



# Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre

*Striving for Excellence*

Acting Principal • Mr Rhys Phillips

**Telephone:** 01531 820550

**Community Enquiries:** 01531 828916

**Sixth Form:** 01531 828915

Watery Lane, Newent, Gloucestershire GL18 1QF [www.newent.gloucs.sch.uk](http://www.newent.gloucs.sch.uk) **Email:** [admin@newent.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@newent.gloucs.sch.uk)

9<sup>th</sup> July, 2021

Dear Students, Parents & Carers,

I am sure you will be aware, earlier this week we received notification of positive Covid 19 tests for students in two different year groups. Thanks to the rigorous Covid secure track and trace systems that we have in place within school we were able to rapidly identify close contacts and inform those families affected. I would like to offer my thanks to all members of our school community for their swift and calm response to these cases. 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](#)

That the appropriate steps can be put promptly in place, 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.

Similar to this week, 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.

Communications earlier this week from the Government put forward details for [Step 4 of the Roadmap](#), on how nationally we will continue to manage the risk of serious illness from the spread of the virus. This marks a new phase in the government's response to the pandemic, moving away from stringent restrictions on everyone's day-to-day lives, towards advising people on how to protect themselves and others, alongside targeted interventions to reduce risk.

Other commentary within their correspondence to schools notes *'as COVID-19 becomes a virus that we learn to live with, there is now an imperative to reduce the disruption to children and young people's education - particularly given that the direct clinical risks to children are extremely low, and every adult has been offered a first vaccine and the opportunity for two doses by mid-September'*.

Main messages from this guidance for secondary school settings are:

- nationally, education and childcare settings are open, and attendance is mandatory (for schools) and strongly encouraged (at childminders, nurseries and colleges)
- the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health has made it clear that the overwhelming majority of children and young people still have no symptoms or very mild illness only
- over the summer, staff, secondary pupils and college students should continue to test regularly if they are attending settings that remain open
- secondary schools and colleges have been asked to prepare for on-site testing at the beginning of the autumn term

- from Step 4, your child does not need to remain in a consistent group ('bubble')
- from Step 4, face coverings will no longer be advised for pupils, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas.

In school there will be no change to our Covid secure operational procedures before the end of this term, but I will write to you again in next week's letter to advise of start of term arrangements for September.

New information that we have been sent by the Local Authority can be found below. For the first and last week of the summer holiday only (26th – 30th July, and 30th August – 3rd September), parents who have signed up for holiday free school meal vouchers from the County Council will receive their voucher worth £15 per child per week to spend in a chosen supermarket. A voucher for both weeks will be sent between the 14th to 16th July. You do not need to sign up to receive this voucher if you have received them in previous school holidays. For more information and to sign up, if you haven't already, please visit the Local Authority website: <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/holiday-school-meal-vouchers/>

Great news from the Art Department is that we are delighted to share with you the link to our [A level Art and Design Virtual Exhibition 2021](#). This year's exhibition brings together the superb work of our A level artists studying Fine Art, Graphic Communication, Photography and 3 Dimensional Design. I am sure you will agree that both the standard and scope of creativity on show here is simply inspiring. We are immensely proud of our Art Department at Newent and confident that our young people can now look forward to a range of successful careers in the ever popular and growing creative industries. Don't forget to check out the Art Trail around Newent Town shops, which further showcases the A level exhibition.

Here at Newent we are keen to support our students in extracurricular challenges and I am pleased to announce that two of our students, Oliver Smith and Rohan McAteer, have recently been awarded certificates recognising their achievement in the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge. The national competition aims to stretch and challenge students interested in chemistry, and provides excellent experience for anyone considering taking their studies further. Set by an experienced team of teachers and university chemists, it is designed to be accessible to Year 12 students takes them significantly beyond the syllabus and encourage them to think about science in the way they would at university.

Oliver and Rohan, can be seen below receiving their awards from myself and Mr Price. My thanks to Mr Price for setting up this excellent opportunity.



Many thanks also to our superb tutors who this week welcomed our incoming Yr 6 students with a Virtual 'Meet the Tutors' evening. Due to internal promotions of Miss Gordelier and Mr Williams to the roles of Assistant Headteachers, and the retirement of Mrs Williams, I am delighted to announce Mrs O'Regan and Mrs Taylor will be leading Collingwood and Mountbatten Houses in the coming year. Mrs Wells will also be working with the Leadership Team focussing on the academic progress of our students. Congratulations to all!

Enjoy the football over the weekend and see if you can spot my secret message in this week's letter!

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mr Phillips', written in a cursive style.

Mr Phillips  
Acting Principal