

NEWPORT NEWS



The fortnightly newsletter from Newport Girls' High School

Volume 8—Edition 5 8th November 2024

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...AND LOTS MORE!

**SPECIAL
EDITION**

SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE!



NEWPORT NEWS

A fortnightly update from NGHS

Volume 8 - Issue 5 - Friday 8th November 2024



Mr Adam Jones, Headteacher

I trust that you and your families had a well-deserved half term break after a very long first eight week period. This half term has already started at a pace and will continue throughout the term as we have parents' evenings, open events, mock examinations, house events and of course the usual pre-Christmas celebrations.

Fifty-five of our staff and students spent the first few days of half term on our annual trip to Iceland. It was incredibly successful, and I know that the students taking part were a credit to the school in terms of their behaviour, engagement and enjoyment of the visit. Thank you to all the staff who attended and to Mr Pimm and Mrs Gill for their leadership and organisation of the expedition.

Wednesday evening saw us welcome parents into school for the Year 7 Information Evening. This provided an opportunity to attend some information talks, meet Form Tutors but also just to informally find out more about the school and the experiences that will follow over the next few years. Form tutors play a crucial role in our pastoral care within school as they see their form each day and are therefore an important point of contact for parents during their child's time at NGHS. Thank you to those of you that were able to attend, and we hope you found the evening helpful. If you missed it, hopefully you will have seen that we have sent out the slides from the presentations that took place.

This week, a number of our students took part in our Remembrance Assembly by sharing their experiences as the children of service men and women. The assembly was reflective and moving and I would like to thank all those who participated. On Monday,

Remembrance Day, at 11am, we will remember those whose lives were tragically lost in World War I but also other conflicts, which we know from this assembly affect members of our NGHS family personally.

Next week, our Sixth Form Open Evening (for Y11 students and parents) takes place on Thursday 14 November from 4.30pm-7pm. Some parking will be available on the Courts. We will have lots of Year 11s visiting from other schools too and it will be a chance to hear more about the excellent curriculum offer, pastoral care and leadership opportunities in our highly successful sixth form. We hope you can join us.

The following day, we are looking forward to holding our Prizegiving Afternoon where we celebrate student achievements during the previous academic year. It is an important annual event and one where several former staff and longtime supporters of the school attend to congratulate the latest generation of NGHS students. In part, I feel it shows that even when staff and students have long left the school, NGHS remains firmly in the heart.

One such member of staff was Mrs Jean Simpson, a music teacher at NGHS during the 1980s and 90s. Mrs Simpson recently passed away at the age of 89 and her family have been in contact to offer the donation of her Baby Grand Piano to the school. It was clear to me that she would have wanted nothing more than to see the future generations of NGHS students gaining pleasure from using the instrument in the way she had throughout her life. We are extremely grateful to Mrs Simpson's family for this kind donation to the school and I am sure it will feature in future editions of Newport News.

Mr A Jones, Headteacher

Newport Girls' High School

Wellington Road

Newport, TF10 7HL

Headteacher: Mr A Jones

To contact the School about a general enquiry, please use schooloffice@nghs.org.uk

UPCOMING EVENTS AND DATES

We have a very busy school calendar in the run up to the end of term so please take note of these upcoming events. Further details and dates for the future can be found on the school website at www.nghs.org.uk or on the school Facebook, Instagram and X (Twitter) accounts.



SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

Thursday 14th November 4.30pm-7pm

No need to book. Talks from the Headteacher, Head of 6th Form, Head Girl and a current Y12 pupil will be held at 4.45, 5.30 and 6.15pm.

Ofsted
Outstanding Provider

nghs.org.uk/sixth-form/open-evening

THE SUNDAY TIMES
SCHOOLS GUIDE 2020
WEST MIDLANDS STATE SECONDARY SCHOOL OF THE YEAR



YOUNG ENTERPRISE FUNDRAISER
EVERYONE CAN ATTEND

STAFF VS STUDENTS BENCHBALL

£1 ENTRY

There will be food stalls so make sure to bring some change!

IN THE HALL @ 12:45
TUESDAY 12 NOVEMBER

Diary Dates

- 12.11.24** Young Enterprise Fundraiser. Staff v Students benchball. 12.45pm
- 12.11.24** Year 7 CAT testing in school
- 14.11.24** Sixth Form Open Evening (4.30-7.00pm)
- 15.11.24** Prizegiving Afternoon in the Hall. Invite online. Please arrive and be seated by 1.45pm for a prompt 2.00pm start.
- 18.11.24** Year 11 GCSE Mock Examination Week
- 18.11.24** A level 'Biology Live' at Birmingham University



In the spotlight...



SCIENCE AT NEWPORT GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL



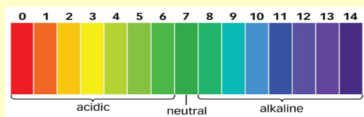
The science faculty at NGHS is a large and extremely well regarded department achieving exceptional results at both GCSE and A level and fostering a genuine love of this vital area in our students. In this edition of Newport News we focus on the department giving you an insight into some of the work that goes on. We start with Year 7 with what they have been learning about since they joined the school in September.

ACIDS AND ALKALIS BY LOLA B YEAR 7

In Year 7 chemistry this term, we have been mixing chemicals with indicators – red cabbage indicator, and universal indicator, which is dark green. The chemicals that we used were Sodium Hydroxide and Hydrochloric acid.

The Sodium Hydroxide is an alkali, so it would turn universal indicator dark blue, depending on how much you used. The Hydrochloric Acid would then turn the indicator red, again depending on how much you used.

In class, we mixed universal indicator with household chemicals such as lemon juice, soap and vinegar.



This table is used to compare acidity and alkalinity of our solutions. The closer it is to being red, the more acidic it is. The closer it is to the right, the more alkaline it is.

UNIVERSAL INDICATOR

In class, we tried to make a variety of colours using universal indicator. To explain, the colours such as purple and blue are alkali indicating and the lighter shades such as red, orange and yellow are indicating acidic solutions. I enjoyed creating the spectrum of colours with the knowledge we gained during the lessons and also having a go at making unusual and exciting mixture of tricolours that my class also attempted to make. **Dhanvi M** Year 7



Photos by Parisa A Year 7

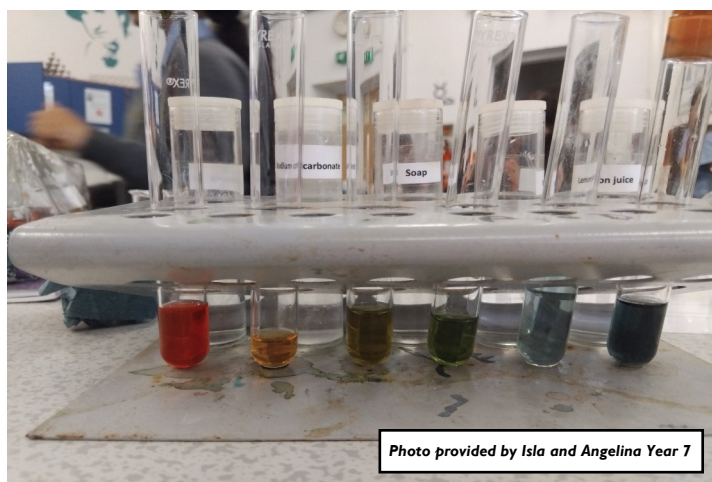


Photo provided by Isla and Angelina Year 7

DID YOU KNOW?



If you have the universal indicator with acid in it – when it's pink – and add water to dilute it, it sometimes turns orange?



Taken by Lily and Hannah Year 7—We made pink!

SCIENCE SUPPORT AT NGHS

The Science Faculty at Newport Girls' High School are immensely proud of the achievements of the students in the three principle sciences of biology, chemistry and physics. In Years 7 and 8 the students all have 1 lesson of each subject as they build their foundation knowledge. In Years 9, 10 and 11 they will have 2 hours of each subject as they follow their GCSE courses. If the students choose to study a science at A level they will study in depth for 4 hours per week.

In addition to these lessons every subject has regular 'drop in' sessions. These are for additional support, to catch up work, revision time, chats with the teacher about an area a student is struggling in or any other guidance and support that is needed.

Biology Clubs



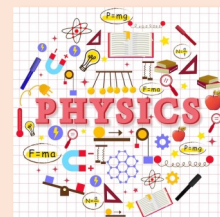
What	When	Who	Where	Teacher
Drop-in	Monday 1pm	Year 12 and Year 13	Lab 17	Mrs Han
Bridging gaps	Monday 1pm	Year 12	Lab 20	Mrs Fletcher
Support	Tuesday 1pm	Years 13	Lab 17	Mrs Dainty
Mentoring	Wednesday 1pm	Years 7-11	Lab 17	Mrs Nicholls

Physics Drop In

Lab 15 1.05-1.35pm **Dr. Catalan**

A Level: Tuesdays

Y7-11: Wednesdays

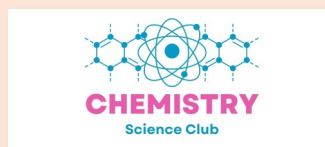


Chemistry Drop In

Y7-8 Lab 19 1.00-1.30pm **Mr. Wade** Tuesday

Y9-11 Lab 19 1.00-1.30pm **Mr. Tolley** Monday

Y12-13 Lab 22 1.00-1.30pm **Mr. Wright** Monday



Year 13 Biology Club offering invaluable study support!



There are many opportunities for students to go on extra curricular trips and events to improve their science knowledge and understanding. An example of one such opportunity is the 'Biology Live' event that will be taking place on Monday 18th November in the Great Hall at Birmingham University. Mrs Fletcher, Mrs Dainty, Mrs Nicholls and Mrs Han will be accompanying a group of Sixth Form students for a series of lectures and events. In what promises to be a fascinating day the following speakers and topics will be covered. There will be a full report from the students in the next edition of Newport News!



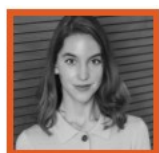
Prof Robert Winston
Human Progress



Prof Jennifer Rohn
Revenge of the Microbes



Dr Tim Lamont
Hope for Coral Reefs



Dr Camilla Nord
The Science of Mental Health



Prof Sophie Scott
Why we laugh

SIXTH FORMERS GET BUSY BUILDING!

Engineering Society has been launched this year, and is a student-led club committed to nurturing innovation, creativity, and collaboration, all while exploring the diverse and exciting world of engineering. We come together every Wednesday lunchtime in the DT room to tackle hands-on projects and participate in challenges. Our aim is to encourage students to think critically about mechanics and engineering principles in a fun, practical way. Whether you're a curious Year 7 or a seasoned Sixth Form student, all year groups are welcome to join!

Last half term, we focused on civil engineering and completed a thrilling Bridge Building Challenge, where teams competed to design and construct a bridge using limited materials that could support the greatest weight possible.



We also perform informative and interactive presentations aimed at equipping students with the engineering techniques needed for the tasks ahead. After several weeks of

research, planning, and construction, bridge testing commences next week, and we will decide our winner! This challenge has not only highlighted the need for teamwork and organisation, but also emphasised the importance of structural integrity and efficient design.

This half term, we plan to delve into the world of mechanical engineering, where we'll be creating our own catapults and pulley systems! This will prepare us for the next challenge, where students will be provided with basic materials like rubber bands, lollipop sticks, and bottle caps to construct their own "rubber band-powered" vehicles. They will need to carefully consider the mechanics of how the rubber band can be wound to store energy and efficiently transfer that energy into forward motion. We aim to explore key principles of energy transfer, friction, and aerodynamics to optimise the performance of our designs. At the end of term, we will test our products and see whose car travels the furthest to establish our winner, who will receive a prize!

All year groups are welcome to join Engineering Society, and we look forward to seeing more new faces next week!

Shruti M and Madeline T (Year 13)

ENGINEERING SOCIETY

If you're interested in engineering,
or just want to build something
fun, come along to Engineering
Society!

- **Every Wednesday, second half of lunch**
- **DT Room (refer to form notices)**
- **Supervised by Mr Williams**
- **Places will be limited for project work!!**



Contact Us:

Madeleine Turner Y13

001196@nghs.org.uk

Shruti Mathew Y13

001166@nghs.org.uk

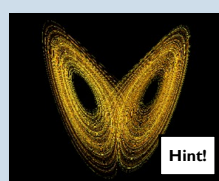
Science Writing Competition

Many people feel that science (and many other aspects of STEM) is all about equations, facts and numbers with little chance of involving the imagination, this is nowhere near the truth. Scientists investigate better ways to describe the world we live in and want to help others understand this and to do this they need to use language. A few years ago, the school was looking at ways to develop a more cross curricular opportunities and to enhance the house system; the Science Writing Competition was born from this.

Every year we hold the competition; students enter work under three categories: Fiction; a Factual Report (either a newspaper-type article or report on a science experiment); a Fantasy story based around the theme. The last two themes have been 'The Moon' inspired by NASA's plans to return humans to the moon and 'Time Travel' inspired by the 60th anniversary of the first screening of Doctor Who on the BBC.

As a house event students gain five G house points for

entering and further house points are available for winners and highly commended entries. The quality of the entries is always exceptionally high, and students often add their own innovations; in the past we have had graphic novellas and written work supported by video pieces entered. All entries are judged by members of the Science and English department and occasionally by guest judges. Though we cannot stretch to silverware for winners, all prize winners receive a unique personalized mug decorated in the theme for the year. This year's theme will be introduced in the house assemblies in December – a hint is shown below. I look forward to all the entries. **Mr. Wade**



WHAT DO STUDUNTS DO AFTER A LEVEL SCIENCE AT NGHS?

Subject/Degree and related areas	Number of Students
Medicine	18
Dentistry	4
Pharmacy	4
Physics	3
Engineering	4
Biology/Biochemistry	9
Veterinary Science	4
Other	7

Science degree choices for 2023 and 2024 leavers

University	Number of Students
University of Nottingham	3
University of Birmingham	3
Imperial College London	2
University of Manchester	2
Oxford University	1
Cambridge University	1
Keele University	4
Newcastle University	4
Other Russell Group	10

Science degree destinations for 2023 and 2024 leavers



Being an all girls school means that we have a larger proportion of students taking science A levels than at most mixed schools and colleges. Further to that, our students perform exceptionally well at A level recording the best results in the region for several years running. In the summer of 2024 almost 50% of all science A levels taken at NGHS were awarded and A* or A and nearly 75% received A*/A or B.

With exceptional results such as these, it is no wonder that many of our students go on to study science at some of the most prestigious universities in the country. The tables above shows the courses and destinations that our they have followed in the last few years. Many previous students have gone on to become doctors, vets, pharmacists, research students and to work for some of the most well regarded companies in the UK and internationally. It all started at NGHS!

UNIVERSITY LECTURES



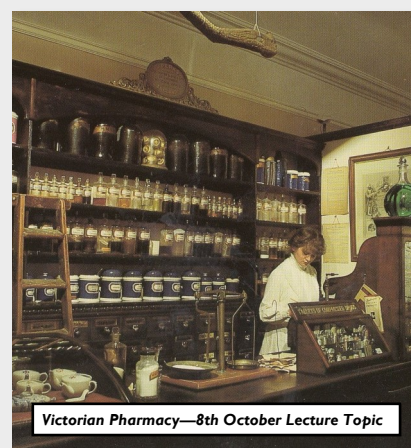
UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

Every other week, sixth formers who take chemistry, can visit Birmingham University to attend chemistry lectures which allow us to broaden our knowledge within the subject outside the specification we are taught at school. This week 14 of us went along with Mr Wade and Mr Barton in the minibus to the lecture hall and since we came early, we had a short trip to Costa and Spar. After our quick stopover, we left to see the lecture which was focused around the 'The Past, Present and Future of Explosives'. The Professor explained the importance and relevance of explosives all the way from China in 220 BC to everyday modern life (some common examples being fireworks and ejector seats).

We were also taught about different types of explosives and the conditions required in a chemical reaction for an explosive to occur. To conclude the lecture, a raffle takes place where you could either of won a Molymod set, or a book written by the professor and Rhiannon was lucky to have won. Overall, it was such an interesting experience that I really enjoyed and hope to attend more of in the future. I highly recommend others going if they can! **Akshana C, 6R2**

The lectures are arranged by the West Midlands Chemistry Teachers Centre and are conducted by academics from Birmingham and further afield. The trips give students an excellent idea as to the breadth and range of interests in chemistry (see below for this year's sixth form program) and a feel as to how lectures are conducted at universities. In addition the students get to see some of the day-to-day experiences of students outside of the lectures, e.g., visiting the Spar, relaxing (or working on assignments or behind the counter) at Costa or just the general hubbub of life in the middle of a university campus. **Mr. Wade**

24th September	Poetry, Chemistry And Everything In Between: Sir Humphry Davy's Notebooks
8th October	The Victorian Pharmacy
5th November	Explosives: The Past, Present And Future
19th November	Chirality, Chemistry, Apples And Dice
3rd December	What Is The Difference Between Chemistry And Biology?
28th January	Influencing Drug Delivery Through Chemical Biology
25th February	Lithium Ion Batteries: Driving An Electric Future
25th March	Advanced Level Revision: Organic Chemistry



Victorian Pharmacy—8th October Lecture Topic



Mr. Wade and students at a previous year's lecture donning glasses to view molecules in 3D!



REMEMBRANCE DAY

LEST WE FORGET

11 NOVEMBER



CHILDREN OF SERVICE PERSONNEL LEAD REMEMBRANCE ASSEMBLY



As we approach Remembrance Day on 11th November all of the students have attended a special assembly delivered by pupils whose parents are either current or past military personnel.

In a very poignant and respectful assembly, each of the students outlined their family connection to the various UK armed services and where they have served. It was telling that many of the students explained how many times



they had moved school during their lives. This showed the sacrifices that not only the service personnel make but also their families and loved ones.

The entire NGHS family remembers all who have paid the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of us and continue to serve on our behalf.



A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD GIRL TEAM



All this week the Head Girl Team have been proud to be selling remembrance poppies during form time and throughout the school day. Poppies are worn as a show of support for the Armed Forces community.

The poppy is a well-known and well-established symbol, one that carries a wealth of history and meaning with it. Wearing a poppy is still a very personal choice, reflecting individual experiences and personal memories as well as showing respect to those who have died.

Jasmine D (Deputy Head Girl)

MFL DEPARTMENT SPONSOR FALLEN WW1 SOLDIER

Following a visit to the 'Lochnagar Crater' last summer, the MFL department have sponsored a plaque to commemorate a local soldier who was killed there on the 26th June 1916 just before the Battle of the Somme.

134299 Sapper

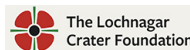
PATRICK MULCRONE

Royal Engineers

92nd Field Coy

26 June 1916

Newport Girls' High



Should you wish to make a donation via paypal please click the following link to contribute to the activities of the Lochnagar Crater Foundation.

<https://www.lochnagarcrater.org/support/>

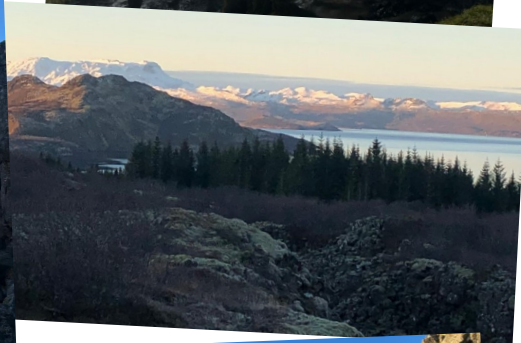
A photograph of the plaque will be sent to us in the near future so watch out on the school website and social media to find out more.

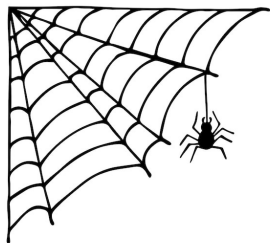


ICELAND TRIP!



At the start of the half term break, Year 10, 11 and 12 students along with staff were fortunate enough to visit the wonderful country of Iceland! They went to study a variety of aspects related to their GCSE and A level Geography courses and to perhaps catch a glimpse of the Northern Lights! A full student report will be published in the next edition of Newport News but for now here is a selection of some of the things they got up to!



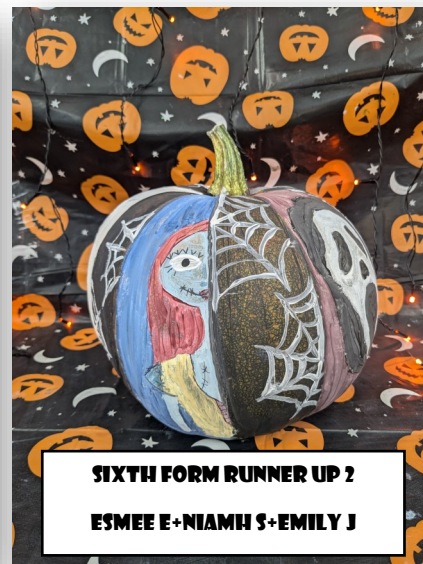
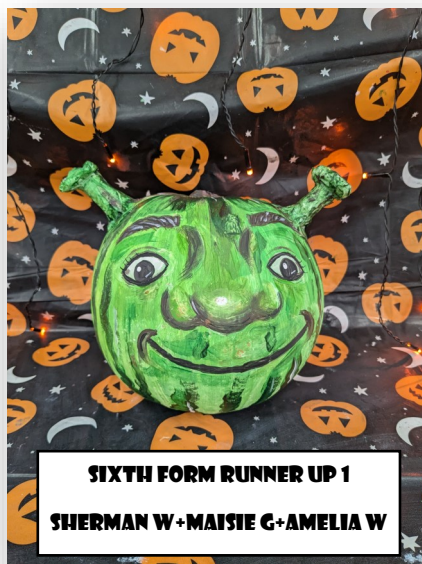


HALLOWEEN PUMPKIN PAINTING COMPETITION!



Before half term the art department once again ran their incredibly popular pumpkin painting competition. As always, the standard was extremely high and you can see all of the winners, runners up and students hard at work in the pictures below. Well done everyone on another fantastic competition!

Miss Walker (art teacher and competition organiser)





STAFF AND STUDENTS VISIT SBKA

On Saturday 12th of October, as part of the bee keeping club, we were given the amazing opportunity to visit the Shropshire Bee Keeping Association in Shrewsbury with Mr. Wade, Mrs. Dainty and Mrs. Kay.

When we got to the SBKA, we were shown around the beautiful and historical site and surrounding area by Mr. Wade and other members of the SBKA. Afterwards, the members showed and explained to us the parts of the hive and we even got to ask these experienced beekeepers some questions (it seems bee keeping is a lot more complicated than we expected!).

Then we tried on some bee suits and got to meet the bees. After some time of struggling with the way too many zips and the Velcro (which is an absolute nightmare to untangle from hair!) we were finally fully equipped to

go see the bees! We were taken to a beehive by members of the SBKA and we got to see the inside of a variety of different beehives and a demonstration of some of the many tasks done by a beekeeper.

Overall, this was a great experience for all of us that helped us get used to the bee suits, learn about the tasks of a beekeeper and gave us a chance to meet some bees before they go into dormancy soon! I think most of those involved would agree with us that this was truly a valuable and very enjoyable experience!

Ellen and Julia (year 9)



NGHS Social Media

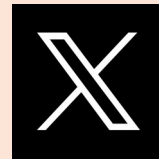


facebook.com/NewportGirls

facebook.com/nghs6 (sixth form)



instagram.com/nghs6form/



[@NGHS_Info](https://twitter.com/NGHS_Info)

staff news

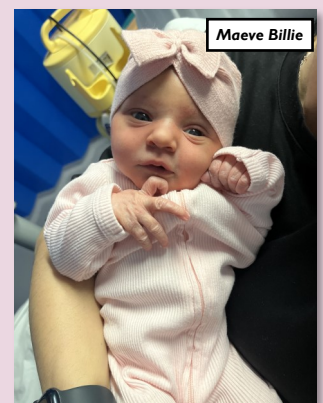
We are delighted to announce the birth of the two latest additions to our NGHS family!



Emmie Rose

On the **12th October**, Assistant Head, Mrs Birch, gave birth to a baby girl. **Emmie Rose Birch** weighed in at 6lb and 6oz and both mum and daughter are doing very well!

Then, on **2nd November**, Head of Year 7 Mrs Goodall, gave birth to her first child. **Maeve Billie Goodall** was born 2 weeks late and weighed 7lbs 3oz! Mrs Goodall describes her this way, "The new born bubble is in full force and she has settled in the family home really well!"



Maeve Billie

Everyone at NGHS wishes them both all the very best and we look forward to seeing them in person in the near future!

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

Wellbeing Team



Mrs Aver-Howdle
Years 7—10
Wellbeing Officer



Miss E Heyes
Wellbeing Officer
(Y11/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 F Davenport: Pastoral Support &
DDSL



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

DSL—Designated Safeguarding Lead
DDSL—Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead