



Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre

Striving for Excellence

Principal • Mr Alan Johnson

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Although I have written a letter home every week since the start of the pandemic, this is without doubt the most difficult of them all to write. It is with great sadness that I have to inform you that I have decided to retire early from my position as Principal and that I will be leaving at the start of the summer term. The devastating effects of this terrible virus has touched all of our lives and those of our loved ones in ways that we could never have imagined. What is clear to me is that this life we lead is not a rehearsal and all of us get one chance to make the best of the time we have with those who are dearest to us. You all know me to be a very proud family man. Unfortunately, my family has been put very firmly on the back burner as I have attempted to lead the school through this crisis and the constantly shifting sands of government guidance.

The amazing success of the vaccination programme enables us all to finally see the light at the end of what has been a very dark tunnel. It also enables me to confidently hand over the reins at a time when we can all look forward to emerging from this crisis into a different world and hopefully better world. However, I would be lying if I said that I was not conflicted. I am deeply saddened to be leaving such a wonderful school. A school where I have grown to know and care for every individual, young and old. They have made it a privilege to come into work each day and I will miss my extended Newent family.

I am immensely proud of what we have achieved here. Newent has become a beacon of excellence and innovation, championing a broad traditional curriculum that still offers something for every child, no matter what their creative, sporting, technical or academic aspirations. It has been an absolute joy to work with children and young people who are full of compassion, who care deeply for one another and take full advantage of the fantastic opportunities available here every single day. I know they will use all that they have gained here as a stepping stone to achieve great things in later life.

I have been surrounded by a dedicated team of incredibly talented staff, the right staff to take this school onward and upward. I have been blessed by a leadership team who saw my vision and worked with me to make it happen. Although it has not always been easy, we have all pulled together as a school community to support one another and provide the best opportunities for children and young people.

Change I know can be difficult, but I am confident that in this change of leadership you can be incredibly positive for the future. With the help of the many passionate and committed people both within the school and beyond, the school will continue to go from strength to strength. I leave the school in the capable hands of Mr Phillips, a man who always put the needs of the children first and one that you all know and trust. Under his leadership Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre will continue to deliver the best education and outcomes possible, and is best placed to come back even stronger than before this awful pandemic.

Hopefully there will be some semblance of normality very soon and a time when I can talk to you face to face. Until that time, I would like to thank you all for the support you have given to me and the school during my time here.

Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alan Johnson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alan Johnson
Principal