



# NEWPORT NEWS

## A weekly update from NGHS

IN OMNIBUS FIDELIS

Volume 5 - Issue 29 - Friday 6 May 2022



**W**e have thoroughly enjoyed hosting two Open Mornings and our Open Evening last night. All the events were very popular, but NGHS was *packed* last night with lots of Year 5 and some Year 6 pupils and their families. As ever, we could not do this without the help of our students and I would like to thank every student who helped as a tour guide or in a subject area. Our visitors were full of praise for the subject information and activities, the detailed displays, the new facilities, but, most of all, the excellent discussions they had with our students and staff. I felt a real sense of pride in the positivity throughout the evening and it was clear that everyone enjoyed showing visitors around our fabulous school. Whilst we are never short of girls wanting to join us in Year 7, it is important we motivate them to want to join us and everyone's efforts help in achieving this. Well done and thank you.

Yesterday our Young Enterprise teams attended a regional awards ceremony and I was delighted to see two new trophies for our cabinet in Reception. Well done to team 'Reclaimed Gems'; more information in Newport News this week on page four.

I am acutely aware of the increase in the cost of living and the need to keep costs down with school uniform. Our SustainNGHS and PTA are keen to launch a second-hand uniform service at school for reasons of cost and sustainability, which I wholeheartedly support.

Please see below for more information on this. We have limited storage space in school, but we welcome donations of second-hand uniform and hope this will be a help to some families in the lead up to September.

I understand parents' recent frustrations with our catering App. Catering is contracted to a private company at NGHS and other surrounding secondary and primary schools. When the catering app system / biometric was put in place last academic year, we asked to use the industry-leader system. This was not possible, but, after some very difficult months, the caterers, Academy, have parted company with the current provider and are moving us over to the industry-leader, with which I have positive dealings in previous schools. Please see page two for an update from Academy. This cannot happen until after exams to avoid mass disruption, but please be assured that students will continue to receive a lunch if their balance is low and this will need to be repaid once the new system is up and running.

Many of our families celebrated Eid al-Fitr this week. We are pleased to feature an article about this on page 3. We embrace the diversity of faiths (and none) within our school community and would welcome more articles about our families' different cultures and customs in our newsletter. Students are welcome to talk to Mrs Gill about any articles they would like to include.

Best wishes for the weekend,

**Mr M J Scott**

### Call out for uniform donations

As part of the SustainNGHS agenda, we are planning to run a second-hand uniform stall at the summer fête (Thursday 14 July), which will raise funds for school and reduce the chance of perfectly usable clothes ending up in landfill. We also believe this circular economy is important for the economic sustainability of the planet too.

If you can help, please could you donate any items by bringing them to room 103 by the end of June. It would be really helpful if the items could be washed before donating them to ensure that they are in good condition for the next family.

Thank you for any support you can give.

**Mrs K Gill & SustainNGHS**

### Work experience support

Please could any parents or carers who can offer a placement to one of our Year 10 students get in touch? It is proving to be a challenge to secure opportunities for all our students this year, so we would appreciate any offers of help.

Please email Mrs Gill on [k.gill@nghs.org.uk](mailto:k.gill@nghs.org.uk) detailing the type of placement or employment and location. The week in question is Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022. Thank you for your support.

**Newport Girls' High School**

Wellington Road  
Newport, TF10 7HL  
Tel: 01952 797550

**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](mailto:schooloffice@nghs.org.uk)



## Catering Cashless system update

Many of you may have experienced failed transactions when using the Atalian Servest App or QR ordering platform in recent weeks. This is due to a now 'unsupported payment service platform' provided by our current payment service provider, highlighting transactions as fraudulent when they are not for your records.

As a result and because of the inconvenience caused, we have taken the decision to move away from our current cashless supplier over to new cashless provider which will support the 3DS secure payments functions accordingly.

In the meantime for any student that has insufficient funds on their account, as of the current procedure, we will provide the menu offerings and beverages of their choice and record a manual transaction for the relevant purchases made. Once the new account provider is live (date TBC with updates to follow) we will then ask you to top up your child's account to offset against these purchases if you are unable to continue to upload relevant funds to the current provider.

Sorry for the inconvenience caused at this time, we appreciate your patience with this ongoing matter and thank you.

**Mark Argent**  
Regional Operations Director, Academy

---

## Teaching & Learning Update

As a staff body, we have continued to focus on sharing excellent classroom practice, with a focus on how research can be used to hone our approach to teaching and learning. In our most recent Good Practice week, staff delivered and attended a diverse range of continuing professional development sessions.

There were a wide range of sessions, which covered teaching and learning, ICT and well-being. You can find out more about our approach to Teaching and Learning on the school website: <https://www.nghs.org.uk/academic/teaching-and-learning/>.

You can also access a copy of our most recent Teaching and Learning staff newsletter on this section of the school website.

**Miss S Webster**, Deputy Headteacher



### Head Girl Team Highlights...

#### This week at NGHS...



I hope everyone enjoyed the long Bank Holiday weekend and took the opportunity to try new things, make use of the

fleeting sunny weather, as well as spending time with loved ones.

This week has seen the return of the half termly Student Voice meetings. The engagement and participation of students across all year groups is always wonderful to see. All students who attend as representatives are ensuring that the whole student body has a platform to showcase their ideas. Feedback from Student Council conveys that the new Reading Room is a huge success.

This week, we also launched the competition to give our new dining room a name! The deadline for entries was today so I hope everyone had the chance to add their unique suggestions to the mix.

As I'm sure you're all aware, internal assessment week is just around the corner for Y7-10 and Y12. This set of tests may seem daunting, especially for Y7 as it is an unfamiliar experience, but don't worry, we're all in the same boat. It is an occasion to develop effective revision techniques early, because finding what works for you is crucial moving forwards. Most importantly, try your absolute best, that's all anybody can ask of you!

**Anvita & the HGT**

# RAMADAN AND EID

Muslims all around the world have recently been celebrating Eid as the holy month of Ramadan has come to an end. Ramadan is the 9<sup>th</sup> month of the Islamic calendar and the date at which Ramadan begins will change every year due to the Islamic calendar following the moon. Just as the Gregorian calendar is a solar calendar, the Islamic calendar is a lunar calendar. This year Ramadan began on 1st April.

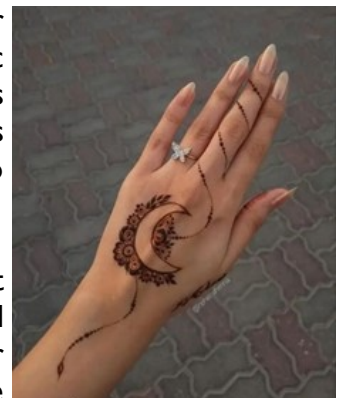
You may already have a perception of Ramadan to be a time of fasting, while this is correct there is a lot more to this month than just abstaining from eating and drinking. It is also about staying away from bad habits and immoral behaviour such as arguing and lying so that you can improve your character and create new habits which can be practised throughout the rest of the year. Muslims also aim to improve their relationship with God by practising gratitude, giving to charity, attending the Mosque and reading more of the Quran (holy book).



Muslims begin fasting very early in the morning, just at the start of sunrise. Before this we have a morning meal called Suhoor. At Suhoor there is nothing in particular you need to consume but drinking lots of water and fruit is beneficial as it will give you enough energy to tackle the rest of the day. Then once the sun starts to set it is time to break the fast, this is traditionally done with dates and water as this is what the Prophet Muhammed used to do. After that, families and friends gather together to pray and then enjoy a meal, this is called Iftar.

What Muslims eat at Iftar is different for everybody and is completely your choice but most families will cook traditional food based upon their ethnic background. The duration of time in which Muslims are obliged to fast is different for Muslims in different countries as the sun sets earlier in some parts of the world than others. For example Muslims in New Zealand were able to break their fast at 5pm compared to Muslims in the UK breaking theirs at 8pm.

The exact ending time of Ramadan depends on the sighting of the moon but once the moon has been sighted the celebration of Eid begins. Eid is a time all Muslims look forward to, the community attends the mosque in the morning for the Eid prayer and then gets together with family and friends to spend time together and eat lots of great food.



Typically, Muslims on Eid wear clothes which embrace their culture and heritage and it is also very common for women to get henna done. For me, this year I enjoyed a barbeque with my family and exchanged lots of gifts!

**Afreen S (Year 12)**

# YOUNG ENTERPRISE AWARDS!



On Thursday 5th May, NGHS's two Young Enterprise Teams (NovelT and ReclaimedGems) attended the Young Enterprise Presentations and Awards at the New Vic theatre in Newcastle Under-Lyme. I'm the Managing Director of ReclaimedGems and my team and I had been rehearsing our presentation for the past few weeks and were looking forward to the day ahead. We arrived at the theatre for rehearsal at 10am and after a run through of our presentations we waited eagerly outside the auditorium.

At 11am, Young Enterprise teams from across Staffordshire and Shropshire filled the seats ready to listen to one another's presentations. Once all the amazing presentations had been given, we had to wait outside the auditorium once again whilst the judges made their final decisions on which teams to award.

The awards were based on the whole enterprise experience over the past 6 months and included the best presentations, trade fairs, ideas and interviews.

I am pleased to announce that ReclaimedGems achieved two Shropshire awards from the ceremony for "Best Presentation" and "Best Interview". I would like to thank some of my team who joined me at the Trade Fair and the Presentation Event: Olivia B, Maria B, Kiera D, Ffion P, Rebekkah W and Samantha W. I couldn't be prouder of us all for our hard work, courage and commitment.

The ceremony was a lovely way to end our Young Enterprise journey.

**Charlotte S (Year 12)**



*Ahead of national 'thank a teacher' Day later this month, I received a letter today to say that some parents and students had kindly contacted [thankateacher.co.uk](http://thankateacher.co.uk) with messages during the pandemic. This was a lovely surprise and I'm sorry we didn't know sooner! The message below was for all staff at NGHS and it is a pleasure to read this. For space reasons, I have had to abridge it. We don't go out to seek commendation, but it is always much appreciated. Thank you to all our NGHS families who show great support to the school.*

**Mr M J Scott**

*NGHS have been amazing throughout the pandemic. Throughout lockdown my daughter has received her full timetable of lessons via Teams, ensuring minimal disruption to her learning. Her teachers interact throughout the lessons and have offered support or help whenever my daughter has requested this. This has been a great support to Parents, especially those, who whilst fortunate to still be employed are unable to dedicate as much time as they would like for home-schooling. This has also meant that time at home can be enjoyed as a family as opposed to "nagging" or trying to assist in a subject that it has been years since parents last studied. The teachers have done a great job at keeping pupils engaged. NGHS also provided Bounce Back sessions when pupils returned in September, allowing them time to discuss their feelings and making covid a less scary subject.*

*They've focused on the positives and not the negatives. Communication has been fantastic and really helped put parents minds at rest. The school have also ensured that tasks focusing on physical and mental health have been offered throughout for both staff and pupils. It's brilliant to see a school acknowledge that if they look after the support staff and Teachers, everybody, especially the pupils win. Lunchtime clubs have also been offered, such as the Literacy Society providing some much needed downtime for pupils. The Wellbeing team have constantly reached out to pupils, letting them know they are there for help and support if needed. [...] As a parent I could not have asked more from the school. They have gone above and beyond and I feel extremely fortunate that my daughter attends NGHS.*

# 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)