



# Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre

*Striving for Excellence*

Principal • Mr Alan Johnson

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11<sup>th</sup> September, 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

In a week full of Government announcements and policy changes I am happy to report that on the education front guidance remains unchanged.

## TikTok

Without wishing to sound like a dinosaur I am becoming increasingly concerned that many popular social media platforms are fast becoming less a means to connect and empower people and more about fostering a commercialised and toxic environment that preys on our insecurities.

You might already be aware that an upsetting post has been very widely shared on the video-sharing site TikTok that shows a man killing himself. The footage has been circulating on the platform for several days, although it originated on Facebook and has been shared on Twitter and Instagram.

Many young people across the country have already been traumatised by the content that is said to appear on the 'For You' page and has no age verification before it can be viewed.

In the meantime, you might want to restrict your teenager's use of TikTok. Here is a link to a helpful document which explains how to set your teenager's privacy settings and how to link your TikTok account to your teenager's account, which enables some wellbeing features:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Internet-Matters-TikTok-Guide-3.pdf>

Our medical welfare officer is available in school should your son or daughter require additional support after being exposed to this traumatic video. I am sure that all our thoughts are with Ronnie's family and friends during this difficult time.

## School Buses

A really big thank you for your patience with the school buses.

The unprecedented demand for school transport caused by our rapidly increasing pupil numbers coming at the same time as a spike in demand across Gloucestershire as a result of Covid-19 transport restrictions has been a challenge. A challenge that the vast majority of our students have risen to in their usual Newent fashion.

My senior leadership team have been on the buses every day this week and I am happy to report that other than those children with a medical condition that precludes the wearing of a face covering all children are following the expectations that we have in place to protect them and in turn to protect you and your family. However, we cannot be complacent, this new way of working is something that needs to be embedded into our established routines until the end of this crisis. Please continue to stress to your sons and daughters the importance of following these expectations.

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As a result of ongoing, high demand for transport from Gloucester City to school, I am pleased to advise that we have managed to secure a new bus route that runs from Clarence Street, in Gloucester city centre direct to the school. More detailed information on the actual route and price of this fifth bus route coming from the City will be sent out via MILK on Monday. As always please contact [finance@newent.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:finance@newent.gloucs.sch.uk) with any bus related queries.

### **Covid-19 Symptoms**

Just a reminder that if a student is displaying any of the main symptoms of coronavirus listed below you must keep them at home and get them tested as soon as you can:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to the touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If the test is negative, then students can return to school as soon as they feel better. If the test is positive, they must self-isolate for 10 days or until they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell or taste. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal and seek medical advice.

All other members of the household should self-isolate for 14 days.

If someone, a parent or sibling etc, living in the same house as a student display symptoms, all other household members need to stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the household became ill or if they do not have symptoms, from the day their test was taken. If anyone else in the household starts displaying symptoms, they need to stay at home for at least 10 days from when their symptoms appear, regardless of what day they are on in their original 14-day isolation period.

If you require any clarification on self-isolation please see [here](#) or contact the school.

### **Reporting Student Absence**

Please email [attendance@newent.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@newent.gloucs.sch.uk) to report any student absence giving full name of student and reason for absence. There is also a 24 hour answer machine service available **01531 828927** to report absences.

Regards



Alan Johnson  
Principal