



28th August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I wanted to write to you with an important update regarding the start of the autumn term. I hope you and your family have had an enjoyable and safe summer break and that your son/daughter is looking forward to returning to school next week.

I wanted to begin by acknowledging that despite the significant work that we have undertaken over the recent months, there are a small number of parents and carers who may harbour feelings of anxiety over the return to school for their child. I would like to reassure you that plans that we have in place here at the Academy are extremely robust and follow every aspect of the national and local guidance provided by both the Government and Public Health England and we are confident that we are extremely well placed to welcome back all our students and staff from next week.

My Senior Team and I have spent this week welcoming back staff to the Academy for their comprehensive INSET programme as we fully prepare for the return of our Year 7s from Tuesday 1st September. The chart below confirms the start date and times for each year group:

Please view the information below to confirm the start date and school day timings for each year group.

Year 11 and NA6 students now have a longer school day as described in separate correspondence sent to parents of students in these year groups.

Please note that start and end times for year 7 students are temporary to ensure safe entry and exit from the school building. When restrictions are lifted this year group will revert back to the standard start and end time.

Year group	Start date	Arrive from	Start at (in classroom and ready to learn)	Depart at
Year 7	Tuesday 1 st September	8.10am	8.20am	2.45pm
Year 8	Wednesday 2 nd September	8.20am	8.30am	2.55pm
Year 9	Wednesday 2 nd September	8.20am	8.30am	2.55pm
Year 10	Wednesday 2 nd September	8.20am	8.30am	2.55pm
Year 11	Wednesday 2 nd September	8.20am	8.30am	3.45pm - Monday to Thursday 2.55pm - Friday
NA6	Tuesday 1 st September	8.40am	8.45am	3.45pm



NEWARK
ACADEMY

September 2020 – Start Dates and Times

Newark Academy | London Road, New Balderton, Newark, Nottingham NG24 3AL

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We have worked extensively on plans to secure our two very critical re-opening principles. The first being that we re-open with an absolute focus on safety and with clear measures to keep our entire Academy community safe. The second is to ensure that all students return to a broad curriculum experience with access to high quality learning in every lesson. Our staff have been working hard to welcome students back to high quality learning and are more than excited to see them next week.

However, as you are aware, the return to school will be very different for all students. Each year group will operate in their own 'bubble' and we have adopted a 'zoned' approach which means that each year group will have their own area of the building and will not mix with other year groups. Due to the nature of our building and with the luxury of a number of different entrance and exit positions, we are in a fortunate position to ensure that the management of these bubbles will be done with care and consideration to ensure that all students are as safe as possible.

In an attempt to alleviate any remaining anxiety for students and families surrounding the return to the Academy, we have provided a link where further information relating to the return of each year group can be viewed at your discretion.

I would ask that you watch this together with your son/daughter, prior to returning, to ensure that they are fully aware and confident of where to go on arrival.

<https://youtu.be/fbggCKqxKnA>

It is also important for me to share with you some updates related to the wearing of masks. Following the recent government announcement, the NOVA Trust has provided guidance on the wearing of face masks for all staff and students in each of their 19 schools. As such, students will be required to wear face masks in the following areas from the 1st of September:

- Corridors
- Canteen spaces (Whilst queuing for food)
- Any other communal areas such as open indoor spaces.

Students will not be asked to wear face masks in lessons. I appreciate that there will be some students who, for medical reasons, will need to be exempt from this and would ask those parents, where this applies, to contact your child's Pastoral Leader to outline your concerns.

This adaption to our risk assessment sits alongside the current expectation of students wearing masks whilst travelling to and from school. Here masks must be worn if travelling to our Academy on either public or Academy run buses. Children who do not have masks will risk not being able to travel which makes it vitally important for families to make adequate preparations. We will provide children with paper bags to safely store re-usable face masks until they are required for the return journey.

As you would expect, the expectations at our Academy remain extremely high and our students will be expected to show the required level of maturity and responsibility at all times. Conduct and behaviour around the building is always excellent at our Academy and I have no doubt it will continue to remain that way. It would be helpful if you could reinforce the importance of excellent behaviour with your son/daughter before they return. We have made some adjustments to our behaviour policy to cover unsafe, COVID related behaviours. This has been done in an attempt to reinforce our key principle of securing complete safety for every student and staff member and you can access the policy addendum via our website.

Returning to school is vitally important for all young people. Our teachers have worked tirelessly over the recent lockdown period and during our INSET week to develop high quality curriculum experiences so that the starting points for learning are carefully planned out. We know the majority of our students have worked extremely hard during lockdown and they can look forward to returning to learning knowing that teachers have fully prepared for appropriate starting points for them. We also recognise that many students have struggled with certain aspects of online learning in the past and we are equally equipped to support those students in a very positive and reassuring way.

Furthermore, we will continue to commit to the care and support that we provide our students. Our Pastoral Team have worked hard throughout the summer to undertake courses on supporting students who have experienced trauma and who might have experienced personal challenges linked to a significant time away from the routines of school. I am extremely confident therefore that our staff will be more than prepared to support all students as they return, a return that is long overdue and a return we are all looking forward to.

Attached to this email is a frequently asked questions document where we have tried to provide responses to the types of questions our families might have. I hope that this proves useful but please do get in touch with your child's Pastoral Leader should you have any further queries, they will happily support you.

Thank you for your continued support and I am looking forward to welcome back all students to the Academy next week.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and curves, positioned below the text "Yours sincerely,".

Chris Fisher
Head of School