



# NEWPORT NEWS

## *A fortnightly update from NGHS*

**Volume 7 - Issue 9 - Friday 19 January 2024**



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

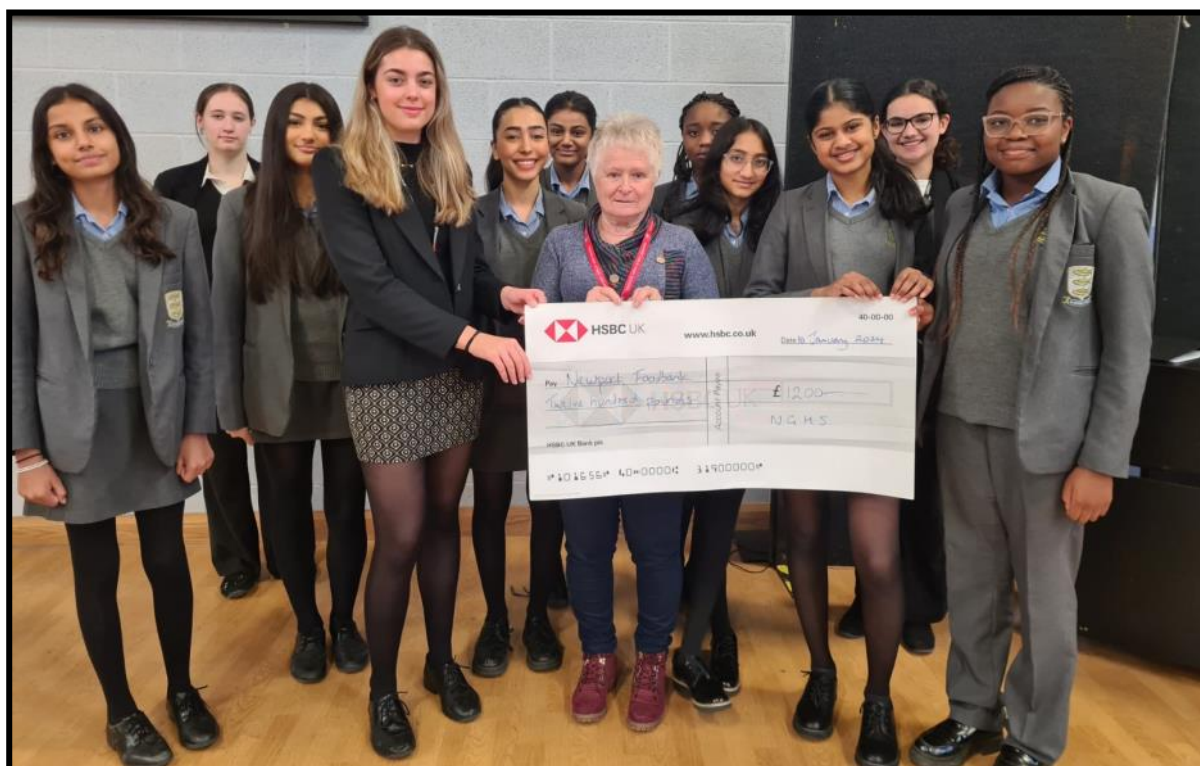
**W**elcome to the first Newport News newsletter of 2024. The start of term has been strong and we are maximising the time we can from this short half term with a real focus on our Year 11 and Year 13s. Year 11s completed their mocks before Christmas and it was great to see a strong turnout at last night's Parents Evening. Year 13 imminently have mock examinations and we hope that they feel prepared for this most valuable of opportunities.

In our first assemblies of the term, we welcomed Kim from Newport Foodbank to receive a cheque for £1200. We have also received a letter of thanks from their Chairperson (below). It is clear that our donation will make a real difference to Newport's local community. In this week's assembly, Mr Ley (Computing Teacher) has talked about the iDEA Award - another fantastic opportunity for students to get involved in an extension of our computing and digital lifeskills curriculum.

This week has seen our student committee meetings. Scheduled each half term, we gain pupil voice from our School Council, Sixth Form Council, Pastoral & Well-being Committee and Sports Committee. Whilst some suggestions are not always feasible, it is great to hear the ways NGHS could improve further from our students.

In recent months, we have welcomed some new staff and they are photographed on page 2. Everyone has settled in and we are pleased they've joined our NGHS family.

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



*"Thanks so much for the cheque for £1200.00 that you kindly donated to us from Newport Girls' High School. It was extremely generous and will be put to good use, please thank all the staff & pupils on my behalf. M Partridge, Newport Foodbank."*

**Photo: Some of our Form Captains with Kim from Newport Foodbank.**

**Newport Girls' High School**

Wellington Road  
Newport, TF10 7HL  
Tel: 01952 797550

**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](mailto:schooloffice@nghs.org.uk)  
Outside of school hours: [urgent@nghs.org.uk](mailto:urgent@nghs.org.uk) for matters of significant urgency



## NGHS Launches the iDEA Award

This week saw the start of the iDEA award at NGHS. Mr Ley and four current certificate holders; Lara C, Ellie H, Anna J and Analeigh B, (pictured above), led the school assemblies to promote it. It is a nationally recognised award that allows everyone, students and all, to develop their digital skills.

The digital world covers so many areas so there are five broad categories, pictured right, and the award is divided up into badges, each with a number of interactive tasks that you have to do. With each badge comes a number of points that goes towards the award, and when you have the required number of points, you get the award; either bronze, silver or gold.

iDEA carries the same UCAS points as the Duke of Edinburgh award and would enhance any CV or job application. Already, the take up has been tremendous, and the fruit of this is bound to enhance the education of all involved. It is open to everyone (no age limit), so parents, grandparents, have a go!

**The vision is for anyone at NGHS to develop digital skills regardless of whether they have taken Computer Science for GCSE or not, and to be rewarded for it with a nationally recognised certificate.** Students should see Mr Ley for more information.



## Head Girl Team Highlights...



It has been a busy start back to school after the Christmas break. Stress levels have been mounting in the sixth form with assessments for the Year 12s having started this week, while mock exams for Year 13s are scheduled for next week.

Nevertheless, it is lovely to get back to school and see some friendly faces after a long break.

House Dance preparations are underway, with each house selecting their song choices for the theme 'Girl Power'. It will be so exciting to see all of the hard work pay off when these dances are performed.

As well as this, the arrangements for Charities Week are being sorted, which all of the younger years should be excited to get involved in. It is an amazing week to come together as a school and raise money for our respective house charities.

I hope everyone is settling in well back at school and has a lovely term.

**Lydia & The Head Girl Team**



**From left to right:** Mr O Green (Mathematics), Mrs A Mazur (Science Technician), Miss E Lawson (SEND Assistant), Mr P Bentley (Economics/Computing), Mr B Twiss (Geography Associate Teacher)



# SMARTPHONE SAFETY TIPS

## for young people

7

You may have been lucky enough to have unwrapped a smartphone at Christmas, or you might be eagerly anticipating getting a new one at some point during this year. Whether it'll be your first ever phone or an upgrade on your old model, it's always useful to have a refresher about how to set it up and adjust the settings to keep yourself – and your valuable personal info – safe and secure. We've collected some expert tips to help you enjoy your smartphone in the healthiest way possible.

### NEVER SHARE YOUR PASSCODE

Alongside face or fingerprint recognition, your passcode is crucial to unlocking your phone and accessing your apps and personal information. You shouldn't give it out, even to close friends – after all, you wouldn't hand them a key to your house and let them go in for a nosy around! If a friend wants to use your phone, ask them why and make sure you can see what they're doing with it.

### RESPECT PARENTAL CONTROLS

If you're allowed to have a smartphone, it's because your parents or carers feel that you're mature and responsible enough to use it safely. They might set controls and boundaries on your device – not to spoil your fun but to help you avoid hazards like too much screen time or costly in-app purchases. Following these rules means you can enjoy using your phone while respecting their wishes.

### TALK TO A TRUSTED ADULT

Whether it's to listen to music, play games, create content or chat with friends, using a smartphone should be fun. If you're ever feeling anxious, worried or scared about going on your phone, then something isn't right. It's important not to ignore these feelings; instead, talk to a trusted adult about what's happening and how it's making you feel.

### STAY ALERT

Two words: look up. It might sound obvious, but it's so easy to get immersed in what we're looking at or listening to on our phones that we can become unaware of our surroundings – or who might be around us. People often walk with their head down, focusing on their phone, and forget to check for obstacles in their path, cars or other pedestrians coming towards them, which is clearly dangerous.

### DEVELOP HEALTHY HABITS

Phones offer a vast amount of content and the chance to chat with friends whenever we feel like it, which can make it difficult to take time away from the screen. If that's something you struggle with, you could try setting time limits on certain apps. Putting our phones down for a while gives us more time to interact with others or do something physical that helps keep us fit and healthy.

### IGNORE UNKNOWN NUMBERS

There are some scammers who might call or text asking you to share personal data or to click on a link and provide your details. Some may claim to be from a genuine company, but trustworthy businesses don't spontaneously call or message to ask for your information. It's safest to ignore calls or texts from unknown numbers, and never give your personal details out over the phone.

### ONLY USE AGE-APPROPRIATE APPS

Before downloading a new app or game, check what age rating it has. Don't feel pressured into getting a particular game or app just because your friends are using it. If it's intended for older people, there's a definite risk that it could include content (which is violent or frightening, for instance) or language which isn't suitable and may leave you feeling upset or disturbed.

### REMOVE TEMPTATION

A good night's sleep is so important for concentration, mood and overall health. Unwinding properly before going to bed – which means not staring at a screen late at night – can often improve sleep quality. Put your phone on charge overnight, but not in your room. This means you'll have a lot less temptation to check any notifications, reply to messages or get caught up scrolling on social media.

### THINK ABOUT OTHERS

Watching videos, listening to music or calling someone can all help to pass the time while we're on the bus, waiting in a queue or walking down the street. It's important to remain mindful of other people, though: they might not want to hear your tunes or your conversation. Likewise, if you're calling from a public place then don't forget that anyone could overhear something personal about you.

### SWITCH OFF GEOLOCATION

In your phone's settings, you'll be able to disable geolocation for individual apps and photos: this means that people online (including strangers) can't see information about where you are when you share or post a pic. On the subject of images, it's also important to ask permission before taking or sharing a photo of someone – and don't share embarrassing images of your friends with others.

### Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing Internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



The National College

NOS National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday

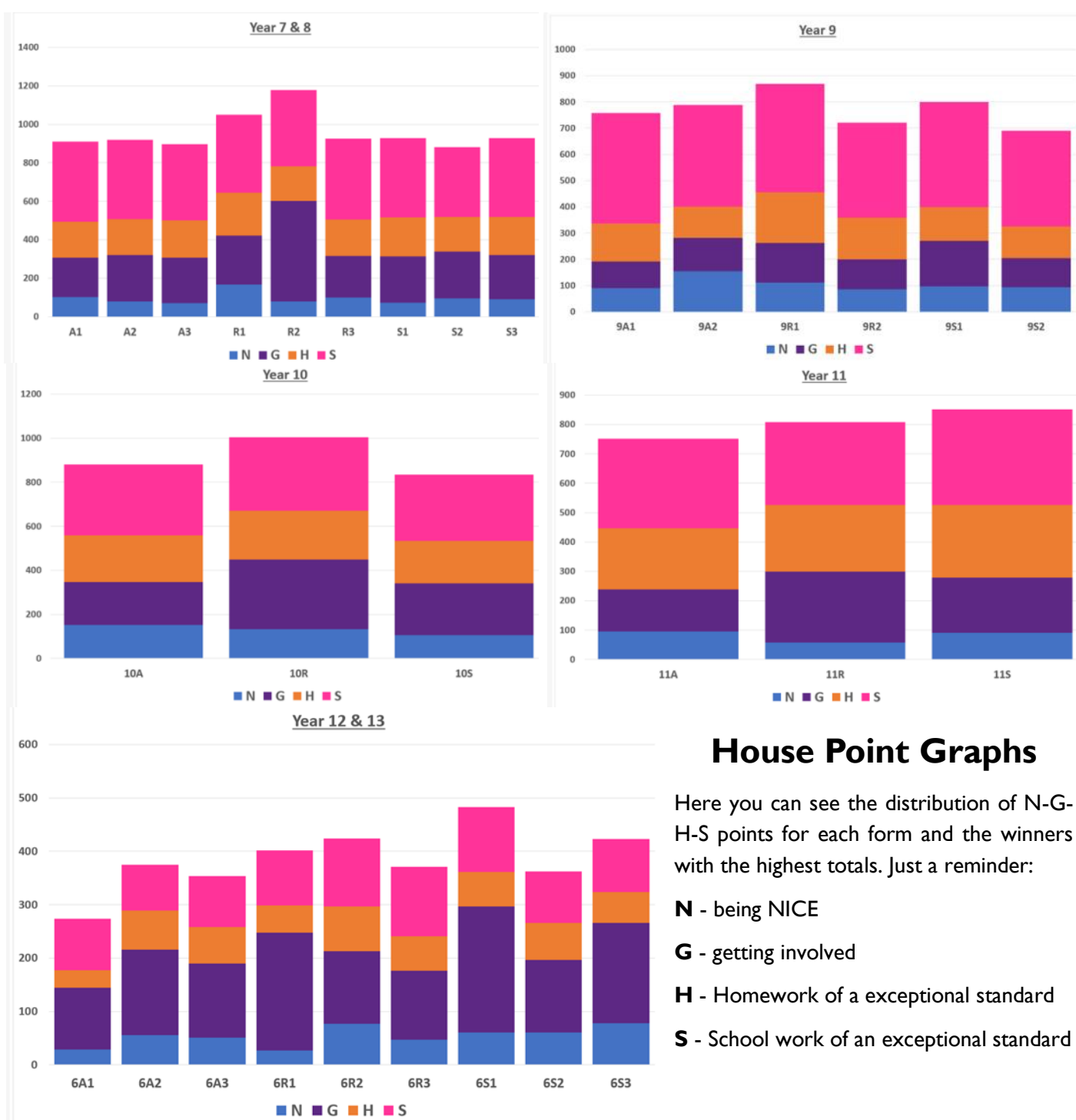




Last half term saw another monumental haul of house-points being awarded to students throughout the school for all of their positive deeds and incredible achievements. These include planning and delivering assemblies, completing outstanding homework and classwork, competing in house events, and supporting the school outside of the school day. Our students have truly embodied the N-G-H-S way.

As well as rewarding personal success, this is also a wonderful opportunity for some friendly competition between form groups and therefore below is an update of how each form has performed over the first term of this academic year. A final total will be calculated before our next round of rewards assemblies and prizes will be awarded to the winning forms and also to the students who have achieved the most house points in each area. Well done to everyone for their hard work and achievements.

**Mr O Pointon, Acting Assistant Head**



## House Point Graphs

Here you can see the distribution of N-G-H-S points for each form and the winners with the highest totals. Just a reminder:

**N** - being NICE

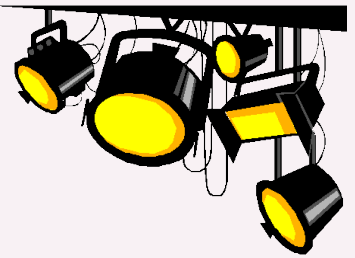
**G** - getting involved

**H** - Homework of a exceptional standard

**S** - School work of an exceptional standard

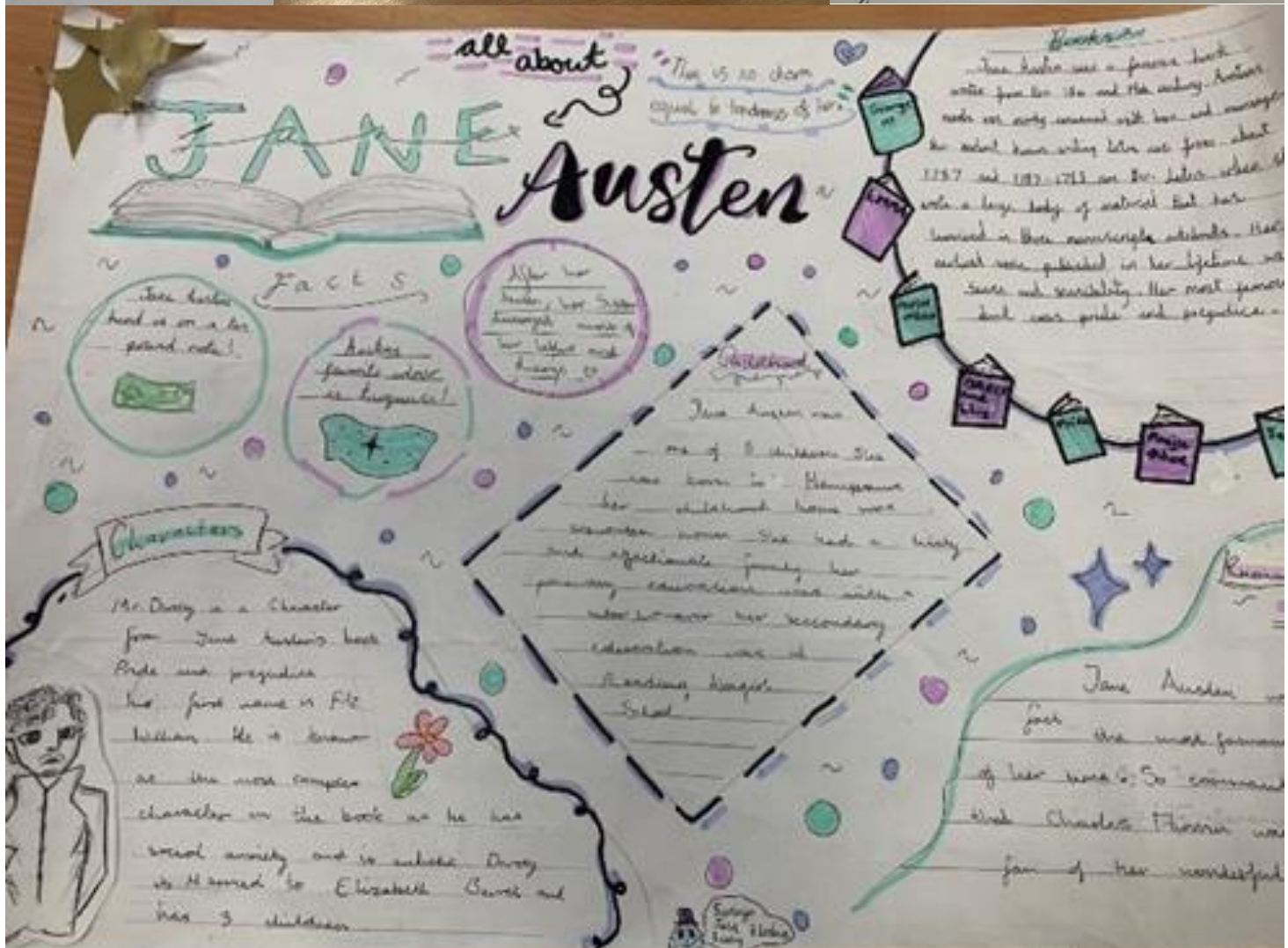
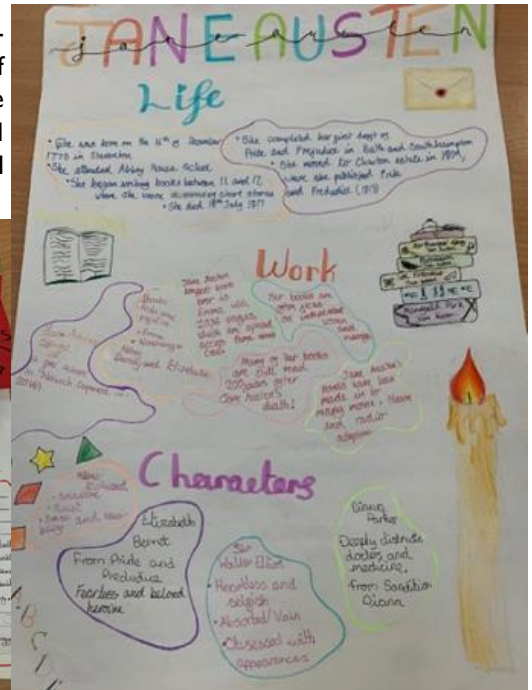
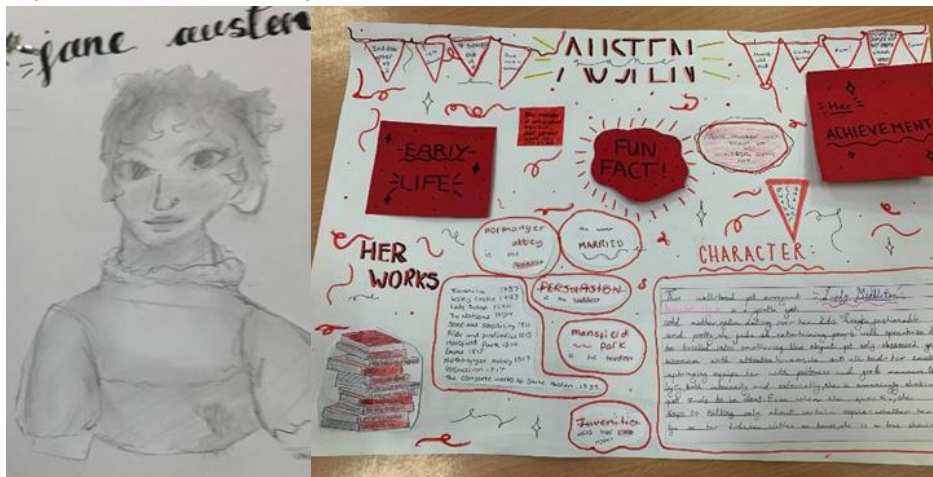
# FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

## English & Performing Arts



### Building Cultural Capital

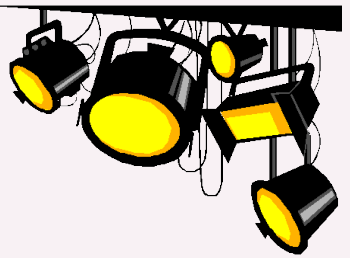
As part of the newly-developed Foundations of English lessons, Year 7 have been exploring English literature through the ages. Recently, students enjoyed researching the life and works of the 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century novelist, Jane Austen; 7H produced some fabulously creative and detailed information resources.



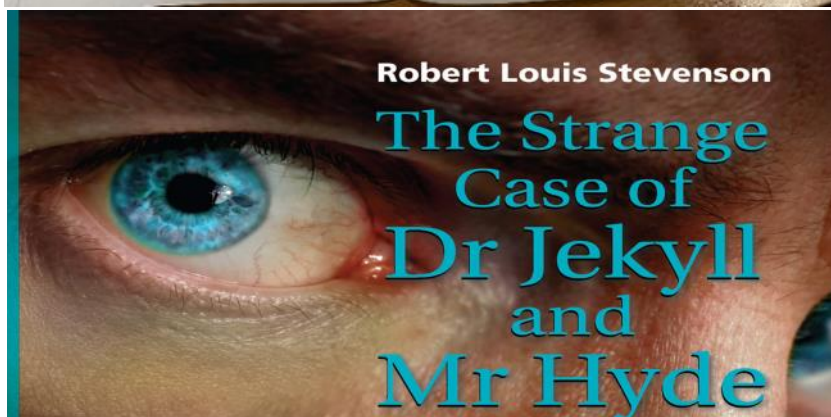
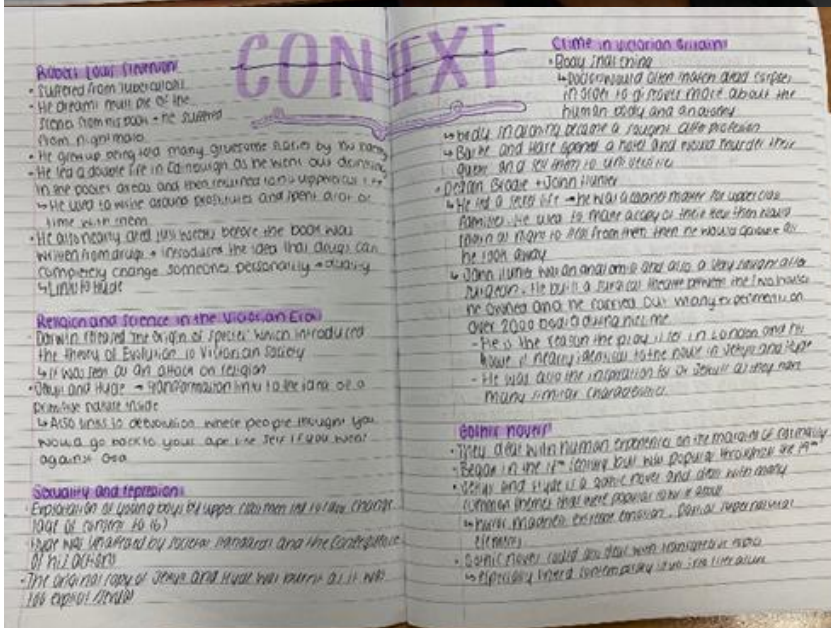
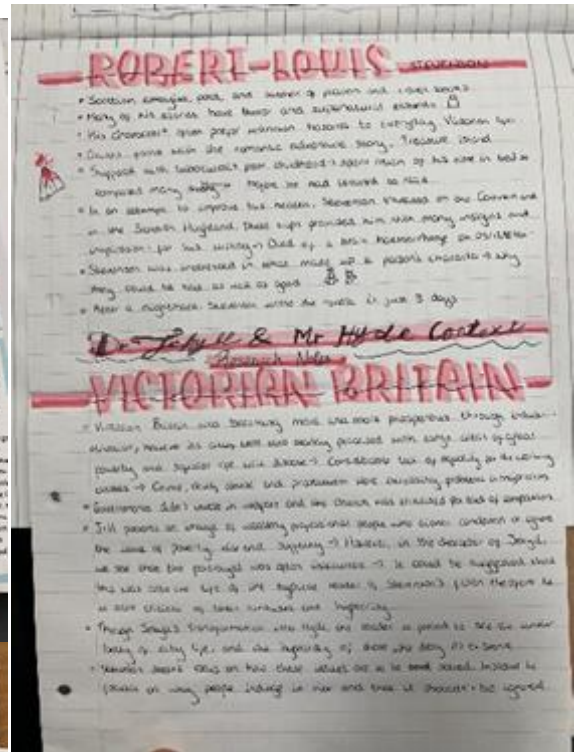
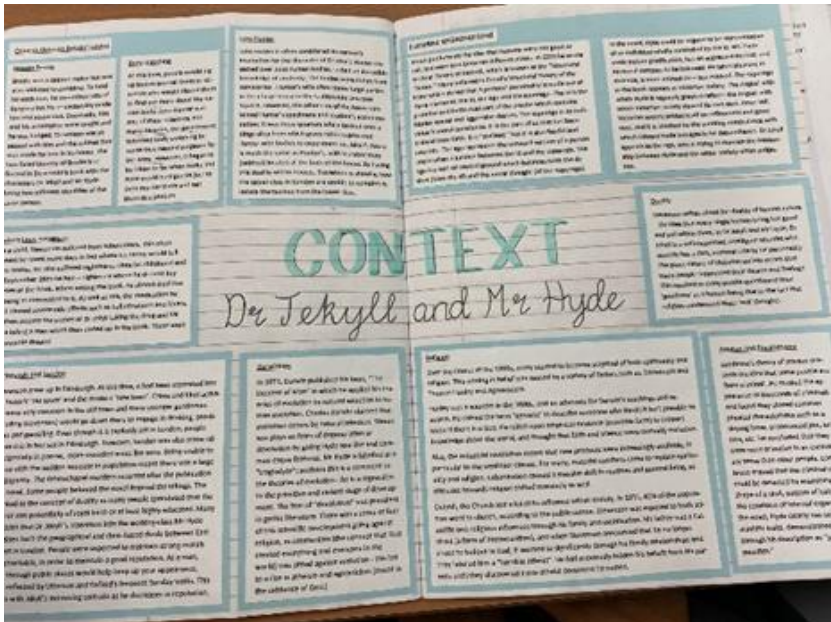


# FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

## English & Performing Arts



**Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde (y11)** Over the past few weeks, Year 11 have begun their exploration of the 19th century novel for their English Literature GCSE. The students have a homework timetable of tasks which they must complete every week. Here are some excellent examples of detailed context research, completed by students in 11Y:



gcse poetry  
**live!**

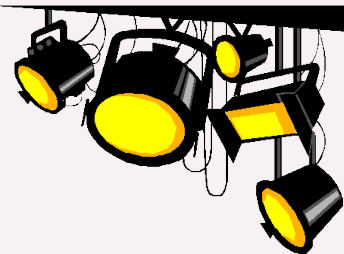
On Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February, Year 11 will be spending the day at Symphony Hall in Birmingham. Not only will they be able to hear poets read and discuss the poetry we have been studying - including the Poet Laureate, Simon Armitage - students will also gain valuable insights from AQA examiners. It is always an excellent event; we can't wait!

Mrs S Tomkinson



# FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

## English & Performing Arts



### Rotary **YOUTH SPEAKS** A Debate COMPETITION



In December, members of the NGHS Debate Club participated in the first round of the Rotary Youth Speaks competition alongside students from Haberdashers' Adams and Burton Borough. The debate was focused on the popular topic of voting at 16. The team (comprising of Eleanor, Chizzy and Charlotte and led by Miss Steadman) portrayed the core values of NGHS by respecting and valuing opposers. Haberdashers' Adams won and the NGHS Team finished in second place. Congratulations to the debate club!

**Charlotte, Year 8**

### HORROR BACKGROUND MUSIC

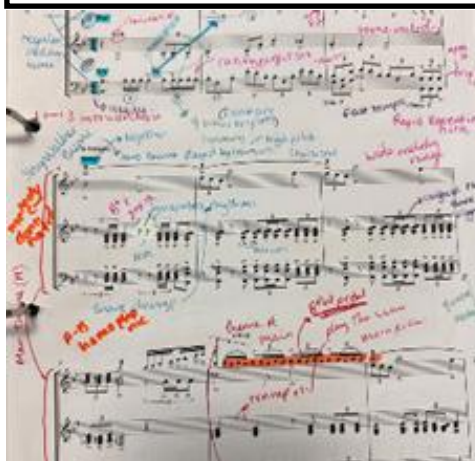
Students in Year 8 are currently working on Film Music and specifically composers of music from Horror films. As part of this, each class has been looking at the compositional devices used by film composers and apply these to compose creepy ostinato patterns and 'psycho' chords. These initial ideas will then be developed into incidental music for the trailer of The Woman in Black.

*In our current music lessons, we are focusing on the unit of Film Music and specifically Horror film music. We began by exploring the iconic soundtrack of 'Psycho'. After listening to this, we identified the musical elements included in the soundtrack and began learning about concords (pleasant sounding chords) and discords (dissonant, unpleasant sounding chords). The class then paired up and we played the original Psycho chord then composed our own using octave notes in the left hand and our own discord in the right.*

### Instrumental Lessons?



If your child would like to learn an instrument or receive vocal lessons, please email Mrs Chapman via the school office for more information.



#### Year 10's Thoughts:

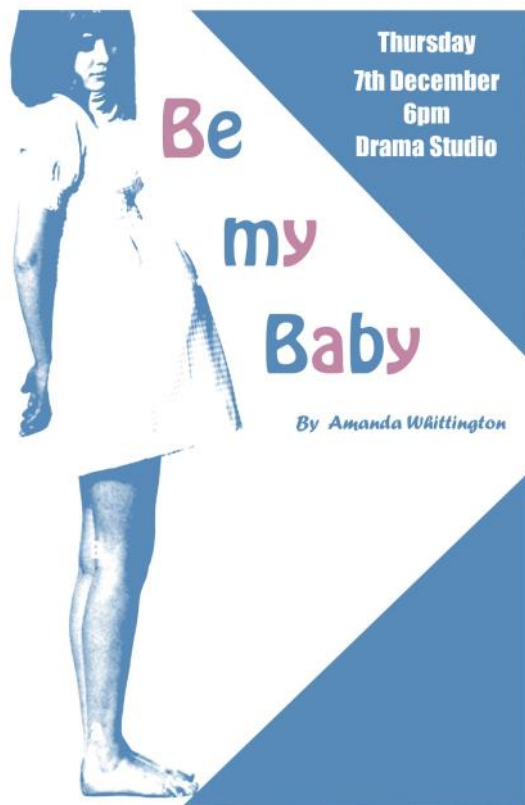
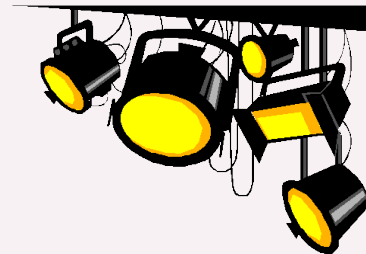
My composition is inspired by the Babbling Stream painting by Bob Ross as I like his art work and admire his talent." **Willow**

My piece had a floaty atmosphere with some emphasised dramatic moments. My piece is mainly made up of piano and strings I was influenced by romantic pieces specifically Tchaikovsky's work." **Calen-Mei**

In Year 10 music so far, this year we have been working on our set work analysis. We have explored Defying Gravity by Steven Schwartz and the Star Wars Main Theme by John Williams by annotating our scores and listening to the pieces. Alongside this we have been independently writing our first GCSE compositions about a subject of our choice. We have enjoyed creating and hearing our own music through Sibelius.

# FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

## English & Performing Arts



### Sixth Form Drama Production: 'Be My Baby'

When I was cast as Dolores, and rehearsals began, I immediately became excited by the prospect of performing a show especially, 'Be My Baby.' Amanda Whittington's play focuses on the 1960's setting of women pregnant, giving birth away from home to preserve their reputations as women in society. The play approaches this idea using comedic value and therefore all cast members worked hard to provide both to the audience. An audience member proclaimed, 'a moving but simultaneously comedic play,' all cast members adopted Konstantin Stanislavski's techniques to provide an animated performance. When all the set arrived and the lighting had been designed, it all felt very real and the nerves kicked in, we filled the drama studio with tiered seating and an excited atmosphere and the play started. One key moment was the use of sheets as props, as all characters consistently got tired of hanging sheets on the line, that the character Queenie threw a sheet onto Dolores. Overall, all actors found the performance a great approach to our academic study of the play and found the performance a success."

**Laura** (Y13 Drama Student)

### Year 7 Dance Results

Last half term, Year 7 completed a dance unit in their PE lessons. Each class had three lessons of teacher taught dance before being split into their houses and nominating their dance captains. They then had three lessons to choreograph a dance routine which they would then perform to the rest of the class on their final performance lesson.

Year 7 dance had to have a focus on Disney.

The standard across each class was high and every group worked incredibly hard, making very difficult to judge the dances. The atmosphere and support from the students whilst they were performing was phenomenal. Watching all the dance in the last week of half term was a brilliant end to a great unit of dance!

**First Place:** Seacole  
**Joint Second:** Austen & Roddam



**Annie Wood** (Y8) and **Ivy Brannen** (Y7) took part in the **Shropshire County Cross Country Championships** at Attingham Park on Saturday 6th January, both running for Telford Athletics Club. Annie won with a time of 6.49 to become U13 Girls Shropshire County Cross Country Champion and qualifying to represent Shropshire in the Inter Counties Cross Country Championships in March. Ivy helped the Telford Athletics team finish in second place, receiving a silver medal. Well done, girls!





## 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
E Bottrill (A2)	Mrs A Benoit
A Correia (S2)	Mrs A Benoit
A D-Mudiyanselage (S3)	Ms K Gill
E Fisher (6A3)	Mrs K Griffin
T Fletcher (6R2)	Ms K Gill
E Green (6S1)	M. C Audouin
F Hancock (11 Rod)	Ms K Gill
J Hill (6S2)	Ms K Gill
K Hossack (6A2)	Ms AM Davies
C Hurst (6S3)	Mrs K Griffin

To: Student	From: Teacher
C Jenkins (S1)	Mrs A Benoit
A McCann (R3)	Mrs A Benoit
B McCloy (6S1)	Miss A M Davies
L Phillips (6S1)	M. C Audouin
B Rees (6R1)	Ms AM Davies
E-G Riley (R2)	Ms K Gill
A Tahora (A3)	Ms K Gill
H Taylor (6R2)	M. C Audouin
H Thorpe (6S2)	Ms K Gill
L Ward (S1)	Mrs A Benoit



## A 'Sweet' Exchange with Japan!

This week in Japanese High School Club we received a lovely parcel from our partner school in Kyotango, Japan. Everyone received a New Year card and a variety of Japanese Kit Kats to sample – including the intriguing “autumn” flavour! Oishiii!

We then received this photograph from Japan of students with their NGHS parcels of goodies. The weather looks as chilly as in Newport! The students in Japan found our sweets a lot sweeter than what they are accustomed to.

We now looking forward to some video conferences with our friends in Japan and hope to continue sending treats and messages between the two countries.

Thank you to Mrs Fujii for forging this link for NGHS and to the Japanese Club students who are so keen to learn more about life at schools in Japan.



# 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)