



Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre

Striving for Excellence

Principal • Mr Alan Johnson

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23rd April, 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Having worked alongside Mr Johnson for the last five years I feel enormously privileged to have the opportunity to lead our school on its continuing journey of improvement. As we emerge from the restrictions that have been forced upon us over the last year and adapt to our new circumstances there will be no change to our existing core values of mutual respect, equality and opportunity for all, and a determination for every young person to realise their potential within a caring environment. We will continue to be a fully inclusive school where students are put at the very centre of all that we do.

We will continue to use the weekly Principal's letter, issued via MILK, to keep you informed on a weekly basis of the developments within the school. I cannot emphasise enough how vital it is that parents, carers and students engage regularly with the use of MILK, both in terms of management of Home Learning and receipt of key messages and information. I would ask for your support in spreading this important message. Similarly, please do make contact directly with the school should you have any concerns or queries relating to your child.

All schools across the country have recently received a message from the Prime Minister where he has said *"I want to thank everybody for continuing to follow the guidance, and to thank parents and families for the incredible work you're doing to help test pupils through the Easter holidays and to encourage you to keep testing them twice a week as schools return."* We echo this sentiment and ask that you continue to support your children in undertaking the twice weekly Lateral Flow Device Tests that are issued by school. Thank you also for recording your results via the links, shared again below.

<https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>.

[Link to report to school](#)

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.**

As the country continues to follow the 'Roadmap out of Lockdown' we will keep you informed of any changes to the working practices in school that will affect your children. Currently we have been advised that the use of facemasks in school settings will still be in place at least until 17th May, but again we will confirm any changes as and when we are informed. Student cooperation with the use of facemasks within school has been outstanding and they deserve enormous praise for supporting all aspects of our Covid Secure measures.

Students must also continue to wear facemasks for the complete duration of their bus journeys to and from school. We have also been asked by our transport providers to remind students, parents and carers of the absolute necessity of students only travelling on their appropriate allocated bus route. This is vital both in terms of student safety for allocated seating, and in the event of implementation of Covid-19 Track and Trace measures.

I am pleased to confirm we are working the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), NHS and University of Oxford as part of a clinical Covid-19 trial for Daily Contact Testing to help evaluate its effectiveness and safety. Full

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details have been issued separately via MILK today and if you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the school via email admin@newent.gloucs.sch.uk

This term will be a busy and important term for our Yr 11 and 13 students as they prepare to undertake assessments within the process of awarding grades this Summer. We have been hugely impressed with the maturity and work ethic of students so far this week and we will continue to support them to reach their full potential over the course of the next few weeks and months. I have written separately via MILK to students, parents and carers in these year groups with further details of processes this term.

As the restrictions within school slowly begin to lift I am delighted to report that sporting fixtures between schools will be resuming this term. We are also able to continue with our extensive Duke Of Edinburgh Award programme managed by Mr Morley and Mr Naylor. It was great to see a huge number of interested Yr 9 students receive an introductory briefing on the scheme this week, and more information for all year groups in Yr 9 and above will be issued in due course throughout this term and beyond. There is a meeting on Tuesday 27th April at 2.00pm in the main hall for any students in Yr 11 that have previously signed up to the award.

We are also starting the Summer Term with some very exciting projects within the Music Department. Starting next week, Year 7 will be embarking on a 10-week long Whole Class Ensemble Tuition project during their timetabled music lessons. These are instrumental lessons delivered by an instrument specialist in partnership with Gloucestershire Music. Classes will be learning the clarinet or percussion, and this will culminate in a Summer Concert for friends and family. This project is a new initiative and something that we are extremely excited about.

Year 9 will also be working with a range of instrument specialists and performers from the Multi-Storey Orchestra in London to complete virtual instrument information sessions via live Zoom calls. This will be complimented by live streamed concerts from Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra every week, focusing on the different instrumental families.

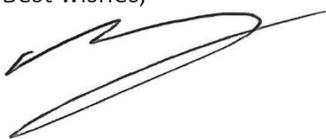
We are very much looking forward to working with our new, and existing, musical partners this term. For updates, please follow @MusicNewent on Twitter

One thing that has been very much missed this year is live performance by our supremely talented student body. We are thrilled to announce that we have been given the performing rights to stage a whole school musical in December. As well as dress rehearsals for our feeder Primary Schools we will also have 5 public performances. The dates for your diary are December 8th (7pm), December 9th (7pm), Friday 10th (7pm) and Saturday 11th (1pm and 5pm). To find out which show we will be performing and how to get involved make sure you are following @newentdrama on Twitter. The big show reveal will happen next Friday!

Thank you to parents/carers of students who are in Year 9 and were able to attend last night's 'virtual' Parents' Evening. A reminder and further request please to also complete the feedback survey that has been issued to Yr 9 parents/carers via MILK. A copy of the revised Key Dates list issued last term, which includes dates of all forthcoming Parents' Evenings, can also be found attached to this message.

The importance of teamwork has been put in sharp focus this past year and I look forward to working with our teaching staff, parents, carers, students and all other members of our school community during my time as Principal of this wonderful community school. Thank you for the messages of support over the last few weeks and please do make contact with the school if you have any queries moving forward.

Best wishes,



Mr Phillips
Acting Principal