



Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre

Striving for Excellence

Principal • Mr Alan Johnson

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Dear Parents/Carers,

While I do not wish to sound like a broken record please can I impress upon you all the need for your children to wear face coverings on the buses to and from the school. My staff will continue to ensure that when they leave the school site all children are wearing a suitable face covering. Indeed, we even chose to supply them to students ourselves in an effort to further support families. Unfortunately, I am still receiving isolated reports of a small minority of young people removing them on the journey home. I realise that they may seem an inconvenience, they may not be trendy or cool, but they are an important strand in keeping all of us safe. We have not had a confirmed Covid-19 case in school as yet and I would very much like to keep it that way so that we remain fully open for all young people. Please, please support us by impressing upon your sons and daughters the importance of keeping their face covering on for the entire journey. The only exception to this requirement is if a child has an existing medical condition that prohibits wearing a face covering. We are all in this together, it is all of our social responsibility to look out for each other. For clarity, I have reissued the government guidance on transport to and from school that both we and the bus and coach companies are duty bound to follow until this crisis is over.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/transport-to-school-and-other-places-of-education-autumn-term-2020/transport-to-school-and-other-places-of-education-autumn-term-2020>

Thank you to everyone who brought to my attention a post on Facebook relating to an incident at a bus stop in Gloucester. Please rest assured that it is being dealt with appropriately by the Pastoral Team here. However, I must say that I was both surprised and disappointed that it was posted on social media long before any attempt was made to contact the school directly. I would ask and expect that any member of the community who has a concern about one of my students contact the school in the first instance either by telephone or email.

During next week please look out for a short film celebrating all of the wonderful things on offer here. This has been produced in an effort to support families in choosing their new school in September given the current restrictions we all face. I would very much like the opportunity to show large groups of parents and children around our school, but I am acutely aware of the obvious anxiety that this creates for primary school colleagues. The new film alongside our existing 360° Virtual Reality tour (available on our website) will hopefully give a flavour of our school. Please encourage friends and families with children about to choose their new school to view the film and contact the school for details on how to book a bespoke visit.

Please ensure that your sons/daughters know their new Office 365 passwords and have logged in successfully. This is critical as if at some point in the future we are forced into a situation where there is a return to distance learning Office 365, MILK and Microsoft Teams will be the primary tools to ensure the continuity of education.

I will finish with another exciting development that is just around the corner. In just 10 days time we will take delivery of an external Catering Pod to supplement our already outstanding catering facilities. The Catering Pod will be an extension of Meet n Eat and will increase capacity for students wishing to purchase food during break and lunch time. Over the course of half term my Chef, Jeanie Nolan, will ensure the facility is fully stocked for the start of Term 2. The menu will be an extension of the Grab n Go menu including paninis, sandwiches, hot and cold drinks etc. The new pre ordering system that was introduced a few weeks ago will be extended to the pod so that students will be able to guarantee their food is ready for them at lunch time.



Thank you to Jeanie and her team for their input and planning in connection with this exciting enhancement to the food provided for students.

Kind regards

Alan Johnson
Principal