



November 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to share with you some important updates regarding behaviour, attendance and safety here at Newark Academy. As you are no doubt aware, we continue to remain committed to upholding the highest standards of behaviour across all aspects of our Academy and ensure our behaviour policy is implemented to its fullest to eradicate low level disruption, particularly that which effects learning. We are equally determined to ensure that all pupils continue to be rewarded for the great work that they do across the Academy, whether that be in the classroom, during unstructured break or through participation in enrichment activity.

We have adapted the way in which we record and log our celebration and behaviour points this term in order for us to match this more closely with the work that we have conducted on students' 'Attitude to Learning' (ATL) which amongst other metrics, is a key indicator for student success when predicting academic outcomes.

Our students are now rewarded for their everyday conduct at the academy by referencing our 4 ATL pillars. These being, preparation, resilience, engagement and self-motivation. These pillars help form a number of key 'statements' which will appear as the reason for issuing either a celebration or behaviour point and are taken directly from our ATL descriptors that we use with students every day across the Academy. These statements will also appear on INSIGHT. This enables parents, carers, pastoral leaders and senior leaders to discuss areas for development with students, again centred around the ATL criteria. I have attached our ATL guide that is displayed in every classroom across the Academy for your reference and for you to map the statements that you are potentially seeing on INSIGHT with the statements on the guide.

I would strongly advise that you review your child's ATL targets with them and constantly monitor the targets that they have set within their planner to support your child in securing a strong ATL score as the year progresses. Our ATL system is based on a very simple scoring system with 1 being 'Outstanding' and 4 being 'not acceptable for Newark Academy'.

Research and experience tells us that students who secure an average ATL score of 1.8 or better, always reach and often exceed their aspirational academic targets. However, it must be noted that improving ATL scores is not always an exact science and as always when reviewing progress, there must be an acceptance that this can go up as well as down and results can often take a little longer to secure with some students as opposed to others.

If you would like to discuss ATL further or you have a particular question regarding the ATL guide, then please contact your child's form tutor as soon as you are able to.

Newark Academy | London Road, New Balderton, Newark, Nottingham NG24 3AL

Telephone: 01636 615000 | Email: [office@newarkacademy.co.uk](mailto:office@newarkacademy.co.uk) | Website: [www.newarkacademy.co.uk](http://www.newarkacademy.co.uk)

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

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I would also like to take this opportunity to provide you with an important update regarding whole school attendance.

I am delighted to be able to inform you that our whole school attendance is rapidly improving and the attendance for the academy now sits above the national average for attendance for all school in England and Wales. This is a significant achievement given attendance to school was worrying low in 2016. Whilst we are delighted with the progress made and are hugely grateful for the support of parents and carers in ensuring our students attend, we know that there is still a great deal of work to do to ensure that attendance exceeds 97% (our Academy Target)

We know that students who attend regularly maximise their learning and therefore have greater likelihood of success when securing academic outcomes. However, not all members of our academy community take attendance to school as seriously as we would like and there remains a number of critical challenges ahead for the Academy team in ensuring that all families understand the importance of attendance, every day. We have noticed that there are a small, yet significant minority of parents and carers who continue to take their children out of school for the final few days of term. During the last day of the autumn half term, 8% of students across the Academy were recorded absent. This equates to approximately 60 children, double the number of students the day before. If students were to miss the last day of each half term over the course of the year, this would equate to a whole week of lost learning.

Clearly this is something that we would wish to avoid, and I would respectfully ask that all members of our academy community support our continued efforts on attendance to ensure that students are in school, learning and ultimately working towards securing personal and academic success.

As always, we are truly grateful for the support of our Academy community, particularly in relation to attendance but if you would like to discuss the contents of this letter further then please do not hesitate to contact me, or any pastoral leader at the Academy.

Kind regards



Chris Fisher  
Deputy Head Teacher

# Attitude to Learning (ATL)

Work hard, be kind



**NEWARK**  
ACADEMY

ATL Score	Are you prepared?	Are you resilient?	Are you self-motivated?	Are you engaged?
1-Outstanding	I always have and use the correct equipment needed for the lesson	I always work to the very best of my ability especially with tasks I find challenging	I am highly self-motivated and work to my full potential	I aspire to achieve and can adapt when learning new skills
	I always arrive on time to the lesson and I am ready to learn	I stay on task at all times	I fully participate in class	I am able to work independently and with others
	My homework is produced on time, completed to the best of my ability and I demonstrate I can challenge myself	I always demonstrate resilience and I never give in	I have a positive impact on the learning of the rest of the class	I am a highly focused learner with high aspirations
Be Kind	I always demonstrate kindness to others			
2-Good	I have the correct equipment needed for the lesson	I work to the best of my ability and complete all tasks set in class	I am self-motivated and I work to my potential	I show willingness to learn new skills
	I always arrive on time to the lesson	I mostly stay on task	I often participate in class discussion and offer some of my own thoughts and ideas	I am often able to work independently and with others
	My homework is produced on time and to the best of my ability	I often demonstrate resilience and I try not to give in	I have a positive impact on the learning of the rest of the class	I am a focused learner with aspirations
Be Kind	I often demonstrate kindness to others			

If you are not at least a 2 for each lesson then you are not meeting the expectations and pledges that are required to be a successful student at

Newark Academy