



Dear Parent/Carer/Student,

The House system at Newark Academy will resonate with many of our families across the town, particularly those who have previous experience of the Grove School. As I am sure families will appreciate, our Academy has evolved significantly over the past 4 years in particular and there is a growing sense that now is the time to review our Houses and its structure. Many of you will recall the house names and your association with each of them, but this affinity, within our current cohort, is limited. The development of GREAT values and Crew ethos and culture also seems to sit outside of current houses and now seems the right time to consider aligning them, helping students to gain greater clarity of each and to be able to relate to them from a local perspective.

However, before we consider changes such as this we feel it is important to involve all stakeholders in this decision-making process. It is important to us that any developments within this structure are fully owned and steered by our Academy community. We therefore invite you to consult on a number of proposals. Furthermore, we have recently consulted with members of our school family forum group who have provided really positive and encouraging feedback and feel the proposed changes will benefit the entire Academy community.

We would like to propose a plan to reduce the number of houses from 6 to 4. This would increase the number of students within each house and enable us to create more opportunities for inter-house events and challenges. We are also proposing a renaming of the houses and a retirement of the current castle names. Although in place for many years, our current house names have very little, if any, connection to the school, its GREAT values and surrounding area, which is something we are very keen to improve on.

We would like to hear from as many past and present Newark Academy connected community members to gather your views on these proposed changes. We are keen to know your thoughts on the renaming of the houses and would welcome any input and suggestions for potential house names. We would like suggestions that are focused on our GREAT values (Gratitude, Responsibility, Excellence, Aspiration and Tenacity), our Crew culture and ethos (teamwork, togetherness, no passengers), or anything which has a strong, positive connection with the local and surrounding areas.

The existing house system will always remain a key part of what built this school and the individuals that have passed through its doors. We aim to celebrate and pay respectful homage to those whilst celebrating the next phase of our Academy, its values and ethos, and its next generation of students.

If you would like to respond to this consultation please do so by sharing your feedback and suggestions through the following email address before the deadline of Friday 9th July 2021:

aathey@newarkacademy.co.uk

Kindest regards and best wishes,

Mr Andrew Athey
Associate School Leader – Student Experiences.

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