



Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre

Striving for Excellence

Acting Principal • Mr Rhys Phillips

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17th September, 2021

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

I would firstly like to congratulate all of our students on another excellent week of learning here at school. Behaviour, effort and attitude to learning across the school has been superb and students have made a tremendous start to this academic year!

COVID-19 vaccination programme for children and young people

As you will have seen in the news the Health and Social Care Secretary has announced that young people aged 12 to 15 in England will be offered one dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, following advice from the four UK Chief Medical Officers (CMOs). The main purpose of the COVID-19 childhood vaccination programme is to provide protection to the children who receive the vaccine and help to reduce transmission of COVID-19 in the wider population. Healthy school-aged children aged 12 to 15 will primarily receive their COVID-19 vaccination in their school, and like all school-based vaccination programmes, the vaccine will be administered by healthcare staff with appropriate qualifications who are trained in the vaccination of children and young people. In our setting this will be colleagues from Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Trust. To support this process and help people access accurate information, the local NHS will be developing a dedicated page on the Gloucestershire NHS COVID-19 portal with factual information about the risks and benefits of the vaccine. There will also be a dedicated advice line and email address for parents or any young people who may wish to have a more detailed conversation. We will share these details once the final guidance and contact details have been confirmed and sent to us. The usual consent processes would apply with parents or guardians being asked to discuss the offer with their young people and make an informed choice.

Holiday Free School Meals (FSM) scheme

For the October half-term, Gloucestershire County Council is providing vouchers to parents who have signed up to our Holiday Free School Meals (FSM) scheme. These vouchers are provided by Gloucestershire County Council as part of its commitment to 'no child goes hungry'. The vouchers are funded through COVID-19 grant funding we have received and is separate to that of the term time free school meals.

Parents who have signed up to the scheme will receive a voucher for £15 for each child who is eligible for FSM which will cover the half-term week.

Parents who have signed up previously do not need to re-register, they have already been included, but, to ensure we get all who are eligible, we are encouraging new parents to sign up as soon as they can.

Applications for Holiday Free School Meal Vouchers for October Half Term is open from Monday 13 September until midday Friday 24 September. Vouchers will be sent out between Monday 27 of September and 30 of September. Vouchers are being sent out this early due to Covid grant stipulations.

For more information and to sign up if you haven't already please visit the website: the [Holiday School Meal vouchers page on](#) our website. For any queries please contact: childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Gloucestershire Business Awards

Newent was pleased to be involved in the Gloucestershire Business Awards as a sponsor of the Small Business Award won by Leaf Creative Design. Our congratulations to all involved with this successful business. Please [click here](#) to view the winners announcement article on Business Live.

All at the School would like to congratulate Dr Diane Savory, OBE CL who was presented with a lifetime achievement award. Dr Savory is chair of the Gloucestershire local enterprise partnership GFirst LEP who work closely with the school on a number of events.

Newent Community School Parents' Association (NCSPA)

After a two year absence I am pleased to announce that six parents have joined forces over the summer to create our new Parent Teachers Association. They are working with the school to lead and support fundraising in a collaborative and exciting format. Their first monthly newsletter is available on their dedicated page on our school website [here](#) with some exciting news on the launch of Newent's School Lottery and the first project any funds raised will be spent on.

I will continue to update all parents on the work of the Association but if you wish to get involved with the team I am sure you will be welcome.

Football success

I would like to share some fantastic news that one of our students, Gracie Holmes (Yr 9) will be representing the U14's Gloucestershire Schools County Football Team on Saturday in the National Final! It is the first time Gloucestershire have reached the final so there is a lot of excitement surrounding it! You can follow them on Twitter to track their progress @GlosSchools

We are extremely proud of Gracie's commitment and wish her and the team the best of luck for Saturday!

I would be delighted to share positive news stories such as this with our wider school community, so please do let me know if we can help to celebrate your child's achievements.

Key Dates

Please find attached the Key Dates for 2021-2022 for Term 1 & 2. Finalised dates for term 3-6 will follow next week.

With thanks and best wishes,



Rhys Phillips
Acting Principal