

# **NEWPORT NEWS**

# A fortnightly update from NGHS



Miss Webster (Head of School) & Mr Scott (Executive Head)

s we reach the end of what was actually a short, but action-packed term, we recognise the hard work of our staff and students across the school.

Year 13 have had their mock exams and, like Year 11, many have been completing their coursework/NEA projects ahead of this summer's exams. With GCSEs and A-levels starting earlier this year across the country, we know our students are keen to maximise the time that is available to them before the exams and long summer break. Thank you to them and all their teachers for their continued hard work. We also thank our outgoing Head Girl Team and House Teams who end their responsibilities at Easter. They have helped keep the school thriving and acted as a vehicle to communicate student views very effectively. Well done to them all.

#### Volume 7 - Issue 13 - Friday 22 March 2024

Last week a group of over 30 Year 12s travelled to Devon. The aim of the trip was to participate in an NCS Careers Event (Boss It) and to learn valuable life skills through outdoor pursuits, team games and to conquer any fears about heights/open water etc.. A great time was had by all with the long coach journey being an opportune time to get some much-needed sleep on the return. More information about the trip is in this edition.

Our Young Enterprise teams are also thriving! Both teams have achieved excellent results and you can read more on page 4 of this week's edition.

In our end-of-term assembly Mr Scott talked about 'Gogglebox/Gogglesprogs' and how we are naturally curious observing one another as well as the positive and negative connotations of this. We are just tallying our N-G-H-S rewards to recognise those who meet and exceed our expectations whilst asking those who could offer more to do so. With House Competitions and Sports Day ahead, there's plenty of opportunities to excel.

May we wish all our NGHS families an enjoyable holiday and Happy Easter to those who celebrate. We also know that quite a few families are fasting during Ramadan and we wish you a graceful period of peace and reflection and a joyful Eid next month. We return to school on **Monday 8 April at 8.50am**.

#### Best wishes, Mr M J Scott & Miss S Webster



Newport Girls' High School Wellington Road Newport, TF10 7HL To co Tel: 01952 797550 Ou

hool Executive Headteacher: Mr M J Scott BA(Hons) Exon PGCertEd NPQH FRSA Head of School: Miss S Webster MA MEd 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 Last week, a group of Year 12 students embarked on an exciting journey to the Skern Lodge activity centre in North Devon. This was part of an opportunity to trial a new NCS course, promising thrilling activities, invaluable careers advice and the development of personal skills.

After a lengthy bus journey from school, the afternoon began with various team activities, including an adrenalinepumping assault course, setting the tone for an actionpacked week ahead. In the evening, we set off on a night walk through the picturesque streets of Appledore, the local seaside town where we explored the surroundings and learnt about the areas history.

Fuelled by a hearty full English breakfast, we set off into the next day. Tuesday morning commenced with an enriching public speaking workshop, equipping us with invaluable communication skills, how to approach public speaking and the opportunity to pitch a new business idea. From taxi-karaoke services to a beach festival, we collaborated to share our ideas in front of peers and think outside the box. This was followed by more team activities in the afternoon, and then an early night to prepare for another busy day.

Midweek, we began the day with an exhilarating session of kayaking along the river Torridge, where some of us experienced an unexpected dip in the water, returning for lunch rather damp but smiling, nonetheless. We then hit the high ropes course, where our courage and resilience were put to the test, and many faced their fear of heights by leaping onto the 12-metre-high trapeze! In addition to the physical activities, we had the privilege of attending Industry Spotlight lectures wherein local business professionals, including managers from Asda and a local surf school owner, shared valuable advice about employability and interviews. We unwound in the evening with a refreshing swim in the pool, and some highly competitive volleyball!

Thursday brought about more fun with rock climbing and archery, followed by a walk into the town where we enjoyed fish, chips and ice cream. More Industry Spotlight sessions in the afternoon provided us with insights into working in sales and renewable energy, before ending the day with a heart-warming campfire session full of singing, marshmallows and even bread making!

Friday marked the grand finale of the trip, as teams competed fiercely in the Epic Challenge. This involved navigating an underground tunnel system, climbing challenges, ding bats, and passing an egg through the obstacle course. The spirit of teamwork and determination was in the air as we gave our all to win.

As we journeyed home in the afternoon, we carried with us valuable knowledge, new friendships, and happy memories - certainly a trip to remember!

Rosie B (Year 12)



# SKERN<sup>§</sup>

Hello my name is Ellie and I am one of the few year 12s who embarked on a new adventure in Devon! A myriad of activities were provided for us to be pushed out of comfort zones and collect new life skills, such as presentation skills, leadership and teamwork.

I found the high ropes the most challenging but rewarding experience. From a person who was initially scared of heights, I can honestly say I will not be hiding from this challenge again.

My favourite experience was the kayaking journey down the river Torridge. Water sports have always appealed to me however experiencing them on the river was a completely new practice in which I enjoyed thoroughly.

On top of all this, I was able to connect further with fellow students whom I may not have socialised with before-hand. Overall this was a truly memorable experience in which I would 100% do again. Ellie, Year 12

# Meet Mr Jones...

As you will be aware, Mr Adam Jones will be joining us as the new Headteacher of NGHS in September. Mr Jones is currently Deputy Headteacher at Wolverhampton Girls' High School. He has held this position for eight years and has led curriculum, pastoral and safeguarding-focused areas of his current school. Like NGHS, Wolverhampton Girls' is a very successful girls' grammar school which continues to have outstanding Ofsted status following its recent inspection in November. Mr Jones will be writing formally to introduce himself in September and will be visiting the school during the Summer Term to support his preparations for the next academic year. Meanwhile, we posed some questions to Mr Jones to help you get to know him better.



Why did you apply for the post? NGHS is quite rightly regarded as one of the best schools in the West Midlands and the Headteacher vacancy would have been extremely attractive to any aspiring Headteacher. I worked at NGHS for 5 years early in my career as a Maths teacher and have continued to work in the selective sector since. I loved my time at NGHS and it was a difficult decision for me to leave to further enhance mv experience. Throughout the development of my career, I had always hoped that there would be an option for me to return and this opportunity arose at the ideal time. It's obviously been a significant amount of time since I was last at NGHS and the school has developed extensively in that period, but what was clear to me on the interview days and my visits prior was that the supportive community that I had such fond memories of still All the staff and remains. students I spoke to during the interview process were so welcoming and proud of their school. It was at this point that I knew I had made the right decision to apply and now feel incredibly proud and privileged to be able to lead the school on the next stage of its journey.

How do you spend your time outside of school?

Outside of school most of my time is spent with my family. I am married with two boys who are 8 and 6 years old. We try and spend as much time outdoors as we can, going for walks and visiting places. I have an FA coaching qualification and help to coach my eldest son's football team, so we train at the weekend and have matches most Sundays. When we've not got a game, we all go to see my youngest son play rugby for Newport RUFC. I did start running during the pandemic and began to enter a few local races last year and hope to do the same over the summer.

What makes a 'good day' at school?

Any day that demonstrates what the school community is all about. For me that is when students and staff are working together and having fun. Lots of laughter, being considerate, encouraging, and supportive of each other. Sports Day when I was first at NGHS was certainly one of those days that had all these elements and a day I am very much looking forward to in the future, although as a former Roddam form tutor, I do promise to be impartial from now on!

## What are you hoping to achieve at NGHS?

My goals are quite simple really; I just want to make sure that the school remains a place where we provide an environment that enables all students to flourish and reach their full potential. I want the staff to enjoy their roles and to understand and recognise the important difference they make for our students.

## What makes a 'good day' at school?

I have been at my current school for 14 years. I will obviously really miss my colleagues, many of whom I've worked with throughout that time. If I had to pick one thing though, it would be my tutor group Stafford 9. Students stay in the same tutor group throughout their time at my school and each form has students from Year 7 to 13 in them. This summer, I will be personally handing over the Alevel results envelopes for the Year 13 students who have been in my tutor group since their first day at school when they were 11 years old. It's been a privilege to have been part of their sevenyear journey through the school so I am sad that I will not be able to do the same for the other students in my group.

#### And finally...can you play the piano like Mr Scott? :)

Ha ha... I was fortunate to be able to come and see the final evening performance of Little Shop of Horrors and I was asked this a few times! It was an amazing production; I do love musicals, particular Les Mis but seeing the show did make me put 'Suddenly, Seymour' on repeat on Spotify for my journey home! The answer is "no" though! My son is having guitar lessons, and we practise together, though I don't envisage I'll be playing accompaniment for the school show anytime soon!

# Young Enterprise Updates

## **Team Mylie**

enterprise

The MYLIE young enterprise team went to the Michelin headquarters on Wednesday to represent the school during the Young Enterprise pitch to panel. Our presentation was heavily praised with no negative feedback. The judges loved the display board, our professionalism, and highlighted the uniqueness and innovation of our product. We utilised this opportunity to create content for our social media accounts featuring the Michelin man, which amassed over 10K views. Students and teachers from other schools across the region showed great interest in our product. Our team and business were even selected to appear in the local newspaper increasing our visibility!

Additionally, we had a very successful day of sales at the Stone Trade Fair on Saturday. The event not only served our team with another practical experience of sales, but also helped us gain valuable insight into the world of commerce by interacting with the local community and receiving feedback from the judges and mysterious shoppers. We sold over 90% of our stock (all remaining MYLIEs were sold in a pop-up shop at school), including sales to judges which can be attributed to the team's hard work, dedication and effective marketing and sales strategies. One of the judges also sent us feedback via Facebook: "I stopped and talked to all the young enterprise stall holders. This stall was the only ones to ask us if we wanted to buy the product. I was a "secret shopper", they got an extra mark from me for that. They did a great job in promoting their product" – M Halls.

The event truly was a resounding success, resulting in overall winners of the stone trade fair with the highest score in the 'mystery shoppers challenge' and also being awards Best Trade Stand. **A Dos Stantos and I Awe** 



## Team CaraBling

#### Pitch to the Panel

Last Wednesday our business, CaraBling, were invited by Young Enterprise to pitch our product to a panel of business experts. We travelled to the Michelin North European headquarters to take part in a dragons den-type experience. Our pitch went very well, ending with us being the first ever team to sell a product to the panel, and we received no criticisms about our business. As well as meeting other young enterprise teams in the local area and sharing our experiences so far, we also had the opportunity to take photos with the Michelin man. We're looking forward to future opportunities with Young Enterprise as it has been such a privilege to participate in this scheme so far.

e company

For Excellent Teamwork

At Staffordshire & Shropshire Trade Fair

> on 16 March 2024

Sharon Davies recutive, Young Enter

YE

San Da

#### <u>Trade Fair</u>

Last Saturday, our Young Enterprise team, CaraBling, attended the Trade Fair in Stone. After an early morning of setting up our stall, interested customers visited us, leading to us not only having the opportunity to spread awareness of our business, but we also successfully sold out of our pastel range!

Not only this but mystery shoppers also

came round and judged the stalls, resulting in us winning the "Excellent Teamwork" Award out of the Young Enterprise teams present.



This was an extremely successful day for our team as we learnt how to effectively sell and share information about our products, providing us with feedback and knowledge of how to improve for our final presentations.

A Jarrett

#### NGHS Bring Home the Bronze in Swim Champs

Last Wednesday, Miss Saunders and Ella Gregory took the NGHS junior swim team (Seline M, Y7; Hannah B, Y7; Charlotte S, Y7; Ava L, Y8; and Lauren W, Y8) to the Telford Schools Swimming Championships at Wrekin College. We each competed in an individual race and at least one relay. Charlotte swam in the 50m backstroke, Seline took on the 50m breaststroke, Lauren did the 50m butterfly, Ava raced in the 50m front crawl and Hannah tackled the 100m individual medley. In the junior category, we came joint second place; and on combining our scores with the previous week's results from the intermediate and senior races, NGHS placed third overall. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the competition, and not just because of missing periods four and five! Thanks to Miss Saunders for willingly organising this for us and boiling poolside throughout.

Lauren W, Y8

#### **Senior School Swimming**

On Wednesday 6th, a team of year 11 and 12s and a team of year 9 and 10s went to the Swimming Championship Gala held at Wrekin College. Each team had to compete in numerous races, such as individual 50m races for each stroke, a 100m IM race and



two relays. The senior team, consisting of 1 Year 11 and 3 Year 12s, finished a close 2nd to Thomas Telford and the junior team, which was made up of 2 Year 9s and 1 Year 10, ended the gala in a respectable 3rd place, especially how they were down a swimmer. Overall, we did swam very well in all aspects of the gala, particularly in the relays as everyone was able to compete in their preferred strokes. Well done to everyone who participated!

Ella G, Y12

"I've greatly enjoyed my time as academic chair this year. Running sixth form council meetings with Mrs Griffin has helped me grow in confidence, and I've loved working with the rest of the team to give back to the school community. I wish the new team the best of luck, and I hope they enjoy their roles as much as I have."

Swara, Academic Chair

"As the Deputy Head of Health and Wellbeing, it has been a pleasure working with the pastoral team and the health and wellbeing representatives to ensure the school is a positive and healthy environment. Being on this team has allowed me to grow in confidence and have a positive impact!" **Onara**, Well-Being

"Since joining NGHS in year 12 I knew I would have liked to be a part of the Head Girl team, and it was everything I wanted it to be. A highlight for me was the year 12 integration day that the girls and I put together as it was one of the first times we worked as a team to pull off something great. Wishing the new team the best of luck, and enjoy every second!" Bella, Senior DHG





For our final Newport News column before we hand over our roles to the next Head Girl Team, we have all written something reflecting on our time these past 12 months. Please see the speech bubbles below.

I am so proud to have worked alongside this amazing team, and of course the incredible Mrs Griffin, for these past 12 months, getting involved in every aspect of school life, working alongside staff and students to raise the profile of student voice and run events to promote the school. It has been so busy but so fun, and certainly not one I am going to forget. I wish Ellisha and her team the best of luck - l'm sure you're going to do an amazing job. I wish you all a restful break over the Easter holidays.

Katy Hossack (Head Girl 2023-24)

"I really enjoyed watching the growth of the school as a community by cultivating our team's online presence, as well as helping to coordinate the integration days with Adams'. A particular highlight was watching the enjoyment (in the lower years) as a result of this." Braeagh, Community & Careers

"Being a part of the team has been an incredible experience, being able to work closely with the girls to create opportunities for the school. a personal highlight for me was our efforts paying off in the successful year 8 integration day, where we were able to not only work with one another, but also as a collective with the front bench to make a memorable day for both Izzy, Participation & Inclusion schools."

"I have really enjoyed welcoming a new cohort of Year 12s into the school, being able to give my input, as well as working with the best team Lydia, Transition/Integration of girls."



## Year Seven



As the spring term comes to a close and the hopefully lighter, brighter days are upon us, it fills me with pride reflecting on the year so far and I can only sing Year 7's praises for how well they have settled in and embraced all the opportunities and experiences NGHS has to offer.

Their participation in recent house events has been particularly commendable with a large number of students getting involved in charities week, house dance and most recently house quiz!



To add to this, the list of names at our half term termly rewards assembly is endlessly growing with lots of students reaching over 100 house points and receiving a sweet treat voucher for the canteen. The first year 7's parents evening this week was also a great success, with everything running smoothly and lots of happy faces as a result of some really positive comments from staff regarding year 7's efforts and attainments across all subjects. Long may this continue for the summer term and moving into year 8 too.

> Mrs H Goodall, Head of Year 7 Associate Senior Leader

What have Year 7 been learning about

NGHS has been very helpful for our journey in Year 7, it has been very influential in lots of different ways, from the creative art lessons to the interesting Maths lessons. The teachers at NGHS really push you to do your best in all the things we do. Even the environment has been positive as well. Everybody is friendly, approachable and is caring.

Art at NGHS has been very engaging. Last term we started to learn about colour theory and its aspects. After we knew enough about colour theory, we put our skills to the test. We mixed primary colours, to secondary colours, to then finally get the tertiary colours which was our aim. Then to really reflect on our learning, we made a fact file about it. You can see here a few of our colour theory pages.

This term in English, we've been learning about creative writing and its properties. We've also been adapting pieces of writing to expand our knowledge on writing and making a good, compelling story. Currently, we are using teamwork and perseverance to make a small book using all the techniques we have learnt previously. We have also made a part two of our favourite book and thought about 'If there were a second book, and we were the author, what would we write?' This has really made us think logically about what we would write and what would make sense.

For Maths we have been doing lots of small topics from area and perimeter to fractions and decimals, that have been very interesting so far. Our Maths teacher, Mrs Patel, has been very supportive of our improvement. The lessons have been like building blocks and gradually get harder the more we do, but make more sense the higher we go.

We have really enjoyed our time at NGHS so far and we are really looking forward to the years that come!

From Lucy, Elina and Sanjana Sonnathi (7H)





# Year 7 Netball Weekend

#### **TEAM STARS**

What a weekend! Earlier this month, 40 Year 7 pupils set out on a netball weekend at Boreatton Park and we all had so much fun. We were split into five teams and each team played brilliantly. Stars (my team) worked and played together amazingly, and we made it to the finals (against year 8s)! Though just beaten in the final, were we immensely proud of ourselves and the encouragement from the side-lines was incredible. As well as focusing on our netball skills we also had the chance to take part in rock-climbing, abseiling and many more activities! Overall, the netball weekend fantastic, was and we made loads of memories there!

#### **TEAM WOLVES**

On Friday the 8th of We arrived on Friday March 40 year 7 students along with 4 teachers went to a PGL camp on the outside of Shrewsbury for a netball weekend. I was on the captain for team Wolves (of course this was Miss Saunders team!) and our school took 5 teams overall. Our team played 7 games including the semi-final which led us to come joint 3rd. NGHS were the fun. Sunday went by really only school to have year 7 teams at the tournament visiting meaning we were competition against year 8's. We won 4 games, drew I, lost I and then lost in the semi-finals. The facilities and food were really good and we had so much fun!

#### **TEAM LIGHTNING**

evening and after a delicious dinner went to an amazing campfire with lots of singing and dancing!

On Saturday morning we went down to the netball courts and played some amazing matches against Year 8s. Everyone played really well! After lunch, the afternoon flew by with activities and lots of quickly with more netball, the shop, discussing games, and watching the finals. I was so proud of my team; everyone had improved so much over the weekend! I loved this trip, and came home with many memories.

#### **TEAM STORM**

As team captain for the Storm netball team on the recent netball weekend NGHS attended, I found that being a team captain was a really exciting and enjoyable honour to be given. Being team captain meant that I had to keep my team's spirit high and talk through some new tactics we could use in our games. All in all, the Storm team played really well and I am very happy with how the netball weekend went and I enjoyed my time as team captain.

#### **TEAM THUNDER**

At the PGL Borreatton Netball Weekend, NGHS's team Thunder played exceptionally well - considering we were often against teams that were older and more experienced than us. We had very good defenders - who weren't afraid to intercept passes! We also had excellent attackers, who followed their shots through and kept trying, even when it took a few tries to get the ball in. In midcourt, we had an excellent centre, who was amazing at whizzing around the court to be there when she was needed. Although there was quite a lot of footwork at the start of the weekend, by the end of the amazing trip we had ironed them out, so that there were far fewer than at the start. On the court, we were all very supportive of each other, which resulted in us winning the ' Team of the tournament' award for best sportsmanship, which was awarded by the umpires. However, I think we were a bit too nice sometimes, because we were apologizing profusely for knocking into our opponents! We were also very supportive of the other NGHS teams, and we were next to the courts cheering on the Team Stars and Team Wolves when they were playing in the semi-final, and for Team Stars, the final. As a team, we all really enjoyed the experience, and also made some new friends along the way!



# Year 12 History Conference

the state

Once again the A Level historians were treated to a series of lectures from pre-eminent historians as part of the annual Wars of the Roses Online Conference hosted and organised by the Richard III society. These covered a range of topics such as 'Kingship in late Medieval England' by Professor John Watts of the University of Oxford and Professor Steven Gunn gave a talk on 'Margaret of Burgundy and her support for the Yorkist Pretenders'. A favourite among students was Lauren Johnson's lecture which dealt with the differing interpretations of Margaret of Anjou from the celebrations on her arrival as young bride in 1445 to Shakespeare's portrayal of her as the 'She-wolf of France'. All of the

speakers used contemporary evidence as part of their lectures which the students were also able to read for themselves and it gave a great insight into the work of historians. The conference was finished off with a debate on the 'Constitutional Crisis of 1483' and students voted for whether they thought Richard III had usurped the throne. Having heard an enthusiastic argument on both sides of the debate, the students were very much against the last Plantagenet king despite the best efforts of Matt Lewis who is Chairman of the Richard III Society.

It was a great opportunity for the students to look in depth at some key parts of the course and superb to see some of the ideas already being incorporated into their work.

#### Miss Davies & Ms Clarke

The Wars of the Roses conference was comprised of mini-lectures from a number of established historians, and it was a very valuable opportunity that aided our learning of this part of history. I found it to be an incredible experience, giving us a chance to experience university-style lectures from some of the historians whose opinions we have been reading through the course. The topics were extremely interesting and engaging; it was also helpful to have an external expert opinion on some of the more controversial topics we have been looking at in class, such as the debate on whether King Richard III was a usurper or not. My personal favourite section was on Margaret of Anjou, the Lancastrian Queen that we did an inquiry on in class, who played an extremely significant role in the conflict. The lecture discussed the use of misogynistic propaganda, and how sexist ideas were exploited by her enemies, which I found fascinating. (Georgia, Y13)

I found the history conference extremely educational and useful in aiding my knowledge on the 'Wars of the roses'. I particularly enjoyed the discussion about Margaret of Anjou and I felt I took away a great level of understanding which I can now apply to my school work. The other discussions were also interesting and helped me gain a deeper knowledge about the topic. Overall, I really enjoyed the opportunity and really appreciate the chance I was given. (Isabelle, Y12) I found the conference highly beneficial for my A-level history studies, as it was a great opportunity to hear university level academics speaking about topics we are learning about. I liked the opportunity to hear the Q+A's at the end of each speaker, as it allowed me to consolidate what I had learned. I especially liked hearing Lauren Johnson speak about Margaret of Anjou, as it was relevant to our class studies, but also expanded my own interest in the topic of medieval women in England. Additionally, as an aspiring university student, the lectures were useful as it provided an insight into what university-style learning is like. Overall, it was a really interesting and educational experience. (Maddie, Y12)

This was a really interesting experience and allowed us to delve beyond the curriculum led by experts in this field to give us a wider understanding of society and politics at the time. The talk about Margaret of Anjou presented by Lauren Johnson was particularly interesting, during which the validity of classing Margaret as a 'She-Wolf' was discussed, based on her actions protecting her son. This allowed us to explore both sides of the argument more fully, as well as gaining extra knowledge about the causes of some of the battles of the Wars of the Roses. Overall, it was a fascinating opportunity that really helped further my understanding of the background behind the course! (Louisa, Y12)

# alderford HOLIDAY CLUB

Easter Holiday Activity Club at Alderford- a place where children can enjoy an adventure packed few days and be entertained to the max!

#FUNTIMES

#BFFS

6th - 28th March 2nd - 4th April 9th - 11th April

## For more information visit www.alderford.com



You have no doubt heard about AI - it can and will be a brilliant tool for young people (and older folk!) to use in our everchanging world. There are, however, some aspects of education where it is not a tool we can recommend nor condone its use. Click on the image above to view a helpful guide which introduces parents to how children can positively make use of AI.



# 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 Goodall Head of Year 7 Associate Senior Leader



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)





Mrs H Birch Assistant Headteacher Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)



**Mrs K Danby** Well-being Manager, CSE Lead Senior Deputy Safeguarding Lead



**Mr M J Scott** Executive Head, Deputy DSL



Miss S Webster Head of School, Deputy DSL



Mrs F Davenport Pastoral Support, Deputy DSL