



5th December 2017

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 this year. It has been great to meet so many of you at our recent events and parents' evenings and your support is invaluable as we continue our journey to secure the amazing local school that our community deserves.

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 Sam White Carnival 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 November which focused on our vision for our Academy through Novation, a trust wide response to ensuring that our community secures an amazing local school built on strong values and principles underpinned by high standards and expectations for all members of our community. This followed on from our 'Great' agenda INSET in August and I will be communicating the next phase of our journey to secure Novation at Newark Academy in the Spring Term and would very much welcome contributions from parents and carers as part of this process. If you are interested in contributing to our journey, then please contact the Academy at your earliest convenience.

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. I am delighted to report that progress has been made on every agenda and behaviour and safety is at least good at our Academy with much of it Outstanding. 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 left with a very strong impression that Newark Academy will no doubt be an amazing school in the very near future.

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Communication

We continually strive to ensure that we provide parents and carers with the highest standard of communication possible and remain committed to further strengthening the excellent partnerships that exist between home and school. The relaunch of our INSIGHT programme has made a significant difference to many families this year and parents tell us that they are very appreciative of the opportunities to view their child's information whenever they like. Our report system and subsequent additional Achievement Evenings have been well received and parents continue to offer some great advice and guidance on how we can improve things even more through parent forum meetings and visits to the school which of course, is invaluable. We are always keen to receive feedback to help with this significant agenda and if you would like to discuss any aspect of our communication strategy, then please feel free to contact the Academy. As always, please do follow us on twitter (@newarkacademyUK) for up to the minute information as well as our website www.newarkacademy.co.uk which contains parental letters and key dates for the year ahead.

Staffing information

It is with some sadness that we say goodbye to Mr Cruse in Geography who leaves us to explore new and exciting opportunities. Mr Cruse has been a very popular member of the Academy team and will be sorely missed by students and staff, particularly Year 9 students with whom he has developed some strong and caring relationships during his role as Head of Year. We wish Mr Cruse the very best in his new endeavour and he leaves Newark Academy after 12 years with our love and fondest best wishes.

We also say goodbye to another long serving member of our Academy team as Mr Burrows takes the brave step of moving to Australia in the new year where he will take up a new position as Assistant Principal in a school just outside Melbourne. Mr Burrows has made a significant contribution to Newark Academy and will no doubt continue to provide high levels of care and support to the students in his care in Australia. We wish Mr Burrows and his family every success as they start their new lives down under.

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 15th December 2017**. 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 arrangement 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 8th January 2017**. 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 2018

11 th January 2018	Year 9 Achievement Evening
31 st January 2018	Year 8 Inspire Your Future Evening
1 st February 2018	Year 11 School Photographs
6 th February 2018	Families Forum Meeting
12 th – 14 th February 2018	Sister Act – School Production
15 th February 2018	Year 8 Achievement Evening
1 st March 2018	Year 8 Option Evening
15 th March 2018	Year 10 Achievement Evening
28 th March 2018	Families Forum Meeting
29 th March 2018	Year 11 Achievement Evening