



# 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

4th December, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

There can be no doubt about the profound impact that the pandemic is having on the mental wellbeing of young people. I see this on a daily basis and it is frankly heart breaking. What still amazes me is despite how tired our staff are, they keep giving everything to make this difficult and challenging time as 'normal' as it can possibly be for our students.

Mr Edgell, Head of PE, was this week interviewed by Radio Gloucestershire after the success our students had in the recent Virtual Cross Country event. We had the highest number of students taking part in the championships, run against all the Forest secondary schools. We had nearly 750 students take part. Josh Jeffery was overall winner of the Year 9 competition and our Year 10 girls finished first, second and third places.

Phoebe Taylor- 1st, Izzy Babij- 2<sup>nd</sup> and Eve Powell/Molly Wealthall- joint 3<sup>rd</sup>

You can listen to Mr Edgell's interview by following the link below.

[https://newent-my.sharepoint.com/:u/g/personal/btibbles\\_newent\\_gloucs\\_sch\\_uk/EWqARlfcNh5Hr58zZxK\\_FilBjQ1GdtIEa0LTJMj43FY-kA?e=j3GXv4](https://newent-my.sharepoint.com/:u/g/personal/btibbles_newent_gloucs_sch_uk/EWqARlfcNh5Hr58zZxK_FilBjQ1GdtIEa0LTJMj43FY-kA?e=j3GXv4)

## Examinations 2021

Those of you who caught me on Radio Gloucester when the GCSE and A level results were announced last year will remember how unhappy I was by the situation that young people, schools and colleges faced. I said at the time that lessons needed to be learnt quickly and what students, parents and teachers needed most urgently was clarity on what was happening next year. Well it has finally arrived and while I have reservations on how it will address the impact of the pandemic on students across the country, it does at least provide a measure of comfort and inform our ability to plan for the future. What we know at this point in time is that:

1. There will be a three-week delay to the start of the exams next year.
2. Grading will be in line with national outcomes from 2020 for **every** subject.
3. Students will be given advance notice of **some** topics covered in in GCSE, AS and A-levels to focus revision. I have no further details of which topics, or in which exams as yet.
4. Examination aids, such as formula sheets, in **some exams** to reduce the amount of information that students need to memorise (no further details as yet).
5. There will be an additional opportunity for students to sit any paper if they miss the main exam because of illness or self-isolation (no further details as yet).
6. And finally in "extreme cases" where a student has a "legitimate reason to miss all their papers", then a "validated teacher informed assessment" may be used but only once all chances to sit an exam have passed (no further details on this process as yet).

Whilst on the subject of exams I would like to commend our Y11 students this week for the way they have conducted themselves during their first week of mock exams.

Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre

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

