



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

15th January, 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you are already aware we were asked to introduce lateral flow testing in school this week. Although this latest instruction from our government was something that came as a complete surprise, what was not a surprise to me is just how well our students and staff have coped with yet another challenge in these difficult times. However, please remember that a negative test result does not remove the risk of transmission, as in some cases, someone who has tested negative may still have the undetected disease and be infectious. I believe that it is therefore essential that everyone in school continues to follow good hygiene and observe social distancing measures whether or not they have been tested. The measures that we have in place have served our school community well thus far and I do not plan to relax them any time soon.

During the Lockdown period we must complete a daily attendance return to the Department for Education. This asks for various pieces of information including the reason for students not attending school particularly related to Covid-19. It would be extremely helpful that even if you have not requested a place for your child at school during lockdown, you continue to inform the school via email attendance@newent.gloucs.sch.uk of the following:

- A suspected case of Covid-19 where your son/daughter is experiencing symptoms prior to a PCR test being booked.
- A confirmed case of Covid-19 following receipt of a positive PCR test.
- If your son/daughter has been advised to remain at home and self isolate, through the NHS track and trace process, due to potential contact with a case of Covid-19 from a source other than school.

In addition, it is important that the school is informed if a keyworker student is going to be absent on a particular day when we would expect them to be present. Please call the main reception number, 01531 820550, or email reception@newent.gloucs.sch.uk so that we can maintain accurate registers.

Distance Learning

Again I would like to express my thanks to students, parents and staff on the way in which they have transitioned back to Distance Learning. It is great to hear positive comments about our new systems, including our use of Microsoft Teams for live online lessons. I do realise that remote learning is a big ask with many of you juggling work and home schooling at the same time. We will, as always, endeavour to provide work that best caters to the myriad of individual family circumstances within our school community. There is an incredibly delicate balance to be struck between ensuring consistent, challenging and motivating work for students; supporting parents and carers with competing priorities; adhering to ever changing governmental priorities and expectations; not to mention the issues around availability of reliable technology and the digital divide within our community.

All we ask is that students do their best.

Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre

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

Please continue to support your children with Distance Learning in the best way that you can but remember, everyone's well-being is equally as important as the work that we ask you to complete during this time away from school. The Pastoral Team, and your children's tutors, will continue to make phone calls home during this period of lockdown to offer support and guidance as required.

Full details have been sent out on MILK, but please can you make sure that your child has accessed their MS Teams account via www.office.com using their school email and password. Invites with dates and times of live lessons are sent directly to email accounts, and are automatically added to Outlook and MS TEAMS calendars.

If you have any problems logging in to your Office 365 or MILK account please email icthub@newent.gloucs.sch.uk

Yr 11 & Yr 13 update

A reminder to students, parents and carers that the dates for virtual Parents' Evenings this term are now as below:

Year 11- Thursday 21st January 4.30-7pm (booking information has been sent via MILK)

Year 13- Thursday 28th January 4.30-7pm (booking information will be sent next week via MILK)

Mr Phillips has sent a separate message to students, parents and carers in these year groups providing an update on the latest information regarding awarding of grades in the Summer.

I always like to finish my weekly letter with something positive and we are back with our amazing Art Department this week. Each fortnight we will be showcasing the work of students in the department and demonstrating the power of working together by presenting an online art exhibition. You can check out our first sell-out exhibition, celebrating our 'It's a Wonderful World' calendar, by following this link.

<https://www.artsteps.com/view/5ffa19a41fef0d5b312e4446?currentUser>

Many thanks to Y13 student Scott Redfern for his brilliant technical support with this.

Follow @NewentArt on Twitter for our latest competition 'Voices of Hope'. Students will be creating posters inspiring us to be positive during this time of challenge and change. Their entries will be displayed and celebrated as a 'Trail of Hope' throughout Newent's shop windows. We have had overwhelming support for this project from Newent traders and hope to bring a smile to our community. This will also form one of our online exhibitions.

Thank you again for your continued support.



Alan Johnson
Principal