



Newent
Community School
and Sixth Form Centre



Welcome

NEWENT COMMUNITY SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM CENTRE

STRONG track record of academic success

OPEN and friendly environment

OUTSTANDING pastoral care

EXTENSIVE community sports facilities

FANTASTIC performing and creative art opportunities

Judged
'GOOD'
by Ofsted 2018

*Striving for
Excellence*



www.newent.gloucs.sch.uk

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Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre



History and Heritage

The Newent Grammar School was founded in 1925 and was cited at the crossroads in the building that is now the Community Centre. On 1st April 1965 Newent School was founded and moved into Gloucestershire's first purpose built comprehensive school on our current site. We welcomed hundreds of previous students back to our 50th Anniversary Celebration in April 2015.

The layout of the school is dominated by the spacious Main Hall, equipped with stage lighting and sound system. There is a continuous programme of refurbishment and improvement to ensure up to date facilities in specialist areas.

In recent years we have completed ESFA funded projects including the refurbishment of the School's kitchen and Meet n Eat facility, the replacement of windows to majority of the buildings, new perimeter fencing and a comprehensive CCTV systems that covers the entire site.

In 2017 we undertook work on a capital investment of c £1million which included building a new Sixth Form Centre. Students joining our Sixth Form in September 2018 were the first to benefit from this new facility.

In addition, students in 2018 were the first to use our state of the art industry-standard catering learning facility following our successful bid to The Savoy Educational Trust

Facilities include:

- Fully equipped suites of Science Laboratories
- Design Technology Workshops
- Four Information Technology suites
- Independent Learning Centre
- A Sports Hall, swimming pool and gymnasium
- A two pitch Astroturf and Clubhouse
- Sixth Form Centre
- A suite of Art rooms

What Makes Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre Special?

Our high achieving school sits right at the very heart of the community. It offers a warm and friendly environment, where everyone is valued as an individual. The immense care that we take to raise aspirations, expectations and achievement and create a happy, caring and successful learning environment is rewarded with highly qualified and skilled young adults who achieve to the best of their ability.

It is our firm belief that 'an education' is more than just a set of qualifications. Instead we offer an incredible range of opportunities which enables young people to enhance their natural talents, gifts and abilities. We constantly strive to ensure that all our students are supported to be the articulate, tolerant, resilient and caring young people who will go into the world beyond Newent as lifelong learners capable of achieving great things and making a difference.

We are constantly on the lookout for outstanding opportunities to enhance our curriculum and are tenacious in developing the learning experience for our students. Our trailblazing work for NHS England has to some amazing opportunities for our students such as SmartGym Gloucestershire that seek to explore the value of combining physical and cognitive exercises to help build young people's mental resilience.

In September 2020 the National Cyber Security Centre (part of GCHQ) made us 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 endless. It is our desire that Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre remains at the cutting edge of both innovative and collaborative practice.

Similarly high standards of effort, talent and performance are nurtured in the extra-curricular life of the school be it on the sports field, in art, drama music or in the many other opportunities for participation outside of lessons which include the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Y9 Camp and our whole school Drama productions that involve a cast and crew of over 200 young people from all year groups.

Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre is a school about individuals and it is our vision that everybody feels that they have a voice which can be heard within the school and a personalised experience which enables them to succeed both personally and academically.



Alan Johnson
Principal



Our aim is to develop mature, confident and thoughtful citizens. We have a thorough programme of Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) for all students as well as Citizenship, Work Experience, Enterprise Education and Careers Guidance.

“Pupils are making strong progress”

by Ofsted 2018

“Pupils feel safe and are safe in the school”

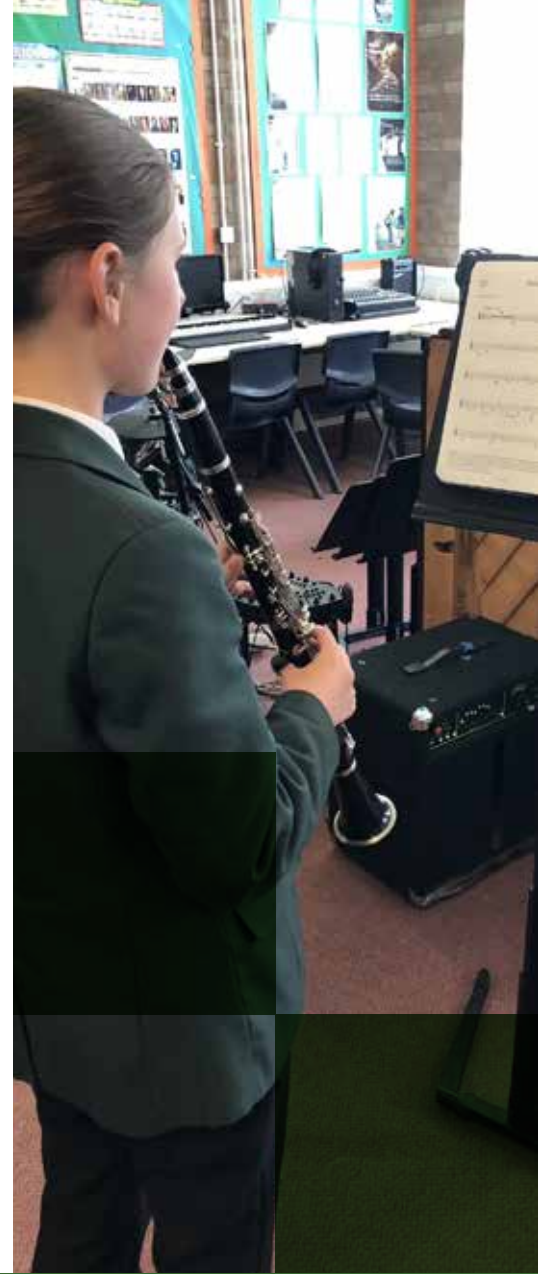
by Ofsted 2018

Our aim is to develop mature, confident and thoughtful citizens. We have a thorough programme of Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) for all students as well as Citizenship, Work Experience, Enterprise Education and Careers Guidance.

We have been recognised by the Government as being a Healthy School, Healthy Living and Learning Award. In addition, we became the first secondary school in Gloucestershire to achieve the Mental Health Champions Award in 2017.

We have our own in-house catering team and our school dining area, Meet 'n' Eat, serves a range of nutritious, home-cooked foods. We try to source ingredients from local suppliers and cut the cost to improve our service to students.

Students will also be able to experience our Meet n Eat Al Fresco catering pod from November 2020. An exciting menu of food and drink will be available to complement that offered in the dining area.





Newent
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Settling In

We have continued to develop our excellent relationships with the Primary Schools within our traditionally recognised 'catchment area'. In addition, due to the widening of this catchment area as a direct result of our increased popularity, we are now developing links with a larger number of schools. Due to our extensive transition programme over the summer term, our New Year 7 students joining us in September come to an already familiar environment. We have established a first class sequence of acquaintance and familiarisation visits, including invitations to our Open Evening each October, a new Parents' Evening in June and a programme of student induction days in July. The Senior Team and pastoral leaders visit Primary Schools to meet our future students whilst they are in Year 6. We take special care of those who live outside the usual 'catchment' and do not have a circle of friends being admitted simultaneously. Much thought is given to the placing of students in tutor groups. The increasing quality and quantity of data available from Key Stage 2 means that we possess considerable knowledge of new members of Year 7 when they arrive.

The first few weeks may be daunting for new students so we have a Buddy System linked to the tutorials. Each Buddy will make sure that 'their' Year 7 settles in and gets to know their way around the school.

“Relationships between staff and students are excellent.”

by Ofsted 2018



Individual students join the school throughout the year, and are carefully integrated within each Year Group.

Pastoral care, guidance and support are huge strengths of the school. There are three Houses, Collingwood, Mountbatten, Nelson, with each house comprising of students in Years 7 - 11. This means that younger students are supported and helped by the older ones who in turn can be good role models.

Each Year 7 student will be one of just a handful joining their tutorial group so their Tutor will get to know them really well, as an individual, from the very first moment that they arrive at the school.

In September we hold an Information Evening for parents and carers so that we can go through the Year 7 curriculum, give key dates for the year, explain how parents and carers can support their children and demonstrate MILK – our electronic homework planner and communication system.

Aims of the Curriculum

Our curriculum is broad and balanced. It fulfils all the requirements of the National Curriculum; it is differentiated and relevant to the world in which our students will work.

We have a commitment to:

Promote equality of opportunity for each student regardless of background, gender, physical disability or ethnic origin.

Assist each student, through hard work, commitment and self-discipline to achieve the highest standards of work he or she is capable of.

Help each student to develop a lively, enquiring mind, the confidence to question, and the ability to debate rationally.

Ensure each student acquires knowledge, skills and training relevant to the world of work.

Enable each student to receive challenging, stimulating, worthwhile and enjoyable experiences.

Make sure all students recognise their personal strengths, developing self-belief and setting their goals accordingly.

Develop within each student a concern for the environment, and an understanding of and respect for the religious and moral values of other groups and races.

Key Stage 3

Our students receive a rich and varied programme within Years 7 and 8 in accordance with the National Curriculum. Whilst utilising the best educational practice, we aim to develop the individual to a high level of competence in all subject areas.

In Year 7 this coverage includes:

Art	Mathematics
Computing and ICT	French
Design Technology	Music
Drama	Personal, Social and Health Education
English	Physical Education
Geography	Religious Education
History	Science

Students first entering Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre are placed in Vertical Tutor Groups, aged 11-16.

Apart from Mathematics, Science and Modern Foreign Languages, where broad setting takes place, all other subjects are taught in mixed ability teaching groups in year 7. We believe that this structure eases the transition from Key Stage 2 and reflects our ethos and values. Our understanding of each individual student ensures that they are placed within the correct teaching groups through to Year 8.

Information and Computing Technology is an integral part of many subjects, ensuring that every student gains skills in the use and application of computers. These skills are further developed and enhanced through discrete Computing and ICT lessons throughout KS3.

Three Year Key Stage 4

During Years 9, 10 and 11 the majority of students follow courses leading to GCSE or equivalent qualifications. The Key Stage 4 curriculum consists of core subjects supported by a wide range of Options subjects.

Core:

English (leading to Literature and Language GCSEs)
Mathematics
Science - separate science or combined science GCSEs
Religious Studies
Personal, Social and Health Education
Physical Education

Options:

Our options curriculum includes the possibility of a number of programmes of study leading to GCSE or other equivalent qualifications. Choices are made in the Spring Term of Year 8 from a range including:

Art and Design
Business Studies
Child Development
Design Technology (choice of specialism)
Drama
French
Computer Science
Horticulture
Geography
History
Information and Computing Technology
Music



GCSE Fine Art

Preparatory Studies

Home Learning/Independent Learning Tasks

“Pupils receive and understand the advice provided about potential risks and how to stay safe in various situations, including on the internet.”

by Ofsted 2018

In their early years, students should be encouraged to set aside about an hour every night for reading and home learning – even when no specific work has to be completed for the next day. Organisation and self-discipline is as important for future success as the task set.

Each curriculum subject will present an outline of the Personal Study that students will undertake at home for each year. The nature of the work will vary between subjects, terms and class sets, and can be as varied as weekly sets of questions to extended pieces of work and projects based over some weeks on themes the students may be working on in class.

Subject outlines are available on the School's website.

All students and parents / carers are issued with access to our electronic home learning planner and communication system called MILK. This provides an overview of all home learning issued which is monitored by staff. Parents are asked to view the system regularly to support and communicate with their child's tutor if necessary.

Extra Curricular Opportunities

All extra-curricular opportunities are meticulously planned to extend our students knowledge, skills, teamwork, self-esteem and sense of achievement.

Orchestras and Bands; Choirs; a range of different Clubs (such as Photography, History, Scuba Diving, Science and Engineering); Drama Productions; Camping; International Trips and Exchanges; Curriculum Visits; Field Courses; Ski Trip; Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme; Arctic Expeditions and Endurance Cycle Challenges.

Sports Clubs and Teams are organised in Athletics, Basketball, Cricket, Cross-Country, Dance, Football, Gymnastics, Hockey, Netball, Rugby and Tennis - all with considerable success.



BoxSmart teaches students the basic techniques used in boxing, alongside promoting healthy lifestyle and exercise. Students work on both punch bags and focus pads to develop these skills, under the guidance of a qualified Boxing Leader.



Junior Choir and Senior Choir perform all types of music, and instrumental Groups regularly perform. Music is a very strong extra-curricular activity.

School Orchestra and Music Groups rehearse regularly, and perform in and out of school.



Whole school drama productions, which recently include Oliver, Bugsy, Fame and Beauty and the Beast, are staged annually to huge acclaim. Many of the students involved regularly attend theatre visits across the country in addition to our London Theatre Experience Event each summer.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is flourishing, with schemes for Bronze, Silver and Gold pursued by the students in Year 10 – 13. This is a nationally and internationally recognised Award for young people, favoured by employers and universities alike. Participation rates are increasing every year.



“The quality of the school’s personal, social and health education programme is having a positive impact on the lifestyle choices made by young people.”

by Ofsted 2018

Clubs and Societies are numerous and include:

BoxSmart Club

Computing Club

Ukulele Club

Art Club

Eco Club

Gardening Club



Thinking again of our heritage, the annual Ski Trip celebrated its 51st anniversary in February 2020. This is

open to all students and visits the village of Auffach in the Wildschonau Valley.





Sporting Prowess

Our extensive grounds contain Sports Facilities which are the envy of the Forest of Dean. In addition to the Sports Hall and Gymnasium we have a Fitness Suite, Train Station and MyRide Cycle Studio. We also make full use of the extensive grass and hard surface Hockey, Football and Rugby Pitches, Tennis Courts, Cricket Square, Athletics Track and a superb full sized Floodlit 'Astroturf' Pitch.

The vast site also provides opportunities for Cross Country Running and Orienteering. We recognise our good fortune in having so much space, and proudly host many Area and County trials and matches.

It is hardly surprising that Newent Community School enjoys a reputation for successful sporting achievements each year. Our students have gained many honours in recent seasons, as District, County and National Championship level.

Some of our former students, who have all gifted a special item of their kit to the school which is proudly displayed in the Main Hall, are particularly successful in their chosen sport:

Morgan Baynham-Williams - Rowing

Alex Cuthbert – Wales Rugby

Vicky Holland – Olympic Triathlete

Jack Rutter – Paralympic England Football Captain





In the community

We encourage and support our students to grasp every opportunity which will develop their skills, characters, and self-belief.

Celebrations

The celebration of success is very important at Newent and it takes many different forms.

The Principal sends Commendation and Merit letters for outstanding achievements.

Weekly House assemblies are used to present awards, certificates and prizes to students who have achieved a personal goal.

End of Term assemblies showcase further attainments for students, celebrated with their House.

Achievements Evenings are held annually to recognise students' individual accomplishments.

Staff join Year 11 students at the Prom in July each year to celebrate their five years at the school.

Further Proms are held by the Sixth Form Community to celebrate success at Key Stage 5.

International Recognition

Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre joined schools from Italy, Croatia, Sweden and France in the Comenius Project.



Student Successes

Every young designers dream came true when Tom Brindley's portfolio work caught the eye of the Creative Director at Burberry. He was offered the post as Assistant Textile Designer and now works in their London Head Office.



Sarah Gwyer has been recognised for several years as a rising start of the art world who was short-listed for the prestigious Welsh Artist of the Year award in 2007. Recently her work was on display at the Royal Academy. Sarah gifted a unique piece of her artwork in 2018 which is on display in the Main Hall.

Richard Lemarchand is a Newent student who achieved a degree in Physics and Philosophy from Balliol College, Oxford University. He went on to be Lead Game Designer at Sony-owned game development studio Naughty Dog in Santa Monica. His work for the studio includes the critically acclaimed and award-winning Uncharted series for the Sony PlayStation 3.



Philip Biggin has been awarded the title of Full Professor, in a pioneering scientific field, at one of the world's most prestigious universities due to his work using computer models to improve understanding of brain-related conditions such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and autism.

Dementia Project

Newent students have been recognised nationally for taking a lead in raising awareness around Dementia and reaching out to the community.

Students have gone out to primary schools, the local library and even run awareness sessions for the Police. The school recognises the Dementia Friend scheme and many students have achieved this. As a result of this, the Alzheimer's Society have used a video of our students on their national website to promote the scheme.

The Dementia project not only promotes understanding around Dementia, but it helps our students develop tolerance, empathy, acceptance and compassion. The project, covered in Year 8 PSHE, is also extremely beneficial to developing confidence in wider skills of communication and presentation.

We are pleased to have been awarded the 'Champion School Gold Award 2018 - 2019, in recognition of outstanding National Citizen Service engagement.



Newent in Bloom present the school with a Silverbirch tree. Some Year 10 BTEC Horticulture students helping to plant it.

Thank you to all students and staff who supported the Meet n Eat MacMillan Coffee Morning. We are pleased to confirm that £79.50 was donated to the charity.



Proud to support Gloucestershire Young Carers.



Congratulations to ALUMNA student Rosita Teixeira who released her debut single '3AM' in September





Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre



Parent Partnership

Effective partnership between home and school is essential if learning is to be successful and rewarding. We pride ourselves on the closeness of our communication with parents. All students and parents / carers are issued with access to our electronic home learning planner and communication system called MILK. This provides an overview of all home learning issued which is monitored by staff.

It is also a vital means of direct home-school communication, which encourages the partnership we actively seek. We expect parents to be party to their child's learning, to read and respond to entries made by members of staff and inform us of relevant issues and concerns.

We issue four Reports annually to each student and operate Head of Department led monitoring systems, to chart the progression of individuals (within each subject and year group).

There is at least one Parents' Evening for each Year Group during the year.

Our Care and Guidance framework encourages all parents to contact us to discuss any matters of concern. The Tutor should be the first point of contact, but each Head of House will be informed and appointments for mutually convenient meetings may be made. Please do not hesitate to contact us. We believe Care and Guidance and well-being is a major strength. Parents are always informed of forthcoming events, changes of policy or routine, and numerous other pieces of information that collectively make our school the happy and vibrant establishment we all enjoy.

Attendance

The number of students on roll on September 2020 is c. 1000.

The attendance target for 2020 is 96%.

At the end of each year a student from each house with full attendance has the chance to win one of three bikes sponsored by local organisations. The bikes are displayed in the Main Hall as constant encouragement for students.

School Transport

Free school transport is available to those children who live in excess of 3 miles from school, measured by the shortest route, provided that we are the designated or nearest possible school.

In addition, the School currently works with Stagecoach West to offer students who live outside the Newent School catchment area, specifically Gloucester City and Forest of Dean, dedicated buses at a reasonable cost.

Assemblies

Assemblies are held each week and promote the school's community ethos as part of living in modern Britain. They are undenominational and it is hoped that parents will not withdraw their children on religious grounds. If, however, parents wish to do so, they must contact the Principal.

School Meals

At Newent, we believe healthy children do better in learning and in life. We understand there are clear links between our students being healthy, feeling happy and safe and the quality of their learning and future success.

In 2012, Newent was one of the first schools in the county to achieve the Gloucestershire Healthy Living and Learning Award, which is a development of the original Healthy Schools Award, and we continue to identify the needs of our students and work at improving their health and wellbeing.

Taking part in this award gave us recognition of how we support young people to make positive changes in their behaviour to improve both their physical and emotional wellbeing.

Students at the school are encouraged to be healthy through a variety of subjects; these include: Personal, Social and Health Education, Physical Education, Technology and Science to name just a few.

Students have a choice of buying from a wide range of healthy, nutritional food from the cafeteria style canteen, during breakfast, brunch or lunchtime service or bringing a packed lunch to eat.

Students are encouraged to use the cashless system operated within Meet n Eat by receiving points in our Reward Scheme. Points are earned for making healthy eating choices.



School Policies

All school policies, protocols and key documents are available on the School's website.

Our Admissions Policy is available in the School section of our website. In the "General Info" section of the website are a number of useful documents including our uniform, the current bus routes in operation and menus for Meet n Eat. If you have any questions relating to these documents please contact the school.

The House System

The School is divided into three Houses, Collingwood (blue), Mountbatten (red) and Nelson (green).

In each House there are 10 Lower School tutor groups, comprising of around 5-6 students from each of Years 7 to 11. Thus each tutor group has about 28 students, and is known by a House letter and a number, so your child may be placed in 'C 1' to 'C10', 'M 1' to 'M10' or 'N 1' to 'N10'. Students will remain in their tutor group for five years, building a strong relationship with the tutor and other members of the group.

Buddies

Before a student joins us they are given a Buddy. Our experience has shown us that the "buddy" system has been beneficial to both older and younger students. The older students treat their role seriously, becoming very protective of their charges during the first few weeks at Newent. They know when to pass on problems to the tutor and because they too have had the experience of being "new" they can empathise with a younger child who is unsure of new surroundings.

Rewards - Colours

There are many ways a student can be awarded a Colour. There are inter-House sporting competitions throughout the year, covering hockey, netball, soccer, rugby, swimming, basketball, rounders, cricket, tennis, athletics and cross-country.

Colours are also awarded for House points and outstanding contributions within school activities.

School Colours are awarded for participation in the annual School Drama production, outstanding personal achievements on Year 9 Camp and high standards on the sports field whilst representing the School.



Curriculum Arrangements 2018/2019

Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre currently offers the fully implemented National Curriculum at both Key Stage 3 (Years 7 and 8) and Key Stage 4 (Years 9 -11).

We hope you have found this information useful.

If there is anything else you would like to know, please contact the school:

Alan Johnson, Principal
General Enquiries

Ann Price, Business Manager
Transport

Martyn John, Assistant Principal
Admissions

Years 7-8

Each day contains six 50 minute lessons. Over our fortnightly timetable cycle the 60 lessons are allocated to subjects as outlined below.

Subject	Periods per fortnight	
	Y7	Y8
English	9	9
Maths	9	9
Science	8	8
Computing	3	3
Geography	4	4
History	4	4
French	5	5
DT	4	4
Drama	2	2
Music	2	2
Art	3	3
RE	1	1
PSE	2	2
Games	4	4



Catch Up Provision

Students in Key Stage 3 who have not yet reached the expected National Curriculum level for their age group in English and mathematics receive additional support through the Learning Suite and Special Educational Needs specialists in the form of needs-led tailored intervention programmes. Students gain additional one to one and small group literacy and numeracy support through the Access curriculum and, in addition, we have developed a tailored curriculum programme running alongside the main Key Stage 3 Programmes of Study designed to promote literacy and numeracy skills, as well as social and emotional aspects of learning.

Years 9-11

All students in Years 9, 10 and 11 follow the same core curriculum. Additional hours are filled by Options subjects.

Subject	Periods per fortnight		
	Y9	Y10	Y11
English	10	10	10
Maths	9	9	9
Science	10	10	10
RE	1	1	1
PSE	2	2	2
Games	4	4	4



Current Setting Patterns

Years 9 to 11

Each year teaching staff use a wide range of evidence to ensure students are placed in sets where they will reach their full potential.

Options

With the assistance of teaching staff and careers advisors, students are given a choice of subjects in accordance with the National Curriculum guidelines. When their choices have been made, every effort is made to ensure that the vast majority of students can follow their first choice course in each option. The present subjects available are as follows:

Computer Science, French, Geography, History, separate Sciences, 3D studies, Business, Certificate in Digital Applications, Certificate in Personal Effectiveness (COPE), Child Development, Design and Technology, Drama, Electronics, Enterprise and Marketing, Fine Art, Food Preparation and Nutrition, Graphic Design, Horticulture, Hospitality and Catering, Music, Physical Education, Religious Studies, Sport Studies.

Work Experience

All students undertake at least one week of Work Experience, currently in the Summer term of Year 10

Sixth Form Courses

We expect our students to progress through the school, and into our Sixth Form, thereby completing seven years of education on this site. Naturally, we are very proud of the achievements of our Sixth Form students, most of whom gain places at Universities and Institutions of Higher and Further Education, throughout the country. They also move into employment at much higher starting levels, due to Advanced qualifications and the maturity acquired from an additional two years of education.

Post 16 courses offer both continuity and variety for our students. We offer many advantages that individuals choosing an alternative establishment many not secure; namely:

- A familiar, purposeful environment
- Staff fully aware of each student's needs and abilities
- A warm, friendly and structured ethos to promote independent learning
- Continuous individual care and guidance
- Relatively small class sizes, guaranteeing greater personal tuition and monitoring
- A vibrant and cultured social 'scene' to balance academic application
- Students may select combinations of subjects from a broad option and pathway structure, which can be viewed on the website.



NEWENT COMMUNITY SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM CENTRE

Partnership

Ultimately progress, achievement, enjoyment and support all require a strong partnership involving the school, each student and their parents or carers.

At Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre staff work hard to build strong, positive links with students, parents and carers. All staff use the full range of communication methods to ensure the partnership between school and home is professional, caring and constructive.

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