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December 2017

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

I am delighted to be able to introduce our Autumn term Newsletter to all members of our Academy community and I hope you enjoy reading about the many wonderful events that have taken place over the past term. We are rapidly establishing our Academy as a vibrant and exciting school which sits firmly at the heart of our community.

It has been a fast paced, exciting and enjoyable term with so much to share and be proud of. We are delighted to see how quickly our new Year 7 students have settled into Academy life and are equally delighted with the very positive feedback that we have received from parents and carers about how happy and settled they are here at the Academy. It has been an equally positive start for all other year groups and we are justifiably proud of their many wonderful achievements both in and out of the classroom.

Our enrichment programme has been a huge success with over 350 students signed up to at least one after school activity. There is something for everyone with over 30 after school clubs from Journalism to Japanese with more exciting activities due to be added in the new year.

As an Academy we are always seeking to improve the experience we offer our students and families and we are currently reviewing our communication systems to improve communication with parents and carers whilst at the same time, limiting the amount of paper we use by moving to electronic forms of communication. It is vitally important that parents and carers check that the details we hold on our files, particularly around email addresses and mobile phone numbers are accurate and up to date. All communication will be sent electronically from Spring 2018 but if you wish to receive hard copies of any correspondence then please do let the Academy office know so that this arrangement can be secured. We are very keen to hear from parents and carers if they feel they can provide creative ways to improve our communication between home and school so please do contact the Academy if you would like us to consider your suggestions.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your unrelenting support during the Autumn term. We are making tremendous progress across every agenda at the Academy and are determined to ensure that we secure an 'amazing' school for our amazing students and your support in securing this is invaluable.

As time is so precious, I hope that the extended Christmas break provides all families and students with an opportunity to spend some quality time together over the festive period.

A selection of important Spring Term dates and events have been added to this newsletter so that parents and carers can begin to plan their own calendars for 2018.

On behalf of the staff and governors I would like to wish students, parents, carers and friends of the Academy, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Andy Seymour

Newark Academy Carnival

Newark Academy Carnival took place on Saturday 9 September in conjunction with the official opening of the school's new sports centre, which has been named in memory of former student, Sam White.



The new Sam White Sports Centre was officially opened at 11.30am by sports coach Pete Edwards, and is a tribute to Sam's passion and commitment to sport.

Sam was diagnosed with a cancerous brain tumour at the age of 12. After a four-year battle he died aged 16 in September 2013, but not before touching the hearts of the community in his fight against cancer.

The carnival, which included a dog show, a bouncy castle, stalls, zorbing, a fire engine and live music, also provided an opportunity for the local community to view Newark Academy's new school building and facilities.

Over £1,000 was raised at the carnival for the Sam White Legacy. Sam's parents Pam and Michael White are pictured receiving the cheque.



New Enrichment Activities

This term saw us launch our new exciting enrichment programme here at the Academy. Hundreds of students have signed up and took part in a whole host of different activities including sports, art, dance, drama and even learning Japanese & Mandarin! We would like to thank all our enrichment providers for working with us and helping provide students with a range of opportunities. Amongst the many achievements include 8 students who successfully completed stage one of their canoe competency qualification which was delivered through Newark Canoe Club. Students benefited from specialist coaching and, after spending some time in the water perfecting their skills, built up their skills so they could slide down a hillside straight into the lake! A number of students also gained an ArtsMark award through their work with Elaine Winter and the Community Art Club. These students are often the unsung heroes of our school events and use their creative talents to create a range of artistic displays and props which are always a delight to see.



We are delighted to announce that our enrichment provision continues to grow and will be refreshed during the Spring Term. New clubs on offer to Newark Academy students include; driver theory training, first aid, yoga, cake decorating, hairdressing, carpentry and contemporary dance to name but a few! All existing clubs will also continue to run. Students will be able to sign up for the new enrichment programme during the first two weeks of term. All enrichment clubs will begin week commencing 22nd January 2018 with the exception of our homework/study clubs which will continue to run Mondays through to Fridays in the open ICT areas from

the first Monday back at school following the Christmas break. Watch out for further information soon after Christmas.



Spooktacular Event



This October saw our second Spooktacular event at Newark Academy theatre with a sell out performance celebrating the darker side of the diverse arts based opportunities we offer here. As our audience entered our castle of horror they were treated to a host of super spooky delights including Elaine Varney's ballet school Pumpkins, Elaine Winter's Community Arts 'Day of the Dead' physical mask promenade and year 10 GCSE drama's haunted stories based around their studies on The Cabinet of Dr Caligari. It was a wonderful event and a

real community Spooktacular!

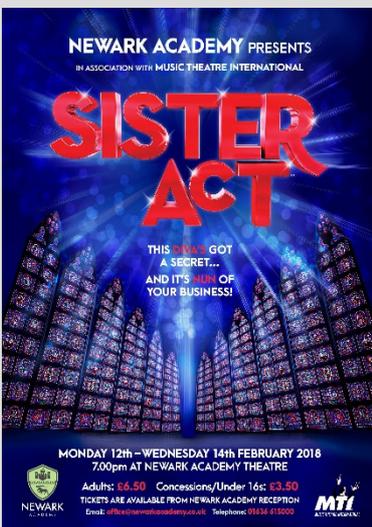
This term also saw two theatre visits – Year 10 and 11 GCSE drama students going to see Blood Brothers and Bouncers.



The Christmas Concert saw a number of students performing Christmas pieces through music, song, dance and drama and again, showcased the wonderful talent that we have here at our Academy.

The next School Production

The school's performance of Sister Act will take place 12th – 14th February 2018. We've already raised a significant amount of funds towards ensuring the show is an amazing spectacular with fancy dress and bag packing. Please come along and support. Tickets are available so be sure to snap them up while you can!



Sporting Events



Netball

An amazing term for the Netball Academy with all league matches won for year groups 7 – 10. The year 9's won the two round tournament to put them through to the finals. An amazing run saw the girls in year 9 come 5th overall. An amazing achievement! The year 7, 8 and 10 girls took this as a challenge and thrived in each of their respective first round fixtures. They have all won matches in their leagues putting all three teams top of the leader board half way through the tournament.

Pictured are our up and coming year 7 team who have been victorious since starting their league this year.



Futsal

Two amazing results from our first entries into the district Futsal (a type of indoor football). Both the year 7 boys and year 7 girl's teams took on Joseph Whittaker and Magnus to win all matches and become District Champions. They will now both represent Newark and Sherwood in the county finals next term. Good Luck teams!

Cross Country

A fantastic cross country meet for our students from years 7 to 10 at Sherwood Pines. A strong team of 29 students braved the cold weather to compete against other schools at the District Championships. After the last race we totalled 9 who have qualified for the County round in February at Wollaton Park. Our best placed student was Sophie Ballard who ran a stunning race coming in top place for the Newark and Sherwood School.



Coming up:

Next term sees our Netball academy teams continue their journey in the league fixtures and county rounds.

Opportunities in Indoor Cricket for the U15 girls and U13 girls teams, year 7 and year 8 Sports Hall Athletics competitions, Year 8/9 Girls and boys Basketball, Boccia (inclusive sports), cross country, Athletics and Year 7 Tag rugby.

The Sweet Sound of Success

Elizabeth Gibson (Year 8), Rachel Birch (Year 8) and Amy Birch (Year 11) went to Nottingham and performed at the National Concert Band Festival. The girls are part of the Newark and Sherwood Concert Band. The competition was held at the Nottingham High School. In the concert band Elizabeth plays the flute and Rachel and Amy both play the clarinet. After all the performances were listened to the judges announced the winners. To the delight of the girls they had secured second place! For Elizabeth and Rachel this was their first event. Well done girls we are so proud of you!

Newark Academy Equestrian Team

Fantastic results for the Newark Academy NSEA team. A team win in the 70cm class with Reggie Horne also getting individual 2nd, Lilly Davies 7th and Alice Huckstep 11th. Then in the 80cm the team finished 8th out of 30 teams with an amazing clear round from Alice and duke and Lilly and Reggie finishing on 4 faults each. Alice was also individual 15th in the 80cm from 100 other competitors.



Further success for the show jumping team not only all jumping clear at the NSEA National Championships but also finishing on a top 6 placing. The team are now all looking forward to 2018.

Dragons' Den Winners

Business studies students from year 9 completed a market research challenge this term developing their entrepreneurial and presentation skills. Students were tasked with developing a new product idea for a famous brand of their choice. They had to undertake market research and competitor analysis as well as prepare a 'pitch' to potential investors. Five local entrepreneurs formed the Dragons Den panel and quizzed the students on the feasibility of their business ideas. Ten lucky students were chosen



as the winners and were rewarded with an exclusive trip to the ProDrive Aston Martin race centre in Banbury, Oxfordshire. Here they were given a behind the scenes tour of their state of the art facility including production, research and development and marketing. They also got to see one of the most expensive cars in the world - the Aston Martin Vulcan - a snip at only £2million!

FONA Christmas Shopping Evening

We were delighted to host our first ever Christmas Shopping Event in November. This was organised by the amazing team of volunteers from FONA. Over 35 stallholders attended the event and shoppers were entertained by our school choir during the evening. Our thanks goes to the FONA team who put on an incredible evening raising over £700 to support the school. Connor Marshall, winner of the FONA logo competition, officially opens the event.



FONA are always looking for new members. If you have any spare time and would like to find out more please do get in touch with the school.



Children in Need Fundraising

Well done to the KS3 Student Council – over £200 was raised for Children in Need. Cakes were sold at break time and lunch time and the students collected 'loose change' in a bucket. Well done!



Christmas Lights Switch-On

On 26th November FONA and students from Newark Academy ran a market stall as part of the Newark Christmas Market in the town square. The event was to mark the official switching on of the Christmas lights. The stall was a huge success raising over £200 to support the school. Thank you to everyone who helped and supported the stall.



Remembrance Service

Three Remembrance Assemblies by students took place during the week commencing 6th November to mark the soldiers who gave their lives during the Great War conflict. The piece 'The Last Hero' was performed by students and was based on the last British soldier, George Edwin Ellison to be killed in action ninety minutes before the Armistice came into effect on 11th November 1918.

On Friday 10th November members of The British Legion and Oaks Elderly Residential Home visited Newark Academy and attended one of the assemblies. At 11.00 on Friday 10th November all staff, students and visitors observed a one minutes silence in the Courtyard, followed by Sally Goodman, a member of staff at the Academy playing The Last Post.



News in Brief

Katie Mills and Jessica Catton have been accepted to play with the Nottingham County Netball Academy. This gives them the fantastic opportunity to play with some of the England netball coaches. Could they become future Olympic stars?

Daniel Pitchford took part in an East Midlands Karate Competition for under 18s this month. Daniel came second and was awarded a silver medal. Well done Daniel.

Georgia-Mae Neal and Hannah Davidson danced on stage at the Newark Christmas Light Switch On at the end of November.

Jessica Prior and Emily Walls gave a photographic exhibition in the school library as part of their photography after school club. Congratulations to them both.

Rosie Stapley performed a solo of 'As Long as he Needs Me' from the show Oliver in the show Trouble in Pantoland. A fantastic performance – you're a star in the making Rosie.

Madison Stephens was involved back stage for the show Hairspray for Newark Youth Theatre at The Palace Theatre in Newark. Well done Madison.

Elizabeth Gibson took her grade 4 flute exam and was 3 marks off a merit. Well done Elizabeth.

Christmas Community Lunch

On Friday 8th December Newark Academy hosted a community Christmas lunch. The day was organised by students from the Year 11 Student Council. Over 60 meals were prepared - all cooked in the school food technology room by our wonderful site team who did a fantastic job. We are also grateful for the help and support of Mrs Green, mum to Hannah in Year 11.



Guests at our festive meal included residents from local care homes and members of the Balderton branch of the British Legion. Entertainment included a very exciting game of bingo and beautiful singing from Sophie and Emily Hibberd. The event was a huge success and thanks must also go to the army of staff who volunteered their time to help serve and do the washing up!

Year 10 Careers Day



On 8th December all year 10 students took part in a careers and employability day helping them prepare for their upcoming work experience in March 2018. A number of external workshop hosts visited the school including Nottingham Trent University and Newark & Sherwood Council. Students also heard from two guest speakers in the morning including Damon Fox from Evolve who spoke about the importance of work experience and Richard McCann who shared his life story and how he has overcome insurmountable challenges to be successful. In the afternoon students had the opportunity to begin their search for a work experience placement as well as

develop their own CVs and letters of applications. The next stage of the process will begin in January as work experience placements are confirmed. Good luck Year 10!

KS3 Festive Disco

The KS3 Festive Disco took place this week with lots of laughs, hotdogs, and dancing. It was great to see our KS3 students mix, dance and laugh together at the end of what has been a hugely enjoyable term. A fantastic evening was had by all.

Festive king was Hayden Meddows Y8
Festive queen was Evezia Fellows Y7



Dance off winners were Matthew Haynes and Jessica German with some wonderfully inspiring dance moves. Keep cutting those shapes!



Literacy Lunches

Literacy lunches are being held on a monthly basis. The lunches are to raise aspirations and enable students to understand the importance of literacy skills not only in school, but later on in the work place. The lunches are attended by a variety of upstanding members of the local community who work in roles that demand high literacy levels. Some of the speakers: The Newark Advertiser, require extremely accurate written skills. Other speakers: BBC East Midlands, require articulate oral skills in order to be able to carry out their highly communicative roles. All speakers so far, have mentioned the importance of developing literacy skills in school and offered advice on how to overcome challenges that might face students in terms of determination, forbearance and achievement. The Sheriff of Nottingham offered an interesting discussion on what it means to be an 'important person' and suggested students consider all jobs that are 'useful' as 'important'. The lunches have a strong attendance and many students are regulars at these talks, posing thoughtful questions to our speakers and challenging them on key points in their speeches. We look forward to next year when our local MP, a sports journalist, an author and our very own Headteacher are scheduled to participate in a Literacy Lunch.



Well-being Award

In order to ensure we provide the very best pastoral care for our school community, Newark Academy has embarked on the journey of the Well-being Award for Schools, under the guidance of the National Children's Bureau. With a starting point of students, parents and staff surveys, the process of working towards this accreditation will enable us to review and enhance our provision. A Mental Health Change Team is being set up to allow the whole school community to be involved in driving this agenda and we would love for more parents/carers and students to be a part of this journey. If you would like to find out more please call for details (Mrs Ness or Mrs Brown).

Peer Mentors

The peer mentoring scheme at Newark Academy is thriving with recruitment for new year 9 mentors being led by our current year 10s. Training will take place after Christmas and we will then split the mentoring roles to enable them to have more of a focus in certain areas. The mentors are going out into local primary schools to support for the recruitment and training of primary mentors too, which has been a great way for them to build and enhance their leadership skills and confidence. With Together for Newark's Health Minds Week approaching in May, the mentors will be planning a range of workshops and assemblies at Newark Academy and primary schools.

LGBTQ

November saw the launch of our new LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning) Open Space, which is a social group for members of our LGBTQ community and anyone else who would like to get involved in raising awareness and working towards promoting equality. We will be running an LGBTQ information session for parents and carers on 25th January 5.00 pm – 6.00 pm. Please call to book a place. If you would like to know more about the Open Space please contact Mrs Preston.



The poster features the Newark Academy logo on the left and a row of colorful silhouettes representing diverse people on the right. The text is centered and includes a quote at the bottom right.

LGBTQ Open Space
(Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Trans, Questioning)

Students from the LGBTQ community (and friends) are welcome to attend this social group.

This group will be a safe space to come and talk about problems, help find solutions or just come and have a chat with some friendly faces.

- WHERE—ROOM 2-043
- WHEN—MONDAY LUNCH TIME KS3 & KS4

THE CLUB WILL START ON MONDAY 20TH NOVEMBER
SEE MRS PRESTON FOR MORE DETAILS

"Courage is being yourself every day, in a world that tells you to be someone else"



Key Dates

11 th January 2018	Year 9 Achievement Evening
31 st January 2018	Year 8 Inspire Your Future Evening
1 st February 2018	Year 11 School Photographs
6 th February 2018	Families Forum Meeting
12 th – 14 th February 2018	School Production – Sister Act
15 th February 2018	Year 8 Achievement Event
1 st March 2018	Year 8 Option Evening
15 th March 2018	Year 10 Achievement Evening
28 th March 2018	Families Forum Meeting
29 th March 2018	Year 11 Achievement Evening