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**Head Teacher**  
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**NEWARK**  
ACADEMY

20/9/24

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope my email finds you well.

### **Attendance and reporting absence**

Thank you to all parents for ensuring that our students attend school every day ready to learn. We are delighted with our attendance so far this year which shows how committed we all are to the education of our young people. We have been particularly pleased with the attendance of our Year 11 students who, since returning from the summer holidays, have displayed real resilience and are working extremely hard work in all their lessons. When students attend school, and also commit to independent revision at home, they place themselves in a great position, well prepared to tackle their exams. We will embark on the first round of Y11 mock exams on Friday 8th November and, in preparation for these, we are hosting a Year 11 Success Evening on 30th September. On this evening, we will be sharing with our Year 11 parents and students a range of the most effective revision strategies.

### **Student Leadership**

This week has been a showcase of the leadership potential of our Year 7 and Year 12 students. Year 7 students have actively participated in the election process for their new Crew Representative, and I must say I have been blown away by their speeches. They have demonstrated their commitment and enthusiasm to represent their peers and lead their crews. Additionally, sixth form students have submitted written applications for the role of Vice Ambassador. They have highlighted the personal strengths and attributes they possess that make them strong candidates for this role which enables them to make a positive and impactful contribution to their school community. As in previous years, Year 12 students have designed creative election campaigns, producing promotional videos to secure votes. These videos have allowed them to showcase their leadership skills, vision and aspirations for our school. All videos will be watched next week and a whole school voting process will then take place.

### **Reading**

Developing the reading ability and confidence of our students remains a key priority for us as we believe reading is the key for students to be able to access their curriculum. This week all Year 10 students have completed an interim NGRT assessment to measure their progress with their reading skills. We have been very encouraged by their positive attitude, resilience and concentration during the on-line test. We look forward to analysing their results and then communicating this information with parents.



## Assemblies

In Full Crews this week we have talked to our students about harmful sexual behaviour; what it is, how it happens, how we can challenge it and how we can support each other on this issue. All students have engaged wonderfully and demonstrated high levels of maturity. We are hopeful that the information shared has developed their understanding and awareness of this important topic. Please do get in touch if there is anything you would like to discuss following these assemblies this week.

## Reminder about phones

Schools have the responsibility to create safe and calm environments, free from distraction so all students can receive the education they deserve. This, alongside our desire to remove any potential negative influence upon mental health and well-being, are the bases of our no-phone policy in school. For that reason, may I ask for your support in reminding your children that their mobile phones should not be seen, heard or used at Newark Academy. Should you wish to contact your son/daughter during the school day, we request that you contact the school office and not contact them via their mobile. Students should turn their phone off at the main gate and are free to use it once more when they have reached the school gates at the end of the school day.

Important Message - Please note that due to severe nut allergies, we would request that students do not bring peanuts into school to consume as a part of their packed lunch.

Finally, a reminder of key dates and events for this half term.

### Key Dates for the Half Term

24th September 2024	NA6 and Y7 Meet the Crew Leader evening
30th September 2024	Y11 Welcome Evening
10th October 2024	Y5/6 Open Evening
17th October 2024	Y13 Achievement Evening
24th October 2024	Music Recital 1

We look forward to meeting our Year 7 parents/carers this coming Thursday for the Year 7 Crew Leaders Evening. This event will give you the opportunity to meet your child's Crew Leader and discuss how your children have settled into their new secondary school.

I hope your children have enjoyed this week at school.

Have a relaxing weekend.

## Inma Peña

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