



NEWPORT NEWS

A fortnightly update from NGHS

Volume 7 - Issue 7 - Friday 8 December 2023



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

The imagination of our students and their ability to convince their teachers to take part in a whole host of events never fails to amaze us! This week has seen our Young Enterprise teams continue their fundraising efforts by somehow persuading a number of my colleagues to take part in 'I'm a teacher, get me out of here!'. As a result, Wednesday lunchtime saw staff compete against students to consume some rather interesting 'delicacies'. We look forward (I think!) to seeing what they come up with next.

A huge well done must also go to Year 11 for their conduct and hard work during the mock examination period. We were very impressed with how so many of them approached their mocks and we know they are looking forward to our bowling trip next week as a reward. We hope they also enjoyed their doughnuts this week that were a small thank you from us to them! Students will be receiving results for each subject in their lessons and it is important that they listen to, and act on, their feedback so they give themselves the best chance of success next summer.

Thank you also for all the kind and generous donations for the **Christmas Smile appeal**; we received a huge number and have no doubt that these will be greatly appreciated by families this Christmas. Mr Scott and Miss Warner (a new member of our administration team) safely delivered your gifts to the team in Telford ready for wrapping! Please see the photograph on the right.....

Over the remaining two weeks of term, we have a whole host of events to look forward to. Final rehearsals are underway for both House Music and the Carol Service; there's no doubt that our students will impress us with their musical talents and creativity. Talking of talents, we must congratulate the Theatre Studies sixth form group and Mr Bird for their excellent production of *Be My Baby* this week. Next week also sees Year 7 enjoying a trip to the pantomime and some of our older students spending their Friday evening hitting the shops at Cheshire Oaks.

Just a reminder that it is **Winter Jumper Day** on **Thursday 21st December** and we ask that all students taking part bring in £1 in cash for Newport Food Bank whom we support each year at this time. Finally just a reminder that we break up on Friday 22nd at 12.30pm and school will close at 1pm. Our own coaches will be running as usual. We understand Adams coaches are not running on Friday 22nd but full attendance is expected and some lessons will be taking place as usual.

In this bumper edition of NN we find more about our Languages Faculty. We also have information about the law around sharing photos/data online for all to read. We wish Happy Hanukkah to all those who are celebrating and well done to everyone at NGHS, which has been confirmed as a Top 10 Sunday Times Midlands school!

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



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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

Lynda Merriman-Johnson Shield



We congratulate Charlie Toogood (Y12) who is the 2023 recipient of the Lynda Merriman-Johnson Chemistry Shield. Mrs Merriman-Johnson worked both as a supporting Chemistry teacher and Exam Invigilator at NGHS and after her untimely passing last year, Mr Merriman-Johnson asked us to present a cheque and shield to the top-scoring student in GCSE Chemistry each year. Charlotte was taught by Mr Tolley (pictured) and achieved this accolade in 2023. Well done Charlotte and thank you to Mr M-J for his generosity.



Head Girl Team Highlights...

BACK IN FINAL EDITION OF THIS TERM!

Trip Announcements

Year 12s and Parents: Standby for an amazing opportunity for a group of year 12s which will be coming out to you in the next week.

Year 8s going to France & Germany: Have you got a Passport and GHIC card organised for the 2024 trip?! We will require information from you in January.

Mr Scott



In order to raise money for our Young Enterprise project, our team ran a Bush-tucker trial challenge. With a student vs teacher team of brave volunteers, excitement ran high as we saw the likes of Mrs Martin, Mrs Saunders, Mrs Goodall, Mr Heighway, Mr Tolley and Miss Koepke on the teacher team. The game was simple: finish the food. However this proved a much harder challenge than anticipated, as the participants began by eating a tablespoon of cold beans! With most feeling confident after the first round, we moved on to the next rounds: a spoonful of mayo and then a bite of a chilli! At this point all of the teams were struggling, except Mrs Goodall, who bravely ate another teacher's food (not giving any names away)! Next, we presented to them a spoonful of wasabi, and at this point I think everyone's tongues were on fire, but just to add to the pain, we brought out some spicy crickets! The crowd were enthralled at watching their teachers and friends swallow these crunchy insects! Much to the shock of the spectators, we revealed a tiebreaker, which was to eat a whole raw egg each! Approach to completing this varied, with some participants quickly swallowing it, some whisking it up first and some needing to have a countdown from the eager crowd! However, with only 3/6 of the teachers, compared to the whole of the student team managing to complete this last challenge, the students were declared the winners, much to the delight of the crowd as cheers chorused through the hall! Overall, it was a great challenge to organise to liven up our lunchtime!

Aimee J (Year 12)



Staff Training with Emma Weaver from the ADHD Foundation

Thursday 30 November



On Thursday 30 November Emma Weaver, Deputy CEO from the ADHD Foundation came to NGHS to deliver staff training on ADHD and neurodiversity in girls. The training was extremely useful for staff as Emma talked about the science behind neurodiversity conditions and also gave some active strategies for staff to use with students who either have a formal diagnosis of ADHD or who are awaiting assessment. The training enhanced staff knowledge around neurodiversity and complimented previous ADHD training delivered last February by Educational Psychologist Dr Colette Soan. We are really grateful to have received such fantastic training!

Mrs A Benoit, SENDCO

The female presentation

Currently more males are being diagnosed as ADHD than females – 3:1 Ratio

Females often mask/hide their traits.

Traits present different in women

Misdiagnosed with mental health difficulties - Borderline personality disorder, eating disorders, body dysmorphic disorder

Current diagnostic assessment focuses on male presentations.

Inattentive traits are often more difficult to pick up, leading to the perception that a female with ADHD is less impaired.



Masking and Mirroring

Neurodivergent girls are often aware that their presentation is different.

This leads to them wanting to mask or hide their traits.

There is often an effort by a girl with ND to want to "fit in" to stereotypical female "social norms"

Masking/Mirroring can present in many forms including perfectionism, obsessive/compulsive behaviour, risk taking behaviour, seeking certainty and reassurance, mimicking others interactions.

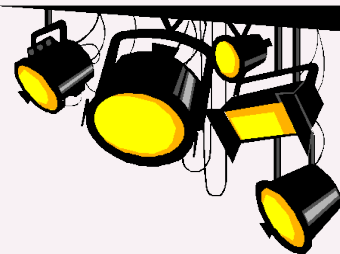
People who do not identify with the sex they were assigned at birth are three to six times as likely to be autistic as cisgender people are, according to the largest study yet to examine the connection.



Staff Training Days

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Languages Faculty



The Modern Foreign Languages Faculty comprises six staff Mr Audouin (Head of Faculty), Mrs Fujii (Second in Faculty), Mrs Furnival, Miss Crevis, Mrs Payne and Miss Rosbach. You can find more information about the Faculty and their learning overviews and vision [on our website](#).

KS3: A brilliant start for Year 7 who have embraced learning a new language and are discovering new cultures. Here are a few examples of how they personalised their exercise books to show their interests. In German, students also made a Schultüte ("school cone"), also known as a Zuckertüte ("sugar cone"). When children in Germany and set off for their first day of school, their parents and/or grandparents present them with this large cone, attractively decorated and filled with toys, chocolate, candies/sweets, school supplies, and various other special treats.



KS4: Well done to our KS4 students who have completed their mock examinations especially the speaking component which often causes more anxiety. The Modern Foreign Languages Faculty was also pleased with the number of parents and students who have shown interests and asks questions about studying languages at A-Level. The Faculty is particularly proud to have a healthy number of students from N.G.H.S and other schools who want to deepen their existing linguistic knowledge.

Japanese Club (KS3 and KS4)

Every Monday, our Japanese Club turns the Hall into a cultural and fun haven to learn about Japan. Many children come to explore Japanese traditions, from learning how to use chopsticks to discovering their many different customs. The sessions are lively with fun talks and activities and allows everyone to experience the charm of Japanese culture. Mrs Fujii fosters a deeper appreciation for the rich heritage that extends beyond language and cuisine. It's like a special journey that brings people together in the friendly club atmosphere. I am enjoying my time in this club, enriching my personal knowledge of Japan, and discovering their many traditions. Not knowing any Japanese before to being able to introduce myself in a short span of time is an impressive progression thanks to Mrs Fujii. I look forward to this club every Monday. Sayonara! Griselle F (7S)

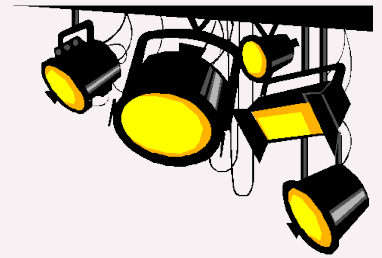


Our KS4 club started this year as part of our new partnership with Kyotango high school in Kyoto prefecture, Japan. We regularly film video clips to exchange between schools where students can ask and answer questions in English and Japanese to get to know what life is like for their peers on the other side of the world. Below is a link to the town of Kyotango: <https://visitkyotango.com/>



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Languages Faculty



KS5: What do our KS5 students say about French A-Level?

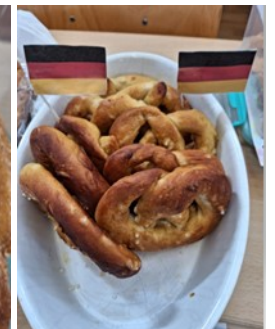
We have a new school record of **15 students taking French in Year 12** this year! “Exploring Philippe Grimbert's "Un secret" in our A-level French class has been incredibly rewarding. The novel's captivating narrative and characters have given me a deep understanding of historical and family complexities. The story, centred around the protagonist's journey through family secrets, provides a unique perspective on themes like identity during and after the occupation of France. Classroom discussions and literary analysis have not only improved my language skills but also deepened my appreciation for the nuances of French literature. Studying "Un secret" goes beyond academics; it's a cultural immersion that has fuelled my passion for the French language and literature.”

Emilia R-M (Year 12)

European Day of Languages Review

Back in September, we celebrated the “European Day of Languages”, our students were offered opportunities to enter various competitions. The winners were given House points and the winner for the poster competition is displayed in the MFL corridor. Of course, our canteen provided a sample of succulent dishes to support our week. Our MFL Ambassadors also ran an assembly to explain why it is important to learn languages.

During our “Bake off” week, some of our students have given an international flavour to the competition, when they entered the “Bakes of the World” category and made delicious delicacies from around the world...

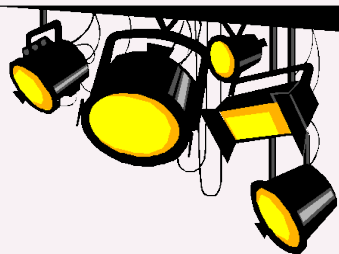


The **Festival of Lights** (*Fête des lumières*) in Lyon, France, is a popular event that originally aimed at expressing gratitude toward Mary, the mother of Jesus, around December 8 of each year. This unique Lyonnaise tradition dictates that every house place candles along the outsides of all the windows to produce a spectacular effect throughout the streets. The festival includes other activities based on light and usually lasts four days, with the peak of activity occurring on the 8th. The two main focal points of activity are typically the Basilica of Fourvière which is lit up in different colours, as well as the Place des Terreaux, which hosts a different light show each year. The origins of the festival date to 1643 when Lyon was struck by plague. On September 8, 1643, the municipal councillors (*échevins*) promised to pay tribute to Mary if the town was spared. Ever since, a solemn procession makes its way to the Basilica of Fourvière on 8 December to light candles and give offerings in the name of Mary. Tradition now mandates that many families in Lyon keep, often along with their Christmas decorations, a collection of stained or clear glass in which candles are burnt on windowsills on 8 December. These stout, fluted candles can be found in shops towards the end of November. During the nights of Festival of Lights, multiple areas of the city are reserved for pedestrians only. The festival typically features light shows, performances and food vendors.



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Languages Faculty



Where are they now? Wo sind sie jetzt?

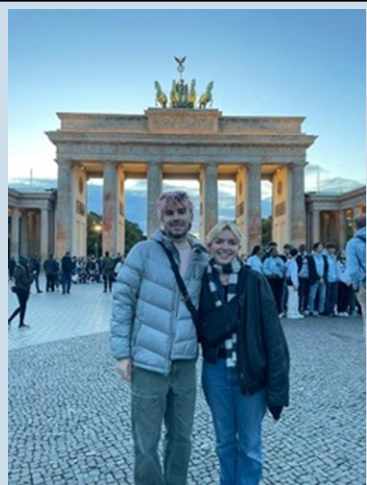
Millie Westwood (left August 2021)

I am a third-year German student at the University of Edinburgh, currently on my year abroad in Berlin. I attended Newport Girls' High from year 7 to year 13, and I studied German all the way through to A-level. Of all my subjects, German was always the most interesting to me. I was drawn to the rich history, heritage and literature of German culture and studying German at university has allowed me to further explore all these areas.

When deciding on my university course, I felt unsure on which career to pursue long-term. I realised that a language degree would keep professional possibilities while still allowing me to delve into my interests. A lot of people think that language studies centre solely on grammar and vocab, however my German degree has provided the unique opportunity for my studies to span over so many subject areas, including literature, politics, history, business and culture. While I'm still deciding what career to pursue, my German studies keep so many doors open with the transferrable skills and knowledge I have gained from my degree so far.

Another amazing part of studying a language at university is the opportunity to go on a year abroad in your third year. I am spending this academic year studying at TU Berlin and it has already been one of the most exciting and rewarding experiences of my life. The city of Berlin is incredible and has so much to explore while I am here. My language ability and confidence have improved massively, while continuing to study more of what I love in such an amazing city.

I could not recommend studying languages at university more, the experiences and learning opportunities that I have been afforded as a result of my German course have been amazing. Anyone that has any questions about studying languages at university, or about the University of Edinburgh, can feel free to contact me and I would be more than willing to come into school to talk more about languages at university.



Where are they now? Où ils-se trouvent?

Ellie C (2016 leaver)

Ellie C. from the 2016 French A-level group went onto study French with Law at the University of Nottingham. She is now working for Slaughter and May, a British multinational law firm in London. Ellie helped our students last year via a Teams session with advice for a career in languages with law.

Where are they now? Où ils-se trouvent?

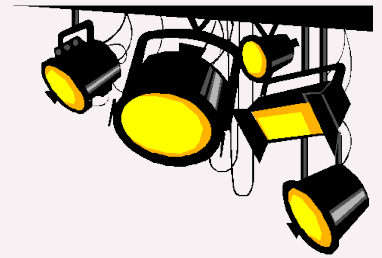
Miss Bethan Turner (2019 leaver)

Miss Turner left N.G.H.S in 2019. She studied both French and German and continued her French studies at A level. She completed a French and Business degree at the University of Nottingham. Following her experience teaching in the South of France during her year abroad, she decided to complete a PGCE and will be joining the school in January 2024.

Her favourite thing about learning languages is increasing exposure to and awareness of different cultures. Beth thinks that languages are the key to gaining new experiences and being able to communicate with a wider range of people. The ability to communicate in more than one language is an invaluable skill that would make you an asset to any company in the increasingly global business environment, she adds. The teaching at Newport Girls' High ignited her love for languages and provided a great foundation for her continuation to studying at University. Miss Turner would advise any linguists to continue with their language studies for as long as possible. Although challenging, learning a foreign language is an incredibly valuable and worthwhile process that opens up doors !

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Languages Faculty



Nikolaustag!

Nikolaustag (St Nicholas Day) is a German festival that takes place yearly on the 6th of December.

Who is Nikolaus?

Nikolaus is not to be confused with Santa Claus, who Germans call 'Weihnachtsmann' or Father Christmas. Nikolaus refers to 'Nikolaus of Myra', whose death on 6 December 343 AD is commemorated every year. He was a Greek Christian bishop famous for miracles and giving gifts secretly, and is currently the patron saint of children, sailors, merchants and students.



Why do children set their shoes out on the night of December 5th?

There is a traditional custom in Germany for children of putting out boots, shoes or stockings on the night before Nikolaustag. This practice began because St. Nicholas had a reputation for leaving secret gifts, such as coins, in people's shoes overnight.

The boot or shoe that is put out must not be dirty- it must be perfectly polished to demonstrate to St Nikolaus that the child has been well behaved. Commonly only one boot or shoe is displayed, so to not appear greedy.

What does St Nikolaus look like?

St Nikolaus is usually imagined with a long white beard, a bishop's mitre and a red cloak, often with a sack over his shoulder and a rod in his hand.



Louisa U (Year 13)



THE GREAT DEBATE!

The Historical Association Great Debate regional heat took place in school this week. NGHS was represented by Evelyn Donaldson (Yr10) and Charlotte Toogood (Yr12) who had won the school heats in November. The question this year was 'Which historical place or person from your local areas deserves greater recognition?'

All of the contestants provided excellent presentations on the role of oral history and the community shop in Lilleshall, the work of local anthropologist Roderick Sayce, and the pioneer of female education Sarah Mills.

The winner of the heat was Deryn from Shropshire College with an excellent talk on the Cinderloo Uprising and we wish her the best for the next round in the competition.

The History department would like to say a massive thank you to our judges Linda Fletcher and Amanda Seys. Linda is the Chair of the Newport and District History Society and Amanda is an experienced and passionate former history teacher. They had a tough decision to make and we are grateful for their expertise, excellent questions and the wonderful feedback given to each participant. We would also like to thank all of the students for taking part in both the school and regional heats. We look forward to the challenge of the Great Debate 2024!

Ms J Clarke, Teacher of History & Politics



1. Presents for Everyone

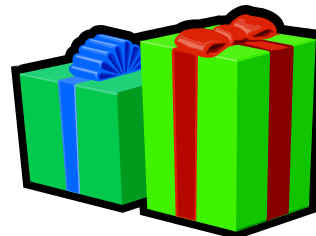
I have 3 rolls of different wrapping paper & 3 rolls of different ribbon.

How many different ways can I wrap my presents?

Can I wrap different presents for 14 people?

What if I have 3 rolls of different wrapping paper, 3 sorts of tags & 3 rolls of different ribbon?

What if I have 4 rolls of different wrapping paper & 3 rolls of different ribbon?



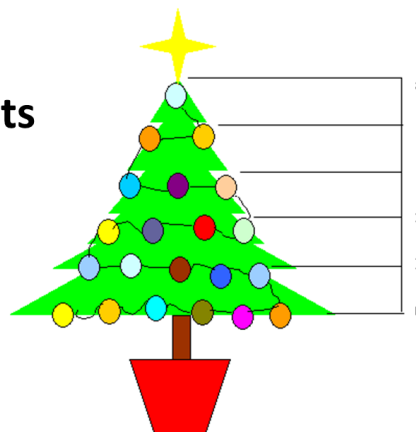
2. Christmas Lights

This 5 ft Christmas tree has 21 lights.

How many lights will a tree have which is 10 ft tall if it continues to need one extra light for every one foot tall it is.

What about a 100 ft tall Christmas Tree?

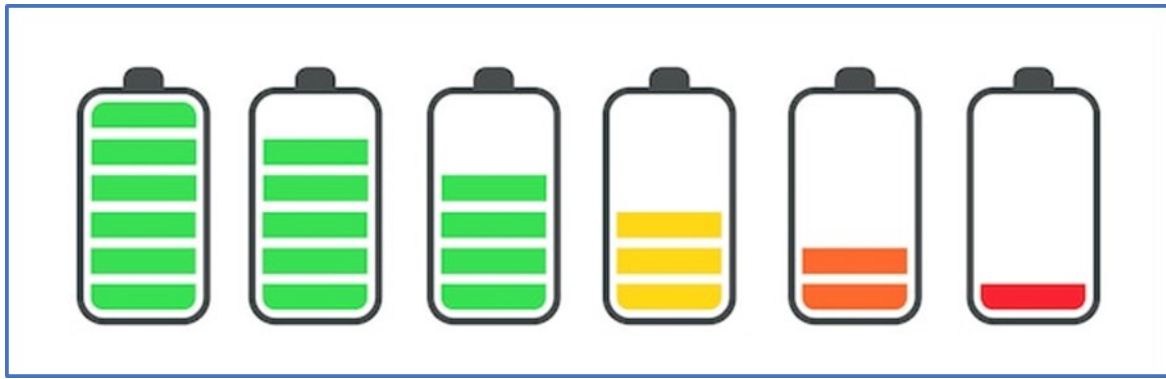
Can you find a formula for the number of lights for any height of Christmas Tree?



Maths Challenge ... with a Festive Theme!

- Congratulations to G. Fernandes A3 and D. Khaira S1 for getting all the problems correct from last week. 2G House points each.
- Congratulations to GA.A. Mubashra 6S2, N. Mashatise 6S2, H. Biju 6S2, L. Smith 6S2, V. Jayasirya 6S2, J. Hill 6S2 and J. Dhaliwali for attempting all the questions without their calculator and showing all their working. 2G House points each.
- Well done to the following students for their solutions to the challenge. IG S Hunter S1, B Armstrong 9A2, S Raut A1

Can you solve this week's Christmas problems (above) without a calculator? Put your work with your full name and form in the entry box in room 301. Entries close Wednesday 20th December.



Is Well-Being Your Top Priority?

When your phone battery runs low, we all instantly know how vital it is to plug in our charging cable – but can we recognise when our own ‘battery’ is running low? What can we do to help ourselves to ‘re-charge’? Research says that exercise, connecting with others, doing something mindful that absorbs our full attention, getting outdoors and focusing on consistency in terms of sleep, diet and daily routine are excellent ways of ‘topping up’ our wellbeing, but being reminded of this and actually committing to prioritising our own wellbeing are sometimes quite difficult.

Telford and Wrekin Council have recently launched a **Year of Wellbeing** for adults, and the Young People’s Forum challenged Telford and Wrekin to widen the campaign to young people too. One of our Year 12 students, Esther, is a member of the Young People’s Forum and attended the launch of the **‘Young Persons’ Year of Wellbeing’** campaign at the Youth Mental Health Summit which took place on World Mental Health Day (see Esther’s write-up below).

You can sign up to receive a series of 12 emails focused on evidence-based ways to look after your wellbeing, covering

subjects such as exam stress, friendships, getting active and mindfulness. Follow the link below – Telford and Wrekin Council would like as many young people from schools in our district to sign up as possible:

[Telford & Wrekin Council - Sign up to the Young Persons' Year of Wellbeing \(govdelivery.com\)](https://govdelivery.com/sign-up-to-the-young-persons-year-of-wellbeing)

Remember that your it is important to regularly re-visit the things that help you. Getting a regular email dropping into your inbox will be an excellent reminder, so whether you are a student, a parent or a member of staff – sign up today!

Miss E Heyes

Telford Young People’s Forum Mental Health Summit Day

In May 2022, Telford and Wrekin’s Young People’s Forum met with councillor Kelly Middleton and the Council’s commissioner to find out more about services that support the mental health of young people in the borough. During our meetings, we discovered that there was a mental health campaign, called the Year of Wellbeing, that aimed to boost people’s wellbeing following the coronavirus pandemic. However, this campaign was primarily aimed at adults. YPF suggested creating a Young People’s Year of Wellbeing in which every week, an email campaign of 12 weeks (about 3 months) would be sent out containing useful tips and advice for improving and maintaining good wellbeing. We also had an idea to

launch the Young Person’s Year of Wellbeing through a Mental Health Summit, which took place on 10th October 2023 at Telford Minister Southwater. At this summit, young people from various secondary schools attended interactive workshops run by services such as Shropshire Beam. My role was to assist in any way I could and represent YPF along with the other members. I also delivered speeches and announced prize winners. Some of the prizes included a free gym membership and a young person’s discount for the Telford Ice rink. After months of planning, I was happy with the overall turn out. I was also impressed with the engagement of the pupils with the workshops. Overall, I am glad everyone enjoyed themselves and that more awareness about mental health and wellbeing was being accessed by young people.

Esther E (Year 12)



THANK YOU FRIDAY

Congratulations to this fortnight's winners...

Each fortnight we recognise students who have gone the extra mile to help a member of staff. Parents will receive recognition of the child's success through a postcard home and publication in Newport News.

To: Student	From: Teacher
S Abel Lawson (6A3)	Miss J Walker
A Abraham (11Sea)	Miss S Webster
M Azam (10Aus)	Ms K Gill
A Azzopardi (6A1)	Miss J Walker
S Beale (11Rod)	Miss S Webster
A Bhatnagar (6R2)	Mrs L Roberts
R Briggs (6S3)	Ms K Gill
C Charlery (9A1)	Ms K Gill
L Chilcott (6R1)	Mrs K Taylor
G Clarke (9A2)	Mrs T Fujii
A Dealtry (11Sea)	Miss S Webster
E Donaldson (10Sea)	Ms J Clarke
A Dos Santos Brown (6R3)	Miss S Webster, Mrs K Griffin
R ElGizawy (6A3)	Miss J Walker
G Fernandes (A3)	Mrs T Fujii
E Fletcher (A2)	Ms K Gill
T Fletcher (6R2)	Miss J Walker
M Gemmill (11Aus)	Miss S Webster
G Hicklin (9A2)	Ms K Gill
I Jagdev (11Aus)	Miss S Webster

To: Student	From: Teacher
E James (9A2)	Mrs H Arsalan
A Jenkins (11Sea)	Ms K Gill
S Kang (11Aus)	Miss S Webster
L Lo (6R1)	Mrs K Taylor
L Manesh (11Aus)	Miss S Webster
R Middleton (11Rod)	Miss S Webster
R Nicholls (11Rod)	Miss S Webster
C Nwaomu (10Rod)	Ms K Gill
Z Nwaomu (11Sea)	Mrs A Chapman
B Patel (S2)	Miss S Webster
E Rains (A3)	Miss J Walker
Z Reynolds (6R2)	Mrs A Chapman
A Roddy (11Rod)	Miss S Webster
H Sedman-Smith (11Aus)	Miss S Webster
A Sheikh (11Sea)	Miss J Walker
G Steele (6S2)	Miss S Webster
K Steele (11Sea)	Mrs K Griffin
A Strafford-Piper (6R3)	Ms J Clarke
C Toogood (6A2)	Mrs L Roberts
S Vijayakumar (6R1)	Mrs A Chapman

YOUNG PERSON'S



Telford and Wrekin Council has recently launched a Young People's Year of Wellbeing campaign, to offer youngsters in the borough practical tips to enhance their wellbeing. You can find out more about this campaign [here](#)

As part of this campaign, they have launched an [emotional wellbeing survey](#), aimed at 11-17 years old, which they have asked schools to share. The survey will be available until 22nd December.

University Fair 9 February 2024

Shrewsbury School is hosting a University Fair on 9 February 2024, with 60+ universities attending, alongside some Gap Year providers and a few international representatives.

NGHS students and parents are welcome to independently attend the event. More information will be shared in the new year on times and any registration arrangements.

Ms K Gill, Head of Careers



Student Achievements

Well done to Lily Bhageerutty, Elodie Scotton and Pippa Watterson who gained 3rd place in the British shooting Schools Pistol Championships, held at Ellesmere College. Also to Pippa who gained an individual bronze award after a tough shoot off in the final.

Also, well done to Annabelle McCann (Y8) for passing Grade 4 piano.



Telford & Wrekin
COUNCIL

CREATIVE WRITING CLUB

Do you write **poems, stories, screenplays, creative non-fiction, songs?**
Do you keep a **diary?** Are you a **daydreamer?**

Do you fancy trying your hand at creative writing but you're **unsure** where to start?
Come along!

AGES 14+

SOUTHWATER LIBRARY, FLOOR 1

THURSDAYS FORTNIGHTLY

BEGINNING 11TH JANUARY 2024

4.30-5.30PM

NO NEED TO BOOK, JUST TURN UP!

BRING SOME WRITING, A FRIEND,

OR JUST YOURSELF

SNACKS PROVIDED (GOOD ONES)

What Schools Need to Know about THE ONLINE SAFETY ACT

The Online Safety Act was passed into UK law in October 2023, with the aim of establishing major new layers of protection for children when they're online. The government has pledged "a zero-tolerance approach to protecting children from online harm" – and the act certainly includes more powerful legislation which should help to safeguard young people in the digital world. Our guide summarises the key points for schools ...

WHAT THE ACT WILL DO

HARMFUL CONTENT

Social media sites must rapidly remove illegal and/or harmful content such as bullying or harassing comments; pornography; and content that supports extremist activity or encourages or depicts violence, suicide, self harm or eating disorders. If they fail to do so, they can be fined up to 10% of their global revenue while their executives may even face jail time.

ANIMAL CRUELTY

Content featuring cruelty to animals is now prohibited, even if it originates from abroad (where the law may be different). Again, it is the platform's responsibility to remove this.

MORE TRANSPARENCY

Sites must be transparent about the hazards that any children using them could encounter – by publishing risk assessments for their platforms, for instance.

HOSTING MISLEADING ADVERTS

Scams and fraudulent adverts must be blocked or removed, or the hosting companies are liable to be fined.

NON-CONSENSUAL SHARING

It's now easier to convict online abusers or people who share intimate images without consent, while legislation on the criminality of deepfakes has been clarified. The new laws also relate to any individuals who even threaten to share such images. This should help to protect women and girls in particular online.

REPORTING AND FILTERING

Sites should have easy reporting mechanisms for children (or their parents and carers) to flag up problems quickly. They must also provide options to filter out unwanted content.

AGE-RESTRICTED MATERIAL

Sites must prevent children from accessing age-inappropriate material. This includes enforcing age limits and implementing robust age verification.

What this means for you

The act has some specific implications for schools: it's essential that leaders understand the new legislation's scope and limitations. The act is certainly a positive step, but as artificial intelligence and other advances in tech continue to produce new challenges, schools will still need to remain extremely vigilant.

KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP

Look out for the Code of Conduct that Ofcom is creating in response to the Online Safety Act. Note that the new legislation doesn't mean an instant change: many of its elements will only come into force at the end of 2023. An Ofcom consultation on 'protecting people from illegal harms online' will be running until February 2024.

REMEMBER THE ESSENTIALS

Remain mindful of your organisation's own online activities: the legal duty for schools to maintain appropriate software monitoring and filtering, for example, will not change.

WATCH FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

There are some issues on which the legislation remains less clear for now: whether it's possible for Ofcom to scan encrypted private messages (such as on WhatsApp) has yet to be resolved, for instance – making this an area where, for the moment, young people have less legal protection.

UNDERSTAND AND EXPLAIN

Staff should learn how to raise concerns with tech companies whose platforms contain anything upsetting or unpleasant. Students also need to be made aware of the newly strengthened laws relating to cyber-bullying, sexting or posting inappropriate content. Young people do make mistakes online – so the clearer their understanding of the possible consequences, the better.

ENGAGE WITH PARENTS

Schools should also explain to parents and carers the new possibilities that the Online Safety Act affords them in terms of protecting their children. Many parents may have previously felt that there was little they could do about changing online platforms' content; they now have a far greater level of support when complaining about a company or the behaviour of an individual.

Meet Our Expert

Luke Ramsden is Senior Deputy Headmaster and Director of Safeguarding for the St Benedict's family of schools. He is a regular speaker at conferences and writes in the TES (among other journals) on school leadership, pastoral care and safeguarding. In 2022, he was named Pastoral Leader of the Year at the National Awards for Pastoral Care in Education.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday



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@national_online_safety

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)