



NEWPORT NEWS

A weekly update from NGHS

Volume 5 - Issue 16 - Friday 14 January 2022



Winter Jumper Day... £800 raised



Frozen padlocks were the first issue I encountered this morning as I (eventually) swung the gates open at 6.30am. The iced cobwebs on the railings were a joy to behold and you may recall our rather magical photo gallery of images from last year?

This week has seen our first joint project with Telford College. Year 7 and Year 8 students are taking part in Food Technology classes at TCAT on a Thursday morning. Mrs Birch took the first class yesterday and they had a lot of fun making a hearty mushroom soup in the catering kitchens. I know that Food Technology has been absent on our curriculum (owing to having zero facilities on site at NGHS) and I was delighted to find a solution to this for our younger students.

Staff Covid absences are still prevalent, albeit still below the reported national figures. I'd like to thank my absent colleagues for their stoic determination to keep teaching on Teams from home and to all students who have maturely and sensibly learnt via this method. Student absence numbers are still low, again by national standards and the reduction in isolation period will bring another change from Monday. As I mentioned back in September, the rules around Year 13s isolating were due to change in February with those who have birthdays in the first six months of the

academic year being treated as adults and potentially needing to isolate if unvaccinated. Things have gone quieter on that front but I will keep you updated. The School Vaccination Team are returning to NGHS in early February and the students in the 12-15 age bracket who are eligible for a first or second Pfizer dose should have received a pack of information via their child. Older students can book themselves in at a vaccination centre, if desired.

Our Year 13s have completed the application process to university and are holding a huge number of university offers between them. Others are exploring apprenticeship routes. We have news of some Oxford offers too and I will update you when Cambridge announce their offers later this month. Well done to all our Year 13s for completing this important stage in their life.

Lastly it was a pleasure to welcome a representative from the Newport Food Bank into Reception this afternoon to receive a cheque for £800 from the NGHS Family. This is money raised from our Winter Jumper Day, which almost all students and staff participated in back in December. The Food Bank team were incredibly grateful for our support which Mrs Supple (Leader) tells us will go towards food parcels for local families over the upcoming Easter break.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mr M J Scott

Cooking Up A Storm!



On Thursday 13 January, half of 8A went to Telford College. After taking off our blazers and putting on our aprons (and tricky hairnets!) we went through to wash our hands. Once we had washed our hands, we made our way through to the kitchen, where we chose our workstations.

We put some vegetable oil in our pans, added onions and later added leek, celery, mushrooms and vegetable stock. As soon as that had cooked through we added stock and blended it all together. One of the cooks came around with some salt and pepper so that we could season our food, and another helped us pour our soups into pots so that we could take them with us.

One girl said, 'It was really fun to try out cooking. All the staff were really helpful and helped us get it done in the time we had.' All in all it was a great few hours outside of school and we hope to go again in the near future (if it's possible).



Lara C, 8 Austen



Head Girl Team Highlights...

#2 Half of the Year

I hope everyone is settling back in well! We wanted to congratulate Year 12 on getting through their assessments this week; it's never easy after a break but I think you have inspired Year 13 to start revising!

I just thought I would include a few tips which can be used by the lower and upper school alike as we embark on the second half of the school year which is always known to be a busy one.

Ensure you are getting enough sleep, it really does make everything more manageable!

Ask for help as soon as you need to, your future self will thank you!

Try not to give up hobbies and extracurricular activities where possible as these are so important to giving you that balance with your studies.

We have also had the particularly exciting news this week of a few year 13 students receiving university offers from The University of Oxford! So to everyone busy doing applications and those receiving offers, rest assured that it will all pay off in the end!

Finally, we wish you all a lovely weekend! To everyone revising, make sure you take your breaks and keep going, we've all got this!

Laura and the HGT



We have entered NGHS into a dance show which will take place on Wednesday 9 March 2022 at the Theatre Severn in Shrewsbury.

We will be holding dance auditions on Wednesday 19 January 2022 at lunchtime in the hall to select the group that will represent the School in this event.

Please sign up on the sheet on the PE noticeboard if you would be interested in auditioning. You will attend the audition and be taught a short phrase of dance which will be performed. The audition will be the full hour of lunch, please bring a packed lunch with you to eat during the auditions.

The auditions are open to everyone but this is a selection process and not everyone will be chosen to represent the School. There is a limit on the amount of dancers that we can take and the decision will be made based on performance in the audition next week.

If you audition, it is essential:

1. That you are available to attend all Wednesday lunchtime practices. Failure to attend may result in your place in the performance group being lost.
2. That you are available to perform on stage on Wednesday 9 March.

Good luck to everyone involved!



Year 8s enjoy and benefit from Loudmouth Performance

On Tuesday, Period 4 we enjoyed an outstanding workshop with Loudmouth that informed us about the dangers of drinking alcohol and drugs.

We were introduced to Amber who talked about her life and how she started drinking alcohol and taking drugs. Rather than the story being read or explained, it was performed by Ellie. This was a new and unique way to deliver crucial information to a year group and this made it a memorable time. It almost seemed like Amber was having a personal conversation with us and telling us about her life story. Her characteristics and her lifestyle from the age of 11 were very relatable and allowed us to easily connect with her whilst learning from her life story.

Amber's story showed us the importance of knowing that we shouldn't simply follow the crowd because our majority may actually be the minority. We were informed that organisations, such as Childline, T3Stars (which is local) and Recharge, provided essential support for those who need help regarding this issue.

We all absolutely enjoyed watching the performance whilst learning much more about how easily young people can get into alcohol and drugs and the physical, mental and social impact they can have on us. Thank you to all the teachers who helped make this happen.

Year 8 Students

Teaching & Learning Update

Our school website now includes a dedicated section that tells you more about some of the strategies being used in lessons to further enhance teaching and learning. This can be accessed through the [academic section](#) and includes further information on the work we have been doing this year as part of our teacher development. The new Teaching & Learning section can be found [here](#).

As well as reading an introduction to the topic of each Professional Learning Group, you will find some examples of activities shared during our Good Practice Week.

This month, staff will be further building on what they have achieved so far, and using strategies they have heard about to adapt a lesson plan for a topic they will be revisiting with their class in the future; all with the aim of embedding this knowledge into students' long-term memory.

Also, just a reminder that the Academic section also contains subject information and learning overviews for each year group. As parents, you can see the topics and approaches each subject takes when delivering our curriculum. This is also helpful if students are absent from school for any prolonged period.

Miss S Webster, Deputy Head



More rosettes!

On Saturday 8 January four of the NGHS Equestrian team ventured out to Kelsall Hill Equestrian Centre in Cheshire for a NSEA Show jumping Competition. Hannah, Eva, Jaz and Izzy had a brilliant start in the 70/75 class with 4 solid rounds achieving a team third place and qualifying for the NSEA Championship Plate later in the year. Jaz had a lovely fast clear round making the top ten out of a huge 42 entries with a fabulous 8th place adding an individual qualification for the championship plate to her belt.

Jaz & Izzy went on to compete in a very stong class of 51 entries in the 80/85 class as individuals. Izzy rode a super-fast clear round to gain a third place spot and a qualification for the National Championships at Keysoe in October. Another fantastic day for team NGHS!



THANK YOU FRIDAY

Congratulations to this fortnight's winners...

Each fortnight we recognise students who have gone the extra mile to help a member of staff. Parents will receive recognition of the child's success through a postcard home and publication in Newport News.

To: Student	From: Teacher
L Clayton (8Aus)	Miss Holmes & Miss Davies
C Cui (11Sea)	Miss A-M Davies
C Fairhead (7S)	Miss A-M Davies
T Hardiman (A7)	Miss S Webster
G Hicklin (7N)	Mrs B Dugdale
A Jones (R8)	Miss A-M Davies
I Knight (A7)	Mrs L Payne
A Masey (7H)	Mrs L Payne

To: Student	From: Teacher
B McCloy (11Sea)	Miss A-M Davies
R Morgan (R8)	Miss A-M Davies
M Neame (7H)	Mrs L Payne
C Nock (R7)	Mrs A Seys
N Qureshi (8Aus)	Miss A Holmes
I Royce (10Sea)	Mrs L Payne
L Smith (10Sea)	Mrs L Payne
N Tunnicliffe (8Aus)	Miss A Holmes

Knock, Knock!

Who's there?

Dande.

Dande who?

Dandelion.

Gardening is a popular hobby for young and old; which supports physical exercise and emotional wellbeing. Research has shown that gardening therapy can help pupils who struggle with communication skills, building social relationships and who have sensory issues to develop these key skills overtime.

Gardening is a physical activity involving the use of the hands; it doesn't require much in the way of verbal skills. For those who are completely nonverbal, visual cues and photographs can be used to demonstrate tasks such as how to plant or care for seedlings.

Group gardening for example, supports young people with autism by allowing them to learn to work together towards a common goal. Creating an opportunity to engage in an activity that is slow paced and relaxing. This allows individuals to take in the different stimuli available (such as colour, smell, touch, sound and taste). It helps them learn to work together in a setting, ask for help, build confidence along with enhancing behavioural and communication skills.

Ultimately, gardening is something that everybody can get involved in. It may be frosty outside at the moment but you may want to consider growing some houseplants or getting wrapped up to go outside and

tackle that overgrown shrub you have been meaning to do for a while! It promotes exercise, mindfulness and mental stimulation which are all good for the soul!

Please be reminded that I am here to support SEND matters in school each day as well as my colleague, Mrs G Roycroft, who is covering Mrs Benoit's maternity leave as SENDCO. Should you have any concerns or queries relating to SEND, please use the following email address and we will endeavour to get back to you as quickly as we can: SEND@nghs.org.uk

Many thanks and wishing you all a lovely weekend!

Mrs B Dugdale, SEND Assistant



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 for routine correspondence.
To urgently contact a member of the senior leadership team
outside school hours, please use urgent@nghs.org.uk