

ADVERTORIAL: Newent Community School asks companies to come and inspire its students

A Gloucestershire school is looking for local businesses to come and inspire its students.

[Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre](#) is a vibrant mixed comprehensive serving Newent and its surrounding villages, as well as Gloucester City, the Forest of Dean and Herefordshire.

The school's business manager, Ann Price explained: "We are constantly on the lookout for outstanding opportunities to enhance our curriculum and develop the learning experience for our students.

"That's why we're asking local firms to help engage, inspire and celebrate our young people to get them thinking about the prospective careers and employment options available to them."

It's also one of the reasons the school is sponsoring the Small Business of the Year category at the [Gloucestershire Live Business Awards 2022](#).

Forging links

Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre is a high-achieving school at the very heart of the community with a belief that education is more than just a set of qualifications.

Principal Dawn Burke said: "It is my belief that a school has to have links, be aware and skill students to be a part of a vibrant business community. Never more so than after the challenge of the last two years where we have all been

stretched to do more, with both less time and less money. Our young people have developed skills that would never have been possible without a pandemic and have found creative solutions to some issues that I never would have seen before. Their exposure to work places, businesses and the work environment have understandably been curbed but it is exciting to see this start to happen and see how we can further develop them and support the local business by developing this link”.

“We are committed to inspiring learners for their future through a vibrant, innovative and supportive environment where students develop resourcefulness, resilience, accept responsibility and are challenged to take risks in order to succeed. We aim to give students the skills and confidence they need for the 21st Century and hope these links with business will support us to see what they are and allow students to see the wealth of opportunity out there.”

Principal Dawn Burke

Motivating students

We would welcome more local businesses to help us inspire the next generation and this can be done in a variety of ways, depending on the time and expertise businesses feel like they have.

This could be (but not restricted to):

- Resources to inform careers;
- Videos, to show case careers;
- Visit to present or spend time focusing on a particular job/skill/career;
- Visit to present an assembly showcasing their business and opportunities;
- Meeting our staff to help us understand the key skills you need your future employees.

Ann said: “We’re very open to suggestions. We can’t wait to show students in Year 11 what next steps are available for them in Gloucestershire and those in Year 13 what opportunities are out there.”

The Gloucestershire Live Business Awards continue to be a much-anticipated event on the county’s corporate calendar. Nominations close on **Friday, July 8**. The glittering awards ceremony will take place on Thursday, October 13 at Cheltenham Racecourse. For more details and to nominate, [see the website](#)

Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre is sponsoring the Small Business of the Year category which celebrates companies with fewer than 25 employees which have thrived over a challenging 12 months.

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Dawn Burke said: "We are proud of how our young people have made it through these last two years and I hope that presenting this award and establishing these links in a more permeant way will help them both to understand and inspire them to become the skilled employees and business owners of the future."

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Forward-thinking attitude

Needless to say, the school is well known for its innovative outlook.

It was the first secondary school in Gloucestershire to be awarded the Mental Health Champion Award by GHLL recognising its trailblazing work for NHS England.

This partnership has provided amazing opportunities for its students, such as [SmartGym Gloucestershire](#), that seek to explore the value of combining physical and cognitive exercises to help build young people's mental resilience.

In addition, the school was confirmed as a Gold Standard school for cyber security by the National Cyber Security Centre (part of GCHQ).

Ann said: "We're particularly proud of the GHLL award which recognised our commitment to supporting young people in an

area which is crucial to their well-being and success.

“The cyber security award is really prestigious and built on the success of our ground-breaking work as a CyberHub School and demonstrating our ongoing commitment to Cyber Security Education.”



Heart of the community

The school's vision is to provide the best possible learning experiences and the highest quality outcomes for the young people of Gloucestershire.

This is facilitated by a stimulating, creative and high-achieving learning environment as well as a caring and compassionate ethos based on mutual respect and collaboration.

Ann concluded: “We want to make sure Newent Community School

and Sixth Form Centre stays at the cutting edge of both innovation but ultimately we're still a school very much at the heart of our local community."

To find out more about Newent Community School [CLICK HERE](#)