



# Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre

*Striving for Excellence*

Acting Principal • Mr Rhys Phillips

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21<sup>st</sup> January, 2022

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

Thank you for the continued use of Lateral Flow testing that is taking place at home twice weekly. Your support in this process is much appreciated. You may be aware from news reports this week that the use of masks is no longer recommended in classrooms in secondary school settings. They were introduced in classrooms at the start of the spring term as a temporary measure.

In our school masks will continue to be worn in communal areas around the school by students, staff and visitors and will be reviewed in line with current guidance until 27<sup>th</sup> January. Normal medical exemptions will still be in place. For those coming to school on public transport and school buses, face masks are still compulsory. Students and staff who personally wish to continue wearing masks in classrooms will be supported in doing so. Were infection rates to rise locally, then we will review the use of masks in our school setting.

## **COVID-19 12 –15 year old vaccination programme**

As part of the Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust's (GHC) ongoing plan the COVID-19 12 –15 year old vaccination programme is being transferred from the GHC Mass Vaccination Team to the GHC School Aged Immunisation (SAI) Service. The SAI planning team are currently looking at dates for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Dose and we will be in touch with further information shortly.

There is still the opportunity for those who have not received their 1<sup>st</sup> dose to be vaccinated.

Please click on the link below that will signpost you to the dates and venues for the walk-in clinics. If your child has tested positive for COVID-19 they need to **wait 12 weeks** before they can have a COVID-19 vaccine. This starts from the date of their positive PCR test.

[Vaccinations – Covid-19 Portal | NHS Gloucestershire CCG : Covid-19 Portal | NHS Gloucestershire CCG \(glos.nhs.uk\)](#)

## **YogaBugs online offer**

We have an offer for families who can claim a FREE eCode to access YogaBugs Virtual - Healthy Screen time for the whole family throughout January & February 2022.

YogaBugs virtual gives online access to hundreds of yoga & well-being videos for the whole family to take part in from the comfort of your own home! Perfect if people are worried about going out due to rising cases of COVID but still want to get some exercise in.

Please watch <https://yogabugs.com/parent-form/> to watch a short video to find out why it's a great option for families!

To gain access please visit <https://yogabugsvirtual.com/my-account/>

Click on parents, enter the unique eCode **gloucestershire-1361** and follow the simple registration (it takes less than 60 seconds!) Enjoy YogaBugs at home!

If you have any queries regarding this offer please get in contact by emailing [haftickets@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:haftickets@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

## Holiday Free School Meal Voucher Scheme

Please find below a message from Gloucestershire County Council.

This February 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 February half term week. The scheme is eligible for children aged 4-16 years old.

Unfortunately, we are unable to consider college and sixth form students.

**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 the February half term period is now open until the 14<sup>th</sup> February. Voucher emails will be sent out between **15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of February**. Please encourage parents to also check their junk/spam email folders during this period as sometimes the vouchers end up there. If parents have not received their vouchers by then please encourage them to get in contact with us by emailing [childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk).

For more information and to sign up if you haven't already please visit our website: the [Holiday School Meal vouchers page on](#) our website.

## Train To Teach Gloucestershire

For parents/carers or other members of our school community interested in pursuing a career in teaching there is an event being held at Pate's Grammar School, Cheltenham, 4.30pm- 7pm on 27th January 2022 You will be able to explore how to get into teaching and how to apply for training in Gloucestershire. Meet experts, current teachers and trainees. Drop in anytime to:

- discover the teacher training options available in the county
- talk to teachers about real life in the classroom
- hear the advice & experience of current trainees

Whether you're ready to apply or just starting to explore a teaching career, don't miss this opportunity to meet representatives of local providers in and around Gloucestershire to find out about their courses and entry requirements. To register: email [jwiles@odysseytsh.org](mailto:jwiles@odysseytsh.org)

For information: call Jane Wiles on 01242 538276

Website: [www.odysseytsh.org](http://www.odysseytsh.org)

## Year 11 information

Thank you to those parents, carers and students who attended our Virtual Sixth Form event last night. Further information on studying in our Sixth Form, can be found on our website [here](#), along with our [electronic applicaiton form](#). If you have any queries about Sixth Form study please contact: [lrogers@newent.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:lrogers@newent.gloucs.sch.uk)

A message on how to book appointments for the Year 11 Parents' Evening on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January has also been issued via Milk.

## **National Citizen Service**

We are excited to be working with NCS this year to deliver an unforgettable summer experience for students in year 11.

NCS programmes offer young people a once in a lifetime opportunity to do something meaningful with their summer break.

During their time on NCS they will have experiences and develop skills they can rely on during university, apprenticeships, and their career. Participants will do something good for their local community, carrying out a social action project to support a cause they care about. We've seen first-hand what an amazing feeling of accomplishment and increased confidence this brings. Throughout the pandemic, teenagers on NCS donated well over 200,000 hours of their time to help rebuild their communities after the first lockdown, showing what a difference young people can make.

NCS lasts 2 weeks (Monday – Friday), during which participants will: meet new people and stay away from home for five days, take on new challenges and develop the skills and confidence to take on their next steps. They will also get their chance to give back to their local community through volunteering action.

A place on NCS is worth around £1200. However, thanks to government funding for the programme, NCS will only ask for a contribution of £50 to cover some basic costs. They want to ensure that everyone can do NCS so there are bursaries available to those who are eligible for free school meals, have an EHCP, are in or have recently left care, or are a young carer.

There are several start dates to choose from: go to [wearencs.com](http://wearencs.com) to find out availability in the area for your teen and encourage them to sign up for a summer they will not forget!

If you have any questions, give NCS a call and they will be able to help: 0800 197 8010 Frequently asked questions can be found at [wearencs.com/faqs](http://wearencs.com/faqs).

We cannot recommend this opportunity highly enough!

## **School Admission Appeal Panel Members Needed**

Volunteers needed to become a School Admission Appeal Panel Member- please see attached leaflet for more details and how to apply.

Best wishes,



Rhys Phillips  
Acting Principal