



NEWPORT NEWS

A weekly update from NGHS

Volume 4 - Issue 7 - Friday 23 October 2020



This week sees my turn to welcome you to your regular instalment of Newport News, where it is my pleasure to share with you some of the news from this week and look ahead to what is coming. As we head into our half term break, can I say on behalf of us all at NGHS how proud we are of our students and families and the efforts that have been made to get back into regular school life. Despite all the inevitable challenges, we have had a productive and positive half term and wish all our school community a restful and enjoyable half term break.

Part of my role here at school is leading the whole school careers programme. We are pleased to say that the year 10 work experience programme has been launched and many of our students have already secured placements for June 2021. If any parents feel able to offer placements, please get in touch and I will pass the information on very gratefully indeed. We have also begun our programme of careers interviews for year 11 and launched the NHS Young Volunteer Programme for year 12. Despite the challenges that this year is presenting, we want to offer as many opportunities as we can to our students to help them make the best decisions they can for their future. During this year we also hope to offer virtual presentations about different jobs, and sectors, and again, if you would be prepared to offer an insight into your role, please get in touch. We are so grateful for your support.

This week has seen us host two more successful parent information evenings to year 7 and year 8 families. We have had positive feedback and hope that the families of our younger students feel well informed and clear on what is in store this year. We also saw our year 7 and year 8 students attend a Black History Month workshop. We welcomed Kirsty Holden, from the Multicultural Development Team at Telford and Wrekin Council, and Natalie Headley, who runs the Telford African and Afro-Caribbean Resource Centre in Telford, to our school. Our students explored the themes of identity, hidden histories and role models, and the importance of recognising black history as world history. More about



this event can be found on page 2 and we will upload more onto our website in the coming weeks.

We will return to school on Monday 2nd November and will look forward to seeing our students again, raring to go for another half term of school life. The first school event is our parents evening for Year 10 on Wednesday 4 November through MS Teams.







After half term, PE will return to two periods per week in Years 7-11. Mrs Goodall has recently endured knee surgery and will be back on crutches after half term. She will teach indoor PE with Miss McCleary's help, but we have engaged a temporary PE teacher on a Friday to enable us to deliver the full outdoor PE curriculum safely without breaking 'bubbles'. There will therefore be some changes to which PE teacher teaches which class after half term.

May I finally wish you all a happy half term!

Mrs K Gill

Associate Senior Leader & Head of Careers

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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

BLACK HISTORY MONTH WORKSHOPS

Tuesday's Black History Month workshops, run by representatives of Telford and Wrekin's community cohesion team and TAARC, gave all year 7s and 8s an opportunity to learn more about a range of lesser known individuals, places and events in the extremely long and rich history of the continent of Africa. We reflected on the enormous geographical and cultural diversity of Africa and explored some of the architecture and objects that we can use to learn about history that was often not written, rather passed down orally in the traditional manner. We also had a brief introduction to a thousand years of African history and we were both surprised and pleased to learn of the important political role played by women in many African kingdoms. The workshops provided an excellent introduction to topics which will be studied in history lessons later this year, for example medieval Great Zimbabwe, which year 7 will be learning about, and the impact of the British empire on Africa and the West Indies which year 8 will be studying after half term. The interactive sessions also explored the role of individuals of black origin who have played an important part in British history, for example Mary Seacole, our NGHS house namesake, whose excellent work in the Crimea was little recognised elsewhere prior to this year.

Follow up work to the sessions has been completed in history lessons this week, with pupils choosing people, places or events that they want to learn more about and showcase within the theme of celebrating black history. Students are presenting their reflections in a number of ways, including poetry, prose and artwork. When all is complete we will be constructing a community collage as NGHS's celebration of black history month. We look forward to sharing this with you in an upcoming edition of the Newport News.

Mrs Seys & Mrs Gill



Year 13 Geography Field Trip

Last Friday Year 13 geographers went on a Field Trip to Ironbridge in order to collect data for the compulsory coursework element of our A level. Although it was disappointing we couldn't have our four days in Cumbria, we made the most of the day by dispersing ourselves across the town as soon as we arrived.

There was lots of data to gather ranging from surveys to soil samples with some of us managing to find time to interview the locals (from an appropriate distance, obviously!) while sampling the hot chocolate to warm us up!

We are glad we were able to conduct some form of fieldwork and collect varied data during these uncertain times and to do so in a local community was even better. We will now be analysing the data in order to write up our findings for our coursework projects.

Tabitha and Daisy (Year 13)





NGHS Bounce Back



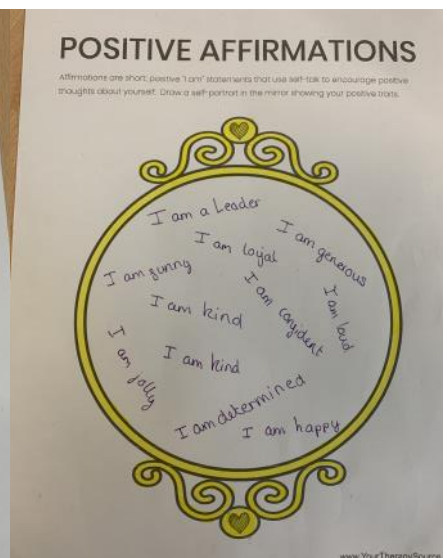
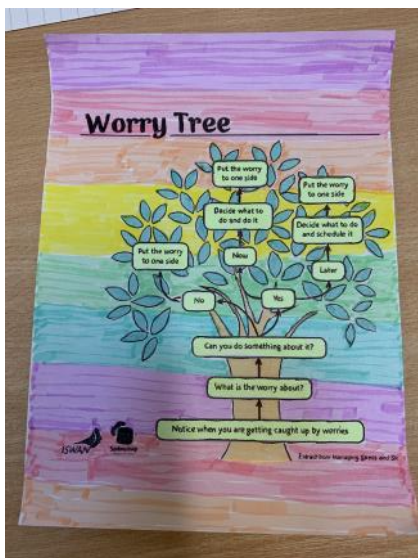
As we near the end of this first half term, I felt it was important to reflect on the Bounce Back curriculum that has been offered to all students in Years 7 to 11. From my perspective I feel incredibly fortunate to have been able to deliver a lesson with student wellbeing at its core. It has been so good to talk to the students and learn all about their experiences since we saw them in March and it has been lovely to offer support to allow them to return successfully back to full time education at NGHS.

I have had a unique opportunity to hear about the positive reflections from each student but have also been able to talk through and offer advice to students who have been through some challenging and difficult

times. Without these lessons I fear that some young people may have kept their worries to themselves. Having delivered this programme over the full half term it has allowed me to be flexible with the lessons that have been taught and I been able to tweak what has been taught to suit the needs of each class. Whilst I am very excited to return to teaching PE to our students I will miss the opportunity provided in these lessons every week just to talk about how things are going and I am hoping to be able to continue these important conversations within PE too.

I have shared some photos of the work that was produced during these lessons by our Year 8 students and have also got some statements from this year group about how they have found this half term's Bounce Back programme.

Miss H R Clarke, Acting Deputy Head



- ☞ "Bounce Back has been useful as we have been able to discuss things we enjoyed and found tough over lockdown"
- ☞ "I liked the time capsule booklet, focusing on the positives of lockdown"
- ☞ "I like being able to express my opinion freely and without getting judged"
- ☞ "Having a dedicated time to express our feelings"
- ☞ "Having the chance to talk to people we might not have spoken to before"
- ☞ "I like helping other people with difficulties they have"
- ☞ "I got to embrace my inner Donald Trump when we did role plays during the Picture News week"
- ☞ "My favourite thing was probably when we had to make up a story on why our animal was resilient"



A great way to briefly escape the pandemic!

Congratulations to Katy Hossack, Year 10, who completed her first open water dives at the weekend at Capernwray Diving Centre in the Lake District. Great photographs!



Road Closure Alert

Telford & Wrekin have informed us about a temporary road closure along **High Street, Edmond and Longford Road Junction To Edmond Split, Longford.**

Western Power Distribution are planning to undertake pole changes and reconductoring works. The work is set to commence on Wednesday 4th November 2020 and will last for a duration of 3 days between the hours of 9.30am and 3.00pm with an end date of Friday 6th November 2020.

The diversion route for vehicular traffic travelling southbound will be via High Street, Chetwynd Road, Edmond Road, Chetwynd End, Lower Bar, Salters Lane, Longford Road, Longford Road Junction To Edmond Split.

The diversion route for vehicular traffic travelling northbound will be vice versa.

HANDBALL SELECTION

Congratulations to the following students who have dominated Regional Handball Academy trials for the fifth season in a row and have made the Academy this season for both U17 and U15 squads:

A Hill
C Watkin
A Wu
C Partridge
C Calleja
K Tichford
K Partridge



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November Challenge

The Daily Mile is when students and staff jog or run, at their own pace, for 1 mile everyday during the month of November. This will need to be done outside of school and in your own time. The Daily Mile is not Sport or PE, but rather health and wellbeing through physical activity. All you need to do is follow the school's Strava account and log your Daily Miles through the app. The Strava name is: [Newport Girls' High School](#). There will be prizes for everyone who participates!

Mrs H Goodall



PARKING TROUBLES!



Not a photograph from Newport(!) but also not too far removed from the situation some afternoons in the streets around the school, particularly around Boughey Road. I have had a number of complaints from local residents in the last two weeks including some rising tensions on social media and I know some parents' cars have been reported to the Local Authority for parking offences. Covid-19 has played a part in reducing the number of girls on buses so there are more cars. This is understandable and to be fair every resident I have spoken to in person or on the phone recognises this. However, the situation is becoming more difficult and I do feel the older girls, in particular, could easily manage a walk into town to be collected, especially whilst the end of the school day still falls in the light. Can I therefore once again ask for your cooperation and kindness in not blocking roads, not obstructing driveways and parking legally away from junctions etc. NGHS is not a police force, but we must do all we can to keep the local roads safe for all pupils and also need to ensure harmonious relations where possible with our neighbours. Thank you for your support. **Mr Scott, Headteacher**



Facemasks outside school

Telford & Wrekin have decided that parents waiting outside school must wear a face covering from after half term. Whilst we don't have too many parents who come to the gates, unlike a primary school, please can I ask that anyone who comes to meet an NGHS student follows this directive. Thank you.



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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 DATES FOR PARENTS

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Monday 26 October—Monday 2 November | HALF TERM |
| Wednesday 4 November 4.15pm-7pm | Year 10 Parents Evening (provisional) |
| Thursday 12 November 4.30pm | Sixth Form Open Evening launch |
| 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 |
| Friday 18 December 12.30pm | END OF TERM |

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