



9 September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the end of our first full week back with students in school I felt it important to provide you with some feedback and a few points to help support us as we progress through the term.

First, and most importantly, I would like to congratulate your children on a fabulous first week - they have been outstanding and it truly has been a pleasure to have them back in school. Our staff have commented on the positivity, maturity and the engagement with learning they have all shown.

As we return to a resemblance of 'normal', with less restrictions in place and with more of the Academy site open to students, there have been quite a number of messages and new information to share with students. We will, through our Crew Programme, regularly communicate these key changes and messages with them to ensure they feel confident in how to be successful whilst with us. Please encourage your son/daughter to speak to their Crew Leader if they are uncertain about anything or if they have any questions - they are there to help and always happy to do so.

Furthermore, I am very excited to inform you that students will shortly have access to our amazing enrichment programme and I hope you are able to support us by encouraging your son/daughter to sign up for as many of these opportunities as they can. Details of our programme have been shared with students and sign up to these can be accessed here through our Academy website:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=LuLr9FO180SIVj4NhJCOuCcHzwbb879Jo4Q4ouIOMU1UMVBJUVRHNFoyTUVSTk9BMzA0WE0xWVE5NS4u>

There are a couple of points which have caused some concern and for which I ask for your support with:

Cycling to School

We have a very large number of students who travel to school by bicycle and whilst this is really positive for health and exercise, it does also mean we need to take additional measures to ensure students arrive and leave the Academy site safely. We have informed students of how to arrive and leave site safely and expect all students to push their bikes whilst travelling on the Academy footpath. This is particularly important when children head away from the building and towards London Road. I have noticed a number of students are not taking enough care when joining the cycle path on the road, or whilst crossing towards Lidl. In order to prevent me having to take measures around stopping students bringing bikes onto the Academy site, I would be incredibly grateful if you could please reinforce the importance of road safety with your son/daughter to help us ensure all children remain safe.

Car Parking

There are limited car parking spaces at the bottom of the Academy drive which are intended for visitors and drop-off/pick-up. Unfortunately we do not have the facility to accommodate parking for large numbers of cars at the end of the school day. I am therefore making a plea with parents to please take care and consideration if you do collect your son/daughter. For the safety of children, parents and staff I am asking parents/carers not to park within the bus terminus area which is marked with double yellow lines. We have experienced a growing number of cars in this area which is making safe release of students from school more challenging. I would ask parents to consider waiting for children in an appropriate and safe location away from the bus terminus area, or perhaps in quieter areas along London Road.

I am incredibly excited for the year ahead and look forward to welcoming parents/carers back into school for a variety of Academy events and celebrations this year. A reminder also that I am keen to establish a strong parent focus group of engaged and supportive parents who are keen to work with me and the wider staff to continue to improve the quality of education and experiences for our amazing students.

I look forward to hearing from parents who are interested in this opportunity and please do email my PA, Karen Barber to express interest if you are keen to find out more about this:

kbarber@newarkacademy.co.uk

Finally, I would like to make parents/carers aware of a slight change to our Academy Term Dates. A summary of these changes are detailed below and you can find the full overview of term dates on our website. If you have any queries regarding this or any questions about any current bookings for Christmas Holiday vacations then please contact Lisa Ness, Attendance Officer:

- 6th & 7th January 2022 will become school days
- 25th & 26th July 2022 will become school holidays

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards



Chris Fisher
Head of School

