



7th December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the final part of the autumn term I felt it important to write to you and share some important details regarding the end of term but also to share my reflections on what has been a very extraordinary term.

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support. There have been significant challenges over the past few months and your patience, collaboration and consideration has been extremely important in our successful navigation of these challenges. All things considered, we have been extremely fortunate in terms of the number of covid-19 cases we have experienced and I strongly believe that this is testament to the resilience of parents, in ensuring that you have kept children at home when they have been unwell, and to the amazing work of our cleaning and site staff who have been instrumental in keeping our site safe. Furthermore, to our staff whose vigilance and willingness to put themselves and their families at risk to deliver the experiences that your child(ren) deserve has been honorable. It really has been a remarkable team effort! Our end of term Academy Newsletter will be with you later this week which, I am sure you will agree, captures brilliantly what I have described here.

I continue to be amazed and humbled by the resilience and tenacity of our students. Despite the challenges and undoubted anxieties, they have responded brilliantly and the level of engagement they are demonstrating in lessons is something to be admired, you should be so proud as parents/carers. I love to walk around our Academy whilst children are in lessons and have been inspired by the beautiful work they are doing. I feel this will strengthen even further as we go into the New Year and look forward to welcoming our students back following a well-deserved Christmas break.

Christmas this year is going to present its challenges and with the restrictions in place we may be unable to celebrate this festive period in the way we are accustomed to. I feel it is important therefore for our Academy to take some time to celebrate all the amazing things I have described above and would like to end the term with a few festive treats for our students and staff.

There will be a number of events and activities that will take place throughout the course of the final week of term but there are a couple of things I would like to specifically draw your attention to within this letter. Firstly, our Festive Christmas dinner will take place on Wednesday 9th December.

Secondly, there will be a non-uniform day on Thursday 10th December for all students in **Warwick House** which is to reward them for finishing top of the House leadership board this term.

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Thirdly, there will be a Christmas jumper day on the last day of term and we welcome donations of £1 to raise money for Save the Children, a very worthy cause. Also during the final day of term we will hold our final rewards assemblies of 2020 where we aim to end the term with celebration, cheer and festivity and acknowledge the amazing work of our students.

Furthermore, and in line with tradition at Newark Academy, we shall finish our last day on Friday 11th December at 1.15pm. There will be a staggered release of students commencing with NA6 and year 11 at lunch time (12.25pm) followed by the rest of key stage 4 and 3 between 1-1.15pm. Lunch will be provided for KS3 children and for those children in KS4 who would like it. Buses will leave at 1.20pm for those students who travel home by bus. If this adjustment to the school day presents any childcare issues for you then please don't worry, we are more than happy to hold children in school until 2.55pm should parents/carers require. If this is something you wish to have in place for your child then please email the Academy office to inform us.

I am really looking forward to sharing these final days of the term with our students and hope they all enjoy their run-in to Christmas with us.

May I wish you and your families a safe and enjoyable Christmas and a very prosperous New Year.

Thank you for your ongoing support,

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Fisher', written in a cursive style.

Chris Fisher
Head of School