



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 all at the end of our first week running a very different school in very strange times. Corridors and classrooms normally full of smiling young people are now empty and soundless. The only children's voices I can hear are those of the key workers working to support us all in these difficult times.

Sister Act

On a much more positive note you will have seen by now the title of our next whole school musical at Newent. It has been so hard keeping this one a secret and I am ridiculously excited about seeing the end result. Although I have to say I was a little less excited when I was approached to dress up as a grumpy mother superior by Mrs Hood as she prepared the announcement. What you can't see is my graffiti covered shirt under my habit thanks to Mr Phillips, Mr John and Y11. Mrs Hood will be getting in touch shortly about ways in which our students can get involved now in what will be another amazing performance from our incredibly talented students.

MILK

We are aware that there has been some difficulty logging on to the online learning platform MILK. The company has increased server capacity four times in as many days, but as one of the most popular school solutions the demand nationally is unprecedented. I apologise for the frustration that this is causing and ask for your continued patience as they work through solutions. I am aware that many of our students are downloading all of the work set and then saving it to a local device so that they do not need to keep on logging back in. In addition I have selected a number of high quality web based resources that can be used to add variety to the work young people complete at home or indeed should those resources not be accessible for any reason.

Please remember that our staff are always available to help you so please email them using first initial and surname followed by @newent.gloucs.sch.uk

One web site that I heartily recommend to you is <https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/>

Key Workers and Easter Holidays

It is incredible to see that at a time of crisis, people come together to support each other during the coronavirus crisis. It is my intention that we remain open as a school to the parents of keyworkers throughout Easter. My view is very much that the virus won't take a break, our key workers can't and so neither should we.

We will be here to support our key workers for so long as we are able. If you are amongst the many amazing people volunteering to support the NHS please ensure that it is completed in hours where it does not require additional students to be sent to school. Unfortunately, given our own reduced staffing we only have the capacity to provide cover for our existing key workers.

Kind regards

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

Alan Johnson
Principal