



19th April 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope my email finds you and your families well.

On Monday, we began our final term with on-boarding assemblies to welcome all the students back to the Academy and provide important reminders of our high expectations. We were very proud to see how the vast majority of our students arrived well-prepared and ready to learn, with the correct equipment and standard of uniform. We would like to thank our parents/carers for their continued support with these standards and expectations for both uniform and equipment.

The focus of full crew this week was independent learning. We explored with students the life-long benefits of developing the ability to work independently, and they then reflected on their strengths as a learner, the areas they want and need to develop and the steps they need to take to improve. We deliberately linked this to teacher feedback, sharing excellent examples of students responding positively to this and uplifting their work. As you are aware the Academy uses Satchel One to support the independent learning students complete outside school, and we promoted its use again with them.

As we approach the 2024 exam season, this week we have delivered an English Walking Talking Mock to Year 11 students.

For those who are unfamiliar with the term 'Walking Talking Mock', this involves a subject specialist teacher unpicking an exam paper live, explaining to the students the thinking that sits behind each question and each answer. It is a powerful opportunity to actively and explicitly teach students how to answer exam questions in exam conditions and therefore helps improve exam technique. Through this live demonstration the teacher models to students how they should take the time to read all the written information in a question, including any diagrams or tables provided, identifying command words before they begin. Thinking aloud to show the thought process for each question and modelling calculations or structures for longer answers is very beneficial for all.



During this Walking Talking Mock, we had exam desks set up in the canteen to recreate the feel of an exam. Each student had a copy of the paper. To say this session was well received would be an understatement!

As a result of completing this Walking Talking Mock, the English department can now see exactly where the gaps are in their knowledge and therefore support students in the right areas.

During the Summer term, we will continue to offer enrichment opportunities after school I would be very grateful if you could encourage your child to take part in these experiences which will broaden their skills and knowledge further. Parents can now sign up to these clubs on line. Please follow the link below to see the timetable.

<https://www.newarkacademy.co.uk/page.php?p=enrichment>

Key Events Half Term 4 and Half Term 5

- Thursday 25th April Year 9 Achievement Evening
- Thursday 25th April Junior Maths Challenge
- Thursday 16th May Year 7 Achievement Evening
- Friday 24th May Half Term 5 ends

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

Have a restful weekend.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Inma Peña', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Inma Peña
Headteacher