been a popular decision with a minority of sixth formers (although others have positively welcomed it), but I ask for everyone's support. Equally I have to issue another reminder about the need for coats to be worn (not blankets!) outside at breaktime and, in response to a query, there isn't a 'NGHS coat' - any warm, waterproof coat in any colour is acceptable and necessary as autumn turns to winter. So long as it is not pouring down, we expect students to be outside at break and lunchtime and we reserve the right to change the risk assessment at any time in response to national or local changes. Thank you for your support.

I am disappointed to report that our move to cashless catering has been delayed by a couple of weeks. Catering Academy are working with a new partner and we are one of the first schools to be granted their hardware and software for biometric payments, but implementation is delayed. I hope to bring more positive news by half term at the latest!

Bike to School week ends today, but has been hampered by poor weather; some mornings, you could barely see the field through the fog! Still, we have had a small, but committed response. Staff have also got involved—Mr Tolley often cycles an impressive 35 miles from home to school (and back again) and special mention to Mrs Taylor and her children for a sterling family effort. We also applaud those who walk to school and this is something we are encouraged to promote further by Telford & Wrekin. See Telford Get Healthy on page 5.

The next couple of weeks see more Parent Information Evenings (on Zoom) - Year 9 on Monday 5th October (letter with details was sent yesterday) and Wednesday is our first foray into Parents Evenings on Microsoft Teams for Year 13. We hope this goes smoothly—Year 13 parents please bear with us and my colleagues look forward to seeing you online on Wednesday. Hopefully all appointments have been made by your daughter by today, which was the deadline. Your daughter will need to be able to access MS Teams for you so a further reminder of this is included in Newport News this week.

Also this week, we have celebrated European Day of Languages; differently this year as you might expect, but students have taken part in activities in MFL lessons (page 4). Fantastisch! Bravo!







We welcome many potential NGHS pupils tomorrow for the annual Entrance Test. All NGHS staff are pulling together to work on Saturday to invigilate the Test and we are doing so to protect our students from any potential for mixing of primary/NGHS girls on a school day. Thank you to all our staff, including our caretakers and team of cleaners for their help over the weekend.

Over the next couple of weeks, I am asking my senior leadership team to take over the 'Head's Lines' section of the weekly newsletter, so Miss Clarke will be first to offer her thoughts on next week's proceedings at NGHS. In particular next Friday we will be marking World Mental Health Day and our pastoral team, led by Mrs Martin our Wellbeing Officer for Years 11-13, are busy organising awareness activities for students and staff.

Finally a renewed thank you for all your support of NGHS at this time. Have a safe and enjoyable weekend.

Mr M J Scott

In this issue....

-  Bike to School week
-  Could your child be eligible for Free School Meals?
-  European Day of Languages
-  Telford Get Healthy Campaign
-  Student Triathlon Success
-  Contact details reminder—SIMS App



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

Can we assist through the provision of Free School Meals and additional support for your daughter?

It is an opportune moment to remind parents that they may be eligible to apply for free school meals. Since lockdown, we have understandably seen an increase in students joining our FSM list. We would like to remind parents that we work hard to ensure there is no stigma associated with FSM and we can access extra funding to support your daughter's progress throughout the school. Also, as we move to cashless catering, there will be no recognisable difference among pupils as to how meals are paid for in the dining room.

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you receive any of the following:

- ⇒ Income Support
- ⇒ income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- ⇒ income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- ⇒ support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- ⇒ the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- ⇒ Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- ⇒ Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- ⇒ Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Children (usually in the sixth form) who may get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

Applications for FSM are made through the local authority (Telford & Wrekin, Staffordshire, Shropshire, Wolverhampton etc.) [More information can be found here.](#)

In the Sixth Form, we have vulnerable student and discretionary bursary schemes. If you feel your child may benefit from financial support which is means tested, please contact Mrs F Davenport via the school office. Thank you.

Newport Towpath Closure



We have been advised that the footpath along one side of the Newport Canal will be closed from Monday 5 October until Thursday 5 November.

This is between Water Lane Car Park in an easterly direction opposite Lock House for 388m. There will be a fairly long diversion in place past Newport Swimming Pool and Victoria Park.

Free
School
Meals



Are you entitled?

Shropshire's Premier Hi-Fi Shop

At Listen Audio we offer a friendly service and helpful advice to meet your sound-system requirements, and there's a dedicated listening room so you can try before you buy. We stock premium quality headphones, in-ear monitors, turntables, amplifiers, loudspeakers, digital streamers, digital audio players, home cinema systems, CD players, DACs, cables, hi-fi stands and accessories.



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01743 232377

www.listenaudio.co.uk

9 Dogpole, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY1 1EN

If you would like to support NGHS and the PTA through paid advertising in Newport News, please email schooloffice@nghs.org.uk for details

Bike to School Weeeeeeee-k



A quick snapshot near our bike stand on Tuesday morning as some of our staff and students arrive on their bikes (after removing their helmets first). This week our Head Girl Team and school Twitter accounts have shared important information about bike safety and encouragement to get peddling to school! Thank you to those who took part. If you live in Newport, why not give it a go?

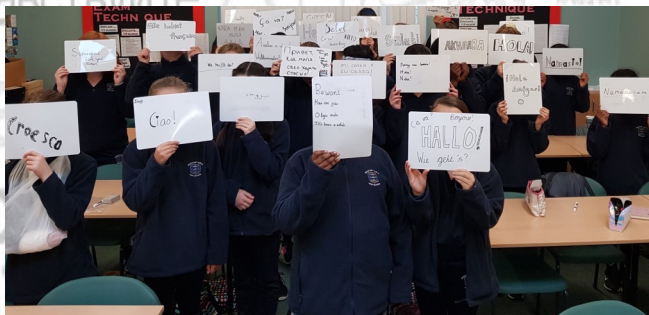
BIRMINGHAM SUPER TRIATHLETES

Many congratulations to two of our students, Chloe Mahy and Emily Spencer who are pictured with their trophies (and warm coats!) after a cold early morning start at the Birmingham Super Sprint Triathlon held at Alderford on Saturday where they came first and third respectively.

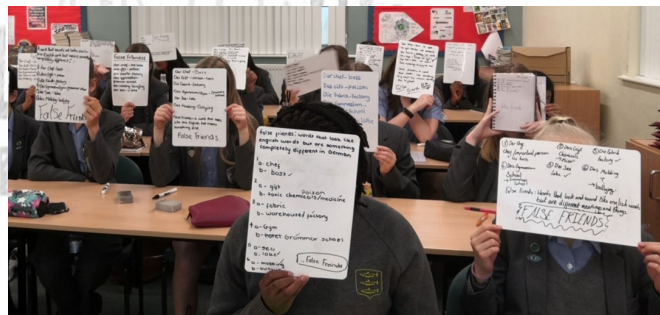
This is a fantastic achievement to coincide with Bike to School Week – well done to both girls on winning their trophies!



European Day of Languages at NGHS

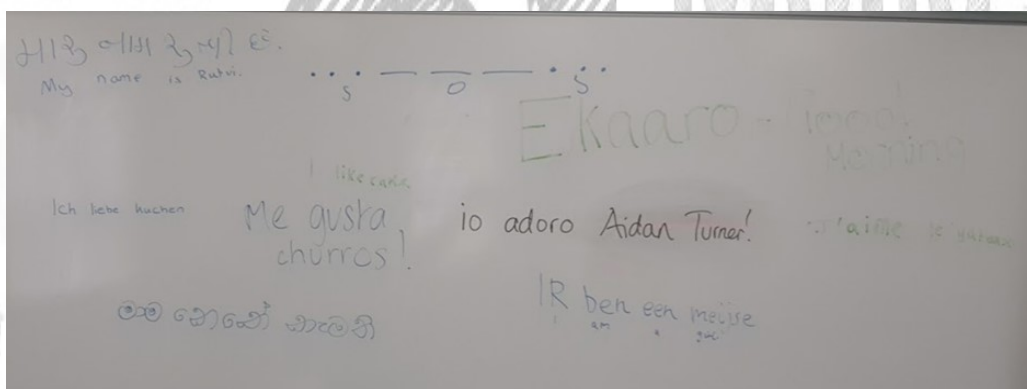


Above left - 7S learn multilingual “hello” (with new NGHS issued whiteboards and pens, too!

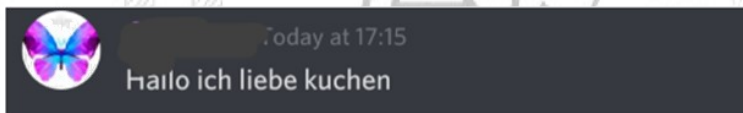
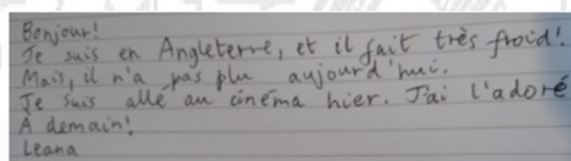
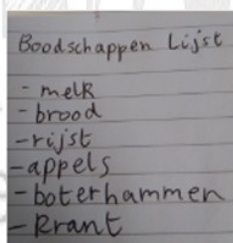


Above right - Year 8 don't fall into the 'false friend' trap in German!

Below - Y9 try phrases in world languages and (right) Katy in Y10 made 'financiers' (miam miam!)



Below: Here Leana in Year 9 and Lottie in Year 8 have completed a lot of Languages Challenges from the European Day of Languages Challenge app which was created especially for the 2020 EDL during the Covid pandemic.



If you'd like to take a look at the European Day of Languages App and Website, please [CLICK HERE](#) to try out some of the challenges. Show your teacher when you have completed them. Thanks to the MFL department for promoting this during their lessons this week.



The coronavirus pandemic has highlighted to many people how important it is to take care of their health, taking care of your long term health includes maintaining a healthy weight, keeping active and quitting smoking which are all part of living a healthy lifestyle.

To help you with making changes to your lifestyle we have a NEW e-mail programme from the Healthy Lifestyle Team to guide you through all you need to know about getting healthy.

Sign up to our FREE support and you'll receive messages over a 12 week period that introduces a different topic each week to help you make the changes you chose. We

will also send you weekly messages with tips and ideas for you to try out. We will include videos, case studies and useful links to help you reach your goals.

You can contact us for additional help if you feel you need it, as well as joining the Healthy Lifestyles Chat group on Facebook for support from others on their journey <https://www.facebook.com/groups/4921986791160613>

So sign up today to start your journey and receive your welcome email with more information <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKTW/signup/18627> and don't forget to share your journey using the hashtag #LetsGetTelfordHealthy on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.

Telford Healthy Lifestyle Team



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



Ms 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 November	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