



NEWPORT NEWS

A weekly update from NGHS

Volume 6 - Issue 32 - Friday 21 July 2023



And as if by magic, the end of another school year dawns! It is hard to believe we are at this point and being now in my sixth year of headship at NGHS, each year goes by faster and faster. It has been a very busy but very valuable year at school. We have been able to fully reengage with our trips and residential and students have been to Iceland, France, Germany and destinations in the UK such as Liverpool and on Field Work trips. Curriculum Enrichment Week was hugely enjoyable and friendships have been formed and developed through these experiences.

Looking back at past editions of Newport News, the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II overshadowed the start of our academic year. In part this seems a while ago, but also only yesterday! Shortly after came our Ofsted inspection which was stressful but very rewarding with each and every member of our NGHS family working together to secure our status as the only outstanding secondary school in the Authority. Success in sports fixtures, the amazing production of *Sister Act* not to mention individual clubs and activities, our Young Enterprise team winning awards and a plethora of House Events rounding off with Sports Day and today's assemblies to mark a year 'well done'. We have also deepened our commitment to supporting families during the cost-of-living crisis and also welcomed lots of Year 5s into NGHS for Taste of High School days. I must credit all our own students on their fantastic approach to school life and commitment to not just their work but also their desire to embrace the opportunities we present. Our staff have continued to be role models to our students and have given 110% to make NGHS the excellent place it is. I am particularly grateful to our Trustees (governors) who scrutinise and hold me and my hard-working senior leaders to account, but are also only a phone-call away for advice and enhanced leadership. And lastly to all our parents and carers who support the school and encourage your child(ren) to be the best they can be. Thank you for all your support.

Our Culture Day on Tuesday and the evening fête were well supported and this week's NN contains information about how much was raised for House Charities. Thank you to everyone who attended in the evening and to all our students who came to school in a colourful array of clothes befitting their home culture and/or wider interests. We enjoyed seeing greater diversity at NGHS.

The end of term inevitably brings news of staff leavers. **Mr Richard Bourne** joined us in September to cover the end of Mrs Tomkinson's mat leave. He has seamlessly moved to support us with other maternity leaves but he will be leaving us for a permanent post in another school in September. We will miss his humour and involvement in so many school events - never before has one teacher appeared in all three House Drama productions! **Miss Poppy Regester** has completed her PE Apprenticeship and is starting her career in primary education in September. She has introduced rugby to NGHS and has been admired by so many students. She has a real future ahead of her in teaching and has always been willing to get stuck in to any activity, trip or cover lesson. Lastly **Mr Andy Carey** or DJ Carey as he is known on Sports Day. Mr Carey started teaching in 1985 and spent most of his career in a local independent school before joining NGHS part time as Head of Chemistry in 2019. Winding down is not in Mr Carey's vocabulary (although his tie has been missing a lot recently!) and we anticipate his retirement being pretty busy. He has not only provided strong and steady leadership in his subject, but has been a most brilliant teacher and all-round gentleman! His love of sport, in particular skiing has led to the regeneration of our ski trip (even on the third attempt thanks twice to Covid) and he will be missed by so many. We wish him a long and happy retirement.

We have four new colleagues joining us in September. As always they include experienced leaders, teachers and staff at the start of their careers. I look forward to introducing them to you in the autumn term.

Term dates for next year are on our website and I must urge parents not to request holiday absences. The Education Secretary has written to Headteachers this week to raise her own concerns about children missing education (in all senses of the word) and it is important that transparency occurs as to the reasons for absence. I hope that you have also received a letter from Miss Webster about a few procedural changes for September. Again, our behaviour and uniform policies are now online for September and we ask that you familiarise yourself particularly with the largely unchanged uniform policy to ensure there are no issues in September.

On behalf of all the staff and Trustees at NGHS, may I wish you a lovely summer break. Term restarts on Wednesday 6 September for all at 8.50am.

Mr M J Scott

Uniform Announcement

As mentioned last week, I can confirm we now have a secondary uniform provider (online) through Baker and Son Schoolwear. I am delighted to mention that orders can now be placed online. We advocate that new students try uniform on at Mary's Tots & Teens but replacement items can be bought and shipped [online here](#). I hope that this will support busy working parents!



Head Girl Team Highlights...



We've finally reached the end of the school year! After a laborious last week filled with tests, goodbyes (thank you Mr Carey!) and just a few throwaway lessons, it's time for a well-deserved break.

On Tuesday it was Culture Day. This was a huge success, with beautiful cultural clothing, delicious food stalls and a music-of-the-world disco. It was so amazing to see everyone's outfits and for people to get the chance to share a little bit of their cultures.

That afternoon, in spite of the weather's best efforts to stop us, we held the Summer Fete (indoors). There were several brilliant stalls, including 'Guess the sweets in the Jar', items made by Rwandan women and girls, glitter tattoos, and refreshments. We also managed to successfully flog second-hand school uniform, all accompanied by some extremely talented musical performers.

I hope that everyone has a lovely and restful holiday in preparation to get back at it in September!

Braeagh McCloy
(Deputy Head Girl
Community & Careers)

Chester zoo

Chester zoo provides toucans and birds in general with: a large enclosure which they are able to fly around in a nutritious diet for each specific bird's needs and if necessary a companion to allow it to socialise.



My favourite photo I captured. It was a toucan. I believe it said what you looking at!



The zoo provides for this otter, with an enclosure with land and water in which to swim in, always available for the otter. In addition it has a diet which is suited to their habitat and dietary requirements.

Giant otter!

Chester zoo provides an inside and outside enclosure to ensure the giraffes have somewhere to sleep. In addition, they have food catered to their dietary requirements and height.



Giraffes! I think it was thinking whose there?

Did you know ...

- Toucans can live up to 25 years.!
- Giant otters are very sociable animals and often live in groups of up to 20 individuals!
- Giraffes can stand half an hour after being born!

Mininote

During CEW 2023, Year 7 were lucky enough to visit Chester Zoo. During our visit, we learned a lot about the conservation and preservation work that the Zoo does and had the chance to see a lot of the animals. Some of the highlights included the Butterfly House, seeing the new tiger cubs and watching the antics of the Humboldt penguins!

As part of our visit, Year 7 were asked to create their own one page short summary of the highlights of the trip, with some well-selected photos. We had over 30 entries for the competition but the stand out article is this one by Isabel L. Well done Isabel – we were impressed by your design ideas and the interesting content you selected. House points and a book token prize for Isabel!

Miss A M Davies



A busy SEVEN days...

Sports Day—House Drama—Culture Day—Summer Fete



Despite the bad weather attempting to dampen school spirit on Sports Day, all three houses maintained great enthusiasm and competitiveness throughout the day. From Mr Carey enjoying his time as our designated DJ, to Mrs Gill and Mr Pimm enforcing their tug of war tactics on their houses, Sports Day was certainly a day to remember - especially for Year 12 with it being their last one! In the end, Austen kept their streak going with another win this year, hopefully next year they can make it AusTEN!!!

A Barnes, J Mooney, L Chilcott

Although House Drama is over, the unity and sense of family created during rehearsals will remain with us even after the end of the school year. Despite Seacole's victory, it was an extremely tough decision, Austen coming very close second. "This year's house drama was by far the best the school has ever seen" - this massive success was not only due to the huge effort put in by the Drama captains, but also our amazing casts and house teams through all their cooperation and determination throughout this event. This year will be hard to beat!

L Keen, N Adkins & L Thompson

Tuesday was our Cultural Day, and I can say with full confidence that it was a huge success! Overall, we managed to raise **£650**, which is all being split between the three house charities. The day started with a bake sale at break time, which was immensely popular thanks to Maidah's samosas which sold out almost immediately! At lunchtime, we hosted the 'Music of the World' disco which ended up becoming one of the highlights of the day (and personally one of my core memories at NGHS), with Year 9 and Year 10 students forming a dance circle that had everyone on their feet singing along to the iconic Bollywood song 'Shelia Ki Jawani'. A quick thank you to everyone who helped in coordinating everything, it was a lot of work, but it all paid off in the end! Being able to organise such a significant school-wide event was such an invaluable experience for me, especially as it had been a dream of mine since I started my Culture Club in 2019 to have a cultural day where people had the opportunity to show off clothes that they usually wouldn't have been able to wear.

P Kondapalli



As well as dressing to impress for our amazing Culture Day, Tuesday 18th July marked another incredible event at NGHS - our PTA summer fete. This was a major success, and as a school we raised over **£1700** to help support our curriculum and wider school life. There were stalls for everyone - from having the opportunity to get glitter tattoos or a cartoon portrait, to being able to purchase Rwandan crafts or second-hand uniform (just to name a few). Not only that, but we must also mention the outstanding musical performances that took place throughout the evening - our pupils truly are so talented! We hope you enjoyed the summer fete as much as we did and thank you to everyone's contributions- whether you ran a stall, raised money for NGHS or helped to organise the event.

V Paslar, C Hurst, A Amjad



Historical Association **The Great**
The voice for history

DEBATE

The History department are pleased to announce that NGHS will be taking part in the Great Debate run by the Historical Association in 2024. This prestigious public speaking competition will be open to all students who are in year 10 to year 13 from September 2023.

Students do not have to take history to be eligible to compete for the opportunity to represent the school in the regional heats in the autumn term.

The theme this year is local history *Which historical place or person from your local area deserves greater recognition?*

For more information about how to get involved please see Ms Clarke or the History Ambassadors - Swara and Braeagh. Look out for more details in school and getting thinking about who or where you think needs greater recognition in our area.

Lake District Geography Field Trip

Last Friday saw the highly anticipated Geography field trip, highly anticipated by Mr Pimm & Mrs Gill that is.

In true form of the Geography Department, we had a swift departure from school and a 5-hour journey to the Lake District, after which we arrived at the sand dunes on the English coast. There, we sampled the soil along a transect and attempted to identify the types of vegetation on the dunes. Typically, this is where the rain started... and never stopped. Our evening consisted of exploring the youth hostel, having a quick lesson to prepare for our data collection the next day, and an early bedtime.



The rain persisted through the night and Saturday took us into Cockermouth where we split off into groups to gather the data that we need to complete our NEAs. Of course, the minute we stepped off the bus, the heavens opened (again!), and a few residents of Cockermouth even voiced their concerns at the level of rain they were facing with regards to the constantly flooding river which we duly noted as part of our data collection. That afternoon we headed to Workington where we continued with our collection until the rain was too much for even Mr Pimm and Mrs Gill and we made a fast exit on the bus, back to the hostel. As the rain refused to let up, our plans of walking to the classroom in the village hall were shattered but we adapted to our new surroundings in true NGHS fashion and worked through the evening in the back of the very busy youth hostel canteen which, let me tell you, was no mean feat!

Sunday was the longest day of the trip as we spent our time frolicking in the fields surrounding the very swollen River Derwent testing our sampling techniques and creating statistical tests amongst the Herdy Sheep (as well as their faeces, which more of us got on our hands than I think we would care to admit).

On our last day in the Lake District, we arrived in tourist central, Keswick, where we completely emptied our pockets with the tourist prices!

Finally, the rain stopped... on the bus... on the way home.

We would like to say a massive thank you to Mr Pimm and Mrs Gill for all their efforts that they put into making such a busy and wet trip so enjoyable!

Lucy L (Year 12)

Humanities Competition

On behalf of the Humanities Faculty, thank you for all the entries into the Humanities Competition. The quality of work has been incredible, and we recognise how much time and effort has gone into each of them. We are very pleased with the number of students within the school who have demonstrated an interest in learning about the ordinary people who do extraordinary things. Therefore, the Humanities Department extends their congratulations to the winners of this competition:

Year 7 – Sophia McHugh

Year 8 – Tara de Silva

Year 9 – Samuella Baah

Year 10 – Phoebe Adamson

Sixth Form – Braeagh McCloy

Please see Mr Pimm for your certificate and everyone who entered can come and pick up your G stickers.

Biology Field Trip

We arrived in Wales' Betws-Y-Coed last weekend to learn about ecology and acquire the skills required to complete our CPAC practical. We had our first lesson with the Rhyd-Y-Creiau instructors after settling into our accommodations, during which we learned how to utilise the tools we would be using for the remainder of the trip. This included several methods for selecting insects and being able to isolate them, as well as learning how to use various tools like moisture and light intensity meters. We had a better understanding of the approaches we might employ for our practical on Sunday by the time the lesson came to a close.

Later that afternoon, while the instructors set up a moth trap, we placed our mammal traps outside. The following morning, we witnessed the fruition of this as 5 of the 8 groups in 12A caught field mice! This was the highest number our tutor has ever seen caught in a single night, and we were also able to trap many different moths.

Before lunchtime, we conducted a practical in which we used a hydro-prop to detect water velocity and the kick method to count the number of freshwater invertebrates in a local river. The majority of what we caught consisted of black fly larvae, beetle larvae, and mayfly nymphs.

Our tutors led us to the forest for a practical on the moss and lichen cover on oak and birch trees after we finished eating our self-made sandwiches for lunch and changing into new (non-soggy) socks. This practical resulted in many moss and lichen samples coming back with us. Later that night, we planned our CPAC practical 12 with our tutors, which we would undertake the next day. There were various planned destinations, including the river, forest, and Rhyd-y-Creiau site, where we could choose to conduct our experiment.

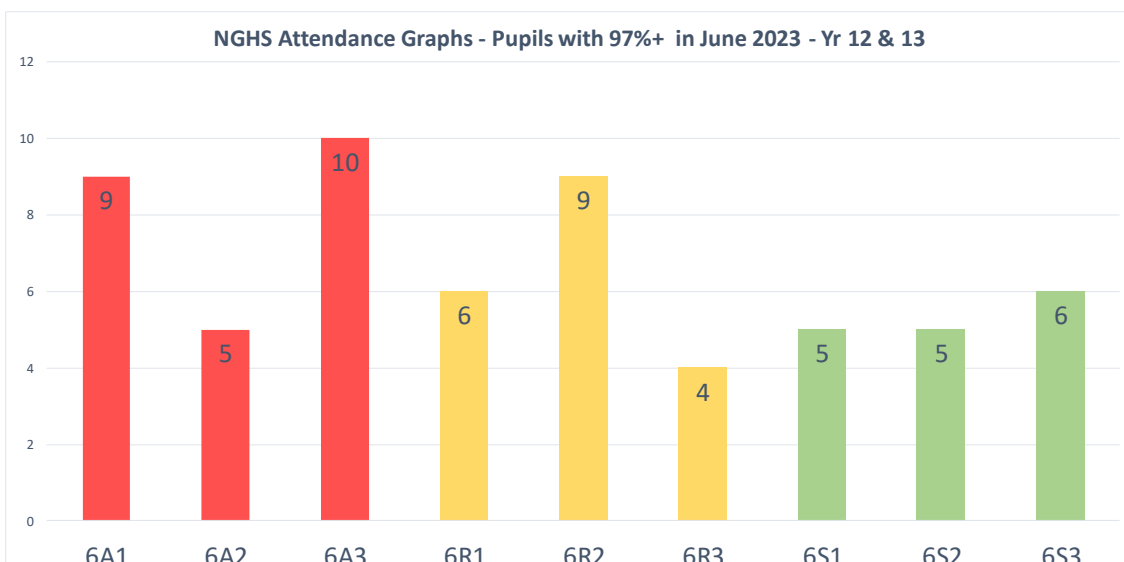
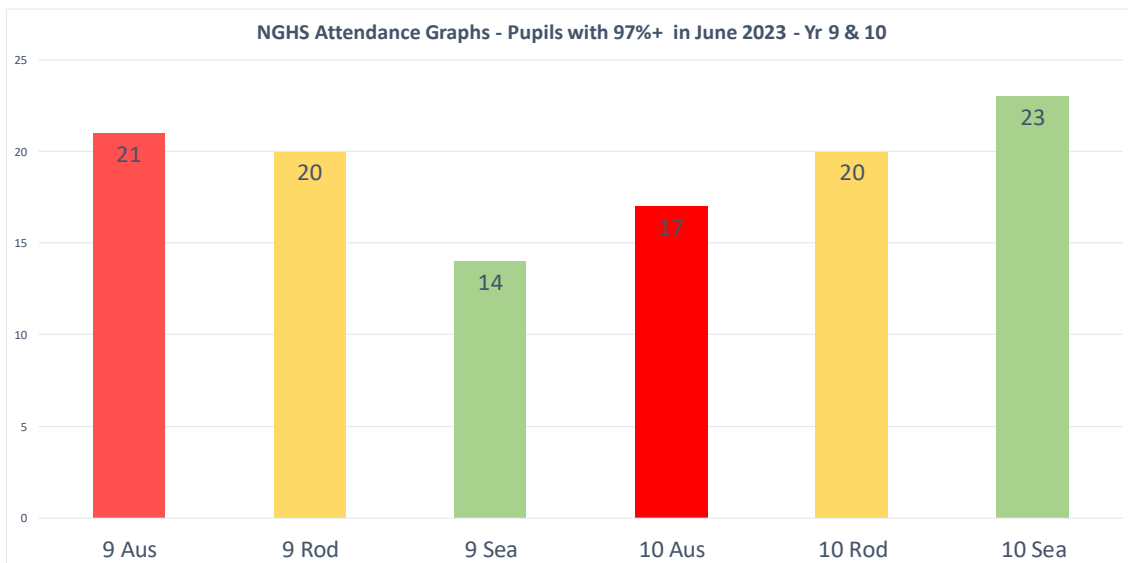
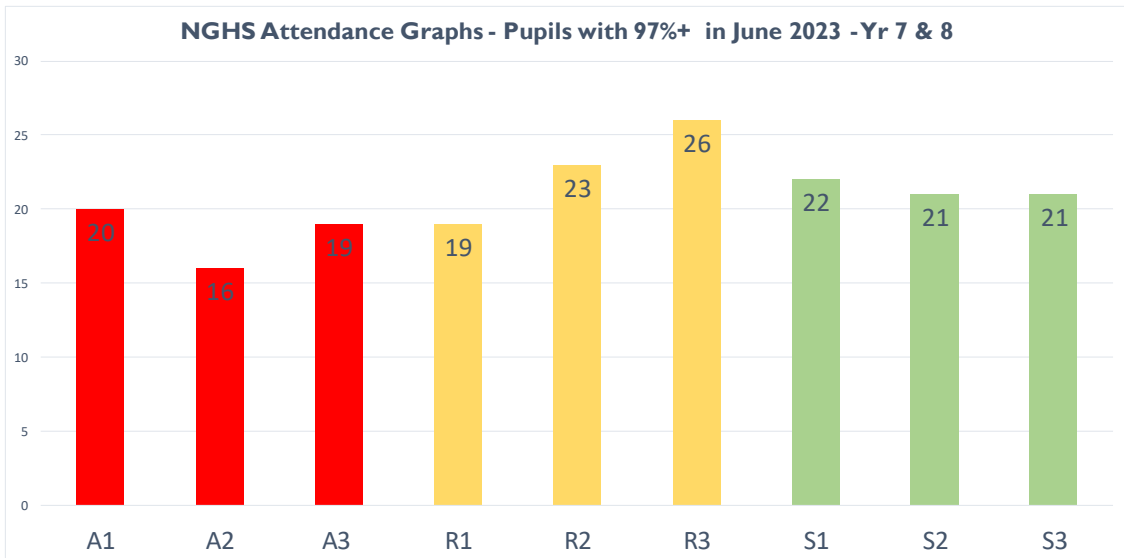
After our last lesson, it was time for a bat walk, where we used bat-detecting devices at various Hz to try and find any bats in the vicinity. However, our initial excursion wasn't very successful, and so the Rhyd-y-Creiau tutors kindly left some bat devices for the cohort to use. So a small group of us went on another bat walk and managed to discover a pipistrelle bat on a 45 Hz frequency, which was very exciting. Finally on Sunday morning, we each carried out our respective plans for Practical 12, finishing at 12:30 to board the coach back to Newport after a very ecological weekend.



Annabelle and Isabella (Yr 12)

Attendance Graphs—June 2023

Our winning forms with the greatest number of students with >97% attendance in June were: **R3 (Y7+8), 9Aus, 10Sea and 6A3!**



Form Tutors 2023-2024

It is very helpful if students in Years 8-13 know where they are heading on the first day in September. Students should move to their form rooms at 8.30am.

Year / Form	Form Groups & Rooms		
Year 7/8 Austen	A1 Mr C Tolley Room 4	A2 Miss R Crevis Room 5	A3 Mr J Wade (was Ms Lord) Room 6
Year 7/8 Roddam	R1 Mrs C Reeves Room 21	R2 Mr R Williams Room 10	R3 Mr D Bird & Mr R Whitehouse (was Miss Wells) Room 27
Year 7/8 Seacole	S1 Miss M Koepke (was Mr Bourne) Room 26	S2 Mrs R Narasimhan & Miss A Rosbach Room 2	S3 Mrs H Steadman & Miss A Rosbach Room 24
Year 9	9A1 Mr A Heighway Room 16 9A2 Mrs L Roberts Room 301	9R1 Mrs T Fujii & Mrs K Wallace Room 9 9R2 Mrs R Webb & Mrs L Kearne Room 3	9S1 Miss E Pritchard Room 11 9S2 Miss T Wells & Mr R Chapman Room 7
Year 10	10Aus Mrs S Fletcher Room 201	10Rod Mrs R Kay (was Mrs Fujii) Room 202	10Sea Miss R Saunders Room 203
Year 11	11Aus Dr S Catalan Room 304	11Rod Mrs S Tomkinson & Mrs R Patel Room 305	11Sea Mrs C Petford Room 302
Year 12/13	6A1 Mr R Wright Room 22 6A2 Mrs Payne/Mrs Furnival, Rm23 6A3 Mr M Ley, Room 303	6R1 Mr J Pimm, Room 102 6R2 Mrs J Barker, Room 101 6R3 Mrs S Dainty, Room 20	6S1 Ms J Clarke, Room 14 6S2 Ms K Gill, Room 103 6S3 Mr C Audouin, Room 8

New staff include Miss Pritchard (Psychology), Mrs Kay (English), Mr Wright (Chemistry) Miss Koepke (English). Most students will remain with their tutor. Where changes occur, these are shown above in blue. Heads of Year move up with their year groups except Mrs Chapman becomes Head of (new) Year 8 and Mrs Martin is our resident Head of Year 11! Year 9 will move into 6 smaller forms (2 per House) which will exist on their own for 2023-2024 academic year. Year 8 students have been told today which form they are in in Year 9 ready for September.

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.



Miss S Webster
Deputy Head
&
Acting Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Mr M J Scott
Headteacher



Mrs H Goodall
Head of Year 7



Miss J Walker
Head of Year 8



Mrs K Danby
Wellbeing Officer
& CSE Lead



Mrs F Davenport
Pastoral Support



Ms J Capaldi
Head of Year 9



Mrs A Chapman
Head of Year 10

Safeguarding

Years 7-10

Years 11-13



Mrs K Griffin
Head of Sixth Form



Mrs D Martin
Head of Year 11



Miss E Heyes
Acting Well-Being
Officer Year 12-13