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## UCAS Contextual Statement 2021-2022

Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre is a rural academy of 1050 students, 51 of whom are in Year 13. 21 % of our students are pupil premium. 6 students are in receipt of the post-16 bursary. Our school policy is that students are entered for terminal examinations at the end of their A level courses. Whilst many students choose to complete their EPQ qualification in Year 12, this was not possible for the summer 2021 entry. On average, 50% of our students apply for higher education courses each year.

Covid-19 has brought additional challenges for our students. In their first year of A level studies, 39 days of face to face teaching time (21%) was lost from 5th January to 5th March inclusive. Online lessons using Microsoft Teams were provided to supplement the learning, with additional work set to encourage independent learning. Some students found accessing the lessons and materials challenging due to equipment issues (where multiple use needed within the family) and/or problems with technology when working from home.

Whilst attendance during Autumn Term has been encouraging, students have been affected by staff absences in specific subject areas. In addition, regional increases of Covid-19 has meant that there are individual differences in absences, impacting learning and progress. Predicted grades have been made, in good faith, by consideration of GCSE outcomes, class assessments and mock examinations completed at the end of Year 12.