

Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre

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Newent News

ISSUE **ONE**

New Staff

We would like you to join us in welcoming the new staff to our community:

Miss Ashby
Geography

Mrs Blake
DT

Mr Buck
Site Services

Mr Craig
Maths

Miss Griffiths
English

Mr Hughes
MFL

Mr Nicklin
Vice Principal / English

Mrs Rawlings
English

Mr Santos
Assistant Principal / History

Mr Tranter
Maths

Mrs Whitear
Maths

Queen Elizabeth II



I am typing this having just walked through our local community and seen the flags flying at half mast, after the death of Her Majesty the Queen. These are unchartered times for us as a country with changes in Head of State as well as Prime Minister within 48 hours of each other.

This morning in tutorial, we have taken a moment to reflect on the life of Queen Ellizabeth II, using this resource that was shared by the BBC (Queen Elizabeth II: A constant presence in a changing world - BBC News). We also had a minute's silence to help us as we are aware that this may trigger or remind members of our community of any losses they have suffered. Please do let tutors know if any support is needed during this time.

It is expected that on the day of the funeral schools will close. We currently believe this will be Monday 19th September. As soon as we receive confirmation of this, we will share it with you. I know that we will all keep Her Majesty and her family in our thoughts and prayers at this time.

God save the King

Mrs Dawn Burke, Principal

Introduction - Week one!

Welcome to our first 'Newent News'! This will become the place you can catch up on the activities happening over the past week, along with updates for the coming weeks. I hope it will be our main way of celebrating our successes with you as well as reminding you of the key dates from the school calendar. It will vary in length depending on the news we have to share. I also intend it to be a reminder that you can refer to and help make our messages on 'SatchelOne' more efficient.

There really has been a brilliant buzz around the school. It has been so nice seeing everybody back on site these last couple of days. The school really feels like it has come alive again. Thank you for all the support with helping the students arrive on time, in the correct uniform and with the basic equipment needed.

Training Focus

Alongside all the statutory training we have completed in the INSET days, we have also reminded ourselves we are in a period of change. For the benefit of our new parents / carers / students (and if you are interested) we looked at 'Kotter's Model of Change'. There is a link here to an article if you would like to read about it Kotter's 8 Step Change Model | A Comprehensive Step-by-Step Guide (creately.com).

Pygmalion Effect

The real focus of our training was on an idea called the 'Pygmalion Effect' which is based on the fact that expectations of others, and ourselves, influences how well we do. It is an idea I will be developing throughout this term but this two-minute clip is what I have shown the staff and students in my assemblies Minutespirations - The Pygmalion Effect - YouTube. Please do watch it if you can.

Meet n Eat Update from Chef

Welcome to our new students and, of course, welcome back to everyone else. We are looking forward to serving you this year and would like to let parents / carers and students know of some exciting new offers that are available!

Breakfast Club is available for all students and runs from 8.15am to 8.30am. New on the menu for breakfast, along with toast as usual, will be cereals and granola yoghurts, and when the weather gets a bit colder how about some nice warm Porridge?

To speed things up at lunchtime students will be able to order one of our 'Grab and Go' or 'Meal Deal' options. These items need to be ordered at breaktime and collected at lunchtime. The 'Grab and Go' can either be a panini or sandwich with a piece of fruit or a bag of crisps. The 'Meal Deal' includes a sandwich / wrap, a tray bake and carton of juice.

Just like our panini fillings change on a daily basis, our sandwich / wrap fillings will do the same and will be clearly displayed so that students can make a quick decision.

Of course, we will still be offering monthly themed menus throughout the year eg Festive Food Fortnight just before Christmas. We are also pleased to confirm that the 'Al Fresco' Pod will reopen next week for those students who don't want to sit in the dining hall.

We look forward to seeing you in Meet n Eat and please look out for our regular messages.

The Boost Programme By Kritigya Sherchan
Vice Principal Student, Leader for Boost and Student Ambassadors

The sixth form students on Friday were trained in the 'Boost' programme, and how to teach the programme to Year 7 students. We welcomed Imogen Staunton, Curriculum Coordinator for the Boost programme and Sharlene O'Reilly, author and creator of the research and theory underpinning the programme. 'Boost' is a programme that introduces skills to young students to help them acknowledge their emotions and actions, and ways to self-lead.

Following the training, sixth form students will be peer teaching modules to Year 7 students in their PSHE sessions. Topics include emotional awareness and self-regulation, forming healthy habits, self-compassion and being resilient. Thank you to Imogen and Sharlene for giving up their time to train us on such important skills. We look forward to sharing our knowledge with Year 7 students.





The Worse Kept Secret!

Some of you will have seen and be introduced to the owner of this paw!



NCSSFC has been investigating the idea that animal and specifically dog therapy may benefit our staff and students. This has been ongoing for a number of months before I arrived at Easter.

There is a growing body of research that shows used in the right way animals can help improve focus, attention, learning and social emotional and wellbeing outcomes.

There are some links below if you would like to read some research or information around this. I know some of our students will have come from primary schools where this is already routinely used.

We have two dogs that are being trained and this is by no means a quick task, but some will have seen a potential candidate recently around site at the start and end of the day as he gets used to his surroundings. He has been chosen as his breed is hypoallergenic and his temperament is of a nature that will be of benefit as he trains to hopefully deal with the environment and situations he will find himself in. There is training for us as a school to undertake with staff and students and this will gradually evolve over time at a pace the dog can cope with. When we are a bit further into the training, he will be introduced to you all and we will have a program of where and what he will be doing.

A risk assessment has been completed and I am aware that some may not want to be around the dog. Please be assured he will never be in 'general circulation' and no one will be forced to interact with him. He will eventually be there to help with wellbeing and specific situations.

Links:

36786 Lloyd and Sorin 2014.pdf (jcu.edu.au)

Dogs in Schools - Wellbeing and Welfare Considerations (dogsforgood.org)

A wellbeing dog for your school - should you have one and what are the benefits? (worthit.org.uk)

Animal-Assisted Therapy and its Effects on Children in Schools (stkate.edu)

The Effects of Animal Assisted Therapy on Students (sjfc.edu)

The Impact of Canine-Assisted Therapy and Activities on Children in an Educational Setting (sjfc.edu)

Final words.....

Thank you for taking time to read Newent News. I hope you have found it informative. Please do encourage your children and friends to read it as this will be used to distribute messages to you on a weekly basis.

I will be asking for feedback on this format in a couple of weeks' time. Thank you in advance for your help.

Have a restful weekend.

Mrs Dawn Burke, Principal