



Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre

Striving for Excellence

Principal • Mr Alan Johnson

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Dear Parents/Carers

Naively I hoped that this term I could start reducing the sheer volume of information that I felt that it was important to share with you. However, there have been some recent changes in government policy and I thought it would be useful to offer a few gentle reminders about the start of the new term. I would also like to share with you the latest version of our student expectations and a revised map of the school that illustrates a concept that is new to us all, the location of each Year Group Bubble (YGB).

Year Group Bubbles

From September all students will be placed in a YGB with each bubble having use of dedicated classrooms with a “year group zone”. Each YGB will be designated one of the three breaks and three lunchtimes. In order to maintain the smooth running of our school during this difficult period it is especially important that YGB’s and our revised student expectations are adhered to at all times. Please take the time to read the attached ‘Student Journey’ document and familiarise yourself with the new YGB map.

Year 7 Thursday 3rd September

When year 7 students arrive to school on Thursday 3rd September, they will be greeted by members of the Senior Leadership Team and then escorted to their tutorial rooms.

We will either greet them on their buses or if they arrive by other means they should make their way straight to Main Reception where they too will be escorted to their tutorial rooms.

Students in all other year groups will receive a MILK message on Tuesday 1st September which will indicate the tutorial room that they should go to when they arrive at school on their first day.

Until the current crisis is over students **MUST** stay within their YGB throughout the school day.

Face masks and face shields in school

As you will be aware, the national guidance regarding the wearing of face masks in school has been changing throughout the week leading up to schools re-opening. Whilst the current scientific evidence indicates that face masks provide an increased level of protection to others from the respiratory droplets of the wearer. There is less conclusive evidence that wearing a face mask provides increased protection for the wearer.

At the time of writing, the government has adjusted its guidance to indicate that students should wear face masks in corridors and communal spaces **where the school is operating under local lockdown restrictions**. Outside of those areas, individual schools will determine policy based on their specific circumstances.

Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre is not subject to local lockdown restrictions currently. The number of confirmed cases per 1000 people in Gloucestershire is very low as is the current rate of transmission. In addition, the organisation of the school into year group zones with separate routes and entry points for students means that year groups bubbles will not be mixing at lesson change.

August 2020

However, the school recognises that local and national guidance on the use of face masks is under continual review and that the specific circumstances of the school and Gloucestershire may change over time. The school will therefore keep this under continual review and the policy may change in response to a change in guidance or the school's circumstances. Where face coverings are made compulsory national or by PHE direction locally, the school will respond to that change and make whatever PPE is required available for staff.

The school does recognise, however, that parents, students and colleagues may wish to wear face masks when in corridors and communal areas. Where this is the case, students and colleagues may wear face masks in corridors and communal spaces, **but they must remove them when teaching and learning in classrooms.**

Students and colleagues who wish to wear face masks in school under these arrangements must provide their own face mask and carry with them a sealable bag in which to store the face mask when it is not in use. In addition all who wear a face mask in school must follow the guidelines for putting on and removing face masks: students and colleagues must sanitise their hands both before and after handling their face mask either to remove from the sealed bag or when placing it in the sealed bag. All disposable masks should be disposed of properly and placed in a suitable bin.

I would like to finish by offering some gentle reminders for next week.

- September 2020
 - Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd September – Staff Inset days (no students in school)
 - Thursday 3rd September – Year 7 and Year 12 Induction
 - Friday 4th September – Open for all students
- Meet-n-Eat will be offering a full hot and cold food selection. We believe that this is important. However, we are no longer taking cash so please add money for school meals via your ParentPay account and this will be added to your child's cashless fob before we give them out on Thursday.
- School Ties - If you have ordered a school tie for your child and paid for it on ParentPay then they will be given to your child on the first day. Some parents have requested a tie on their return slip to us but have not yet made the payment on ParentPay. Please could you do this asap as we cannot give out ties without payment.
- School Calculator - calculators can be purchased from the school and can be paid for on ParentPay and then collected from the Finance office or Reception.
- School Photographs - our school photographers will be in school on Thursday 3rd September to take Y7 & Y12 individual student photographs.
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I look forward to welcoming you all back next week.

Kind regards



Principal