



# Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre

*Striving for Excellence*

Principal • Mr Alan Johnson

**Telephone:** 01531 820550

**Community Enquiries:** 01531 828916

**Sixth Form:** 01531 828915

Watery Lane, Newent, Gloucestershire GL18 1QF **www.newent.gloucs.sch.uk** **Email:** admin@newent.gloucs.sch.uk

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I realise that these updates are coming to you thick and fast, but given the unprecedented nature of the situation we are all facing I feel duty bound to share new information as soon as I have it. I do this in part to allay any fears that I can at this difficult time, but please remember that we are all receiving that same national updates at the same time. As such there may be a short delay between guidance and implementation.

## **School Transport**

We have been in constant communication with both GCC and Stagecoach regarding the transport arrangements for those of our students who are eligible to attend school from Monday.

Please remember that from Monday education provision will be prioritised for key sector workers. We will operate during normal school hours and for the full day. However, please remember that government guidance is that in the best interests of your child, this provision should only be taken up if you are an identified key sector worker and there are no other alternatives.

All buses will run as per their usual bus timetables and routes on Monday.

During Monday we will identify how students have travelled to and from school. This information will be used to make adjustments to routes as the week progresses and will be under continuous review in line with the Government's requirement to implement social distancing.

We will communicate, via MILK, any changes that are introduced so that everyone is aware and, where possible, telephone the families that could be affected.

## **Uniform**

All students of key workers who plan to attend school from Monday must be in full school uniform at all times. This will ensure that we can comply fully with our safeguarding arrangements.

## **Free School Meals**

As you are aware the Government is currently working to introduce a voucher scheme for students eligible for Free School Meals. Unfortunately, we have no firm information on when this scheme will be launched.

Therefore to ensure we are best able to support our families during the interim we have sourced a separate E-voucher scheme.

All relevant families have been telephoned today to inform them of the scheme, however, if we have been unable to speak with you I thought it would be helpful to outline the detail.

On a daily basis we will upload the FSM amount to each individual students account. An E-voucher will automatically be received to either your mobile phone or email address. It will be sent to whichever option you have specified as your preference. This E-voucher allocation can be used in Asda, Morrisons, Sainsbury's and Tesco either on the day of receipt or, if preferable, saved up until the end of the week when you are doing your weekly shop.

If the Finance Office have not yet managed to speak with you and you wish to know more please call the school on 01531 820550.

## **Mental Health Support**

Today we were informed that unfortunately the Mental Health Support Team are not currently able to offer its service due to the current COVID-19 and the redeployment of NHS staff to frontline duties. Any child, young person or parents that have had a referral and/or are awaiting appointments will not be seen at the current time. This is also a situation that will be continuously reviewed with updates available on the NHS website.

They have asked us to highlight and share the following resources as a means of support during this anxiety provoking time.

There is a CAMHS helpline available for children, young people and families who may require support and advice: Telephone 01452 894300 (9.00am-5.00pm Monday to Friday)

Winstons Wish - <https://www.winstonswish.org/>

Young Minds - <https://youngminds.org.uk/>

Tic + - <https://ticplus.org.uk/>

Rethink self-harm - <https://www.rethink.org/help-in-your-area/services/advice-and-helplines/gloucestershire-self-harm-telephone-support/>

Family lives - <https://www.familylives.org.uk/>

Anxiety Canada - <https://www.anxietycanada.com/>

Mood juice - <https://www.moodjuice.scot.nhs.uk/>

Thank you again for your continued support at this difficult time.

Kind regards,



Alan Johnson  
Principal