



July 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

As we approach the end of what has been a hugely enjoyable and rewarding academic year, I wanted to write to you to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation for your continued support. I am sure that you will recognise the excellent progress that we continue to make in every aspect of Academy life which is a direct result of the support that we receive from you as parents and carers. We are justifiably proud of our Academy community and we remain committed to our mission of securing our Academy as a 'great' local school where every student has every opportunity to be the best they can in all that they do.

The recent events that we have held here at the Academy have been hugely uplifting and reinforces my long-held view that it is a genuine pleasure and enormous privilege to be part of such a vibrant Academy, filled with amazing young people and passionate and committed staff. Our recent 'Celebrate Success' event, Body Rhythms performance and Newark Academy Carnival are strong indicators that our Academy is rapidly emerging as a truly cohesive community school.

Our Newark Academy Carnival raised over £1000 and is testament to the hard work and dedication of our committed and hugely supportive FONA team who made the occasion such a special and successful event. Our FONA team work tirelessly in supporting our Academy at every opportunity and I would like to thank them on behalf of everyone associated with our Academy for all that they do. It is hoped that the monies raised will go towards new sports kits for our reinvigorated teams as all monies raised by FONA are used to resource our student body. We are always keen to hear from parents and carers interested in being part of the FONA team so please do contact the Academy for an informal discussion if you would like to be part of this amazing group of parents.

As we prepare for September, it is important to reflect on the progress that the Academy continues to make against a much-publicised national funding crisis for all schools. Our Academy has been significantly affected by the imposed austerity measures which have meant significant cuts, in real terms, to our school budget. Many schools across the country are having to make significant staffing reductions and reduce their investment in Career Professional Development which inevitably has an often detrimental impact on the quality of teaching that takes place in the classroom.

Whilst our Academy has faced a number of significant financial challenges this year, we have actually bucked the national trend and have made significant investment in Career Professional Development for all staff to ensure that the quality of teaching and learning remains at the heart of what we do. I am also delighted to report that we will be fully staffed in September with over 15 new members of staff starting with us and I am thrilled to be able to welcome our new colleagues to our Academy who will compliment our hugely talented and passionate existing staff team.

It is also pleasing to note that community confidence in our Academy has grown significantly in the past 2 years and we are now seen as a real contender for parents and carers outside our own Academy to provide the great education that local students deserve. In fact, we have received over 53 in year transfers where students from other schools across the county have transferred to Newark Academy due to the great things that happen here every day. The amount of in year admissions to the Academy is unprecedented and is a very strong indicator that we are rapidly emerging as the local school of choice for families across the town and beyond.

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



As we conclude the year, we say a fond farewell to several valued colleagues who sadly, will be moving on from the Academy this summer.

Miss Gibson leaves at the end of the year to continue her studies at the University of Derby and we wish her our warmest best in her new venture. Mrs Harrison is also leaving the Academy this summer and we wish her every success and happiness as she departs for pastures new.

Mrs Vause also leaves us after 3 years at the Academy to take up an exciting position as a teacher of Geography in sunny Cyprus. Mrs Vause has been integral to the progress the Academy has made over the past 2 years, particularly through her leadership of teaching and learning and her community cohesion work. She will be very much missed by staff and students and we send her off with our love and warmest best wishes.

We are delighted to report that Mrs Rutter is expecting her first child in September and as such, will be spending the majority of the year away from the Academy being a first time mum. We are delighted for Mrs Rutter and her husband and wish them every happiness once their bundle of joy arrives. No doubt Mrs Rutter will keep in touch and let us know how her new family is doing and we look forward to seeing her again at the end of the academic year.

Finally, we also say farewell to Mrs Sadler who has decided to retire from teaching after many years of wonderful service here at Newark Academy and formerly The Newark Academy and The Grove School. Mrs Sadler has been a wonderful source of inspiration for so many young people and has encouraged and supported hundreds of young people to express themselves through Dance, Drama, Music and Performance. She will be sorely missed by staff and students but I am delighted to report that Mrs Sadler has agreed to continue to support the Performance Department over the coming year so whilst we say farewell for now, we will see Mrs Sadler again in the new year!

I would like to remind all parents and carers that the Academy finishes for the summer holidays on **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> July at 12.00pm**. There will be a 'grab and go' lunch menu for all students should they wish to remain at the Academy and eat their lunch prior to leaving. In addition, if parents and carers would like their child to remain at the Academy until 2.55pm then please do contact the Academy to discuss your needs at your earliest convenience.

As we conclude what has been a truly wonderful academic year, I am enormously proud of the achievements of our young people and our amazing staff, local governors and Trust colleagues who continue to support the Academy on its journey to becoming a great local school. This has been a hugely rewarding year and I am grateful for the dedication and commitment of our entire Academy community. I would like to reiterate my thanks to all parents and carers for their continued support this year. The relationship between school and home is invaluable and an essential part of the development and success of all our students. I am confident that this will continue and indeed grow as we begin next year and we continue to work together to provide the care, support, guidance and quality teaching and learning experiences that enables every student to succeed and be the best they can be in all that they do. I am excited about the future of Newark Academy and I hope you are too.

I would like to wish you all a happy, healthy and relaxing summer and I look forward to continuing working with you and welcoming your children in September for the start of what I am sure, will be another happy, rewarding and hugely successful year.

Yours sincerely



Mr Andy Seymour  
Head of School

**Autumn Term 2018 Key Dates:**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> August 2018    | <b>INSET DAY</b>                        |
| Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> August 2018  | <b>INSET DAY</b>                        |
| Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> August 2018   | <b>INSET DAY</b>                        |
| Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2018     | <b>Year 7, Year 11 and Year 12 ONLY</b> |
| Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2018   | <b>Start of term (ALL students)</b>     |
| Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> September 2018 | Year 6 Open Evening                     |
| Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> October 2018   | Year 7 Welcome Party                    |
| Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> October 2018    | Year 7 – Year 10 School Photographs     |
| Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2018 | Spooktacular Event                      |

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November HALF-TERM**

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| Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> November 2018        | Remembrance Project                            |
| Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> December 2018       | Year 12 Open Evening                           |
| Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> December 2018      | KS3 Christmas Party                            |
| Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2018     | Year 10 and Year 11 RSC A Christmas Carol Trip |
| <b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2018</b> | <b>Christmas Holiday</b>                       |
| <b>Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019</b>   | <b>Return to school</b>                        |