



14th July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the final week of the school term, I wanted to write and share some important information regarding students return in September. This academic year has been an extraordinary one for many reasons, and one which has provided a number of challenges to students, parents and staff. I am incredibly proud of how we have worked together to overcome these challenges. Covid has forced us to work very differently which has taken students and staff well outside of their comfort zone: Cancellation of exams, rewards ceremonies, enrichment and trips, postponement of the Prom; working from home during lockdown; self-isolation, and the many restrictions in place to keep the school open safely – all of which have taken their toll on us.

Yet here we are, we have made it to the end of the academic year and we can all look forward to what I hope will be a more traditional school year when we return in September and a much better, less disruptive experience for our students.

I have been continually impressed with how our wonderful students have responded and the resilience they have demonstrated. Our students have been absolutely fantastic throughout the year and are fully deserving of an enjoyable summer break. To provide our students with a reward for their resilience and tenacity I would like to invite them to take part in a non-uniform day on Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th July, our final two days of the term. We are raising money for a national charity, Cancer Research and welcome £1 donations from those wanting to participate. Furthermore, and as part of our summer term tradition, students will finish early on Tuesday 20th. Our year 9, 10 and 11 students will finish lessons at 12.45pm; year 7 and 8 at 1.15pm; NA6 students at 11.45am. The school bus 683 to Farndon will be rescheduled and will leave the school site at approximately 1.20pm. The community buses cannot be rescheduled, so students who use No. 2 Winthorpe will need to catch the Stagecoach service 3 outside Lidl and transfer to service 2 at the bus station. Students who use the 686 Barnby in the Willows service will be required to make alternative travel arrangements. If this presents any issues for families please get in touch so that we can support.

After the summer break students will return to school from Monday 6th September. You may well be aware that schools have been asked to provide all secondary aged children with two lateral flow tests (LFT) prior to their return to lessons. We are therefore going to implement a staggered return to support this work.

Returns and testing details are as follows:

Year Group	LFT Test Day 1	LFT Test Day 2	Return to Lessons 8.20am arrival – 8.30am lessons commence
7	Tuesday 31 st August	Friday 3 rd September	Monday 6 th September
8	Tuesday 31 st August	Friday 3 rd September	Monday 6 th September
9	Thursday 2 nd September	Tuesday 7 th September	Wednesday 8 th September
10	Wednesday 1 st September	Monday 6 th September	Tuesday 7 th September
11	Wednesday 1 st September	Monday 6 th September	Tuesday 7 th September
NA6	Thursday 2 nd September	Tuesday 7 th September	Wednesday 8 th September

** Appointments for your child's LFT will be sent through via email later this week*

Parents/carers who consent to their child receiving an LFT will need to ensure their child attends the allocated appointment slot. Those parents/carers who do not consent to LFT for their child can simply decline the appointment via return email.

Throughout this term, we have been sending lateral flow tests (LFTs) home and have asked children to test twice each week. Please continue to do this and report your results on the government website and inform school of any positive cases up to end of term. The latest guidance states that children are not required to test during the summer holiday period, however, we would encourage our community to continue to test and for anyone wishing to do so LFTs can be ordered at the following site: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

In line with Government Step 4 guidance, close contacts will only be identified by NHS test and trace and educational settings will no longer have to identify close contacts. This means only children with confirmed cases of Covid, or those with Covid related symptoms, will be required to self isolate. I am certain families will join me in welcoming this development in guidance as it reduces the disruption to children's education and their lifestyles outside of school significantly.

As parents/carers you will also be keen to understand what the key changes to our current operational guidance are, and what this looks like for your children. We have reviewed the guidance and are adjusting our risk assessments as necessary. A summary of the main changes which parents might need to be aware of before children return in September are as follows:

- Uniform – PE kit will no longer be worn on days where children have PE lessons. Children will be required to bring their PE kits in bags and change at the start of PE lessons. Please note full school uniform (including correct footwear) is expected of all students upon our return. Please visit our website (<https://www.newarkacademy.co.uk/page.php?p=uniform>) for full uniform guidance.
- Face Coverings – Are no longer required in school. We will however allow students to wear face coverings if this helps reduce anxiety. Face coverings on public transport are still being discussed at Government level and we will update you on this as soon as it's confirmed.
- Testing – Lateral Flow testing from home will continue. However, there is no need to test during the summer holiday period.
- Hand Hygiene and ventilation – We will maintain our hand hygiene and ventilation protocols during the autumn term.

- Entrances and Staggered Starts – lessons will commence at 8.30am for all children. We ask that children are on-site by 8.20am to enable a swift start to lessons at 8.30am. We will maintain a series of entry points to help with entry into the building.
- One-way system and stairs – We will maintain a one-way system throughout the corridors but will revert to two-way movement on stairs.
- Zones – We will no longer be operating zones during breaks and lunch times.
- Bubbles – ‘The close contact’ restrictions have been removed and therefore year group bubbles will no longer be in place.
- Staggered finish times – These have worked really effectively and therefore will remain in place. Year 7 and 8 will end period 6 at 2.50pm; year 9 and 10 at 2.55pm; year 11 and NA6 at 3pm.
- We have designed an ‘Outbreak Management Plan’ which is part of the Government contingency framework should we have to manage any local virus outbreaks.

It is important that we are able to secure a really positive start as students return in September. One of the barriers to this can often be student’s equipment and uniform. Newark Academy have ordered all students new whiteboards and pens to replace any equipment which needs to go into their learning wallets. Please can parents/carers ensure that children keep these wallets safe, and to ensure they have them when they return in September. Furthermore, it is important that students arrive in the correct uniform when they return. Please visit our website before purchasing any items to avoid any disappointment.

Attached to this letter is our latest edition of the Academy Newsletter which is designed to share some of the wonderful success stories from across the year. I hope you enjoy reading about them.

Finally, thank you to those families who participated in the Pulse Survey. We are currently undertaking a review of the feedback and will put together a ‘You said, we did’ style response in the new Academic year. I am really keen to develop strong partnerships with parents and intend to put together year group specific parent forums where you can be more involved in the decision-making processes at school, and help support us with our Academy improvement agendas. If you are interested in being part of our Parent Forum groups please email my PA, Karen Barber: kbarber@newarkacademy.co.uk

Thank you for your continued support throughout the term. The partnership between home and school is such an important one and we couldn’t have got through this year without your support.

Have a fantastic summer.

Yours sincerely,



Chris Fisher
Head of School

