



Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre

Striving for Excellence

Acting Principal • Mr Rhys Phillips

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31st August, 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and students,

I hope you have had a wonderful few weeks this Summer. We are all very excited to welcome students back to school next week and are optimistic for a return to more normal ways of working. Although many Covid restrictions have been eased within society as a whole, we will continue to follow Government guidelines for the safe operating of Educational Establishments.

At the end of last term I wrote to advise that from the from the Autumn Term we will no longer be required to contact trace students and will therefore no longer have to operate in Year group 'bubbles'. This will give students and staff much greater freedom of movement around the school and access to curriculum activities that were unfortunately restricted during the course of the pandemic. However, it is important to note that schools have been advised that they may have to reintroduce 'bubbles' if they are directed to do so by Public Health officials in the event of outbreaks. We will keep our school community informed of any change to our operating procedures should they need to change over the next few months.

As part of the safe return to school students will undertake school supervised Lateral Flow Tests twice upon their return to school in their first week. From then on, students will be asked to test at home twice per week, on Wednesday and Sunday evenings. Test kits will be provided by the school. This is one of the most effective ways to reduce the risk of transmission and support the continuation of face-to-face education and your support in this process is greatly appreciated. The government will continue to review the future need for testing in light of any changes to the public health situation and we will continue to follow Government guidance.

A few points regarding consent to Lateral Flow Testing within school.

- If you provided consent for Lateral Flow Testing when we returned to school in March no new consent is required.
- If you wish to withdraw consent for your child to be part of the Lateral Flow Testing Programme please inform us by emailing the details to reception@newent.gloucs.sch.uk
- If your child has tested positive for Covid-19 in the last 90 days there will be no requirement to undergo Lateral Flow Testing within school. Please can you email reception@newent.gloucs.sch.uk if this applies to your child.
- *If you have joined the school since March please complete the consent form via the link below before midday on Friday 3rd September*

[Click here to access Consent Form](#)

A copy of our Consent Form information sheet can be found on our website by clicking [here](#).

A reminder please that Years 7, 9, 12 & 13 return to school on Monday 6th September. All other year groups should return on Tuesday 7th September. If your child will not be returning to school during the first week due to a positive Covid-19 test result prior to these dates please email reception@newent.gloucs.sch.uk with this information.

A summary of the testing schedule for the first week of term can be found below.

Year Groups	Day of first school supervised Lateral Flow Test	Day of second school supervised Lateral Flow Test
7, 9, 12, 13	Monday 6 th September	Thursday 9 th September
8, 10, 11	Tuesday 7 th September	Friday 10 th September

What happens if my child tests negative during their school supervised Lateral Flow Test?

Students with negative test results will continue with their school days as normal.

What happens if my child tests positive?

If your child tests positive we will contact parents/carers immediately. They will need to be collected from school and booked in for a PCR test following government guidance.

Self-isolation and testing of close contacts

As with positive PCR test cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with either the positive case – or in the case of children – the parents, carers or guardian of the positive case to identify close contacts. NHS Test and Trace already manages the contact tracing process for the rest of society – including children who have recorded a positive PCR test – and has expertise in supporting people to identify close contacts. From 16 August 2021, if the close contact is under 18, they will not have to self-isolate (in line with the policy for fully vaccinated adults) but will be asked to take a PCR test immediately, other than for very young children identified as non-household contacts, and they will not need to self-isolate while awaiting the results of the test. If the PCR test is positive, they will be required to self-isolate for 10 days from the date of the test. NHS Test and Trace will then get in touch to identify close contacts.

What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at school is for people with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

We will continue to update you with any changes to the above procedures as we move through the term. A final reminder please that students should return to school in September in full uniform, details of which can be found on our website.

If you have any further queries please email admin@newent.gloucs.sch.uk

With very best wishes,



Mr Phillips
Acting Principal