

A photograph of Newark Academy, a modern brick building with large windows, set against a blue sky with some clouds. The building is surrounded by green grass and trees.

NEWSLETTER

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July 2017

FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

I am delighted to be able to launch the first edition of our termly Newark Academy newsletter to students, parents, carers and the wider community. We are enormously proud of our amazing students and are grateful for the unrelenting support that we receive from parents and carers as we strive to deliver a great local school for our community. Our newsletters will complement our Twitter feed **@NewarkAcademyUK** which is regularly updated with the very many wonderful events and experiences that take place at our amazing Academy. The newsletter will also provide parents and carers with important updates and information relating to all aspects of Academy life as we continue to strengthen the excellent partnerships that have already been established between home and school.

Much has happened this year and we are enormously proud of the achievements of our students and we are excited about the future. It has been a hugely positive and rewarding year and so much has happened here at our Academy from our amazing school production of Little Shop of Horrors, to our fabulous and packed transition tea party to our excellent sports day which saw the re-introduction of the traditional House systems that so many parents will be familiar with. We are particularly looking forward to welcoming our new year 7s in September following a very busy yet successful transition programme alongside the official opening of our wonderful sports hall and accompanying facilities which takes place in September 2017. You can read about all these wonderful events in this summer edition.

There are so many more exciting developments taking place at Newark Academy that we are almost disappointed that the academic year is coming to an end. Our student leadership team is growing and are enthusiastically planning on making our Academy even better. Our exciting enrichment programme is taking shape and we cannot wait to launch this to both students, parents and carers in September alongside increased opportunities to represent our Academy both locally and nationally.

I am grateful for the unerring support of parents and carers as we secure great educational experiences and amazing opportunities for our students. Please do look out for further editions of our newsletter and if you would like to contribute or make any suggestions for improving our newsletter or general communications then, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

I wish you all a very happy, restful and relaxing summer and look forward to welcoming our students back to our Academy in September.

Year 10 Student hits the Bullseye!

Paige Jones, a year 10 student, has been crowned the Junior Lady Compound Champion of Nottinghamshire! Paige also holds the honour of being a Junior Master Bowman. After taking up archery as a 'bit of fun' in February 2015, Paige has enjoyed immense success.

Chloe Rastall, a KS4 student councillor interviewed Paige to find out more....

What inspired you to begin archery?

'I find it to be a very rewarding sport and I enjoy receiving classifications, badges, medals and trophies. Through competing you get recognition. I currently represent the East Midlands and Nottinghamshire, and I shoot a compound bow, which is more complex and harder to shoot than a regular bow.'

How often do you practice and compete?

'I practice three times a week and compete every Sunday around the county.'

What are your aims for the futures?

'My long term dream is to become a member for the GB squad and have a shot at the Olympics - possibly in Tokyo 2020.'

On 1st and 2nd July, Paige shot at Lilleshall at the Junior National Outdoor Championships hosted by Archery GB. Here Paige shot with other juniors, some of which shoot for Great Britain. On the Saturday Paige shot a metric 3, which is 50m, 40m and 30m. She shot amazingly well and came seventh place on the day. This experience was a great way for Paige to build confidence and meet new people who she will shoot with in the future. "Archery makes me strive to succeed, force myself to do my best and be competitive enough to win."



Colour Run for Hospice

A team of staff and students came together for a fun-filled fundraiser that ended with a paint fight!

More than 500 runners and walkers took part in the 5k Chase the Rainbow event raising money for Beaumont House Community Hospice. The event was being held for the third time at Southwell Race Course on a very hot and humid evening!

The team set off on the 5k course, where they were covered with powdered paint at various points, before a paint fight ensued after they crossed the finish line.



Well done to all students and staff who took part. Special mention to Rianne and Tilly Hatton who collectively raised over £200 for the charity!

Urban Explorers take the stage

We are delighted that six of our students have been selected to be part of an extraordinary opportunity. Sophie Rouse, Hannah Davidson, Helen Andrews, Faye Driver, Alice Huckstep and Ella Mahon will all represent Newark Academy at an upcoming performance at the Nottingham Playhouse as part of the Tom Dale Company and Inspire project 'Urban Explorers'. Over a period of 15 weeks the girls have committed their spare time and energy to create brand new pieces of contemporary dance.

Working with young dancers and musicians, Urban Explorers is a project that explores the urban art scene, particularly bass music and its rhythmical sub genres (garage, drum and bass, dubstep_, which have been particularly influential in terms of dance and movement aesthetics. Tom Dale Company is working in partnership with Inspire to create two new works which will be presented in a spectacular public performance at Nottingham Playhouse on 5th July. The project and performance is funded by Arts Council England.

Tom Dale Company is a professional dance company that collaborates with extraordinary digital media artists/musicians provoking new forms of artistic expressions, creating relevant, accessible and inclusive contemporary dance. TDC tours nationally and internationally, developing new audiences for dance, delivering award winning participatory activity for children and young people.

More information about the project and the performance can be found on the Nottingham Playhouse website:

[HTTP://WWW.NOTTINGHAMPLAYHOUSE.CO.UK/WHATS-ON/DANCE/TOM-DALE-URBAN-EXPLORERS/](http://www.nottinghamplayhouse.co.uk/whats-on/dance/tom-dale-urban-explorers/)

Newark Academy leading the way!

The Newark Academy are proud to announce that they are the first school in Nottinghamshire to receive The BIG Award (Bullying Intervention Group), which is given to schools that can demonstrate outstanding practise in bullying prevention across their school.

Success in achieving this award has largely been down to the schools excellent relationship and input from parents, peer mentors and the anti-bullying campaign #stopthehate, which has been crucial in

embedding good practise to tackle bullying.

Therefore ensuring that all students are able to achieve and fulfil their potential both academically and socially without this added barrier.



Some of the initiatives that have been implemented over the course of the last 12 months include:

- Setting up an anti-bullying focus group
- Increase in events to raise awareness, which have included celebrity visits
- Mentors leading anti-bullying campaign #stopthehate
- Selling charity bands to raise money
- Setting up peer mediation sessions
- Creating a robust anti-bullying policy
- Introduction of anti-bullying pathway
- Let's Talk drop-in sessions
- Raising awareness in the wider school community

A celebration event took place on 9th May and included a visit from a friend of the school, Rich Cattell, who has previously attended Newark Academy to raise awareness on cyber-bullying in a creative and engaging way for students through his performance. The performances were followed by the unveiling of our BIG Award plaque in a VIP event.

On the evening of 9th May, members of the focus group also attended Radio Newark to share with the community some of the work that has been carried out over the last year.

UK Junior Maths Challenge

Well done to all students who took part in the recent national junior maths challenge! We are particularly pleased with the achievements of Emily Walls who not only achieved the highest score across the academy but will be invited to participate in the next stage of the competition – the Junior Kangaroo! Best of luck Emily!

Special mention to the following students who achieved the following accolades:

Year 7

Hope Watson – Silver
Alanna Donnelly – Bronze
Jessica Catton – Bronze
Jenna King – Bronze
Lucas Hearn – Bronze
Joel Seth-Barton – Bronze



Year 8

Ella Mahon – Silver (Ella also achieved the highest result in the year group – well done Ella!)

Harry Chapman - Silver
Leon Stokes - Silver
Lauren Magee - Bronze
Lily Grant - Bronze
Timothy Jackson – Bronze
Rhys Stanislawski - Bronze

Boxing Champion

Luca Mcilvaney, has won the 52 – 54Kg category at the East Midlands Schools and Minors Boxing Championships in Nottingham. It was only Luca's sixth bout and he now moves onto box against the Yorkshire region champion to secure a place in the quarter finals of the National Championships in Liverpool. We are all very proud of Luca and wish him well in his next match.



Newark Academy Showjumping

It was a first for Newark Academy as the school entered a team in a Showjumping competition and they can be proud of their achievement with a 3rd place in the team event.

Lilly Rose Davies finished 2nd in the Individual section qualifying for the national school championships in October.

Well done Jess Ward, Alice Huckstep and Lilly Rose.



Healthy Minds Room

In a bid to raise mental health awareness in the school and the wider community, the peer mentors have recently attended some training as Mental Health First Aiders. The aim is that with ongoing training, the group can identify and address issues amongst the student body as leaders of the forthcoming Student Minds group that will launch late in the Autumn term. We know that mental health is a concern for students and we feel



very strongly that we need to empower our students, to be able to talk about their issues and give them as much support and information as possible whilst reducing the stigma attached to mental health issues. With some of the money raised from RAG week in the Autumn term, Millie Parker and Ali Miah (head boy and girl) decided to put together a Healthy Minds room in school, which has been decorated with some wonderful street art led by James Mayle and the school graffiti group. This room is going to be used for mentor, mediation and supportive listening sessions. We are also looking at working towards a kitemark for well-being in the next academic year, so watch this space as there is LOTS going on to improve student well-being!

Year 7 & 10 National Challenge Enterprise

The Ryman National Enterprise Challenge is a full day enterprise programme open to all secondary schools in the UK. Open to full year groups the challenge is split into two categories KS3 and KS4. Working in teams of six, students worked on real life business challenges, which are set by real life businesses. This helps students to develop their enterprise and employability skills as well as developing teamwork, communication, leadership, creativity and presentation skills. The winning team from each Key Stage were then invited to attend the national finals. This year the national finals were held at The Telford International Centre in Manchester on July 4th. We were overwhelmed by the number of teams, nationally taking part in this event.

Both teams pitched their ideas to a panel of judges from the business world. Having watched the Key Stage 4 students pitch their idea they came across as young professional individuals showing such a high degree of confidence and showed such tenacity in their delivery. All students represented Newark Academy superbly well.

Although Newark Academy did not win overall, the students were all winners at the end of the day in terms of their dedication and hard work in the preparation leading up to the event. The growth in confidence that they demonstrated and the overall learning curve achieved will set them in good stead for other similar events coming up in the new academic year at Newark Academy, where students will grow from strength to strength.

Year 10 winners - Step Out

Millie Scott-Criddle
Chloe Rastall
Milosz Rabus



Year 7 winners - Invasion 4D

Haydn Meadows
Daniel Pitchford
Aleksandra Romanczuk
Lucus Hearn
Oliver Metcalfe
Russell Edwards



District Athletics

31 Year 8, 9 and 10 students took to the track and field in the district athletics competition at Joseph Whitaker School in May. All students performed well with some outstanding performances by three of our young athletes. The day went to our new head boy, Munashe Mudariki, who jumped a massive 1.65m in the high jump becoming the intermediate boys district champion, this was closely followed by Harry Payne who came 2nd in the junior boys shot and Ella Mahon matched that by coming 2nd in the junior girls Javelin.



Cycling – A British Cycling initiative to engage and promote cycling to girls at secondary school age

Continuing with our great relationship and support from Steve Crosland, a British Cycling coach, we once again had the delight of offering a course of cycling to over 30 girls in curriculum time this year. The course is run by British Cycling who provides all the equipment and expert coaching linking with our local cycling clubs. This year a number of Year 7 and 8 students took up the opportunity and completed a six session course in school during curriculum time. The course ended with two exciting events for the students due to their competence in racing and handling the bikes. Firstly ten students were selected to compete at our very own cycling race held on our school grounds. Two further schools also brought teams, one from Leicester and one from Lincoln. We



took the individual Gold medal through Lucy Morley who rode exceptionally well and team silver in a competitive final race. The second opportunity was to use the skills learnt in a slightly different environment, Sherwood Pines Mountain Bike routes. Still being coached, the girls took on terrain that they had never encountered before, learning about how to control the bike and their body through the undulating routes.

Sports Tour 2017

Our first annual Sports Tours took place during the Easter holidays this year. Over 70 girls and boys took up the exciting opportunity. The girls embarked upon a trip over to France to Disneyland Paris to play Netball, whereas the boys travelled to Dortmund Germany for their Football tour.

The boys had a fun filled five days of training, stadium visits and a competitive match against Dutch side Venloshe. All boys received a full Dortmund kit and medals for their excellent play.



The girls travelled to their hotel in Disneyland and had a busy timetable of events that took them into Disneyland as well as playing competitive Netball with over 50 schools. Whilst the girls were playing their competitive matches and having expert coaching they were also delighted to meet some inspirational Netball players; Eboni Beckford-Chambers (England International) and Joline Henry (New Zealand International) were on hand to talk to the young Netballers and be able to coach them in the coaching sessions. Some of the girls also managed to grab a quick photo with the two internationals, Joline Henry took an opportunity to perfect her 'dabbing' with a few of the year nine girls - of course this is a must on the Netball Court!!

Saturday's finals saw our six teams play in three different competitions.

The U14's all played in the morning gaining valuable experience and playing some excellent netball. The U12's played their finals in the afternoon showing great progression from the group stages on Thursday. All teams played brilliantly and set themselves goals along the way, but the day had to go to the U12A team who outplayed the other teams in their competition with some scores hitting double figures, 11 - 1 and 12 - 1 to name but a few. They were crowned WINNERS!

Along with the overall positions being played for, the organisers of the tour were also (unknown to the players and staff) looking out for players who fulfilled the criteria of 'Spirit of the Tournament', two of these awards went to Effie Sugden and Macy Gore from the U14 teams. A wonderful achievement.



Nottinghamshire Science and Technology Challenge Day

A group of Year 8 Higher Attaining Science pupils were involved in a Science and Technology Challenge Day organised by MCS Projects which took place at Vision West Nottinghamshire College in Mansfield. Throughout the day the pupils were asked to work with two young people from another school, thus encouraging the development of their communication and team work skills which are both essential in the study of science and technology at a higher level.



The pupils were involved in three out of the following four challenges to hone their skills and raise their aspirations:

- Robotics – pupils were asked to build and program a robot to navigate a series of obstacles.
- E-Fit Challenge – pupils used police software to create an image of a 'criminal'.
- Diagnostics Challenge – pupils were asked to use a range of medical equipment to diagnose a 'patient'.

- Vehicle Challenge – the pupils were asked to design, build and then race a simple electric vehicle.

The pupils were fantastic, fully engaged in and enjoyed all of the challenges, coming runners-up in the Robotics Challenge, the E-Fit Challenge and the Vehicle Challenge, the pupils were a credit to the Academy.

This is the successful start of a range of STEM activities to engage and raise aspirations for all learners at Newark Academy.

Newark Academy Park Run

On Saturday 8th July the Newark Academy community carried out a 'parkrun takeover' at Newark parkrun. Over 50 staff, students and their families headed to Sconce and Devon Park to volunteer or run/walk/jog the 5k course. Runners included everyone from a student starting with us in September, students from years seven to ten, our Head Boy and Head Girl, Mr Cruse's dog and Mr Jones' baby daughter! On the day there were 308 people taking part, the second highest attendance ever at Newark parkrun.



The first male staff member back was Mr Limmer and for the women it was Mrs Ness. For students, first male was Jordan Haywood Y8 in an impressive 20:44 and Faye Driver Y8 was the first female student over the line. Well done to all students who came along to volunteer or take part and thanks to staff and Newark Academy families for supporting the event.

Newark Academy Sports Day

Sports Day 2017 was another fantastic sports event that showed off the amazing talent that our young people have. The competition was high and teamwork and cooperation were even more important, as the house with the most points throughout the event would be crowned champions.



The day started with 1500m and High Jump taking place during the morning. The Year 8 girls had an amazing competition with Lexus Beckford from Warwick taking top spot. The boys' competition was also strong with the Year 10 boys breaking records – Daniel Kalu jumped an amazing height of 1.63m taking first place for Ludlow.

After an early lunch the whole school paraded out to the field collecting the house banners on the way, an amazing sight for the re-introduction of the house system.

During the afternoon there were more amazing results including Clayton Coulter (Year 10 Kenilworth) in the Discus and Javelin throwing over 25m in both, Sophie Ballard (Year 7 Stirling) clocking a fantastic time in the 800m, Hope Watson (Year 7 Richmond) jumping a brilliant distance in Triple Jump. The Year 9 competition was also showing great talent with JJ Tolster and Channelle Allsop running solid runs in the 300m to take top spot for Warwick and Ludlow respectively. The Year 8 competition was also in full swing with Maddie Jex showing amazing running speed in the 200m and Mac O'Brien showing his speed in the 100m.

We had a points check half way through the competition and Ludlow were taking a commanding lead at that point being in top place in all but one year group.

The rest of the competition took place and the excitement rose for the winners to be crowned.

The Final results:

1st place - Ludlow – 835

2nd place – Warwick – 772

3rd place – Stirling - 756

4th place – Richmond – 750

5th place – Pembroke – 697

6th place - Kenilworth – 657

The competition level is now set high ready for further house competitions next year with more sporting events and competitions throughout the school.

Newark Academy Carnival

On Saturday 9th September we will celebrate the official opening of the Sam White Sports Centre with a Newark Academy Carnival. The event will take place from 11.00am – 3.00pm with lots of family fun, music and entertainment. More information will be sent out very soon!
