



# 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

23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Forget Ofsted, you know you work in an outstanding school when you have ten foot spiders hanging from the dining hall ceiling! In these deeply uncertain times it has been an absolute joy to see the smiles on the faces of our students as they walked into Meet-N-Eat to find that the kitchen staff had decorated it for Halloween. The menu also changed to include a new purple crumble and green sponge cake for pudding. Sometimes, especially at a time of crisis, the opportunity to smile together is enough to take away some of the worry. Thank you to Jeanie and her wonderful staff for their efforts in making us all smile this week.



## YMM Chat Text Service

You will all have read about the plight of many university students who are struggling to cope with the sense of isolation after being obliged to learn from their bedrooms due to local lockdowns. It is incredibly distressing to hear about how this is causing many young people to feel abandoned and alone. Our ongoing work with the NHS England as a Mental Health Trailblazer School has afforded us the opportunity to enhance the support that is on offer for our students during this uncertain time. Please view and share the following YouTube video with your sons and daughters, along with the number to connect to this fantastic new service. The contact number can also be found under the school tab on the MILK app.

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GstGRaWLJBQ&feature=youtu.be>

## Black History Month

Our students have really enjoyed the series of Black History Month events and challenges organised by the History Department. Although many students have already submitted some fantastic entries to the challenges based on Mary Seacole, Windrush and the Bristol Bus Boycott, there is still time to do so before the end of October. The last challenge will be available to students on Monday via the MILK App. I know that it is the school holiday but it would be fantastic if everyone would have a go. Any student that sends in three completed entries will have their name entered into a draw for a prize. The winner will be announced during the first week back after half term.

## Children in Need- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November

As a truly community school one of our missions is to support local charities and projects who help remove the barriers that children and young people are facing.

This year we will be supporting the BBC's Children in Need campaign in a number of ways.

Firstly we will be holding a non-uniform day on Friday 13th November. We would ask that parents/carers support this event by donating £1 via Parent Pay since due to Covid restrictions we are unable to accept cash from students.

There is also the opportunity to enter a raffle via Parent pay to win a wonderful Pudsey Bear. The raffle will be open to the first 100 people who enter and pay via Parent Pay. Once you have paid for the raffle our Reception team will allocate you a number on the board that can be found behind Reception. Good luck!

Finally, we will also be selling Pudsey Ears (again via Parent Pay) which once bought can be collected from the Finance Office.



## Y10 Parents' Evening- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Due to current Covid restrictions we are unable to hold Parents' Evenings in the usual format this year.

We will instead be holding the event 'virtually' using a new 'video appointment' feature on our existing booking system.

The system will allow you to book appointments as normal, but instead of attending the school site, appointments will be undertaken via video link through the booking system platform.

Full guidance on how to book appointments and use the video appointment features will be provided at the start of next term.

If you receive a positive test result outside of school hours or during half term, please telephone **07498717490** as soon as possible.

I would like to thank you all once again for all your support during this term and we look forward to welcoming all students back on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020.

Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Alan Johnson', written in a cursive style.

Alan Johnson  
Principal