



# Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre

*Striving for Excellence*

Acting Principal • Mr Rhys Phillips

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14<sup>th</sup> May, 2021

Dear Students, Parents & Carers

As you will know, this summer students in examination year groups will be awarded grades in a different manner to other years. I would like to begin this week's letter by expressing my deep admiration for the superb commitment our Yr 11/13 students have shown to their studies during this important time of teaching and assessment. I would also like to offer my enormous thanks to our school staff who are currently supporting our Year 11/13 students during this challenging period. There will still be a separate update on MILK for our exam students, but an acknowledgment of your hard work deserves to be shared with our whole school community. We are very proud of you!

We are also proud of the way in which our school community has adhered to government guidelines throughout the pandemic. As you will have seen in the news this week, as part of the government's move to Step 3 of the roadmap, new advice applies to the use of face coverings by staff, pupils and students in schools and further education in England from Monday 17 May. Specific points from the government guidance that affect our school community are provided below:

- Face coverings will no longer be recommended for students in classrooms or communal areas
- Face coverings will no longer be recommended for staff in classrooms
- It is recommended that face coverings should be worn by staff and visitors in situations outside of classrooms where social distancing is not possible (for example, when moving around in corridors and communal areas).
- In accordance with advice from PHE, children and young people aged 11 and over must continue wear a face covering when travelling on dedicated transport to secondary school.

We retain a stock of spare face masks in school, but if your child will be travelling on school transport, please ensure they bring a facemask and suitable storage bag for when it is not in use.

All other protective measures such as use of student 'bubbles', enhanced hygiene measures, ventilation and social distancing where possible, will remain in place.

If individual students and staff wish to continue wearing face masks as per the guidance that has been in place so far this term, these individual decisions will be supported within our school.

It should be noted that the reintroduction of face coverings for pupils, students or staff may be advised for a temporary period in response to particular localised outbreaks, including variants of concern. We will keep you informed of any further changes in guidance.

Again, thank you for your continued support in ensuring students undertake twice weekly Lateral Flow Device Tests and for also 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.

Thank you also to parents/carers who attended last night's 'virtual' Parents' Evening. I would be grateful if all parents/carers of Year 7 students can complete the feedback survey, a link to which can be found in the 'Parent Inbox' section of the MILK app. Booking details for Year 8 Parents' Evening on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May will be issued via MILK next week.

As part of our community school ethos we are delighted to be involved with this year's 'Gloucestershire Live Business Awards'. A link to a recent news article can be found [here](#), within which are details of how you can apply for the awards. It would be great to see some of our local businesses represented at the awards this year!

Finally, an update on the Summer Book Bingo challenge that our year 7 students are currently taking part in. The challenge has got off to a flying start, and we would like to offer a particular commendation to tutorial group 7:6, where Josh Hatton and Amy Shields have both achieved 2 lines (they have read 6 books each). We are expecting one of them to be first to achieve a Full House, but it's not too late to catch them! The Bingo Challenge has been taken up by most of Year 7 and I'm hoping to issue lots of certificates and house points before half term. With thanks to our wonderful librarian, Mrs Gibbons, for leading this initiative.

Please nominate Newent School for the below draw to help us win £5,000 of National Book Tokens for the school library - and get £100 for yourself! Enter the competition online, it only takes a minute: <http://www.nationalbooktokens.com/schools>

Best wishes,



Mr Phillips  
Acting Principal