



# NEWBRIDGE SCHOOL

HEADTEACHER  
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16<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a strange and unprecedented year for pupils, staff and all families. We are all very proud of how our pupils have responded to the many challenges they have faced, returning to school after extended lockdown periods of home-learning. I am also very proud of how all the staff in the school have worked tirelessly to ensure this return has been a success for everyone – whether through checking learning has continued in all year groups, or building an assessment model for Year 11 pupils which ensured they could all achieve at their best possible level. Looking ahead, I wanted to inform all families of some key updates for next year.

### Term dates

Caerphilly Council have requested the school take the extra Jubilee bank holiday on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September. The school will therefore be closed on that day, with the start of term dates as follows:

Friday 3rd September & Monday 6th September:	INSET days (no school for pupils)
Tuesday 7th September:	Term starts for <u>Year 7 pupils only</u>
Wednesday 8th September:	Term starts for <u>Year 8-11 pupils</u>

### INSET days

These are currently planned for the following dates, though as we await external examination dates it is possible that they could still change. If this is the case we will inform all families as soon as possible.

- Friday 3rd September 2021
- Monday 6th September 2021
- Monday 1st November 2021
- Monday 31st January 2022
- Friday 27th May 2022
- Monday 27th June 2022

### Summer closure periods

To ensure safety of the school and appropriate access for building teams who will be carrying out work, the site will be closed to parents and visitors / for Fri 30<sup>th</sup> July-Fri 6<sup>th</sup> August and Monday 16<sup>th</sup> August-Friday 20<sup>th</sup> August.

### Uniform

From September, please ensure your son/daughter has full school uniform. Please contact your child's Progress Leader if you need to discuss this in any way.

### Exam results day

I would like to congratulate the Year 11 pupils on an excellent set of provisional grades so far. Please remember that these are only finalised when they are issued by WJEC. All Year 11 pupils will receive emails with their final grades at

8.30am on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> August. Pupils are also welcome to come on site between 8.30-10.30am if they would rather pick their results up this way. Please be aware of social distancing and taking care to follow any safety precautions regarding building works.

#### Coronavirus guidance

New guidance has been issued by Welsh Government. This has removed the requirement for face masks to be worn in classrooms, and the idea of pupil 'bubbles', though many precautions remain eg. one-way systems and forward-facing desks. We will continue to work through the guidance and I will inform families of any further key changes as they occur. Please remember to continue to follow expectations on your child self-isolating and staying away from school if he/she displays any symptoms or is contacted by TTP close contact.

Website and school calendar – the school has an interim website which will be in place while a full one is redesigned. The new address is: [www.newbridgeschool.org.uk](http://www.newbridgeschool.org.uk) We have also arranged to share our calendar for all public events eg. parents' evenings. The calendar can be accessed here or preferably through our parental app:

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0?cid=Y19raGk4OG12dm81bGwydHRicmFqZmRzdDZpNEBncm91cC5jYWxlbnRhci5nb29nbGUuY29t>

#### Chromebooks and Blended Learning

The school lent out a lot of Chromebooks during the lockdowns. I would appreciate it if all families could ensure these are returned in September, so that we can use them in school (or in a more targeted way if there is a further need for home-learning).

I wish you and your family a restful and enjoyable summer holiday, and we look forward to seeing all the pupils in September.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Thompson' with a period at the end. The signature is written in a cursive style.

Mr. A. Thompson  
Headteacher