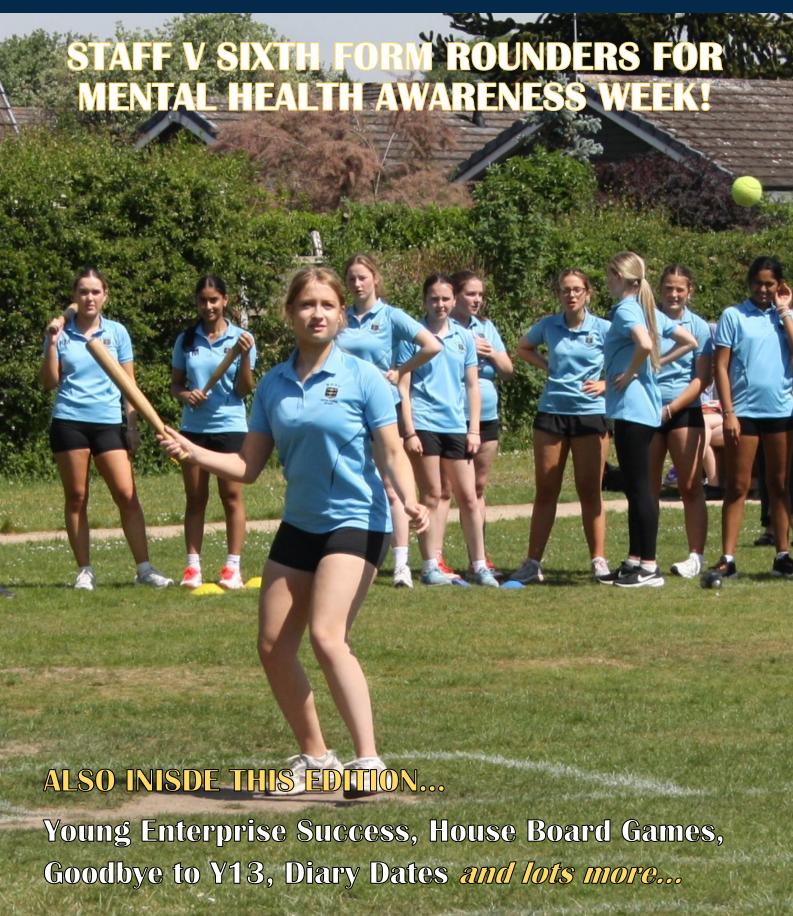
NEWPORT NEWS



The fortnightly newsletter from Newport Girls' High School

Volume 8—Edition 16 Monday 19th May 2025





NEWPORT NEWS

A fortnightly update from NGHS



Mr Adam Jones, Headteacher

s we approach the end of this short but eventful half-term, it's hard to believe how much we've packed into just a few weeks. The past fortnight has been especially memorable as we said a fond farewell to our Year 13 students. They marked their final days in true Newport style—arriving in fancy dress and even donning their old uniforms for one last nostalgic nod to their school journey. Mrs Griffin led a heartfelt final assembly, filled with laughter, stories, photographs, and well-deserved awards. It was a wonderful celebration of their time with us, and we wish them all the very best for their examinations.

We were also thrilled to celebrate a fantastic achievement by our Year 12 Young Enterprise team, Tag-Along, who were crowned West Midlands Regional Champions and will now go on to represent the region at the National Final. This is a tremendous accomplishment, and we are incredibly proud of their innovation, teamwork, and professionalism. A massive thank you must also go to Mr Bentley and Mr Hague, our assigned business adviser, for the support and guidance they have given our three enterprise teams throughout the year.

In the spirit of friendly competition and wellbeing, our staff took on the Sixth Form in a lively rounders match—an event that formed part of our Mental Health Awareness Week activities.

Volume 8 - Edition 16 - Monday 19th May 2025

Organised by Isabel, our Deputy Head Girl for Health and Wellbeing, alongside the rest of the Head Girl Team, the match was a brilliant way to bring the school community together. Laughter, encouragement, and a few impressive catches made for a fantastic afternoon, with the staff team narrowly clinching victory. More importantly, it was a reminder of the power of sport and shared experiences in supporting mental health and building positive relationships across the school. We're now looking ahead to Sports Day, which promises to continue this spirit of fun, teamwork, and wellbeing.

This week marks Assessment Week for many of our students. These assessments are an important opportunity for students to reflect on their progress, consolidate their learning, demonstrate the knowledge and skills they've developed over the year. Staff have worked hard ensure that the assessments are both meaningful and supportive, helping to identify strengths and areas for further growth. We know that this can be a time of increased pressure for some students, so we are encouraging everyone to approach the week with a positive mindset and to make use of the support available—whether that's through revision sessions, wellbeing resources, or simply talking to a trusted adult. As always, we are proud of the maturity and resilience our students show during these periods, and we are confident that their efforts will be rewarded.

Thank you for your continued support as we head into the final stretch of this half-term. We look forward to sharing more updates and celebrating further successes in the next edition.

Best wishes,

Mr. A Jones, Headteacher

Newport Girls' High School

Wellington Road

Headteacher: Mr A Jones

Newport, TF10 7HL To contact the School about a general enquiry, please use **schooloffice@nghs.org.uk**



MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK 2025



During the week of I2th to I6th May, NGHS held a series of events highlighting the importance of mental health. **Isabel C, (Deputy Head Girl for Health and Wellbeing)** and the rest of the Head Girl Team organised a series of activities to promote 'Mental Health Awareness Week' as developed by the Mental Health Foundation UK.

On Monday 16th, students and staff were able to participate in Yoga delivered by Mrs Gill and on Tuesday 17th it was 'calmness colouring' in conjunction with the Art Department. Wednesday saw the Y12 students take on the staff in a 'fun' game of rounders to highlight the many positive benefits of sport and physical activity. Thursday was a day to 'accessorise in green' to show your support for the cause along with 'Just Dance' in the Drama Studio. Friday was the House Board Games competition to round off the week

The week was a fantastic success with lots of opportunities for everybody to get involved and Isabel, the Head Girl Team and everybody else who helped and participated should be extremely proud of their efforts!

STAFF V Y12 ROUNDERS REPORT



Lunchtime on the 14th May saw the Y12 students take on the staff in a f u n b u t competitive game of rounders! Fielding a team of players with very

mixed experience in the game, the staff were hoping to give the sixth formers a run for their money but most importantly for everyone to enjoy themselves!



With a large crowd of students watching on, every hit, catch and rounder was cheered enthusiastically! In a tight but very sporting contest the eventual winners were the staff by the slimmest of margins, 9 rounders to 8! The Y12's and everybody agreed it was a superb event where the score really

didn't matter but lots of smiles and laughs were had!













WEAR IT GREEN FOR MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK!

To show support for 'Mental Health Awareness Week', students and staff were invited to wear green accessories and make a donation to support for this very important cause!

























HOUSE BOARD GAMES REPORT

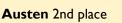
Mental Health Awareness Week was rounded off with the annual House Board Games competition. Each year group had a different game to play: Y7 Connect 4, Y8 Jenga, Y9 Dobble, Y10 Battleships, Y12 Chess. After it was all over we are pleased to announce the results as follows:



CONNECT

Overall Results

Roddam 1st place



Seacole 3rd place

Individual Year Group Winners

Winners for Year 7: **Seacole** (Connect 4)

Winners for Year 8: Roddam and Seacole joint (Jenga)

Winners for Year 9: Austen (Dobble)

Winners for Year 10: Roddam (Battleships)

Winners for Year 12: Austen (Chess)





It proved to be an extremely enjoyable afternoon for all involved with great skill shown amongst the competitors. A fantastic way to finish off the week!













79 STUDENT SNAGS BRONZE IN NATIONAL COMPETITIONI



training extremely hard finals. this season and it's paying off with NGHS Y9 student, Charlotte B, a key member of the squad.

saw the WII4 compete at the National Junior Sculling and landed them the bronze Head at the Olympic Lake, Dorney where they rowed in medal competing against 27 teams. a timed head race against 45 other teams to gain an extremely impressive second place and silver medal.



Inter the at Regional Regatta 2025 held at the National sports Centre in Nottingham

competing initially in the trials against other North West teams, they qualified for both events at this prestigious

The junior Trentham race and went on to get a BC team have been brilliant 4th place in the 114 A

May 5th saw them back at Dorney competing in the National Junior Sculling Regatta against teams they raced at the Inter Regionals. Their continued Wednesday 26th March training and hard work paid off



Next week, Charlotte has a seat in the quad representing Trentham at the National Schools Regatta Charlotte was in both the WII4 quad and WII4 2x who Nottingham - the largest junior regatta of the season raced to represent with over 350 clubs competing so fingers crossed for the North West another great race.

> Trentham Junior BC is a small and friendly boat club they offer inexpensive learn to row sessions over the holidays and are always looking for new additions to the team if anyone fancies giving it a go.



YEAR 9 GEOGRAPHY NEWS

Miss Webster would like to give a special shout-out to her Year 9 Geographers. Throughout the year they have worked exceptionally hard in lessons and produced some brilliant work. Recently, they have been studying the Urban Environments topic of the GCSE course, which requires them to look at an overview of the major cities in the UK and a case study of London.

As part of this, they completed an introductory piece of work on the North-South divide and the reasons for the past industrial decline in parts of the UK; something we will revisit and explore in greater detail in Year 10. The effort they all put into this was exceptional and they should be very proud of the work they produced. Whilst all the work was brilliant and rewarded with 'S' stickers, a special well done to Alisha, Fay, Ebony, Jessica, Matilda, Esha, Izzy P, and Lauren for their efforts. Miss Webster



PENALTY HEARTBREAK IN FINAL FOR UNDER 13 FOOTBAL



ERCALL WOOD I - I

Ercall Wood Win 4-2 on Penalties





Tuesday 13th May saw the U13 it would be a tough match and they would have to be at Stadium in Wellington, for the Shropshire Girls Cup Final!

After some nail-biting matches in the captain, Megan K (Y8), to give her thoughts on the match, previous rounds, the team knew that

(Y7/8) football team travel to AFC the top of their game to win against a very strong Ercall Telford's Home Ground, SEAH Wood side. After ninety tough, tense minutes there was absolutely nothing to choose between the teams. Here is team

> "The Year 7 and 8 football match against Ercall Wood on the 13th of May was a close game. Ercall scored early on in the match, but Newport



equalized just before half time. The second half was close with both teams having chances, but neither seemed to be able to score. It went down to penalties and Newport sadly lost 4-2."

Despite the loss, the girls were thrilled to finish county runners up! A massive well done to all and maybe next year will be the one!



NGHS YOUNG ENTERPRISE WIN MIDLANDS FINAL FOR SECOND YEAR RUNNING!

OFF TO NATIONAL FINALS ON 4TH JUNE!



On Thursday 15th May, the Tag-Along team went to Warwick University for the West Midlands Regional Finals. The day started off by setting up our stall and scoping out the competition. We got to know our competitors' businesses and introduced our business and product to the judges for the first time. After lots of issues trying to get our boards to stand and frantically making Tag-Alongs to sell, it was time to go to our first activity of the day.

The activity we did involved forming mini teams with our competitors and pitching product proposals for 'useless inventions'. This taught us new sales techniques and how to work with new people in a short amount of time.



After settling our nerves, it was was time for the overall winners. time for our team to split into two with half of us going for the interview and the other half going back to the stall. As part of the In that moment a choir of high rules for these regional finals, each pitch screams filled member of your team had to do auditorium and most of us either the interview or the forgot how to walk down the presentation and could not do stairs as we went to receive the

Liz, Issy and Sara decided to do the interview while the team was smiling ear to ear as remaining 5 members of Tag-Along would be in the we were all in shock that we had presentation later. During the interview, we were asked won. We would not have been multiple questions surrounding the scalability of our nearly as successful at regionals business and the future of Tag-Along. All 5 of us answered if it wasn't for the constant support from our cheerleaders showing a passion for our business. Just before leaving our adviser Tony. interview. one of the judges stated how he really liked our product and can see a successful future for us which boosted our confidence going into the presentation stage.

We then had time to practice our presentation and then social media for all updates and preparations! went to have lunch provided to us by the university. After missing our slot for a campus tour, Mr Bentley kindly

offered to give us an insightful tour in the remaining time we had before it was time for the presentations.

The 10 other presentations were to such a high standard, so we knew we had to give our best performance. Anna, Grace, Sophie, Harriet and Aafiya gave an outstanding and flawless performance maintaining confidence in their speech and fully engaging with the audience. After watching the other presentations from our region we knew it would be

close after lots of deliberating a n d a n agonising the judges were ready to deliver the results.



The first award that we received was for best presentation and I must congratulate not only the team for their amazing delivery but Grace as well for her amazing PowerPoint making skills. After going through all the minor awards it

After what felt like an eternal wait the judges finally announced that the winner was... Tag-Along!

both. Therefore, myself, Anona, award. Every member of our



all the questions to a high standard whilst constantly for the day, Mr Bentley, Mrs Martin and our business

Now that we have won the West Midlands Final, we will progress onto the National Finals held on Wednesday 4th June in Manchester. Make sure you keep an eye on our

Tulsi M (Y12) - Managing Director of Tag-Along

YIB LAST DAY A CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION!

On Wednesday 7th May, Year 13 had their last day at NGHS when they left at 12.20pm to begin their study leave for A-levels.

Following a 'celebration' assembly in the Dining Hall, the students had an emotional send off as they prepare for their final A-level exams in May and June! Good luck to all of them and whatever the future may bring!





























School Planner competition

2025-2026

CALLING ALL CREATIVE MINDS!

IF YOU'VE GOT A PASSION FOR CREATIVITY AND DESIGN, THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO LEAVE YOUR MARK

We're on the hunt for fresh, vibrant, and inspiring planner cover designs for the upcoming academic year. After the incredible success of the past two years, we're excited to continue this wonderful tradition by giving our talented NGHS students the opportunity to design the next official student planner covers.

Please hand in or email entries to Mrs J Rose or Miss AM Davies. Please send photos and digital pieces via email (JPEG or PNG file type).

DEADLINE

Friday 6th June

We need a cover for KS3, KS4 and KS5 - you can submit one entry for a specific key stage or multiple entries for different key stages. The cover designs need to link to NGHS and capture what makes us so special. This could be based on things like learning, a sense of community or the architecture of the school.

- COULD BE CREATED BY HAND
- COULD BE A PHOTOGRAPH
- COULD BE A DIGITAL PIECE
- ► HAS TO CONSIDER A SPACE FOR 'NAME AND FORM'

NGH\$ ACHIEVE\$ PRE\$TIGIOU\$ **WELLBEING AWARD!**





We are very proud to announce that NGHS has been all parents/carers in the near future. We would like to awarded the Wellbeing Charter Mark from Telford and take this opportunity to extend our thanks to all those Wrekin Council.

As you are aware from our previous communication, Miss Webster and Ms Danby we have been working towards this for over 12 months, and therefore we are extremely pleased to have achieved this award. As part of the process, parents, carers, and staff were invited to take part in surveys, and students from across different year groups took part in a series of focus groups.

The awarding of the charter mark recognises the efforts of our whole school community in ensuring that wellbeing is prioritised within school and considered in the decisions that we make. Further information about the award and our next steps will be communicated to

that took part and supported with this work.



Recruiting Now

Newport Girls' High School

An exciting opportunity has arisen to join our 'Outstanding' School

Reprographics and **Administration Assistant**

Part time or Full time

20 to 37 hours per week over 5 days - Term time only Salary: NJC Grade 3 £20,686 (actual full time salary) Closing Date: Monday 2nd June 2025 9.00am

For more information on this role please visit our website:



www.nghs.org.uk/about-us/recruitment

STAFF MARATHON TRIO

...AND ANOTHER HALF FOR GOOD MEASURE!



rain, the weather decided to surprise going to be a tough ask to even get everyone on the day of the Manchester to the start line, let alone get to the marathon. Rather than running in the warm clothing they had trained in (including gloves!), Miss Webster and Miss Teggin had to disregard the saying 'nothing new on race day' as they prepared to run 26.2 miles in warmer temperatures and full sunshine! With many people struggling early on with the heat and having to withdraw, both decided to focus on completing the race safely rather than aiming

for a particular time. The support around the course was incredible with hundreds of people cheering the runners on and handing out extra water, ice cubes, and ice lollies, and some local residents turning their hose pipes on to create

showers for everyone to run through and cool down. Miss Webster crossed the finish line in 4 hours 23 minutes and Miss Teggin in 5 hours 30 minutes; both were absolutely thrilled to have completed the run under tough conditions and the refreshing cold drinks at the end were very much needed!



In addition to Miss Webster and Miss Teggin, our attendance officer Mrs Taylor also completed her first ever marathon in Newport Wales. After taking a last minute place for an monumental efforts!

After months of training in the cold, wind, and injured friend, she only had 4 weeks to train so it was always

However, she needn't have worried for a single moment as she crossed the line in the fantastic time of 3 hours and 46 minutes! A time good enough to qualify by right for the London Marathon! A delighted Mrs Taylor declared, "I can't really believe it. I had put the training in, but my



time was beyond anything I expected! Massive thanks to everyone who supported and sponsored me in raising £700 for the 'Young Lives v's Cancer' charity!"

...and finally, Mr Pimm completes his first half marathon!

On Sunday 4th May, Head of the Humanities Faculty, Mr Pimm, completed his first half marathon at the 'Great Birmingham Run'. In glorious sunshine (not always great for long distance runs), he was thrilled to finish in a time of 2 hours and 26 minutes. He also ran for another fantastic charity and £1,000 for raised over the Association.



Huge congratulations to all our staff runners for their

YEAR 8 CELEBRATING CIVIL RIGHTS



This term, Year 8 have made floats in history to celebrate civil rights. They were asked in groups to design a float celebrating an aspect of the Civil Rights movement.

> This year, many expanded their horizons and we had one group looking at 'women in cricket' another celebrating black women in Hollywood

and one incredible project looking at the injustices of the US legal system. The girls thoroughly enjoyed the task, as it allowed them to use both creativity, history knowledge and design ideas, but more importantly their work as a team, and to develop some important life skills.



Mrs Webb (History Teacher)





NGHS Social Media

The best way to stay up to date with all the latest news from NGHS is through our Social Media Channels and our website. We have two Facebook pages (main school and sixth form), two Instagram accounts (main school and sixth form) and a Twitter/X page. Make sure you subscribe, like and share to get all the latest news from school!





facebook.com/NewportGirls facebook.com/nghs6 (sixth form)

@NGHS_Info





@_nghs6form
@_nghsinsta

www.nghs.org.uk

Head Girl and House Team Social Media

In addition to the 'official' social media channels, there are also several social media pages/channels managed by the Head Girl and House Teams. These are run by the students themselves and often have a very student focused outlook that can be different to our main social media!

Please see the list below and visit and subscribe to any that you think would be of interest:

SOCIAL MEDIA TAGS

Austen Instagram: @teamausten_

Austen TikTok: @teamausten



Roddam Instagram: @teamroddam

Roddam TikTok: @teamroddam



Seacole Instagram: @teamseacole_

Seacole TikTok: @teamseacole



Head Girl Team Instagram: @nghshgt

Head Girl Team TikTok: @nghs_hgt



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 19th May Year 7-10 Internal Assessment Week (all week)

Friday 23rd May End of Half Term 3.45pm

Monday 2nd June Term Restarts

Upcoming Newport News Publication Dates



Monday 2nd June Art and D+T Focus

Monday 19th June

Monday 30th June PE and PSHE Focus

Monday 14th July Last Edition of the school year!



HOW TO GET IN TOUCH!

COMMUNICATION WITH SCHOOL

Over the course of the year, we will communicate with you in a variety of ways:

- Every two weeks, we publish **Newport News** on the school website. This document includes news from school, highlights upcoming events, and recent achievements. A link to each edition is sent home by email.
- An annual Parents' Evening to update you on your daughter's progress.
- Grade sheets and/or written reports to update you on your daughter's progress.
- An annual parent information evening to outline the key information relevant to each year group. This is in person for Year 7 and remote for other year groups.
- Relevant letters to your daughter are sent home via email.
- If teaching or pastoral staff have any concerns relating to your daughter, they will contact you by phone or email.

Occasions may arise when you need to contact the school to share information or raise concerns. There are several ways in which you can do this, including:

- By telephone 01952 797550 If possible, your call will be put through to an appropriate member of staff. Where this is not possible (member of staff is teaching/not in school/unavailable), a message will be taken and passed to an appropriate member of staff. You should expect a response to your call within 24 hours.
- By email schooloffice@nghs.org.uk You will receive an acknowledgement email once this has been received and be notified that the email has been passed to the appropriate member of staff (this may not always be to whom the email was addressed). You should then expect a response within 24-48 hours of this acknowledgement.
- By letter to the school.
- By recording a note in the communication section of your daughter's planner to be shared with a member of staff.

During school holidays, reception is closed and phone calls/emails cannot be responded to until we return to school. During the school holidays, urgent@nghs.org.uk is available to communicate key urgent information; it should not be used to send routine enquiries that can be responded to when school is open again. This account will be checked once every 24 hours by a senior member of staff. They will then take an appropriate response to

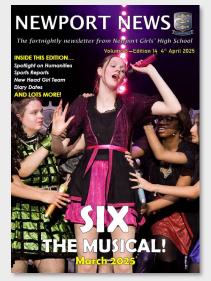
any email that has been received.



schooloffice@nghs.org.uk



01952 797550



NEWPORT NEWS Out fortnightly during

term time



Letter to school



Note in Student Planner

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

Artificial intelligence has seen significant development over the recent months, with companies releasing newAl-based software or adding an Al element to existing apps (such as Snapchat). One (ormof Allthat has become especially popular has been the 'Al friend' or chatbot. There are now numerous 'virtual friend' apps available, with other successful platforms likely to adopt it soon.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONTENT AND **ACCOUNTABILITY**

Al chatbots may not always recognise when content is age inappropriate or harmful and should be flitered out. As a result, there's a possibility that children could be exposed to offensive language or explicit material while conversing with their virtual friend. The companies producing such Al solutions are also unlikely to take responsibility for any content that their algorithms generate.

D@*#!

REDUCED SOCIAL CONTACT

An excessive reliance on chatbots for social interaction could potentially cause a child to begin reducing the amount of face-to-face communication they have, leading to social isolation. If young people become dependent on chatbots to provide companionship, it could possibly hinder the development of their real-life social skills.

LACK OF SENSITIVITY

Chatbot software isn't always sophisticated enough to pick up on subtle emotional cues or recognise signs of distress in children, as most humans would. It might therefore fail to respond appropriately. Al misinterpreting what it's being told or replying insensitively to a young user who's already struggling could potentially impact a child's emotional wellbeing or exacerbate any existing emotional issues.

UNINTENTIONAL BIAS

Al companions are only as reliable as the information they've been programmed with. The algorithms they use, therefore, may unintentionally promote bias, stereotypes or discriminatory behaviour. As many chatbots originate from the USA or UK, for instance, they can display a distinctly western-centric worldview. This could lead to children developing skewed attitudes and behaviours if they interact with the Al consistently.

COGNITIVE **LIMITATIONS**

Although many are now undeniably advanced, Al-powered chatbots still have limitations in terms of understanding complex concepts, context and nuance. Depending heavily on chatbots to help with learning or solving problems may stunt the development of a child's own powers of critical thinking, their creativity and their ability to engage in open-ended discussions with other people.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

NEW MESSAGE

Chatbots typically collect data about users, including personal information and conversations. This is ostensibly to improve their performance as they gradually learn about our behaviour – but many experts warn that there may be significant risks associated with how this information is stored and used (for instance, the possibility of potential breaches or misuse by third parties).



CHAT ABOUT CHATBOTS

22 If a child is already expressing an interest in Al apps, then a relaxed, natural chat should help you to discover which ones they're aware of and how they're using them (or are planning to). Discuss these options with children and perhaps do your own research to ensure that you think they're suitable. Once you're totally happy, you could sit and explore the

CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

If a child is keen to engage with Al chatbots, encourage them to do so in a safe environment: ideally in a shared space, so you can easily keep an eye and ear on their progress. Set up appropriate content filtering measures in advance – and gently remind them that you'll be close by and ready to help with any questions or concerns that may arise.

FIND A BALANCE

Work alongside children to establish the right balance in terms of how they might use Al-powered chatbots – and when it's appropriate. It's important to make sure that children still get plenty of opportunities to learn to solve problems for themselves, as well as building their interpersonal skills through face-to-face conversations with friends, family members and teachers.

TAKE CONTROL

As with any form of app or game, when it comes to AI chatbots we'd strongly recommend that you consider employing parental controls (either on the device being used or within the software itself) to manage which apps children can download and interact with. This is particularly important for younger children, who may be more at risk of being upset or frightened by inappropriate content.

is the Director of IT at a large boarding school in the UK, having previously taught in schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East. With a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security, he believes it is essential that we become more aware of the risks around technology, as well as the benefits.



RECOGNISE THE RISKS

It's unlikely that most children will have even considered the potential risks attached to having a virtual companion. So it's probably wise to explain some of the possible hazards and challenges of Al chatbots to them. Emphasise that Al isn't a real person (however much it might sound like one) and may occasionally tell them something inaccurate or skewed by bias.







The **National** College®

@wake_up_weds



/wuw.thenationalcollege



(a) @wake.up.wednesday



@wake.up.weds

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 D Martin Head of Year 7



Mrs K Danby Head of Year 8



Mrs A Chapman Head of Year 9



Miss A M Davies Head of Year 10



Ms J Capaldi Head of Year 11



Mrs K Griffin Head of Sixth Form

Mrs F Davenport: Pastoral Support & **DDSL**

Wellbeing Team



Mrs Aver-Howdle Years 7—10

Wellbeing Officer



Miss E Heyes Wellbeing Officer (YII/Sixth Form)



Mrs V Glew Administrator (Sixth Form)

Safeguarding Team



Miss S Webster: Deputy Headteacher & DDSL



Mrs K Danby: Well-being Manager, CSE Lead & DDSL



Mr A Jones: Headteacher & DDSL



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

DSL—Designated Safeguarding Lead DDSL—Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead