



On behalf of everyone here at the Academy, I wanted to begin by thanking you once again for your unwavering support, phenomenal acts of kindness and continued messages of support during this uniquely challenging time for us all.

It is fair to say that none of us could imagine the position that we currently find ourselves in and we've all had to take time to comprehend what this means for our way of life and most importantly, how this will impact on all our futures.

I am incredibly proud of my staff who have worked tirelessly, in a very short time frame to construct an online learning platform that enables pupils to access learning resources and materials which offer some semblance of normality at these very difficult times. I want to pay tribute to their hard work and dedication to our pupils and our wider community and I am extremely privileged to lead such a caring and compassionate group of professionals.

At the end of what has been an incredible week, I wanted to relay a very clear message to parents and carers in relation to home learning. These are strange times indeed and we all need to learn to adjust to a very different way of working. For many pupils and staff, this will be incredibly difficult, and we've already supported a range of families who have contacted the Academy telling us how anxious children are and how upset they are due to the being away from school.

I want to make it clear that the mental health and wellbeing of everyone is of critical importance. We are working hard to ensure that our staff are valued and supported at this difficult time and we continue to be hugely grateful to all families for ensuring that whilst we remain open for pupils of key workers and the most vulnerable, we've had no more than one pupil attend school on any given day and for 3 out of 5 days, we've had no pupils attend at all. This not only keeps pupils safe by staying at home, but it also protects our staff too. Thank you for being so considerate in what I'm sure are extremely difficult family circumstances.

As a parent of 3 children myself (Year 9 Daughter and two sons in Year 6 and Year 4 respectively) I know how difficult it is to keep them engaged with learning and more importantly protected from the fear and anxiety that unfamiliarity can breed. Whilst they have work to do, I am also insisting that we spend time, reading, cooking, being creative with arts and crafts as well as spending as much time undertaking physical exercise.

I am all too aware that the lack of routine and structure for some children will be extremely worrying at this time. It is essential that our children understand that of course, academic study is important and this should continue wherever possible as we acclimatise to this new world. We also need to ensure that we care for, support and alleviate the concerns and fears that will naturally develop as a result of what has been so familiar to us all, no longer being available. We have established clear lines of communication with Pastoral staff, SENDCO and HLTA support for those children who are affected the most by the current situation but if families wish to discuss issues or concerns they have regarding any aspect of Academy life then please do not hesitate to contact us.

Whilst it is important that children continue their studies by following the work set on our online platform, it's more important to reassure your children that it's ok to not complete a piece of work on the day it's set. It's also ok for children to work at different times of the school day and to manage their day around their personal and family time. It's also ok to email teachers with questions about work if they're finding things too tough or not tough enough. We are here for them and for you for that matter but this is a very unique situation and we should all take a measured approach to finding the best way forward in managing our lives so that we can maintain as much normality as possible.

**A
message
from the
Head**

Given that we've now come to the end of week 1, we will continue to review our practices and procedures so that high quality work is provided for all pupils and that the help and support that pupils need to complete these tasks are also available. Please continue to contact staff via email if you have any concerns or queries regarding any aspect of the provision provided.

We will continue to offer all families timely updates with important information as soon as we're able to but please do continue to review the Academy web site as well as our Twitter account which is constantly updated for important updates.

For now however, it's critical that we continue to work together for the good of our pupils and our wider community and we continue to look after each other and our community for the good of everyone.

I hope that this newsletter goes some way to providing you with the information that ensures that pupils feel safe and secure and that they continue to feel connected to our Academy. We are still here, just in a very different way.

Please stay safe and take care of yourselves, your families and our community.

Andy Seymour
(Headteacher)

Safeguarding: Important Information for Parents/Carers & Students

General message

I would like to reassure parents and families that our priority for safeguarding pupils remains our priority and thank you all for your ongoing engagement with our pastoral and inclusion team. We have such passionate staff at our academy who care deeply about how your children are doing during these extremely challenging and unprecedented times.

Newark Academy staff will remain committed to staying in touch and will utilise a number of different mechanisms to do so. Our Pastoral Team will make regular phone calls to families to keep in regular contact and offer support. Crew Leaders and Teachers are at the end of an email should you or your child have any questions so please do utilise that. Furthermore, we have links to our 'Let's Talk' specialist counsellors who are offering their commitment to remain a support mechanism for our pupils. Pastoral Leaders will keep in touch with pupils who have been accessing this service to ensure that we can continue to support them.

I have added a number of important contacts in the next section that I would encourage both pupils and parents to access. There are many highly specialist professionals who contribute to the information contained within these sites and they can be an invaluable resource for all.

Chris Fisher
Deputy Head Teacher

Safeguarding concerns

There was an article in the Nottinghamshire News this week which reported groups of young people gathering together outside of local shops in Balderton. The behaviour being reported is astonishing and I truly hope that this doesn't involve any of our pupils. It is important however to remind families that we should all be trying to stay at home unless absolutely necessary to help save lives. Please remind your children that they have responsibility to uphold this expectation too.

Important contacts

Children's and Families Direct (social services) – 0115 8764800 candfdirect@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

KOOTH (online counselling) – KOOTH.com

BASE 51 (counselling) – info@base51.org.uk www.base51.org.uk

SHARP (support for self-harming) - 0115 9158900 Camhs.Sharp@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Harmless (support for self-harming) – www.harmless.org.uk

WAIS (domestic violence support) - http://www.wais.org.uk/viewpage.php?page_id=16

Thinkuknow (online safety) – www.thinkuknow.co.uk

Young minds – www.youngminds.org.uk

Samaritans – www.samaritans.org

B-eat (eating disorders) – www.beateatingdisorders.org.uk

LGBT – www.youngstonewall.org.uk

Key staff email contacts:

cfisher@newarkacademy.co.uk – Deputy Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead

gwillis@newarkacademy.co.uk – SENDCO

arae@newarkacademy.co.uk – Senior Pastoral Leader Years 10 & 11 and Designated Safeguarding Officer

Iness@newarkacademy.co.uk – Pastoral Leader Year 7 and Transition

staylor@newarkacademy.co.uk – Pastoral Leader Year 8

rstevenson@newarkacademy.co.uk – Pastoral Leader Yr 9
jhuggard@newarkacademy.co.uk – Achievement Leader Yr 7
drollin@newarkacademy.co.uk – Achievement Leader Yrs 8 & 9
athey@newarkacademy.co.uk – Achievement Leader Yrs 10 & 11

Keeping Up with Education

General Notices

Establish a routine

All of the advice shows that it is really important for everyone to have a routine when working from home. This does not have to be the same as that in school but we would suggest two to three periods of time during the day when working on school work. We have already suggested to students that if they are struggling to know which subjects to study when, then they can follow the order of their school timetable. However, we would recommend shorter periods of study than the 50 minutes each. It is helpful to have time each day to exercise, enjoy the fresh air and do some practical activities e.g. art, cooking, making things.

It is really important that children get enough exercise each day but this needs to be in line with government advice and stick to social distancing – this means being 2 metres away from other people at all times.

Reading

Now is the perfect time to catch up on all the reading we never seem to find time for. Students need to be reading every day, just like when they are in school, and possibly for longer periods!

The Carnegie shortlist has just been announced so that is a good place to start if you and they are looking for inspiration:

<https://carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/cilip-carnegie-medal-shortlist-2020/>

In addition, Audible is free whilst schools are closed so maybe you and your child could listen to a story together?

<https://stories.audible.com/start-listen>. Please see the attached 'Audiobook guide'

Most GCSE students should have their own copies of A Christmas Carol, Macbeth and An Inspector Calls for English Literature so they can be re-reading these to ensure they know them really well and there are plenty of activities on these texts on GCSE Bitesize. Mr Bruff has created 9-1 video clips on all of these texts too so just type in his name on You Tube.

Literacy

Please access some of the following activities to support your child with their learning. 'Word of the fortnight' is a way to continue to support your child with developing their vocabulary whilst they are away from the Academy.

Word of the fortnight:

Unprecedented

Definition:

Never done or known before.

Use it:

"The Government took the unprecedented step of closing schools."

Online vocabulary games

<https://www.teachwire.net/news/online-vocabulary-games-for-ks3-ks4-english>

WordHub game

<https://wordhub.com/> find as many words as you can!

Notices for Each Year Group

Year Group

In these most adverse of situations I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the support that we have received. Our staff have needed to adapt all work for distance learning and I have to say have done an amazing job in ensure that high quality learning can continue to take place. The work that we have received from students this week has been heart-warming – the level of detail and effort that has gone into some of the work submitted really shows the desire of our students to not let this stall their progress.

If students are still having issues getting access to the work through the Microsoft OneNote system please have a look on our website where instructional videos and step-by-step guides have been made to hopefully help. If you are still having issues, please let Mr S. Brown know (sbrown@newarkacademy.co.uk).

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Year 7: Achievement Leader – Mr Huggard

At this time, it is important that students have their crew leaders as a point of contact in school to support them if they need support. Students are also advised to contact their teacher directly via email if they have questions about the work they have been set. Students should also be considering their physical and emotional well-being. This being said, here is some information regarding how to do this from the virtual assembly I sent out last week along with contact information for crew leaders. - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HdLtjofOqqQ&feature=youtu.be>

8 & 9

Year 8 & 9: Achievement Leader – Mrs Rollin

In these unprecedented times for many generations, I want to say a well done and keep going students in year 8 and 9 who are producing work to a good standard and sending it to their teachers. Work will continue to be uploaded to OneNote and students are encouraged to check their emails throughout the day too for messages from staff, myself and their pastoral leaders.

At this time, it is important that students have their crew leaders as a point of contact in school to support them if they need support. Crew leaders and pastoral leaders are an important tool in students health and wellbeing and I know there have been many emails between crew leaders and students discussing which films they had watched on Netflix, the importance of taking exercise once a day, cake baking and even students sending videos in to the PE twitter feed of them doing their exercise – amazing!

It would be fantastic if students or parents could let us know in school what they have been doing differently with their days – have they started a new hobby, finished a project that they didn't have time for before or maybe any GREAT values they have demonstrated? I completed my project that my husband bought me for Christmas that I laughed at and said I would never have time to do – a hare made out of a technique called felting. It is not brilliant but not bad for a first attempt!



	<p>Students are also advised to contact their teacher directly via email if they have questions about the work they have been set or even asking for a little bit of feedback as to how they can improve their work.</p> <p>Keep going year 8&9 you are showing great resilience.</p> <p>Best wishes</p> <p>Mrs Rollin</p>
<p>10 & 11</p>	<p>Year 10 & 11: Achievement Leader – Mr Athey</p> <p>In Year 10, it is vitally important to the continued academic advancement of our students that work for all subjects is completed on time and with the upmost effort to allow our staff the opportunity to plan purposeful lessons to ensure that any limitations to progress are reduced. Furthermore, as students are well on their way with their GCSE studies it is going to be imperative that new content is delivered through our distance learning platform, so lines of communication between the triage of parent, student and teacher is essential. We have been really encouraged by the number of questions this week relating to how support can be offered from parents to the learning of your children and would always urge you to ask if there is anything more that we can be doing also to support our students. Staff will continue to set appropriate work for your child on the day of their normal timetabled lesson and would expect that, where possible, work is completed on that day. All teaching staff are contactable on email throughout the working week and will try to respond as quickly as possible, so please do let us know if there are any questions from either parents or pupils about the work that has been set.</p> <p>There has been some really great learning taking place in both English and Maths this week where students have been working through their texts, ‘An Inspector Calls’ and ‘A Christmas Carol’. Some of the work that has been put together, sometimes by hook or by crook, has been truly inspiring. Our Maths department in this period have launched distance learning work through online platform Hegarty Maths, which is an amazing piece of software that allows our students to really focus in on their learning topics and development points to ensure that we are building on skills ready for examinations next year. Needless to say, there has been high quality work going on throughout the curriculum which we will pay homage to throughout these parent newsletters, showcasing our positive news stories and successes.</p> <p>We would also like to hear of any extra-curricular tasks that students in Year 10 and 11 have been doing throughout the week to pass the time and look after their mental health and wellbeing. I, for instance this week have tried my hand at a bit of baking to beat the cabin fever to, what I thought, was a fairly decent success. My attempt at miniature fruit scones can be seen from in the insert. If any parents/students would like to try and better me (it shouldn’t be too hard!) please send in your pictures to my email address – aathey@newarkacademy.co.uk . Challenge issued!</p>  <p>It is a really difficult time at the minute and our Year 10 and 11 students may be feeling this more than some others with anxieties about the impact this will have on their examination subjects. This necessary school closure may also cause issues with other avenues of our young people’s mental health and I want to ensure you that the pastoral team is still here to help. It may not be a face to face conversation, but the support is still there, and I would encourage anyone who feels that a child may need addition help in this period contacts us as soon as possible. We still have access to many support networks to help students if this is the case. If you would like any support please contact Mr A. Athey or Mrs A. Rae.</p> <p>This is the same for all year groups in terms of the support we can offer and we would encourage all parents to contact their achievement leader or pastoral leader if you have any questions or concerns.</p>

Take care and best wishes,
Mr Andy Athey

PSHE/SRE: COVID-19

PSHE/SRE purpose:

The core purpose of PSHE at Newark Academy is to provide all students with the ability to develop the knowledge, skills and attributes they need to keep themselves healthy and safe and prepared for life and work in a modern and ever changing world. As parents, the thought of teaching your child the National Curriculum from home can be a significant worry. This aspect of the curriculum however can be much more accessible for parents and a great way for you and your child to engage with one another. There are, as always, some rather specialist areas and topics within PSHE/SRE and therefore we have tried to plan the content with this in mind. Our aim is to provide students and families with opportunities to interact and learn together and we hope that you all enjoy these discussion and debate topics.

How we intend to carry out over school closure:

In an attempt to simplify how you and your child access this work we aim to utilise our current OneNote system which I am sure by now you have become accustomed to. Our commitment to this very important part of our student's curriculum is as follows:

- Daily OneNote document for year group that is 1) A good news story or important article and 2) A different mindful activity that they can do at home with family or on own. Our expectation is that students will interact with these activities with families and their peers and that it will provide a mental and physical break in order to socialise.
- In addition, students once a week will have a drop of SRE information -Students will receive an age appropriate article to read or scenario's where students can discuss with parents or peers – to be clear this is practical information, not an encouragement to be sexually active. We want students to be able to feedback of their discussion to their Crew leaders where possible and encourage open dialogue.
- This plan will focus on their well-being during the difficult time and the wider world which can improve cultural, social and moral understanding.

Pupil Well-being Newsletter

As part of our care and concern for our students and wider community every Friday we will upload a pupil well-being newsletter onto our website which will have lots of activities and articles for our students. There will be competitions to enter and we actively encourage our students to get involved with as much as possible and we hope this eases the struggles pupils may be feeling without their normal routine.

Sixth Form

General Message

We continue to be exceptionally proud of our X12 students and they remain highly valued students at Newark Academy Sixth Form. Over the last week they have demonstrated a high level of tenacity in what has been unprecedented and challenging circumstances.

This communication outlines how we will continue to support your son or daughter as they transition into X13.

This is an incredibly unique situation and uncharted territory for the teaching profession in this country.

Finding a solution is a challenge for all schools and, quite naturally, there will be teething problems and bumps in the road ahead. Subject teachers have been communicating and supporting via **Microsoft One Note**. By continuing to learn in this way, our X12 students will be in an advantageous position on their return to Newark

Academy Sixth Form. Students' school email account also remains live for communication to teachers, Crew Leaders and myself.

After our first week of settling into this way of learning and our first successful week using One Note, I would like to ensure all students, parents and carers are aware of what I consider to be the next step in ensuring students continue to make progress.

Expectations for our Newark Academy Sixth Form Students

Students will be set work on the days they would have had lessons with their class teacher and it is expected that students will follow their timetable at home to ensure they have a routine.

From **Thursday 26th March** there will be an expectation to return/show evidence of this work to their teacher via email /One Note by **5pm** on that day. This will allow staff to note who has completed work and who hasn't. Equally, it will allow staff to plan appropriate sessions to ensure learning is effectively sequenced to enable students to make progress.

Study at GCE Level is likened to having a full time job and we stand by the expectation at NA6 that, in these circumstances, students complete all of their 6 x 50 minute lessons per subject plus 4 hours of study per subject in addition to this to be successful.

Please remember: 6 lessons and 4 hours (+) of additional study per subject = Success

Parents and Carers are urged to support their son or daughter and reiterate that this work is being set so that they can continue to make progress in their studies and be ready to successfully return to the classroom once they return to Newark Academy Sixth Form.

Workload

To support students with this new way of working, staff will also be building into their planning one respite lesson on a fortnightly basis starting this week. In these sessions staff will ask students to do some of the following activities:

- Revisit and recap lessons and content from previous learning on their curriculum journey
- Organise/improve Notes to consolidate learning
- Consider the areas of strengths and weaknesses and where they need clarification or help
- Conduct tutorials via email

Teachers will communicate when these sessions will take place. The central aim is to provide some focused contact time with teachers to enable students to review their curriculum journey.

Examinations

There will be no formal AS examinations this academic year. Some students will have been expecting to re-sit GCSE Maths this summer too but this will now take place in November. Mr Woolley in our Maths Department will be setting work via email for these students to ensure this learning continues.

Some students will also have coursework that needs to be completed too and subject teachers will be confirming deadlines for this work via Microsoft One Note and leading on this using this online platform.

It is important that coursework is completed to ensure that valuable time is not wasted during X13 on catch up that could have been done remotely under teacher guidance.

For our medical students the UCAT test has been suspended and I will update parents, carers and students when I have further information on this important test.

Awarding A Level Grades in 2021

You may be concerned about grades next year and how a period of absence will affect your son or daughter. At some point in the future it is most likely that the Department for Education will address this concern with a response to schools and sixth forms and we will update you when we receive new information.

On our return, we will be conducting rigorous assessments to support students and seek to close any gaps that have emerged. In the meantime, I cannot reiterate enough how important it is to complete the work set out by

teachers and use this time wisely. We want students to be successful and to not be overloaded in X13 as they prepare for examinations.

Aspirations

We will continue to support students with their aspirations through our Post 18 careers programme which includes support for their university applications and apprenticeships in readiness for X13. Further information regarding this will be given after Easter to parents, carers and students.

Unifrog

Please encourage your son or daughter to register with this platform. All students have received a log in via email. This will be fundamental to our work for our aspiration agenda in the coming weeks.

Daily X12 Crew Bulletin and 'Checking In'

To support students and to replace Crew Time, I have been preparing a daily bulletin for students in X12 and this is sent out by 9:30 am, at the latest, each day from Monday to Friday. In this bulletin I outline key messages and advice. Additionally, there are key messages for all students to read from staff and Crew Leaders. The feedback from X12 for this support has been overwhelmingly positive and I will continue to do this for X12 until we return. Twice a week I expect students to reply to my email and 'Check In'. This allows me to check in on their welfare in my pastoral role as Head of Sixth Form. It is important that parents and carers support this as at times I may have to relay specific pastoral messages or information from subject teachers to individual students.

Establishing a Routine

It is important that students also have a routine and I have requested students to set up a study area that they can access throughout the day.

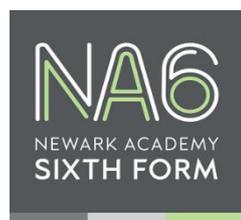
I have also requested X12 to factor other things into this routine such as meal times, a rota for cleaning up for parents or carers, making a meal, games, movie or Netflix nights, art, reading, music and talking too.

Social distancing is important to beat this virus and protect our loved ones and to ensure that the NHS systems does not become overwhelmed. Students have been asked to follow the government's advice by exercising once a day and drinking lots of water.

Please be assured that we are doing our utmost to support your son or daughter and ensure that they are not disadvantaged by these exceptional and tragic circumstances.

I remain proud of our exceptional students in X12 and I know they will rise to the challenge that this presents and demonstrate our NA6 GREAT values in the weeks ahead and I would like to thank you too, as parents and carers, for your support in this and for getting behind NA6.

Mrs J Hamilton-Smith



Top Tips for Families

Top tip/ helpful info

Whilst it is important to get out and have some fresh air, this is becoming more difficult to do as we all have to practise social distancing (staying 2 metres away from people) and not go to places where there are lots of people. If you are looking to keep your child exercising, Joe Wicks has put some PE lessons on his YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/thebodycoachtv>

This is live every day at 9am and is aimed at all age groups.

Want to give your children some clear information about Coronavirus – they can take a quiz on the BBC: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zjswwty>

Want to be clear on all government guidelines about Coronavirus? See <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Try a free mindfulness app for positive wellbeing support: <https://www.headspace.com/>