



Dear Parents and Carers

As the festive season fast approaches, I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with important information regarding the end of the Autumn Term and to thank you, as parents and carers, for your considerable support and commitment this year.

We have packed a great deal of activity into our first term here at the Academy and our many wonderful pupils and staff have created some magical moments during the Autumn term. From our wonderful Year 7 welcome party to our truly amazing Christmas shopping experience organised by our inspirational FONA team, we are justifiably proud of every member of our Academy community. Many of these wonderful experiences, along with the multitude of music and sporting events can be found in our Autumn edition of our Academy Newsletter which will be sent to you electronically (and through the post where requested) towards the end of the term.

I would like to thank all parents and carers for their support of our additional INSET day held in December which provided colleagues from across the NOVA trust with the opportunity to collaborate on and co-construct our Knowledge Led Curriculum so that all children have the personal, social and academic experiences that enable them to learn, grow and develop as individuals ready for the world at large. This followed on from our 'Great' agenda INSET in August which underpins our relentless focus and drive in firmly establishing our Academy as a great local school for local children and families which, from indicative numbers for 2020, is clearly becoming a reality with over 450 applications for 210 places. We are delighted to see that community confidence in the work that we do here at our Academy is fully restored and we are genuinely excited for the future.

End of Term Arrangements

With the end of term just around the corner, I'd like to update you on our final day arrangements. The Academy will break for the Christmas holidays on **Friday 13th December 2019 at 2.05pm** which is later than the usual 'half day' finish that normally takes place at the end of a very busy Autumn term. Analysis has shown that Academy attendance is negatively impacted on the last day of our Autumn term and drops to unacceptable levels. As such, we have taken the decision to close at 2.05pm instead of 12.00pm as has been previous practice.

Pupils will be expected to attend periods 1 to 5 as normal as well as a short tutor period prior to being dismissed so that tutors can provide some key messages in readiness for the new term and dismiss all pupils from the Academy in a calm and orderly manner. Our canteen will offer a normal lunch service and all local travel companies have been informed of our decision to finish the term earlier than usual and will be available from 2.00pm onwards.

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

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Arrangements can be made to supervise pupils in the afternoon should parents wish to but this must be communicated directly with your child's pastoral leader by **Thursday 12th December** to ensure that arrangements are securely in place for the end of the day.

In addition, Pupils have asked if they can wear a Christmas jumper on the last day of term, in line with National Christmas Jumper day, to raise funds for charity. Those wishing to do so are asked to make a voluntary contribution of £1 which will go to support 'Save the Children' and 'Make a Wish' charities. **PLEASE NOTE THIS IS NOT A NON UNIFORM DAY.** Pupils should wear usual school uniform except they can wear a Christmas jumper instead of their blazer, shirt and tie. If pupils do not want to wear a Christmas jumper they should arrive in full school uniform.

Progress Update

I am enormously proud of the progress that we are making here at the Academy which has been validated by last years' positive 'Ofsted' verdict where our Academy was judged to be 'Good' with 'Outstanding leadership and management'. However, as the report rightly identified, this is simply the start of the process to securing truly amazing educational experiences for the children and community we serve and with a growing, enabled and committed staff body, we are determined to continually improve our practice so that children receive the world class education that they deserve. Progress remains a key focus and we remain on course to securing strong outcomes this year but more importantly, we are delighted to be able to provide our young people with a range of appropriate supportive measures that ensure their care, guidance and wellbeing remain in constant focus.

Communication

We continually strive to ensure that we provide parents and carers with the highest standard of communication possible and remain committed to further strengthening the excellent partnerships that exist between home and school. Our INSIGHT programme has made a significant difference to many families and parents and carers tell us that they are very appreciative of the opportunities to view their child's information whenever they like. Our report system and subsequent additional Achievement Evenings have been well received and parents continue to offer some excellent advice and guidance on how we can improve things even more through parent forum meetings and visits to the school which of course, is invaluable. We are always keen to receive feedback to help with this significant agenda and if you would like to discuss any aspect of our communication strategy, then please feel free to contact the Academy. As always, please do follow us on twitter (@newarkacademyUK) for up to the minute information as well as our website www.newarkacademy.co.uk which contains parental letters and key dates for the year ahead.

Staffing information

It is with immense sadness that we say goodbye to Mrs Awan in Maths who has decided to retire from the profession after a considerable period of time teaching in both the City and the County. Mrs Awan has been a very popular member of the Academy team and will be sorely missed by pupils and staff. We wish Mrs Awan every best wish as and we send her off with our love and fondest best wishes.

We also say goodbye to another long serving member of our Academy team as Mrs Britten leaves her position in our administration team to take up new opportunities in the local area. We wish Mrs Britten every success in her new ventures and we thank her wholeheartedly for her years of wonderful service to both the Grove School and Newark Academy.

Return to Academy

We welcome all pupils back after their Christmas break on Monday 6th January 2020. While we appreciate that pupils often wish to let school friends see their Christmas presents especially mobile devices including internet linked watches, please could you remind your child of the Academy's Policy which clearly states that such items should be left at home where possible, and under no circumstances should they be used in the school building.

All that remains is for me to thank you once again for your continued support and I wish you and your family a very happy and healthy Christmas and every best wish for the New Year.

Yours sincerely



Andy Seymour
Headteacher

Key Dates – Spring Term 2020

16 th January 2020	Year 11 Achievement Evening
6 th February 2020	Year 5 Open Evening
13 th February 2020	Year 8 Options Evening