



NEWPORT NEWS

A fortnightly update from NGHS

Volume 7 - Issue 1 - Friday 8 September 2023



May I start by welcoming everyone to the new academic year. I trust you had an enjoyable summer break and I extend a particular welcome to the 120 new Year 7 students and their families as well as over 60 new Year 12s and their loved ones. NGHS is thriving and our growing population (in particular the largest Year 12 cohort we have ever had) is testament to the School's reputation and the many successes we enjoy. We may have around 800 pupils now but still retain our NGHS Family approach.

This week we have welcomed some new colleagues to the School and their introductions are on page 3 of this newsletter. Our staff started the term with two INSET days which focused on getting ready for the new term, reviewing last year's results, specialist delivery on SEND topics and pastoral team meetings. We have also reviewed our Ethos and Values which will be shared with Parents at the Information Evenings which take place this half term (see page 2).

On Wednesday, it was lovely to welcome all of our students to school. Seeing them walk through the front gates brings a sense of optimism and ambition to us all. Their approach to the first few days has been excellent and their uniform is pretty much as we would expect from our students at all times at NGHS. We have been clear about our expectations on behaviour and uniform (see page 2 for a recap). We now have **three school coaches** and they seem to be running well; my thanks to Lakeside Coaches for their support and to Mrs Aldridge who does a great job coordinating the coaches for us.

Our Public Examination Results in August were phenomenal and I convey my congratulations to the Year 11 and Year 13 classes of 2023. At A-level, we saw a doubling of A* grades to 20% from 2019 (the last time GCSE and A-levels were sat and graded in the same way) and 72% of A-levels were graded A*-B. At GCSE, we were delighted to see 82% of students achieve grades 7-9 (A*-A) in spite of the huge disruption to learning during



Year 8s enjoy Picnic City's new tables!

KS3 through Covid. Similarly our Year 13s had never sat formal examinations in Year 11. These results **place NGHS 30th in England and top-performing school in the region** including all other schools in Newport, Wolverhampton and Walsall for both A-level and GCSE. This has been the case for the past 4 years and we are proud to not only hold an outstanding Ofsted rating, but also to teach students who showcase the best results in the region. Congratulations to them and to our hard-working staff and of course parents for their support. It really is a three-way process to achieve these outcomes.

Over the summer, we have landscaped the town-end of the site and we are pleased to offer certain spaces for Year 13 students to park on site. **If Year 13s drive to school, they can apply for a parking space from Monday via Mrs Glew in the Sixth Form Office.** We have also enhanced security still further at NGHS through new security gates, intercoms and extended CCTV coverage and we are further protecting the school from potential fire damage with upgraded internal windows and doors. Room 8, our second IT suite has been redesigned and looks stunning. Along with new carpets and some fresh paint, we have purchased some more picnic tables (which I am told by students 'smell

amazing'!) for what we affectionately term 'picnic city' on the field. Whilst talking about the site, I am sure you are relieved to have not received a message about RAAC at NGHS. I can confirm that NGHS took steps to commission an independent (and clear) site appraisal last year, which has since been cross-referenced with Telford & Wrekin's plans for the building (in the period until 2012 when the School was under Local Authority control). Our thoughts are with other school staff and pupils who find themselves in a difficult situation at this time.

Today we are sending a letter to all Year 8 parents about the **annual trip to France/Germany** next summer. Later this half term, I will be preparing a Trips Overview document to share with parents so you can plan for any educational visits in the future. I hope this is helpful.

We have a number of **Parent Information Evenings** planned for this term. These mostly take place on Teams to avoid you needing to drive to Newport for a 40 minute session, and Heads of Year will send dates to you all in a letter along with a Teams link. Year 7s' event will be in person with tutors after half term. Year 13 had a Parent Information Evening about UCAS/apprenticeships last summer term. We hope that you will join the meeting to ensure you are fully aware of what is happening in school this year. Please remember you can find out lots of information about the curriculum and learning at NGHS on our website in the Academic section.

I must close with a **clear message about attendance**. NGHS has always enjoyed high levels of attendance when compared to the national picture. Unfortunately pupils' attendance on the last morning of term in July was disappointingly lower than expected and the number of holiday absences towards the end of the year were greater than ever before. The DFE is very keen to improve young people's attendance at school; this is in

part owing to the pandemic. All school leaders have received a few DFE emails over the summer and a clear mandate has been issued to drastically reduce holiday absences and to ensure protocols around penalty notices are followed; simply put, as a state school, we have to adapt our processes to fit. Our Trustees reviewed attendance protocols last year and have instructed me to refuse holiday absences as a default response and only permit these in truly exceptional circumstances. Each pupil in England attends 190 school days a year leaving 175 days for other matters. Each half term comprises 9 days (with weekends) and this should allow for a trip abroad if required. Please can we ask for your help and support in ensuring your child attends school each day apart from absence through genuine illness or if your child is physically sick, when 48 hours should be taken before returning. If staff have to chase absences and process penalty notices this takes time away from educating your child/ren. May I thank you for your support.

Being Headteacher of such a fabulous school as NGHS is an honour and, as I approach my sixth year as Head, I am equally as ambitious and committed to the School's future success and development as the day I arrived. This in itself is far-reaching as NGHS is now recognised nationally for its successes. Key to our success is the harmonious, supportive relationship between students, staff, parents and Trustees which mirrors our values. Alongside pastoral support, academic outcomes and extra-curricular opportunities, we direct our budget to create a welcoming school environment for our young people to thrive and this is once again our goal for this academic year. Thank you, on behalf of my senior team, for the trust you place in us now and throughout the year. We wish your child/ren an amazing year at NGHS!

With every good wish, **Mr M J Scott, Headteacher**

Parent Information Evenings

Mon 12 Sept	6.00pm	Y12	via Teams
Thu 14 Sept	6.00pm	Y9	via Teams
Tue 26 Sept	6.00pm	Y11	via Teams (Focus on Revision skills for parents + pupils)
Wed 11 Oct	6.00pm	Y10	via Teams
Wed 11 Oct	7.00pm	Y8	via Teams
Thu 9 Nov	Evening	Y7	in person*

(*Individual 5-minute tutor appointments are made before and after this meeting if required by parents)

Heads of Year will send letters confirming arrangements and Teams links (as required). All sessions include information for parents on safeguarding, assessment, curriculum and pastoral support.)

Behaviour & Rewards Policy Update

At NGHS we pride ourselves on our high standards of behaviour. I wrote to you in the summer term to detail minor changes we wanted to make to our Behaviour Policy this year. These were discussed with students during tutor time this week to ensure we are effectively managing any instances of low-level behaviour for the benefit of our whole school community. Copies of the behaviour and rewards policy can be found [on our website](#) and there is also a copy of the key information in your child's planner. The changes enable us to record 'Level 0' for first instances of some low-level behaviour concerns, providing students with a warning before a sanction is issued so that these concerns can be addressed and rectified. Should there be a repeat of a behaviour concern, behaviour points and detentions are subsequently issued. We have also added clarity to the sanctions for Level 1 behaviour concerns such as mobile phones being used within school for Y7-11, to ensure greater consistency. We know how hard our students work, so alongside this, we are continuing to issue our NGHS reward stickers, which were successfully introduced last year. As always, we ask for your support with any behaviour concerns so that we can continue to uphold the high expectations we have of all of our students.

Miss S Webster, Deputy Headteacher

Welcome to...



Mr R Wright
Second in Science
Lead Chemistry Teacher

I am excited to be joining the team at NGHS as the new Second in Science: Chemistry Lead. Chemistry is an essential and exciting subject that influences everything in the world around us. I am looking forward to getting to know you all and becoming a part of this fantastic school. Outside of school I am a keen runner and enjoy playing Korfbal (ask me about this!)

*We extend a warm welcome to five new colleagues as well as **Mr R Chapman** who teaches Music one day a week. We wish all colleagues an excellent start at NGHS.*

Mrs R Kay
Teacher of English



I am thrilled to have been appointed as a member of the English team here at NGHS and I look forward to putting every effort into ensuring that lessons are engaging, challenging and can inspire our students to continue to be the very best versions of themselves. I look forward to getting to know all of my classes. Having taught English in both further education and independent school settings for many years, I am now excited to bring my knowledge and experience to NGHS.



Miss M Koepke
Teacher of English

After completing my English Studies at Durham, I moved abroad for several years to teach in international schools in the Czech Republic and Greece. An avid adventurer, I also managed to fit in a stint in New Zealand working and travelling before returning to the UK. I've already had a fantastic start at NGHS this year and am excited to be part of the school community.

Miss E Pritchard
Teacher of Psychology & Geography



I have recently qualified as a Psychology Teacher and look forward to beginning my career at NGHS. During my Psychology degree, I took a special interest in how educational contexts can promote wellbeing and academic achievement, and I am due to have my dissertation published that investigated this area later this year. I am excited to promote this passion in my teaching and pastoral responsibilities this year, whilst continuing to learn from the other staff members and develop as a teacher.



Miss M Tranter
Cover Supervisor

I am so excited to be joining NGHS as Cover Supervisor. My background is in primary teaching, so this is a new challenge for me, and I cannot wait to get to know all of the amazing staff and pupils that I will have the pleasure of working with this coming year.

Malinsgate Police Station Open Day

West Mercia Police have asked us to publicise the following event:

The public are invited to come along on Sunday 10 September, between 12pm and 4pm, to meet their local policing teams, as well as explore the station's custody suite. People will get the chance investigate a crime scene, meet our police dogs, speak to their local officers and even find out how they could join West Mercia Police. The event is open to all ages, and entertainment for children will also be provided.

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.

Heads of Year



Mrs H Goodall
Head of Year 7



Mrs A Chapman
Head of Year 8



Miss J Walker
Head of Year 9



Ms J Capaldi
Head of Year 10



Mrs D Martin
Head of Year 11

Sixth Form Team



Mrs K Griffin
Head of
Sixth Form



Miss E Heyes
Well-Being Officer



Mrs V Glew
Administrator
(Sixth Form)

Safeguarding Team



Miss S Webster
Deputy Headteacher
Designated
Safeguarding Lead (DSL)



Mrs K Danby
Well-being Officer, CSE Lead
& Safeguarding
Case Coordinator



Mr M J Scott
Headteacher, Deputy DSL



Mrs F Davenport
Pastoral Support, Deputy DSL



Mrs H Birch
Assistant Head, DSL
(on maternity leave)