



NEWPORT NEWS

A weekly update from NGHS

Volume 5 - Issue 34 - Friday 24 June 2022



House spirit is very much apparent this week as preparations for Sports Day and House Drama continue apace. Lists are appearing on noticeboards, deals are being struck (usually involving sweets) to increase participation(!) and it's a lovely time of year in school. A number of staff, myself included, have been out and about visiting our new Year 7s in their primary schools. It's so nice to hear of their nervous excitement about joining NGHS and I'm delighted that we can run a short Summer School for Year 6s, too. This is something we started last year (as requested by the DFE). We are not funded this year, but have found some money to run a two-day event for our new students.

Our sports teams have been much in action this week; cricket, rounders and tennis and the minibus has been absent for much of the week with Mrs Goodall, Miss Register and Mrs Martin going from school to school with our teams. It's also great that Mrs Birch has now returned to NGHS after an operation and extended leave. Students were really pleased to welcome her



Save the date!

This year's PTA Summer Fete will take place on **Thursday 14 July starting at 4.30pm and ending at 6.30pm**. As in previous years (pre-Covid), we will have a range of student-led stalls with refreshments and musical performances with all money raised going to the PTA who continue to support our school. We look forward to seeing the array of stalls students are going to organise in Houses. All parents are welcome to attend and we look forward to seeing you at the event. *(PS image may not be representative of the Fete; Ferris Wheel is not guaranteed!)*

back and give her a wide berth on corridors as she will be on crutches for some time yet. I'd like to say a massive thank you to the PE staff who have worked together to cover her lessons and ensure our teams have not had to miss out on competitions with many late nights over the last month.

Our Year 11 and Year 13s have now finished their examinations. There was excited chatter as Year 11 left their last exam (Physics) yesterday morning. They are even more excited about our Alton Towers trip today and, as you read this, picture me looking rather green after careering round on some roller coaster (even Headteachers get to have fun sometimes). Our exam invigilator team, a number of whom joined us as new recruits this year, have done a tremendous job, as has Miss Gaughan our (also new) Exams Officer. Things have run very smoothly, including two inspection visits by JCQ. Fingers crossed the marking and moderation goes smoothly at the exam boards.

Yesterday I enjoyed watching 'Calling It Out' - a drama performance by Loudmouth Theatre Company with Year 12. Their productions are always of a high quality and this was no exception. After the performance, there was an invitation to ask questions of the actors, Year 12 showed a keen interest and some important messages about sexual harassment were clearly and effectively portrayed. I know Year 10 and Year 9 also found the performance helpful and we remind all students that there are plenty of adults to whom they can turn for advice and support at school and beyond.

Lastly, I have had a number of holiday requests before the end of term. With a six-week summer holiday ahead, I am unable to authorise holiday absences unless the circumstances are truly exceptional. Whilst I appreciate deals are cheaper and a day or two may not seem much, it does cause disruption and staff are not permitted to do this of course! It's important though to request absence so we have a record of this for the Local Authority and the application form can be found on our website in the For Parents section. The government are keen to minimise absences this year after disruption before, hence the clampdown on holiday absences. Thank you for your cooperation and have a nice weekend.

Mr M J Scott

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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



Emergency Vehicle Access

We have been made aware of an issue involving an ambulance not being able to reach a house on Farmers Gate owing to what has been reported as NGHS parents' cars being parked across driveways and leaving a gap which is too small for a larger vehicle to pass. We do receive a number of complaints about parking at NGHS but this is a more serious issue and one I would respectfully ask parents to consider if they are parking in nearby roads at the end of the day, particularly if they are leaving their car to walk up to school. We always advocate parents parking in Newport Town Centre, which is only a five minute walk and particularly enjoyable in this sunshine. Thank you for your assistance and cooperation.



Head Girl Team Highlights...



Firstly, with GCSE and A-level exams coming to an end this week, congratulations to all our Year 11s and Year 13s who are well deserving of a restful weekend. Today, the Year 11s have been on an Alton Towers trip, which is a fantastic way to relax after exams and one I am sure the whole school is jealous of! The Year 12 induction day is also next week in which the year group will be able to meet new students joining the school in September, we look forward to welcoming them into our community.

In school last week, the half-termly Student Voice Meetings were held. It was encouraging to see the form representatives contributing lots of ideas, put forward by themselves and from form groups to enable the school to continually develop to the benefit of the students. One idea was messages to send to your friends in celebration of Wellbeing Week so look out for a notice regarding this.

There are some fun activities upcoming: with Sports Day not too far away, the House Teams have been busy arranging trials, organising which events each student will partake in, and rehearsals are underway for House Drama.

Finally, I hope everyone enjoys Curriculum Enrichment Week and gets a lot out of it.

Wishing everyone a nice weekend!
Liv A & the HGT

STUDY IN AMERICA
WEDNESDAY 14.9.22
4.30-6.30PM
 THE BARNES THEATRE, SHREWSBURY SCHOOL

Picking your college | Testing
 Sports Scholarships | Canadian universities

To book your free place, sign up using this QR code:

As it is Curriculum Enrichment Week next week, there will not be a Newport News next Friday, but a bumper edition all about CEW on Friday 8 July!

Malham Tarn - Biology Residential

Last Friday, a cohort of Year 12s went to Malham Tarn in the Yorkshire Dales as part of an A-level Biology Ecology Field Trip. When we arrived, we ate our lunch and immediately started the first activity in which we gained knowledge on how to use quadrats, which was a key piece of equipment we would use throughout our investigations on the trip.

After this, we went on a hike to study lithosere succession on a limestone scree slope, using the quadrat techniques we had just learnt. The walk up the lithosere (a rocky cliff face) entailed a few trips, like Anvita who lost her footing on the uneven rocks.

On this project, we were introduced to the kit commonly used in ecology including the photometer (which measures light intensity), a soil compaction device and hygrometer (which measures humidity). After a tasty sausage and mash dinner, we went to the classrooms to do our first statistical test on our investigation into the association between species richness and succession down the lithosere. The final activity of the day was mammal trapping. We each put together an ethical and humane mouse trap filled with lots of straw and food for the mouse to eat. Later on, everyone gathered in the common room in the High Stables to watch Love Island and play cards. We got an early night's sleep ready for the full day ahead.

On Saturday, we woke up early, had a full English and checked our traps from the night before. To our surprise not only were we one of two groups who caught a mouse, but we also caught Stumpy –

the “celebrity” mouse of the area. He seemed very content to be shown around and even posed for some pictures. We then released Stumpy where we found him and watched him scurry off into the woodland with a full belly of apple and mealworms (yum!). This meant we started our day on a high, and we had a very enjoyable walk to the freshwater ecosystem, 1.5 miles away from Malham Tarn House where we were staying. Here we collected samples of invertebrates that we found in the river and identified them using ID cards – we caught species such as swimming mayfly's, freshwater shrimps, riffle beetles and even a tadpole!

When back at Tarn House, we did further stats tests before our next investigation began on the comparison of biodiversity between grazed and ungrazed grassland. After dinner, we planned our Required Practical for the Sunday morning. We decided to investigate the association of two species of plant (Salad Burnett and Buttercup) and their habitat (woodland and open grassland).

On Sunday, after another early start we successfully collected our data with time to spare and then headed home. Overall, we all thoroughly enjoyed the weekend and not only improved our understanding of ecology but also gained practical skills that we will carry forward in our studies. A massive thank you to Mrs Han, Mrs Dainty and Mr Tolley for organising the trip and spending their weekend with us. Finally, a special mention must go to Liv A who managed to ‘kill’ the most people on the trip (if you know, you know!)

Lucy D, Charlotte & Portia (Year 12)



Medication in School

Please could we remind parents that if students need medication in school, then this should be provided by parents and brought in to school along with a MED1 form (<https://www.nghs.org.uk/for-parents/medication-in-school/>). We do not provide any over-the-counter medication (other than paracetamol, given only with consent), this includes hay fever medication. Thank you.



Teaching and Learning Student take-over!

Year 7 French and Year 12 German have both tried their hands at teaching languages this week – creating fun language activities for the rest of the class to enjoy.



More on the MFL trip to Nice in our next edition of Newport News!

Look how far languages can take you!

This week in French, year 9 have taken us all on a tour de monde. Learning and sharing with the class about all the different French speaking countries and territories around the world. We even got to taste food from Burkino Faso, courtesy of Joda, Amelie and Lucy. Learning languages has never tasted so good!

Formidable!



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