



Dear Parents and Carers

As the Festive Season fast approaches, I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with important information regarding the end of the Autumn Term and to thank you, as parents and carers, for your considerable support and commitment since we began the year in September. Your support is invaluable as we continue our journey to secure Newark Academy as our 'Great' local school.

We have packed a great deal of activity into our first term here at the Academy and our many wonderful students and staff have created some magical moments during the autumn term. From our fantastic 'Spooktacular' event attended by over 300 local community residents to our truly amazing Christmas Shopping Experience organised by the inspirational FONA team, we are justifiably proud of every member of our Academy community. Many of these wonderful events can be found in our autumn edition of our Academy Newsletter which will be sent to you electronically (and through the post where requested) towards the end of the term.

I would like to thank all parents and carers for their support of our additional INSET day held in October which focused on our vision for our Academy through Novation and our continual focus on improving classroom practice so that every student has access to amazing teaching and learning experiences every day here at the Academy.

Progress Update

I am enormously proud of the progress that we are making here at the Academy which has been validated by a recent mock 'Ofsted' inspection by the NOVA Trust. This one-day inspection was led by Ash Rahman (Executive Headteacher and Lead HMI Inspector) alongside a number of other training inspectors and serving Head Teachers from the NOVA Trust. I am delighted to report that the visit was extremely positive, and the inspection team agreed with our self-evaluation that we are indeed a 'Good' school with many Outstanding features including Leadership and Management and Personal Development and Wellbeing. However, the most pleasing comment from the entire inspection team was that they observed that the Academy is a happy school and without exception, students are happy and proud of their school. They also commented on the warmth they felt when moving around the Academy both from students and staff and the 'family' feel of the Academy. They left with a very strong impression that Newark Academy is well on the way to being the 'great' local school of choice for our community.

September 2019 information

We are delighted to be able to report that we will be oversubscribed in Year 7 in September 2019. This is unprecedented and despite carrying the 'label' of 'Special Measures', parents and carers now see our Academy as their local school of choice for secondary education. With over 45 in year transfers in 2017-2018, we have grown from a school of 603 in 2016 to almost 900 by the time September 2019 comes around. This is testament to the hard work, commitment and dedication of our ever-expanding staff body here at the Academy and the unwavering support of parents and carers who continue to support their local school; something that we are hugely grateful for.

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Executive Head Teacher: **Ashfaq Rahman** BSc(Hons), PGDip, PGCE, NPQH, NLE | Head of School: **Andrew Seymour** BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQH

Staffing information

It is with some sadness that we say goodbye to Mr Steer in Maths who leaves us to explore new and exciting opportunities. Mr Steer will be replaced with Mrs Morgan, lead teacher for Maths across the NOVA Trust and will bring significant expertise and experience to our Academy. We are very much looking forward to welcoming her in January 2019 and excited about the contribution that she will continue to make to our thriving maths department.

We also have to say a fond farewell to Mrs Opie who has been an integral part of our wonderful Reception/Admin team since 2016. Mrs Opie and her family are moving away from the area and whilst we are sad to see her go, we wish her all the very best as she begins an exciting new adventure with her family. We are extremely fortunate however to have secured Mrs Opie's replacement from January 2019. We are excited to welcome Mrs Butler to the team, an experienced administrative professional and we look forward to welcoming her into the Newark Academy family in the New Year.

We are also pleased to welcome Mrs Ainsley to the Academy who joins us in January as a HLTA and we are excited about the contribution that she will make to both the Maths department and our inclusion team.

We are thrilled to welcome Mrs Merrills who joins us in Science and has already taken up her position here at the Academy to support the existing Science team. Mrs Merrills has had considerable experience of teaching Science as part of the Outwood Trust and we look forward to seeing her impact in the Science department.

Finally, we are ecstatic to be able to welcome Miss Coe to the PE department here at Newark Academy. Miss Coe is a local netballer and brings considerable experience to the team, particularly following her time as a teacher of PE and Dance at Toot Hill School. We are excited to welcome Miss Coe to our family and we wish all our new members of staff every success as they begin their Newark Academy journey.

End of Term Arrangements

Finally, with the end of term just around the corner, I'd like to update you on our final day arrangements. The Academy will break for the Christmas holidays on **Friday 14th December 2018**. As a thank you to students for all their hard work and dedication this term, we have taken the decision to allow students to break for their Christmas holidays at **12.00pm** on that day which I know many students will value. They will be expected to attend periods 1 to 3 as normal as well as a short tutor period prior to being dismissed so that tutors can provide some key messages in readiness for the new term and dismiss all students from the Academy in a calm and orderly manner. Our canteen will serve a limited selection of hot foods from 12.00pm – until 12.30pm and those students who are entitled to a free school meal will be able to collect a packed lunch should they wish to eat this later in the day. Local travel companies have been informed of our decision to finish the term earlier than usual and will be available from 12.00pm onwards. Arrangements can be made to supervise students in the afternoon should parents wish to but this must be communicated directly with your child's pastoral leader by **Wednesday 13th December** to ensure that arrangements are securely in place for the end of the day.

In addition, students have asked if they can wear a Christmas jumper on the last day of term, in line with National Christmas Jumper day, to raise funds for charity. Those wishing to do so are asked to make a voluntary contribution of £1 which will go to support 'Save the Children' and 'Make a Wish' charities. **PLEASE NOTE THIS IS NOT A NON UNIFORM DAY**. Students should wear usual school uniform except they can wear a Christmas jumper instead of their blazer, shirt and tie. If students do not want to wear a Christmas jumper they should arrive in full school uniform.

Return to Academy

We welcome all students back after their Christmas break on Monday **7th January 2019**. While we appreciate that students often wish to let school friends see their Christmas presents especially mobile devices including internet linked watches, please could you remind your child of the Academy's Policy which clearly states that such items should be left at home where possible, and under no circumstances should they be used in the school building.

All that remains is for me to thank you once again for your continued support and I wish you and your family a very Happy Christmas and every best wish for the New Year.

Yours sincerely



Andy Seymour
Head of School

Key Dates – Spring Term 2019

16 th January 2019	Year 11 Achievement Evening
1 st February 2019	Year 11 School Photographs
5 th February 2019	Year 5 Open Evening
26 th February 2019	Year 8 Achievement Evening
6 th March 2019	Year 8 Options Evening