



NEWENT NEWS

ISSUE 36

Message from our Principal

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff,

As we approach the final days of the summer term, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on some of the extraordinary moments that have defined life at Newent Community School in recent weeks.

Creativity and Inclusion at the Heart of Our Work

Our recent Art Showcase was a triumph, a vibrant celebration of talent, vision and collaboration. From the gallery of student artwork to the live music performances, it was a wonderful reminder that every child matters and every child can create. The Anti-Racism Week initiative was another powerful example of our values in action, providing pupils with meaningful opportunities to reflect, engage and take a stand for inclusion and equality.

Celebrating Success: Achievement Evening 2025

Our annual Achievement Evening was a true highlight. It was a pleasure to recognise students from across the year groups for their academic success, personal progress and contribution to school life. The atmosphere was one of pride and celebration, and I was particularly moved by the range of accomplishments and the support shown by families, staff and peers. These moments capture the very best of what Newent stands for.

Beyond the Classroom: Trips and Enrichment

Learning didn't stop at the school gates this term. Our Biology and Geography students explored the Welsh coastline in Aberystwyth, developing fieldwork skills and collecting vital coursework data. Meanwhile, our Drama students soaked up the culture (and the West End sparkle) in London, and our Historians stepped back in time aboard the SS Great Britain in Bristol. Thank you to all staff who made these unforgettable experiences possible.

Clubs and Activities

Monday, 14th July

- * Yr10 Geography Field Trip
- * Fitness (all), Gym 12.55 – 1.25pm

Tuesday, 15th July

- * Yr10/11 Paris Trip (Tues-Sat)
- * MyMaths, Room 106, 12.50-1.30pm
- * Cricket club, all years, Astro
- * Tennis Club, Yr7/8

Wednesday, 16th July

- * Science Club, Lab G17, open to all interested in Science, 1.00pm
- * After school rounders club, all years, 3.20 - 4.20pm

Thursday, 17th July

- * Girls Football, Astro, 12.55 – 1.25pm
- * Badminton Club (All), Sports Hall 12.55pm
- * SEN Yr6 Transition afternoon, 11-3.30pm

Friday, 18th July

- * End of term 6: School finishes at 1.30



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A Green-Fingered Summer

Thanks to generous donations from the community, our polytunnel and garden spaces are in bloom once more. Students have been enjoying the rewards of their work, harvesting tomatoes, cucumbers and more. It's been fantastic to see sustainability and wellbeing go hand in hand.

Looking Ahead

Excitement is already building for our whole-school musical *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Auditions take place in September, and we encourage as many students as possible to get involved, on stage or behind the scenes. As always, we are proud of the way our pupils represent the HEART values in all that they do.

End of Term Arrangements

A reminder that school finishes at lunchtime on **Friday 18th July**, with all buses departing from site at **1.30pm**. Please ensure appropriate arrangements are made for your child's journey home.

Finally, thank you for continuing to prioritise attendance, particularly by avoiding holidays in term time. Every lesson matters, and your support is deeply appreciated.

Let's finish this term strong. Wishing everyone a happy, safe and sunny end to the academic year.

Best wishes

Rhys Phillips
Acting Principal



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Attendance Matters - 2025/26 Term Times

At Newent Community School, we are incredibly grateful to our parents and carers who continue to support our students by avoiding holidays during term time. Your commitment to your child's education is deeply appreciated and makes a real difference.

Why Attendance Matters

Every day in school counts. According to the Department for Education, pupils with no absence are 1.5 times more likely to achieve five or more GCSEs at grades 4–9 (including English and Maths) than those who miss 10–15% of school. Even short absences can disrupt learning, reduce confidence, and impact long-term outcomes. Remember, every day lost accounts for six missed lessons that cannot be replaced.

Living Our HEART Values: Accountability

By planning holidays outside of term time, you are demonstrating one of our core HEART values: Accountability. This means taking responsibility for your child's learning and understanding the vital role that attendance plays in their success. It also means working in partnership with the school to ensure every student has the best chance to thrive.

Plan Ahead: Term Dates and Holidays

We encourage all families to refer to our 2025–2026 Term Dates when planning holidays. There are 170 days in the year outside of term time—ample opportunity to enjoy a break without compromising your child's education.

Miss Gordelier
Vice Principal

SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS 2025/26



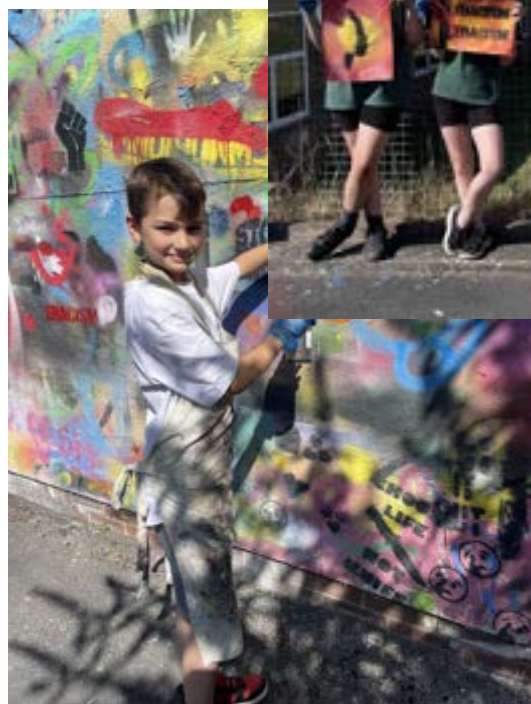
SEPTEMBER 2025			OCTOBER			NOVEMBER		
Mon	1	8 15 22 29	Mon	6 13 20 27	Mon	3 10 17 24		
Tues	2	9 16 23 30	Tues	7 14 21 28	Tues	4 11 18 25		
Wed	3	10 17 24	Wed	1 8 15 22 29	Wed	5 12 19 26		
Thur	4	11 18 25	Thur	2 9 16 23 30	Thur	6 13 20 27		
Fri	5	12 19 26	Fri	3 10 17 24 31	Fri	7 14 21 28		
Sat	6	13 20 27	Sat	4 11 18 25	Sat	1 8 15 22 29		
Sun	7	14 21 28	Sun	5 12 19 26	Sun	2 9 16 23 30		
DECEMBER			JANUARY 2026			FEBRUARY		
Mon	1	8 15 22 29	Mon	5 12 19 26	Mon	2 9 16 23		
Tues	2	9 16 23 30	Tues	6 13 20 27	Tues	3 10 17 24		
Wed	3	10 17 24 31	Wed	7 14 21 28	Wed	4 11 18 25		
Thur	4	11 18 25	Thur	8 15 22 29	Thur	5 12 19 26		
Fri	5	12 19 26	Fri	2 9 16 23 30	Fri	6 13 20 27		
Sat	6	13 20 27	Sat	3 10 17 24 31	Sat	7 14 21 28		
Sun	7	14 21 28	Sun	4 11 18 25	Sun	1 8 15 22		
MARCH			APRIL			MAY		
Mon	2	9 16 23 30 31	Mon	6 13 20 27	Mon	5 12 19 26		
Tues	3	10 17 24 31	Tues	7 14 21 28	Tues	6 13 20 27		
Wed	4	11 18 25	Wed	1 8 15 22 29	Wed	7 14 21 28		
Thur	5	12 19 26	Thur	2 9 16 23 30	Thur	1 8 15 22 29		
Fri	6	13 20 27	Fri	3 10 17 24	Fri	2 9 16 23 30		
Sat	7	14 21 28	Sat	4 11 18 25	Sat	3 10 17 24 31		
Sun	1	8 15 22 29	Sun	5 12 19 26	Sun			
JUNE			JULY			AUGUST		
Mon	1	8 15 22 29	Mon	6 13 20 27	Mon	3 10 17 24		
Tues	2	9 16 23 30	Tues	7 14 21 28	Tues	4 11 18 25		
Wed	3	10 17 24	Wed	1 8 15 22 29	Wed	5 12 19 26		
Thur	4	11 18 25	Thur	2 9 16 23 30	Thur	6 13 20 27		
Fri	5	12 19 26	Fri	3 10 17 24 31	Fri	7 14 21 28		
Sat	6	13 20 27	Sat	4 11 18 25	Sat	1 8 15 22 29		
Sun	7	14 21 28	Sun	5 12 19 26	Sun	2 9 16 23 30		
Term Time			Holidays			Bank Holiday		
Bank Holiday			Inset Days					
Term 1: Mon 1 st Sept – Fri 24 th Oct 2025			40 days			Christmas Bank Holidays		
Term 2: Mon 3 rd Nov – Fri 19 th Dec 2025			35 days			25 th December 2025		
Term 3: Mon 5 th Jan – Fri 13 th Feb 2026			30 days			26 th December 2025		
Term 4: Mon 23 rd Feb – Fri 27 th Mar 2026			25 days			1 st January 2026		
Term 5: Mon 13 th April – Fri 22 nd May 2026			29 days			Good Friday		
Term 6: Mon 1 st June – Mon 20 th July 2026			36 days			Easter Monday		
Total			195 days*			Early May Bank Holiday		
						25 th May 2026		
						Spring Bank Holiday		
						31 st August 2026		
						Summer Bank Holiday		

*195 days are defined as "School days". In the school year 2025/26 pupils must attend for 190 days. Schools may decide individually or collectively which 5 days in the year are INSET or non-contact days (days pupils do not need to attend). Academies and free schools are not legally bound by school day and school year regulations, however, the DfE has stated they should be working towards a minimum of 32.5 hours per school week by September 2024 at the latest.

Please Note: As per the Governance handbook, academies and free schools can choose to set their own term dates. Schools considering alternative dates or considering changes to their school opening times may wish to contact our Transport Team to discuss transport implications and contact local childcare providers to discuss what impact this could have.

Spray Painting Workshop

Our anti-racism spray painting workshop during last night's art showcase was a great success! Students of all ages demonstrated great skill working with our water-based spray paint. It was lovely to see young people helping to raise awareness and address an important concern.





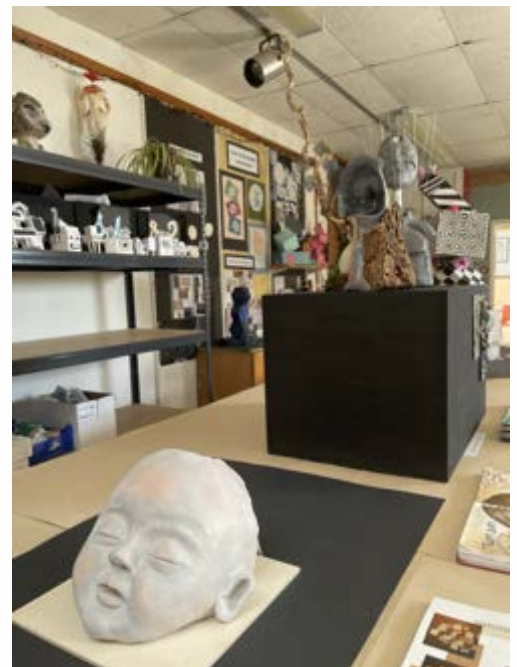
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Art Showcase 2025

Thank you to everyone who visited our Art Showcase last night. We take tremendous pride in displaying the work of our talented students. If you didn't get a chance to see the exhibition here are some glimpses of the outstanding creativity and diversity here at Newent!

Every child matters and every child can create!



More pictures on the next page...



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Biology & Geography Field Trip

The Yr 12 Biology and Geography fieldtrip to Aberystwyth University took place this week from Monday to Wednesday. The Biologists focused on exploring zonation along the shoreline, examining how species composition and structure vary with tidal conditions. They studied how different organisms are adapted to survive at low and high tide, contributing valuable data for their core practical write-up, due before the end of term. This work will also be directly assessed in the A level Biology examination.

Meanwhile, the Geographers were investigating how to carry out a piece of physical and human field-work: for the physical piece, we evaluated the effectiveness of current coastal management schemes and for the second, explored the impact of tourism on the town. These studies offered real-world insights to help shape their own independent fieldwork projects over the summer—worth 20% of their final A level grade.

Both groups joined together on the last day to study ecological succession in sand dunes, analysing how plant species and landforms evolve over time.

There was also a little free time for enjoying the University facilities and getting an insight into life on campus. The students represented our school values exceptionally well and were suitably sleepy on the minibus home after all the hard work, sunshine and ice creams!





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Anti Racism Week

This week, Newent Community School held its inaugural Anti-Racism Week, a dedicated initiative aimed at raising awareness, promoting critical reflection, and fostering a culture of inclusion and equality within our school community.

Throughout the week, pupils participated in PSHE education sessions focused on developing an understanding of unconscious bias, exploring the harmful impact of racist and dehumanising language, and learning constructive strategies to identify and challenge racism in all its forms. Each department made a meaningful contribution by incorporating into their curriculum the work and achievements of individuals from ethnic minority backgrounds who have made significant contributions to their respective subject areas.

The Art Department curated impactful displays, and a considerable amount of pupils' work demonstrated a mature and thoughtful engagement with the themes explored. In tutor time, pupils were provided with safe and supportive opportunities to discuss the issues raised, ask questions, and reflect on the role each of us plays in building an inclusive school environment.

As a symbol of our collective commitment, all members of the school community have signed an Anti-Racism Pledge, affirming that Newent Community School does not tolerate prejudice, discrimination, or dehumanising language in any form.

While this marks an important milestone, it is only the beginning. We remain resolute in our aim to become an actively anti-racist institution, and we will continue to embed this commitment into the fabric of school life moving forward.



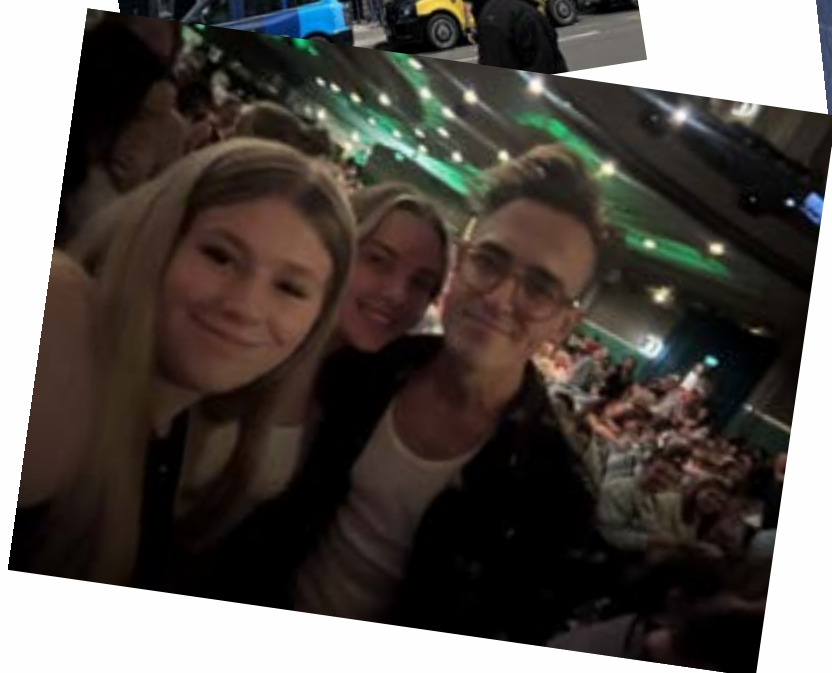
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Drama London Trip 2025

Earlier this week the Drama Department went on their annual tour to London. Highlights this year included The London Dungeons, shopping in Covent Garden, a theatre workshop at The Globe, dinner at The Hard Rock Cafe, sights such as Buckingham Palace and Big Ben and both 'Mamma Mia' and 'Wicked'. We even spotted Tom from McFly! The students were constantly praised for their attitude and behaviour and upheld every one of our HEART values. We are incredibly grateful to all the students and staff who made this year's tour simply ... Wicked!

Planning is already underway for our 2025-2026 Drama trips with 2026 tour letters available in September.





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History Trip - SS Great Britain

On Monday, 50 Year students travelled south to Bristol to visit an iconic ship, the SS Great Britain. The SS Great Britain was a ground-breaking British ship, renowned as the world's first screw-propelled, ocean-going, iron-hulled vessel. Designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel, it launched in 1843 and played a significant role in maritime history, serving as a transatlantic liner, an emigrant clipper, a troop ship, and even a cargo vessel before becoming a coal storage ship in the Falkland Islands. Eventually, it was salvaged and returned to Bristol, where it now serves as a museum ship. On arrival we were split into two groups, each of which did a tour of the ship and a workshop on some of the passengers who travelled on the ship at various points in its history, and for various reasons. After lunch we had ample time to visit the shop, which was much enjoyed by all. This was the first time that we have ran this trip and I will definitely be looking to do so again for our current Year 7s. All of the students behaved well and I thank those other staff involved for their support - Mr Hussain, Mrs Smith and Mr Brabham.

Mr I Woodward
Head of History





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Its time to start reaping the benefits

At Newent, we are privileged have an enormous polytunnel and outside vegetable/flower beds, where some of our students often spend time planting, digging, weeding etc.

Earlier in the year, I put out a request for some plants as we had not had time to sow any seeds and the Polytunnel was empty and looking rather neglected.

Thanks to our lovely community, the school were gifted lots of vegetable plants for the students to grow.

Today, we were lucky enough to start harvesting some of the ripening crop. So far we have a few tomatoes, courgettes and cucumbers Peppers and Chillies are coming on nicely.

Carrol Gough
Higher Level Teaching Assistant





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Thank you!

A big thank you to the wonderful musicians who played during our Art Showcase last night: James Davis Y9, Mia Pain Y8, Andreea-Maria B Y8 and Bill Anderton & friend. The art team would also like to thank Mrs Hooper for organising this - we love working with our music department and bringing the arts together!





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CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY - CAST AND CREW NEEDED

In February 2026 our whole school musical will be 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' and we would love as many of you as possible to be involved.

CREW

If you would like to work backstage on our show helping with lighting, sound, props, costume or publicity please send an e-mail to mhood@newent.gloucs.sch.uk. In your e-mail be really clear about which area you would like to work in and why you feel you are suitable for that role. Including a picture of a duck or ducks (our crew mascot) in your application would also be hugely appreciated.

CAST

Before the summer collect a script from G15 which you can then take come and read. You then need to choose a section, of no longer than 2 minutes, that you would like to perform in the audition. This 2 minutes may include dialogue, a song, a dance or even all 3. You have the choice to audition alone (we will read in any other lines at the audition) or in a group. Auditions will be held after-school on the 9th, 10th and 11th of September and you will be able to sign up to the day that is best for you. You must then be available for Wednesday after-school rehearsals every week with key roles also needed on occasional Fridays after the October half term break.

Thank you for being a part of our Drama Family - we can't wait to create a world of imagination.

Mrs. Hood
Head of Drama





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LIBRARY NOTICE:

Please can all items of lost property be collected from the library by Wednesday 16th July. Any uniform left after that time will be given to the school's preloved shop and non-uniform donated to charity.

Please can all overdue books be returned to the library before the summer holidays!





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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