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Head Teacher
Inma Peña *BS, PGCE, NPQH*



21st March 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope my email finds you and your families well.

One of the many strengths of Newark Academy is how inclusive we are and we are incredibly proud of meeting the needs of all our learners. In our Full Crew/assemblies this week we have celebrated neurodiversity week. Mrs Kent has explained how our brains are all unique and work in different ways. Students have watched short videos on autism, ADHD and dyslexia which describe what it is like to have a neurodiversity and outline the strategies individuals use to support them each day. Our students have engaged very positively with this important theme; they displayed interest, empathy and an understanding of the importance of celebrating our differences.

As you know, we believe that consistent attendance is key to academic success and personal growth. To recognise and reward our dedicated students, we are excited to announce the following new initiative to reward 100% attendance – **Feed a family/friend on Friday**.

- All students who achieve **100% attendance for the week** will be automatically entered into our weekly draw.
- **On the two final Fridays of this term** we will draw one lucky winner from the pool of eligible students.
- The winner will receive a **£20 Just Eat voucher**, perfect for a treat to celebrate their commitment!

I would like to thank all parents and carers for their patience and understanding with the problems encountered when closing balances on sQuad. Mrs Coutts, our Business and Operational Manager, has been in regular communication with you this week to reassure you that we strongly believe the charge that sQuad are proposing to make when refunding account balances is unjust and contradicts sQuad's previous correspondence. Therefore, as a school and as a Trust, we are challenging sQuad's decision. We would ask parents, where possible, to hold off withdrawing funds until we have had a response from sQuad. We will write to you again on Friday 28th March with further information. Please be aware that regardless of the outcome of this challenge, we are committed to ensuring that no parent is out of pocket due to this charge.

Finally, we have received an extraordinary amount of very positive feedback from employers who have supported our Year 10 work experience placements this week. The students have performed exceptionally well in a broad range of job roles and businesses. Some students had a firm idea of where they wanted to work and secured an experience linked to their future plans; others have found the experience a useful introduction to the world of work as they decide what they want to do. Their 'employers' ranged from opticians to nurseries, car dealers to hairdressers. Some students visited their own former primary schools for the week. Others were placed in solicitors, shops and some even joined the site team at Newark Academy.

Work Experience is an important milestone in preparing students for life beyond school. We would like to thank our Careers Lead, Mrs Brown, as well as all the employers for supporting our students and providing such worthwhile experiences. Our young people have appreciated it greatly!



Key Events Half Term 4 and Half Term 5

- Thursday 27th March
 - Thursday 3rd April
 - Friday 4th April
 - Tuesday 22nd April
 - Thursday 1st May
 - Thursday 22nd May
 - Friday 23rd May
- 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 week at school.

Have a restful weekend.

Kind regards,



Inma Peña
Headteacher