

Dear Parent/Carer,

Please click [here](#) to access the final edition of the Newark Academy newsletter. I hope you will agree when I say there are some incredibly proud moments to celebrate – our students have been amazing and this is a snapshot of some of their success.

As the term ends, I feel it is important to share with you one or two updates to support you and your child's preparations for next term. Staff will return to the Academy on 30th August to commence our Academy improvement work, and to prepare for students return. As a reminder, students return is staggered as follows:

- **Year 7 and Year 12 Induction – Friday 2nd September**
- **All other year groups – Monday 5th September**

School Day Timings

Thank you for your support in ensuring children's' punctuality to school improves. Our **#Ontimeislate** initiative has further enhanced the starts to lessons and therefore students learning. Punctuality is a life skill which all of our students need to be masters of, in order to be successful adults. We will continue to develop this as students return in September, it will be helpful therefore, and support us incredibly, if you can continue to develop strong routines for school day preparations at home.

Academy Uniform

Following our recent communication regarding Academy uniform and updated Academy skirt designs, can I please advise you that we will continue to consult you regarding uniform - your views and those of our students and staff are always welcome and very important in our improvement planning. We are securing some excellent discounts for uniform from our suppliers and signposting you to cheaper alternatives for non-branded items as well as setting up payment plans and advertising our 'exchange' uniform shop. These facilities will help you to manage the cost of uniform in difficult times.

You will recall, from our last uniform update, the plans to improve the standard and quality of Academy uniform. Part of this improvement included the introduction of a new skirt. All new year 7 children, who wish to wear a skirt, will wear our improved skirt design in September. All other students, who also wish to wear a skirt, will require our new skirt design for September 2023 – although they are available to all year groups should you wish to upgrade earlier.

When we worked with our new year 6 parents/carers and children, they provided some helpful feedback regarding the current tie design and how its colour scheme didn't fit as nicely, with the rest of the uniform, as they would have hoped – I agree. To that end, we have redesigned our Academy tie which will be available for all parents/carers to purchase online from September. The introduction of this new tie will follow the same phasing-in schedule as the skirt. Therefore, all new year 7 children will wear the new tie in September, with all other students requiring the new tie from September 2023. For those parents/carers of current year 6 children, who have already purchased the existing tie, your children will be issued with the new tie when they arrive on September 2nd, at no additional

cost – please send them in with the tie you have purchased so that we can exchange it. Parents wishing to change ties for children in all other year groups, during this period of transition, will be provided with the new design.

Can I also take this opportunity to give you some reminders about uniform and expectations for September so that none of our students encounter problems on their return?

Uniform reminders are as follows:

Footwear - Black shoes only, no trainers

Blazers- No bottles in pockets or hair clips attached – clips should be in hair or in bag/pocket, sleeves rolled down

Jewellery – facial piercings are not permitted and need to be removed and/or clear plastic retainer in place. No plasters (This is a H&S issue, especially in PE)

Other jewellery should not be worn e.g. rings

Skirts – some are being rolled up- and need to be rolled down to normal length so that children retain their dignity, and the item is suitable for an educational setting

False or Gel nails - should not be worn

Hoodies and tracksuit tops are not part of the uniform code and should not be worn to the Academy

Academy PE Kit

It came to light this week, that some of our students are wearing Nike Pro 3/7 lycra shorts for PE lessons, or an equivalent. These are not appropriate for PE lessons in an educational setting. I'd like to signpost you to a very reasonable alternative if you are buying new PE shorts over the summer. Our Academy PE uniform is outlined clearly on our website (<https://www.newarkacademy.co.uk/page.php?p=uniform>) and I would ask parents/carers to check this carefully before purchasing any new items for next year.

Asda, in Newark have 2 pairs of black shorts for between £2.50-£4. The shorts we permit are longer, football type and not manufactured from tight fitting material like lycra (<https://direct.asda.com/george/school/shorts/black-school-rugby-shorts-2-pack/GEM13373,default,pd.html>) Our PE team will not be allowing Nike Pro shorts or equivalent from September, so we wanted to advise you in advance.

Equipment for Learning

It is important that children arrive fully equipped for learning as they return to the Academy. We provide all students with whiteboards and pens as these are essential for our recall and retrieval learning strategy. The following other items are also required:

- Black or blue pens
- Pencils
- 15cm or 30cm ruler
- Rubber

- Pencil sharpener
- Lock for locker (number coded rather than key)
- Scientific calculator (useful)

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support, and to wish you and your families a safe and enjoyable summer.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Fisher', with a stylized, overlapping loop at the end.

Chris Fisher
Head Teacher