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NEWARK
ACADEMY

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the end of the first half term I wanted to provide you with updates, designed to further enhance the communication between school and home. I also wanted to thank you for your continued support as students have returned to learning at Newark Academy. It is a long half term for both children and staff and I am incredibly proud of how everyone has worked together to make it a success.

Parent/Carer Feedback

We have taken the feedback provided through our recent Edurio survey. Homework was an area which came out as needing improvement – this wasn't a surprise to me and we have been working on a revised strategy to support children's learning beyond the classroom.

We will be presenting an improved **Independent Learning Strategy** to our Family Forum group to gather feedback. We will then put together a recorded presentation to share with all families so that you are aware of how this will look in the new year.

Rewards

90% of our students have been through the half term and not received a single 'consequence' point. 78% of our students have achieved the Newark Academy **Attitude to Learning** target (1.0 to 1.8). This is incredibly positive and I am keen to acknowledge and reward these children who consistently demonstrate the Academy **GREAT values** and **Work Hard; Be Kind** ethos.

We will be reviewing our rewards strategy next half term to further enhance what we do to recognise our amazing students. This will be another strategy which we will present to the Family Forum group next half term before communicating it with all parents/carers.

Reporting Academic Progress

Mr Brown has shared information on this recently but I wanted to reinforce his messages. I recognise parents/carers are wanting more sophisticated information when hearing about their child's progress, and we are in the process of uplifting how we do this.

I am working with Trust leaders to develop how this looks across all Nova schools and ask for your patience whilst we complete this transitional work. If you are concerned about the progress your child is making, or if you would like to explore more deeply what this looks like for your child, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We are happy to meet with parents/carers outside of the planned Achievement Evenings to do this.

Student Enrichment

It has been an excellent first term of enrichment, where just over 400 students have signed up to take part in a wide range of clubs and activities – this is a fantastic start but I am keen to get even more children involved.

We will further develop the offer after Christmas to expand our offer for students. You can view the enrichment programme and sign children up for activities on our website ([click here](#)).

Additional Support

Family circumstances can often change and in times of financial turmoil it is important that families recognise what support might be available to them.

I would encourage families who might be finding the current financial situation challenging, to consider checking what support might be available. You can do this via the local authority website using this [link](#).

Car Parking

A challenge which has become magnified by the increasing numbers of children being picked-up/dropped-off at school. Complicated further by the fact we have lost land by the top car park, resulting in staff having to park in the overflow car park.

I continue to work with our local council to explore options. We have a local agreement with the Parish Council and Lidl for parents/carers to use their parking facilities to support the current challenges. I appreciate these aren't perfect solutions either and will continue to work with our local councillor to explore as many alternatives as possible. The reality however, is that schools are not equipped to provide parking facilities for parents/carers, particularly on the scale we have, so it is important that we continue to work together to explore more appropriate alternatives.

I hope these inputs have been helpful as we strive to respond to parent/carer feedback and improve communication between school and home.

Wishing you a safe and enjoyable half term,

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Fisher', with a stylized, cursive style.

Chris Fisher
Head Teacher