



Dear Parent/Carer,

Over the past 18 months, whilst we have attempted to navigate the challenges presented by COVID, it has been incredibly difficult to deliver on our commitment to work closely with our parents/carers. I am committed to forging strong relationships with our families, and to maintain a personal connection with each of you, as your child progresses through their learning journey with us. As we begin to step into a more 'normal' school experience, I am excited to welcome you back into our Academy and at a very important stage of your child's education.

As you may well be aware, all Year 9 children are about to begin their GCSE option choice process. This is an exciting time for students and families but also a very significant point in their learning journey. It is the point in time where students begin to lay down the foundations on which to build their future ambitions and we are incredibly privileged to be a part of this with you.

I am pleased to inform parents/carers that we will be holding a face to face event on Wednesday 23rd March where we will talk you through the process and provide you with opportunities to meet with subject leaders and teachers, to help you and your child make informed choices about their future GCSE studies. The evening will commence at 5.30 pm with a presentation followed by an opportunity to explore a 'Market Place' style event where you can visit subject areas to ask any questions you might have about our options choices and to discuss course suitability. Further details will be sent nearer the time.

In addition to this evening there are a number of other opportunities which are available to support you and your child with this very important decision-making process:

Crew sessions

During the options process Year 9 students will partake in a number of sessions during tutor time that focus on the GCSE options process, thinking about the type of learner they are and where future career paths can go as an example. Our 'Careers Expo' event also takes place on Wednesday 2nd March which offers students a great chance to explore potential career pathways by talking to local employers, NA6 students, colleges and universities ahead of making their option choices.

Achievement Evenings

These will remain as online experiences this time around but I am hopeful all events will return to face to face as we move forwards. The events take place as follows:

- **Year 9 online Achievement Evening A – Monday 7th March – 3.30pm onwards (Crews 9EMO, 9EMU, 9ERE, 9GRI and 9JBO)**
- **Year 9 online Achievement Evening B – Wednesday 16th March – 3.30pm onwards (Crews 9GBA, 9JJO, 9JPA, 9KIS, 9RBE, 9SCO)**

Information about these evenings has already been emailed out to you. These evenings allow an initial conversation to be had with subject teachers as well as a chance to discuss attitude to learning and progress within the subject. Please make sure you book your appointments via <https://parents-booking.co.uk/newarkacademy> to ensure you have the opportunity to speak to subject teachers prior to Options evening.

I am hopeful this provides parents with clarity regarding our strategy to support the ongoing progress of your child. If, however, you have any specific questions or queries that you would like further support with, then please don't hesitate to contact Mr Huggard, Head of Crew for year 9.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment and support.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Fisher', with a stylized, cursive script.

Chris Fisher

Head of School

