



# Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre

*Striving for Excellence*

Acting Principal • Mr Rhys Phillips

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10<sup>th</sup> September, 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Happy new term!

We hope your son/daughter has had a happy and productive return to school this week. I am extremely proud of the positive ethos that is being demonstrated by our students and staff. Not only have there been over 1200 lessons taught this week, but we have also conducted over 1800 lateral flow tests in the school's Main Hall. Student conduct during the testing procedure has been impeccable.

Students have now been provided with home-testing kits, and I would ask for your support in continuing testing your children twice a week, on Wednesday and Sunday evenings.

The kits issued contain all necessary information on how to conduct the tests.

Home testing 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. Please record your twice weekly test results via the form [here](#).

## **What happens if my child tests negative on their home test?**

Students with negative test results should continue to attend school as normal

## **What happens if my child tests positive on their home test?**

You should report all positive test results to us as using the methods noted below and arrange to follow-up the positive result with a confirmatory PCR test. Following the change in guidance on 19 July 2021, the school will continue to ensure confirmed cases of COVID-19 do not attend until the end of their self-isolation period but contact tracing within the school setting will no longer continue.

## **Reporting positive cases or any other absences:**

Please contact the school, as soon as possible, on or prior to the first day of absence by calling the School's Attendance Welfare Officer on 01531 828927. This is a dedicated line open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Alternatively, you can inform us by emailing [attendance@newent.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@newent.gloucs.sch.uk)

Thank you for your support with this process.

Again, all test results, positive or negative should be recorded [here](#).

## **What if my child develops Covid-19 symptoms?**

This testing programme at school is for people with no symptoms.

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19 at any time, however mild, please isolate as a household and book a PCR test for the person with symptoms (even if they have already taken a test). Symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- A new, continuous cough, and/or
- A temperature, and/or
- A loss of, or change to, sense of taste and/or smell.

You can book a PCR test through <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

If the test is negative, your child can return to school once they are well and have been fever free (without the support of paracetamol or Calpol) for at least 24 hours.

If the test is positive your household must self-isolate for 10 days from the date symptoms started, unless any of the following apply:

- you're fully vaccinated – this means 14 days have passed since your final dose of a COVID-19 vaccine given by the NHS
- you're under 18 years, 6 months old
- you're taking part or have taken part in a COVID-19 vaccine trial
- you're not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Even if you do not have symptoms, you should still:

- get a PCR test on GOV.UK to check if you have COVID-19
- follow advice on how to avoid catching and spreading COVID-19
- consider limiting contact with people who are at higher risk from COVID-19
- if symptoms develop, isolate and get tested Further information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111. For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

Household members staying at home for 10 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community

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.

Please find below a few other important notices from the first week of term.

### **Year 7 Milk**

Y7 letters with password details have now all been distributed to students. Parent details will be sent out early next week. In the meantime, we recommend that you have a look at the app with your child over the weekend to familiarise yourself with the layout.

### **Locker Keys**

If you have requested the hire of a locker for your child and made payment via our Online Shop, keys are now available for collection from the Finance Office. Please remind your son or daughter to visit the Office as early as possible next week

### **School transport**

We are aware of comments on social media about transport to school relating to overcrowding on a couple of routes. It is very important that students only use the bus they have been allocated to and that they use all available seats. For instance, one bus has three seats on one side of the aisle and two seats on the other. If all seats are used, this concern will be removed. Staff will be supporting the bus companies with checking that all students are using the correct bus and we will make contact with parents / carers if necessary. We want all students to stay safe and travel in comfort. It is important that your child follows the code of conduct at all times. Children are expected to wear seatbelts but, for the safety of all passengers, the driver is unable to enforce this when they are driving.

As with all matters, please could I ask that if you have a query or question that you contact the school in the first instance so that we are given the opportunity to resolve the matter. You are able to contact the school by telephone on 01531 820550 and by email using [admin@newent.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@newent.gloucs.sch.uk)

### **Uniform**

A reminder please that students should attend school in full uniform, details of which can be found on our website. The Pastoral Team will work with students to ensure that the school expectations are met in this area.

Again, if you have any queries please contact us via the [admin@gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@gloucs.sch.uk) email address.

Best wishes for the term ahead,



Mr Rhys Phillips  
Acting Principal