



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 Email: admin@newent.gloucs.sch.uk

15th October, 2021

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

Please find within this letter some key updates on our continuing response to the presence of Covid 19 within the community.

Lateral Flow Testing update

The latest update from the Gloucestershire Covid Support Team is as follows: *“UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) have been made aware of some areas reporting positive LFD test results with subsequent negative PCR tests and are currently looking into the cause. Whilst the UKHSA investigation is under-way, we advise that if a pupil or staff member has been in close contact with a positive case (such as a household member) or has displayed Covid-19 symptoms and has tested positive on an LFD (but subsequently tested negative on a PCR), they are treated as potentially infectious. We recommend they isolate and remain out of the setting, for 10 days.”*

As such, if your child has been in close contact with a positive case (such as a household member) or has displayed Covid-19 symptoms and has tested positive on an LFD (but subsequently tested negative on a PCR), they are treated as potentially infectious. Please contact the school and we will recommend your child isolates and remains out of our school setting, for 10 days. We will continue to follow this latest guidance and will keep our school community informed of any further updates as we receive them.

A reminder please that 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](#).

Letter from Secretaries of State for Education and for Health and Social Care

A joint letter to parents of secondary school and college students in England on Covid-19 testing and vaccines from the Secretaries of State for Education and for Health and Social Care can be found [here](#).

Gloucestershire County Council support- Extended Deadlines

Gloucestershire County Council has extended the deadline to sign up for October Half Term Free School Meal Vouchers up until the 22nd of October at midday. For more information, and to sign up, please visit the [Holiday School Meal vouchers page on](#) our website.

The Local Authority has also extended the deadline to apply for the COVID-19 Local Support Grant to the 22nd of October at midday. For more information as well as what support the grant can offer to families, please click [here](#).

Newent Community School Parents' Association (NCSPA)

Please find [here](#) a link to a Gloucestershire Live article on the continued superb work of the NCSPA. Many thanks to all members of the school community who have supported this endeavor.

A 'thank you' from the Governing Body

The Governing Body would like to say a huge 'thank you' to all staff and students who were involved in the recent open morning and evening to showcase Newent Community School to prospective students and parents/carers. We have been told that both these events were very well attended and that the feedback from families who visited Newent was very positive. The students who volunteered to show families around the school did so in a very mature, polite and friendly manner. They are truly fantastic ambassadors for the school. We also understand that student volunteers continue to come forward to show more families around the school who were not able to make the open day. We are very grateful for their continued enthusiasm and readiness to support their school.'

Newent Reading Awards

The Newent Reading Awards have been re-launched and already certificates are winging their way to my desk for my signature. Years 7 and 8 are starting their Bronze Awards and Year 9 are beginning with Silver. Students receive a signed certificate and house points when they complete an award, as well as the knowledge that they are improving their chances of academic success by making time to read. My thanks to our superb librarian, Mrs Gibbons, for leading this initiative.

Y9 & Y10 School Photographs-

On Monday 18th we will be holding school photographs for our students in years 9 & 10. During the week the Pastoral Team, along with tutors, will be holding a uniform audit to ensure all students are meeting our expectations regarding school uniform, details of which can be found [here](#). We thank you for your support in this area.

More sporting success

I am delighted to report that Isabelle Martin (year 9 - N3) has now signed for West Brom football team together with Gracie Holmes. Isabelle played her first match on Saturday and they won 3-1. They have their next match against Bristol this Saturday. What a wonderful achievement. My best wishes for the future!

Regards



Rhys Phillips
Acting Principal