

28th February 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope my letter finds you and your families well.

It has been lovely to welcome students back refreshed and ready to work hard right from the first lesson of this new half term. Last half term was a very successful one with the majority of our students displaying excellent engagement in learning and doing their absolute best every single day.

Once again, thank you to the many parents and students who consistently meet our behaviour and uniform expectations. Your support to ensure students adhere to the school rules helps to remove any unnecessary barriers to learning and enables our staff to focus fully on students' learning and progress.

As we are now more than halfway through the academic year, I felt it would be helpful to share with you the upcoming priorities for each year group:

- ❑ Our Year 13 students now only have nine full school weeks left before their first A- Level exam on 13th May. This half term, many students will also have subject coursework deadlines to meet. The overwhelming majority of our Year 13 students are working hard, both in and out of school, and are committed to putting in their best performances in their final exams.
- ❑ Year 12 students will be introduced to the UCAS application process after Easter and hopefully will attend a UCAS Discovery Exhibition at a university. During w/c 8th July they will complete work experience placements.
- ❑ Our Year 11 have now started their final round of mock exams and there will be an opportunity to discuss their current progress and areas for development at their Achievement Evening in April. Year 11 now only have 10 teaching weeks left before the first written GCSE exam on 9th May. Certain subjects also have practical performances/exams scheduled to take place before that date. I am convinced that our Year 11 students will take full advantage of the extras that our teachers provide: these include the additional revision sessions that run before and after school and attendance at these has been really encouraging.
- ❑ Our Year 10 students will spend this half term acting on the feedback they received at their Achievement Evening last half term. In addition, they will be preparing for their work experience week which begins on 17th March. This is a wonderful opportunity for them to explore potential future career opportunities and develop those attributes that employers value - maturity, resilience and responsibility, for example.
- ❑ Our Year 9 students will embark on the KS4 options process this half term. We be inviting families to our Options Evening Event which aims to provide you and your child with the information and guidance needed to make positive and informed option choices when choosing which of these subjects they would like to study at KS4.
- ❑ It is also an important and busy time for our younger students. Year 7 students will have their first Achievement Evening at Newark Academy to discuss their academic progress and how well they have settled into secondary school life.

- Both Year 8 and Year 7 students will also be building on the knowledge learned over the previous half term and responding to the feedback they received following their KS3 assessments. This half term, I would also like students in Year 7 and 8 to focus on improving their ATL scores.

In other news, staff and students have been very busy this week getting ready for next week's World Book Day celebrations on Thursday 6th March. It has been fantastic to see and hear the enthusiasm of the students during Crew time making plans to decorate their classroom doors with the theme of their favourite book. Our library has held an annual book fair this week and the amount raised will be published in next week's letter. Furthermore, our librarian, Mrs Horner, has planned a range of activities for students to enjoy on World Book Day. These will include a scavenger hunt, quiz and design a bookmark competition.

Key Events Half Term 4 and 5

Staff at Newark Academy are very much looking forward to seeing you at any of the key events below that will take place this half term.

- Thursday 6th March
 - Thursday 27th March
 - Thursday 3rd April
 - Friday 4th April
 - Monday 22nd April
 - Thursday 1st May
 - Thursday 22nd May
 - Friday 23rd May
- Y7 Achievement Evening (2)
 - Y12 and Y13 Achievement Evening
 - Y11 Achievement Evening
 - End of Spring term
 - Start of Half Term 5
 - Y9 Options Evening
 - Music Recital
 - End of Summer half term 1

I hope your children have had a productive and enjoyable first week back at school after the half term.

Have a restful weekend.

Kind regards,



Inma Peña
Headteacher