



NEWPORT NEWS

A weekly update from NGHS

Volume 5 - Issue 8 - Friday 5 November 2021



I hope that you had an enjoyable half term and we have hit the ground running again at NGHS this week. Thank you to all students and staff for a smooth return to school. The number of students with Covid has been very low this week and long may it continue. Nevertheless, I wish to continue with our stepped up measures for one more week at least (with guidance from the Health Protection Hub).

As I mentioned in my previous newsletter, I have been focusing on student punctuality this week and have spoken with those who have arrived late. Clearly this is something that is unavoidable on occasion, but equally there are some students who are regularly late. Were my colleagues or I to turn up late for work each day, there would be consequences, so it is important we continue to remind students of the need for good punctuality ahead of adult life.

My daily walk around school this morning has shown a hive of activity from learning about loaded memory in A-level Psychology to counting electrons in Year 10 chemistry to design portfolios in DT and an amazing new artwork display of Year 9 work. This week our newsletter focuses on what has been happening in Geography - see pages 3+4.

Unfortunately I must mention that we have had some graffiti appear in school too. This is something we have not really encountered before at NGHS and is clearly unacceptable. I am writing to make clear that I will take very strong action if students are caught doing this. Damaging school property or that of another student is unwarranted and it adds to the tasks for our hard-working cleaners. Investigations are ongoing and whilst I am sure it will be just one or two students, I issue an important reminder to all students to treat anyone else's property with respect. I would also ask for vigilance in reporting any instances and particularly if anyone is witnessed doing this. We are not a school filled with CCTV cameras (as many are) as this should not be necessary; we should expect our community to uphold the ethos and values of our school as well as showing trust and respect to each other.

As the country and world opens up a little more, I have started to have some holiday requests come in (absence during term time). I must remind parents that Headteachers are not allowed to authorise term time holiday unless the reasons are truly exceptional. Please do refrain from taking your child out of school except in holiday periods. Not only are we trying to teach a full academic year with some continued restrictions, but we are also supporting students to catch up on any missed learning because of the pandemic. Your support is much appreciated.

Today's site meeting has shown that the new building is coming on well. Paint is on the walls upstairs and carpet is going down. Whether owing to Covid or Brexit, there have been a few delays but we are still hopeful of a handover this term and I look forward to showing students their new classrooms and dining hall. Some photographs will come next week in Newport News. The kitchen is the most delayed at present (Brexit and Covid!) Funding wise, the last few lots are being handed out from the auction and I would welcome any final donations to the PFS campaign by [clicking here](#). **We still have 14 noticeboards to buy at £25 each. Can you sponsor a noticeboard?** If funds allow, once the new building is open, I had hoped to relaunch our fiction library in a new space to benefit all of our students who want a quiet place to read at break and lunchtime.

In our assembly today, we heard about Rights Respecting Schools. NGHS has been designated as a Bronze Award Rights Respecting School and Mrs Seys presented a call to arms for Ambassadors to be part of our work for silver. Our lunchtime Wellbeing Room is also running well with Mrs Birch, Miss Webster and some sixth formers organising events for those who want some time out and mindful activities at lunchtime.

Next week's Newport News may follow on Saturday as Mrs Birch and I are hosting a conference in London next Friday where she will talk about our approach to PSHE as an early adopter school for sex & relationships education. I have also been asked to appear as a panellist for a DFE online debate about flexible working in schools and we are running some webinars on this new and exciting topic in December. If you work in education, you may wish to attend or encourage a colleague to do so. Please see page 2.

Next week also sees our **Sixth Form Open Evening** on Thursday (we look forward to seeing Year 11s and parents/carers). We will be applying some mitigations to parent events going forward including asking visitors to wear face coverings and sanitise hands regularly (with no handshakes permitted), and we do so in the spirit of prioritising safety and slowly returning to visits by parents on site at formal occasions. We also have our vaccinations next week and parents who have consented for their daughter will receive a text message on the day of the vaccinations.

Finally we took a call from a bus driver this week who wanted to pass on how well-behaved NGHS students are using the bus service. Well done everyone on Route 5! Talking of buses, Adams have advised us they are not in school next Friday so the buses will not run on this day. Please make alternative arrangements if this applies.

Wishing you all nice weekend,

Mr M J Scott

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

Welcome to our new Acting SENDCO



Mrs Benoit has commenced her maternity leave and we welcome **Mrs Georgina Roycroft** to cover her SENDCO role. Mrs Roycroft will be in school all day every Wednesday with Mrs Dugdale and Miss Davies tackling any immediate queries on other days. Mrs Roycroft introduces herself below:

With a background in Child Psychology, I have spent the last 15 years teaching and supporting students with special educational needs and disabilities. From working as a SENDCO in a large secondary school to more recently supporting schools across Telford and Wrekin as a Learning Support Advisory Teacher. I have worked with students across a range of abilities and settings and have a passion for inclusivity. My specialisms have included supporting girls on the autistic spectrum and also the inclusion of vulnerable learners. I look forward to working with the students and families at NGHS.



Head Girl Team Highlights...

We hope you've all had a great first week back! This is always a busy half term with lots of deadlines coming in and things going on so it's more important than ever to stay in control and ask for help when you need it.

On Wednesday it was Stress Awareness Day so we thought it would be useful to share some advice of ways to manage when you can feel stress levels rising.

- 👉 Create a plan for how to get things done – perhaps set a plan for each day/evening/study period.
- 👉 Schedule in some exercise, time outside or just an activity where you can focus on something else.
- 👉 Ask for help – talk to your teachers about how you're feeling, they will want to help.
- 👉 Make sure you don't neglect your sleep, a lack of sleep will only make you less productive!

At the Body Barn in Newport, a group of year 12 and 13s have just finished a 6 week 'Punch' programme which has been a great way for us to unwind afterschool as well as developing technique. We'll now be moving on to 'Bar' sessions and learning how to exercise with weights. I've seen first hand what making some time for yourself to exercise can do for your productivity!

Next week we have the Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday which is always a lovely evening to showcase our school so thank you to all those who have volunteered.

Next Thursday is also Remembrance Day so we will be coming around rooms in form time and at lunch each day if you wish to donate and buy a poppy.

We wish you all a lovely weekend!
Laura and the Head Girl Team

IT'S A BOY!

Congratulations to Mrs K Wallace and her wife on the birth of baby **Theo**! What a lovely photograph and welcome to the wider NGHS family!

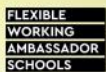


Flexible Working



Free half-hour webinars for school leaders

1st, 2nd, 3rd December 2021



Department for Education

Newport Girls' High School Academy Trust
a DFE Flexible Working Ambassador School



Join us online via Microsoft Teams for any of the following **FREE** webinars to learn more about flexible working in schools. These are open to CEOs / Trustees / MAT leaders / Headteachers / HR Managers / Timetablers etc.

A Flexible Working Approach in the Primary Sector to recruit and retain the best staff



SALLY MINER
Executive Headteacher
Ryders Hayes School

Ryders Hayes School has been a successful Teaching School for the last 10 years, with a drive for recruiting and retaining the best teachers and support staff for the region and developing them. At the heart of our own approach and people strategy lies the belief in flexible working and the benefits this brings for everyone.

Wednesday 1st December, 4pm

Timetabling Flexible Working in the Secondary and/or Special School Sectors



MICHAEL SCOTT
Headteacher/Timetabler
Newport Girls' High School

Often cited as the main reason to reject flexible working in the secondary sector, this session will give tips and tricks to help timetablers plan their approach to improve flexibility, regardless of any software used. Michael has over fifteen years of experience in timetabling, including working freelance with over 30 schools in the UK and abroad.

Thursday 2nd December, 4pm

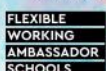
How to Handle Flexible Working requests and what happens if it goes wrong?



EMMA HUGHES
Human Resources Director
browniejacobson

The widespread demand for FW and the significant policy drivers to improve and increase its use have underscored the need for leaders to embrace change. In this session, you will hear case studies from different sectors where flexible working has been successful. We will also discuss what can happen when we don't handle FW in the right way.

Friday 3rd December, 4pm



Department for Education

To book a place on any of these webinars, please visit www.nghs.org.uk/fwab by 26 November 2021

WHAT'S GOING ON IN... GEOGRAPHY

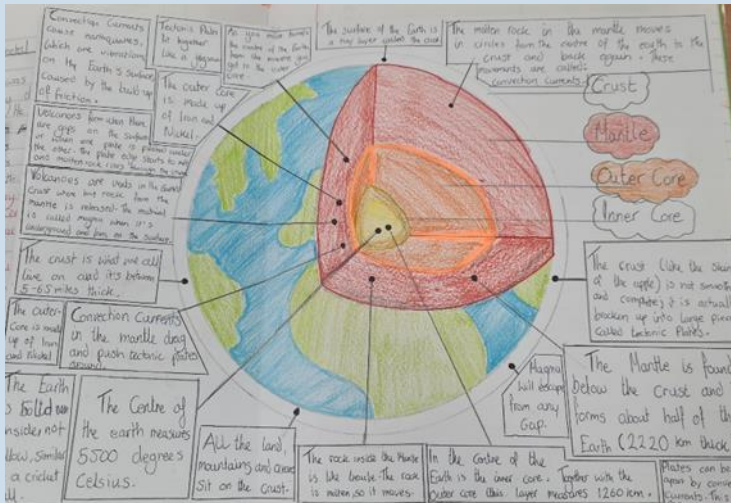
Mr Pimm, Head of Humanities: "It has been a busy few weeks in the geography department, with all year groups undertaking lots of independent research work in different areas. Below is a selection of work undertaken by classes from years 7, 9, 11 and 12."

Year 7 Geographers

During their classes in geography, 7S have been learning about the 4 different types of tectonic plate boundaries and what happens when they move! To test their knowledge Mr Pimm set all the students a challenge of creating their own short presentation to share to the class about the boundaries. From news reports, to fruits each student has shown their understanding in this topic. Caitlin created an amazing video clip including two marshmallows who go on geographic adventures to explain what happens in conservative and continental boundaries. Laura had designed and created a realistically talking robot to help her go through her presentation. The class found her idea engaging and funny to watch! Layla and Alice worked together to finally end the lesson with their presentation that blew the form away. Alice



started the presentation with her rap that listed all the different types of boundaries and what they do ([click here to listen!](#)) Layla had made a delicious cake representing destructive subduction. The class found this an amazing way to end the lesson. **Malak**



Miss Webster's year 7 classes have also been working on plate tectonics and have been producing detailed diagrams explaining the structure of the Earth (left). They showed great determination and understanding in producing their work.

Year 11 Geographers

As part of the GCSE Living World topic in geography, Mrs. Gill's year 11 students were tasked with working as a group to research, and share, information about one of the world biomes. The students worked hard to support each other with well-developed case studies, producing excellent handouts, models and presentations. This work not only helped provide the class with content for their course but also helped the students develop their teamwork, organisation and communication (and making animals out of Fimo!) skills.



HOT DESERTS

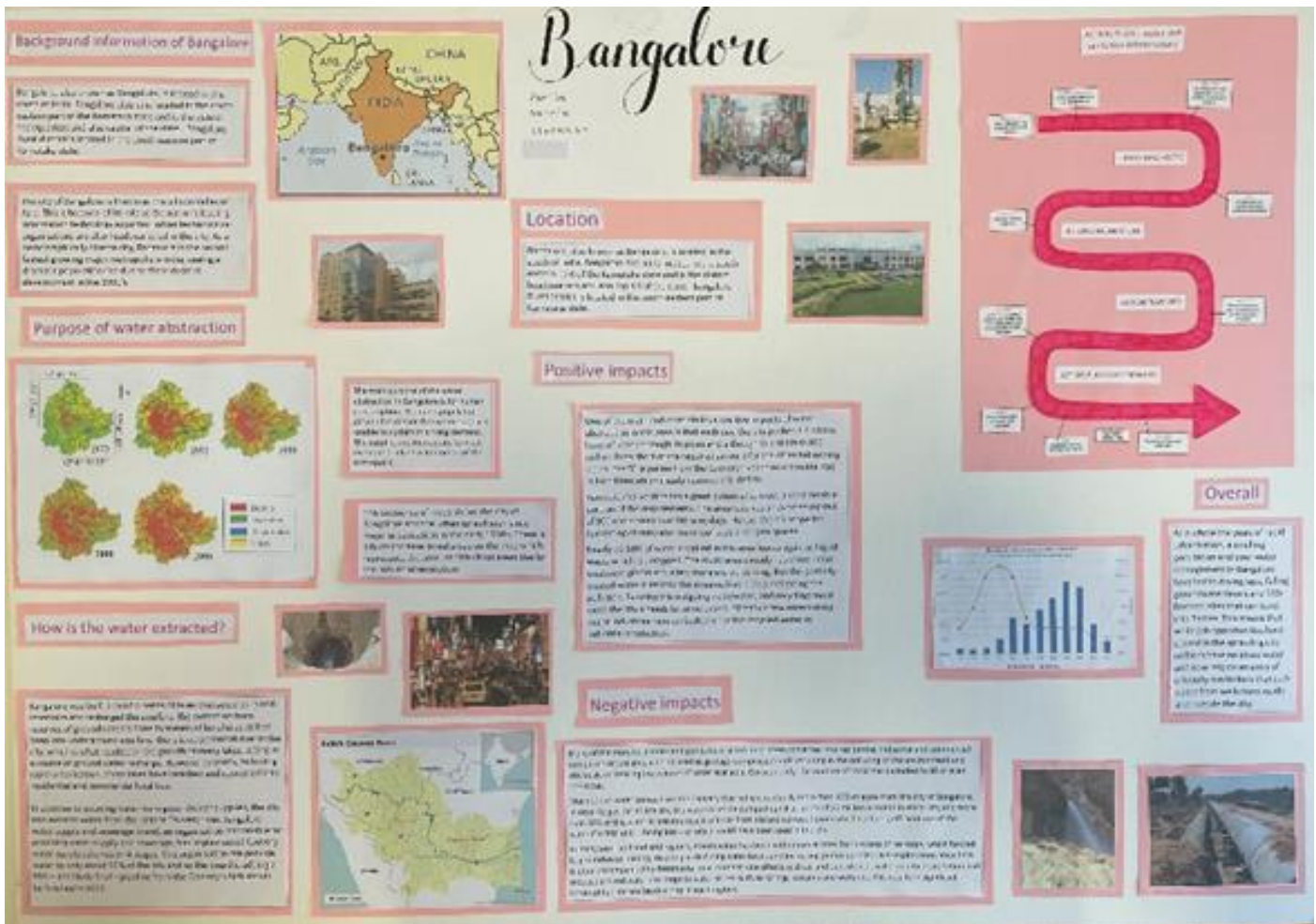
Ecosystems located near the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn; often between 15°-30° north and south latitudes.

ABiotic COMPONENTS

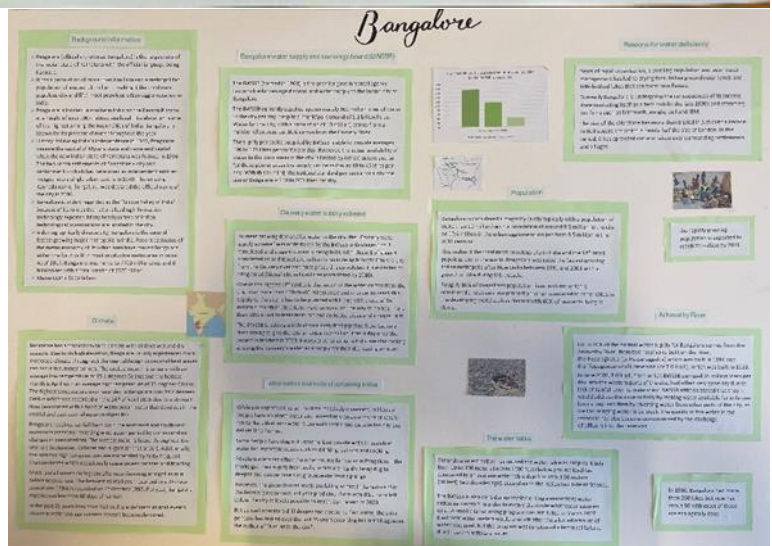
- CLIMATE AND WEATHER:**
 - The climate is arid with high levels of humidity.
 - There are few or no clouds, summer is hot and winter is sunny. The temperature ranges between 20-40°C however at night, the temperature can drop below 0°C.
 - In winter, the temperature ranges between 20-30°C.
 - Water can only be obtained from the ground or from the sea.
 - Strong winds have a significant impact on the environment.
- SOIL AND VEGETATION:**
 - Deserts are a 80-95% sandy, and form in areas where demand for water is much greater than the precipitation.
 - Soils are the most common desert soil, accounting for 32% of the non-arctic continental land area.
 - Soils form in regions with active desiccation in action.
 - The soil is thin, sandy, and dry. The top layer has become compacted.
 - Deserts also have low organic content or are sparsely vegetated by salt-tolerant plants.
- WATER RESOURCES:**
 - Water is drawn up to the surface of the soil due to the low air temperatures, leaving water behind making it available. This can be caused by fringing of land, and can make it unusable. Salt makes it unusable as the soil is so hard that the water is not being the unproductive soil, unless the soil is salt.
- ADAPTATIONS:**
 - The leaves of plants are modified to reduce the surface area to reduce transpiration by 70%. This is also why some plants have thick waxy cuticles.
 - Plants use salt to store water, but also use salt to store water and nutrients through their organisms.
 - Some plants and animals have adapted to live in the desert. They have thick, waxy skin to prevent water loss.
 - Animals have adapted to live in the desert by having thick, waxy skin to prevent water loss.
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BIOTIC COMPONENTS

- SAHARA WILDLIFE:**
 - There are large areas of bare and arid land with little or no vegetation.
 - There are many species of animals that live in the desert.
 - There are many species of animals that live in the desert.
- DESERT PLANTS:**
 - There are many species of plants that live in the desert.
 - There are many species of plants that live in the desert.
- DESERT ANIMALS:**
 - There are many species of animals that live in the desert.
 - There are many species of animals that live in the desert.
- DESERT ECOSYSTEMS:**
 - There are many species of animals that live in the desert.
 - There are many species of animals that live in the desert.



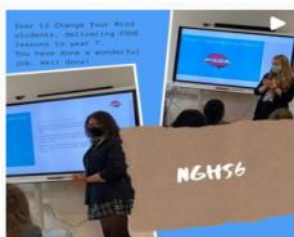
Year 12: In October, the year 12 A-Level Geography class was set a group project to research and present academic posters on Water Abstraction schemes, not only on a local scale but globally. This included Shropshire, London and Bangalore's various abstraction schemes. From extracting water from chalk aquifers in London to water from the distant Cauvery river in India, it was clear from the outset of this project that due to the rising global populations, as a planet it is increasingly harder to extract safe, drinking water for human consumption. As well as learning interesting facts and information for different schemes we were able to compare and contrast the differences. I personally also enjoyed the opportunity to further get to know and collaborate with new sixth formers that joined this September. **Portia**



NGHS6
@NGHS62

Instagram

Find us online...



Sixth Form Online!

We would like to use these platforms as a way of keeping you up to date with recent events, celebrations and important information, all while easily accessible to you through your smart phone or tablet. Follow <https://twitter.com/NGHS62> & <https://www.instagram.com/>

JOIN US ON
11TH
NOVEMBER

NGHS OPEN EVENING



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
N Athwal (10Sea)	Miss J Walker
S Baah (8Sea)	Miss A Rosbach
G Beff (9Aus)	Mrs T Fujii
C Blanks (A8)	Mrs H Goodall
C Bowen (8Sea)	Mrs K Wallace
E Bower (R6)	Mrs Chapman, Mrs Payne
I Byram (11Rod)	Miss A-M Davies
M Croughan (R6)	Miss Allan, Mrs Parry
A Delaney (8Sea)	Mrs K Wallace
E Donaldson (8Sea)	Ms D Branson
F Edwards (8Rod)	Mrs K Taylor
P Evans (A8)	Mrs K Griffin
P Finan (9Sea)	Ms D Branson
A Hamilton (R7)	Miss Allan, Mrs Parry
A Humphries (A6)	Mrs L Payne
R Jones (7G)	Mrs T Fujii
L Keen (11Rod)	Miss A-M Davies
I Knight (A7)	Mrs A Chapman
S Lyall (A8)	Mrs L Payne

To: Student	From: Teacher
L Meadows (S6)	Mr D Postle
N Millington (R7)	Miss S Webster
I Morris (8Aus)	Miss A Rosbach
M Needham (7S)	Mrs R Narasimhan
O Needham (A7)	Miss Allan, Mrs Parry
N Parker (11Aus)	Miss A Rosbach
J Plant (8Rod)	Mrs K Taylor
A Roddy (9Rod)	Mrs A Chapman
P Sanghera (A6)	Miss S Webster
H Simmons (R7)	Miss Allan, Mrs Parry
J Slater-Morris (S6)	Miss Allan, Mrs Parry
H Tay (8Sea)	Miss A Rosbach
M Turner (11Aus)	Miss A Holmes
H Uppal (8Rod)	Mrs K Taylor
J Wang (S8)	Miss Allan, Mrs Parry
M Watkin (10Aus)	Mrs A Chapman
E Wilkinson (A8)	Mrs H Goodall
E Williams (7S)	Mrs R Narasimhan

Suicide Prevention Parent Session Online - Tuesday

You should have received an invitation from Mrs Birch to the parent information session called SP-ARK (Suicide Prevention, Awareness, Resource and Knowledge) from Papyrus next Tuesday evening at 6.30pm. We are still awaiting the link for the Zoom session. It will be sent to all parents once it has been received. Thank you!



This week I met with our team of 8 Shropshire Young Health Champions. Congratulations to Piper, Isobelle, Phoebe, Aimee, Grace, Lekshmi, Emily and Zoe.

These students will undertake some training over this next half term and will then begin to work on a project that they are passionate about which will help to improve health in school and in our wider community.

I look forward to working with them on this over the remainder of this academic year.

Mrs Birch

Teaching & Learning Update

This year the teaching staff are working in groups to use research-based strategies that can support our students even further. One of these groups is developing activities relating to the 'stages of practice', which involves thinking carefully about how students move from practising with teacher support to being able to complete tasks confidently and independently. Mrs Tomkinson has been looking at new ways to support students with essay writing skills; the resource below is one example that has been used to support GCSE students. Alongside this flowchart, students were provided with a completed teacher example. Students then used both of these resources to produce their own line of argument but for a different examination question.

Creating a line of argument and writing an introduction

Flowchart for approaching a Literature question (one text)

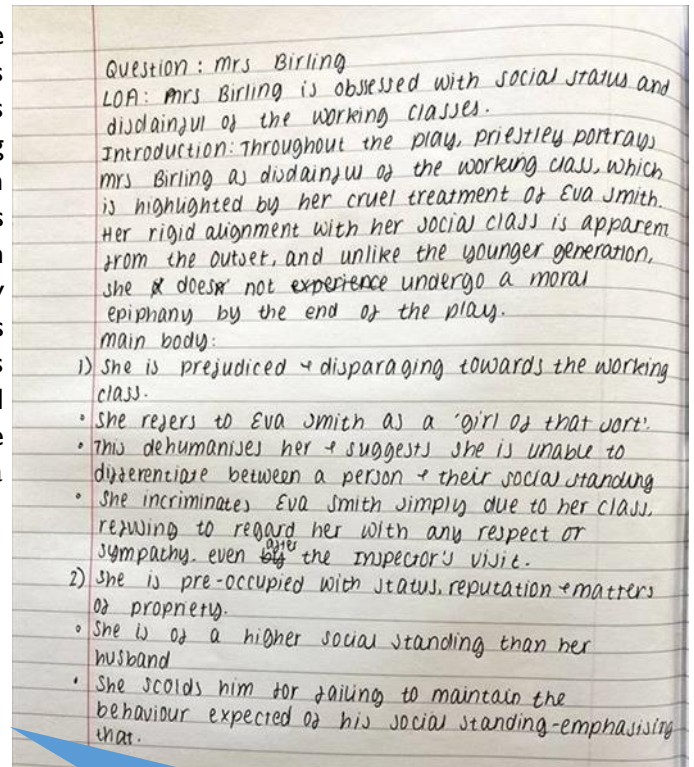
Question: Unpick it – what is it asking you to explore? Underline the key words

LOA: Summarise what you are arguing (one phrase/sentence)

Introduce what you will argue in your essay: Focus on HOW? (two-three sentences)

Main body: Explore how and why the writer presents the theme/ character. Use evidence from the text; analyse devices used; make links to contextual factors; discuss the writer's aims (three-four paragraphs)

Summarise your overall argument: Focus on HOW? And WHY? (two-three sentences)



Using Mrs. Tomkinson's model allowed me to have a deeper initial understanding of the activity before I attempted it myself, which then made it easier to complete. This exercise made me feel more secure in my ability to construct an essay plan and I felt more confident that I will be able to do it unguided in the future.

(Swara – Year 11)

Woolly Hats for Cash!

Year 8 student Brogan McCloy started making woolly hats during lockdown for donations to the Severn Hospice. Word spread and she raised £515 which she was able to donate recently. Great work, Brogan!



Active Lives Survey

We have been contacted by Energize - Shropshire Telford and Wrekin to ask if our students in Years 7, 8 and 11 could participate in this year's active lives survey. This is a completely voluntary survey which is carried out for Sport England which hopes to find out:

- ⇒ Children's activity levels
- ⇒ Physical literacy
- ⇒ Swimming proficiency
- ⇒ Wellbeing
- ⇒ Self-efficacy
- ⇒ Levels of social trust

Some additional documents are attached to the newsletter about the survey. These surveys can be completed online by following the links below by **17 December 2021**.

YEAR 7: <https://ipsos.uk/QAZKIP>

YEAR 8: <https://ipsos.uk/TUZKDO>

YEAR 11: <https://ipsos.uk/RVZKXT>



Pumpkin Carving Competition



Our first Crafternoon was a huge success. 11 pumpkins were carved and some photos of these are shown above. There were so many unique and creative ideas for the pumpkins. Mrs Birch and the Head Girl Team were very impressed. The three winning pumpkins are shown in the photo to the right. Well done to everyone who took part! Congratulations particularly to Hermione and Emma, Freya, Hannah and Eliza and Brogan and Lily. Please come and see Mrs Birch to collect a prize. I will write in the newsletter at the start of December to invite you to join the next end of term crafternoon – can anyone guess what we might be creating then?



Mrs Birch

Dance For Kindness



On Saturday 13 November it is World Kindness Day. This is a day to celebrate the importance of being kind to each other, to yourself, and to the world. The purpose of this day is to help everyone understand that compassion for others is what binds us together. As you will know from Mrs Seys recent article in the newsletter we are a kindness ambassador school and so we are doing lots in school to promote the power of kindness.

Life Vest who are an organisation that promote kindness host an annual event called Dance for Kindness to celebrate World Kindness Day. This year the event is happening online. Therefore, all students are invited to follow [this link](#) and to learn the dance routine.

On Monday 15 November we will be hosting a break time event in the hall to perform this dance routine with as many of the school community as we can. Please **learn the dance and get involved.**

Mrs Birch & The PE Team

Next week's Committee Meetings

Next week all our student committee meetings will come together for the second time this academic year. We look forward to seeing the reps again and learning about their viewpoints on school life.

Monday-Pastoral Review Group; **Tuesday**-Student Council; **Wednesday**-Health & Wellbeing; **Thursday**-Sixth Form Council; **Friday**-Sports Committee (all in Room 12 at 1pm).

Bonfire Night



Basic First Aid is something that is covered within our PSHE curriculum. We do receive information from the British Red Cross about First Aid Champions. This week they have emailed us information about Bonfire Night. We know that Bonfire Night is a fun event for young people, but it is important that they know what to do in an emergency. Please follow [this link](#) for a short session on learning how to help someone who has a burn. We would hope that students wouldn't need to use this but we know how important first aid skills are in an emergency.



EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Here is the updated list for half term two. New clubs are shown in Red. There really is no excuse for any student not to be involved in at least one club or activity! Why not learn a new skill or practise something you really love? Get out of the classroom and embrace the wider life of NGHS. Our staff and sixth formers look forward to encouraging you this half term. Thank you to all those who are running sessions.

	LUNCHTIME	AFTER SCHOOL	
MONDAY	Sixth Form Netball Year 7 Board Game Club Physics Clinic (Y12-13) Show Rehearsals (all years) Week A - Rights Respecting Schools steering group (all years) Week B - Genocide & Human Rights awareness (all years) Wellbeing Quiet Space (all years)	Art Club (Year 7) Maths Clinic (Y13) Biology Clinic (all years) Dance Practice (Year 8)	School Production Rehearsals Sixth Form Punch (Body Barn) - Y13
TUESDAY	Netball Residential Training (year 7) Physics Clinic (Y7-11) Senior Choir (Y10-13) KS3 Maths Enrichment Club (Y7-8) Week A - NEA/History Clinic (Y13) Week B - Cold War Revision (Y11) Japanese Language & Culture Club (all) SustaiNGHS/EcoSchools/Gardening Club (all) Wellbeing Quiet Space (all years)	Biology Clinic (all years) Chemistry Clinic (Y11) Wellbeing Quiet Space (all) Maths clinic (Y12) Sign Language (all) English Literature Clinic (Y13)	Harper Netball Fixtures
WEDNESDAY	AS PE group (Y13) French Club (Y11) Physics Clinic (Y7-11) Animation Club (Y7 sign up only) GCSE Geography support (Y11) Lower School Choir (Y7-8) Medsoc (Y12 interested in medicine/dentistry) Chemistry Clinic (Y13) Maths Clinic (Y7-8)	Football Club (all) Chess Club (all) Wellbeing Quiet Space (all years) Craftivism for Kindness (all)	Karate Club (all years) - external coach
THURSDAY	Team Trials Team Netball practice Coding Club (Y8 and above) Geography Revision (Y13) Music GCSE Clinic Drama club (Y9-11) English clinic (all years + special Y11 group) DIG schools archaeology investigation (Y7-8, sign up) D&T Eco Fashion Club (Y7+8)	Just Dance (second half) Ukulele Club (all) Chemistry Clinic (Y12) Maths Clinic (Y9-10) Maths support (Y11) Wellbeing Quiet Space (all) Year 7 Dance (first half)	Fencing Club (all) - external coach Winter League Netball Fixtures
FRIDAY	Volleyball (Y11) Revision Club (Y11) - Week A Orchestra Literary Society Week B - Debating Society (Y12/13)	Chess Club (all) Crochet Club (all) Wellbeing Quiet Space (all years)	Sixth Form Punch (Body Barn) - Y12 Netball Club - external coach (all years)

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