



22nd May 2020

Dear Parents & Carers

Following last week's announcement, the Prime Minister has said that he hopes schools will begin to reopen from 1st June 2020. This, we know, will be welcome news for families in our school community. This period of lockdown has been challenging and stressful but now we are finally seeing some light ahead. As welcome as this is, it is vital that we proceed very carefully and seek to put the health and safety of our learners and staff first. In turn this will enable us to do our best to try to ensure families are safe.

To achieve as safe an environment as possible, you will understand that our Academy cannot operate as it did before lockdown. Hopefully we can emerge incrementally and over time return to the structures and routines with which we are all familiar, but we cannot know when this might finally be accomplished, and safety must continue to be our first and paramount consideration. We know parents and carers will appreciate this position and we would like to thank all of you for your continuing support and understanding.

Of course, we remain committed to providing our Academy community with the highest standard of education possible, one that will help all our learners make the greatest progress with a view to ensuring that none are disadvantaged by circumstances outside their control.

Naturally, we have spent a considerable amount of time analysing, considering, and planning what learners could experience when they are able to return to the Academy and how we can provide this experience. For most learners this will likely be a blend of school-based support and home-based learning. This is a new way of working for everyone and we all continue to adapt swiftly to a new 'normal' as we aim to maximise the prospects and opportunities for young people.

This letter gives details of how we currently intend to provide schooling for our learners. **Please read the details carefully.** We know that many of you may have further questions as a result of reading this correspondence. We would encourage you to continue to use the Newark Academy Office email address office@newarkacademy.co.uk to ask any question that you may have.

Please be aware that given the speed with which these plans have had to be formulated, and how dynamic the current situation is, we may not have complete answers to every question at this stage, but we shall do our very best to answer them as fully and as honestly as we can.

Keeping Safe

The safety and wellbeing of all members of our Academy community is our absolute priority. We have worked hard to implement procedures that ensure all pupils and staff are safe at all times during what is now known to be 'Phase One' of returning to education (1st June – 28th June 2020). As you will be aware this is an area of great contention with schools nationally caught up in the centre of a debate over scientific evidence of what is safe. This is a very challenging area for everyone, but especially so for families and staff.

Newark Academy | London Road, New Balderton, Newark, Nottingham NG24 3AL

Telephone: 01636 615000 | Email: office@newarkacademy.co.uk | Website: www.newarkacademy.co.uk

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

Newark Academy is a member of the Nova Education Trust | Registered in England and Wales—No. 7635510

Registered Office: C19, The Sir Colin Campbell Building, University of Nottingham Innovation Park, Triumph Road, Nottingham NG7 2TU, ENGLAND



Initially, we intend to offer 'face to face' contact with pastoral colleagues for all Year 10 and Year 12 students along with a Parent or Carer if appropriate and desirable. Meetings will be held at the Academy, with entry and exit to the site, building and meeting space, managed carefully with clear signage and route guidance to ensure social distance measures are adhered to at all times. More guidance and detail will be sent to parents and carers as part of an invitation pack that will be sent out in due course.

If pupils are unable to attend their allotted appointment, every effort will be made to hold a face to face discussion via video conferencing following strict safeguarding procedures.

If your child is **feeling unwell**, please **DO NOT SEND THEM TO SCHOOL**. We appreciate this can be a difficult assessment to make but I know that you will appreciate the need for caution as we navigate a very unfamiliar set of circumstances.

We recommend that parents and carers consider attending appointments with their child where possible to assist with managing travelling to and from the Academy. Transport is a critical area of concern for schools as the risk of social distancing rules being forgotten or ignored is greatly enhanced when children use public transport and we ask parents and carers to discuss how pupils travel to and from the Academy safely.

What will learning look like?

In order to continue to provide the best possible quality of education for all our learners, we have tried to offer a summary of our current position following the government's decision to return some children to education after the May half term break.

Please see the 'Remote Learning Guidance' for each year group listed below. All of which will be available via our website from the 1st June.

Year 7

All students will continue to be provided with work on One Note and via email for the current timetable which is in place. Students will continue to complete work and either e-mail their teacher directly or upload work directly to their One Note area.

Year 8

All students will continue to be provided with work on One Note and via email for the current timetable which is in place. Students will continue to complete work and either e-mail their teacher directly or upload work directly to their One Note area.

Year 9

All students will continue to consolidate knowledge from prior learning. Students can find the work uploaded by teachers and can submit either via One Note or by emailing their teachers directly. New knowledge is being taught in some GCSE/Vocational qualifications, but teachers are planning to revisit this when students return to the Academy.

Year 10

We will be writing to parents and carers separately to outline our response to the government's announcement regarding their ambition to return pupils in Year 10 to *some* face to face contact with their teachers prior to breaking for the summer term. In the first instance, we are planning on offering our Year 10 pupils the opportunity to hold a one to one meeting with a member of the Academy team.

We feel it is critical that pupils and staff are able to reconnect following such a significant period of absence from the Academy and these meetings will be solely focused on pastoral discussion and are designed to determine what, if any, further support can be offered to support pupils mental health and wellbeing as they being to transition back into Academy based learning.

Pupils will continue to access our online learning platform and will be expected to maintain their engagement in home.

Year 11

Those pupils who are waiting to join our NA6 provision have been working hard on 'bridging units' designed by our NA6 teachers and led by Mrs Hamilton Smith. Feedback from Year 11 parents and carers has been excellent, and we are delighted by the take up of these activities from a large majority of Year 11 pupils. Where pupils are not returning to the Academy, most have now received contact and a one to one career meeting from Mrs Brown. Those pupils yet to receive this contact must contact the Academy as soon as possible to arrange an appointment.

Year 12

Students will be invited to attend a one to one meeting with their Crew leader in the same way that Year 10 pupils will be invited into the Academy to discuss their experiences to date from a pastoral perspective. We wish to ensure that students have an opportunity to revisit the excellent relationships with their teachers that were in place prior to our closure as well as offer an opportunity to discuss their issues, concerns and anxieties around how their return to the Academy will work and what this means for their studies as they move into X13.

Year 13

X13 remain valued members of our Academy and have received UCAS, Apprenticeship and Careers advice alongside wider reading materials to enable them to have a successful transition to their Post 18 destinations.

We expect students to utilise the online learning platform that continues to be populated with a host of resources and reading as well as remain in constant contact with teachers and leaders as has been the case since the lockdown began.

Parents, carers and students will receive an invitation to attend a face to face meeting soon after our return to the Academy in June where discussions will focus on pastoral care and provision for September and beyond.

Please note however, that we continue to be governed by government guidance and our current plans are subject to change following national updates. Naturally, we will inform you of any changes as events unfold.

We have received excellent feedback regarding our online learning strategy and our pupils have been exceptional in completing work set as well as communicating with their teachers either responding to feedback or seeking clarification on what next. We remain justifiably proud of all our young people as well as our teachers who continue to deliver a subject specific experience as best they can, given the challenge of working in a very new paradigm. It has been particularly encouraging to see the positive response from parents and carers to our online learning strategy following the very excellent feedback we received as a result of two parent/carer surveys conducted this half term.

Thank you for your feedback which has enabled us to continually improve the provision planned for all learners in all year groups and we remain hugely grateful for parent and carer support in monitoring and supporting home learning in so many ways whilst managing their own work patterns.

Key Workers & Vulnerable Students

We will continue to support the provision of learning facilities for vulnerable learners and those learners who have parents/carers who are designated key workers. For those parents and carers who are key workers wishing to access our Academy facilities, please indicate your preference via the registration button on our Academy website. A member of our Academy team will then contact you to discuss your requirements.

It is plain that what has been described in this letter does not conform to 'normal' schooling as we have all known it in the past. Nevertheless, we will do our very best to support your child's learning and ensure they receive the very best education possible.

On behalf of everyone here at the Academy, may we take this opportunity to thank your constant messages of support and well wishes as we navigate what will now be a new series of challenges. Ones which, as always, we will face head on and ensure that whatever decisions we make, we make them as always, in the best interests of our pupils, their families and our wider community.

If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at the Academy at your earliest convenience.

Take good care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely



Andy Seymour
(Headteacher)



Elaine Rossall MBE
(Chair of Governors)

