



# 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

5<sup>th</sup> February, 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

The Prime Minister has informed us that whilst all of our combined efforts so far do appear to have reduced the R rate, there is no appetite to relax measures too soon. I am sure that we all want children and young people back in school at the earliest possible opportunity but equally we share the anxiety that to do so too soon risks our NHS coming under still greater pressure. Therefore, the government has decided to continue to limit school attendance to help to support the reduction in the overall number of social contacts in our communities. This they tell us is a vital intervention in the context of current high prevalence of Covid-19. Until 8 March at the earliest, all schools remain open only for vulnerable children and children of critical keyworkers. All other pupils and students should not attend and should learn remotely. I miss them all and look forward to welcoming them back as soon as we are allowed to do so.

## Sixth Form Applications

A reminder that Miss Rogers and Mr Britten are welcoming applications to the Sixth Form. We have many subjects on offer, which include our vocational Health and Social Care course. We are also excited to launch our new Textiles course which can be viewed in the subject pages of the website within the Art and Design section. Our Virtual Open Evening and online application form can be found in the Sixth Form section of our [website](#).

Please be aware that courses will run subject to viable numbers. If you would like a member of the Sixth Form Team to contact you, please include your contact details on the application form.

We look forward to receiving your application and supporting you in your courses from September.

## Drama and Art Competitions

Just a reminder that our Drama competition 'Film Star' will end on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February and our Community Art competition has been extended until Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2021. Please keep sending us your entries.

## Date for your Diary

We will be holding an information session for parents and carers of our students around Self Harm Awareness. This event will take place on- line on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30pm. We will send out the link and more information after half-term.

Back in 1954, Marilyn Monroe stood on a subway grate in New York City wearing a white dress and fought an upward breeze. The scene from the Seven Year Itch, went on to become one of the most iconic moments in movie history. Why am I telling you this?



Why, because as you all know we are continuing to offer lateral flow testing in school for staff and students each day. The testing routines are now very slick and efficient as we all become expert in this new role for schools. However, we have not lost sight of the importance of empathy, respect and understanding given that this is probably the last thing I ever thought we would be doing in school. So, with the radio on in the background and the occasional bout of 'dad dancing' when a hit from the 80's comes on the radio, we try to reduce the embarrassment and indignity of these tests. An unexpected outcome of administering these tests in such a large well-ventilated space with a rigorous cleaning regime between each test means that we all get very cold.

Last week one of my colleagues snapped a quick picture of me as I attempted to get some warmth back in my body by standing over a fan heater between cohorts. Much to their amusement the hot air from the heater lifted my apron in a similar way to Ms. Monroe and a new star was born. I share it with you as so much is new, strange and difficult for all of us at the moment, but shared laughter has the power to energise and nurtures a sense of community. Even if it is at the expense of the Headteacher!

Have a restful weekend.

Regards

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

Alan Johnson  
Principal