



NEWPORT NEWS

A weekly update from NGHS

Volume 5 - Issue 21 - Thursday 17 February 2022

Charities Week Raises £3,000



Charities week has injected a real sense of fun into the final week of this half term. From crazy hats to house colour accessories to shopping trolleys, pet carriers and buckets instead of school bags, not to mention our staff vs. student netball and a plethora of items crafted for sale, it has been great to see so many students involved. Thank you to the House leadership teams, in particular the Charities Reps and to Mr Pointon who has coordinated the week for us. The main goal, of course, was to raise money for the three House charities and we anticipate over £3,000 being banked by the end of today. This includes donations to watch House Dance at lunchtime when Roddam secured a win for a large group routine. The total raised demonstrates a great effort for a school of 670 students and a fitting end to a rewarding half term.

This week we have appointed three new teachers for September. The posts are as Director of Sport, Teacher of Biology and Teacher of English. All are new, extra posts for NGHS and we are welcoming three experienced teachers from a high school in Birmingham, a high school in Shropshire and Shrewsbury School. It has been a pleasure to meet over 15 colleagues at interviews this week, all of whom were very keen to join NGHS and some of the decisions were difficult. Thank you to the students and staff involved in the process, in particular Y8 and 10 who were involved quite heavily in pupil panels and interview lessons.

After half term, we will review our school budget at the half-way point in the academic year to see whether we can complete further refurbishment work in school. Top of the agenda are the conversion of the old Dining Room to a 'proper' Drama Studio (the space is great, but it looks like an old Dining Room!) and a Reading, Relaxation and Resource Room (the 4Rs!) We will be introducing a parent book sponsorship scheme after half term as we revamp a large classroom to make better use of our Fiction Library for the benefit of all students at breaktimes and lunchtimes. This will include the opportunity to sponsor the purchase of new books or the donation of good quality second-hand fiction. Together with your help we can continue to enhance the facilities we can offer our students.

Further to the letter sent on Tuesday, please do not forget to complete our Coach Expression of Interest form if you live in or near Shrewsbury, Wolverhampton or Telford (including Shifnal). Our aim is to try to accommodate as many areas as possible without elongating routes and we will review these routes each year as the school grows further. Here is a [link to the letter](#) that was sent this week and also to the [response form](#). Austins Travel (Stafford) are keen to launch a minibus service from Stafford and Gnosall. Please contact Neil Austin on 07944 164334 if this appeals to you.

I hope that you all have an enjoyable break and thank you for your support this half term.

Mr M J Scott

Charities Week Fundraising



Mr O Pointon - Associate Senior Leader

This week has seen Newport Girls' High School celebrate its annual Charities Week, with all of our students and staff working extremely hard to raise funds for the charities that have been selected by each house. This year Austen have been raising funds and awareness for Endometriosis UK, Roddam for Lingen Davies Cancer Trust, and Seacole for Birmingham Children's Hospital. Each of these charities has significance to our school community and local area, so it means even more that this year we have been able to raise **over £3000 in 4 days**, with more funds likely to come in after half term.

Events have included a hugely successful 'wear a hat' day, students bringing their possession to school in anything but a bag, and a mammoth cake and homemade goods sale. Staff have also been busy putting on an array of fund-raising opportunities, with a weary teacher team being thoroughly beaten by the sixth form at netball, and Mr Heighway and Miss Crevis also raising hundreds of pounds by offering themselves up be pelted by students with many a water balloon! The week will be concluded today with students donating the last of their money to watch a spectacular house dance competition, containing some other special performances.

Thank you again to everyone who made this week such a resounding success and we look forward to raising further funds and awareness for these three amazing charities over the remainder of this academic year.



Shooting Schools Pistol Championship Final

Last week, Jasmyn (Y13) and Katie (Y10) competed in the British Shooting Schools Pistol championship finals. In the qualification, Katie shot 180 and qualified for the intermediate final. It was a close, competitive final but she made it to the medals and finished in third place!. Jasmyn shot well, but missed out on the final and finished thirteenth in the senior category. We both had the opportunity to meet two-time Para-Olympian Issy Bailey along with many other ex Olympians and World-class shooters. After a long day on Tuesday, Jasmyn had a second day of competition on Wednesday. In the qualification she shot a 162, qualifying for the final. The final was a close fight but she finished in 4th just 0.7 point behind third place.



Head Girl Team Highlights...

CHARITIES WEEK

On Monday we started the week off with 'wear a comical hat day'. It was great to see so many people taking part, with light bulb hats, motorbike helmets and sombreros all making an appearance. We also ran our 'palentines' charities event, where students were able to send chocolate to a friend to spread some love!

On Tuesday it was 'bring your things to school in anything but a bag day'. Students' creative minds were definitely demonstrated with washing baskets, suitcases and even pillowcases being utilized. In addition, we saw the Staff vs. Sixth Form netball matches take place. It's safe to say that Mrs Gill and Mrs Martin carried the staff team, but a special mention must go to the Chemistry team for putting on some solid defensive pressure against the Sixth Form teams.

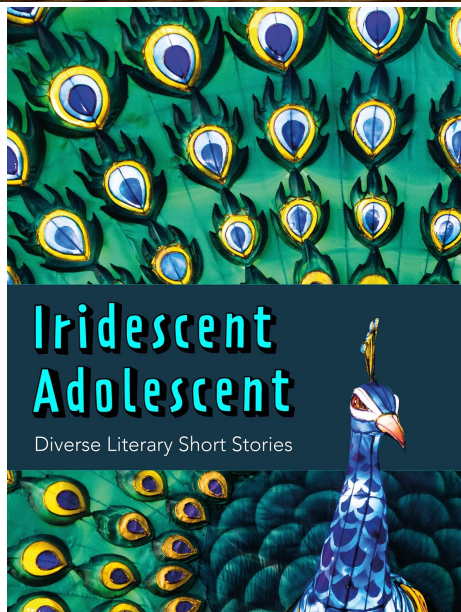
On Wednesday we had 'accessorise in your house colours day' where bandanas, gloves and socks were all styled in red, yellow and green. We were also lucky enough to have a bake sale and sale for homemade goods in the hall, where we were able to see lots of food, candles, scrunchies and more, made by our very talented students!

Today is a whole school mufti day, with House Dance taking place at lunch. A big thank you must go to all of the Lower School House teams for the time and effort they put in to organising house dance!

Finally, a huge thank you must go to all of the House teams, particularly Grace, Charlotte and Gabby (our Charity reps) and Mr Pointon for making Charities week so fun and successful. Also thank you to all of the students who have raised money for their House Charity by selling their goods or running different games and activities. We hope you have a lovely half term and take a well deserved break.

Meg & the HGT

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ENGLISH

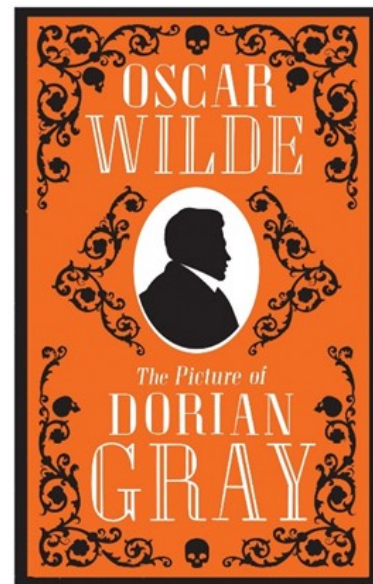


Year 9 have recently explored the anthology 'Iridescent Adolescent' edited by Phoebe Roy, to further deepen our understanding of diversity through literature. In this anthology, there are a variety of stories, which focus on exploring diverse perspective and experiences. One of my favourite stories in the anthology was 'The Homecoming' by Milly Jafta, a social worker in Namibia. This story was about a mother who left her family behind in a small village to work as a domestic servant in a large city in order to survive and make a living for her and her family back in the village. She was struck with anxiety and nervousness meeting her daughter Maria whom she had never given motherly devotion to in her absence of forty years, but when she was greeted with kindness she had never experienced before and saw her village again, she grew emotional and started missing her family. This was a bittersweet tale, which explored the complex nature of motherhood, which I truly enjoyed and loved.

Lekshmi M. (Year 9)

The A-Level English course has introduced me to areas of literature a student could not possibly explore on their own. The passion the students in the English classrooms share for the subject creates the ideal workspace for new perspectives on literature and lengthy analysis you personally may have never considered before. Throughout our opening months on the course, we were introduced to the gothic and themes of the supernatural in ways we had not seen before in English. *The Picture of Dorian Gray* is an exceptional example of subtle gothic, and grows into a tragic narrative we could not have expected upon our first look at the novel. Studying the gothic in this environment and in such depth as well opened my eyes personally to how prevalent themes of the gothic and supernatural are in modern literature, despite stemming from the Victorian era of religious fear and extreme self-preservation. The A-Level English course is the only place I could see myself being able to explore these themes in depth, and I highly recommend it to any student with both creative and analytical passions.

Neve M (Year 12)



Vaccination information to schools from the DFE/DFH

Vaccinations help to increase protection against COVID-19, which is particularly important for those with underlying health conditions. Being vaccinated minimises the need for children and young people to have time off from school or college, and helps them to continue to carry out their hobbies, attend social events and live their lives to the full.

We have published some [frequently asked questions](#) (FAQs) on the vaccination programme including information on eligibility, accessibility and advice for parents of children at high risk from COVID-19. Please share these FAQs with parents, particularly those with children who are clinically vulnerable.

Guidance on how to [book appointments](#) for children aged 12 years and over is available on the NHS website. Further information on the vaccination of high risk children aged 5 to 11 years old is available in the [guide for parents of children aged 5 to 11 years](#) published by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA).

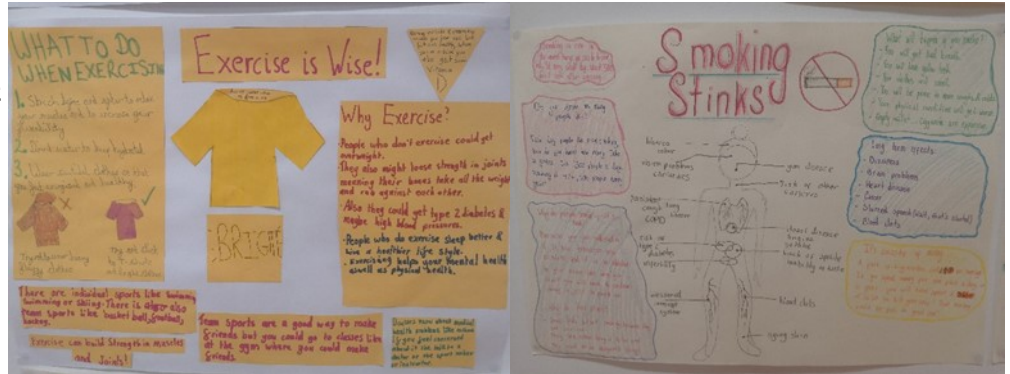
WHAT'S HAPPENED IN... PSHE

We have completed another half term of PSHE lessons and I wanted to showcase some more of the work that has been happening in some year groups. All students in Years 7 to 12 are taught one hour per week of PSHE and these lessons cover 3 key areas: **Living in the wider world**, **Health & Wellbeing**, **Relationships & Sex Education**

Year 7

This half-term Year 7 have been learning about many different aspects of health.

The students have been engaging in thoughtful discussions on topics, such as sleep, smoking, caffeine, exercise and diet.

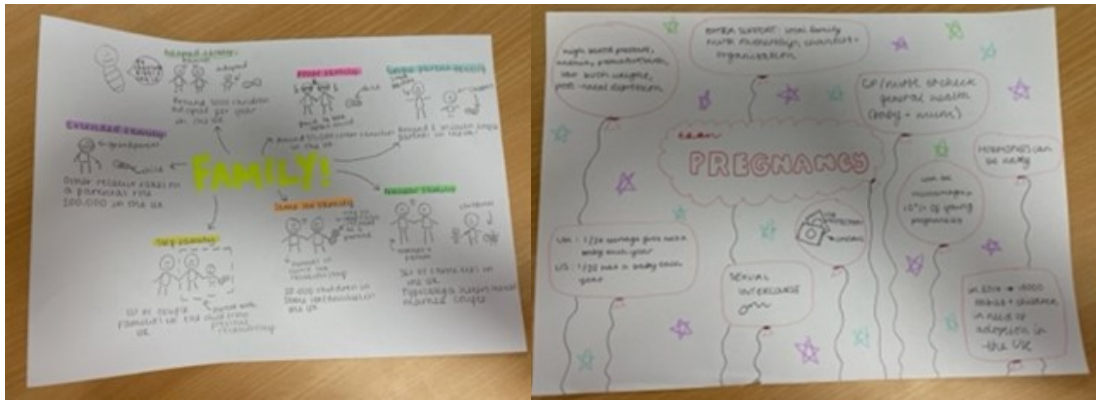


Year 10

Wednesday 9 February saw three undergraduate students share their top tips for revision success with our Year 10 students. Hannah, Ollie, and Derico from Elevate Education arrived with a huge amount of enthusiasm, and from the offset engaged each of the PSHE groups through their positivity and endless energy. Their recent experience of studying for examinations allowed them to impart their wisdom through the Study Sensei workshop. By using 'Learn, Master, and Create', students were given strategies that would help them recall information more easily and make their revision more manageable. The feedback from students was overwhelmingly positive and included comments such as 'it included really useful advice that I will definitely try to use in the future' and 'extremely engaging and I think it will be very helpful to my learning'. Following the success of this first workshop, we are hoping to provide a similar experience for other year groups in the future so that more students can benefit from this opportunity.

Year 11

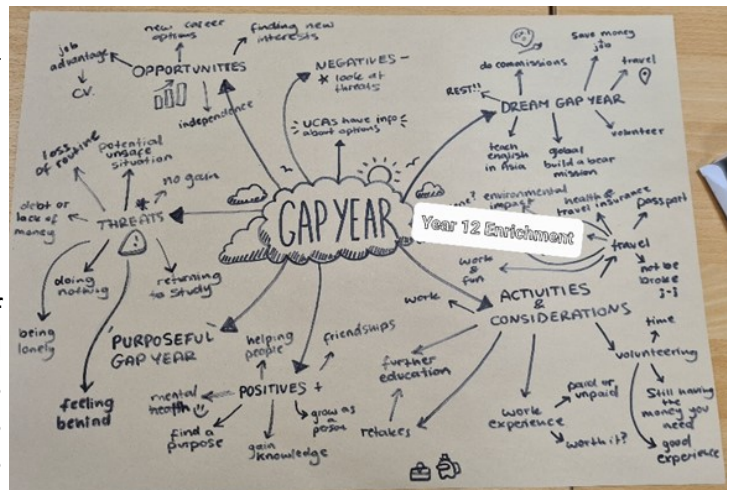
Year 11 have started a new carousel of topics this half term. So far they have had lessons looking at family and marriage, teen pregnancy and miscarriage. After half term they will take part in lessons



focused on honour based violence including Forced Marriage and Sexual Harassment.

Year 12

In Year 12, we continue to work through a carousel of lessons looking at personal finance, driver safety, and future careers. Recently in lesson, we explored what is meant by a gap year, and the opportunities that this could provide students with if they chose this avenue at some point in their lives. We also considered the potential negatives of taking a gap year and how if it was a choice a student made, they would need to ensure it was purposeful. As always, our lessons generate a great deal of discussion with students considering different viewpoints and what factors could influence their decisions.



Mrs H Birch (Assistant Headteacher)

Teaching & Learning Update

Supporting with Revision

We know our parents and carers are crucial in supporting students outside the classroom, however, we also know that it can be difficult knowing where to start with this! We therefore thought it would be useful to share three key terms and phrases that appear in contemporary educational research centred on how students learn and revise information effectively. By encouraging your child to incorporate these ideas into their revision strategies, you could further support their long term recall of knowledge.

Interleaving – Some students feel they want to spend the entire day studying the same subject, however, research suggests that mixing up the subjects that are being revised can be more effective. When your child is making a revision timetable, why not review this with them to see if they are spending a large block of time on one topic and discuss with them whether they could try breaking this down into smaller chunks so that they cover a variety of subjects in the same time period.

Spaced Practice – Whilst we may initially remember the information we have read or heard, in order to recall it in the long term we should take a break from reviewing it before coming back to it a few days, weeks or even months later. Whilst we may struggle to retain the information when we first go back to review it, by doing this regularly with progressively longer intervals, we are less likely to forget it. Encouraging your child to schedule in these review times could help with their recall in the long term.

Be Inquisitive – An intellectual curiosity can really help strengthen our ability to recall information. By asking questions and developing our interest, we deepen our knowledge and understanding of a topic. Whilst we know that some topics will interest individuals differently, mixing these up with those they find less exciting can help stimulate their learning. You could further support with this by asking questions about the facts they know; asking them to explain why an answer is correct (or not) can encourage them to think deeper and thus recall more easily.

Miss Webster & Mr Postle (Senior Leaders i/c Teaching & Learning)

Year 11 Artists' Charitable Giving

In all the hustle and bustle of Charities Week, the year 11 art students rallied together to create a cornucopia of delectable prints of our food-based artwork. They flew off the table like hot cakes (literally) straight into the open arms of our discerning art and biscuit fanatics from all years and departments - such as the delightful Mrs Capaldi. So far, over £160 has been raised and the final total will be divided between the three elected house charities: The Lingen Davies Cancer Appeal, Endometriosis UK and Birmingham Children's Hospital.

The Lingen Davies Cancer Appeal, Roddam's choice, is a local charity which funds equipment for cancer treatment, encourages people to seek cancer treatment earlier and supports people to live their lives well before and after treatment. Austin selected Endometriosis UK who work to improve the lives of people affected by endometriosis and to decrease the impact it has on those with the condition, while Seacole chose Birmingham Children's Hospital Charity who strive to provide the best possible facilities and environment for young people and their families visiting their hospital.

Miss Holmes made some beautiful prints of our work, which made us feel very proud to be joining in and we would like to thank everyone who bought a print. We'd also like to give a huge thank you to Miss Holmes for all her enthusiasm and practical support! We have thoroughly enjoyed this charitable side hustle and hope everyone has a lovely holiday!

Amelia J, Vinethma J, Chenxi C, Sofia AL, Martha T,
Paisley K and Saira K



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