



Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre

Striving for Excellence

Acting Principal • Mr Rhys Phillips

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2nd July, 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

As we near the end of term I would like to share with you a letter that I have attached from the Executive Director of Adult Social Care & Public Health, Gloucestershire County Council. As noted in the letter, thankfully, the number of Gloucestershire residents becoming seriously ill from Covid is now much lower, but as we start to mix more, the number of infections is rising sharply, particularly in our county's schools. As ever we remain diligent on our own school's Covid secure measures, one aspect of which is the provision of Lateral Flow Tests that we ask all students and staff to undertake, and record via the links below, twice weekly.

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

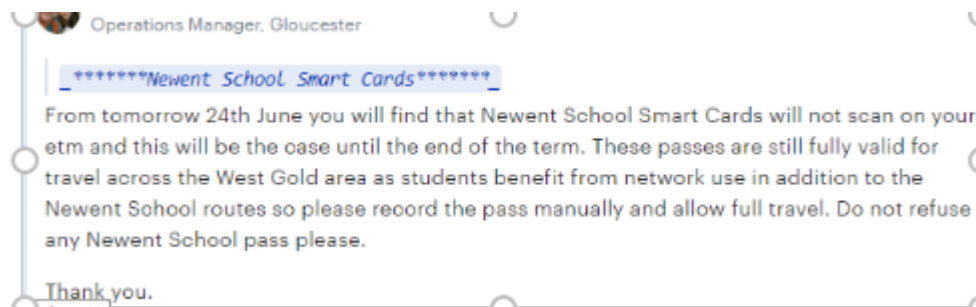
[Link to report to school](#)

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. Students should also continue to wear facemasks on school bus journeys.

In the event of a positive case within our school community we will issue relevant information directly through our usual communication methods of MILK, Twitter and Facebook.

We were made aware of an issue with our Stagecoach Bus Passes last week. The expiry dates on the passes had been incorrectly set which meant some students had been challenged about using them on service buses. This was immediately reported to Stagecoach who confirmed that this was an error and that students would still be able to travel on their Bus Passes until 31st July.

Below is a copy of the message shared with all Stagecoach drivers by the Stagecoach Operations Manager. We have had permission to share this with you by the Operations Manager to clarify the action taken and, should you wish, for your children to have a copy of.



Stagecoach have apologised sincerely and continue to work with their drivers to make sure they are aware of the situation and not to challenge or refuse travel for Newent students.

An awful lot of parents have still not made applications for buses for the next academic year. A reminder that the deadline for this is Friday 9th July 2021. Any applications received after this date will not be processed until all applications meeting the deadline have been allocated.

We are pleased to confirm that colleagues from Gloucestershire Police's Neighbour Watch Department will be holding a Bike Marking event at the school on Saturday 31st July 2021 between 10.00 am and 1.00 pm. The police regularly set up marking events to provide cycle security advice and offer security marking. When your bike is security marked, it will be registered onto the Bike Register's online database. Registering your bike helps police and retailers identify and verify the legitimate owner of bikes that have been stolen or are being resold.

The event is open to all members of the community and, of course, will be held in line with the relevant covid secure guidance.

In more cycling news, we were made aware this week that a bid submitted by Mr Edgell and colleagues from Active Gloucestershire has resulted in the awarding of £10,000 of funding to provide cycling resources to be based on school. We look forward to the development of this project over the next few months. Well done to all involved.

This year we have been forced to be extra creative with our end of year Art Exhibition celebrating the stunning work of our A level art students. From the beginning of next week you will be able to see photographs of the work of our A level Fine Art, Graphics, 3D Studies and Photography students throughout Newent, proudly displayed in shop windows as an Art Trail. We are thrilled that The Secret Gallery in Newent will also display some original artworks alongside the work of their professional artists.

There is, however, nothing quite like seeing the sheer breadth of our student's creativity under one roof. As such Year 13 student Scott Redfern is busily working on our next virtual exhibition which will bring together all of the fabulous A level work. The link for this will be published in my next letter. My thanks to Mrs McClay and her entire team for their excellent work in this endeavour.

As we near the end of the academic term we prepare to say goodbye to some colleagues who will be moving to pastures new in the next academic year. This week I wanted to inform members of the school community that Mrs Williams, Head of Collingwood House, will be retiring this summer. Mrs Williams has been a tremendous member of the Newent Team for many years and will be greatly missed by all of her colleagues and students. If parents, carers, students and ex-students would like to share their best wishes for the future with Mrs Williams please email admin@newent.gloucs.sch.uk and we will make sure the messages are shared.

I am regularly informed by some students that this weekend 'It's coming home!', whatever that may mean...

With very best wishes,



Mr Rhys Phillips
Acting Principal