



22nd October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As we reach the end of what has been an incredibly successful half term I wanted to write and wish you and your families an enjoyable half term break.

Returning back to school in September with some resemblance of 'normal' has been brilliant. The way in which teachers and students have worked so hard to rebuild relationships and confidence in the classroom has been an absolute pleasure to see. I am incredibly proud of all our amazing students, after such a turbulent period of time for them all they have tried incredibly hard to be the best versions of themselves and truly working on our GREAT values.

We have worked hard to provide a variety of enrichment opportunities for all students which I hope have gone down well with children. Engagement with our clubs and activities has been significant but we welcome more and more students as the year progresses. If your son/daughter is not currently signed up for any enrichment opportunities please do have a look at what is available next half term and sign-up using our online portal (<https://www.newarkacademy.co.uk/page.php?p=enrichment>). These opportunities are fantastic for developing confidence, new skills and making new friends and I would encourage all students to take part in at least one activity each week.

Parent Forum

Thank you to those parents who have expressed an interest in joining our parent voice group, helping us to continue to develop and improve our school for a very deserving local community. I will be in touch early on next half term with an overview of dates where we would like to commence our parent working groups and provide opportunities for feedback and collaboration. We truly value your contributions and look forward to working with you in the very near future. Furthermore, we recognise that a number of parents use a Facebook page to ask questions and raise points which are pertinent to your children and their year group. Mr Athey is working alongside the administrators of that page to support regular dialogue with parents to address points as they arise. I am hopeful this will further strengthen our communication and relationship with families and in particular help our new parents to understand the mechanics and operations of secondary school life.

Adjustment to Break and Lunch Arrangements

As our Academy grows it is important that we reflect on our current operational practices and procedures. One aspect we have recently reviewed has been our break/lunch provision for students. We are incredibly proud of how we are able to ensure almost 1200 students are able to quickly access our catering facilities daily, however we are aware that there are always changes that can be made to improve this further.

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

With this in mind, we are making a simple change to how lunches will operate for certain year groups after half-term. This adjustment will help us to better balance the numbers of students across both lunch sittings and therefore further improve the efficiency at our food serveries.

From Monday 1st November, year 8 students will now have their breaks and lunches slightly later (10.35am and 12.35pm as opposed to 10.10am and 11.45am). As a result of this, these students will now have two lessons after lunch instead of three.

In addition, year 9 students will have their break and lunch time in the earlier sitting (10.10am and 11.45am as opposed to 10.35am and 12.35am).

These adjustments will be shared with our students on the morning of their first day back after the half-term, where we will also issue them with updated timetables which reflect the change.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

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

Chris Fisher
Head of School

