



NEWENT NEWS

ISSUE 10

Message from our Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

Students returned to school at the start of the summer term and have made a fantastic start. We began the term with assemblies for all year groups. Our Year 11 and Sixth Form assemblies focused on preparing for the upcoming exam season, while students in the rest of the school were thanked for the many positive steps they made last term, both in lessons, around the school, and within the wider community. We thoroughly enjoyed celebrating students' achievements in our end-of-term House Celebration Assemblies. Well done to all students for their successes, and we hope those with outstanding attendance enjoyed their well earned Easter eggs.

At the start of this term, assemblies were used to revisit some key reminders. Students were reminded of our HEART values: Honesty, Excellence, Accountability, Respect and Teamwork and our teaching and learning priorities, including the Newent 3, which support our shared commitment to excellence in the classroom and in outcomes. We also discussed the importance of student voice and the changes we continue to make to help students feel comfortable and supported in school. This includes adjustments to the Key Stage 3 homework timetable, as well as the introduction of a one-way system and a 'walk on the left' approach in certain areas of the school to promote calm and purposeful movement.

From next week, students in Years 7,8 and 9 will be set Maths, English and Science homework every week as per the table below:

Year Group	Day	Subject	Time Allocation
Years 7 & 8	Monday	Maths	Up to 30 minutes
	Tuesday	English	Up to 30 minutes
	Wednesday	Science	Up to 30 minutes
Year 9	Monday	Maths	Up to 45 minutes
	Tuesday	English	Up to 45 minutes
	Wednesday	Science	Up to 45 minutes

Clubs and Activities

**Housepoint of the Week
For w/c 20th April**

Answering Questions

Monday 20th April

* Theatre Film Club - 1pm in G7

Tuesday 21st April

* Duke of Edinburgh Break & Lunch in Library

Wednesday 22nd April

* Yr10 Art Trip
* Hartpury College Sports Taster Day
* Yr9 Woman in Black at Bristol Old Vic

Thursday 23rd April

* GCSE Drama Performance Examinations

Friday 24th April



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This homework will be set with our 3 online packages:

Maths - Sparx Maths - <https://sparxmaths.com/>

English - Sparx Reader - <https://sparxreader.com/>

Science - Educake - <https://my.educake.co.uk/student-login>

Students use their normal school log in to access these sites. The key reason I am making this change is in response to comments from students and parents. This will be providing a regular and consistent expectation for our students. Through this new policy we are aiming to:

- Build confidence through manageable, predictable tasks
- Strengthen recall and retrieval of prior learning
- Make sustained progress in achievement and outcomes
- Develop independent study habits for future education
- Demonstrate excellence and accountability

We will be staffing IT rooms at lunchtime Monday - Wednesday next week with our fantastic Teaching Assistants to ensure students can be supported to complete this valuable additional learning. I really appreciate your support with this.

Our value of Teamwork was highlighted through reminders of the wide range of support available to students. This includes our Pastoral Support Officers, Student Welfare and Medical Officer, mentors, counsellors, and pastoral teams, including tutors, who work together to support students' wellbeing and success. We were particularly pleased to thank students for the excellent improvements seen this year in both attendance and punctuality. Following our focus on punctuality last term, we are seeing prompter starts to lessons and strong engagement in start of lesson retrieval activities. Activities that will help our young people to recall the essential knowledge that they will require.

Students were reminded of our expectations regarding organisation and equipment. All students should bring a bag to school every day, with mobile phones switched off and kept in the bottom of their bag if they have one. Support was offered to students who need help with organisation, and students were reminded to bring a complete pencil case and a calculator each day. We also reinforced our rules regarding prohibited items, including vapes, alcohol, drugs and weapons, and explained the serious impact that bringing these items into school can have on a student's future education. Uniform expectations were also revisited, including wearing blazers correctly at all times and following rules around make-up and jewellery, as students represent the school as part of one team.

Looking ahead, we shared some of the exciting opportunities coming up this term, including House and school rounders, cricket and athletics, alongside a wide range of trips, such as the Year 9 camp. We wished Year 8 students all the best for their upcoming work shadowing day and thanked them in advance for the way they will represent the school in our local community. It is always wonderful to receive such positive feedback for our young people following work experience opportunities.

Finally, and most importantly, we thanked all students for the support they will show our Year 11 and Year 13 students during the current exam season. Our exam year students continue to work exceptionally hard and demonstrate our HEART values every day, and we wish them every success over the coming weeks and months.

Warm regards,

Mr B Dumayne

Headteacher



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Staffing Updates:

Staffing updates for our school community:



Newent Community School & Sixth Form Centre

Staffing Updates

Miss Gordelier

Deputy Headteacher
(Behaviour, Safeguarding)

Mrs Taylor

Associate Assistant Headteacher
(Attendance, Behaviour)

Mr Britten

Associate Assistant Headteacher
(T+L, CPD, Admissions)

Mr Yorath-Walsh

Head of Mountbatten House



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Attendance Matters:

Why Holidays Should Be Taken Outside of Term Time

At Newent Community school, we work in partnership with our families to ensure every child has the best possible education. One key way you can support this is by booking family holidays outside of term time. Taking time off during the school term can significantly disrupt learning. Essential end of unit tests, assessments and learning reviews continue right up to the final day of the summer term, and pupils who are absent may miss vital teaching and opportunities to demonstrate their progress.

Our approach is guided by our HEART values:

- Honesty – Ensuring attendance records accurately reflect a child's learning time
- Excellence – Maximising every learning opportunity so pupils can achieve their best
- Accountability – Helping children build good habits and responsibility for attendance
- Respect – Valuing the learning time of every pupil and the work of teaching staff
- Teamwork – Working together as a school community to support success for all

In line with Department for Education (DfE) guidance, Gloucestershire County Council may issue a Fixed Penalty Notice to parents for unauthorised term time absences. While fines are part of national attendance regulations, we want to be clear that our school does not wish to fine families. Our priority is always support, communication and working together to avoid this situation wherever possible.

We kindly ask all families to refer to the school term times document when planning holidays and to avoid booking breaks during term time. By doing so, you help your child stay fully engaged in learning and support high standards of attendance across our school. Please find below links to Term Dates.

[Newent-2025-2026-Term-Dates.pdf](#)

[Term-Dates-26-27.pdf](#)

Thank you for your continued support and for being part of our team.

Miss Gordelier
Acting Deputy Headteacher and DSL



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Geography News:

Year 12 Geography Trip – University of Gloucestershire (Wednesday 15 April)

Year 12 geographers visited the University of Gloucestershire for a GIS (Geographical Information Systems) study day focused on supporting their NEA coursework. Students took part in a series of engaging sessions led by university lecturers and geography specialists.

The day began with Dr Ceri Davies, lecturer in Physical Geography, who introduced how ArcGIS can be used for mapping, data input and basic spatial analysis, helping students build confidence using GIS. Students had a practical tutorial to try some of the software. Using GIS is important because it strengthens both the quality of analysis and the academic standard of the investigation.

This was followed by Peter Vujakovic, Emeritus Professor of Geography, who explored historic Land Utilisation Surveys of Britain, showing how GIS can be used to investigate change over time.

Graeme Schofield from Oak National Academy then demonstrated how GIS helps us understand the wider using spatial context of places and issues by layering data and identifying patterns using Gloucester and Sheffield as case studies.

The day concluded with Professor Kenny Lynch, Professor of Development and Community, who highlighted the growing importance of “green skills”, explaining how Geography plays a key role in addressing global and local environmental challenges.

Students also had the opportunity to see the university’s facilities, giving them a useful insight into degree-level study and potential future pathways in Geography.



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PE News:

Rugby Tournament

Fantastic teamwork and sportsmanship was displayed by the U12s, U14s and U16s throughout all games. Their effort and determination was phenomenal from start to finish. Extremely tough weather conditions to play in but the girls powered through. Special mention to the U12s coming 3rd overall. They would've played a semi-final but weather stopped play.

The girls played six different schools in total. Such an amazing opportunity for them to take part in.





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Literacy News:

Lucky Dip Book Giveaway

At the start of May, students who have shown excellence in their approach to tutorial reading during the first three weeks of term will be invited to take part in our Lucky Dip Book Event.

Those selected will have the exciting opportunity to choose a free book from an amazing selection generously donated by the charity Read for Good

Keep reading, keep striving and keep enjoying books!

