



Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre

Striving for Excellence

Principal • Mr Alan Johnson

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19th December, 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

At the end of another very busy term I wanted to thank you all for your continued support. When I look back to the start of term I am simply amazed by what our students and staff have achieved. What really brought it home to me this week was the resoundingly positive feedback from our Dragons. On Monday we hosted our first ever Cyber Dragons' Den event at the school. This event was part of the ongoing development of our school as a Cyber Hub with the National Cyber Security Centre. The school hall was sectioned off as a 'closed set' while our finalists from Y7 and Y8 pitched their ideas to a panel of very influential Dragons.

Diane Savory OBE

Simon Humphreys

Neil Watkins

Andrea
Litherland

Jacqui Chard



Chair of GFirst
LEP and one of
the architects of
the SuperGroup
Brand



National
Coordinator
Computing at
School



Managing Director
ThinkIT



Senior Vice
President, Head
of EMEA Cyber
Security
Operations, Bank
of America
Merrill Lynch



National Cyber
Security Centre
Deputy Director
for Defence and
National Security

Over the last five weeks our students have been developing some incredibly innovative ideas for fashion and wearable technology as we foster in them the skills to be our future entrepreneurs. The amazing atmosphere and energy on the day reminded me what a fantastic school this is. If that was all that happened this week in addition to an already packed curriculum I would have been happy. However, the Spelling Bee on Tuesday set a new benchmark. While I am aware that other schools offer similar competitions, no one does it quite like Newent. The double act of Mrs Barnes and Mr Phillips is a sight to behold and one that I plan to live stream to all of you in the Summer term!

As you are aware two of our staff will be leaving us at Christmas. Mrs Longden is relocating to the South Coast and will be sadly missed by everyone here. Her endless energy and passion for music has made such a difference to the school and the community it serves. We all wish her every success in the future and feel confident that she will continue to champion teaching music in school despite all of the external pressures to cut this valuable subject. Unfortunately, we are also losing another fantastic teacher at Christmas. This time to a well-earned retirement. Hard work, dedication and thorough planning. These are only a few of the important qualities that Miss Palmer has brought to the school. Her entire career has been devoted to educating children at Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre. She can look back with pride at all that she has accomplished here for our young people and our community.

One final reminder, we come back to school on Monday 7th of January. Please remind your children that it will be 'week two' of their timetable.

Best wishes for a restful break,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Alan Johnson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alan Johnson
Principal