



# NEWPORT NEWS

## *A weekly update from NGHS*

Volume 5 - Issue 1 - Friday 10 September 2021



I cannot tell you how much of a delight it has been to welcome a full school of students back to NGHS this academic year. This week has seen 120 students join Year 7 (our new intake number) and we have a sixth form of over 200 students for the first time ever. I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all of the families who join our NGHS Family for the first time this September and a hearty 'welcome back' to those who are regular readers of Newport News. For new readers, I endeavour to publish a newsletter update each and every Friday and the intended audience is parents, students, governors, staff and the local community.

My colleagues and I have been very impressed with the high standards of uniform this week. We are keen to ensure this continues and I thank all parents for ensuring that our young people are following the policies we have had in place for some time. Punctuality has been a bit of an issue for some students though (even those who live close to the school) and this is something we will address. School starts at 8.50am and anyone arriving after this will be marked late.

As is often the case in September, I must ask everyone for support with the arrival/departure at school. It is busy outside the school gates at the end of the day (even in spite of the staggered timings). Students must always use the crossing point on Wellington Road and, from Monday, **I would ask parents outside at 3.40pm to wait on the opposite side of the road on the grassy bank.** This way, we can keep the pavement adjacent to school railings clear. Students who come out of school first but wait for siblings should do so just inside the gates on the paved area. Also, a reminder that the front car park can be used for morning drop off **until 8.25am** but the barrier will come down then and the car park should not be used by parents. Please make arrangements to drop off in Newport Town Centre. I know one of our local residents has filed a Police report as a parent blocked her driveway this week so please do be mindful of the impact of parking in local roads.

On the first day, I talked to students about some exciting developments this year at NGHS. There's more on these in the newsletter, but I also addressed the thorny issue of **failure**. As a staff, we feel this is something we need to address, both in a pastoral and academic sense and so it forms part of our school development plan this year. We know many bright, articulate, young people find it devastating to 'fail' at something, but this is a life lesson and our duty is to prepare students for life beyond A-levels. Making the same mistakes again and again is not desirable, so learning from them is crucial and we will be putting

significant onus on challenge, resilience and grit to take personal responsibility for actions.

You may have seen in the local press and on our website that our A-level and GCSE students achieved fantastic results in August. Their stoic approach to the last 18 months was nothing short of astonishing and they worked their socks off to prepare for exam-board style assessments to determine final grades. I am also equally pleased that the exam-board moderation did not yield any changes and they were very complimentary of our thorough approach. This was a huge undertaking for our staff who are renowned for pulling together in difficult times!

Along with Newport News, parents will receive a letter today from me concerning school transport for next September. I know that it is rather early to think about next year, but I have issued a consultation to match the growing interest in NGHS. I would ask parents of Year 7-12s to give their views by Friday 24 September. Thank you.

Please enjoy reading Newport News this week. I have included profiles of some of our new staff (a record **ten** in total this year, more will follow next week!) and also details of our extra-curricular programme which starts over the next two weeks. With the requirement to 'bubble' students in forms/year groups gone, there is a real opportunity to bring back some of the NGHS we all love and my colleagues have responded with a plethora of clubs to get the year going. There will be more to come as our sixth form take on greater leadership within NGHS over the coming weeks.

The building work is roughly on track and we are looking forward to completion this term. I have added more photographs to the website—new parents can find out about the project and how any donations can be made to classroom and dining room furniture at our special website: [www.nghs.org.uk/pfs](http://www.nghs.org.uk/pfs) We also still need promises for our auction—please see page 2 of the newsletter.

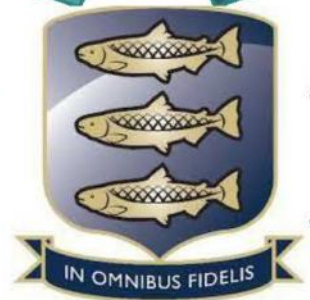
Have a lovely weekend and I hope our students will cheer on Emma Raducanu, a former student of one of our sister girls' grammar schools in her US Open Final match tomorrow evening! She's clearly taking the tennis world by storm.

**Mr M J Scott**



After 18 months of lockdowns and Covid restrictions we are very excited to welcome the new school year, and with it the opportunity to fundraise for our wonderful school. We desperately need volunteers to help, so please [use this link to join us virtually](#) on 21 September at 7pm to discuss plans for the year ahead.

# Newport Girls' High School Online Auction.



Our GOAL is to raise funds for equipment that will benefit all our pupils. Our building expansion will enhance many aspects of the school with a particular emphasis on STEM subjects Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. along with a new Dining Room, Drama Studio and onsite Kitchens.

We need donations!

BUT We need YOUR help!

## Most Wanted Items:

- Dinner for Two
- Art
- Personal Trainer Sessions
- New Electronics
- Hotel Accommodation
- Gift Certificates
- Car Service
- Soft Play Sessions
- Jewellery
- Listed are ideas, we appreciate any donations you can give
- Brand New Toys or Games
- Beauty Treatments
- Theatre Tickets
- Experience Days
- Cinema Tickets
- Fragrances
- Music Lessons
- Hair Salon Treatments
- Spa days
- Autographed Memorabilia

Can your company donate an auction item?

Online Auction goes live  
1<sup>st</sup> October until 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021

Please let the school office know if you can contribute an auction prize and someone will be in touch.  
Thank you again for all your continued support.

Email: [pfs@nghs.org.uk](mailto:pfs@nghs.org.uk)



*Head Girl Team Highlights...*

As usual, our School Development Plan is written around four key strands. Beneath each are a series of actions, shared among colleagues at all career stages and governors. This year's priorities for our school (with a few key examples) are as follows:

**To develop a culture of research-based innovation to enrich teaching & learning provision**

- ⇒ A new shared language of pedagogy in the classroom
- ⇒ Deployment of Rosenshine's principles of instruction
- ⇒ Further sharing of good practice among staff
- ⇒ Ensure SEND support enables pupils to make strong progress

**To facilitate growth in wellbeing, resilience and social awareness in our school community**

- ⇒ Develop academic and pastoral resilience to failure
- ⇒ Offer pastoral training to parents through evening workshops
- ⇒ Continue work started in 2020 on diversity and equality in all aspects of NGHS provision
- ⇒ Relaunch House & Co-curricular activities as lockdowns ease

**To provide academic reassurance and maximised opportunities so all learners achieve their full potential**

- ⇒ Maximise potential for all through effective use of Gov. funds
- ⇒ Deploy new Bursary Scheme in the sixth form
- ⇒ Further enhance careers provision through NGHS Allies, business leaders and breakfast clubs
- ⇒ Ensure STEM opportunities are offered to all, in particular in Years 9-11

**Widen collaboration & partnership beyond NGHS further**

- ⇒ Lead Flexible Working project for DFE in Midlands
- ⇒ Produce a whole-school musical in March 2022
- ⇒ Further enhance links with local schools (8 strands)
- ⇒ Work with KS2 teachers on improving academic transition
- ⇒ Ensure funds are raised for new building project

Today marks World Suicide Prevention Day, this is an opportunity for us to raise awareness and reduce the stigma around suicide. We can all make a difference by showing people we care, reach out to people and ask if they are ok, listen to those you know are struggling, a simple conversation can make a huge difference. We would ask that tonight at 8pm you light a candle to remember those lost through suicide and those who have also been bereaved. For support and advice please visit

<https://www.papyrus-uk.org/>



## Welcome Back!

We hope you've all had a fabulous first week back! It's always a busy time with lots of deadlines coming in so as always it's important to keep a good balance.

This week is also suicide prevention week which reinforces the importance of speaking up if you're struggling with anything at all, we're always here for a chat!

We continue to be inspired by 18 year old Emma Raducanu who has just become the first qualifier to reach the final of a grand slam. She has shown such resilience and will battle for the US Open title tomorrow night at 9pm. Emma attended a girls' grammar school just like us in Kent and has put her remarkable success down to 'taking care of each day' and 'looking after what she can control' which is something we can all use in our own busy lives.

The start of the year is a great time to set out good habits and a good routine so here are a couple of tips:

- Ask for help as soon as you need it, don't wait and let things pile up!
- Organise your time in an evening to ensure you have time for yourself!

We wish you all a lovely weekend!

### Laura and the Head Girl Team

**Head Girl:** Megan Lo

**Deputy Head Girls:**

Maisie (Transition & Integration)

Laura (Community & Careers)

Rosalinda (Participation & Inclusion)

Abigail (Health & Wellbeing)

Jenny (Academic Chair)

# NEW FACES

Welcome to some of  
our new members of  
staff (more to follow  
next week!)



**Miss S Webster**  
*Deputy Headteacher*

I am delighted to be joining the NGHS family as the new Deputy Headteacher. I previously held the post of Assistant Headteacher at a large outstanding secondary school in Birmingham where I worked for over nine years. I am looking forward to working with teaching staff to further develop the exceptional teaching and learning that occurs at NGHS, as well as getting to know the students to ensure that their time here is enjoyable, successful and filled with positive memories.

As a keen Geographer with a passion for travelling, I am excited to continue to share my love of the subject with the students that I teach and develop their interest in the world around them.



**Miss J M Walker**  
*Teacher of Design*

I am really looking forward to joining the NGHS family and supporting the students in developing their practical and creative skills in Design & Technology. I studied at the University of Worcester and graduated with a degree in Art & Design and Journalism. After

completing my degree, I travelled around Australia before returning home to work within the export industry. I recently completed my PGCE at Staffordshire University and I hope that my experiences will equip students with the skills to be confident and successful individuals both in school and in their future aspirations.



**Mrs C Petford**  
*Teacher of Mathematics*

Being local to the area, I have grown up knowing the excellent reputation that the school has and I can't wait to share my passion for maths with the students. Mathematics has always been a subject that I have

really enjoyed and I always knew that I wanted to share my love of it with others. I enjoy the challenges that the subject brings and love the 'light bulb moment' of helping others to solve problems. I have been teaching for 7 years and am excited to be starting a new chapter of my career at NGHS.

**Mrs B Dugdale**  
*SEND Assistant*



I am excited to be joining NGHS and will be working with the SEND Team to support pupils who have a variety of additional needs. I am very excited to be working here as I have heard many positive comments about the school from the wider community. I am a trained Primary School Teacher and I hold the National SENDCO award. I have worked with children from a variety of different backgrounds, mostly in inner city schools. However, I have been lucky enough to teach in The Netherlands at the British School, too.

**Miss M Cadman**  
*Business Admin. Apprentice*



I am the new Business Admin Apprentice, I have only just left college after doing a business admin course there so I am new to the whole world of work. I am so happy and grateful to be a part of an amazing team here at NGHS and I have loved the time I've been here so far. I have just left college so this is new to me but I feel as if I have settled in really well. I am really looking forward to my future time at NGHS and I am really excited to see how it pans out.

**Miss A N Holmes**  
*Teacher of Art & Design*



As a newly qualified teacher, I am absolutely thrilled to be embarking on my career at such a prestigious and wonderful grammar school. Everyone in the NGHS family has been so kind and welcoming so far; the community spirit of the school truly is delightful. Professionally, my artwork has been featured in the prestigious ELLE Magazine and I have been successful in selling my work globally. As a Teacher of Art, it is vital for me to ensure that pupils are confident in developing and applying the knowledge, understanding and skills of exploring the subject. I am extremely excited to bring my enthusiasm, passion, and imagination to the classroom to ensure pupils achieve great things. The well-being of pupils is paramount to me, therefore I will also be delivering PSHE lessons to Year 8 groups which will allow me foster self-awareness, positive self-esteem and confidence.

# Summer SCHOOL

We really enjoyed hosting over 100 new Year 7s at NGHS in August. Lost learning and transition time in the pandemic were the main drivers for organising the Summer School and it was a great springboard to life at NGHS for our new girls. As the photographs and comments from parents show, it was not just the staff who had a lot of fun!! Thank you to all who took part.



Group work



Geography Modelmaking



I-Pad Photography



Forces & Gravity



Forensics challenge



Archery—new skills

“ We have been in awe of how much effort has gone into clearly ensuring that this week has been a gentle coming together of new experiences; new friends, new teachers, new activities and a new site.

Each afternoon she has come out with a huge smile on her face and during the journey home, nobody can get a word in while she gives us a ‘blow by blow’ account of the day!

Thank you for giving priority not just to their academic well-being, but also to their social and emotional recovery.

She particularly enjoyed learning German and looking at flies under the microscope!

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## EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Tutors have been asked to share (today or on Monday) a copy of the Extra-Curricular Clubs list with their students. Please find below a summary (the student version has rooms/staff details on, too). House activities will also get underway shortly. We expect all students to take part in at least one main House Activity plus Sports Day and encourage all students to join at least one club. Please encourage your child to do this, too!

	LUNCHTIME	AFTER SCHOOL	
MONDAY	Sixth Form Netball Year 7 Board Game Club Physics Clinic (Y12-13) Show Rehearsals (all years) Week A - Rights Respecting Schools steering group (all years) Week B - Genocide & Human Rights awareness (all years)	Maths Clinic (Y13) Biology Clinic (all years)	School Production Rehearsals Sixth Form Punch (Body Barn) - Y13
TUESDAY	Netball Club (year 7) Physics Clinic (Y7-11) Senior Choir (Y10-13) KS3 Maths Club (Y7-8) Week A - NEA/History Clinic (Y13) Week B - Cold War Revision (Y11) Japanese Language & Culture Club (all) SustainGHS/EcoSchools/Gardening Club (all)	Biology Clinic (all years) Chemistry Clinic (Y11) Wellbeing Quiet Space (all) Maths clinic (Y12)	Harper Netball Fixtures
WEDNESDAY	AS PE group (Y13) French Club (Y11) Physics Clinic (Y7-11) Animation Club (Y7 sign up only) GCSE Geography support (Y11) Lower School Choir (Y7-8) Medsoc (Y12 interested in medicine/dentistry) Chemistry Clinic (Y13) Maths Clinic (Y7-8)		Karate Club (all years) - external coach
THURSDAY	Team Trials Team Netball practice Coding Club (Y8 and above) Geography Revision (Y13) Music GCSE Clinic English clinic (all years + special Y11 group) Drama club (Y9-11) DIG schools archaeology investigation (Y7-8, sign up)	Wellbeing Quiet Space (all) Chemistry Clinic (Y12) Maths Clinic (Y9-10) Maths support (Y11)	Fencing Club (all) - external coach Winter League Netball Fixtures
FRIDAY	Netball (Y11) Orchestra Literary Society Week B - Debating Society (Y12/13)		Sixth Form Punch (Body Barn) - Y12 Netball Club - external coach (all years)

# 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 any concerns, but there are certain colleagues with additional training to support you in pastoral and safeguarding matters.



**Mrs H Birch**  
Assistant Head  
Designated SL



**Mr M J Scott**  
Headteacher



**Mrs H Goodall**  
Head of Year 7



**Mrs F Davenport**  
Pastoral Support



**Miss S Webster**  
Deputy Head



**Mrs A Chapman**  
Head of Year 9



**Ms J Capaldi**  
Head of Year 8



**Mrs K Danby**  
Wellbeing Officer

Safeguarding

Years 7-10



**Mrs A Seys**  
Head of Year 10

Years 11-13



**Mrs S Tomkinson**  
Head of Year 11



**Mrs K Griffin**  
Head of Sixth Form



**Mrs D Martin**  
Wellbeing Officer

Please use [schooloffice@nghs.org.uk](mailto:schooloffice@nghs.org.uk) for routine correspondence.

To urgently contact a member of the senior leadership team outside school hours, please use [urgent@nghs.org.uk](mailto:urgent@nghs.org.uk)