



NEWPORT NEWS

A fortnightly update from NGHS

Volume 7 - Issue 8 - Friday 22 December 2023



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

At what is the end of the longest autumn term both of us can remember in our careers(!) we would like to start by recognising the commitment and achievements of all of our students both formatively in lessons but also of our Year 11s in their recent mock exams. Where students have done well they should feel very pleased, but similarly they must show resolve and resilience to revisit any areas where they have struggled. As ever, there is lots of support available for students in all year groups from our hard-working staff and this continues in January!

Attendance this term has been much improved on the pandemic years. Our school has a very high 97% target and, as of last week, we note that a **third of our students has exceeded this with 100% attendance this term** and over 80% have met the national attendance target. Thank you to everyone for valuing the importance of attendance at school.

This week's **Carol Service** was simply outstanding. With around 80 students taking part in various ensembles, St Nicholas's Church was packed. Thank you to everyone who attended and particularly to Mrs Chapman for all her hard work in preparing our many ensembles. There is so much musical talent within our school and we have received a few complimentary emails this week about the success of this important evening.

Today marks the departure of two valued colleagues. **Mr Andy Heighway** joined the Maths faculty in 2016 and is returning to the independent sector. A man of few words, he is not frequently found chatting in the staff room; preferring to commit his lunchtimes to helping students, mostly in the upper school, to improve their

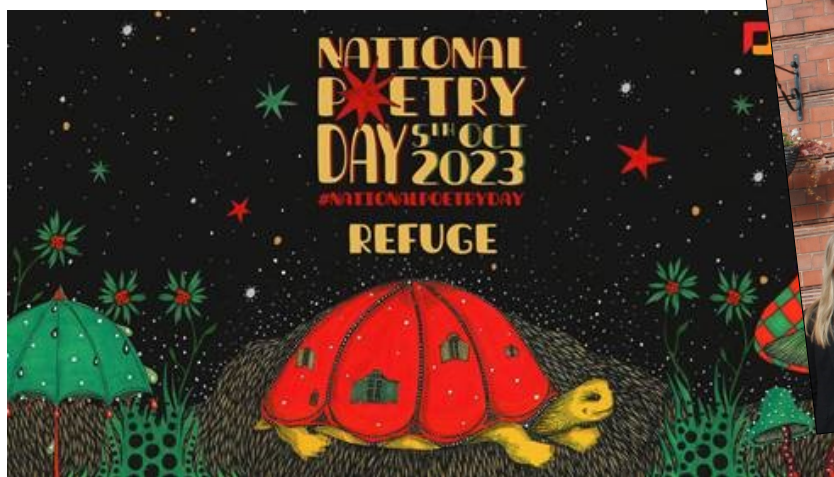
mathematical knowledge. A talented mathematician, Mr Heighway has taught maths from year 7 to Further Maths A-level and STEP level (beyond A-level). He has always been willing to get involved in charity events such as the recent 'I'm a Celebrity' and staff vs. student sports matches over the years. We wish him every success in his new Head of Department post. In January, **Mrs L Roberts** will become Head of Maths/Computing and we welcome **Mr O Green** who joins us from a school in Walsall where he teaches maths from Year 7 to A-level. Students know already if they have timetable changes.

Mrs Lisa Kearne recently received her twenty-year long service award to NGHS but has made the decision to mark this milestone in a different way by retiring at Christmas! As our Economics specialist, Mrs Kearne has mostly taught sixth form classes, but has also taught critical thinking, Year 7 IT and A-level Business in her career. She has also been our EPQ Lead and has seen many cohorts through the popular Young Enterprise programme. Serving as our staff's union rep. and rising to the position of Local Officer, I particularly appreciated the opportunity to work with Mrs Kearne during the pandemic in navigating the maze of regular challenges imposed on schools. I know retirement will not mean 'stop' to Mrs Kearne and we wish her every success in her future endeavours. In January, **Mr P Bentley** joins us from Oswestry School to teach Economics and Computing. We also intend to offer A-level Business Studies as an additional subject from September 2024 to further increase our sixth form offer.

Our Year 7 students recently enjoyed their trip to the Panto. Mr Wade didn't enjoy it as much as they did owing to some cream pies that came in his direction (!) We have also raised **£1200 for Newport Foodbank** as a result of our Winter Jumper Day and a retiring collection at the Carol Service. We will present a cheque to the team at NFB in January. Thanks for your support.

At the end of this long term, we thank you, parents/carers, for your support and hope that you have an enjoyable break. For families who celebrate the festive season, may we wish you a Merry Christmas. We also wish everyone a peaceful and prosperous New Year. We return to school on **Monday 8 January at 8.50am**. If there's anything we need to *urgently* know about during the break, please use the urgent email address below.

With every good wish, **Mr Scott & Miss Webster**



Head Girl Team Highlights...



We've made it to the end of the first full term, and it's been a busy one: we've welcomed the new Year 7s and Year 12s, the Year 11s made it through their mocks and Year 13 have sent off their university applications, with many already receiving offers for a number of courses.

Last week was also the annual Cheshire Oaks shopping trip, but the highlight of the half term has to be House Music. It was incredible to see all the talent we have here at NGHS. Well done to everyone who participated for all your hard work, and congratulations Seacole for a well-deserved win.

The school has been getting into the festive spirit these past couple of weeks, with Christmas jumper day, and the much anticipated Christmas dinner. I hope everyone has a chance to relax this Christmas break, and we look forward to seeing you all next year. Until then, have a very merry Christmas and happy New Year!

Swara & The Head Girl Team

It was beautiful to see such an amazing range of talent and to see the students thoroughly enjoying the event too. It's huge testament to the passion and talent of the teaching staff who put so much time and effort in to make the event so special. Such a lovely way to end the term....

Parent comment about our Carol Service
(one of many received this week...)

Thank you!

In October, following National Poetry Day, we launched the NGHS poetry competition. We were really impressed with the standard of entries, and would like to thank all of the students who entered for their fantastic contributions. After much deliberation, we decided on the following winners:

- Year 7 and 8: Diya Das (Austen)
- Year 9 and 10: Jamie-Lee Johnson (Seacole)
- Year 11 and Sixth Form: Avani Agarwal (Roddam)

The winning poems were impressive, and demonstrated a careful understanding of poetic form.

Mrs S Tomkinson (Joint Acting Head of English)

MONITORING YOUR CHILD'S INTERNET USAGE

Here are a few simple tips to help keep an eye on your child's internet usage:

1. Set up the inbuilt parental controls on their device to limit screen time and the applications they can use.
2. Consider using an internet filter such as CleanBrowsing (<https://cleanbrowsing.org/filters/>).
3. Setup devices such as computers and games consoles in common areas in the home such as the living room.
4. Create a family ICT agreement and get your child to sign it. It could include what they are and aren't allowed to do on the internet and could also cover tech free zones such as the dinner table.
5. Follow your child's social media accounts so you can see what they are sharing and who they are interacting with.

Below is a quick reminder of the minimum age requirements for some of the most popular social media sites:

- Tiktok 13
- Snapchat 13
- Instagram 13
- Facebook 13





YEAR 9

END OF TERM

BINGO

To celebrate the end of Autumn term, Year 9 took part in a game of bingo, with prizes and our very own photo booth!! A big thank you to the form captains and vice captains for helping to arrange the get together and to Miss Saunders for her excellent Bingo calling.



Top Tips for SETTING UP PARENTAL CONTROLS ON NEW DEVICES

In children's eagerness to start enjoying new digital gadgets immediately, it can be easy to overlook setting up the type of parental controls that can help to protect them online. If you don't sort those out from the very start, it can be an uphill battle – technologically and psychologically – to impose such controls later. Here's our rundown of what to look for when setting up the various internet-enabled devices that might be lurking under the tree at this time of year.

IPHONE

If your child's lucky enough to be getting their own iPhone, parental controls can help avoid issues like screen addiction and unsuitable content. Go into the settings and scroll down to 'Screen Time'. From here you can customise important settings including time limits on using the device, communication restrictions and content blockers. You can also lock your changes behind a passcode.

ANDROID

With Android devices, Google's Family Link app is your friend. You'll need a Google account – and a separate one for your child, which you should use when first setting up the device. Then, in Family Link on your own device, select 'Add Child' and enter their account details. This lets you specify limits on daily usage, restrict certain apps, block particular content and more.

PLAYSTATION

You can prep for a PlayStation before it's even unwrapped. At my.account.sony.com, create an account, then go to Account Management > Family Management > Add Family Member to set up your child's account, which you'll use to sign in on the console. You can restrict the age ratings of the games they can play and who they can talk to. On the PS5, you can make exceptions for any games you think are acceptable despite their high age rating.

IPAD

iPad parental controls are identical to those on iPhones. However, if you've got a shared family iPad and want to ensure your children aren't seeing anything age-inappropriate after you hand them the device, there's a feature called Guided Access (under Settings > Accessibility > Guided Access). With this switched on, young ones can only use the app that's currently open.

XBOX

The Xbox Family Settings app helps you manage which games your child can play (and when). You'll need to set up the console with your own account and then add a child profile. Make sure your account's password protected, so your child can't alter your choices later. You'll be walked through the functions at setup, but you can also reach them manually via Settings > Account > Family Settings.

NINTENDO SWITCH

Download the Nintendo Switch Parental Controls app on your phone, and you'll be shown how to link it to the console. Once that's done, you can limit how long your child can play each day, decide what age ratings are permitted and more. You'll also get weekly updates on how often they've used the device. These controls are accessible through the console itself, but the app is usually easier.

WINDOWS 11 PCs

On Windows 11, account management is key. Set up the device with your own account as the admin. Then go to Settings > Accounts > Family and Other Users and create your child's account (if you've already done this on a previous PC, just log in with those details). Microsoft Family Safety (either the app or the site) then lets you control screen time, what content children can view and more.

CHROMEBOOKS

Chromebooks' parental controls are managed via the Family Link app. Unlike an Android device, however, you need set up the Chromebook with your own account first, then add your child's. Go to Settings > People > Add Person and input your child's Google account details (or create a new account). Your child can then log in, and you can monitor what they're up to via Family Link.

MACS

Like iPhones, parental controls for Macs are managed via the Screen Time settings. Again, the crux here is to set yourself up as the administrator before adding any child accounts. In the settings, look for Users & Groups to create your child's account, then – while on their profile – use the screen time options to place any boundaries around apps, usage and who your child can communicate with (and vice versa).

SMART TVs

Smart TVs typically have their own individual parental controls. One of the most popular brands is Samsung – and on their TVs, you can control the content available to your child. In the Settings menu, under 'Broadcasting', you can lock channels and restrict content by its age rating. Even this isn't foolproof, however: some apps (like YouTube) might still let children access unsuitable material.

Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins is a technology journalist and editor with more than 20 years' experience of working for titles such as the Sunday Times, Which?, PC Pro and Computeractive. He's appeared regularly as a tech pundit on television and radio, including on BBC Newsnight, Radio 5 Live and the ITV News at Ten. He has two children and writes regularly on the subject of internet safety.



The
National
College®



National
Online
Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday



@natonlinesafety



/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety

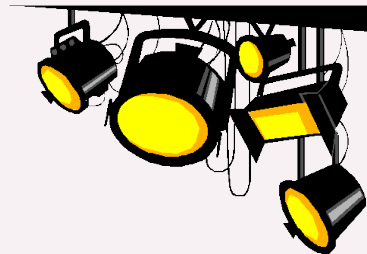


@national_online_safety

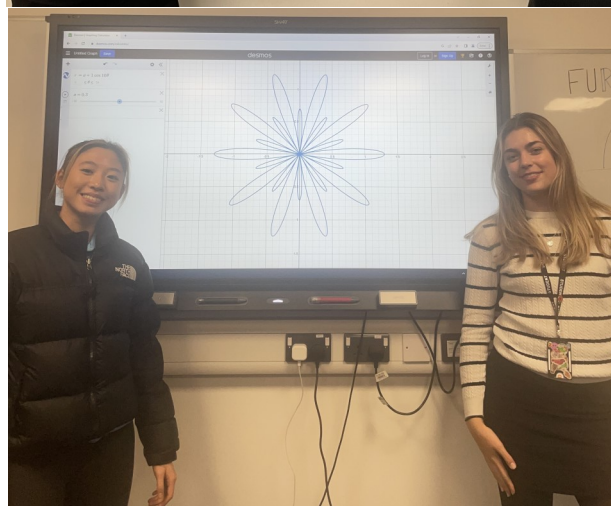
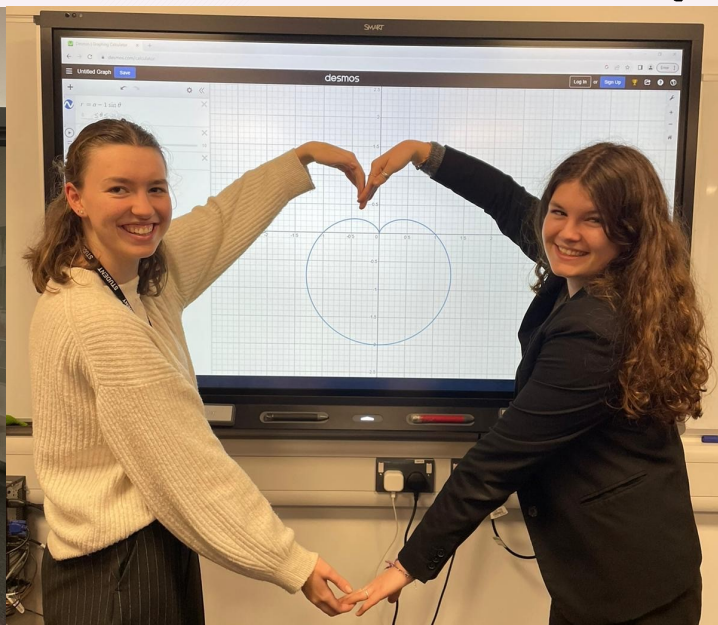
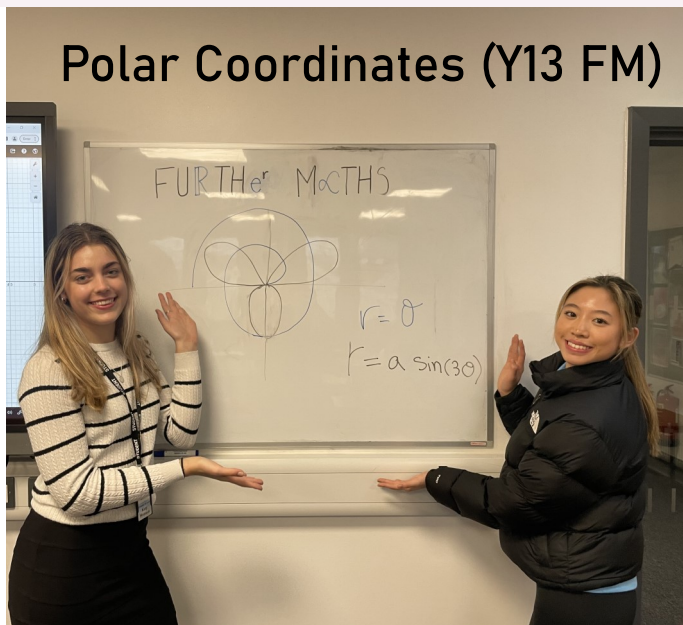
Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 20.12.2023

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Maths & Computing



Polar Coordinates (Y13 FM)



For the last two weeks, we've been learning about polar coordinates in Year 13 Further Maths. Polar coordinates are measured with a distance, r , from the origin and an angle α made by a fixed line. Although we only learn about polar coordinates in 2D, they can also be extended into 3D as well! They create amazing graphs that would be a lot more complex to decipher in the general Cartesian form, which makes our lives a lot easier. Despite it being very abstract, there are many real-life applications of polar coordinates, which include GPS systems and radars. They are also used in animation, engineering and the military. We've really enjoyed looking at our prior knowledge of coordinates from Year 12 through a completely new lens. It's nice to understand where some of the graphs we'd seen before came from and to be able to consolidate our knowledge of complex numbers.

Romaisa A, Year 13

GCHQ Christmas Challenge

Last Thursday Mr Heighway's year 10 students attempted the notoriously difficult GCHQ (Government Communications Headquarters) Christmas Challenge in their maths lesson, which required students to use logic as well as maths to solve the tricky problems. According to GCHQ this was their "toughest yet"! The students worked in small groups to solve the seven questions plus the break the final code. They did incredibly well working together to solve the problems, each one more devious than the last. **Click on the icon below to see some of the puzzles that were tested, think you can solve them..? Well done to Megan and Isla who managed to crack the code just in time although many others were very close. Bring on next year's!**

Mr A Heighway

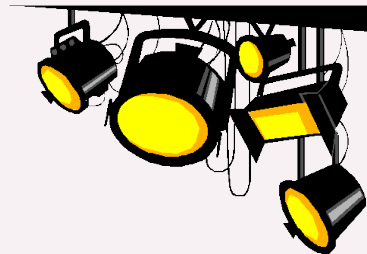


The seven questions below each have a one-word answer which can follow 'Christmas'. Use the design of the card to help you to put letters from your answers into the grid below to find the final answer.



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Maths & Computing



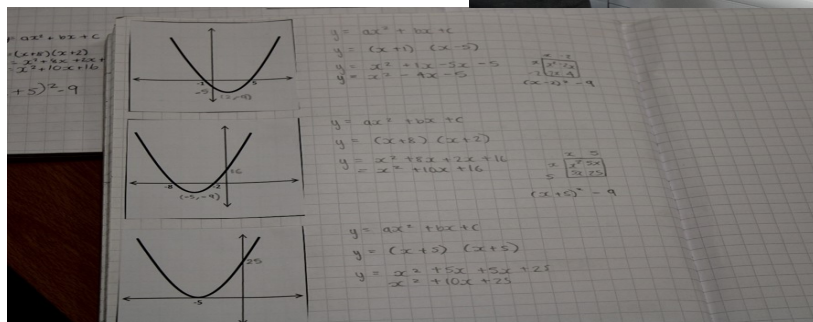
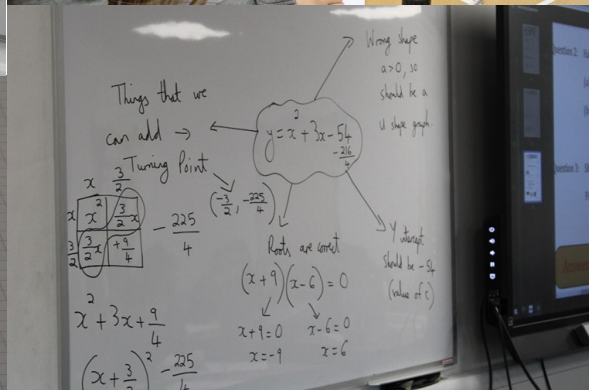
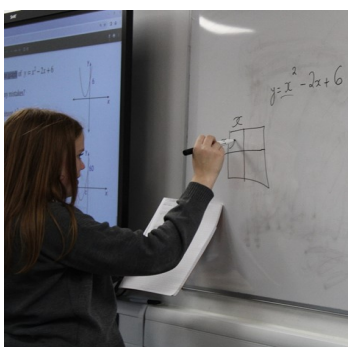
Record Numbers in Bebras Challenge

A record number of students (68), took part in the Bebras Challenge this year. Pictured above, are 11 of the 17 students who were awarded a gold certificate for outstanding performance. They had to do as many logical challenges within forty minutes as they could. Bebras had said to inform the participants that they will not be able to finish all the challenges, but NGHS being NGHS, many of our students finished them all! Those above, as well as other students with a very high score, will be invited onto the Oxford University Computing Challenge in the new year. Best in each category were: Elites: Leana S, Seniors: Yuthika G, Inters: Skyla M, Juniors: Saanvi R. Very well done to all who participated, it was an excellent turnout, with many who do not take Computer Science able to exercise their logical skills.

Mr M Ley (Teacher of Computing)

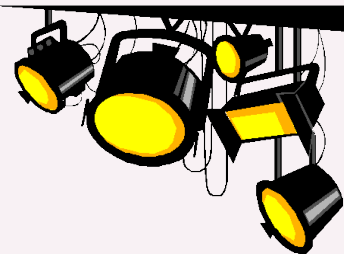
Algebraic Quadratics

Mrs Wallace's Y10 group have been putting their algebraic quadratic skills to the test by learning how to use this knowledge to sketch quadratic graphs and identify the important features. They even challenged themselves further by finding the equation of the quadratic by using the provided graph.



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Maths & Computing



Bletchley Park

On Friday 8 December, avid year 11 & 12 mathematicians took a trip down to Bletchley Park. After an early start, we were ready to meet a group of eager teachers at the school by 7am. The journey there flew by and in no time at all we found ourselves stood outside the gates of Bletchley park. We started off by being split into groups of about 10 with each group being given a map of the park. Our group initially had some time to explore the grounds by ourselves, whilst other groups began with a guided tour or their workshop. The main sites of attraction were the mansion, the Bombe machine, and Alan Turing's workspace in hut 8 to name a few. We then later re-joined as one group, ready for a guided tour. Our tour guide Ralph brought the park to life with his engaging stories and facts about each exhibition and memorial.

We also watched a film on how the codebreaking at Bletchley Park was instrumental in the success of the D-Day landings. Seeing the work of codebreakers such as Alan Turing was not only inspirational but also emotional as without them our future could have looked very different. After the tour, we were given a quick lunch break, as in the afternoon we would be trying our hand at some codebreaking. The codebreaking activities involved looking at how the famous Enigma machine worked and the much more complex Lorenz machine, binary addition and decrypting hidden messages. It is safe to say we all thoroughly enjoyed the day and we are very grateful to have had the opportunity to visit such a wonderful place.

Scarlett B & Krystiana C (Year 11)

Maths Week England!



SOCKS!



Cath has 31 socks in her drawer. There are 11 identical blue, 8 identical red and 12 identical black.

THE ZOO!

The lights aren't working and it is pitch black.

How many socks must I draw to guarantee I have at least one of each color?



How many giraffes and how many penguins are there?

The Zoo has a total of 29 giraffes and penguins. They are all perfect specimens. They have 84 legs in total.

THE RACE!

Posh, Scary, Sporty, Baby and Ginger had a race. Posh beat Scary by as many places as Baby beat Ginger. Neither Sporty or Ginger were 3rd or 5th.

In what order did they finish?

BRICKS

The number on each brick is the sum of the numbers on the two bricks below it.



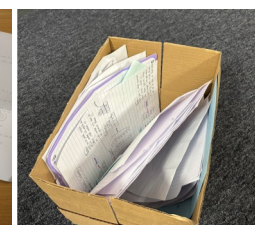
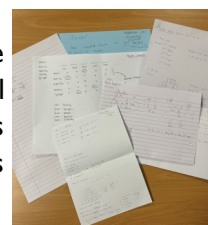
Louisiana Smith

TREASURE MAP



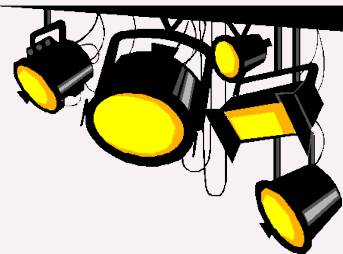
Monday 13 November was the first day of Maths Week England. As part of this, five different mathematical problems were displayed around the school, testing their logical thinking, algebraic and reasoning skills. These involved solving problems about how many penguins and giraffes were at a zoo, finding the best route across a treasure map and figuring out what order the Spice Girls would finish in a race. By the end of the week, we had a box full of answers, with many pupils attempting all five problems. The pupils demonstrated a number of different ways to solve the problems and I was very impressed by the high quality of entries.

Mrs L Roberts



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Maths & Computing



Earlier this term, 100 sixth form students entered the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge, a 90-minute national challenge full of tricky maths problems designed to test the best mathematicians in the country. Well done to all who participated. An incredible 41 students achieved a Bronze award and 16 achieved a Silver award. Congratulations to S. Vijayakumar who achieved a prestigious gold award and best in school. We look forward to the next challenge, the Intermediate Maths Challenge on 31 January.

Mrs L Roberts



Year 7 Panto Visit

On Wednesday 13 December, all of NGHS year 7s went to the panto. at 'The Place' Theatre, Oakengates to see Treasure Island. We had a thrilling experience as we were on the front three rows – an area where the cast of Treasure Island engaged most with the audience. Although, this meant most of us were in the target zone for being sprayed during their 'twelve days of Christmas' scene.



One of our teachers, Mr Wade, was our very own star of the show and made all of year seven laugh. It was very amusing watching him get pied in the face and have crisps poured over him. These scenes were incredibly funny and engaging to watch. Another enjoyable scene was when the actors got most of the school involved: they asked us to throw cannon balls at a giant, evil octopus.

This great, exciting trip out was a perfect way to end our first term here at NGHS. Thank you teachers for making it possible!

Philippa G & Charlotte S (Year 7)



Thank you to Mrs Arsalan and Miss Wells for running a festive crafternoon, with the help of Y12 students, Liv Wrigley & Kumi Ward.



Carol Service

Thank you to everyone who supported our Carol Service at St Nicholas Church on Tuesday. If you would like to hear our marvellous Senior Choir perform 'And So It Goes' by Billy Joel, please click on the button below.

Click on this box to hear a recording of 'And So It Goes'



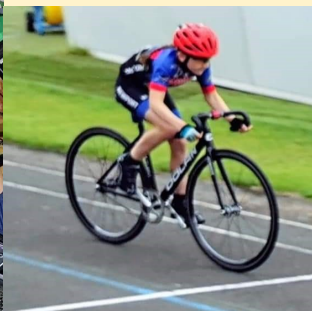
Student Successes!



Well done to Fay Jackson (Y8) for achieving Youth Girls Champion and UI4 Girls Champion in track cycling at the Newcastle Velodrome. This included competing in sprints, Kieran and Team pursuits.

Also congratulations to to Amala (Y7), Amelia & Teyana (Y8) and Lara (Y10) for competing in Cheer Athletics

Telford where they won a number of awards on Saturday 9 December.





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)



On Wednesday, some Year 7s went to a football game against Charlton. The year sevens that went from 7N were Freya R, Megan, Izzy and Azra. From 7G there was Elodie, Evie D and Olivia. From 7H there was Ramen, Mia and from 7S there was Lydia and Alisha. We won 2-0; Ramen scored our first goal in the first half. Then in the second half Megan scored the second goal. However we had lots of other chances on goal. Izzy played in goal and made some great saves considering it was her first time in goal! Everyone played amazing and put in 110% and didn't give up! Well done Year 7s! Player of the match was Freya R!

Freya R (Y7)

I am so proud of every single year 7 player who took part in their first ever competitive football game for NGHS on Wednesday. Every single player worked hard throughout the whole game and put in 110%. The whole team made some excellent passes and communicated well with one another. I am looking forward to see who NGHS will play in round 2 after the New Year. Special thanks goes to Izzy who nominated herself to go in goal and kept a clean sheet and made some excellent goal kicks to clear her lines. Player of the match was Freya, who played in defence and was strong throughout, making some superb challenges and continued to use brilliant communication throughout the whole game. Well done.

Miss R Saunders, Director of Sport

12 Top Tips for Children and Young People to Enjoy a TECH-FREE CHRISTMAS

The Christmas holidays are tailor made for families to enjoy relaxed quality time in each other's company – but with distractions like pinging phone notifications, the lure of games consoles and online Boxing Day sales, that can be more difficult than it sounds. Staying off our phones, laptops and tablets, however, can really help us to appreciate the things that genuinely matter at this special time of year. Follow our 12 top tips for a tech-free festive season ... Yule be glad you did! Merry Christmas!

CHRISTMAS CRAFTING

Get out the paper, glue and scissors and have a go at hand-making cards or gift tags. You could also create your own decorations to add a uniquely personal touch to the Christmas tree.

NATURE QUEST

Try a scavenger hunt in the garden or your local park. Challenge yourself and your family to find natural treasures that are symbolic of this time of year – like holly or pinecones, say.

CAROL KARAOKE

Sing your hearts out with a Christmas carol karaoke night. Pick out your favourite tunes and enjoy a musical celebration with family and friends.

WANDER DOWN MEMORY LANE

How about making a scrapbook filled with your favourite memories from Christmases gone by? Unleash your creativity while you enjoy reliving those magical holiday moments.

TRY REFLECTIVE JOURNALLING

Jot down your thoughts, feelings and reflections on the holiday in a notebook or diary – you could also list some of your main goals for the new year.

WRAP IT UP

Take time to get inventive with some luxurious gift wrapping. Break out the wrapping paper, ribbons and bows to make parcelling up those presents into a creative adventure.

WALK IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

Delight in the great outdoors with some gentle walks over the holiday. The family can all wrap up warm as you add to your step count and savour the crisp winter air together.

BE A SEASONAL CHEF

Get the whole family working together in the kitchen for some Christmas cooking. Choose a recipe and whip up a festive feast that all of you can enjoy.

ENJOY A CHRISTMAS STORY

Christmas is a perfect time for sparkling stories. Get cosy and lose yourself in a brilliant book, from Dickens to Dr Seuss or a more modern favourite by Chris van Allsburg or Tom Fletcher.

SNOWY SCULPTURES

If we're fortunate enough to get a white Christmas this year, make the most of the opportunity by having a family snowman-building competition!

GAMES NIGHT GALA

Dive into some old-school fun with a tech-free games night. Classic board games and card games have stood the test of time for a reason!

GOODWILL TO ALL

You and your family could spend a day volunteering – perhaps at a food bank or helping a local charity. After all, kindness and thinking of others are part of what Christmas is all about.

Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.



The National College®



National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

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
Head of School
Designated
Safeguarding Lead (DSL)



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



Mr M J Scott
Executive Head, Deputy DSL



Mrs F Davenport
Pastoral Support, Deputy DSL



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