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NEWARK
ACADEMY

22nd September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope my email finds you well.

Thank you very much for ensuring your children returned to school this week in their full winter uniform. Our children always wear their uniform with pride and look very smart. I am now asking you for your support with jewellery. Our school policy clearly states that students can only wear **small studs** and this is an expectation we will enforce next week. Therefore, we would appreciate your support in reinforcing this message to your children before they leave for school on Monday to avoid any misunderstanding and/or unnecessary challenging conversations when they arrive.

This week has seen the launch of our enrichment activities. We strongly believe that enrichment clubs provide students with the opportunity to learn and develop new skills and make new friends. 250 students have had the opportunity to attend the following clubs this week:

- Stage Band 7
- Rugby
- DJ Club
- Orchestra
- Netball
- War Games
- Drama Club
- Basketball Club
- STEM Club
- Table Tennis
- Street Dance
- Football
- Games Club
- Choir
- Debate Club

Week commencing 2nd Oct our enrichment offer will grow further as we add the following activities:

- Photography and Videography
- Wheelchair Basketball

In our full crew/assemblies this week, Miss Travis and Mr Brown have spoken to students about the importance of homework/independent learning and why we are introducing an online system via the app, Satchel One. As a school, we believe that homework/independent learning plays a critical role in helping students practice, consolidate and enhance the learning gained at school. As the week has progressed, students have been busy testing their Satchel One accounts and hopefully have spoken to you about this. Parents/carers will receive their logins next week and our staff will start setting tasks from Monday.

Last week, I shared with you some photographs of our PROUD books. At Newark Academy, we are very keen to continue to drive high standards of work in books. For this reason, on Monday morning, I will be meeting some KS3 students with their books so they can show me their work. This meeting will be with Miss Elsey and she and I are looking forward to the opportunity to talk to the students about their learning experience in lessons and how this experience is translated into our PROUD books.

Our aim as educators is to develop the wider child; hence Personal Development (PD) is such an important area of learning within our academy. PD aims to help all students to flourish in society by supporting them to make healthy and informed decisions. Currently across Newark Academy our students are learning about the importance of looking after our mental health and wellbeing, along with strategies to support, signs to look out for and how to manage our wellbeing. In order to support all parents to further learning through dialogue at home please see <https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/supporting-others/childrens-mental-health/>. This NHS site provides information on what mental health is, signs they are struggling and how you can support your young people.

I hope you are finding my weekly emails useful and informative. To continue to improve our lines of communication, we have now set up two new email address for parents/carers. These will enable you contact our SEND department or myself directly with any specific queries and concerns. We still use our office email address for general queries.

- General queries office@newarkacademy.co.uk
- SEND queries SENCO@newarkacademy.co.uk
- To contact the Headteacher headteacher@newarkacademy.co.uk

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

- 28th September Year 7 Crew Leader Evening
- 5th October Year 6 Open Evening
- 12th October Year 11 Welcome Evening
- 19th October Year 9 Achievement Evening
- 26th October Spook Fest
- 26th October School of Sexuality Education (Year 11, Year 12/Year 13)

I hope your children have enjoyed this week at school. 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.

Have a relaxing weekend.



Inma Peña
Headteacher