



Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre

Striving for Excellence

Principal • Mr Alan Johnson

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Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to you again regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Given the disruption that we are all experiencing in our day-to-day lives and the uncertainty regarding the next few months, I want to provide you with a brief update on my intentions and planning in response to this unprecedented situation.

I would like to begin by praising the excellent attitude shown over the past few weeks by our students, staff and indeed the entire school community. Students and staff within our school continue to approach each day with positivity, calmness and an excellent attitude to learning. We will endeavour to remain open for all year groups for as long as possible. Or until instructed to do otherwise by appropriate authorities e.g. Public Health England. However, given the rapidly changing situation I want to alert you to the fact that we are currently modelling a partial closure should this become necessary in the weeks to come. A partial closure will only be enacted if we get to the point where I have insufficient numbers of staff available to safely deliver an education to students.

I have thought long and hard about how best to deliver a partial closure and how best to support the childcare arrangements of hard working families in our community. Therefore **if** a partial closure does become necessary in future weeks it is my intention to keep Y7, Y8, Y11, Y12 and Y13 in school and close the school to Y9 and Y10. Our priority is, as ever, the health, safety and wellbeing of our students, teachers and community.

It is vital to note that any information regarding a full or partial school closure will be issued via MILK, our Social Media platforms and on the GCC website. You will understand now why as part of our preparedness planning there has been such a drive over the last month to ensure that everyone is able to access the MILK platform. Information from any other source regarding our school being open or not should be treated as speculative.

I am sure that you will understand that with reduced staffing our capacity to provide individual resources to young people who are already self-isolating is limited. I would ask that those families that are self-isolating keep checking MILK for work set by teachers, alongside using educational websites such as BBC Bitesize and ActiveLearn. We are working hard as a staff team to ensure that we have systems in place to support students and families in the event of a forced school closure. This includes planning for delivery of manageable and meaningful school work activities and planning for a return to 'usual practice' should a short-term and/or long-term closure take place.

If you have any issues regarding access to MILK please email admin@newent.gloucs.sch.uk

If you have any further queries or questions please do get in touch either via emailing admin@newent.gloucs.sch.uk or calling Main Reception on 01531 820550.

GCC website school closures website: <https://closures.gloucestershire.gov.uk/>

Again, I would like to praise the students and staff for the way in which they have thus far dealt with these extremely unsettling times. We will continue updates as and when we have new and relevant information.

Best wishes,

Alan Johnson