



NEWPORT NEWS

A weekly update from NGHS

Volume 6 - Issue 7 - Wednesday 4 November 2022



Onwards we go with half term number two and I hope that you and your family enjoyed the extended half term break. We always ask students and staff to pace themselves in this half term as the nights draw in and the colder temperatures drop. There's also some important events happening in the coming weeks.

Understandably, this week has been dominated by a visit from Ofsted. I was informed on Monday that a team of two His Majesty's Inspectors and two Ofsted inspectors would conduct a two-day inspection. As you may know, the inspection framework was changed in 2019 (just at the time we had a monitoring visit); the framework is extremely rigorous and challenging and many outstanding schools are not maintaining their outstanding status; nationally and locally to us.

The result of our inspection is confidential until the inspectors' findings have been moderated against the wealth of evidence gathered. However, regardless of the outcome, it is very important that I put on record the pride I have in all of our students. They were amazing this week.

Students were noted to be courteous, kind, supportive and proud of their school. There were some lovely anecdotes shared where students helped inspectors to find a room or talked passionately about the House system, which we all love.

The Ofsted report will have a judgement in seven key areas; the quality of education, behaviour & attitudes, personal development, leadership and management, safeguarding, sixth form and overall effectiveness.

"Above and beyond" is how I would describe my colleagues' efforts this week. We have a superb and very collegiate staff team at NGHS and my colleagues have taken the inspectors' visit in their stride. So many staff were visited in lessons or spoken to over the two days (they left no stone unturned) and I am grateful to all our staff for their hard work, each and every day.

Needless to say, I am also extremely grateful not just for the lovely ParentView votes and comments, but also those who took time to contact school during the inspection to offer your best wishes to us all. A couple of parents also dropped off biscuits and cakes for the

staff - such a lovely thing to do and they were appreciated by all.

During this half term, we have a number of events. Our **Sixth Form Open Evening** (for Y11 students and parents) takes place on Thursday 10 November from 4.30pm-7pm. Some parking will be available on the Courts. We will have lots of Year 11s visiting from other schools too and a chance to hear more about the excellent curriculum offer, pastoral care and leadership opportunities in our highly successful sixth form. We hope you can join us. Parents of Year 12s who were here in Year 11 should also be aware of our **GCSE Prizegiving Afternoon** on Friday 25 November where GCSE certificates will be presented. Year 13s have a **Health Day** on Tuesday 29 November which covers a wide range of topics pertaining to life after high school and we have a **Cheshire Oaks shopping trip** for Y11-13 on Friday 9 December as well as the **Annual Carol Service** at 7pm on Tuesday 13 December and the end of term will be 12.30pm on Friday 16 December.

In half term, a group of geographers finally got to visit Iceland. The last trip was due to depart in March 2020 (on the day when the first lockdown started) and for Mr Pimm and Mrs Gill it was quite a poignant moment when the wheels touched down at Keflavik. Please see pages 3-4 for an engaging trip report.

Now that the weather is colder, we ask that all students bring a coat to school. A hoodie keeps you warm, but does not keep you dry! Parents of older pupils will know that I harp on about this every year (!) but we obviously want our students to stay healthy and not arrive soaked for the day ahead.

"Get involved" has been the mantra again this week as House Music gets underway. It has been lovely to hear students learning melodies and harmonies in choir rehearsals. Our Year 7s are a little more reluctant to join in as they are not sure what they are signing up to. Please reassure them that a natural singing voice is not required for 'House Choir'. Everyone is strongly encouraged to get involved; it is a fun experience. We also ask for your help with **Christmas Smile** again this year - please see page two for more information.

Have a lovely 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

Outside of school hours: urgent@nghs.org.uk for matters of significant urgency

Christmas smile



Once again, we strive to make a difference

I am thrilled to announce we will be supporting **Telford Christmas Smile** again this year. Now for the fourth year running, we want to make a real difference to families in our area who are struggling to purchase Christmas gifts for their relatives.

I fully appreciate the difficulties many families are facing at this time and understand that not everyone will be in a position to make a difference. If you can help, that would be fantastic.

We welcome donations of gifts for babies, toddlers, children, teens and adults (boys and girls). Even a simple selection box alone is most welcome. The deadline is **Friday 2 December** and we will be collating gifts at Reception during week commencing **28 November**. Please kindly consider donating something to help others in our community. More info can be found on [their website](#).

Please also kindly don't donate items prior to 28 November as we always run out of space!



Head Girl Team Highlights...

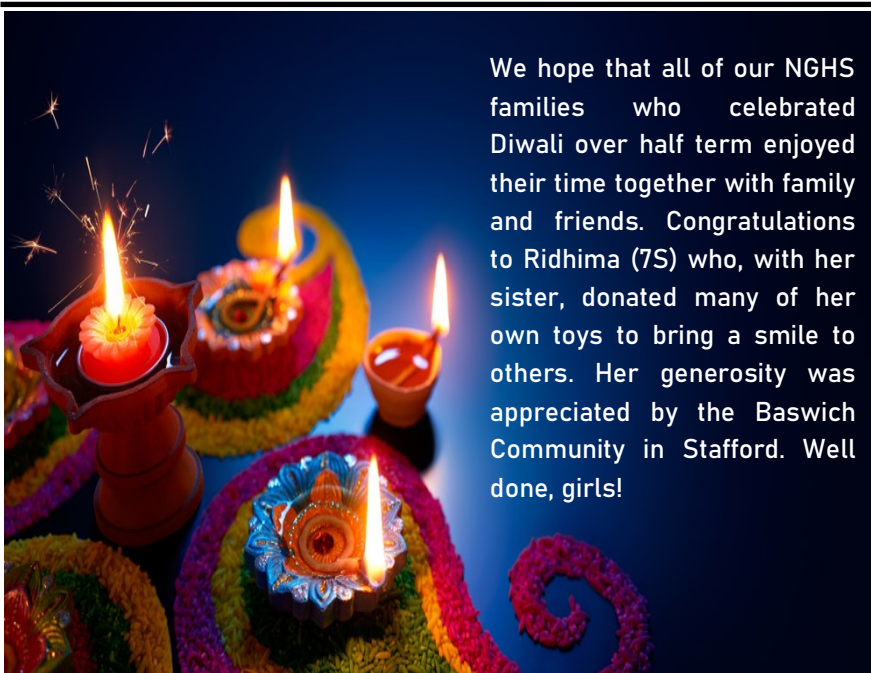
We were all keen to show our support to the amazing NGHS staff during the school's Ofsted inspection this week, and hope that the inspectors enjoyed their time with us.

Next Thursday is the **Sixth Form Open Evening**. We really encourage all the Year 11 students and their families to come and find out more about life in the sixth form. The relationship between teachers and students is quite different in Year 12 and Year 13 and there's a vibrant mix of students who continue from Year 11 and lots of new students who join the sixth form from other schools; not to mention the fabulous Liverpool Residential in early October which helps you get to know everyone in the year group.

At the Open Evening, you and your parents will be able to talk to subject teachers and student Subject Ambassadors about what life in the sixth form is all about and how the subjects may or may not be different to GCSEs - plus of course there's new subjects on offer such as Politics, Psychology and Economics, and AS PE or EPQ. We look forward to seeing you there.

Liv (Head Girl)

We hope that all of our NGHS families who celebrated Diwali over half term enjoyed their time together with family and friends. Congratulations to Ridhima (7S) who, with her sister, donated many of her own toys to bring a smile to others. Her generosity was appreciated by the Baswich Community in Stafford. Well done, girls!



Geotherms & Northern Lights



Day 1

Finally on Tuesday 18th October, a group of Year 11-13 set off at 5am to Stanstead Airport. Having previously being cancelled in March 2020 just six hours before we departed, this trip had been eagerly anticipated for a very long time. During the coach journey Year 11 serenaded us with Taylor Swift's entire discography, to the delight of the rest of the coach trying to catch up on sleep. At the airport the teachers began a well-rehearsed, coordinated attempt at herding 40 girls through check-in, baggage drop-off, security and finally the high-risk, duty-free. After successfully getting us all to the boarding gate with no losses to report, we boarded the plane and simultaneously fell into states of deep unconsciousness.



On arrival at Keflavik International Airport, we met our tour guide, Petur and our four-day tour of Iceland officially began. Getting straight on the road, it did not take long until the coach was invaded by the smell of sulphur, or

rotten eggs, as we entered our first geothermal area. We briefly hopped off the coach to view the Gunnhver Hot Springs. The hot steam made absolutely no difference to what could only be described as Baltic Icelandic temperatures, although surprisingly the weather apps claimed it was still 10°C. This was a short-lived adventure as we soon hurried back onto the warm coach and headed towards the famous Blue Lagoon.



The Blue Lagoon was one of the many highlights of the trip and once we had finally made it into the naturally heated lagoon there was a steady stream of Newport Girls' making a beeline towards the facemask station. Once our hands resembled to raisins, we made the brave, short but cold run inside to collect our towels and get dressed.

All the "swimming" drained what little energy we had left but thankfully the fish and chip restaurant was a short coach ride away. Following some minor confusion as people couldn't remember what they had ordered six hours previous, dinner was underway and admittedly did not last all that long. The majority enjoyed cod that had



been caught that morning and the Icelandic water that Mr Pimm had been raving about – he was right it was tasty.

Hotel Ork was the first of three hotels we stayed in, moving around to ensure we saw all of Iceland’s natural beauty, though there isn’t much to report from these as most people fell asleep as soon as our heads hit the pillow.

Day 2

Breakfast was booked for 7am and the second day started early. After a quick breakfast we assembled our sandwiches for the day and hurried back our rooms to pack and get onto the coach. The first activity for the day was the lava exhibition which was exciting, educational and just really, really warm. This was a quick stop before the main activity for the day, waterfalls.

The Skógafoss waterfall is arguably one of the most naturally beautiful sights in Iceland and eating lunch right next to it was a surreal, if not a slightly damp, experience.

Next, we journeyed towards a retreating glacier which we reached after a short climb. The Sólheimajökull glacier has been retreating rapidly and is now a project that a local Icelandic school have taken on, where they measure how far it has retreated every year. We eventually made it to the coast of Iceland where we witnessed a cave, arch, stack, and stump in action and experienced the coastal winds, making Iceland feel even colder. Our last stop of day two was the stunning Seljalandsfoss waterfall which this time, we could walk behind! As some of us chose to climb to the very bottom for the very best photos, we were sufficiently soaked and ready to get back on the coach and to hotel number two, although not before we paid the extortionate price for a hot chocolate.

Day 3

Our final day in Iceland had sadly arrived but we had a packed day ahead. Our first stop was the Gullfoss waterfall or “Golden Falls” and at 8:30 in the morning, the sun was only just peeking out, making the waterfall even more beautiful than usual. After finding out that the gift shop wouldn’t open for another hour, much to everyone’s disappointment, we were herded back onto this bus with the promise of another, even bigger shop at our



next stop. The smell of sulphur soon returned as we stopped at the famous Geysir geothermal field. Here we stood in awe, watching a hot spring erupt four separate times and jumped every single time. After finally making it to the gift shop to spend all our Krona on several different Icelandic trinkets including, magnets, socks, (overpriced) chocolate and obviously, Viking helmets, the next stop was Thingvellir National Park which is well known for being a plate boundary. This of course meant lots of photos had to be taken with a one leg on the North American and one on the Eurasian tectonic plates.

Our final stop of the trip was the Perlan Ice Cave and Planetarium in Reykjavik. Here we explored an ice cave and watched an aurora history showing. After enjoying some delicious ice cream, we all got back onto the coach to one of our last stops, bowling! Having googled ‘how to bowl like a pro’ I think it’s fair to say that we were all ready for some ‘friendly’ competition. However, the real treat was the 44 pizzas that were and despite Year 12’s best efforts, not finished at all. We did, however, take full advantage of the free drink refills. The final coach journey was a long one, so I think it is safe to say that we were all ever so grateful that Year 11 took the opportunity to serenade us one last time as loud as they possibly could.

Upon arriving at the Lighthouse Hotel, we had strict instructions to get in to bed as soon as possible ready for the 3am wake up to catch our flight. However, what happened next was easily the most memorable part of the trip and one that didn’t require a coach journey and that couldn’t be booked or promised....



As we were preparing to sleep, doors were knocked on by the hotel staff calling “Aurora”. Rushing out of our rooms in our pyjamas, throwing on our coats, and only just remembering the keys – our final night was one for the books. **We can now say we have seen the Northern Lights in person, and they were fantastic.**

Thank you, Mr Pimm, Mrs Gill, Mrs Seys and Mrs Barker, for taking us on the trip that we will never forget.

Lucy L (Year 12)

Pumpkin Painting Crafternoon

Our first Crafternoon of the year was a huge success, we had 3 days of pumpkin painting and doodling and some wonderful designs were created.

Mrs H Birch



Safety First!

Basic first aid is something that is covered within our PSHE curriculum. British Red Cross have contacted us this week with some 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. We hope everyone enjoys Bonfire Night safely this year.



Student Voice Meetings Next Week

Next week all student committee meetings will come together for the second time this academic year.

The programme is:

- Monday – Pastoral Review Group
- Tuesday – Student Council
- Wednesday – Health and Wellbeing
- Thursday – Sixth Form Council
- Friday – Sports Committee

These meetings will all take place in Room 12 from 1pm.

We look forward to seeing reps. from each form at these meetings.



BEAM Triumph!

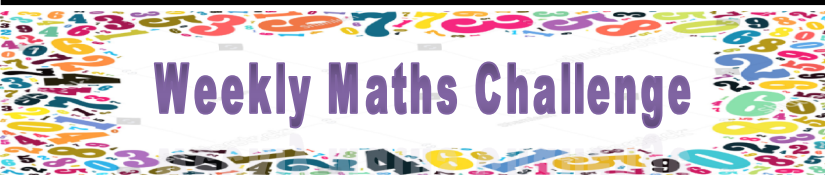
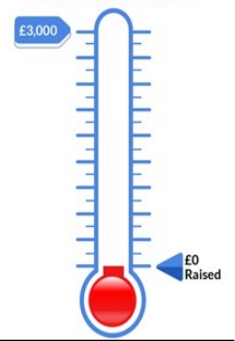
Well done Grace Clarke (Y8) for achieving a bronze medal for her beam routine in Gymnastics last weekend at the Wiltshire School for Gymnastics.

Whilst the PTA has been quiet on the events front at the start of the school year, we have been working with the school to help fund new pieces of equipment for Science, DT, PE & MFL. These will benefit students throughout the school and it is fantastic to see everyone's donations and hard work put to such good use. Thank you.

For 2022/23 we have set a target of raising **£3000** to continue supporting the school. We hope you will be able to help us achieve this and we will keep you posted on events throughout the year. In the meantime, you can help by sending in any unwanted (good condition) uniform for the Second Hand uniform shop. We are sourcing a collection bin for easy drop off or just send items to Reception.

What to get involved? Email Ellie at pta@nghs.org.uk.

PTA fundraiser



Weekly Maths Challenge

Truth or Not?

There are four people, some of whom always tell the truth. The others always lie.

The first person said, "An odd number of us always tell the truth".

The second person said, "An even number of us always tell the truth".

The third person said, "A prime number of us always tell the truth".

The fourth person said, "A square number of us always tell the truth".

How many of these four people were telling the truth?

Explain your answer

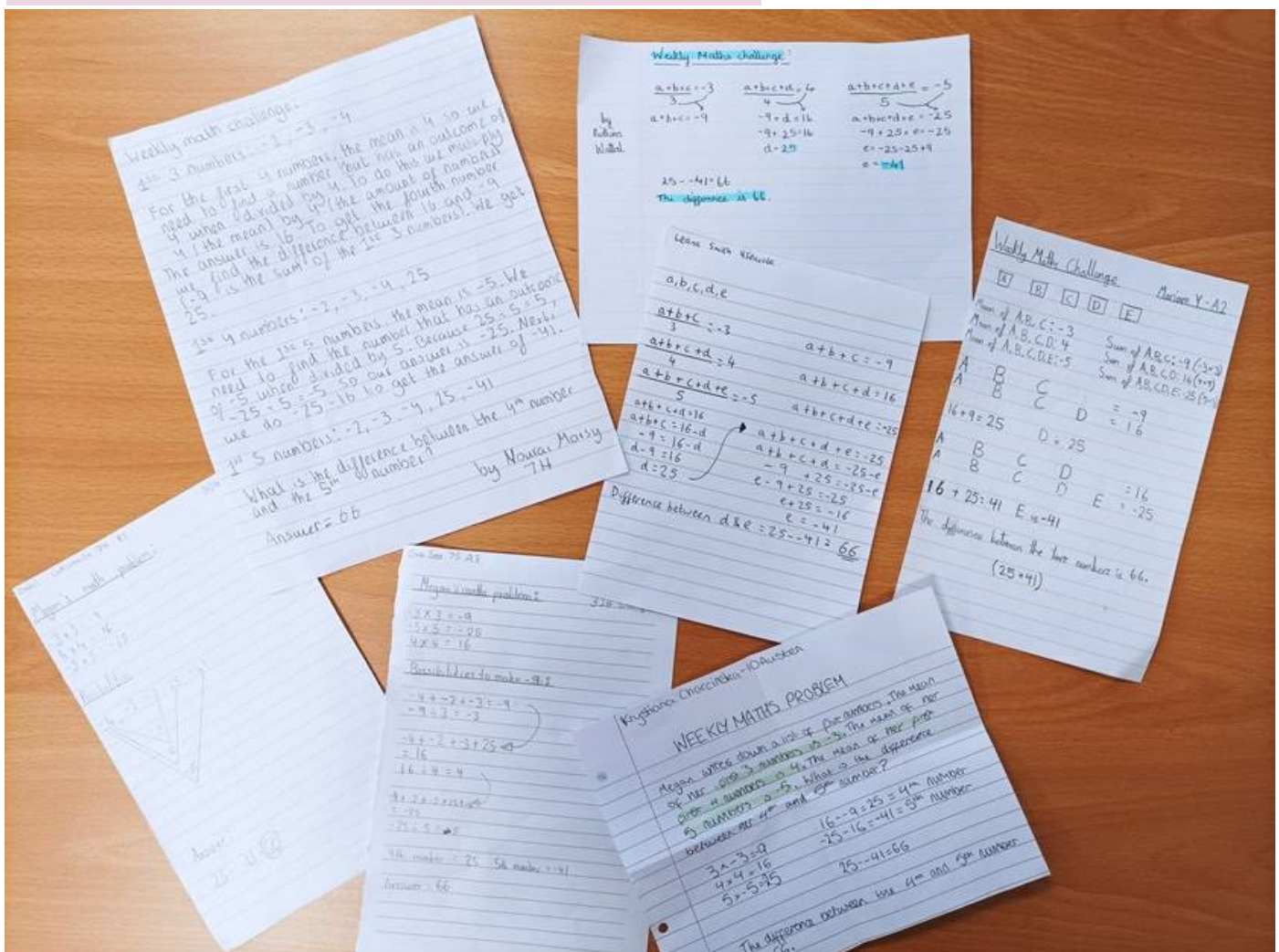
Last Time's Winners

Correct answers from last time's problem are shown below. Well done to:

- | | |
|--------------|----------|
| K Charcinska | R Wattal |
| I Luksenaite | G Seo |
| N Morsy | M Younis |
| L Smith | A Morris |

Answers due by breaktime on Thursday 10th by email to l.roberts@nghs.org.uk or put your work in the entry box in Room 301. A photo of your work is fine!

Mrs Roberts





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. **There are some new clubs listed here now, too!**

| | LUNCHTIME | AFTER SCHOOL | |
|-----------|---|--|---|
| MONDAY | Japanese club (all years) School production (all years) Rugby club (Y7-11) Chemistry work clinic (Y13) Genocide Awareness Group—The Holocaust, My Family & Me String Ensemble (all years) | 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) SustainNGHS (all years) Introduction to Spanish (all years) Senior voices (Y9-13) Literary society (all years) Biology GCSE mentoring (Y11) Horrible Histories club (Y7-8 week A) Maths enrichment club (KS3 week A, KS4 week B) | Indoor athletics (Y7-8) RS GCSE support (Y10) 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) Digital Leaders (Y10) English examination skills (Y11 invited students) Philosophy club (Y7) | Chemistry mentoring (Y11) GCSE German support (Y11) School choir (all years) MedSoc (Y11-12) Party Games Club (Y7-8) | 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) STEM club (Y7-8) | Physics drop-in (Y12-13) Football club (Y7-8) Drama club (Y9-11) Iris club (Y9-10) Coding Club (Y8) Geography Club (Y7-8) | 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) Cultural Celebration Club Biology intervention (Y12) Debating Club (Y12-13 wkA) Debating Club (Y7-11 wkB) | 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 K Danby
Wellbeing Officer



Mrs A Chapman
Head of Year 10

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