



# Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre

*Striving for Excellence*

Principal • Mr Alan Johnson

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27th November, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

There are so many things that have changed for all of us this year as we have adapted to life in a pandemic. The astronomical task of providing a caring learning environment that supports our students' emotional wellbeing, as well as their academic progress, in the face of ever-changing guidance is top among them for me. Since the start of this crisis there have been so many 'new normals' now that I am not sure that many of us remember what normal was. So, as bizarre as it may sound, when I found myself sat on the floor in reception yesterday whittling away at the trunk of our school Christmas tree to make it fit the base, it felt strangely comforting. I reflected on what a busy term this has been and on how much we have all achieved together. Covid-19 has forced us to redesign our school many times over since the start of this crisis. I am so proud of our staff who have adapted to every change without complaint. However, with the smell of pine needles came the realisation that we are all getting closer to a well-earned break. Please can I ask that you continue to support us in all that we are doing to keep our school safe and open to all students.



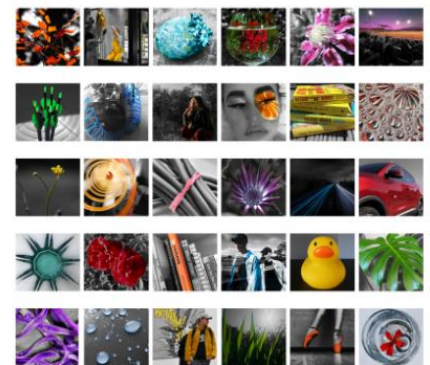
## What a Wonderful World – Newent 2021 Calendars

There has been one welcome yet completely unintended consequence of the lockdowns that we have all been living under. It has afforded us the opportunity to appreciate all the little wonders that exist in the world around us. During the initial lockdown in March 2020 our staff and students began to notice all the small things that had been missed in their busy lives. Our photography students embarked on a project to capture and document our wonderful world. The calendar is a celebration of all that we are, all that we experience and the aesthetic pleasures around us.

These calendars are now available to purchase via Parentpay for £6.00 or 2 for £10.

Last date to order is Monday 14th December 2020.

## WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD



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Registered in England and Wales under number 8153177 Registered office is Watery Lane, Newent, Gloucestershire, GL18 1QF

## **Bus Payments**

Please could I remind parents of students that travel on Stagecoach buses to make any November bus payments that may still be owing as a matter of urgency, as well as any outstanding September/October payments.

## **Newent Cyber**

As part of our ongoing drive to make our school the foremost educational setting for cybersecurity, students across year 7 have been road testing an innovative mobile application developed by the University of Gloucestershire and The Cyber Trust. This mobile app. is designed to support young people make informed choices in our increasingly digitally connected world. What make it so special is that it provides instant feedback responses in the form of a friendship bar that enables young to see the impact of their choices on the mental wellbeing of the other party. After spending so many hours picking up the pieces left by individuals saying or posting things on line that they would never dream of saying to someone's face this is a feature I really wish our big social media platforms would take on board.

## **A Midsummer Night's Dream**

When times are tough and everyone is feeling stretched it is far too easy to stop doing those little extras that make a difference to the lives of young people. I am so proud of our staff and students at Newent Community School and Sixth Form. If you still have not seen the epic 'virtual' school production of A Midsummer Night's Dream please check out the excellent production. It just goes to show what our staff and students can still achieve in the middle of a pandemic. If you missed it you can view on the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NjGgCxBE8w8>

Regards



Alan Johnson  
Principal