



8<sup>th</sup> December 2016

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 for your considerable support and commitment this year. It has been encouraging 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 outstanding school that our students and 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 and memories. Our Year 7 Welcome Party and our amazing Halloween 'Spooktacular' event were particular highlights. Parent forums have been hugely successful events and highlight the passion and commitment that parents have for improving our school. If you would like to become involved with either our Parent Forums or FONA (Friends of Newark Academy) then please contact the school for further details.

I am delighted with how our Year 7 students have settled in to secondary school life and continue to excel. Year 8 are consolidating their learning very effectively. Year 9 and 10 have settled well in to their new GCSE courses and are showing how dedicated they are. Our Year 11 have worked tremendously hard throughout the term and are about to receive their mock exam results, keeping them very focused on study and Post 16 applications for the final few months ahead. Year 13 continue to remain on track towards their final exams and are completing their UCAS applications in readiness for the next stage of their educational journey. It has been an extremely positive term for students and staff and I am delighted with the rate of progress we are making across all areas of the academy.

### **Communication**

However, we are continually seeking ways to be even better. To further improve communication between home and school, we have launched our new Parental Information System called **INSIGHT** (<https://insight.newarkacademy.co.uk>) which provides a range of 'live' student information including rewards, homework (from January) assessment and behaviour data. All parents have been issued with a unique user name and password to access this system and Mr Fisher (School Leader Pastoral) has demonstrated this system via our Families Forum. If parents and carers would like further information on how to use this system then please do contact the school at your earliest convenience.

You may have also noticed that we have a fantastic new website [www.newarkacademy.co.uk](http://www.newarkacademy.co.uk) which supports and strengthens home school partnership. Student news stories are regularly uploaded to our News page as well as our Twitter feed (**@NewarkAcademyUk**) which I would encourage all Twitter users to follow. Furthermore, our Student and Parent portal on our website will hold all school letters and provide parents with key dates for the term and year ahead.

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), PGCE, NPQH | Head of School: **Andrew Seymour** BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQH



Finally, we are in the process of designing a new 'Newark Academy Newsletter' which will contain a range of news items and important information that celebrate the many wonderful achievements of our fantastic students. This will be finalised in the New Year and will be distributed electronically. It is also our intention to send all future letters to parents via email to expedite communication between home and school. Please could I ask that you support this process by ensuring that the student data sheet that was sent to you at the start of the year is accurate and contains a valid email address.

### **Staffing information**

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Awan to our Maths team who joins us in January. Mrs Awan is a highly experienced teacher of Maths and has taught across the city and county for the past twenty years. We are very fortunate to secure such an experienced member of staff and I'm sure Mrs Awan will be an enormous success.

It is with some sadness that we say goodbye to Mrs Mawson in Science and Mr Morris in English who leave us at Christmas. Mrs Mawson starts a new adventure with her family in Italy and Mr Morris leaves us for pastures new. I am sure that you will join me in wishing both colleagues well and we send them off with our love and best wishes.

### **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 16<sup>th</sup> December 2016**. 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 **1.00pm** on that day which I know many students will value. They will be expected to attend periods one to four as normal and will then be dismissed after their afternoon registration in period five. Our canteen will serve a limited selection of hot foods from 12.20pm – until 12.50pm 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 1.00pm onwards.

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 with the addition of 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.



# NEWARK

ACADEMY

## **Return to Academy**

We welcome all students back after their Christmas break on Monday **9th January 2017**. While we appreciate that children 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy Seymour', written in a cursive style.

Andy Seymour  
Head of School

## Key Dates – Spring Term 2017

12 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	Year 11 Parents' Evening
17 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	Families' Forum Meeting
2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2017	Year 9 Parents' Evening
8 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2017	School Production
28 <sup>th</sup> February 2017	Year 8 Options/Parents' Evening
17 <sup>th</sup> March 2017	Non Uniform Day in aid of Sport Relief
3 <sup>rd</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	Dortmund Football Trip
5 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	Netball Trip Disneyland Paris
9 <sup>th</sup> May 2017	Year 10 Parents' Evening

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