



# Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre

*Striving for Excellence*

Acting Principal • Mr Rhys Phillips

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5<sup>th</sup> November, 2021

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

Many thanks for your support with the latest Covid measures that have been reintroduced within the school this term. Please find again below the key messages regarding our Covid contingency measures.

Please ensure that students continue to undertake Lateral Flow Device tests at home twice weekly for the coming weeks. Students have been provided with testing kits but if you do not have any at home please email [reception@newent.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:reception@newent.gloucs.sch.uk) to arrange collection from our Main Reception during school hours.

As a school we will continue with our control measures of ensuring good hygiene for everyone; maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes; keeping occupied spaces well ventilated; and, following public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19. We have also been limiting large gatherings such as assemblies.

Face coverings will continue to be worn in communal areas around the school by pupils, staff and visitors although normal medical exemptions will still be in place. Please ensure that your child brings a face mask with them to school. Although we retain a contingency stock of masks within school it would be helpful if your child also carries a spare mask with them throughout the day.

I would also ask again that parents and carers reinforce the message that students should also continue to wear face coverings on school transport for the whole journey to and from school.

The most current guidance from the Gloucestershire Covid Team and the UKHSA is given below.

- As soon as a student becomes symptomatic, they should isolate immediately and arrange to have a PCR test to see if they have COVID-19. If the PCR test result is negative, they can return to school as soon as they feel well.

A reminder that the main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

*a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)*

*a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)*

*a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal*

- Regular, twice weekly, LFD testing of asymptomatic staff and secondary age students should continue. If someone tests positive on LFD, they should isolate and take a PCR test to confirm whether they are positive. If the result of the PCR is negative, they can return to school. If the result of the PCR is positive they should continue to isolate for the period indicated by NHS Test and Trace. Please inform the school at this point of the anticipated return date of your child.

- All close contacts of confirmed cases are advised to take a PCR test. If close contacts are under 18 years 6 months, are fully vaccinated, have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial or not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons they do not need to self-isolate unless the PCR test returns a positive result. **However, until the PCR test result is received your child should only attend school if they undertake daily Lateral Flow Device tests which provide a negative result.**

If someone has recently (within 90 days) had a positive PCR test for COVID-19, they are likely to have developed some immunity. Individuals are exempt from testing by both PCR and LFD within 90 days of a positive PCR test, unless they develop new symptoms, in which case they should isolate and arrange for a PCR test.

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)

I would politely request that parents and carers keep the school updated, using the dedicated line above, on the outcome of LFD and PCR results as well as the recovery, and return date, of their child if a positive result is confirmed. Again, all test results, positive or negative should be recorded [here](#).

### **Covid Vaccinations**

Today we have had confirmation from the Gloucestershire NHS Mass Vaccination Team that they will be visiting the school to provide Covid vaccinations to our 12-15 yr olds on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November. As soon as we have been issued with further information regarding the process, including capturing consent details, we will share these via MILK. We anticipate this information will be sent to the school in the week commencing 15<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Remembrance- Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

We will be holding a whole school service outside on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November. All students from uniformed youth groups (Girl Guides, Army Cadets, St Johns Ambulance etc.) are invited to attend in their uniform for the day. Poppies and other various poppy items are available to purchase from the school's online shop or click [here](#)

### **Y11 Parents' Information Evening- Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November**

Due to current Covid restrictions this event will now not take place in school. A video presentation with key Yr 11 information for the year ahead will be sent out via MILK during the week.

### **Year 9 DofE**

There will be a meeting next Wednesday, at 1:15 (lunchtime) in the Sports Hall for Year 9 students interested, to explain in more detail what the Award is about and what it offers young people. The video below may be useful to watch.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y7kY2w4A7\\_s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y7kY2w4A7_s)

## **Yr 8 Parents' Evening**

Year 8 Parents' Evening will take place virtually again this year on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November. Information about booking appointments will be going out on MILK on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November.

With best wishes for the week ahead,

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

Mr R Phillips  
Acting Principal