



Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre

Striving for Excellence

Acting Principal • Mr Rhys Phillips

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10th December, 2021

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

Thank you to all students, parents and carers that have contributed to today's Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day. It is great to see such festive spirit across the school site!

I would also ask parents and carers to remind children of the importance of supporting our use of face coverings in communal areas around the school. 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.** Bus companies will continue to monitor appropriate usage on school transport.

Winston's Wish

A reminder also that this Christmas, you can dedicate a star in memory of your loved one which will then be placed on our Christmas Tree in the Main Reception. To dedicate a star, all we ask is you make a minimum donation of £1.00 to support the work of Winston's Wish by clicking [here](#). The school will pass on 100% of your donation to Winston's Wish.

Your star can be collected from our Finance Office so that you can write your own message and hang on the tree. Alternatively, you can email admin@newent.gloucs.sch.uk and we will add the message for you.

Meet n Eat will also be selling star themed cupcakes on Wednesday 15th December with 50% of the purchase price being donated to Winton's Wish.

Attendance

Thank you for continuing to use the direct line (01531 828927, 24 hours) or our dedicated email address attendance@newent.gloucs.sch.uk to report your child's absence throughout the Autumn Term.

Your child's attendance is more important than ever following the disruption to face-to-face learning that has taken place over the past two years. Evidence demonstrates that young people with good attendance go on to achieve the highest quality outcomes and are more successful in later life. Please support our school by not taking holidays in term time. As frustrating as it is to see the price hikes in school holidays our students only get one chance at an education. The more education children miss, the harder it is for them to keep up with those who attend school regularly.

By arriving on time and attending school every day young people benefit as much as possible from what is taught in the classroom. Although some absences are unavoidable for health reasons or other important family matters, even in these circumstances too many absences can cause children to fall behind. We have an excellent Attendance and Welfare Team here at school who are always ready to help if there is an issue either at home or school that impacts on regular attendance.

I am sure that you are aware that the attendance target for all schools is 97%, and that Gloucestershire County Council have confirmed that they will look to pursue cases where parents take unauthorised holidays of 10 sessions (5 days) or more. On a similar note, please help us to help your children by making medical appointments outside registration and teaching times and where possible please ensure that they are limited to half a day. If you have any further queries on matters relating to absence from school please again contact on via email at attendance@newent.gloucs.sch.uk

NHS Cadet Programme (St John Ambulance)

We have been asked to share the following information on a new initiative that may be of interest to members of our school community.

What is NHS Cadets?

NHS Cadets is a new scheme created by St John Ambulance in partnership with the NHS, providing opportunities to explore skills, knowledge and volunteering roles within healthcare. It is aimed at young people aged 14 to 18 who are from communities currently under-represented within the NHS and St John Ambulance.

The programme offers young people health awareness sessions, courses to develop their leadership and communication skills and an insight or experience in volunteering within the NHS.

It is a free programme, consisting of weekly, 2-hour sessions for 11 months. Cadets will be supported throughout their volunteering journey by our NHS Cadets Team.

Who can get involved?

The initiative is seeking young people who might not have previously considered volunteering in healthcare. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Young people living with learning difficulties and / or disabilities (we will need to discuss if we have the support network to help you participate)
- Young people in the care system, or recent care leavers
- Refugees or Asylum Seekers
- Young Carers
- Homeless young people
- Those not in education, employment or training, or those with school results lower than you hoped/need/expected
- Those living with mental health concerns (same principle as anyone with a learning difficulty or disability)
- Those who identify as being part of the LGBTQI+ community (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex+)
- Those coming from low-income families /young people in receipt of free school meals
- Young people from ethnic minority communities

This is the link for young people to apply can be found here [NHS Cadets | St John Ambulance](#).

Once on the website click on search positions then click on 'see all programmes and positions'. This will take you to a list of all the available programmes. Click on the one that is nearest to you then click the 'filter' button - the available programmes in that area will appear. You can then select the one that you want to apply for by clicking 'view details', which will take you to the relevant form.

NCSPA

Thank you to our wonderful NCSPA Team who were due to be present on each evening of the Nativity! The Musical to sell raffle tickets and bags of treats.

To ensure the bags of treats do not go to waste, I have made the decision to ask Chef and her amazing Meet n Eat team to sell the bags to students as an end of term treat at lunchtime only. They will be available on Thursday 16th and Friday 17th December only at a cost of £1.00. The students will be able to use their cashless fob to make the purchase.

All of the sales will be transferred to the NCSPA as part of their fundraising activities.



As per last week's letter a book of raffle tickets has been given to all students to bring home today. More tickets are available if required and can be collected from Reception or Finance, but they need to be returned with the money by Wednesday 15th December.

End of Term 2/start of Term 3

A reminder that Term 2 will finish at 1.30pm on Friday 17th December. School transport will run as normal and depart at this earlier time.

We look forward to all students returning to school on Thursday 6th January.

With best wishes for the weekend and final week of term,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rhys Phillips', with a long, sweeping underline.

Rhys Phillips
Acting Principal