



NEWENT NEWS

ISSUE 31

Message from our Principal

Dear Parents, Carers, and Members of the Newent Community,

As we head into the second half of this short summer term, I want to take a moment to reflect on just how proud I am of our students and staff. Each week continues to demonstrate the strength of our HEART values – Honesty, Excellence, Accountability, Respect and Teamwork – in action across the school.

It has been a remarkably busy and enriching time for trips and wider opportunities, with our students acting as superb ambassadors wherever they go. In just the last fortnight, we've had an extraordinary four history trips, including a Year 9 and 12 visit to Bletchley Park, Year 7 visits to Goodrich Castle and Harvington Hall. This is in addition to a Year 10 taster day at Lady Margaret Hall, University of Oxford. These experiences not only bring learning to life but also build our students' cultural capital and aspirations. My sincere thanks to the staff who have made these events possible and to the students for representing Newent so well.

We're also excited to launch our "Walk of Fame" project to mark the school's 60th anniversary. We're calling on alumni to share their stories and successes since leaving Newent to help inspire the next generation. If you or someone you know would like to contribute, please do get in touch with us via: alumni@newent.gloucs.sch.uk.

In the school library, preparations are already underway for September's Year 7 Book Buzz programme. Sixteen exciting titles have been pre-ordered, offering our incoming students the opportunity to choose a free book to keep and enjoy. A big thank you to Miss Newcombe for championing reading for pleasure and always being on hand to recommend something brilliant.

Clubs and Activities

Monday, 19th May

- * Fitness (all), Gym 12.55 – 1.25pm

Tuesday, 20th May

- * MyMaths, Room 106, 12.50-1.30pm

Wednesday, 21st May

- * Y10 Herefordshire College Trip
- * Science Club, Lab G17, open to all interested in Science, 1.00pm

Thursday, 22nd May

- * Girls Football, Astro, 12.55 – 1.25pm
- * Badminton Club (All), Sports Hall 12.55pm

Friday, 23rd May

- * Basketball Club (All), 12.55pm
- * Boys Football 12.55- 1.25pm
Years 7/8 Week 1
Years 10/11 Week 2
- * Y11 Final Assembly & Y7 Guard of Honour
- * Y13 Leavers meal



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We are in a pivotal stage in the academic journey for our Year 11 and Year 13 students, as the public examinations are in full swing. This period represents a real opportunity to reap the rewards of consistent effort, and one of my most frequent messages to students is simple and clear: "Hard work pays off." This sentiment could not be more relevant than it is right now. The next few weeks are a time to showcase not only knowledge, but also character, determination, and resilience. Our staff are fully committed to supporting students, and revision sessions and interventions continue across subjects. Should you have any questions or need support, please contact Mrs Hood or Mr McCarthy.

Finally, a continued thank you to all families for your support of the mobile phone policy, which remains a real success. The impact has been striking: calmer corridors, purposeful learning, and increased engagement between students and staff. It's a collective effort, and your support at home continues to make this sustainable.

Wishing you a productive and positive week ahead.

Best wishes,

Mr Phillips

Newent Community School Walk of Fame

To celebrate the school's 60th anniversary we will be creating a walk of fame in an area of the school that displays the achievements of our alumni. As a result, we are reaching out for past Newent students who would like to share their successes since leaving Newent that would motivate and inspire our school community.

If anyone is keen to do so please contact alumni@newent.gloucs.sch.uk



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FOUR HISTORY TRIPS IN FOURTEEN DAYS

We have been busy exploring our local, and not so local area, over the last two weeks.

Year 9 & 12 trip to Bletchley Park - Tuesday 29th April (Mr Santos)

Despite a slightly earlier start, 44 Year 9 students, five Year 12 students and five staff, all made the long journey to Milton Keynes to find out more about the World War Two code-breaking operations at Bletchley Park.

Bletchley Park is an English country house and estate that became the principal centre of Allied code-breaking during the Second World War. During the war, the estate housed the Government Code and Cypher School (GC&CS), which regularly penetrated the secret communications of the Axis Powers (Germany, Italy and Japan) – most importantly the German Enigma and Lorenz ciphers. The team at Bletchley Park devised automatic machinery to help with decryption, culminating in the development of Colossus, the world's first programmable digital electronic computer. Codebreaking operations at Bletchley Park came to an end in 1946 and all information about the wartime operations was classified until the mid-1970s. Today, and throughout the "Cold War" such intelligence gathering operations are carried out at the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) in Cheltenham.

We arrived at exactly the right time to be dropped off and the party was then split into two groups, which then attended all of the same events at different points in the day. There was a guided tour of the estate, which was very useful as an overview. There was a one-hour workshop on code-breaking and its connections with the Battle of the Atlantic, as well as time to visit the many former "huts" where the code breakers worked and other exhibition rooms. Time spent in the museum's shop was also particularly welcome! The Learning Team at Bletchley Park managed the whole process for us, and despite there being eight other schools there on the day, our paths rarely crossed - a very slick operation indeed.

Overall, this was an excellent experience and the students are to be commended for their attention,



engagement and good behaviour throughout the day. Many thanks to the staff involved - Ms Dufour for stepping in at the last minute, Mrs Evans, Mrs Smith and Miss Prior-Smith.



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Year 7 trips to Goodrich Castle -Thursday 1st May (Mr Woodward) & Friday 2nd May (Mr Yorath-Walsh)

Ninety of our Year 7 students visited this English Heritage site over the course of these two days. The students learned about the next stage of castle development, as the Normans quickly replaced their original motte and bailey castles with far sturdier stone-built versions from the 1100s onwards. Goodrich Castle is the perfect example of "what came next". The students were given a two-hour tour of the main parts of the castle, and time was made for a visit to the gift shop. All students behaved well and represented the school in the best possible light. Our thanks also go to Mr Hussain, Mrs Smith, Mr Careless and Miss Prior-Smith for their support on one of the days.





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Year 7 trip to Harvington Hall - Monday 12th May

In our tenth trip of the year, 38 Year 7 students, visited Harvington Hall near Kidderminster, which is an old moated residence dating back to the later Middle Ages. The house was fully occupied during Tudor times but was then left uninhabited from the early 1600s until it was bought in the 1920s; therefore it still retains the majority of its Tudor features. During the reign of Elizabeth I, Catholic priests were not allowed to perform services within the community and so these were carried out in secret. Various ingenious ways were used to hide such priests from arrest and the students were much impressed with these. Before lunch, the three groups did a carousel of workshops on Tudor "mystery objects", priest hides and the Tudor kitchen, all of which were much enjoyed. After lunch there was a guided tour of the house, which is particularly famous for its priest hides. I was very pleased with the behaviour of the group and give my thanks to the students for their excellent attitude and behaviour throughout the day; and also to Mr Yorath-Walsh, Mrs Smith and Miss Prior-Smith for their help during the day.





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Library News - Book Buzz Titles Announced

It is a way off until September, but we like to be organised here in the school library and have pre-ordered the 16 Book Buzz titles and here they are!

Come September, the new Year 7 students will have the very exciting opportunity to choose from one of these books to keep (for free), as part of the Book Trust's "Book Buzz" scheme!

One of the books, *Fallout* by Lesley Parr, is also one of this year's Carnegie Medal Award contenders and is a book our school Librarian, Miss Newcombe has enjoyed reading. Another book in the selection, *Safiyyah's War* by Hiba Noor Khan was last year's Carnegie contender and is another recommended read.

Miss Newcombe now has the enjoyable task of reading the rest of these titles ahead of September. Happily offering recommendations to new and existing students, as ever.

The Library is open every day from 08:00-3.30pm.





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Year 10 Trip to University of Oxford

On Tuesday of this week a group of Year 10 students spent the day at Lady Margaret Hall, University of Oxford for a taster day. The day began with a talk from the outreach team on the university application process and the super-curricular activities the students can do to support their applications. This was followed an academic taster session in either history or mathematics and a tour of the campus. After a lovely lunch in the catering hall, we finished the day with a question-and-answer session with current undergraduates who shared their experience of the application process and university life. The students were excellent ambassadors from the school and further developed their understanding of the pathway to university.





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For information or queries about your young person and school please do contact their tutor in the first instance.

For other queries please use the emails below:

General Enquires	reception@newent.gloucs.sch.uk
Attendance and Absence Queries	attendance@newent.gloucs.sch.uk
Safeguarding Queries	dsl@newent.gloucs.sch.uk
Finance Queries	finance@newent.gloucs.sch.uk
Bus Pass Queries	buspass@newent.gloucs.sch.uk
Data protection Queries	dpo@newent.gloucs.sch.uk