



Today we remember the outstanding  
contribution made by

**Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II**  
(1926-2022)

and give thanks for over 70 years of dedication and service.

**The NGHS Family**



# NEWPORT NEWS

## *A weekly update from NGHS*

Volume 6 - Issue 1 - Friday 9 September 2022



**O**n behalf of the governors and staff at NGHS, may I welcome you all to the academic year 2022-2023. A special welcome also to all of our new readers. It has been a pleasure and delight to welcome everyone back to school this week. Almost everyone has taken on board Mrs Birch's reminders about uniform and our students appear ready to learn and succeed. Timetables are being learnt, rooms are being located and new friendships formed. It is an exciting time in the year.

We have also begun our new coach services from Wolverhampton, Shrewsbury and Telford this week. Thank you to over 120 families who have invested in this service. The coach company have, in return, invested in a brand-new 72-plate coach for the Wolverhampton route and a new app to track each coach's location. They have also been very responsive to niggles we have mentioned and we thank Lakeside Coaches and parents for their cooperation.

This summer's examination results were in another league! Our A-level students secured 83% A\*-B (the highest in our region) and our GCSE students secured a jaw-dropping 90.2% Grade 9-7 (A\*/A in old money!). Not only was NGHS miles ahead of other local schools, we are now ranked **EIGHTEENTH** in the country by The Times! These results are testament to not only the hard work of students, but the support of parents and outstanding teaching and pastoral guidance from my colleagues. Working in partnership and getting on with learning through the pandemic has paid off in spades and we congratulate all students on their impressive achievements.

As is often the case in September, I must ask everyone for support with the arrival/departure at school. It is busy outside the school gates. Students must always use the crossing point on Wellington Road and the front car park can be used for morning drop off but only **until 8.30am** when the barrier will come down and the car park should not be used by parents. Please make arrangements to drop off your child in Newport Town Centre for ease.

We have eight new colleagues who have joined NGHS this year. Some of them are introduced in this week's newsletter and the rest next week. We have a vibrant mix of highly experienced staff and those newer in their careers. This mix is what makes NGHS an exciting place to work and they have all taken the first week in post in their stride.

This week's newsletter also includes information about our vision for this academic year. As Headteacher, I prepare a development plan, which is approved by our Trustees (governors). As ever, we plan to achieve a lot in ten months

and we retain a steady focus on further enhancing the educational experience for all students, whether in the classroom or outside it. Clearly there is much in the news currently about the cost of living. The School must fund public-sector pay increases and rises in energy bills. We are acutely aware of parental income and have, for example, worked with the PTA to set up a second-hand uniform 'shop'. I must also raise awareness of Free School Meals. The days of a stigma around FSM are long gone. Since moving to cashless catering, there is no way of students knowing who is/isn't on FSM. A daily allowance is uploaded each morning for FSM students to spend in the same way as their peers. The school benefits from additional funding to support pupils with FSM (and Sixth Form Bursary) so please do look at our website (For Parents section) before making an application if you feel you are eligible.

By Monday the school website ([www.nghs.org.uk](http://www.nghs.org.uk)) will display term dates for the 2023-24 year (For Parents). The Department for Education are clamping down on schools who authorise holidays in term time and my default answer must be **not** to authorise leave, unless the circumstances are exceptional. Prior to the summer holiday about 20 students left school early for cheaper flight prices/to visit relatives in the middle/far East. The financial implications are, I suppose, understandable, but, with a six week holiday, there is still a choice of dates to travel, so please kindly support us in ensuring any holidays are not taken in term time as we have to report absences of this type to the local authority and this can lead to fines being issued.

You may already have heard that Mrs Birch and Mr Pointon have put together a new rewards scheme at NGHS which is more immediate and encourages students to gather House points in four key areas (e.g. not *just* for doing good school work or not *just* for participating in a club/activity). More information can be found in the newsletter this week.

We have a number of parent events coming up, most of which are on Teams to avoid lots of parents travelling 45 minutes here for a 45 minute meeting. Heads of Year will be inviting you, so please look out for a letter. Year 12 is on Monday and Year 9 on Tuesday next week.

Lastly, but by no means least: As the first page shows we are in mourning the loss of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. I delivered an assembly to all staff and students this morning to commemorate her service and dedication to the United Kingdom and beyond. There may be further announcements concerning her funeral which may affect schools, and the DFE will update us in the coming days.

With best wishes,

**Mr M J Scott**



# NGHS Development Plan 2022—2023



## Head Girl Team Highlights...

### Welcome Back!

Welcome back to a new academic year, hopefully you have all had a fun and relaxing break. We hope that our new members of the school in both year 7 and 12 have enjoyed their first week and have settled into school life well.

Getting back to school can always be a busy and stressful time, so balance and support are especially important during this transition period. As a school we can ensure that we are helping and bringing positivity to members of our school family.

The beginning of a new year is also the perfect opportunity for students to begin good habits of hard work, getting involved and organisation which will help students to thrive and succeed throughout the year. Our new system of rewards using our N, G, H and S stickers which promote kindness, involvement and good work will also hopefully be a success and encourage students to get involved in all aspects of school life.

Have a lovely weekend!

Liv Todd, Head Girl

**Head Girl:** Olivia Todd

**Deputy Head Girls:**

Melissa Hall (Transition & Integration)  
Emily Spencer (Community & Careers)  
Nakita Johal (Participation & Inclusion)  
Liv Augustus (Health & Wellbeing)  
Anvita Ciras (Academic Chair)

As usual, our School Development Plan is written around four key strands. Beneath each are a series of actions, shared among colleagues at all career stages and governors. This year's priorities for our school (with a few key examples) are as follows:

#### To embed research-based innovation to strengthen the curriculum & pupil outcomes

- ⇒ Furthering staff CPD in Teaching & Learning
- ⇒ Informing students & parents more about the learning process
- ⇒ Ensuring the curriculum is diverse to reflect cultural changes

#### To manage the school's continued expansion whilst consistently modelling our ethos and high expectations

- ⇒ Ensure consistency among students in uniform, expectations, attendance, rewards and sanctions
- ⇒ Further develop student voice and staff well-being
- ⇒ Review the cost of uniform

#### To ensure the promotion of equity for all students

- ⇒ Review SEND best practice and membership of Support list
- ⇒ Ensure Pupil Premium funding is directed to where it has greatest impact
- ⇒ Continue to offer significant extra-curricular, cultural and House opportunities to all and monitor participation

#### Strengthen purposeful collaboration outside of NGHS

- ⇒ Continue to lead on Flexible Working for DFE in Midlands
- ⇒ Refocus partnership & outreach work with local primaries
- ⇒ Consider the impact and direction of the government's drive towards Multi-Academy Trust status
- ⇒ Build personal development through sport with appointment of new Director of Sport.

You will hear more about these areas as the year progresses as we continue to strengthen our already successful school.

Saturday 10th September marks World Suicide Prevention Day. This is an opportunity for us to raise awareness and reduce the stigma around suicide. We can all make a difference by showing people we care, reach out to people and ask if they are ok, listen to those you know are struggling, a simple conversation can make a huge difference. We would ask that on Saturday at 8pm you light a candle to remember those lost through suicide and those who have also been bereaved. For more support and advice please visit

<https://www.papyrus-uk.org>



**PAPYRUS**  
PREVENTION OF YOUNG SUICIDE

# NEW FACES

**Welcome to some of  
our new members of  
staff (more to follow  
next week!)**



**Monsieur C Audouin**  
*Head of Languages*

Born in Honfleur (Normandy), I arrived in the UK and began teaching as a trainee at **NGHS** in 1998! It is very nice to have come full circle and see that the school I left is stronger than ever. I have taught Languages in a variety of outstanding schools both in the UK and abroad (Malaysia and Dubai). As a French national, I am looking forward to fostering all aspects of the language and culture. I wish to promote a learning ethos incorporating flair, originality and creativity.



**Miss R Saunders**  
*Director of Sport*

I am really looking forward to joining NGHS and continuing to support and develop the excellent sporting opportunities for all students, along with developing students' knowledge and understanding of PSHE areas. I have always been an active person and I currently play football for Tipton Town Ladies. I also enjoy setting myself new challenges that are out of my comfort zone to raise money for charity, over the last three years I have taken part in a White-Collar Boxing event and completed the London Virtual Marathon. I am extremely excited to continue to share the love of my subject and bring my enthusiasm, passion and experience to the school to ensure that all students can achieve, build confidence and progress.

**Mr R Bourne**

*Teacher of English/Drama*

I can't wait to get started teaching English and Drama at NGHS. I believe that an understanding of both Literature and culture are highly important in the modern world; my knowledge and ability to teach a range of analytical subjects means that I can offer a diverse, engaging and enriching experience to motivate all learners.



Over the past 14 years I have gathered a wealth of experience in education that I will apply to this new role. I have taught in secondary, further and higher education and, because of this I have built very high expectation of students as I know what they need to achieve. I have also been responsible for training new teachers as well as developing existing practice. I am confident in getting the best out of all of the students that I teach. I firmly believe in the development of the whole student both academically and pastorally and look forward to getting to know all the students I'm teaching.

**Mr R Whitehouse**

*Outreach, Partnerships &  
Marketing Officer*

I am delighted to be the first person to hold the new role of 'Outreach, Partnership & Marketing Officer' at NGHS.



My principal task will be forging closer and stronger links with the local primary schools and encouraging a wider range of students to apply for places whatever their background. Additionally, I will be heavily involved in all aspects of pupil transition from their primary schools as well as further enhancing the school's presence on social media and with the local press.

I am a qualified PE teacher and have previously taught in primary, middle and secondary schools in various roles over the last 25 years. I'm very much looking forward to my new role and the exciting opportunities it will offer to our local families and current students.

## More New Faces...

We also welcome the following staff whose profiles we will include in next week's Newport News:

- Ms B Lord, Head of English & Performing Arts
- Mr R Williams, Head of Art & DT Faculty
- Mrs H Steadman, Teacher of English
- Mrs S Fletcher, Teacher of Biology

# Financial Support for Year 12 and 13

Depending on circumstances, some NGHS students may be eligible for a bursary to support them with education-related costs. There are two types of bursary:

1. Vulnerable student bursary (students that are: in care, care leavers, in receipt of income support/universal credit/disability living allowance)
2. Discretionary bursary (students who need financial help but don't qualify for the vulnerable student bursary)

Bursary funds are paid directly to the student and are awarded to help students with the cost of travel, buying essential books or equipment, or partaking in curriculum-related trips.

Full details are available on the website along with the application form. Students are encouraged to speak to Mrs Davenport to discuss the support they may need and the evidence we would require before completing an application form.

**We ask that applications are completed by the 30 September so we can award funds on a fair basis.**

Applications can still be submitted after this date particularly if a student's circumstances change, however, the funds available Year 13 students that received a bursary in Year 12 must reapply this year. Further information is available on our school website <https://www.nghs.org.uk/sixth-form/bursary/> or contact Mrs Davenport ASAP. Thank you.

# Medication In School



If your child requires us to oversee medication in school (e.g. antibiotics) please ensure you complete the MED1 form on our website ([For Parents](#)).

If your child has an Epipen/Jext pen or asthma inhaler, please ensure this is in date and that a spare is provided to NGHS. Mrs Davenport is your point of contact.

# Student Voice Group Meetings are next week!

**Monday**  
Pastoral Review

**Tuesday**  
School Council

**Wednesday**  
Health & Well-Being

**Thursday**  
Sixth Form Council

**Friday**  
Sports Committee

# SEPTEMBER 2022

make kindness the norm.



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>AUGUST</p> <p>S M T W Th F S</p> <p>31 1 2 3 4 5 6</p> <p>7 8 9 10 11 12 13</p> <p>14 15 16 17 18 19 20</p> <p>21 22 23 24 25 26 27</p> <p>28 29 30 31 1 2 3</p> <p>4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p>	<p>OCTOBER</p> <p>S M T W Th F S</p> <p>25 26 27 28 29 30 1</p> <p>2 3 4 5 6 7 8</p> <p>9 10 11 12 13 14 15</p> <p>16 17 18 19 20 21 22</p> <p>23 24 25 26 27 28 29</p> <p>30 31 1 2 3 4 5</p>	30	31	1	2	3
4	Labor Day	Read a Book Day		<p>Surprise someone with a thoughtful, inexpensive gift.</p>	<p>Plan a neighborhood block party so everyone can get to know each other better.</p>	<p>Leave a jar of coins for others to use at a wishing fountain.</p>
<p>Buy a decadent treat at the grocery store or your favorite bakery for yourself.</p>	<p>Take a scenic drive to the mountains to enjoy the Fall foliage.</p>	<p>Start a new book about a topic that is completely unknown to you.</p>	<p>Send a framed family photo to your parents or grandparents.</p>	<p>Donate books, puzzles, and games to elementary schools or daycare centers.</p>	<p>FREE DAY! How can I show generosity today?</p>	<p>Help a friend on their moving day.</p>
<p>World Suicide Prevention Day</p>	<p>Share your career goals with your boss or a colleague.</p>	<p>Positive Thinking Day</p>	<p>Donate shoes, boots, and warm clothes to a homeless shelter.</p>	<p>Put some change in an envelope and tape it to a 25¢ candy vending machine.</p>	<p>Collect Rocks Day</p>	<p>National Clean Up Day</p>
<p>Offer to help someone who has just endured a major life event or loss.</p>	<p>Make a list of five things you are grateful for.</p>	<p>Become an agent of positivity.</p>	<p>Don't particularly like.</p>	<p>Start a chain of kindness and pay for the next person's order at a drive-thru.</p>	<p>Paint inspiring words on rocks and leave them in the community for others to find.</p>	<p>Gather some coworkers to help pick up trash in your local park during lunch.</p>
<p>Play a board game or do a puzzle with friends and/or family.</p>	<p>World Tourism Day</p>	<p>Start a Kindness Club at your school or workplace.</p>	<p>International Day of Peace</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>psst!</p> <p>Pay attention to your internal dialogue.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Do something crafty, such as knitting, sewing, or painting.</p>
<p>Rosh Hashanah Begins</p>	<p>Love Note Day</p>	<p>World Tourism Day</p>	<p>Good Neighbor Day</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Leave a positive note in library books for strangers to discover.</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Ask for and accept help when needed.</p>
<p>Send a handwritten letter to someone who's made a difference in your life.</p>	<p>Make the switch to cruelty-free products.</p>	<p>Get out and explore! Be a tourist in your own city for a day.</p>	<p>Leave extra quarters in a zip up bag and tape it to coin-op laundry machines with a note that says, "Your next load is on me".</p>			

# My Stagecoach 'Dance the Dream' Trip to....



This July, my Stagecoach performing arts school were selected to take part in 'Dance the Dream'. On the Wednesday night of the last week of term, we left Shrewsbury at midnight to travel by coach to Disneyland Paris. The way to Dover was a rough night as nobody properly slept, which is probably to be expected when you are sitting on coach full of excited people. We got to Dover and had to wait for another ferry as we had just missed ours!

Once we reached Calais, it was time to get back on the coach on our way to the actual Disneyland Paris Park. This part of the journey was a lot more fun as everyone was now awake. Eventually we spotted the first sign for Disneyland Paris so everyone got really excited.

When we got there, we went to our hotel area which was themed like Toy Story, but mainly focused on Woody, Jessie and Bullseye (the horse), it was very wild-west themed. In the evening that day was the gala dinner in the new Marvel Hotel. All participating



Stagecoach schools in the UK were together. We had a buffet dinner, received certificates to say we had taken part then we got to meet Minnie Mouse and have our photo taken with her. The next day was our first day in the actual park. First, we had a singing rehearsal and then we performed in front of the castle for the general public. Singing in front of the Disney castle the feeling of excitement had properly set in. We performed a medley from the Lion King musical. Then we had the rest of the day in in the Disney Park going on all the rides.

Next day was the parade. We had a rehearsal in the morning, going through the dance routine backstage in the Disneyland studios. The parade was such an amazing experience. It was incredible walking through the Disney streets knowing they had been cleared just for us to dance through and that we were in front of the main parade of the Disney characters and their floats!

Everyone was smiling and cheering as you went past them and lots of the parents were screaming "well done". Our stagecoach Principal Lisa appeared to be at every corner we went around, yelling at us to keep smiling. It was such a great opportunity. If I had the chance to do it again, I would definitely go again and I would recommend it to anyone who has the chance to go and take this amazing opportunity.

Louise N, Year 9

*Students are always asked to provide reports about any exciting trips they have joined as well as charity fundraising they have undertaken or awards they won. See Mr Scott!*

# Rewards

## The NGHS Rewards System

The rewards system has had a refresh for this academic year based on feedback from staff and students. The new systems uses NGHS points instead of house points. The N, G, H and S points are all for different aspects of school life and we hope that students will be able to show all of these to contribute fully to school life.

The table below describes what each point is and shows some examples of how NGHS students could achieve these points:

The NGHS Way	Examples
Niceness	Thank You Friday Being Kind Helpful behaviour Good manners Mentoring Others Charity work
Getting involved	Extra-curricular clubs House Events PTA Events Assemblies
Homework	Good quality work completed at home
Schoolwork	Good quality work completed at school Assessment performance / praise postcards Making a positive contribution to the lesson Student of the Half Term Attendance



When a student demonstrates something in the NGHS way at any time, staff will be giving students a N, G, H or S sticker and they will also add a N, G, H or S point to the school system. All students should now be collecting NGHS stickers in their planner, for every 5 completed NGHS rows students will receive an award in the half termly rewards assemblies.

**Mrs H Birch (Assistant Headteacher)**

## PARENTS / PARENT INFORMATION EVENINGS

Monday 12 September	Year 12 Information Evening (on Teams)
Tuesday 13 September	Year 9 Information Evening (on Teams)
Monday 19 September	Year 8 Information Evening (on Teams)
Wednesday 21 September	Year 10 Information Evening (on Teams)
Tuesday 4 October	Year 11 Info/Revision Evening (on Teams)
Thursday 13 October	Year 13 Parents Evening (in person)
Thursday 3 November	Year 7 Meet Tutor Evening (in person)

Invitations for Teams evenings will be sent by Heads of Year in the week before each event. Year 12 and Year 9 parents should already have their weblinks for next week.

**If not, please contact  
schooloffice@nghs.org.uk**



## EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Tutors have been asked to share (today or on Monday) a copy of the Extra-Curricular Clubs list with their students. Please find below a summary (the student version has rooms/staff details on, too). House activities will also get underway shortly. We expect all students to take part in at least one main House Activity plus Sports Day and encourage all students to join at least one club. Please encourage your child to do this, too! More clubs will be added as the year continues.

	LUNCHTIME	AFTER SCHOOL	
MONDAY	Japanese club (all years) School production (all years) Rugby club (Y7-11) Chemistry work clinic (Y13)	Crochet club (all years) Netball (Y11-13) Gardening club (all years) Maths support (Y7-8)	School Production Rehearsals (all years) Body Barn (Y9-11 sign up)
TUESDAY	Netball Club (Y7) Football club (Y9-11) Introduction to film studies (Y10-13) SustaiNGHS (all years) Introduction to Spanish (all years) Senior voices (Y9-13) Literary society (all years) Maths enrichment club (KS3 week A, KS4 week B) Biology GCSE mentoring (Y11) Horrible Histories club (Y7-8 week A)	Indoor athletics (Y7-8) Philosophy club (Y7) Physics drop-in (Y7-11) DentSoc (Y11-12) Chemistry drop-in (Y12) Alibi production (all years) Maths support (Y12)	
WEDNESDAY	Netball team trials Rugby club (Y12-13) Maths drop in (Y11) Biology intervention (Y13) RS GCSE support (Y10) English examination skills (Y11 invited students)	Chemistry mentoring (Y11) GCSE German support (Y11) School choir (all years) MedSoc (Y11-12)	Karate Club (all years) - external coach
THURSDAY	Saxophone ensemble (all years) Team netball practice Volleyball (Y9-11) English drop-in (Y7-11) Maths support (Y13)	Physics drop-in (Y12-13) Football club (Y7-8) Drama club (Y9-11) Iris club (Y9-10)	Fencing Club (all years) - external coach
FRIDAY	AS PE intervention Film club Friday (all years) Orchestra (all years) Doodle club (Y7-9) Maths support (Y9-10) English literature book club (Y12-13)	Football club (Y7-11) GCSE German support (Y11) Psychology support (Y13) Debating club (all years) Biology intervention (Y12)	Body Barn (Y12-13) Netball Satellite Club

# NGHS PASTORAL WHO'S WHO 2022-23

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 Lead



**Mr M J Scott**  
Headteacher



**Mrs H Goodall**  
Head of Year 7



**Mrs F Davenport**  
Pastoral Support



**Mrs A Seys**  
Head of Year 8



**Miss S Webster**  
Deputy Head



**Ms J Capaldi**  
Head of Year 9



**Mrs A Chapman**  
Head of Year 10



**Mrs K Danby**  
Wellbeing Officer

Safeguarding

Years 7-10

## Years 11-13



**Mrs S Tomkinson**  
Head of Year 11  
(maternity leave)



**Mrs K Griffin**  
Head of Sixth Form



**Mrs D Martin**  
Wellbeing Officer  
Acting Head of Y11