

NEWPORT NEWS



The fortnightly newsletter from Newport Girls' High School

Volume 8—Edition 11 14th February 2025



INSIDE THIS WEEK...

- Sports Updates**
- Oxbridge Offers**
- Safer Internet Day**
- Rufus and Rue!**
- and lots more...*

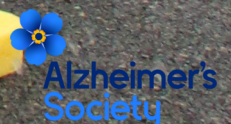
Special Edition

Charities Week!



Ronald McDonald House Charities

women's aid
until women & children are safe





NEWPORT NEWS

A fortnightly update from NGHS

Volume 8 - Issue 11 - Friday 14th February 2025



Mr Adam Jones, Headteacher

As we reach the end of another half term, I am delighted to share with you some of the remarkable events and achievements from the past two weeks.

Last week, we held moving assemblies to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day. These assemblies were a poignant reminder of the importance of remembering and learning from history. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Miss Davies for organizing these assemblies and to our Year 8 presenters for their thoughtful contributions.

This week, our Lower School Head Girl team developed valuable resources for form time to mark Safer Internet Day. This year's theme, "Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online," provided an excellent opportunity for our students to learn about online safety and the importance of being vigilant in the digital world.

Charities Week has been a spectacular success, filled with creative fancy dress and imaginative alternatives to school bags. Students and staff alike embraced the spirit of the week, showcasing their creativity and enthusiasm. Highlights included Elphaba, multiple chipmunks/pirates, and a most exuberant Elton John costume. There was a stellar performance from the staff in the highly anticipated Staff vs. Student Netball match on Wednesday, with two wins out of three.

Only the mighty Roddam Year 13 team was able to stop Mrs. Martin and the staff netballers from completing a clean sweep!

The week culminated in the House Dance competition on Thursday, where the standard of dance and choreography was incredibly high. Most importantly, it was a fantastic effort in raising money for charity, with all proceeds going to the three house charities: Ronald McDonald House Charities, Women's Aid, and Alzheimer's Society. I am incredibly proud of the enthusiasm and generosity shown by our students and staff.

I would also like to extend a special thank you to all the volunteers, and Mr. Potato Head (Pointon!), who helped make Charities Week such a success. Your time, effort, and dedication were invaluable, and we couldn't have done it without you!

Finally, as you may have seen through our social media channels, I am thrilled to announce that nine of our current Year 13 students have been offered places to study at either Oxford or Cambridge University. This is a new school record for NGHS, and we are incredibly proud of these students. Additionally, many of our Year 13 students have already received offers from prestigious universities across the UK. They are also exploring exciting opportunities for degree apprenticeships and professional training courses. The diversity of their choices reflects their hard work, dedication, and the high standards of education at NGHS. We are confident that they will continue to excel in their future endeavours.

As we look forward to the next term, I want to thank you all for your continued support and wish you a restful and enjoyable break.

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

CHARITIES WEEK 2025!

WHAT A WEEK! It's been an amazing week of events and activities here at NGHS with our annual House Charities Week. From fancy dress to sponge the teacher and everything in-between we have so far raised the **RECORD BREAKING** amount of £3,800 to split between the three house charities of Alzheimer's Society, Women's Aid and Ronald MacDonal House Charities. We are also waiting on a number of students to bring in their contributions after half term to push the total even higher!

Culminating in House Dance on the last day of the half term it was a great week with lots of fun but more importantly raising a money for three very worthy charities. We need to say a massive thank you to the three Charity Captains - Lila Livingstone (Seacole), Abi Mangham (Roddam) and Ella Fisher (Austin) who were instrumental in organising the week and also the numerous other students and staff who helped to make it such a success.

Below you will find a selection of photo's from the week. Full reports from each of the events will follow from the House Charity Captains in the next edition of Newport after half term!

Monday 10th February: Outrageous Bags and Soak the Teacher!



Tuesday 11th February: House Accessories and Make and Sell



Wednesday 12th February: Fancy Dress and Netball Tournament



Thursday 13th February: Fancy Dress (dream job) and House Dance Competition - Congratulation to Austen!



YEAR 13 CREATES VERY OWN CHILDREN'S BOOK!

NGHS Sixth Form student, Liv Wrigley, has written and illustrated her very own children's book for her EPQ project! Newport News sat down with the budding author to find out more about this wonderful idea!

What gave you the inspiration to write an illustrated children's book for your EPQ project?



Liv Wrigley a copy of her book!

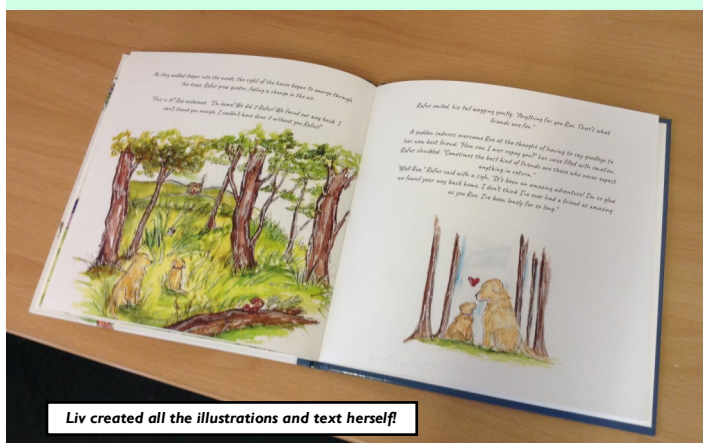
I had always been an avid reader, and I have always wondered whether being read to so much as a child had influenced this. My initial idea for creating my EPQ was to investigate this and whether it can influence children's reading habits and development. Whilst researching the topic, I discovered the poor quality of children's books on the market currently, which don't challenge children's language

abilities or vocabulary, as well as the poor quality of the illustrations. Statistics show that children's enjoyment of reading is significantly decreasing, which is only aided by the poor quality of children's books right now. This gave me the idea to create my book to combat this.

Which took longer – the illustrations or the story? Roughly how long did you spend on each?

I have been developing my book since August/September, so it has taken roughly six months to produce! The storyline was difficult to create at first (as I am no longer six), and I was struggling to know exactly what they wanted to read about. But after receiving advice and feedback from peers and younger family about how much they liked the storyline, it was completed quite quickly. As for the illustrations, I wanted them to be perfect so they could tell the story just as much as the actual storyline. I went through many developments and storyboards to perfect them, as I was very picky about which ones made the final product!

Tell us a little about your inspiration for the story – I hear it is based on some real canine friends?



Liv created all the illustrations and text herself!

Yes, my book is based on my own two dogs, Marley and Winnie, who are both golden retrievers, just like Rufus and Rue. They are such entertaining and mischievous dogs that I had many hilarious stories I could have written about them, so they were a perfect source to create an entertaining and relatable story.

What do your family and friends think of your achievement?

They all loved the book, which was my main aim: to make them proud and to see their enjoyment from reading it for the first time. They are all now encouraging me to pursue illustration as a career, which I am definitely considering, as well as pushing to try and get the book noticed and published.

What has been the biggest challenge or challenges in creating your book?

One of my biggest challenges creating my book, was balancing creating my storybook alongside my A-levels; it has taken up a lot of my time, I don't think I realised at the beginning of this process just how much time this process would take especially the illustration side, so it has been challenging at times. However, I'm so glad I have now completed it and was able to balance creating my book with my A-levels.

What has given you the most satisfaction in designing and producing it?

It was the children's reactions to the books that truly stood out to me. I loved hearing how much they enjoyed the story and the characters, particularly Rufus, and their enthusiasm for the ending. Their feedback inspired me to pursue illustrating and take writing children's books more seriously.

What are your plans for the future after NGHS? Any thoughts of a career as a children's author?

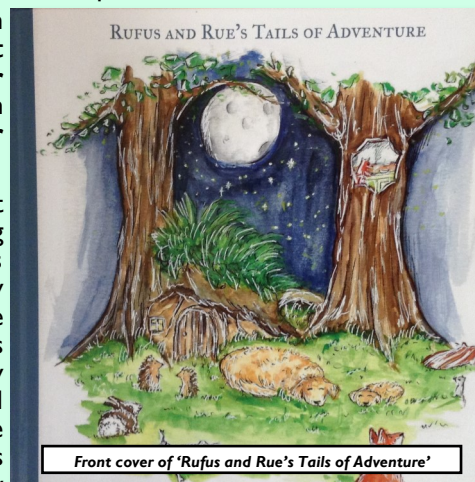
I have recently submitted my application for an Illustration degree at Edinburgh University and am currently waiting to hear back from them. I am eager to join this course, as it would provide me with essential skills to pursue a career in illustration. My aspiration is to become a children's author and illustrator, although I understand that this field is quite competitive.

What advice would you give to anybody wanting to do the same as you?

Firstly, make sure you have a great storyline, which will encourage a positive literacy experience for both child and parent. Make sure the storyline is both exciting and relatable; children love to see familiar themes they have also experienced. Including morals can also be very important as they can put them into practice in their young world, for example the importance of friendship and being kind. It's always great to create a story/character based on a subject or topic you are passionate about. Finally, for the illustrative side, make sure you take your time and plan out exactly how you would like the book and characters to look. Try to have your own original style, avoiding copying but instead taking inspiration and taking certain elements from successful illustrators to curate your style.

Lastly, any thoughts of a sequel? Perhaps Rufus and Rue could be the next Wallace and Gromit?

I would love to create a sequel to Rufus and Rue's Tails of Adventure. I feel the title leaves room for another few books, and I have plenty of exciting stories to tell about my dogs! So, another book is definitely on the cards!



Front cover of 'Rufus and Rue's Tails of Adventure'

UCAS SUCCESS 2025!

We have been delighted this year with the quality of applications from our Year 13 students. Building upon their introductions to the UCAS process during CEW our students have gone from strength to strength in producing some superb personal statements and demonstrating their skills at interview.

To date, this has been our most successful year ever, with 9 of our students receiving Oxbridge offers and the majority of our students already receiving offers from their favourite choice of university. Law and Medicine were the most popular courses this year with 20 students applying for each. Nationally these are two of the top 5 most oversubscribed courses and yet every single one of the law

applicants have been successful in achieving offers and in medicine we have had more offers than ever before. Our students have applied to a wide range of universities across the British Isles, with the University of Liverpool overwhelmingly being the most popular with 53 applications.

Mrs Glew, our UCAS administrator commented that “ It is always a real privilege to help all of our students achieve their dreams, whatever they may be.” We wish them all the best of luck in achieving the grades they need in the summer in order for them to take up their exciting new steps.

Mrs K Griffin (head of Sixth Form)

NGHS successful Oxbridge candidates 2025



Back row – left to right:

Annabelle F (University of Cambridge, Churchill College, English), **Charlotte T** (University of Oxford, St Hugh’s College, Human Sciences), **Lauren M** (University of Cambridge, St John’s College, Medicine) and **Maddie E-G** (University of Cambridge, Robinson College, Law)

Front row – left to right:

Alice W (University of Oxford, Somerville College, Medicine), **Louisa P** (University of Cambridge, Homerton College, Law), **Isobel R** (University of Oxford, Queen’s College, English Language and Literature), **Ava W** (University of Cambridge, St John’s College, Medicine) and **Hannah B** (University of Cambridge, Downing College, Medicine)



UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD



UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

ARE FREE MARKETS DOOMED TO FAIL?



On Thursday 13th February, a group of the Year 12 economists attended the annual economics conference at Shrewsbury school. This year the theme explored was 'Are free markets doomed to fail?'

We hopped of the minibus after being driven by Miss Heyes to be welcomed by the students. The first speaker we heard was Julian Dean (a councillor on the Shropshire Council) who explained his view that Free Markets alone cannot solve some issue like climate change. He also argued that lots of innovation and research is dependent on state funding. We then heard a rebuttal to these arguments from Dr Christopher Snowden (who works at the IEA) providing an alternative perspective on the day's theme.



Finally, there was a question time with the panel consisting of Julian Dean, Dr Christopher Snowden, Will Kenyon and Sterling Rosado. Will Kenyon had taken an interest in Green economics and had recently retired as an accountant from PwC. Sterling Rosado is a graduate from Harvard College where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Applied Mathematics and Economics. He was very insightful to listen to as it gave an alternative perspective as he was from the USA and he explored ideas through a mathematical lens. They answered questions related to health care, the job market for young people and AI. Lastly, we headed back on the minibus.



Then we enjoyed the complementary hot drinks and biscuits in the morning break. After the break, there was an opportunity for the students to get involved where Heidi and Rhoda worked with a team of other students to debate the motion: 'This house believes that Free Markets are doomed to fail'. They both presented compelling speeches. Later, we networked with a variety of different speakers and made new friends during an uno game.

After a very insightful day, we caught up with the results for house dance!

Report by Sanisa G and Maya B (Year 12)



Year 12 Economics Conference at Shrewsbury School

Young Enterprise Update from Austen House

FLASH STASH ON TikTok and Instagram!



Our team at Flash Stash have been working really hard over the last few weeks to get our product as developed as possible in order to start selling! In that time, we have presented the Flash Stash at pitch to the panel where we received both very positive and constructive feedback from the judges. We also entered the Young Enterprise Advert competition where we created a compelling advert showcasing our product, and we are hoping to get the results soon!

More recently we have begun actually producing the Flash Stash, with everyone in the team doing their part as we advance with our plan to hand make all of our products. We hope to be able to begin selling the Flash Stash very soon, so keep your eyes peeled for updates on our social media over half term. You can follow us on Instagram or TikTok @flashstash.ye. Have a lovely half term everyone!

Grace B Year 12

Young Enterprise Update from Seacole House

'TAG ALONG' PREPARING TO LAUNCH!

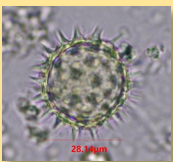
Over the last term at Tag-Along, we have been working very hard in preparation for our product launch. We have carried out many different forms of consumer research as well as experimented with different prototypes in order to give our consumers the best version of the TagAlong. The TagAlong has been designed to attach your belongings to either yourself or items such as bags, suitcases and pushchairs ensuring your belongings are always in reach.

Our product launch date is the 24th February, from which you can buy your very own TagAlong! Shortly after we will be launching the option to have customisable TagAlongs from Monday the 3rd March. We will have a stall outside the hall on Monday 24th February as well as every Thursday after that from 12:35. You can also order your TagAlong by DM us through our Instagram (@tagalong.ye) or through the trading station (<https://www.ye-tradingstation.org.uk/company/17028>). Make sure to keep an eye on our Instagram for any updates!



Tulsi M Y12, Managing Director of Tag-Along

MELISSOPALYNOLOGY!



For those taking pictures of them with not in their mobile phones. A few examples are shown below. I have included one frighteningly from my microscope with good score at extended the measurement across scabble, melissopalynology the pollen grain so you can get an idea of the sizes involved. 1µm is 1/1000 of a millimetre.



The bee After half term we will use a database to try to determine what plants were contributing to the honeys we were using. We will let you know what these pollens are and hence the flowers visited to make the honey. **Mr J Wade** through a microscope,



VALENTINES CRAFTS

Below are some pictures from the Valentine's Crafternoon that were held this week for charities week. We made love monsters and managed to cover the art room in yarn in the process! **Miss J Walker**



SPORTS ROUND UP

U16 NETBALL UPDATE

FANTASTIC EFFORT AT REGIONAL TOURNAMENT



U16 Netballers with Mrs Martin and Miss Saunders

On Sunday the 2nd February the U16 netball team travelled to Phoenix Collegiate College in West Bromwich where they competed in the regional netball tournament!

The teams Head Coach, Mrs Martin, remarked "I am exceptionally proud of their performance, they did everything I asked and gave 110% in every game. As a teacher and a coach that's all we can ever ask for. A very proud day as their coach."

FOOTBALLERS IN AGONIZING CUP LOSS!

LAST MINUTE WINNER BREAKS PLAYERS HEARTS!

The year 7 and 8 football match against Meole Brace school was a close game throughout with every player performing well. The match was end to end with both teams having chances but failing to score. We went into half time at 0-0.

As the second half started, Newport was desperate to get ahead but couldn't seem to be able to score. With time running out, Meole Brace won the ball deep into Newport's half, their player shot from outside the box into the top left corner of Newport's goal. The match ended shortly after with Meole Brace winning 1-0.

All the team and Miss Saunders were disappointed to lose such a close game but everyone was very proud of the way we played against tough opposition and the way we have played this seasons

Report by Megan K (U13 Captain)

NETBALLERS IMPRESS WITH 100% EFFORT AT COUNTY TOURNAMENT!

The Under 13 netball team recently travelled to Abraham Darby Academy in Telford to compete in the County Netball tournament.

Facing numerous other schools from Telford and Wrekin, the standard was very high and the players all knew they would be in for some very tough matches!

Placed in a pool of 5 schools they played 4 very tough matches and managed to win 2 and lose 2 of the games. Every single player performed wonderfully showing great skill and determination!

The team now look forward to building on the success for the remainder of the season with Miss Teggin commenting, "The girls all gave 100% commitment and played amazingly — the future is bright if they continue to improve into Year 9 and beyond!"



U13 Netball Team at Abraham Darby

SPORTS ROUND UP

U15'S INTO NEXT ROUND AFTER HARD FOUGHT WIN

A WELL DESERVED 2-1 VICTORY!



U15's Football Team 2025

The U15 NGHS football team travelled to St Regis Academy for in Wolverhampton to play for a place in the next round of the cup. In a hard fought game, the girls worked really well together to create space for each other create opportunities.

In the next round they play Meole Brace and a chance to avenge the U13's own 1-0 last minute loss against the same school!
Miss Teggin (PE Teacher)

NGHS FOOTBALL TEAMS LOOKING FOR KIT SPONSOR!

CAN YOU HELP?



Following the success and growth of football at NGHS, the KS3 and KS4 football teams are looking for kind benefactors who can help us by sponsoring the school football kit. As we are progressing further into tournaments and playing more matches the acquisition of a new playing kit would be excellent!

If you know of anyone who may be able to help in whatever capacity then please do not hesitate to get in touch at schooloffice@nghs.org.uk. Any sponsors will be displayed on the playing strip and mentioned in all Social Media and school publications.

In total we are looking for approximately £200 per team so a total of £400 for the 2 sets of kit but this could be across a number of sponsors. Thank you.

Miss Saunders (Director of Sport)

SHROPSHIRE SCHOOLS CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS



NGHS Cross Country Team!

On Saturday 1st February 4 of the girls took part in the Shropshire Schools Cross Country Champs at Oswestry School. Easha Kaur was first to run in the Year 10/11 race finishing 14th.

The sun shone and the girls were a credit to the school and showed each other plenty of support.!

A massive well done to all and the very best of luck to Annie on the 15th March



A Fantastic 2nd Place for Annie Wood!

Annie Wood Year 9, Ivy Brannen Year 8 and Shaan Kaur Year 9 then ran the final girl's race of the day, the Junior girls with Annie finishing 2nd, Ivy 11th and Shaan 18th.

Annie qualified for the English Schools Cross Country Championship where she'll represent Shropshire Schools on 15th March in West Sussex.

SPECIAL REPORT - CHARITIES WEEK NETBALL TOURNAMENT



The whole event was organised and umpired by the sixth form

On Wednesday the 12th February, the Charity Captains and sixth formers organised a netball tournament for the 3 House Sixth Form teams with the staff joining to make up the 4 team needed.

The event followed a round robin format with each team playing the other's once over 10 minute matches.

Round 1

With a large assembled crowd having donated £1 to watch, there was great anticipation to see who would be crowned this years champions and if the staff could put in a more competitive performance than previous years! In the first match Roddam beat Austin comfortably while



Team Seacole

the staff played Seacole. In a shock result, the staff managed to pull off their first win in over 5 years to emerge victorious 4 goals to 3 - the winner coming with only 10 seconds left to send them giddy with delight!

Round 2



Roddam v Seacole

Seacole while the staff team took on Austin. In another shocking outcome they again emerged victorious with a comfortable 5 to 1 win. They couldn't go on and win the whole thing, could they?

Into the next round of matches and Roddam continued to show they were the team to beat by vanquishing

Round 3



Intense action from the Staff v Roddam match!

Into the final round of matches and everything was still to play for. Austin and Seacole battled to a defensive minded 1-1 draw whilst the undefeated Roddam took on the also undefeated staff team to see who would be crowned champions! At half time, with the score at 0-0 the staff sniffed a massive upset over a superb Roddam team. However, in the second half the students made some tactical and positional changes and the rapidly tiring staff just couldn't stay with them! Roddam took control and eventually ran out winners by 7 goals to 1.

The event was a great success with lot's of money raised for the three House charities. Great spirit was shown by all the teams and the standard of play was excellent. The final Positions were:

4th - AUSTIN

3rd - SEACOLE

2nd - STAFF

1st - RODDAM

NGHS head netball coach, Mrs Martin, declared after the event, "What a superbly organised tournament by all of the girls and the standard of play was excellent. Roddam were deserved winners proving their class in each of the games. As part of the staff team, i must give great credit to them for picking up their first win in my time at the school! With an average age nearly 20 years more than the students (and one player being 35 years older) they can be rightly proud of their performance. Next year we are in it to win it!"



An exhausted but happy staff netball team!

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY ASSEMBLY



Miss Davies and Mrs Clarke

Monday 27th January was Holocaust Memorial Day – in school we marked the event with assemblies, based around this year’s theme: ‘For a Better Future.’ Students from the Sixth Form, alongside several Year 8 students and the history teachers, talked about how this theme presents an opportunity for people to come together and learn from the past and take action to ensure a better future for all. We talked about challenging prejudices and encouraging more kindness in the world, starting with our own school community.

We also launched a competition for students to create

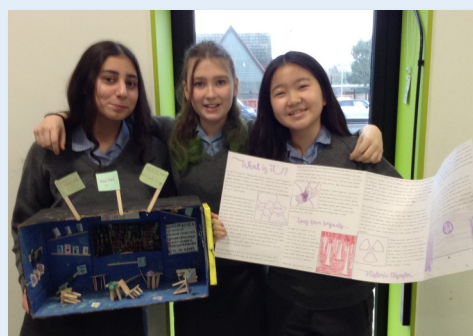
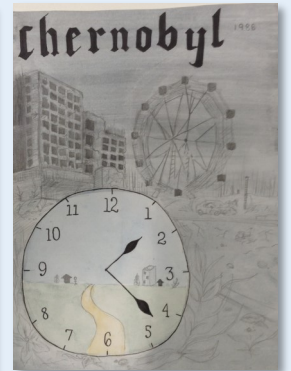
some way of commemorating the Holocaust based around this year’s theme – it could be a piece of art or poetry for example. We have had some wonderful entries so far but have **extended the deadline to Tuesday 25th February**. There will be prizes for the strongest entries. Submissions could be given to their history teacher. See the poster later on for all the details. Miss Davies would like to thank those students that have helped to prepare and present the assemblies, which were both thought-provoking and sensitively delivered.



YEAR 8 CHERNOBYL DISASTER PROJECT

As part of their geography studies, Year 8 have been looking at the events of 26th April 1986 and the cataclysmic meltdown of the Chernobyl nuclear powerplant near Kiev in Ukraine.

The students chose how to present their information with many choosing models or artwork. Below you can see a selection of their work.



SAFER INTERNET DAY



Form S2 learning about the dangers of online scams

Safer internet day took place on Tuesday 11th February with the this years theme being how to protect yourself and others from scams online. During form time, students worked through a range of activities to enhance their knowledge of this very important aspect of 21st century life.

A huge thank you to the Lower School Head Girl Team for putting together the resources to make 'safer internet week' a success and help educate everybody about the dangers of online scams!

Safer
Internet
Day 2025 | Tuesday
11 February

Coordinated by the UK Safer Internet Centre

saferinternetday.org.uk

QUICK THINKING Y11 CADET SAVES THE DAY!



Darcy Gallacher (Y11) 'Quick thinking and calm'

It's always lovely to receive unsolicited positive feedback about one of our students from a member of the public. This is particularly so when it is glowing praise about the 'quick thinking and calm' actions of one of our Y11 students - Darcy Gallacher - during a difficult incident at Army Cadets.

The parent of a child whose knee had dislocated during an activity spoke highly of Darcy's astonishing intervention and how she was 'instrumental' in helping get the knee back in! Darcy, who plans to be a doctor, was typically modest about the incident, but we couldn't be more proud of her! **Ms J Capaldi (Head of Y11)**

THE GREAT YEAR SEVEN CASTLE COMPETITION



The history department is looking for the best model of a Motte and Bailey castle. Could you be the one to make it?

To win this competition you need to create an accurate model of a Motte and Bailey castle that would have been built by the Normans in the late 11th century in England.

You can make your model out of anything and it can be any size but it must be historically accurate. It could be a representation of a generic Motte and Bailey castle or a replica of one actually built by the Normans. The castles will be judged by the history ambassadors and there will be

prizes for historical accuracy as well as interesting choices of building materials and creativity.

The Rules

You can work as an individual, a pair or a group of three (remember that if you are working as a group you need to share the work)

It must be a motte and bailey castle – add labels to show the main features

It can be made out of anything – please be resourceful and consider the environmental impact of your choice of materials.

It must be handed in on February 27th (after half term). Bring it to room 3.

Ms J Clarke

Good Luck and happy castle building!

Some useful websites

http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/motte_and_bailey_castles.htm

http://www.bbc.co.uk/wales/history/sites/themes/society/castles_motte.shtml

http://www.exploring-castles.com/motte_and_bailey_castles.html

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zwtc2p3/revision/2>

<https://www.durhamworldheritagesite.com/learn/architecture/castle/motte-and-bailey>

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/members-area/kids/kids-normans/craft-motte-and-bailey/>

SAFETY REMINDERS FROM MISS WEBSTER

- Always be vigilant and aware of your surroundings and people around you.
- Try not to travel/ walk alone, if possible, especially when it's dark.
- Choose well-lit routes to walk along.
- If you feel you are being followed on foot, cross the road, look for people you know or go into a shop/office and tell them you are scared/unnerved and wait until a family member or friend can collect you or walk with you.
- Turn your phone location to "ON" so friends and family can see where you are.
- Make sure you have a back-up plan arranged with your parents/carers if you miss the bus or if they are delayed collecting you.
- Do not take anything e.g. sweets from someone if you don't know the source

If you feel that you are in danger, call 999. You can also report anything suspicious to 101. If you can recall any specific details such as the make/model or registration plate of a car, this would be helpful

LONDON THEATRE TRIP REPORT



The musical theatre London trip, did not disappoint, it was a very eventful weekend but one full of smiles and laughs! We arrived to our accommodation and unpacked our things. We sadly missed Mean Girls on the account of London traffic but all was resolved when we ordered pizza and

Mrs Chapman had a good old shout at the bus company! The next day arrived and we were all too ready to watch Hamilton, we had a lovely time in the beautiful Covent Gardens and made our way to the theatre thanks to Mrs Say-sell's excellent tour guiding skills! Hamilton was absolutely incredible and we all felt so honoured for the opportunity to watch such an amazing musical and finished the day off with a few rounds of karaoke back at the hotel! We just want to say a huge thank you to all the staff on the trip who did such a fantastic job at keeping all spirits up during the highs and lows and can't wait to enjoy another trip with them next year!

Freya P (Y10)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

24th Feb Year 12 Forecast Grades

28th Feb Y13 Mock Exam Results

3rd March Y10 Loudmouth

5th March Y9 Parents Evening

6th March Y9 Options Deadline

14th March House Quiz

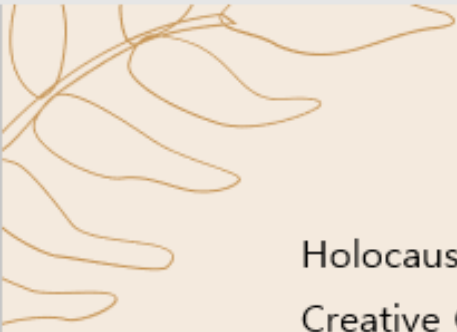
w/c 17th March – Y11 Reports Home

18th March Y7 Parents Evening

24th - 27th March School Production (SIX—The Musical)

31st March Y7 Loudmouth

COMING UP



Holocaust Memorial Day – January 27th
Creative Competition – Open to all years

'FOR A BETTER FUTURE'

Can you use your creativity to make something commemorating this theme, in memory of the Holocaust? You can create a piece of art, or write some poetry.

**PRIZES INCLUDED - DUE IN BY
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 25TH**

Please hand in all submissions with names and houses listed to your history teacher



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SCAMS AND FAKE NEWS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

"Fake news" refers to falsified or misleading material presented as a legitimate account of events. It's often used by malicious actors online to push an agenda, or even by criminals as a way of making scams more persuasive. Scammers can trick us into handing over personal information, security details and even our hard-earned cash.

"CLICKBAIT" PHISHING SCAMS

A message arrives saying "Have you seen this video of yourself?" or you might be sent an attention-grabbing headline about a celebrity that's been shared on social media. This kind of "bait" is produced by scammers to drive us to click on an unsafe link, where malware could be downloaded to our devices. These scams rely on our curiosity and our "need-to-know" instinct.

SALES, DEALS & DISCOUNTS

Some scams appear as adverts, offering a chance to buy something – such as designer products, expensive gadgets or tickets to a popular show – at a reduced price. Such plays often include a time limit or countdown, urging us to hurry so we don't miss out on the deal. This pressure encourages us to input personal details or payment information before pausing to check if it's legitimate.

YOU'RE A WINNER!

This kind of scam involves fake giveaways, opportunities or freebies. It could be a message saying we've won a prize draw or competition. Or it could be a gift, free trial, bonus credit, and suchlike. It might claim that a package or refund is waiting. All these techniques are used to prompt us to share our personal information, thinking that there's something to be gained by doing so.

FALSE FRIENDSHIPS

Scammers often pretend to be someone they're not to gain their victims' trust. They might attempt to convince any children they connect with that they're a child of similar age with shared interests. Warning signs include a high volume of messages (often with an intense tone), secrecy, inappropriate levels of intimacy, guilt tripping, emotional manipulation, threats or blackmail.

PANIC MODE

To trigger a sense of panic, scammers may claim that a child's account has been hacked, or a virus has been installed on their device, or any number of other scary scenarios. They may claim to be able to fix the problem or offer a solution – if the child hands over control of the device or sensitive information. Similar scams involve impersonating a friend or relative, claiming that they're in trouble and need help.

FAKE CELEBRITY ENDORSEMENTS

Impersonating influential people online is a common tactic for scammers, who can use technology to create fake photos, audio and even videos that look authentic. These can be used to convince us, for example, to buy products, sign up for so-called "business opportunities" or invest in cryptocurrency schemes – all of which are fake or otherwise malicious. Many scams also involve the impersonation of popular companies' social media accounts, as well as those of individuals.

Advice for Parents & Educators

STAY INFORMED

Stay up to date with the latest information and best practice on cyber-security. See what scam stories are reported in the news and make note of what tactics were used. Keep up with young people's digital lives: talk about what they're doing online and use properly endorsed resources to learn what risks certain sites and apps pose to their younger users.

ENCOURAGE HEALTHY SCEPTICISM

Most scams rely on emotional or psychological manipulation, tapping into our human instincts – whether that's to keep ourselves safe, help others, find answers, make friends, avoid losing out or to secure something we really want. Encourage children to recognise that pressure to act and to always consult with an adult – especially if what's on offer sounds too good to be true.

TALK TOGETHER

Chat often and openly with young people about fake news, online scams and how they both work. Encourage them to talk to you about anything they're unsure of or worried about online. If a child claims to have been scammed, don't pass judgement. Blaming the victim may deter young people from asking you for help. Remember: adults are scammed just as often, if not more.

BE PROACTIVE

Children increasingly use digital devices for education, socialising, shopping and play. Don't wait for a problem to arise before you discuss the risk of scams, false information and fake news. Highlight what to look out for and clearly communicate under what circumstances the child ought to speak to an adult. Finally, ensure that they're aware of the support services that are available to them (such as Childline).

Meet Our Expert

Dr Holly Powell-Jones is the founder of Online Media Law UK and a leading expert in digital safety, media law and young people. Her PhD investigates children's understandings of risk online. She works with schools, businesses, and universities to provide award-winning education on the criminal, legal and ethical considerations for the digital age. Visit OnlineMediaLaw.co.uk for more.



The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/fake-news-and-scams>

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