



Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre

Striving for Excellence

Principal • Mr Alan Johnson

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17th July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to start my final letter before we break up for the summer by thanking all of you so much for your continued support and patience over recent months. As a parent of a student in our Y11 I witnessed first-hand the impact of the sudden closure of our schools both at home and on the faces of our vulnerable and key worker students in school. I know that this has been a really tough time for you all, often managing your own worries whilst trying to keep your children engaged and occupied during lockdown. I very much appreciate all of your efforts and while it would be a lie to say that the last few months have not been an immense challenge for all of us, I am confident that our school community will emerge from this crisis stronger than ever. These new ways of working were not something that any of us expected or had prepared for, so I think you can all be incredibly proud of all you have achieved for your family. The most important thing now is to have a very well-deserved break over the summer break if you can.

September 2020

- Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd September – Staff Inset days (no students in school)
- Thursday 3rd September – Year 7 and Year 12 return as part of the Induction Programme
 - We are mindful that each of these year groups did not have their usual induction in the summer term at this key transition point and so this time will be spent completing induction into our school.
- Friday 4th September – All students return.

Each year group will receive guidance closer to the start of the new term.

We are staggering the return dates for the various year groups in order to be able to induct students carefully into the new routines and arrangements. While for many of us the Covid Secure guidance seems like second nature, there will be lots of new processes for students who have not been in full time education to become familiar with. Therefore, we want to ensure this induction into new ways of working is completed in a robust and rigorous manner.

All year groups will be met by senior staff upon arrival and directed to their year group bubble. The overarching principle of our curriculum model from September is to reduce the number of contacts between different groups of students and staff. Maintaining distinct ‘bubbles’ which have limited mixing makes it quicker and easier in the event of a positive case to identify those who may need to self-isolate. We need to have year group sized bubbles for students to resume the full range of curriculum subjects and receive specialist teaching in a secondary school context.

Buses

Thank you to those parents who have requested a Stagecoach bus pass. All requests are currently being processed and further information will be emailed out to you shortly.

GCC bus passes are in school and will be given out to students on their first day back.

Meet-n-Eat

Please remember that due to the current pandemic we will only operate a cashless system from September. If you require a ParentPay activation letter then please contact the finance office- finance@newent.gloucs.sch.uk
Cashless fobs will be issued on the first day of term. However, you can upload funds to this fob at any point over the summer using your ParentPay account so that they are available for your child on the first day. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the finance office.

I am reluctant to send out further details at this time as if there is one thing that the current crisis has taught me is that guidance changes rapidly and with those changes the expectation placed upon the school. In fact, I have been told to expect two changes early next week. Therefore, at the end of what has been an extraordinary school year I would ask that your family enjoy a restful and safe break. Please continue to check 'Milk' for further information from the school throughout the holiday and rest assured that our fantastic staff are all really looking forward to welcoming new and existing students back to school in September.

Regards

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

Alan Johnson
Principal