



# Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre

*Striving for Excellence*

Principal • Mr Alan Johnson

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

Dear Parents/Carers,

## Cyber Gold Award

Hopefully you will have seen in the press that we were recognised by the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) as a Gold Standard school for Cyber Security. This prestigious award is built on the success of our ground-breaking work as a CyberHub School and demonstrates our ongoing commitment to Cyber Security Education. The safety and cyber safety of our students in our digitally connected world is paramount and the opportunities available for young people in this rapidly expanding sector are simply amazing. I am proud to say that Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre will be at the heart of those opportunities.

## Best year ever for DofE Award Scheme!

In my letter home last week I reported from Mrs Hood that the 'show must go on'! The same could be said of the outstanding work of Mr. Morley or Mr. Naylor who have continued to drive forward the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. This is by far the largest number of students from the school completing the Award in any year, let alone in a year where we are all living through a global pandemic. Well done to everyone who stuck with their Award during these difficult times.

### DofE Awards Aug 2019 – Aug 2020

• Bronze	37		
• Silver	11		
• Gold	10	Total Awards	58

It has been an exceptional year for Gold Award participation and completion, with 10 young people gaining the Award. In fact, it could be said that the challenges presented by lockdown actually helped four ex-students find the time during lockdown to complete their Gold Award. In addition, four of the students who went on the Winter Arctic Expedition in 2019 completed their Gold Award this past academic year. A further three students from the Y12 have already completed their Gold as they move up into the Y13. Of this group of ten 6 completed all three levels of the Award, which is a rare achievement.

Already there are 13 students in the Sixth Form this year who are signed up for the Gold Award, with several determined to complete the Award before the summer term. Please remind your sons and daughters that it is still not too late for students in Yr10 to enrol for the Bronze Award this year. Students in Yr11 who have completed the three the sections of the Bronze Award are now allowed by the DofE to enrol onto Silver while they wait to complete the expedition (the expedition will also count as the practice for their Silver expedition); contact Mr. Morley. Expeditions are planned to take place immediately after the GCSEs in the summer term, so keep your diaries free.

For any information about signing up for Bronze, Silver or Gold, or for advice on completing your existing Award contact either Mr. Morley or Mr. Naylor via the school email.

imorley@newent.gloucs.sch.uk

anaylor@newent.gloucs.sch.uk

### **School Library Books & Text Books**

Please would you remind your sons and daughters to return any books borrowed from the library and any text books that they may have at home that belong to the school, from the previous school year. These books should be handed in to Reception where the books can be quarantined before going back to their rightful home.

### **Examinations 2021**

Unfortunately, there is still no new information to share with you regarding the GCSE and A Level examinations next year. The only thing that we that have been told for sure from Ofqual and the exam boards that they will go ahead. I know that this is unsatisfactory, and I apologise for any anxiety that this is causing. I am told that we will receive more detailed information sometime next month, however, I am also aware that every minute in school has never mattered as much as it does now and every minute that goes by without detailed information from Ofqual and the exam boards causes further stress for students families and indeed our teachers. I recognise that our students have experienced considerable disruption to their education in the last academic year. As such until we are provided with the detailed information, we need to plan effectively I must do all in my power to plan for any eventuality. Therefore, given the recent resurgence in Covid-19, and with it the potential disruption to schooling, it is my intention to introduce more regular testing beginning after October half term. Whilst I realise that I am potentially fuelling anxiety by increasing our testing regime, if the current crisis has taught me anything it is to prepare for the worst. The introduction of more regular testing throughout the year will enable us to build a bank of reliable information in case, despite the current assurances, summer exams become impossible. Students will be fully supported throughout any testing arrangements and we have introduced new 'Super Study' lessons into the Yr 11 curriculum to ensure that students are equipped with effective revision and examination skills. Similarly, the Sixth Form team are working closely with our Yr 13 students to ensure that they maximise their study time within and outside school.

### **Parent Information Evening Presentations**

The Parents' Information Evening presentations have been sent out on MILK this week to Y7 & Y12 parents/carers. We hope that you find them informative and would welcome your feedback. The presentations can also be viewed via our school YouTube channel following the links below:

Y7 - <https://www.youtube.com/embed/TbtKDvFqUAc>

Y12- <https://www.youtube.com/embed/vhSCA7ANras>

### **Macmillan Coffee Morning**

We held a Macmillan Coffee morning in Meet n Eat today. Staff & students were able to buy cakes using their fobs, so no cash has been exchanged. We are pleased that we have been able to support this great charity during this difficult time.

I wish you all a restful weekend.

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