



Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre

Striving for Excellence

Principal • Mr Alan Johnson

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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- 2nd and Eve Powell/Molly Wealthall- joint 3rd

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

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.

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

COVID-19 Reminder

If you receive a positive test result outside of school hours, please telephone **07498717490** as soon as possible. This will enable me to take the required action as soon as I am alerted and put the necessary protocols in place for the remainder of your child's bubble. **Please note this number must only be used in the event of a positive result being confirmed.**

Ten days of festive food in Meet n Eat

Meet n Eat will be offering a selection of festive food from Monday 7th December for 10 days. Our normal menu will include a different daily "festive special", for example Christmas Crunch on Monday. On Thursday 10th December we will have a Turkey Roast Dinner although we are extremely disappointed that we will not be able to offer students a full Christmas Dinner event this year. Unfortunately, due to the cleaning regime required under the Covid Secure guidance, we are unable to lay the tables with Christmas cloths and napkins or give students a cracker. We sincerely hope this event will return next year and be bigger and better than ever!

A very special treat of hot chocolate with cream and marshmallows will be available from our Al Fresco catering pod so don't forget to pop along and see what different things are available outside.

What a Wonderful World – Newent 2021 Calendars

Just a reminder that 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.

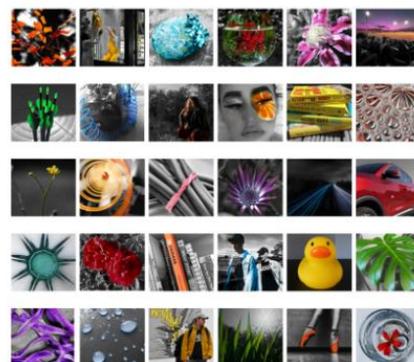
Science Revision Guides Y9 – Y11

Science revision guides that have been ordered are available for collection from our Finance office. Please collect them before the end of term.

Last Day of Term

Just a reminder that we will break up for Christmas on Friday 18th December at 1.30pm. Students can choose to wear a Christmas jumper, with their uniform including their blazer, for a minimum donation of £1 that can be paid via Parentpay. All monies raised will be split between 'Save the Children' and 'Winston' Wish' charities.

WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD



Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Alan Johnson'.

Alan Johnson
Principal