



NEWENT NEWS

ISSUE 15

Message from our Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another fantastic week at school, with almost every student taking part in either in-class assessments, their first GCSE-style examinations, or their real GCSE and A-level examinations.

Year 12 students have also been completing formal examinations in preparation for next year. I cannot commend the behaviour, engagement and effort of every single student highly enough. Equally, I would like to recognise the dedication, commitment and hard work of our teaching and support staff, who have worked tirelessly to prepare our young people for these important assessments.

Year 10 students, you have adapted to the examination routine incredibly quickly, and we are extremely impressed with the maturity and resilience you have shown. This experience will provide excellent preparation for your end-of-year examinations next year.

Our Year 11 students sat their penultimate examinations today, with their final GCSE examination, Physics, taking place on Monday. We sincerely hope that all the hard work and determination shown by our students, staff and families is reflected in the summer results for both Year 11 and Year 13.

Yesterday was a day of "Newent New", as I described it on social media. We welcomed the new members of staff who will be joining us in September, as well as our new Year 6 families who are preparing to become part of our school community. It was a hugely positive and exciting day, and I look forward to sharing more information about our new staff team next week.

You may also have noticed that I recently shared three infographics on social media highlighting the key areas of focus that have driven our work since September. These showcase:

- * Our journey to improve teaching and learning.
- * Our commitment to embedding a culture of reading and literacy.
- * The significant improvements we have made to ensure we meet the needs of all learners.

I have included these graphics below for those who may not yet follow the school on Facebook.

Clubs and Activities

Housepoint of the Week For w/c 15th June

Camp and Work Experience

Monday 15th June

- * External GCSE and A Level exams continue
- * Year 9 Camp begins - Group 1
- * Year 10 Work Experience begins
- * Year 12 progression week begins

Tuesday 16th June

- * Duke of Edinburgh Break & Lunch in Library
- * Year 12 Mock Interviews

Wednesday 17th June

- * Duke of Edinburgh Break & Lunch in Library
- *Year 9 Camp - Group 2

Thursday 18th June

Friday 19th June

- * Newent Community Day



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Looking ahead, we have another exciting week planned. Year 9 students will be attending camp in two groups, while Year 10 and Year 12 students will be undertaking work experience placements throughout the week. Year 11 and Year 13 students will be completing their final days with us, and our Year 7 students will be participating in Community Day next Friday.

School will certainly feel quieter next week; however, please be assured that, when not supporting students on these various activities and opportunities, our staff will be working hard behind the scenes to prepare for another successful academic year.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I hope you all have a wonderful weekend.

Warm regards

Mr B Dumayne
Headteacher

OUR JOURNEY TO MEET THE NEEDS OF ALL LEARNERS

Our commitment to inclusive education drives everything we do. Here is our journey throughout the year to ensure we meet the needs of all learners.

- TERM 1**
 - New HLTA specialisms launched:
 - SEMh provision (ELSA and TheraBuild and our in-house EBSNA programme)
 - EAL provision (Learning Village)
 - Literacy (Lexia and Fresh Start)
- TERM 2**
 - Reviewed our SEN register and launched pupil profiles - ensuring teachers know the needs of all students
 - Strengthened the SEN team, by appointing a SEN assistant who acts as first point of contact for many of our SEN parents
- TERM 3**
 - New SEN leadership with the appointment of Mrs Brown as Assistant Headteacher/Senco
 - Adaptive teaching strategies and launch of Teacher files (including learning walks to triangulate)
 - Commissioned SALT - Speech Den, to improve our communication and interaction provision
 - Launched our Social Skills interventions
 - Launched our Handwriting interventions
 - Strengthened our working relationship with Advisory Teacher Service, Educational Psychologist and Hospital Education
- TERM 4**
 - Launch of Teaching Assistant folders to see clear evidence of joined-up practice, with teachers and TAs working collaboratively to deliver consistent support that reflects the needs of individual learners and the strategies identified within their profiles
 - Built our support provision network including work with Forest Wild Ones, TMS, SkyLarks, B2 Mentoring, Bridge Training Academy
- TERM 5**
 - Upskilled our TAs to deliver targeted SALT interventions
- TERM 6**
 - Reviewing and planning changes to SEN offer (i.e. PLC) and curriculum next year to build on the strong foundations in primary

Every learner. Every opportunity. Every day.

- INCLUSION** We value every individual.
- COLLABORATION** We work together for our learners.
- AMBITION** We aim high for everyone.

OUR FOCUS ON LITERACY
Building confident readers. Developing strong thinkers. Achieving excellence.

AUTUMN TERM

- Whole school tutor group reading programme
- Reading age assessment data taken
- Students categorised
- Teaching strategies to support students in lessons created

SPRING TERM

- Development of the Newent Canon
- Midpoint reading age assessment data collected
- Start of Sparx Reader in KS3

SUMMER TERM

- Start of the "Next Chapter" Literacy Award in English
- Newent Canon display and book vending machine
- Creation of Category 3 Year Group profiles in teacher files

READ. THINK. UNDERSTAND. ACHIEVE.

- High expectations
- Inclusive practice
- Strong relationships

Literacy is at the heart of everything we do.

Every lesson. Every learner. Every day.

OUR JOURNEY IN TEACHING AND LEARNING
Working together to ensure EXCELLENT TEACHING. EVERY LEARNER.

TERM 1

- BUILDING CONSISTENCY OF WHOLE SCHOOL PRACTICES**
Establishing a shared foundation so every learner can succeed.
- RETRIEVAL STARTER**
To embed learning and assess recall of knowledge.
- CONSOLIDATION TECHNIQUES**
Strengthening learning through effective consolidation strategies.
- TEACHING FOR EACH LEARNER**
Adopting strategies to meet the needs of all learners.

TERM 2

- DRIVING QUALITY OF TEACHING AND LEARNING**
Focusing on the Newent 3 – elements of high quality teaching.
- THE NEWENT 3**
CHECKING FOR UNDERSTANDING, INSTRUCTION EXPLAINING & MODELLING, EXCELLENT TEACHING, EVALUATION
- PLANNING & ADAPTATION**
- Focus on modelling and scaffolding.
- Creation of teacher files with bespoke strategies to meet the needs of all learners.

TERM 3

- EMBEDDING PRACTICE THROUGH THE NEWENT 3**
Embedding excellence and ensuring all learners thrive.
- SUPPORTING LITERACY**
Additional focus on supporting students with literacy in lessons and across the curriculum.
- EMBEDDING PRACTICE**
Consistent use of the Newent 3 to secure high-quality teaching and learning.

OUR PURPOSE: CHALLENGE. SUPPORT. ACHIEVE.

- High expectations.
- Inclusive practice.
- Strong relationships.



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Why Routine and Sleep Matter - Attendance, Behaviour, Focus and Outcomes

At our school, our HEART values guide everything we do. One key factor that supports all of these is something simple but powerful: good sleep and a consistent routine.

Why Mondays Can Be Tricky:

We often notice that some students struggle to focus on Mondays. This is usually linked to changes in routine over the weekend, such as later bedtimes and increased screen time. When sleep patterns change, children can find it harder to concentrate, manage emotions and engage in learning. Research shows that lack of sleep affects attention, behaviour and academic performance.

The Impact of Screens and Gaming

Evening screen use, especially gaming, can make this worse. Studies show that:

- Screens make the brain more alert and delay sleep
- Blue light from devices disrupts natural sleep cycles
- Gaming late at night can keep children awake longer

Many studies have found a strong link between screen use and poorer sleep quality in children.

Why Sleep Matters

Children need:

- 9–11 hours (primary age)
- 8–10 hours (teenagers)

Good sleep helps with focus, behaviour, wellbeing and learning.

Healthy routines help students:

- Show Excellence in their learning
- Take Accountability for their habits
- Show Respect for their wellbeing
- Work in Teamwork with families and school

What Families Can Do

Keep regular bedtimes - even at weekends
Turn off screens 30–60 minutes before bed
Keep devices out of bedrooms overnight
Limit late-night gaming

We know that by having good routines and good sleep that our children are more likely to thrive and achieve well.



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Geography Careers Week:

Last week, students explored why Geography is becoming one of the most important subjects for the future, and how the skills they learn in lessons today will prepare them for tomorrow's green careers.

With the UK expecting over 200,000 new green-skilled workers in the next three years, and 1 in 5 jobs set to be "green jobs" by 2030, our students discovered how Geography places them right at the heart of this change.

We explored the fast-growing green economy, from renewable energy and conservation to smart cities and flood resilience and how Geography gives them the skills to thrive in these areas.

They looked at the Top 5 Geography Skills employers want and how they have used in lessons across the year groups, from Year 7 local fieldwork to Year 13 coastal studies.

- Understanding how places work
- Using maps and digital GIS tools
- Making sense of data
- Solving real-world problems
- Fieldwork and investigation

Here are some reflections from students during the week:

"I didn't realise how many future jobs link to Geography, it actually makes the subject feel really important." - Year 9

"I liked seeing how climate change, cities and energy all connect. It made me think about what I might want to do in the future." - Year 7

"Learning about rivers and coasts made me realise people actually get paid to protect places like this." - Year 8

"I didn't realise how many jobs use data from Geography, it's not just maps, it's analysing patterns and solving problems." - Year 10

Year 12 have been hands-on with soil analysis today, comparing samples and discussing how soil types influence food production across the world.





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Sixth Form News:

Sixth Form Leadership Team

Following the application and interview process, we are delighted to introduce our Sixth Form Student Leadership Team for the next academic year. Each student has been allocated an area of responsibility and focus, and over the coming weeks we will be introducing each member in Newent News.

We are pleased to begin by introducing our Head Students, James and Naomi.

Naomi:

How long have you been at Newent?

I've been at Newent since Year 7

Describe Newent Sixth Form in three words?

Community – Everyone supports one another, creating a welcoming and friendly environment.

Engaging – Lessons are interesting, stimulating, and rewarding.

Enjoyable – There are plenty of opportunities to spend time with friends and take part in fun events, such as the Quiz Night and Winter Ball, which bring the whole Sixth Form together.

What have you been involved with during your time at Newent?

In lower school I was involved in many sports teams as well as being girls football and cricket captain. I also completed the bronze and silver Duke of Edinburgh Award and am now working my way through Gold after doing an arctic expedition in Norway in February of this year.

What are your plans for the future and what made you pursue this path?

In the future I would like to do a degree in biology or forensic psychology and then travel the world.

James:

How long have you been at Newent?

Since Year 7 so that's 6 years now!

Describe Newent Sixth Form in three words?

Fun – There are many activities to get involved in at Newent Sixth Form, providing plenty of opportunities to enjoy yourself alongside your studies.

Challenging – The lessons challenge me to push myself and improve, while providing the support needed to succeed.

Memorable – During my time at Newent Sixth Form, I have already made so many great memories and taken part in experiences that I will remember for many years to come.



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What have you been involved with during your time at Newent?

I have been fortunate to enjoy so many exciting and memorable experiences, including four school productions, the Gold DofE expedition to Norway, numerous theatre and history trips, the Austria ski trip on two occasions, being Santa for the school, multiple Open Evenings, and many other wonderful activities and events.

What are your plans for the future and what made you pursue this path?

After Sixth Form, I hope to pursue a career as a full-time actor. To achieve this, I plan to either attend university or drama school to gain further training and experience within the industry. Alternatively, I may take a gap year to audition for roles before pursuing additional training later on.

I chose Newent Sixth Form because I felt it would help me achieve this goal. The Drama Department is outstanding, and studying for a BTEC in Performing Arts, alongside taking part in the school productions, has helped me develop both my skills and my passion for the industry.



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Art News:

School Mural

Such a fabulous workshop with Bristol street artist Tom Sledmore last week working with Year 9 to design a new mural for the front of the school. We've got some awesome ideas celebrating our school to work from now.

Watch this space for exciting new developments with the school mural design.





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Trustee News:

TRUSTEE RECRUITMENT

Help shape the future of young people in our community



Newent Community School
& Sixth Form Centre is
seeking new Trustees

Do you want to make a difference to the lives of young people?

We are seeking individuals with HR, IT and Premises experience in particular:

- ✓ Support the strategic direction of the school
- ✓ Work with school leaders to improve outcomes
- ✓ Use your professional skills to benefit the community
- ✓ Gain valuable governance experience

No previous trustee experience required – training provided

Subject to an application process and a **DBS check**

Interested in finding out more?

- ✉ **Contact: clerk@newent.gloucs.sch.uk**
- 📍 Watery Lane, Newent, Gloucestershire GL 18 1QF
- 🌐 newent.gloucs.sch.uk



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Wellbeing Club:

 **Newent Community School**
& Sixth Form Centre

Wellbeing CLUB

A SPACE TO SUPPORT YOUR WELLBEING AND DISCUSS ANYTHING ON YOUR MIND

A safe space. A listening ear.
A place to be *you.*

 RUN BY OUR **ANTI-BULLYING AMBASSADORS**

 STARTING **Tuesdays** AT 1PM

 IN **H20**

 OPEN TO **All**

 **TERMLY THEME**
Our first theme is... **CREATING A SCRAP BOOK**

Everyone matters. Everyone belongs.