



Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre

Striving for Excellence

Principal • Mr Alan Johnson

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Dear Parents/Carers,

You will all have heard the announcement from Boris Johnson at the start of the week that social distancing measures will be eased, allowing primary and secondary schools to return in September with "full attendance". As ever, we are waiting for further official details, but there can be no doubt that things slowly returning to some sense of normality will be a blessed relief for us all.

He also said the 2m social distancing rule will be relaxed, with us all expected to observe a distance he described as 1m+. When I heard that last bit, I have to say that I thought back to the day I spent on my hands and knees sticking distance markers around the school wondering what 1m+ would look like. Our 2m markings will stay in force for the foreseeable future both inside and outside of the school buildings.

There has also been a great deal of talk about the need for summer 'catch up' for all students in the media. So much so, that the doom and gloom about what may have been lost has created further anxiety at home. Please do not worry endlessly about the potential impact of the missed learning on future outcomes for our students. Children are resilient and excellent schools like Newent are places that foster resilience. I am supremely confident in our fantastic staff and in their ability to ensure that no child suffers educationally due to the impact of lockdown. As you know we are blessed with a truly dedicated team of talented staff who are committed to supporting our students. When all children return to school please rest assured that we will focus relentlessly on ensuring that every young person achieves the best possible outcomes through well taught lessons that form part of our broad and balanced curriculum. Our three year curriculum model for KS4 study further insulates our students from the potential negative effects of this period where students have not been at school. Again, we would like to thank parents, carers and students for their superb engagement with our Distance Learning.

Face to Face

After another successful week of year 10 and year 12 students attending school for face-to-face teaching I would again like to thank students for their exceptional conduct and adherence to the 'new normal' of procedures within school. The government has asked all schools to welcome year 10 and year 12 students in for some face-to-face support and where possible, invite students in other year groups in for a meeting this term. Unfortunately, this 'request', however laudable, does not take into account the individual context that each school operates within. Far from being a school that only serves the small market town of Newent, we now have 42 feeder schools and bus children in from all over Gloucestershire. The complexity of getting our students into school for one hour before the end of term would, we believe, compromise our current successful Covid-19 Secure in-school provision. Therefore, it is our intention to offer weekly virtual tutorial sessions for each tutor group from Monday, 29th June until the end of term, with each session lasting up to 30 minutes. Over the next few days you will be receiving a zoom invitation from your child's tutor, with details of the date and time of the meeting.

The main purpose of these sessions is to support students socially and emotionally in preparation for our return in September. The sessions will have a pastoral focus that will offer a social catch up with a focus on the mental health and well-being of our students.

Please read through the link below with your child which goes through zoom etiquette:

<https://www.asdk12.org/cms/lib/AK02207157/Centricity/Domain/4973/ZOOM-student-etiquette.pdf>

Stagecoach Letters

Stagecoach bus letters, for the Gloucester City & Forest of Dean routes, have been sent out via email during this week. If anybody has not received a letter and wants further information then please email finance@newent.gloucs.sch.uk.

Y6 into Y7

I am pleased to inform you of another initiative we have put in place to develop stronger links with our parents and carers. We now have our own dedicated You Tube channel, which we will use to inform our wider community of the many fantastic things taking place at our school. The first video we have uploaded is my 'Principal's Welcome', for our new Y6 students. You will notice straight away that it is far more informal than what you might expect from a secondary school. I judged that without the opportunity for our usual face to face contact the informal (some might say cheesy) approach would ease the understandable anxiety that children naturally experience moving up to secondary school.

There will be further videos uploaded over the coming weeks. If you would like to access this channel, please use the link below, you may also subscribe to the channel, so that you will receive notifications of the 'latest releases'!

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyoMN78acCpBJioe2ICIDAQ>

Year 11 Prom

I started my letter this week with Boris and will finish with him as well. Amongst my first thoughts when I heard his announcement on Monday was 'finally we can give our Y11 students their Prom'. As I have said previously, the impact of the lock down was most keenly felt by students in Y11 and Y13 who missed out on their 'rites of passage'. As soon as we have concrete information regarding how appropriate venues will be allowed to reopen, I will be back in touch. Please rest assured it is still my firm intention to offer our Y11 students their Prom and the opportunity to purchase leavers hoodies.

Best wishes,



Alan Johnson
Principal