

NEWPORT NEWS



The fortnightly newsletter from Newport Girls' High School

Volume 8—Edition 7 6th December 2024

INSIDE THIS EDITION

HOUSE MUSIC

CHRISTMAS SMILE

KINDNESS PAPERCHAINS

PANTOMIME TRIP

...AND LOTS MORE!



SPOTLIGHT ON ENGLISH



NEWPORT NEWS

A fortnightly update from NGHS

Volume 8 - Issue 7 - Friday 6th December 2024



Mr Adam Jones, Headteacher

Christmas has officially arrived at NGHS this week! I was very pleased to have started advent by attending Newport's Civic Carol Service at St Nicholas Church on Sunday with my family. It was a wonderful community event with a variety of musical performances and readings from across the Newport schools and from other local groups. I may be slightly biased, but the highlight for me was to see our own Sixth Form ensemble perform with Mrs Chapman. They were simply outstanding, and I very much look forward to our own Carol Service taking place on 17 December, I hope many of you will be able to join us for this occasion.

I would like to thank you for all the kind and generous donations for the Christmas Smile appeal; we received a huge number and have no doubt that these will be greatly appreciated by families this Christmas. The gifts were taken by Mr Pointon and our Lower School Head Girl Team to the Christmas Smile Headquarters in Telford. They were overwhelmed by the donations we provided and have said that we have been the single largest contributor to the scheme this year, something that the NGHS family should be incredibly proud of. Can I also thank you for the kind donations of decorations for our Christmas Trees as well, they have certainly helped us to get into the Christmas spirit!

On Wednesday, we were treated to an absolute extravaganza at our House Music competition. It seems that pupils have been rehearsing for this since the first week of September but undoubtedly that hard work paid off. I worked out that it had been 15 years since my last House Music competition which at that stage took place in Centenary Hall and the Drama studio. Though the performances that day were great, it is unbelievable to see what this competition has become after all these years. The talent and creativity on show by all three houses was astounding and the House Leadership teams should all be incredibly proud of the mark they have left on the school with this year's competition. House Music 2024 will live long in the memory!

Just a reminder that it is Winter Jumper Day on Thursday 19 December, and we ask that all students taking part bring in £1 in cash for Newport Food Bank and whom we support each year at this time. This also coincides with our Christmas lunch; tickets are on sale now from the canteen and need to be purchased by Friday 13 December. Please be aware that Christmas lunch will be the only option on this day.

Finally, we will break up for the end of term on Friday 20 December at 12.30pm and school will close at 1pm. Our own coaches will be running as usual. We understand Adams coaches are not running on this day, but full attendance is expected, and some lessons will be taking place as usual.

Best wishes,

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



In the spotlight...

ENGLISH AT NEWPORT GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL



The English faculty at NGHS is a key department at school, achieving excellent results at both GCSE and A level. All students are required to study both English Language and Literature at GCSE and a significant amount go on to study it at A level and beyond. In this edition of Newport News we focus on the department giving you an insight into the work they do and what the students get up to!

MEET THE TEAM!



Mrs B Lord
Co-Faculty Head
Years 7,9,10,12



Mrs S Tomkinson
Co-Faculty Head
Years 10,11,12,13



Mrs N Saysell
2nd in Department
Year 7



Miss L Baker
SENCO
Year 7, 8, 9, 12



Ms J Capaldi
English Teacher
Years 7,8,9,10,11,13



Mrs R Kay
English Teacher
Years 7,8,9,10,13
(KS2 support)



Mrs H Steadman
English Teacher
Years 8,9,11,12,13

STUDYING ENGLISH AT NGHS AND BEYOND!

As a faculty we are very proud that our students achievements in English are truly excellent. In 2024, **68%** of students received a grade 7-9 (A/A*) in English Language and **66%** achieved 7-9 in English Literature. For both subjects, we had a **100%** pass rate. At A level in 2024, **76%** achieved grade A*/A/B and again there was a **100%** pass rate.

With such excellent results it is no wonder that many of our students go on to study English or related subjects (law, media, communication etc.) at degree level. Over the last few years, many NGHS students have gone on to study the following degrees at some of the UK's most prestigious universities:

- **English Language and Literature at Oxford University**
- **English Literature at Liverpool and Durham**
- **Creative Writing and English Literature at Exeter and Birmingham**
- **English Literature and History at Aberystwyth**
- **Communications and Media at Liverpool**
- **Law at Exeter, Nottingham and UCL**



SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL PARTNER PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Over the last five years NGHS has been working very closely with the local primary schools to support their pupils in a variety of subjects including science, maths and PE. This year Mrs Kay will be working very closely with several local schools helping their students to improve their English skills with a focus on creative writing.

Working with small groups of Year 5 students, Mrs Kay can focus in great detail on the key elements of creative writing such as setting, plot, character development and style. She is currently working with St. Lawrence at Preston on the Weald before moving on to Tibberton after Christmas and then a number of other local schools before the end of the year.



Year 5 pupils deep in thought with Mrs Kay

NATIONAL POETRY DAY

CELEBRATIONS AND COMPETITION



In October, as part of wider celebrations hosted by the English department for National Poetry Day, students had the opportunity to enter a house poetry writing competition. Students were tasked with writing a poem related to this year's theme which was 'Truth'.

The English department were impressed by the number of entries we had; I must commend all students who entered for the literary merit and thoughtful presentation of their poems. It was especially heart-warming to see the varied interpretations of this year's theme, ranging from poems about our own personal truth, narrative poems centred around court cases, and poems which grappled with how truth is or isn't shown in the media.

I was very moved by what our students had written, especially the inspiring poems which were a call to support peers with their mental health by being truthful about how they feel themselves.

Thank you to all of the students who took part; you all made choosing a winner a very difficult task indeed! However, after several rounds of judging, we are pleased to announce that the winners are:

Year 7

Winners: Janelle Chong & Sophie Hudson

Year 8

Winner: Monnia Aujla

Year 9

Winner: Ebony Challinor

Year 10

Winner: Isobel Allinson & Azeen Ashraf

Year 11

Winner: Lara Clayton

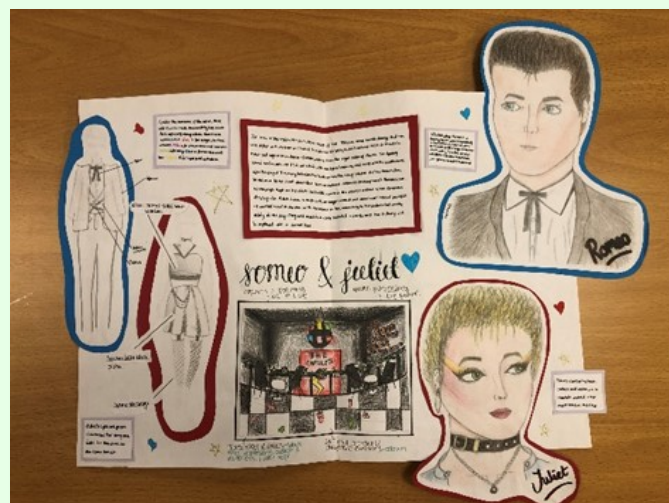
Year 12 and 13

Winner: Lucy Hambler



Y9 - STUDYING SHAKESPEARE

Last half term, Y9 began their GCSE course by studying Shakespeare's *Romeo & Juliet*. Students approached this nuanced text with impressive verve; they were undaunted by the complex language and it was lovely to see their enthusiasm for the characters. Following their literary analysis of key scenes, students were given the opportunity to showcase their understanding of characterisation and themes in a creative project. Here are some outstanding examples of set designs; context information resources



FORM TIME READING PROGRAM

From January 2025, all form groups will have a weekly time slot wholly dedicated to reading. For Year 7 and 8 this will be on Tuesdays and in other years form tutors can decide which day of the week they would like to have it on. As part of our commitment to supporting a love of reading we will be gathering feedback from staff and students for the best ways to encourage reading for pleasure in form time. This will include proposals involving Year 7 librarians, reading mentors and reading champions.

For Year 7 and 8 forms the classes will be reading three different texts with the aim to read a book per term. The books being read by these year groups for the Spring Term 2025 are as follows:

AUSTIN—'STARGAZING FOR BEGINNERS' BY JENNY McLACHLAN

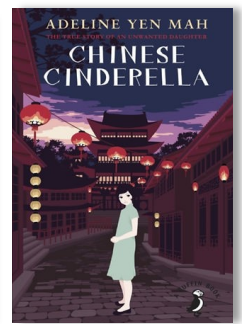
RODDAM—'CAN YOU SEE ME?' BY LIBBY SCOTT AND REBECCA WESTCOTT

SEACOLE—CHINESE CINDERELLA BY ADELINE YEN MAH

Students in Years 9 to 13 will be able to bring in their own

choice of a suitable personal reading book and there are options available from Miss Lord if students are struggling to find one. Students and form tutors in these years could read and discuss short stories, share chapters from books and then discuss or just enjoy silent reading for the duration of their chosen form time day.

Our end goal is to encourage and foster a lifelong love of books and reading and all the places that can lead you. We hope that by taking this approach as many students as possible will go to achieve that goal! **HAPPY READING! Ms B Lord and Miss AM Davies**



I read for pleasure and that is the moment I learn the most.

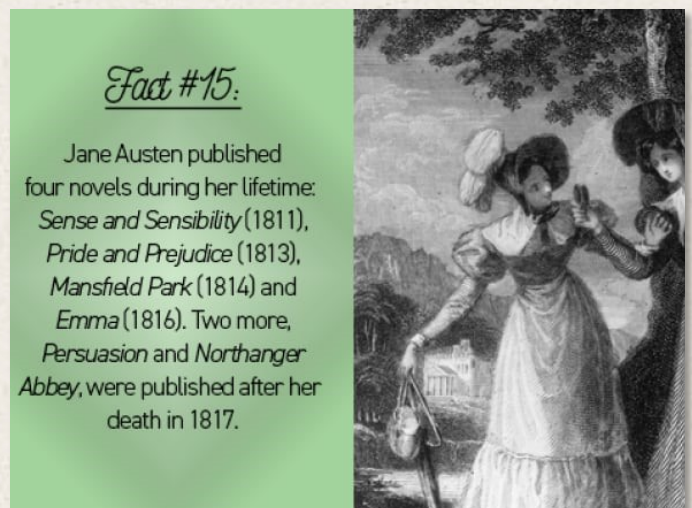
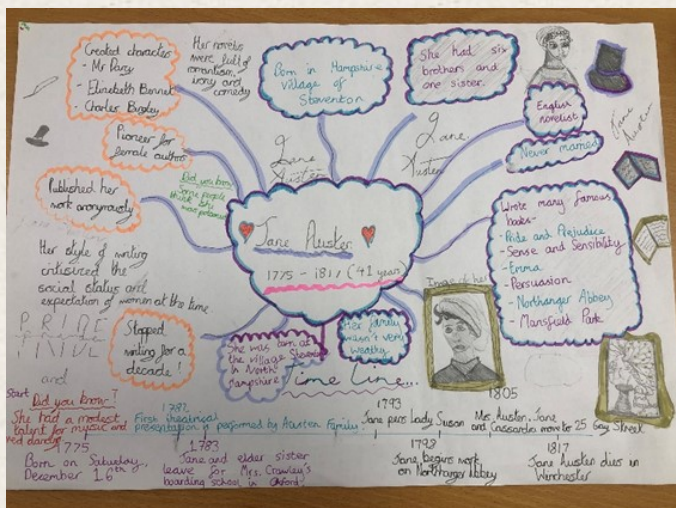
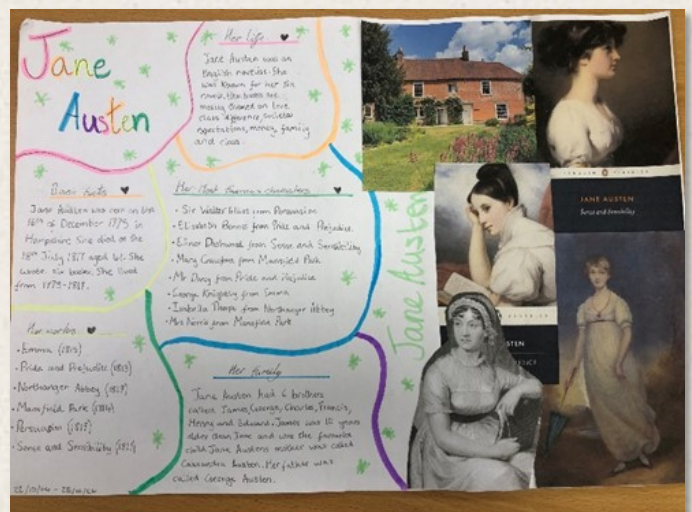
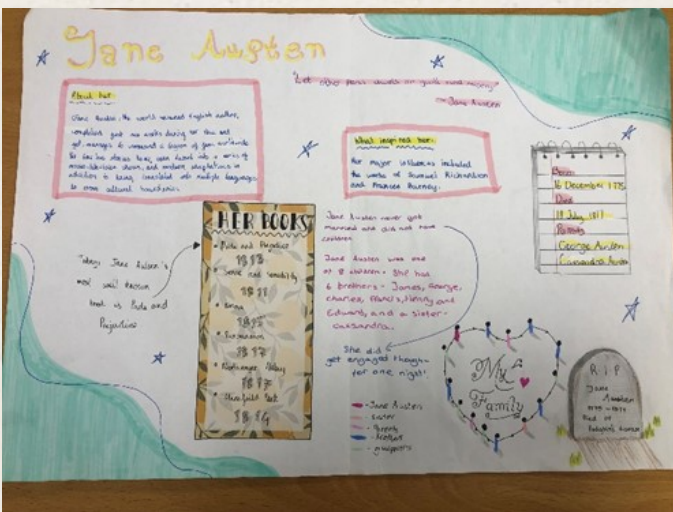
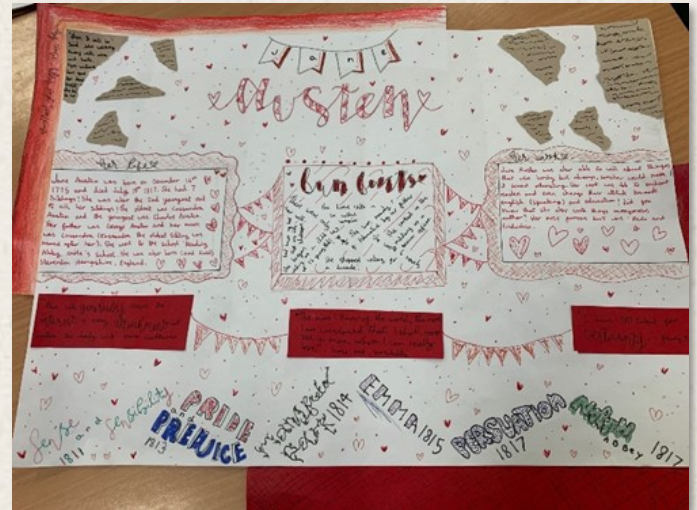
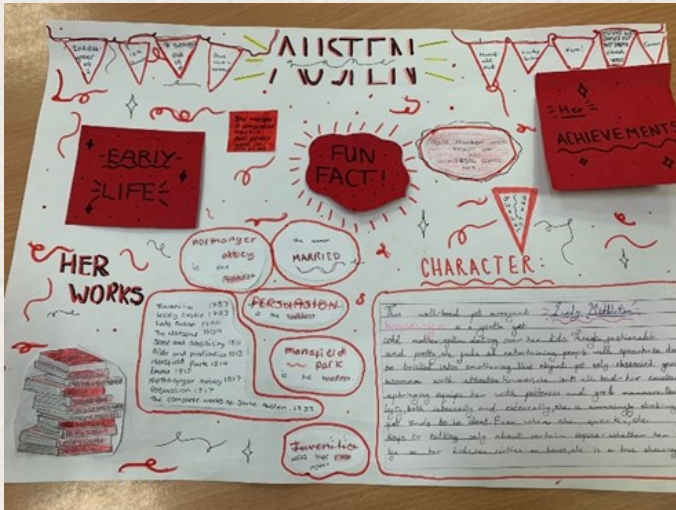
Margaret Atwood

quote fancy



YEAR 7: ENGLISH FOUNDATIONS

As part of the Foundations of English lessons, devised to further develop the cultural capital of our students and broaden their understanding of the literary canon, Year 7 have been exploring English literature through the ages. Recently, students enjoyed researching the life and works of the 18th/19th century novelist, Jane Austen; as shown below, many students produced fabulously creative and detailed information resources.



OTHELLO REPORTS FROM SIXTH FORM

On Thursday 21st November, Year 12 and 13 students had the wonderful opportunity to watch a matinee performance of 'Othello' at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford upon Avon. Leaving school that morning, the group of students had a fantastic cultural experience and here you can read all about it in the reports below written by the Sixth Formers themselves:



On 21st November, I, and some other students from year 12 and year 13, had the opportunity to watch Othello at The Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford. Seeing Othello in the theatre was a captivating experience that allowed me to witness the stage directions and dramatic devices used by Shakespeare in real life. I particularly enjoyed the RSC's use of lighting throughout the production as it helped to add depth to the play and made it more entertaining. Overall, watching Othello helped me understand the play on a deeper level which will hopefully benefit me in the future for my exams. It was definitely a memorable experience for both me and the rest of the students!

Breanna, Year 13

Exceptional theatre is created when artistic disciplines are carefully combined; an excellent example is the RSC's Othello. The performance was incredible and exceeded everyone's expectations as it allowed the audience to escape, embrace and immerse themselves in a new world. I'm very grateful to have been able to go on this school trip with excellent staff to keep us safe the entire time. I am both a Drama and English Literature student, enabling me to view the play from two perspectives. Through a theatrical lens, this production of Othello introduced us to new set styles. The stage was lit with a square LED frame on the ceiling and an additional frame on the floor, and minimalistic furniture was used. This made the performance intriguing to watch because the set usually enhances the production aesthetically. However, in this production, it focused the audience on the actors. From an English perspective, it felt fantastic to see Shakespeare's words come to life in their intended format after seeing the play on a page. This deepened my understanding of different character interpretations, which was thought-provoking because some characters were portrayed differently from how I assumed they'd be.

Eleanor, Year 12

STUDENTS DELIVER 'CHRISTMAS SMILES' FOR TELFORD FAMILIES



The gifts on display at Telford 'Christmas Smile' headquarters

On Monday 3rd December, a group of students from Newport Girls' High School were thrilled to deliver almost 1,000 gifts to the Telford 'Christmas Smile' appeal. Following a non-uniform day in exchange for a donated gift, the presents were transported by minibus to be wrapped and distributed by the volunteer team from the 'Christmas Smile' charity. They will now be given to children and families in the Telford area for whom Christmas can be a financial or personal struggle.

The collection was organised by the student leadership team at Newport Girls' High School. Lower School Head Girl, Year 10 student Sienna Raiyat declared, "We were so excited to be able to deliver so many gifts to this amazing charity. We have supported Christmas Smile for the last few years but nothing on this scale. This is such a fantastic effort and we

can't quite believe how much we were able to give!" continued, "The pupils deserve all the credit for organising and collecting the gifts. It really does demonstrate the kindness, commitment and initiative of the Lower School Head Girl Team and all of our students. I am sure we will continue to support the Christmas Smile appeal in future years and the great work they do at this time of year."

Founded in 2013, Christmas Smile is a project run by the community providing gifts to local children and families living in difficult circumstances. Charity leader, Kate Phillips commented, "Not everyone in our community has a roof over their heads, a loving family, food on the table or gifts under the tree. Our aim is to give a Christmas surprise to each person living in Telford who is experiencing difficulties. We would like to say a massive thank you to Newport Girls' High School for their kindness in providing so many presents. Along with the donations from the rest of the community, their gifts will go a long way to making Christmas that little bit more special for the children and families we help."



Lower School Head Girl Team



Sixth Form students loading the minibus



HOUSE MUSIC 2024



Wednesday 4th December saw one of the absolute highlights of the NGHS calendar take place in the school hall. House Music is always a fiercely contested event with literally hundreds of hours of practise and preparation being undertaken by the students. The three music House Captains again excelled themselves in preparing their teams and performers, and massive credit must go to them for the outstanding performances that thrilled the judges and audience.

A full report and pictures will be published in the next edition of Newport News on the last day of term, but for now we are proud to announce that the winning team for 2024 is...**Seacole!**

A massive well done to them and don't forget to look out for full details in a couple of weeks where the House Music Captains will provide a full report on the days events as well as lots more photographs of the performances.



Victorious House Music Captain, Emily G, with the House Music Cup



A 'Showstoppers' Performance!



AUSTEN



RODDAM



SEACOLE

KINDNESS PAPERCHAINS!

To mark 'World Kindness Day' on 13th November, all of the classes have been spending time creating their own 'kindness' paperchains during form time. The competition involved students writing message of kindness, support, and positivity on the links. They were then glued together to create as long a paper chain as possible!

The winning form was S2 (Mr Twiss) who created an amazing chain that was long enough to wrap around the complete perimeter of their form room!

The competition was organised by the Lower School Head Girl team and they presented a box of Celebrations to the class as their prize which they eagerly devoured!



NGHS SPONSORS PLAQUE TO A FALLEN SOLDIER



Earlier in the year we told you of our plans to sponsor a plaque in memory of a fallen local soldier at the Lochnagar Crater on the Somme battlefield. We are very pleased to say that this has now been installed in memory of Sapper Patrick Mulcrone.

The whole Newport Girls' family are proud to recognise and remember his courage and sacrifice.



YEAR 7 ENJOY PANTO TRIP!



Tuesday 3rd December saw Year 7 enjoy a wonderful day out at the Grand Theatre in Wolverhampton to see the classic Christmas Panto 'Beauty and the Beast'.

Starring 'Giant' from Gladiators, the students enjoyed a fabulous show full of songs, laughter and all the usual panto shenanigans!

Discussing the performance a year 7 student remarked, "We had great fun at an amazing show. The songs were brilliant and we laughed so much!"

Head of Year 7, Mrs Martin, remarked that the students behaviour was impeccable as always. She also commented how pleasing it was to see how well the new Year 7 students had settled into their new friendship groups and how much their confidence had grown since the start of term.

FOOTBALL NEWS

Last week, the Year 8 footballers travelled to Telford College to play in a regional round-robin tournament against five other schools.

The team have been having a very good season so far and they arrived in good spirits and confident of a positive outcome. Due to a couple of teams not arriving, they only played 3 matches and so no overall winner could be declared by the organisers.

As usual, the team played to a high standard and they won 2 and lost 1 of their three matches. Director of Sport and Year 8 football coach, Miss Saunders commented, "The players have been a real joy to teach and coach so far this year. I am looking forward to plenty more matches in the New Year and I'm sure the girls will continue with their very high standards. At this tournament I would particularly like to mention Megan Kershaw who has been one of the standout performers of the season so far with her determination, drive and obvious love for the game! Enjoy the winter break girls and we go again in the New Year!"



Miss Saunders

CHRISTMAS UPDATE FROM ACADEMY CATERERS

The team at Academy Caterers are busy getting ready for the Christmas period. They have two special events coming up. The first is a '**German Market**' themed day on **Friday 13th December** and this is then followed by the full **Christmas Dinner** on **Thursday 19th December**. Featuring all the festive favourites such as roast turkey, Brussels sprouts, pigs in blankets and Christmas crackers the students and staff are sure to enjoy the festive treat!



Leesa and all the team would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas!

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Thursday 19th December

MAINS

**Turkey and cranberry sauce
Brie and cranberry bake**

Roast potatoes, roast parsnips, Brussels sprouts, carrots, peas, pigs in blankets, stuff and gravy

**DESSERT
Festive bake**

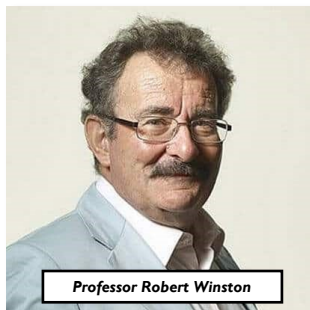
£5.50

Includes water or sparkling water with a Christmas cracker



BIOLOGY LIVE REPORT!

On Monday 18th November, the other year 13 biology students and I got the opportunity to attend BiologyLive at Birmingham University. We attended a series of lectures across a breadth of biology topics from coral reefs to the science of laughter. We were also advised on how to best utilise our exam skills in and revise for our upcoming A-levels. A stand-out moment for me was asking Professor Robert Winston, a pioneer of IVF treatments and a representative in the House of Lords, about how young scientists could best integrate science and politics to better our future. It was a delight to see how those that study biology beyond A-level are passionate about their research areas and enjoy sharing this with the next generation of biologists, engaging with all of our questions. Additionally, having the exam board representative there to provide us with advice was highly reassuring and helpful.



Professor Robert Winston

Isobelle R, Year 13

A 'TASTE' OF HIGH SCHOOL FOR LOCAL YEAR 5 GIRLS

Over the last few weeks we have been delighted to welcome the Year 5 girls from two of our local partner primary schools. Newport Juniors and Muxton Primary School both spent a day visiting us here at NGHS to see what this thing called 'BIG SCHOOL' is all about!

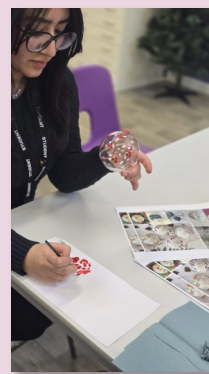
During the day, they had a tour of the school as well as taking part in various activities in computing, art and design, maths and geography. They also sampled the delicious food in the canteen for free, engaged in team building activities and even a bit of Bingo!

The purpose of the day was not to try and replicate a typical day for an NGHS student but to give the visitors a chance to see the kind of facilities we have, sample the food, meet some of our present students and generally get a 'taste' of what it is like here.

At the end of an enjoyable and tiring day, the Year 5 pupils returned to their own schools hopefully a little bit more aware of what we are all about. In the New Year we very much look forward to welcoming several more schools to spend a day with us.

FESTIVE CRAFTS WITH MRS BENOIT!

Every Tuesday at 1.00pm, Mrs Benoit has been holding a 'Festive Crafts Club' for students in Years 9 and 10. Over the past couple of weeks they have been decorating baubles and having a thoroughly festive and enjoyable time! Here you can see some of their work in progress and finished creations!



NGHS Social Media



facebook.com/NewportGirls

facebook.com/nghs6 (sixth form)



instagram.com/nghs6form/



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

UPCOMING EVENTS AND DATES



Diary Dates

13.12.24 Y12/13 Cheshire Oaks Shopping Trip

13.12.24 'German Market' day in the canteen

17.12.24 Carol Service @ St Nicholas's Church, Newport 7.00pm

18.12.24 Year 14 Reunion

18.12.24 Young Enterprise Festive Movie Night

19.12.24 Christmas Lunch and Winter Jumper Day

20.12.24 End of term for students 12.30pm

06.01.25 Return to School.

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