



NEWPORT NEWS

A weekly update from NGHS

Volume 5 - Issue 5 - Friday 8 October 2021



ONLINE AUCTION UPDATE

Lots of new 'lots' (!) have been added.

Ten pin bowling trip? Overnight in a log cabin?

A tour of Shrewsbury prison? A meal out for all the family?

Only 2 weeks to go - check out the bids and new items [here](#)

(all monies raised go to our Primed for Success campaign)



WEEK five already and as you will see in this week's Newport News there's lots going on at NGHS. Returning to school this September has been a more difficult adjustment after a protracted period of disruption and finding a rhythm and balance after a period of loss and disturbance is difficult for some of us (students and staff alike). I continue to be impressed and grateful to everyone in our NGHS family for their support and cooperation at this time and thank parents and carers for their trust in the school. This appears to have been tested a little this week with a rise in cases in our community (Telford & Wrekin is unfortunately seeing a continued high plateau of cases). I would politely remind parents that NGHS is (and has always) done more than is expected of schools with regard to Covid mitigation and whilst I understand that any disruption to learning is unfortunate, the figures reported in the national press this week (relating to the percentage of students missing schooling nationally through Covid illness) are quite a lot higher than at NGHS.

This week I was able to attend the Grammar Schools Heads conference and I was reassured that not only are we doing a lot to support students in this stage of the pandemic, but also our cases are considerably lower; some schools were reporting up to 200 students absent and over 20 staff. We will continue to work hard to manage cases and Teams lessons, in line with government protocol, but the rules around isolation did change in September with Track & Trace managing the sourcing of close contacts. Students who become aware of peers with whom they have sat close to in the 48 hours prior to a positive result are always encouraged to seek a PCR test. Teams lessons are available for students who have tested positive on a PCR test for their 10 days of absence etc. Lateral flow testing twice weekly is also appreciated and has identified some asymptomatic cases. I have tried to order more tests into school, but as yet none of arrived, hence me sending the email requesting families source their own through [this link](#). If you do need to report a positive PCR test result to the

school, please do email urgent@nghs.org.uk but remember to include your child's name, form and the date until which they must isolate at home. Thank you.

Have you visited our auction site yet? Things are going very well and more lots have been added to the site. Each penny donated goes towards our *Primed for Success* campaign and benefits our students directly. Do click on [this link](#) to take a look at what is on offer. Some experiences would normally set you back at least £100, so please start bidding! Please also share the link with family and friends. **Parents, staff, students and friends are all welcome to bid!**

Our Year 12s very much enjoyed their trip to Liverpool. Having lateral flow tested all students immediately prior to departure, the weekend passed without COVID19 issue and our Year 12s not only enjoyed themselves, they also behaved impeccably. A huge thank you to the nine staff who also gave up their weekend to help make the trip a success.

Today is **HELLO YELLOW DAY** and our pastoral team are celebrating positive mental health in our NGHS family. There's lots happening at lunchtime and NGHS is looking very yellow once again! Thank you to all the staff and students who have contributed to this important day.

Wednesday night saw our first PTA meeting in a long time and we had around 20 families attending. Thank you so much to everyone who joined the meeting. A number of fundraising ideas were discussed and Miss Webster, Deputy Head, who is our senior staff link to the PTA is working with the PTA Chair, Mrs Fairhead, to implement some of these in our calendar. It's great to see the enthusiasm of parents to help fundraise for our school. Thank you!

Finally, I would like to congratulate our UI4 Netball Team who have become County Champions. They move onto the West Midlands competition at Bromsgrove in January and I am packing my thermals for a day in freezing temperatures on the court side! Well done to our Year 9s on this excellent achievement. See page 3 for more information.

Have a nice weekend,

Mr M J Scott

WHAT'S GOING ON IN...

DRAMA

As you will be aware, Drama has been added to our Year 7 and Year 8 curriculum at NGHS since September. In a temporary classroom (for now), our youngest two year groups have made the most of this exciting opportunity as Mrs Saysell attests:

In their Introduction to Drama unit, Year 8 have been exploring the process of developing a character. Students began by analysing the importance of non-verbal communication to depict a character's personality, traits and their character's relationship with others. In more recent weeks, students have started to consider vocal elements, by exploring pitch, volume, tone and register to help convey a three-dimensional character. In this session 8A were required to consolidate and apply their learning to the exploration of a scripted monologue. Initially, students identified the motivation of the character and then applied their vocal and physical skills to convey this intention to the audience. Despite not studying Drama previously, 8A, along with the rest of Year 8, have truly embraced the subject- they are a pleasure to teach!

Mrs N Saysell, Teacher of Drama



Head Girl Team Highlights...

Black History Month

Happy Friday everybody! We have made it through another busy week at NGHS and the first week of October is drawing to a close. We hope that the Year 12s had a lovely time on their trip to Liverpool and enjoyed having a taste of city life! Well done to everyone who auditioned for and/or got a role in Matilda. The HGT can't wait to watch this production blossom into something amazing.

Not only is October the month of ghosts and ghouls but it is also **Black History Month** in the UK. This annual event began in 1970 to celebrate the contributions of Black people to society and educate everyone about Black culture. The Head Girl Team are committed to doing this at NGHS and we are very excited to hopefully teach you all something new in the coming weeks.

Did you know?

That in the African country of Ghana, Kente cloth is worn for special occasions. There are 100s of different styles and each colour on the cloth represents something different. For example, gold represents wealth and royalty. Google "Kente cloth" and try to guess what some of the other colours might mean.

Have an incredible weekend!

Ros and the Head Girl Team

On Wednesday, KoolKid (also known as Ryan Lawrie from the X factor) joined NGHS. Not only did he give an amazing live performance, but also talked about mental health, including topics such as anxiety, body image and the LGBTQIA+ community. In conversation with students, he shared some personal stories of times in which he had been faced with his own struggles. He finished with an open Q&A where the students found out more about how he got into music, how he had written songs for bands such as JLS and the big K-pop band BTS, and that Nicole Scherzinger was the most famous contact in his phone. My friends and I got pictures with him at the end and received personalised signed Flyers! He also reposted us on his Instagram followed by him giving a "massive thank you to NGHS for being so amazing, nice, polite and kind" and that he "can't wait to come back". Overall, year 12 had a great afternoon with KoolKid and thank you to Mrs Birch for giving us this exciting opportunity.



KoolKid

Charlotte Smith, Year 12



U14 County Netball Champions!

It was obviously an amazing experience winning the U14 County Netball Tournament, with a great defence formation and superb marking, as well as fluent passes throughout mid court from our centre and wing players, not forgetting the excellent shooting from the attackers, and all of this collaborated together resulted in securing ourselves the shield.

The match that we probably enjoyed playing and winning the most was against Wrekin College which started with an intense 8 minute first half where goals were scored back and forth from each team. The second half began with us leading by a couple of goals, and the excellent play continued and intensified as the rain began, making it harder for everyone to dodge or move without slipping. Despite this setback, we persisted and eventually won with a very close 9-8 score. What made this even more incredible was that we were the second NGHS netball team to win the tournament since it began back in 1984, our first win being back in 2014.

We would like to thank our great coach Mrs Goodall who managed to coach us and umpire other netball games at the same time, and also to Mrs Birch who helped coach us when Mrs Goodall was occupied with umpiring.



The U14 Netball Team: Harriet E, Ava T, Edith N, Katie M, Tulsi M, Sophie J, Rebekah T & Bella L.



PASTORAL UPDATE FROM MRS BIRCH



Pumpkin Carving Crafternoon

I am delighted to be able to share that during the final week of half term we will be offering the students the chance to take part in some pumpkin carving.

Crafternoons are an initiative that have been launched by the charity Mind as they recognise the benefits of craft activities on boosting our mental health. As a school we run crafternoons at the end of each half term.

The Pumpkin Carving Crafternoon will take place at lunchtime from the W/B 18th October and places for these sessions will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. If you are interested in attending, send an email to h.birch@nghs.org.uk with the subject: **Pumpkin Carving Crafternoon** and detailing who you would like to attend with (2's and 3's work best for this) as well as your year group.

I will then make further planning arrangements and confirm by email which dates and times you will be invited to come along and create your pumpkin. I will be using some school grown pumpkins and purchasing any additional ones we might need based on the numbers that email so it is important that if you sign up you do come along when asked as we wouldn't want any pumpkins going to waste.

At the end of the week myself and the Head Girl Team will judge all of the pumpkins that are created over the week and prizes will be awarded after half term. Please let Mrs Birch know if you are interested in this end of term crafternoon.



NGHS POETRY COMPETITION 2021

THEME:
CHOICE

[19.11.2021]

kooth

Kooth Update

Kooth is an online mental wellbeing community that students are signposted too if they would like free, safe and anonymous support.

Kooth send me monthly updates to share with you about what is happening over that month.

Please see below the latest Kooth resources:

- World Mental Health Day – 10 October – [HERE](#)
- National Coming Out Day – 11 October – [HERE](#)
- Black History Month – 1st - 31 October – [HERE](#)

The upcoming live forums on Kooth for young people to access are:

- ☑ **13th October** – Let's Talk About OCD
- ☑ **22nd October** – Preventing Bullying
- ☑ **27th October** – Safety On Roads

Year 12s return to LIVERPOOL!

For the first time in two years, our Year 12s have managed to visit Liverpool for their induction weekend. As you can see from the photographs, a great time was had by all.

Report by Sunita L with photographs from Charlotte S



managed to fit in most of what we wanted to do. I spent the majority of my time in Bold Street, where there were a great many interesting cafés and local business. There were also some brilliant book shops such as Forbidden Planet and 'News of the world' – a feminist book shop where my friends and I ended up taking home a number of interesting titles that I have continued reading since we arrived back, such as forgotten female authors-part of a trilogy-queer romances, and a smaller book on the effect of the class structure on mental health. I would recommend browsing their online catalogue as it contains literature and authors that unfortunately often get buried.

The trip to Liverpool was an amazing experience both culturally and academically, with brilliant opportunities to explore the city with old and new friends. Having not spent much time in large cities before, I found that the freedom we were given to roam enabled me to spend time visiting the places that interested me most.

We had also booked an hour at the Cat Café at the bottom of the street, where we had a lovely time reading our new finds and petting two of the cats: Robert and Rose. We were also given unlimited refills on hot and cold drinks, which didn't hurt.

The trip to see Beauty And The Beast on the first night was very entertaining, although I shudder to think of the momentous task it must have been to clear all glitter off of the stage afterwards. Arguably the best part of it was Lumière, who was played by Gavin Lee.

Before we left for Bella Italia, where we had booked ourselves in for dinner, we visited the World History Museum for a few hours. Although we didn't have time to look through the entire building, we looked inside their small aquarium section and spent a few hours looking at their section on Asia. Mrs Martin's quiz that evening was very competitive, but we managed to keep the teachers from first place, winning some snazzy Beatles badges.

The Beatles Bus Tour on the Saturday morning was cold, although we were all given some stylish red plastic ponchos by a very enthusiastic tour guide. Whilst also telling us about Liverpool's general history, we were taken to some landmarks of the Beatles' history, including the painted Penny Lane sign and John Lennon's childhood home, where he lived with his aunt although frequently snuck out to visit his mother down the road.

Of course, everyone else will have done different things in their time, but that just shows how much there is to do. Losing time to getting lost in the rain is not something you want to do, so raincoats and google maps are a must for anyone considering to go on this trip in the future – it really is something you have to make the most of while you're there.

On our return, we were allowed to go and explore Liverpool ourselves. Having looked through and planned where we wanted to go previous to the trip, we





YEAR 11 GEOGRAPHERS NAVIGATE LONDON

After rising before dawn with the early morning joggers - who we thought for a second were Mr Pimm making a last ditch run for it - two classes of geography students boarded the coach, Dave at the helm, and we set off. We watched the sun rise, driving past a lot of trees probably and marvelling at the huge wind turbines ("Solar power!!... Amazing."- Cordy), arriving at Canary Wharf in good time. The museum was a converted 200-year-old warehouse on the Thames, in West India Quay with a lot of very interesting and relevant exhibits for our Docklands regeneration case study, and we especially liked the reclaimed boat stairs which were fun and also squeaky. Having regrouped outside, we walked through the Isle of Dogs to the entrance of No. 1 Canada Square to survey the high-flying business people- renowned for being down for a chat- during their lunch hour. Surveying was surprisingly fun and spirits were high as we returned to the coach, having collected data on the people, the land use and the environmental quality of the area.

We arrived at Westfield Shopping Centre for lunch; some of us brought sandwiches; some of us bought 1

litre of strawberry milk and some of us just took one big, energising sniff of the lush store and coasted off that for the rest of the day. Rested and recuperated, we marched down the road to the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, another of the massive regeneration projects of London's East End we'd studied. We surveyed the general public, did a pedestrian count, filled out another environmental quality index and caused an absolute scene at the pavement fountains.

We then toured the Aquatic Centre, surrounding nature reserve and velodrome all impressively built on a brownfield site having recycled 2 million tonnes of soil, and finishing at the Timber Lodge Café; an initiative to employ people with learning disabilities, where we stopped and discussed the conversion of the Olympic Village into the East Village and took a lot of pictures of bins whilst observing the street furniture. We found Dave and the coach, and travelled home as the sun sunk below the blades of the wind turbines and all the early morning joggers got back in their beds, and drifted off to sleep.

Amelia J, Year 11

Year 9 Musicians Strike The Right Note!

The Year 9 music class are working on their ensemble performance techniques. As a class, each student had to put forward their favourite artist or composer into a random generator then each group received two from the list. They are now working on their own arrangements where they must merge both artists and composers together. Some examples so far are Elton John and Abba, Lin Manuel Miranda and Queen and even Beyonce and Schubert!! They are demonstrating their understanding of musical arrangements as well as applying their musicianship to form new arrangements combining two in some cases, very different styles.



Mrs A Chapman, Teacher of Music

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