



8<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope my email finds you and your families well.

Following my letter last Friday regarding the importance of attendance, I would like to start my communication this week by thanking all our parents for their support in ensuring their children attend school. This week our whole school attendance has increased by 1%. This is great news because we know that being in school is essential to our children's achievement, wellbeing, and wider development. Evidence shows that the students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best grades.

This week has seen the Academy working towards World Book Day on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March. The first task was launched on Monday, tasking each crew with the challenge to 'Dress the Door' in the theme of a well known book. This activity prompted fantastic conversations about potential books to focus design around, and both staff and students rose to the challenge. The final designs were creative, engaging and most importantly showcased the book (or books) which each crew had selected. World Book Day itself saw the third DEAR day of this academic year with students from Year 7 to Year 13 reading a variety of extracts from fiction and non-fiction during the first 15 minutes of all lessons. Finally, we cannot forget the costumes which were carefully chosen, designed and worn by staff across the Academy. It has been a brilliant week celebrating the importance and enjoyment of reading, something which is a priority in our academy every day.



In addition, it has also been National Careers Week and, to celebrate this, we have welcomed local employers into Newark Academy to talk to our students about some of the amazing companies that we have on our doorstep. We have many students approaching key points with regard to careers choices. Our Year 9s will be choosing GCSE options, Year 10 are going out on work experience in 2 weeks time and, of course our exam cohorts - what better way to help them plan for their future than hearing from local employers that are investing in their future workforce! Huge thanks to the below organisations that delivered our assemblies this week. These were:

- Year 7 - Skanska Construction
- Year 8 - Joe Sharpe Physiotherapy
- Year 9 - Formula St Gobain
- Year 10 - Harlaxton Engineering
- Year 11 - National Citizen Service - volunteering opportunity
- NA6 - LinkedIn Launch - professional networking

Finally, we have organised a range of activities to raise money for Red Nose Day on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March**. Students are invited to donate £1 and wear either a plain red t-shirt or plain red jumper under their blazer, red socks or even a red hair accessory to show their support for this fantastic charity. We will also be running a bake sale and Red Nose cookies will also be available to buy from the canteen at break and lunch. Donations can be made throughout the day and collections will also be taking place at Crew time.

#### **Key Events Half Term 4**

Staff at Newark Academy are very much looking forward to seeing you at any of the key events below that will take place this half term.

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|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| • Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> March | Spring Recital         |
| • Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> March | Year 9 Options Evening |
| • Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March | Half Term 4 ends       |
| • Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April   | Summer term starts     |

I hope your children have had a productive and enjoyable week at school.

Have a restful weekend.



Inma Peña  
Headteacher