



13th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you and your families remain safe and well.

As we reach the end of our first week of online learning for all, I would like to take the opportunity to share some reflections with you. I am incredibly proud of all our staff and students, who are working extremely hard to respond positively to the challenges we are facing. Our re-launch of online learning, following this second period of school closure, has been an overwhelming success and student engagement is increasing day by day. Our approach to remote learning has been shaped by the constructive and welcome feedback we have received from parents, students and staff.

We are aware that many students are completing their online work in exercise books and that new books may be required. These can be collected Monday-Friday, between 9am and 3pm, from the Academy reception.

Online Learning

We are committed to continually refining the use of Microsoft Teams and teaching resources to ensure learning remains accessible and engaging for all. With this in mind, we are further developing our approach to recorded and online live lessons.

We are currently devising a strategy to build on existing provision by including online academic 'drop-ins' and live feedback sessions. Online 'drop-ins' will provide opportunities for students to reflect on their own work, ask questions of teachers and discuss the *assignments* that have been set prior to submission. Subsequent online feedback sessions will address the learning gaps and misconceptions that teachers have identified. We are confident that this process will secure students' knowledge and understanding, ensuring they make progress and experience achievement and success during this period of school closure. We will therefore be back in touch over the coming days to confirm details of this enhanced provision and share any relevant training materials. Please ensure your child is checking their Academy email daily for any updates and announcements about these sessions.

On-site Provision for key-worker and vulnerable children

Whilst we remain fully committed to providing quality on-site provision, I am conscious that the number of children coming into our Academy has increased three-fold over the course of this first week. As a result, I am having to ask more and more staff to come in to support and run these sessions which is counterproductive to the Government's decision to close schools.

We need to recognise that the Covid-19 pandemic has escalated significantly, making the next few weeks crucial. The overwhelming advice of UK Chief Medical Officers is to limit unnecessary contact with others. With this in mind, I am keen to ensure we are not unnecessarily increasing risk to our students and staff.

I am reluctant to implement a strategy where parents are asked to provide written evidence of their keyworker status and instead would prefer to rely on the good will of our families. If, however, numbers continue to increase as they have this week, I will have no choice but to revisit this. Please only use our onsite provision where there are no alternatives.

To enable Newark staff to plan effectively for the week ahead, please note:

- Our on-site provision request form can be found on our Academy website.
- Booking for provision for next week, 18th – 22nd January, will close at 9am on Friday 15th January.
- Booking for the 25th-29th January will open at 9.00am on Monday 18th January and close at 5pm on Wednesday 20th.
- We will continue with Monday-Wednesday booking slots for each week moving forward.

If you have any questions or would like any further support with online learning please don't hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes,



Chris Fisher

Head of School

