



17th July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I write to share some important updates with regards our re-opening to all students in September. Firstly I would like to take this opportunity to formally introduce myself as the new Head of School at Newark Academy. I am absolutely delighted to take up this opportunity and feel proud and honoured to be entrusted by the Governors and Nova Directors to lead our Academy in the next phase of its development. I consider the role of leading our wonderful Academy an absolute privilege and will give my full commitment to our staff, students and wider community as we continue on our journey towards making Newark Academy a GREAT place to work and learn. As an Academy, we have made significant progress over the past four years and as Deputy Head during this time, I feel I am well placed to lead our Academy to GREATNESS and beyond. I am excited to be supported by a very committed team of senior leaders and staff who are equally committed to achieving our shared vision.

One of the very immediate and pressing challenges that we are facing is the planning of a September return for all of our students. We are very excited to open our doors once more, and to provide the educational experiences that we know your children need, and our key principles as we work hard to achieve this are very clear. First of all we want to welcome students back to a broad and balanced curriculum so that opportunities to study a wide range of curriculum areas remains; we are very passionate and committed to this for our young people. This key principle will also support all students to regain momentum with learning so that they can quickly develop confidence in the knowledge and skills that are embedded through our curriculum. For some of our key stage 4 and 5 students this will include additional curriculum time so that we can fully support students prepare for a very critical point in their educational careers. We will share more on this as curriculum timetables are confirmed. The second key principle will be our unwavering desire to re-open in the safest possible way that considers the health and safety of our entire Academy community.

We take great confidence in the implementation of our recent reopening plans for year 10, 12 and of course our key worker children. We feel we have stress tested many of our systems and processes already and you will have seen a range of documentation and media that should provide parents and carers with great confidence. However, returning all of our children will add significant challenges and the health and safety of all of our staff and students is paramount and carefully considered in all our plans. We have fully analysed the government guidance and had many strategic conversations to achieve a plan which we are confident will deliver the key principles we have built upon. Our risk assessment that supports these reopening plans can be found on our website: [https://www.newarkacademy.co.uk/data/uploads/files/COVID - 19 Return to School - Corona Virus 1 \(003\).pdf](https://www.newarkacademy.co.uk/data/uploads/files/COVID - 19 Return to School - Corona Virus 1 (003).pdf)

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

Furthermore, it is vitally important that parents understand the governments 'Test and Trace' policy so that any confirmed cases of the COVID virus are communicated clearly. The following guidance will support parents to understand their expectations in relation to this: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-how-it-works>

Implementing our plan will require staff and students to be absolutely clear on our responsibilities and expectations, for which we have planned in time to secure this. Commencing with a four day inset programme for staff (25th-28th August), we will ensure that every single member of our team are fully on-board with what is required to achieve a safe transition back into school. We will then gradually introduce students back to our Academy so that they too are fully prepared for the new ways of working. The programme for this is as follows:

Monday 31 st August	Bank Holiday	
Tuesday 1 st September	Year 7 and NA6 in attendance only Student On-boarding Programme	
Wednesday 2 nd September	All students in attendance Student On-boarding Programme	Academic Support with subject teachers
Thursday 3 rd September	All students in attendance Student On-boarding Programme	Academic Support with subject teachers
Friday 4 th September	All students return to normal lessons	

In addition, from September, we will utilise a slightly staggered start to the school day. This will help secure safe entry and egress for all students. Year 7 children should arrive for 8.10am whilst other key stage 3 and 4 students should arrive for 8.20am. Year 12 and 13 students should arrive for 8.40am. Students arriving by bus will be able to wait by their year group entry point should they arrive prior to their official arrival time.

Over the coming weeks we will put together further communication which will support our families to fully understand what school will look like for a return in September. Part of this will include a walk through video which will outline the key changes to expect when students return, along with a frequently asked questions document. I am hopeful, like before, this will prove to be a really useful resource designed to help us all understand the expectations when students return to our Academy.

Furthermore, in the coming weeks we will aim to share our updated risk assessment, via our website, so that parents and carers can access this as and when required. We welcome feedback from parents and carers and are always happy to engage with families. If there are any queries or concerns, please do get in touch.

In addition, I am sure that our year 11 and 13 families will be keen to understand what results day will look like. Rest assured, we are working on finalising our plans for this and putting together a comprehensive plan to support our students during what we know can be a very stressful time of year. Full details of this will be emailed out to parents and students in the coming weeks.

Finally, can I urge those of you who use Twitter to follow us @NewarkAcademyUK. We will continue to use this platform when sharing updates throughout the summer holiday period which will help families keep up to date with any news and updates.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support, we really do appreciate it. Newark Academy wish you and your family a happy and safe summer holiday and we look forward to seeing you all in September.

Yours sincerely

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

Chris Fisher

Head of School