



6 December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the final part of the school term I wanted to write to you and share a few updates in regards to school and our response to some of the most recent Government Covid guidance. I also wanted to share with you that we are working on the first edition of our brand-new Academy Newsletter. This will be shared via email link with all families at the end of each half term, with the first edition landing before we break up for Christmas.

Despite the ongoing challenges faced across the education sector I continue to be in awe of the work our amazing staff and students do – they really have been fantastic! I would also like to thank parents for your continued support. The partnership between home and school is vitally important in ensuring every child has the best possible experience, makes excellent progress and is happy.

To that end, I am pleased to inform you that from January our new Parent Forum groups will be starting. Thank you to those parents who have expressed an interest in working with us to help steer our school improvement agendas. I am excited that the development of our parent forum sessions will now be focused on year group specific agendas which I hope proves both informative and impactful. We are excited to share with you our suggested agenda and aim to share the minutes from each session with all parents so that you can be kept updated as to what is happening. I feel this will further strengthen our partnership work but also empower parents to work alongside us as we continue on our journey to becoming a GREAT local school for a very deserving community. The details of our Parent Forum sessions and agenda items will soon be available on our website. As soon as this part of the website is built I will share a link which will provide you with access – I look forward to welcoming you into school soon.

Covid Updates:

January on-site testing

You may have seen the announcement that schools are being asked to set-up covid testing for students return in January and that all children should be tested on-site before returning to lessons. This will of course impact the planned return for all students on Thursday 6th January. The following information outlines the date and timeslot for your students on-site lateral flow test and the date they return to lessons:

Newark Academy | London Road, Balderton, Newark, Nottinghamshire NG24 3AL
Telephone: 01636 615000 | Email: office@newarkacademy.co.uk | Website: www.newarkacademy.co.uk
Executive Head Teacher: Andrew Seymour BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQH | Head of School: Chris Fisher BSc (Hons), PGCE

	On-site Lateral Flow Test Date:	On-site Lateral Flow Test Time Slot:	Return to Lessons Date:
Year 7	Thursday 6 th January	8.30am-12noon & 12.30-2pm	Monday 10 th January 8.25am
Year 8	Thursday 6 th January	8.30am-12noon & 12.30-2pm	Monday 10 th January 8.25am
Year 9	Friday 7 th January	8.30am-12noon & 12.30-2pm	Monday 10 th January 8.25am
Year 10	Friday 7 th January	8.30am-12noon & 12.30-2pm	Monday 10 th January 8.25am
Year 11	Friday 7 th January	8.30am-12noon & 12.30-2pm	Monday 10 th January 8.25am
Year 12	Thursday 6 th January	8.30am-12noon & 12.30-2pm	Monday 10 th January 8.25am
Year 13	Thursday 6 th January	8.30am-12noon & 12.30-2pm	Monday 10 th January 8.25am

Please note that we will not be requesting written consent for testing and will take your child's arrival for a test as consent to be tested. Also note that results will only be communicated with parents if a positive lateral flow test result is delivered. Furthermore, if your child has tested positive for covid within 90 days of their testing date, they are not required to undertake an on-site lateral flow test.

Ongoing Home Testing

The Government will continue to provide families with home testing lateral flow kits and the recommendation is all students continue to test twice weekly. We will hand testing kits out to students during Crew time.

Masks

The latest Government guidance asks for masks to be worn whilst on public transport and when going into shops and supermarkets. It is also 'strongly advised' that staff and students wear masks whilst in communal areas at school. Many students have supported this and taken a proactive response to wearing masks and I thank those students for doing so. This most recent guidance will continue to be reviewed and I will share updates with parents as and when anything changes. In the meantime, can I ask that parents continue to provide masks for children to wear at school and whilst using public transport.

End of Term Arrangements

Our final day of the term is **Friday 17th December** and our Christmas Dinner will be served on Wednesday 15th December – which is also Christmas Jumper Day. Students are welcome to wear their Christmas jumper alongside full school uniform (blazers, shirt and tie are not required) on the 15th December where we will be taking donations to raise money for Save the Children. We celebrate the final week of term with year group rewards assemblies where there are a number of prizes to be issued alongside the final Star Badge reward point upgrades. As is tradition, students will finish early on the 17th at 1pm.

The school bus 683 to Farndon will be rescheduled and will leave the school site at approximately 1.15pm. 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.

On behalf of our entire staff team I would like to wish you and your families a safe and enjoyable Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Your sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Fisher', with a stylized, overlapping loop at the end.

Chris Fisher
Head of School