



# Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre

*Striving for Excellence*

Acting Principal • Mr Rhys Phillips

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11<sup>th</sup> February, 2022

Dear Students, Parents & Carers,

A reminder please, with the easing of national restrictions Covid-19 continues to circulate widely in the South West, and with the prevalence of the highly transmissible Omicron variant, we continue to see an increase in case rates in our communities. I would again like to remind all members of our school community of the importance of **twice weekly Lateral Flow Device Testing at home**, on Sunday and Wednesday evenings. People who are self-isolating with COVID-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6 **and they do not have a temperature**. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to their education or childcare setting immediately on day 6.

The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be reported to NHS Test and Trace.

If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.

Further information on self-isolation for those with COVID-19 is available [here](#).

### **Daily testing for close contacts of COVID-19**

People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should also take a LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend school as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time. Students can attend school if there is a positive case in the household but we strongly request that daily lateral flow testing is performed in this instance.

### **Covid Booster Vaccinations**

We have been advised by our colleagues at the School Aged Immunisations Team that they plan to visit school to provide second round of Covid vaccinations on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022. Further details will be provided closer to the date.

### **The Parenting Hub**

The Parenting Hub is a new online community for parents and carers to get information and access to peer support run by **Mental Health UK Bloom Team**. It will;

- provide a safe environment for parents to share experiences, support each other and access expert advice,
- provide resources for parents to learn about mental health and how to better support their children,
- and build parents' confidence to have supportive conversations and talk about mental health.

The Parenting Hub will be moderated 24/7 by trained experts so parents and carers feel safe and supported to talk about their children's wellbeing through Chat and Forum spaces. They will host bi-monthly Q&A sessions with expert panels on topics related to young people's mental health including social media and managing exam stress. The site will also include resources with practical information and guidance for parents and carers on what to do if they are concerned about their young person's mental health, created by the Young People's Programmes team, who have been running [Bloom](#) in schools since 2019.

### **Sporting success**

Isabelle Hopkinson has another fencing result to share. She finished 3rd place in the South West U14 foil age group championships and has qualified to compete at the British Youth Championships in Sheffield representing the South West later this year.



### **Message from Nathan Thomas- Active Communities Manager Forest of Dean**

Our Freedom Leisure colleagues will be delivering a FREE sports leaders course on Monday 21st February at Lydney in half term and there are a few remaining spaces.

Interested pupils parents can email to book via [Nathan.Thomas@Freedom-Leisure.co.uk](mailto:Nathan.Thomas@Freedom-Leisure.co.uk)

### **Book Awards**

Great to know that English lessons in the Library are being put to good use and that lots of students are enjoying the benefits of reading for pleasure. Proof of this is the arrival of certificates for my signature, usually Bronze awards and the occasional Silver. Over 50 students have already completed their Bronze Award this year - Keep it up!

### **Year 10 COPE**

Part of the Certificate of Personal Effectiveness course requires students to submit coursework for many projects. One of the challenges and projects that is required of them is to work together to plan, organise and deliver a Community Event. Over the last couple of months, the students had chosen to organise a Valentine's Tea Party for the staff of Newent School.

The students worked efficiently and collaboratively together over the last couple of months to write and deliver invites, plan a menu and organise the timetable for the day. The event allows students to 'shine' and gain confidence.

All staff thoroughly enjoyed the delicious food that the students prepared which included sandwiches, pizzas, sausage rolls, quiches, banoffee pies, scones and brownies to name but a few. They were also offered cups of tea and coffee by the students.

To mark their appreciation to the staff, the students handed out party bags for each member of staff who attended.

It was a successful event to mark Valentine's Day and the great work of our students and staff.



Best wishes and have a great weekend,

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

Mr Rhys Phillips  
Acting Principal