



NEWBRIDGE SCHOOL

HEADTEACHER
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10th April 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

At the end of term I wanted to update you with some brief reminders for the holiday and also for next term. This term has been very busy, with, as always, lots of successes to celebrate. Again, our pupils have excelled in many areas across sports, music, art, drama, and academic areas. Please ensure you follow our various school X/Twitter pages for regular updates. Well done to the many pupils who have done so well.

All Year 11 pupils and families have been informed of the Easter revision classes for this holiday (these have been shared on Google Classrooms and also via email). Please encourage your children to attend all which are relevant for them. Alongside this, pupils should be revising as much as possible during the holiday – due to Easter being later this year, exams begin very shortly after we return to school (please remember there are also a number of Year 10 exams). All pupils have had their exam timetables, and the exam dates are also available on our school calendar (link below) as well as exam board websites.

All Year 11 pupils are expected to attend school every day up until Friday 23rd May; this is a legal requirement set by Welsh Government/Caerphilly CBC. On days when they have examinations, they must remain onsite and attend their timetabled lessons once the exam is finished. From Monday 2nd June, pupils will only be required to attend school for examinations or lessons where they still have subjects to sit; they may leave site once their exams or relevant lessons are complete. Please also note that the Year 11 Leavers' Assembly will now take place on Friday 9th May. Pupils will have an early lunch after the assembly and will finish for the day at approximately 12:30pm. We are incredibly proud of the commitment and resilience shown by Year 11 so far. With the final stretch ahead, we encourage all pupils to make the most of the support available and to stay focused in the weeks to come. We're confident that their hard work will pay off and wish them every success as they enter this crucial phase.

Can I please remind all parents of the importance of parking safely when picking pupils up by car – the double yellow lines opposite the school on Bridge Street are there to ensure that buses and traffic can move safely at the busy end-of-day, meaning that our pupils are safer as they leave school to walk home or wait for buses. Parking on these double-yellow lines, even for a short period, does create a dangerous situation outside the school.

Whilst attendance to school has improved this year, there is still further improvement to make. Attached to this email is a letter from Mr Ratcliff, the senior leader in charge of school attendance, with a link to the new attendance policy agreed by the school governing body. Please read the letter and the policy carefully - it is important that all students attend school as often as possible. Pupils must also bring all their appropriate equipment for lessons and wear full school uniform correctly. Our uniform policy is on our website and it is important that this is followed. If any parents have an issue with the cost of uniform, please contact your child's Progress Leader who will advise how the school can help (including from our free uniform store).

Following last year's very positive Estyn report, we continue to work with purpose on those areas targeted for improvement. Linked to these, the school governing body will be working in school next term to help evaluate learning standards in books and also to visit our wellbeing services; I would like to thank all governors for their continuing hard work for the school and all our pupils. We have also been encouraging increased use of the Welsh language across the school, and would appreciate it if parents who feel able to could support this further at home.

Key dates:

Please use the link below (which is also on our website) to access the full school calendar:

Newbridge School Calendar (link)

Remaining notable dates (please see all dates on the calendar link above):

- Summer term begins: Monday 28th April
- Year 10 Parents' Evening: Thursday 1st May
- Reports issued:
 - Year 9: Friday 23rd May
 - Years 7 and 8: Friday 11th July
- Two remaining INSET days: Friday 27th June and Monday 21st July
- End of summer term for all pupils: Friday 18th July

I hope you and your family have a very peaceful and enjoyable Easter,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Thompson'.

Mr. A. Thompson, Headteacher