



# NEWPORT NEWS

*A fortnightly update from NGHS*

IN OMNIBUS FIDELIS



*Mr Adam Jones, Headteacher*

**S**eptember has already disappeared and the half-way point of this half term has passed.

We are delighted with how our Year 7s and incoming Year 12s have settled into the NGHS Family. Our Year 12s are off to Liverpool this weekend and I'd like to thank a large team of staff who have given up their weekend. We wouldn't be able to offer so many fantastic opportunities at school without their willingness to go above and beyond; thank you. I know that the Sixth Form have really been looking forward to this annual trip and I am sure it will help them to continue to form bonds outside of the classroom.

Last weekend saw Mrs Martin and Mrs Danby lead the under 19 Netball Weekend at Conover Hall. This was ideal preparation for a friendly match against Haberdashers' Adams in the sunshine on Wednesday. It proved to be a one-sided affair with both NGHS A and B teams running out as comfortable winners! The quality of play on display from our teams was amazing to witness and is testament to the hard work and dedication they have put into training.

In our assemblies, Mr Williams has introduced the students to the basic principles of metacognition and the idea of 'thinking about thinking'. Mr Williams is leading the development of staff and student understanding of metacognition this year. Educational research demonstrates that a focus on metacognition can support students to make more rapid progress. We hope that this new focus will further enhance the outstanding teaching and learning that already takes place at NGHS.

**Volume 8 - Issue 3 - Friday 4th October 2024**

House Bake Off took place last week, Mr Pointon had promised me a spectacle of culinary delights and he was not wrong! I know that it was a difficult job for the judges to narrow down to a winner in each category. It was then great to see that the following day we could support Macmillan Cancer Support by selling all the cakes and bakes that had been donated. It was a real community effort, whether baking or just eating the cakes!

Lastly, we include a parent page around staying safe online. This is an ever worsening issue for many young people, especially for those who might be taking their first steps into using smartphones, hence this parent update.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mr A Jones, **Headteacher**

## **UNIFORM REMINDERS**

A quick reminder to all families of the school's position on jewellery as found in the uniform policy. Can we please ask for your support with adhering to this policy:

A watch and one small stud in each ear (lower ear lobe) is permitted

A lightweight gold or silver chain with a small religious symbol or a religious bangle is permitted

A medic-alert or SOS bracelet or chain is permitted

All permitted jewellery must be removed for practical subjects and PE without question.

### **Jewellery which is not permitted:**

- Large or dangly earrings or ear cuffs
- Earrings in other parts of the ear except the lower ear lobe
- Any more than one pair of studs
- Bangles or bracelets (except for religious or medical reasons as stated above)
- Rings
- Other body piercings

**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](mailto:schooloffice@nghs.org.uk)

## Smashing Pumpkins at NGHS



Last month we had some very special visitors from Moorfield Primary School who came to learn all about our pumpkins growing in the school vegetable patches!

Mr Wade was delighted to explain to the KSI pupils all about how the pumpkins grow from seeds, then into flowers and finally into the fully formed fruit!

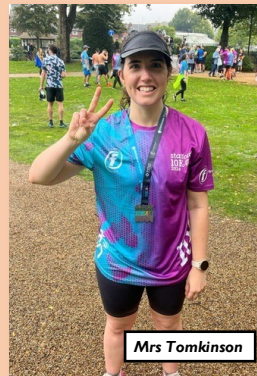
As a keen apiarist (beekeeper), he also explained the role that the bees' have in helping pollinate the pumpkin flowers - the children found it fascinating!



## Torrential Rain at Stafford 10K for 3 Members of Staff!



Following hot on the heels of 4 members of staff completing half marathons recently, there were more energetic endeavours on display at the Stafford 10K on Sunday 22nd September.

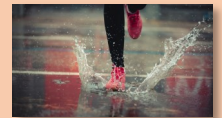


Mr Wright, Mrs Tomkinson and Mr Whitehouse all took part at the event in what were pretty horrendous conditions! With rain alternating between moderate, heavy and downright torrential, they battled their way to the finish line along with thousands of other runners!



In typical fashion, as soon as the race had finished the sun started shining - just in time for the traditional post race pictures to be taken! Despite the conditions, all three runners were delighted with their times with Mr Whitehouse even achieving a new PB (personal best). "I just wanted to finish as quickly as I could to get out of the pouring rain!" he declared at the finish line.

staff news



## NGHS Social Media

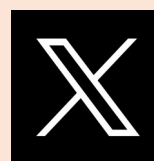
Why not keep in touch with the goings on at school via our social media pages. We're on Facebook, X (Twitter) and Instagram. Make sure you follow, like and comment to keep up to date with everything that is going on.



[facebook.com/NewportGirls](https://facebook.com/NewportGirls)  
[facebook.com/nghs6](https://facebook.com/nghs6) (sixth)



[instagram.com/nghs6form/](https://instagram.com/nghs6form/)



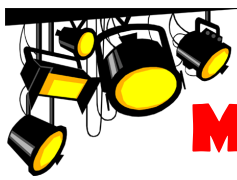
[@NGHS\\_Info](https://twitter.com/NGHS_Info)



Instagram

COMING SOON!

A new Instagram page for the main school in addition to 6th form!



# In the spotlight...

## MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES



Starting this week we have the first of our regular 'spotlights' on a particular faculty or subject at school. During the school year you will find out more about each subject area or year group to give you an inside look at what goes on in school. First up we have Modern Foreign Languages.

### Welcome to the Department - Introduction by Mr C Audouin

The Modern Foreign Languages Faculty comprises six staff Mr Audouin (Head of Faculty), Mrs Fujii (Second in the Faculty), Mrs Furnival, Miss Crevis, Mrs Payne and Mr Matlak. You can find more information about the Faculty and their learning overviews and vision on our website <https://www.nghs.org.uk/academic/curriculum/languages>



Mr Audouin



Mrs Fujii



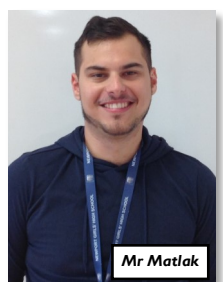
Mrs Furnival



Miss Crevis



Mrs Payne



Mr Matlak

#### Welcome to a new member of the Faculty!

Hi there! I'm Mr. S. Matlak and I was born in Trier, the oldest city in Germany.

I've always been passionate about languages, analysing linguistic structures and being able to use them to communicate. Back in Germany, I taught German, English, and French at a language school. I moved to England 2 years ago as my love for languages brought me my soulmate who's English.

Apart from languages, I love reading, travelling, psychology, sociology, and learning more about different cultures. I also adore birds and have got 3 lovely budgies at home (2 of them are from Germany as well). I'm really happy to be part of the NGHS community and honoured to work with such an amazingly supportive MFL department. I'm looking forward to getting to know lots of you! Thanks, Merci, Danke!

#### REMEMBERING THE FALLEN



Following a visit to the crater of Lochnagar last year during the French Trip, some students asked whether the school could sponsor a plaque to remember a fallen soldier. The MFL Faculty is working with the History department to honour a local soldier.



### Happy Teacher's Day!

World Teachers' Day is held annually on 5 October to celebrate all teachers around the globe. It is a day to celebrate how teachers are transforming education but also to reflect on the support they need to fully deploy their talent and vocation, and to rethink the way ahead for the profession globally.

Bonne fête des profs!

"ÊTRE ENSEIGNANT, CE N'EST PAS UN CHOIX DE CARRIÈRE, C'EST UN CHOIX DE VIE".  
FRANÇOIS MITERRAND



# What Do Our Y12 Students Say About Starting French and German?

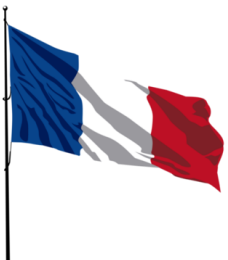
- Studying French A-level has been an all-round great experience so far. Having 2 different teachers has been amazing for ~~both~~ conjugating verbs, practicing our listening and writing in French. It has also been beneficial to me and my learning to experience the different teaching styles of both Mr Audain and Mrs Furnival - Mr Audain speaking in French the majority of the lesson has helped to improve my listening and understanding already and Mrs Furnival introducing French music into our lessons has been a fun and new way of learning French.



German in year 12 has been great fun so far. We have already ~~done~~ learnt so much and all of the lessons have been ~~are~~ really engaging. The lessons have been challenging and we've learnt lots of new vocabulary, relating to our topics. We've also covered ~~some~~ some tricky grammar but I think we're getting there with it. I'm really looking ~~word~~ forward to learning more about ~~the~~ German culture and ~~language~~.

I've really enjoyed my first few weeks doing A-Level French. Despite being nervous for my ~~at~~ first lesson, as I was worried about not understanding French as well ~~as~~ <sup>as</sup> the ~~rest~~ <sup>rest</sup> of my class. However, after my first lesson I realised that we're all in the same really the same boat, ~~and that although I was nerve~~ Also, I've found my lessons so far and although they are very different to GCSE, it hasn't been overwhelming.

German in Year 12 so far has most definitely been the most challenging lessons of the week, however it has been quite inspiring to have been able to learn so much already. It has been especially difficult to adjust to speaking to new people in a language I am not yet comfortable speaking in. Despite this, I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know my fellow classmates and being able to continue learning the language I am passionate about.



# ALUMNAE NEWS

## What are our ex students up to now?

**Miss Turner** left NGHS in 2019. She studied both French and German and continued her French studies at A level. She completed a French and Business degree at the University of Nottingham. Following her experience teaching in the South of France during her year abroad, she decided to complete a PGCE and had a placement at NGHAS in January 2024. Miss Turner is now a French teacher in a school in Stafford.

**Emilia** completed her French A-Level last academic year and based her EPQ on the Nüshu language in China. Nüshu was created by and for women to commune in privacy. As a secret text, Nüshu was written in calligraphy as poems or songs on paper-folded fans and handkerchiefs. These hidden letters were passed down from generation to generation as a way for women to share their stories, express hope and solidarity, and affirm their dignity in the face of daily struggles. Emilia is now studying French and Mandarin at university in Edinburgh.

Former Year 13 student, **Anuva**, also continued with languages as she is studying Law and French Law at University of Warwick.

## FUN FACTS ABOUT LANGUAGES!

### THE MOST CONFUSING BIRD IN THE WORLD

is called "French chicken" in Greek, "peru" in Portuguese, "hindi" in Turkish and "turkey" in English.



### HELLO AND BYE

The informal Polish salutation "cześć" can be used for both "hello" and "goodbye". The same is true for the Italian "ciao", French "salut" and Austrian "servus".



Many languages have their fair share of untranslatable words, e.g. the **SWEDISH** *Gökotta* (to rise at dawn in order to go out and listen to the birds sing), the **ITALIAN** *culaccino* (the wet mark left by a glass on a table) or the **DUTCH** *niksen* (sitting down and doing nothing at all).

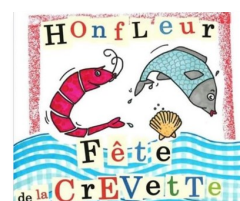
## In the cultural calendar in France and Germany

The Day of German Unity is Germany's national holiday. It commemorates the German reunification in 1990 and is traditionally celebrated with a festival around Platz der Republik, Straße des 17. Juni and the Brandenburg Gate. The fall of the Berlin Wall on the 9th of November in 1989, which marked the end of the Cold War, had paved the way for German reunification barely a year later. The Unification Treaty that was signed on the 20th of September in 1990 and declares the 3rd of October the national holiday, sealed the end of the division of Germany.



Honfleur is a commune in the Calvados department in northwestern France—it is also Mr Audouin's birthplace!

Normandy, France – Fête de la crevette, 12-13 October 2024. The shrimp festival held in this lovely port town is authentic, fun and charming! Sea shanties, pirate village, arts and crafts stalls, cookery demonstrations and of course seafood specialities, plus cheeses and other local produce are on offer!





At the Council of Europe’s initiative, The European Day of languages has been celebrated every year since 2001 on 26<sup>th</sup> September – together with European Commission.

This year, the students have been challenged to create a poster illustrating the theme of ‘Languages for Peace’. This artwork needs to convey messages of unity and understanding across different languages and actively contribute to the use of languages as a vehicle for reaching across linguistic and cultural divides.



The M.F.L Faculty never misses an opportunity to dress up on this day and some colleagues are very keen...

## NGHS Bake Off on European Day of Languages!

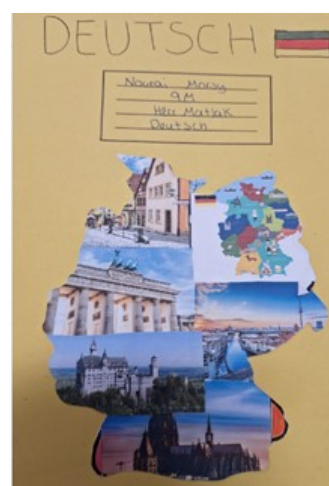
For our “Bake off” day, some of our students have given an international flavour to the competition, when they entered the “European Bakes” category and produced fantastic food from Sweden, Germany, France, Poland, Greece and Portugal to name but a few. Bravo!



# Amazing Designs for the First Homework of the Year!

## C'est la rentrée!

Back to school in the M.F.L department meant a new opportunity for students to research and craft a colourful and interesting cover for their books. The care and creativity that was clearly on display was un "véritable plaisir" for us to see and hopefully sparked some interest in French speaking countries, sights and famous people.





NGHS  
**NETBALL**

# NEWS

## CONDOVER HALL REPORT

Our netball weekend residential at Condover Hall was an unforgettable experience! The atmosphere was buzzing from the moment we arrived, with our small team excited and ready to compete. Saturday was filled with intense matches, but we kept our spirits high and maintained great team energy.



After our games were finished for the day, we had the pleasure of having a Q&A with Eboni Usoro-Brown, former England Rose and current

commentator for Sky Sports, she was an inspiration to many of us as not only did she play for England, but she is also a lawyer and mother!

The following day, we woke up eager to compete and ready for the challenge ahead of us. It was a promising start as we managed to secure a place in the final by winning all our games prior. Although the final was not in our favour, spirits were still high, and we could not be prouder of the team!



We battled hard and, after several challenging games, secured second place overall—an achievement we're incredibly pleased with. Off the court, we bonded as a team, sharing laughs and making memories during the



downtime, where we took on the challenge of the high ropes course and celebrated Phildora's birthday! Condover Hall itself was a fantastic place for our weekend away, offering great facilities for both



competition and enjoyment.

Overall, it was a brilliant weekend filled with memories, laughter, and great teamwork. We can't wait for the next one. **Millie H and Ava M Y13**

## Year 10 Student Selected for Swiss Netball Squad!

Recently, I have been fortunate enough to have been selected for the National Junior Netball squad for Switzerland. The trialling process consisted of two full days and naturally it was really intense. When I got the email I was selected I was over the moon! I am so grateful to have the opportunity to represent my country!

**Lalya B Y10**



## SCHOOL COMPETITIONS!

There have also been a number of inter school netball matches in the local area including our local Rival Haberdashers Adams!

**Full reports and information in the next edition!**





# Carding Mill Valley River Study for Y11

## Two Students Report on the Day

The trip to Carding Mill Valley was the first trip of the academic year as part of our GCSE Geography fieldwork. Arriving at Carding Mill Valley, we had a quick talk from one of the people in charge of the site, where we were made aware about the biodiversity of the area.

The hills of Shropshire never failed to please - it was beautiful seeing the towering hills and the small stream that flowed through. Despite the slight disappointment due to the weather, we started trekking towards our sites with one group first exploring the downstream and the other working further upstream.

Mr Pimm was really determined to get those 10,000 steps in and so his group had the privilege of walking the

furthest! Our main tasks were to collect data that enabled us to decide whether all rivers follow the characteristics of the Bradshaw model (a model that we analysed in class showing how a river progresses as it travels downstream).

We dropped dog biscuits into the river to test the river velocity, measured the depth and width of the river and picked out stones from that flowed several points all different methods of sampling.

After collecting our results, we returned back to the buses to find some sheep that were very interested in the bus engines! All in all, it was an exhausting yet really enjoyable day.

**Alesha S-I I A**

Thursday morning, we set off with our wellies and water-proofs to Carding Mill Valley to carry out our field work section of our geography GCSE.

Everyone jumped straight into the day, literally, as we in our individual groups spread out inside the river, recording our data. Using our equipment, we measured the sediment size, width, and depth of the river, along with its velocity, which involved us running ten metres chasing after dog biscuits, timing how long it took them.

We swapped half-way through the day, moving between the upper and lower course to see the changes this may have on our results and aside from a few leaking wellies; it was a really enjoyable day.

**Freya E-I I R**



# #HelloYellow

Thursday 10th October is our annual 'HelloYellow' event in support of World Mental Health Day. Wear yellow accessories on the day to show your support! There will also be special themed assemblies by the Upper and Lower School Head Girl teams, form time activities and even yellow cakes to buy from the canteen! Wear it Loud, Wear it proud and help make Hello Yellow on 10th October a fantastic success!



**Wear it loud.  
Wear it proud.**

This World Mental Health Day, 10th October, wear yellow and donate to YoungMinds.

Less than 1 in 3 young people are getting the support they need for their mental health. This needs to change. With your support – it can.

#HelloYellow

M&S | YOUNGMINDS

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**4th October: Y12 Liverpool Trip**

**9th October :Y13 Politics Trip to Birmingham**

**10th October: Hello Yellow Day**

**21st October: Year 5/6 Open Morning**

**23rd October: Year 13 Parents' Evening**

**25th October: Iceland Trip**

**25th October: End of Half term (3.45pm)**

**4th November: Return to school**





# NGHS BAKE OFF RESULTS 2024

As usual, the standard of entry into the annual NGHS 'House Bake Off Competition' were phenomenal! The staff had a wonderful time tasting nearly 100 different bakes in the categories of: Super Savouries, House Spirit, European Bakes and Is it Cake? After much digestion and deliberation the final results were announced and these can be seen in the table below. The overall winning house for this year was **Austen** and the 'Star Baker' for the whole Competition was **Isabel C** in Year 12 for her exceptional sushi cakes!

Additionally, any bakes remaining after the tasting were sold off the following day which raised over £500 for Macmillan Cancer Support - a fantastic effort and a very worthy cause!

	Year 7/8	Y9/10	Year 11	Year 12/13
<b>Super Savouries</b>	Ivy B (R2)	Aliya S (S4)	Annviya J (IIR) Brogan M (IIS)	<b>Rutvi S(6A2)</b> ★
<b>House Spirit</b>	Lola B (A2)	Brellie A (A6)	Amber R (IIA)	<b>Fenella M (6A2)</b> ★
<b>European Bakes</b>	Georgie G (A3) Sylvie L (R1) Julia I (R3)	<b>Jessica C (6S)</b> ★	Akshara P (IIA)	Jennifer W (6R3)
<b>Is it Cake?</b>	Phoebe F (R1)	Samma G (R5)	Evie C (IIR)	<b>Isabel C (6S3)</b> ★★



★ **Category Winner!**

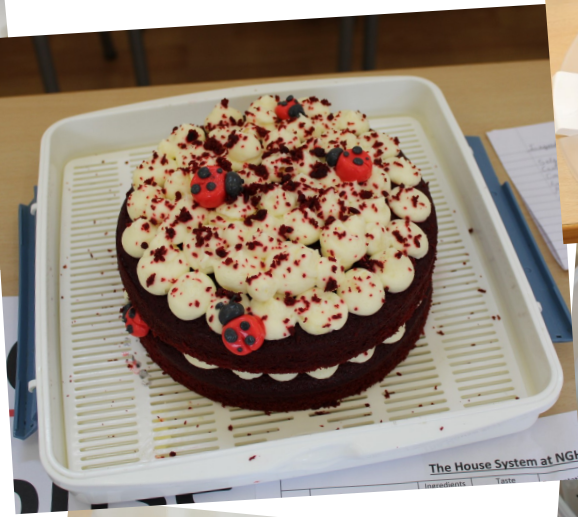
★★ **Category Winner and Overall Star Baker!**



# Bake Off 2024 Gallery

The following two pages showcase a sample of some of the best bakes for this year—delicious!





# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION  
**16+**

in UK and Europe;  
rest of the world 13+

With more than two billion active users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, as well as making voice and video calls, WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service. Its end-to-end encryption only allows messages to be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp itself can read them. This privacy issue has been in the spotlight recently, as the UK's Online Safety Bill proposes to end such encryption on private messaging; WhatsApp is unwilling to do so and has reportedly considered withdrawing its service in the UK should this legislation go ahead.

...MSG ME...

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it a lucrative hunting ground for scammers. Recent examples include posing as the target's child, requesting a money transfer because of a spurious 'emergency'. Plus a scam where fraudsters trigger a verification message by attempting to log in to your account, then (posing as WhatsApp) call or text to ask you to repeat the code back to them, giving them access.

### CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a chat, someone only needs the mobile number of the WhatsApp user that they want to message. If your child has ever given their number out to someone they don't know, that person could then contact them via WhatsApp. It's also possible that your child might be added to a group chat (by one of their friends, for example) containing other people that they don't know.

### FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use allows news to be shared rapidly – whether it's true or not. To combat the spread of misinformation, messages forwarded more than five times on the app now display a 'Forwarded many times' label and a double arrow icon. This makes users aware that the message they've just received is far from an original... and might not be entirely factual, either.

### 'VIEW ONCE' CONTENT

The facility to send images or messages that can only be viewed once has led to some WhatsApp users sharing inappropriate images or abusive texts, knowing that the recipient can't re-open them later to use as evidence of misconduct. People used to be able to screenshot this 'disappearing' content – but a recently added WhatsApp feature now blocks this, citing increased privacy.

### CHAT LOCK

Another new option allows users to store certain messages or chats in a separate 'locked chats' folder, saved behind a passcode, fingerprint or face ID authentication. The risk here is that this function creates the potential for young people to hide conversations and content that they suspect their parents wouldn't approve of (such as age-inappropriate material).

### VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, which can be helpful for friends meeting up or parents checking that their child's safely on the way home, for example. However, anyone in your child's contacts list or in a mutual group chat can also track their location – potentially letting strangers identify a child's home address or journeys that they make regularly.

## Advice for Parents & Carers ...TYPING...

### EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage your child to treat unexpected messages with caution: get them to consider, for example, whether the message sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know *never* to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.

### ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's wise to change your child's WhatsApp settings (go to 'Privacy', then 'Groups') to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval: you can give permission to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...'. Additionally, if your child needs to use 'live location', emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need – and then turn it off.

### THINKING BEFORE SHARING

Help your child to understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and all too common – for content to then be shared more widely (even publicly on social media). Encourage your child to consider how an ill-judged message might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

### CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Some parents like to check in with their child about how they're using WhatsApp, explaining that it will help to keep them safe. If you spot a 'Locked Chats' folder, you might want to talk about the sort of chats that are in there, who they're with and why your child wants to keep them hidden. Also, if your child has sent any 'view once' content, you could discuss their reasons for using this feature.

## Meet Our Expert

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



...HEY OSCAR...

**NOS** National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://blog.whatsapp.com/an-open-letter> | <https://faq.whatsapp.com/1077018839582332> | [https://faq.whatsapp.com/361005896189245?helpref=hc\\_inov](https://faq.whatsapp.com/361005896189245?helpref=hc_inov)  
<https://www.whatsapp.com/security> | <https://blog.whatsapp.com/chat-lock-making-your-most-intimate-conversations-even-more-private>  
<https://www.aura.com/learn/whatsapp-scams>



@natonlinesafety



/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety



@national\_online\_safety

# 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



**Mrs H Birch:** Assistant Head, DSL



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



**Miss S Webster:** Deputy Headteacher & DDSL



**Mr A Jones:** Headteacher & DDSL



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

DSL—Designated Safeguarding Lead  
DDSL—Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead