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**NEWARK**  
ACADEMY

26<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear parent/carer

I hope you and your families have had a good week.

Today we concluded our two-week Year 11 and 13 mock exam period and we are very proud with the excellent behaviour and high levels of resilience these students have displayed. It is important that, when these papers are marked and returned to students, that they use this information to focus on the areas of content they are least secure in. We are convinced that their hard work and effort will pay off in the summer exams. In addition, Year 10 parents/carers attended our Achievement Evening last night where they had the opportunity to discuss the progress and next steps for their children.

### **Holocaust Memorial Week**

Our assemblies/full crews this week have focused on Holocaust Memorial, in recognition of Holocaust Memorial Day on 27<sup>th</sup> January. The theme of Holocaust Memorial Day changes each year and in 2024 it is the 'fragility of freedom'. Below is a link which explains what the day is and why commemorating it is important.

[What is Holocaust Memorial Day? \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

Miss Esey provided lots of information which students have then had an opportunity to discuss during mini crew sessions. We have also used Friday's DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) day to explore different texts that relate to the Holocaust. Some of these have highlighted our local connections to the Holocaust. For example, introducing children to Beth Shalom, the National Holocaust Centre in Laxton, and zooming in on our local Newark monument to Irena Sendler. Irena was a social worker in Warsaw during World War Two and she directed a children's rescue group to smuggle Jewish children from the Warsaw Ghetto, providing them with false papers and placing them with substitute Polish families. Records that Irena kept showed that she was able to save nearly 2,500 children from certain death under the Nazis. Given our community's strong connections to Poland, the Polish government chose us as the location for this tribute to her.

### **Personal Development**

We are very proud of our students and their positive contributions to both our Academy and the local community. As part of our continued support for pupil wellbeing and safety we have now officially launched our anti-bullying programme; this is led by students from Years 7-13. We are really proud of their desire to help support their peers and ensure that bullying is not tolerated in our Academy. Two of their strategies include a daily drop into different crew rooms during crew time to remind students who they are, where our confidential drop boxes are and what the reporting email is. Also, we have trained anti-bullying ambassadors in how to talk to other young people about their concerns and log bullying reports; two students each lunch time now sit by our pupil wellbeing desk. This drop-in is a warm welcoming space where any student can come and talk, socialise or just sit with a peer. If you have concerns with bullying please contact your child/children's crew leader as this will then be passed onto either Ms Daw (Associate School Leader), Mrs Harrison (Deputy Safeguard lead) or Mrs Dixon (Safeguard lead).

Below is further information on the issue of bullying that you may find useful -

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/parents-a-z-mental-health-guide/bullying/>

### **End of the day collection/ parking**

If you drive to school at the end of the day to collect your child, may I please ask you ensure you do not park in a way that blocks other vehicles from coming on to the school grounds. I am increasingly concerned that parents/carers who need to access the disabled car park are struggling to do so. Emergency vehicles, should they be needed, wouldn't be able to access the site either.

### **Key Events for Half Term 3 and Half Term 4**

- |                                   |                                       |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| • Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> Feb      | Half Term 3 ends                      |
| • Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> Feb     | Students return to school/ HT4 starts |
| • Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> Feb   | Year 11 Achievement evening           |
| • Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March  | Year 13 Achievement Evening           |
| • Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> March | Spring Recital                        |
| • Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> March | Year 9 Options Evening                |
| • Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March | Half Term 4 ends                      |
| • Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April   | Summer term starts                    |

I hope your children have had a productive and enjoyable week at school.  
Have a restful weekend.



Inma Peña  
Headteacher