

11th October 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that my email finds you and your families well.

Our sixth week has ended with a very positive Open Evening where we have showcased the Academy and its students to over 600 prospective parents. A large number of our current students gave up their time to support the event and share their positive experience of life and learning at Newark Academy. You can see some of the videos and pictures from last night on our official Instagram account – **[newarkacademy2](#)**

In my letter last week, I mentioned how excited our students were to vote for their Sixth Form (NA6) Student Leadership representatives. We are delighted to now be able to announce the names of our young leaders. They will meet regularly to share ideas about how we can make our Academy an even better place to learn.

- NA6 Lead Ambassador = Harrison Faulkner
- NA6 Lead Ambassador = Mahnoor Shahzad
- NA6 Treasurer and Chair = Jay Charles
- NA6 Events and Fundraising co-ordinator = Tilly Cook

In full crew assemblies this week, Miss Bushell delivered a thought-provoking presentation on the theme of Black History. The focus this year has been: Reclaiming Narratives. Miss Bushell conveyed that this was more than just a theme though, and showcased untold success stories through powerful historical examples of inspirational and influential black individuals. Miss Bushell relayed how it is an invitation for us to ensure voices are heard, experiences are acknowledged and contributions are celebrated!

On a separate note, as you know, some of our young people experience difficulties relating to their mental health and therefore may benefit from additional support. We are therefore pleased to share with you a leaflet from CAMHS offering two excellent sessions to better support parents and teenagers. Please see the leaflet attached.

- Webinar 1- Self-harm. 19th November 2024 at 6.00-7.30pm
- Webinar 2- Understanding Your Teen. 15th October 2024 at 6.00-7.30pm.

You will remember from previous communication from school the importance of attendance and the negative impact that a lack of attendance can have on students' education and future career/educational choices. We are very pleased that our overall school attendance remains above the national and local average. However, we have seen a slight decline in recent weeks which has unfortunately resulted in learning gaps for some students. We understand that absence due to illness is unavoidable but would urge you to refrain from taking holidays in school time as the content your children missed cannot be retaught. With regard to absence, the process for reporting is outlined below:

- Please telephone the office (01636 615000, press option 1) or email studentabsence@newarkacademy.co.uk before 8.30am.
- Contact should be made on each day of the student's absence.

In the final two weeks of term, we turn our focus to Excellence and Gratitude. Students have made an impressive start with over 280,000 positive points awarded. For the next two weeks we will continue to reward 'Excellence' through a focus on our 'Excellence Raffle' where students will have the chance to win a set of Beats earphones. We look forward to celebrating students' work in books, seeing them push the pen and be PROUD of what they achieve alongside a strong focus on attendance and uniform standards too. We also look forward to our rewards assemblies where students will be awarded their GREAT star badges, take part in our GREAT Auction and Attendance Awards too!

Please remember that secondary school students do not need to stay at home for 48 hours after a sickness bug.

Finally, please see below a list of the key events for the remaining of this half term.

Key Events Half Term 1

17th October 2024

Y13 Achievement Evening

24th October 2024

Music Recital 1

I hope your children have enjoyed this week at school.

Have an enjoyable weekend

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Inma Peña', written over a horizontal line.

Inma Peña
Headteacher