

19 April 2021



**Newport Girls'
High School
Academy Trust**

To: Year 5 girls and their families
Invitation to discover more about NGHS

Dear Student,
Dear Parents/Carers,



I am writing to introduce Newport Girls' High School and all that we have to offer your daughter. You may know the school already, you may even have daughters at NGHS, but since becoming Head in 2018, it is my ambition to widen the school's access and appeal to a greater number of Year 6 girls in our Newport area. You are receiving this letter by kind permission of your daughter's current Headteacher and I would ask you to take a few minutes to find out more about NGHS.

NGHS was founded in 1919 and is a selective girls' high school. We are one of the most successful schools in the UK, but our success is not just based upon academic results alone. I firmly believe it is our job to support girls to become rounded individuals who can achieve success in the academic world, but also in a more holistic sense. NGHS has a wealth of extra-curricular activities each and every lunchtime and the opportunity to travel to a range of new and exciting places. We are one of the country's leading Duke of Edinburgh Award schools and we have a thriving House system, which builds leadership skills and resilience among all our pupils.

Admissions

Each year, girls hoping to join NGHS sit an Entrance Test in September of Year 6. You need to apply for this test by July of Year 5. If your daughter is working well in Year 5 in Maths and English, she should find our Entrance Test very accessible. The Test is based upon the Year 5 curriculum and there is familiarisation material on our website to help preparation. Our staff are very accommodating and friendly if your daughter is nervous. NGHS has an in-area admissions system whereby those residing within our catchment area (which is mapped out on our website) have priority admission over those outside the area. Did you know that only about 35% of each year group are girls from our catchment area? There are many more places that could be taken by girls who live near to the school.

2021 has also seen our government-approved expansion to offer 120 Year 7 places and we have prioritised 15 places to girls for whom their primary school receives pupil premium / free school meals support. If this applies to your daughter, we would strongly advise you to consider your daughter sitting the Test and we will support her to achieve an excellent education and outcomes over the following seven years.

Open Evening

We would normally be writing to invite you to visit NGHS, but Covid19 sadly prevents this. Nonetheless, I have put together a wealth of information in a special microsite at www.nghs.org.uk, which you can browse. This includes a virtual tour of the school buildings, introduced by our Year 7 girls, and a FAQ page as well as other helpful information to give you a flavour and feel of our school.

There is also the option to book to attend an **online presentation by me** on one of four dates (the first being Thursday 29 April, which would have been our Open Evening). Please do sign up at our website (www.nghs.org.uk/y7-open-eve) and I look forward to introducing NGHS properly to you and your family.

Our Current Expansion

If you live in Newport, you may know about the School's current expansion and building work programme. This is due for completion in the autumn of 2021, when we will have a suite of new classrooms for Maths, Computing and Science as well as a first-class dining hall and kitchen. Our existing dining hall will become a drama studio to further enhance performance opportunities for our students. This building comes after the 2018 extension provided much-needed modern teaching space and work areas for our sixth form students. Our investment in upgraded facilities, particularly in the sciences in recent years mean we can offer your daughter the very best learning experiences and curriculum.

Care & Support

NGHS is a caring, welcoming and very supportive school. Yes, there is an expectation that girls will work hard and enjoy learning and the success that this brings. We share this success with a number of reward schemes and liaise regularly with parents – do check out my Newport News weekly newsletter in the 'For Parents' section of our website. Selective schools can have an ill-founded reputation for being 'all about the exams' – I understand this concern and can allay your possible concerns here. We care very much about our students and two recent awards for Pastoral Care and Mental Health support highlight our ability to intervene and support if girls do put too much pressure on themselves. Recent parent feedback has been amazing, especially during Covid19 when we have provided a full curriculum of online lessons.

NGHS is a happy school, our Ofsted report in 2019 (where we retained our Outstanding status) picked up on the real 'family feel' to the school. In short, NGHS is a small, but expanding family. Our staff work very hard to provide exciting lessons for students and the relationships between girls and their teachers is respectful, friendly and productive.

We hope that you would like to visit our Virtual Open Evening (www.nghs.org.uk/y7-open-eve) to find out for yourself what makes NGHS special. If you do go online, please book a presentation slot and I look forward to talking to you more then.

Finally, the deadline to apply for the Entrance Test is 4pm on Thursday 8 July, so do remember to book a place for the Test for your daughter via our [website Admissions section](#).

Thank you for considering NGHS for your daughter.

Yours faithfully,



Mr M J Scott
Headteacher