



Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre

Striving for Excellence

Acting Principal • Mr Rhys Phillips

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25th March, 2022

Dear Students, Parents & Carers,

I would ask that all members of the school community take note of the Covid reminder below. We are still seeing a number of Covid cases amongst staff and students at school. As you will have seen both nationally and locally, in some instances schools have needed to send year groups home for periods of Remote Learning due to staff absence. Despite staff absence in recent weeks and months we have been able to maintain on-site provision for our students, but there remains the possibility of us having to instigate a period of Remote Learning for certain year groups if required. In such a circumstance, information will be released via Satchel:One and our social media channels.

Covid reminder

As a reminder, recent updates from the 'Living with COVID-19' plan issued by the government means that routine asymptomatic testing is no longer advised in mainstream school settings. However, if students have any of the main symptoms of Covid-19 (a recent onset of a new continuous cough; a high temperature; or a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell) you should order a PCR test. Students are advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people while they wait for the test result. If positive, students should isolate and take an LFD test five days after their symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms) followed by another one the next day. If both these tests results are negative, they should return to their educational setting, as long as they feel well enough to do so and do not have a temperature. 2 consecutive days of negative test results are required prior to returning to school. Full guidance can be found [here](#).

Holiday Activity and Food (HAF)

The Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme, funded by the Department for Education, will be returning this Spring break between 11-14th April for children in reception to year 11 who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals.

Gloucestershire County Council have also recently secured some additional funding so that they can once again extend their offer to all families as part of the Holidays activity programme.

We encourage all HAF and HAF families to get in contact with their local offer to see what is available to them. To find out where to get more information about the local offer, [you can click here](#). If you have any further queries, please get in touch by emailing hafparentenquiries@gloucestershire.gov.uk

National Citizen Service

We are excited to be working with NCS this year to deliver an unforgettable summer experience for students in year 11 and year 12.

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.

NCS have been in to school to talk more about the programme and will be hopefully coming in again to answer any questions your teen may have and give them the chance to register their interest for the summer 2022 programme if they have not already.

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 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.

With best wishes for the weekend ahead,



Mr Rhys Phillips
Acting Principal