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December 2018

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

As we approach the end of another thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding term, it is always important to take time to reflect on the significant progress that our Academy continues to make and the many wonderful achievements and success stories of our amazing young people. It is a genuine privilege to work with such fantastic pupils and staff who continue to make our Academy a truly special place to work and learn. This edition of our termly newsletter aims to highlight the many excellent events that have taken place throughout another action-packed term along with important news and information that parents, carers and friends of the Academy will no doubt find useful as we look forward to a new term and a new year in 2019.

There has been much to celebrate since returning to school in September. We welcomed our biggest cohort ever to the academy in September with over 180 students joining us from a range of primary schools across the town and local region and we have been delighted with how quickly they have settled into Academy life. We are equally delighted to hear from parents and carers just how happy and settled our students are and we look forward to supporting them to grow, develop and succeed for years to come. It has been an equally positive start for all other year groups and we are justifiably proud of their many wonderful achievements both in and out of the classroom. We are especially pleased to welcome our first ever cohort of Newark Academy College students who joined us in September to study a range of Post 16 qualifications. We are delighted with the start they have made and look forward to expanding our College provision over the coming months and years ahead for the benefit of our existing students and indeed, the wider community.

As an Academy we are continually seeking the views of all stakeholders, particularly parents and carers, on how we can further improve the provision and experience that our students receive. We have been thrilled to see an expansion of our parental voice and we are hugely grateful for the contributions and suggestions from parents and carers following our recent parental survey. We are justifiably proud of the strong and lasting relationships that we have with parents and carers and are delighted to see that over 98% of parents and carers say that their child is happy at the Academy and 100% say that the school is well led and managed. Where parents and carers feel the school needs to improve, the Academy is working hard to address issues identified such as independent learning and greater clarity on how students make progress at the Academy. Work is already well underway on these important issues and parents and carers will be provided with an information update in the new year.

As always, it is of paramount importance that parents and carers check that the details we hold on our files, particularly email addresses and mobile phone numbers. As they are our primary vehicles to communicate important information, we would ask that these are regularly checked so that our records are as accurate and as up to date as possible. We are always keen to hear from parents and carers if they feel they can provide

creative ways to improve our communication between home and school so please do contact the Academy if you would like us to consider your suggestions.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your unrelenting support during the Autumn term. We are making tremendous progress across every agenda at the Academy and are determined to ensure that we secure an 'amazing' school for our amazing students and your support in securing this is invaluable. Our vision has always been to provide a 'great' local school for local children and families and for the first time in recent memory, Newark Academy will be considerably oversubscribed in Year 7 in September 2019. This is a significant milestone in the history of Newark Academy as it is a very clear indicator that our community believes in our Academy and now see us as the 'great' local school that our children and families deserve.

Students return to the Academy on 7th January 2019.

As time is so precious, I hope that the extended Christmas break provides all families and students with an opportunity to spend some quality time together over the festive period. On behalf of the everyone associated with our Academy, including staff, governors, FONA members and our fantastic students, I would like to wish you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Andy Seymour

NEWS FROM NEWARK ACADEMY COLLEGE

Newark Academy College was successfully launched in September with 20 students joining from our brilliant Yr11 class of 2018.

We have a small but perfectly formed set of subjects running in year one of the college which include, English, Maths, Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Psychology, Art and Product Design A-Levels with Health & Social and Sport subjects running as Level 3 work based courses.

The college students have already taken part in a range of activities which will inspire, support, challenge and develop their futures. Holme Pierrepont National Watersports Centre for our induction day, University Talks from Cambridge, Nottingham, Nottingham Trent and Bishop Grosseteste Lincoln, weekly debating sessions on current affairs, supporting younger students in the academy with reading, performance and workshop discussing their responsibility as a road user, one to one careers guidance, organising and running a Senior Citizens Community Christmas Party for local care home residents, invitation to join the World Challenge Trip to Morocco and National Citizens Scheme, a Rewards Trip to London in January to look forward to and so much more.

As a college we have also started planning for year two of the college, with over 70 students from our Yr11 & 10 attending the evening with external candidates visiting. Parents and students got involved in lessons to discover which subjects they might study as part of their next valuable stage at our vibrant academy. We have a larger set of subjects on offer this year and applications for the college are up on our previous year. Please remember if you want to guarantee a place in Newark Academy College studying your subjects of choice, apply online by 18th January 2019.

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David Palethorpe – Head of Post 16

OAP CHRISTMAS LUNCH



Our amazing college students organised the senior citizens lunch earlier this month with the fantastic help of our year 9 Prince's Trust students who helped with serving the food and looking after our guests. We also welcomed pupils from the Chuter Ede Choir who entertained everyone with a medley of Christmas Carols. A fantastic time was had by all.



OLYMPIAN IN THE MAKING?

Have you met our very own Olympian in the making? Paige Jones one of the hard working Newark Academy College students who spends most of her free time developing skills in archery.

Paige competes nationally and internationally at different levels regularly taking the top prize on offer. Please see her honours list below, this has all happened since September this year.

Well done Paige keep up the good work.



Archery GB Youth festival

- * Gold medal in individual
- * Silver medal in team
- * Silver medal in mixed team

Archery GB key stage 6

- * Gold medal in individual
- * Gold medal in mixed team
- * Bronze medal in team

East Midlands inter county

- * Lady compound gold

Qualification for Archery GB key event finals

Belvoir archers silver individual ladies compound

Signed for GB squad 2018-2020

East Midlands championships

- * Junior lady compound champion 2018

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NEWS FROM THE PE DEPARTMENT

Three of our amazingly talented students who took the opportunity in a PE lesson to trial for the North of England team for Indoor Kayaking gained success in achieving a place in the North of England Indoor Kayaking team. With only 4 places available Newark Academy students took three of them for the National School Games.

They competed against teams from the rest of the country in the individual and teams races. As the results were coming through in late August we could see that they had achieved amazing results by coming second in the team relay.

A fantastic achievement by our students. Well done Jacob, Callum and George.



On Friday 5th October, 4 girls took to the water in the Regional Schools Swimming Relays. It was great to see, for the second year running we were able to field a team in this high level competition.

The girls had two races, medley and freestyle. They were up against some strong opposition in the heats and had to wait for the final placings to be made.

We were all super proud to see the girls come fourth in the region and top school in the county in the medley relay and sixth in the region and second in the county for the freestyle relay.

Amazing results. Well done.



Our amazing equestrian team has grown this year and we now see five students regularly taking part in schools equestrian events. In the county qualifiers earlier this term, the Newark Academy team came first place out of the Nottinghamshire Schools and have qualified for the County Championships in 2019. We also have individuals who have qualified individually for this event. Amazing results for

Newark Academy who ride against a very strong field of competitors.



A fantastic 3 weeks of play are round 1 and 2 and the finals for the year 9 netball Central Venue League.

The girls played with pure class throughout the games to put them into a great position with over 60 goals scored. The way the girls attacked the circle to get the players closer to the net to ensure a goal was fantastic. They defended the other end with as much class when the ball was allowed out of the centre third.

The final was held at Fernwood School, Nottingham. Six top teams from three CVLs came together to see who would take the medals home. Our girls did not disappoint and played some amazing netball. Well deserved bronze medals. There were

some thrilling games played with players switching positions to allow everyone to play. Well done girls!



This year saw the comeback of the boys and girls football teams across the age groups in the County Cups. All teams have played exceptionally well. We have played teams across the county and city gaining some valuable experience and some great wins. A number of teams have progressed through to the second and third rounds. Well done to all the teams who have competed.



Newark and Sherwood Cross Country Championships

We were well represented at the district cross country in the last week of term. A cold afternoon meant for perfect running conditions. A strong field of 30 students took the country route through the trees at Sherwood pines.

We competed in all but 1 race and had qualifiers from all we entered. In total, a fantastic 12 students have qualified for the County Round at Wollaton Park in February 2019.

All Schools Rugby

This year Newark Academy have signed up to a three year scheme to develop rugby across schools who do not normally play. The All Schools schemes provides us with expert coaching, resources and kit for the school to use and keep to help with development.

Newark Academy students at Key Stage 3 have taken this challenge in their stride and have embraced the opportunities and made amazing progress in the game of Rugby.

As part of this commitment from the RFU we are also partnered with Newark Rugby Club where we have taken 40 plus students on three separate occasions for them to experience the whole Rugby experience. The games that the students, girls and boys, have played have been with determination and skills that they have only just learned and managed to win more games than not. We were playing other schools in our local community who also have joined the scheme.

On top of all of this we also have a specialist coach who delivers our after school Rugby Club on Thursday evenings. He is so impressed with our students and how they have taken to the game of Rugby he believes that in the future we will have students moving through the England pathway very quickly.

One final development on this scheme is that we managed to gain a great deal to watch a Six Nations game in March, England v. Italy at Twickenham. 40 students, parents and staff will be enjoying a full day of Rugby fun to watch a top level game at the England Home ground.

SINGING STAR – ROSIE PITCHFORD



So proud of this talented young lady who performed so beautifully to over 600 young people at Kelham Hall recently. Great to work in partnership with such talented artists including @markdelisser @claredovewrites and of course the wonderful @singology and @nottsmusichub. Huge thanks too to everyone involved in making this such a



special experience for Rosie.

Rosie performing recently at the Old Library. Songs included Seven Nations Army and When We Were Young

STUDENT LEADERSHIP



This year we have revamped our Student Leadership programme and devised new roles and responsibilities to enable students to develop their leadership skills, communication skills, confidence and experience. We are very excited about our Student Leadership programme and feel confident that it will provide our students with the opportunities to develop character and help prepare them for the world at large.



Our Head Student roles were the first to be recruited and after a really engaging process I am pleased to announce that Astra Taylor, year 11 and Chloe Rastall, year 12 have been elected as Head Students for 2018/19. The process included candidates putting together a mini campaign with promotional videos and a whole school 'Prime Minister' style question time where students got to hear more about each candidates policy before making their choice. Over 80% of our whole academy community came through our ballot stations to place their vote! It was an amazing process and I would like to thank all of our students for the great efforts they went to throughout the process.



We are now recruiting for the rest of our Student Leadership roles and are really pleased to see the large number of students who are keen to get involved. These positions will include Senior Prefects, Peer Mentors, Prefects and School Council representatives.

SPELLING BEE



This year Newark Academy have been working toward spelling the most commonly misspelled words accurately- the Naughty Forty. Each tutor group then entered a spelling champion to enter into the Christmas Naughty Forty Spelling Bee. It was an extremely well fought competition with some challenging words including 'entrepreneur' and 'supersede' but there could only be one winner: Jayden Buckland from 7JWO.

A massive congratulations to all competitors for showing skill, determination and confidence.

CEIAG

The Academy has had a busy term developing its careers and guidance programme with lots of different activities taking place to help support our students with the skills and knowledge to make informed choices in the future.

Year 10, 11 and 12 Newark and Sherwood Careers EXPO

Students spent the afternoon at the Newark showground discovering what they might do once they have left school. The fair had a range of provision including Further Education University representation. The armed forces all had stands giving guidance on the possible futures with them. Local companies involved gave talks about what opportunities they had in their business for students from Newark and Apprenticeships were explained at all levels.

Year 9 – “Steps to Success”

DANCOP have provided all our Yr9 students with an information afternoon explaining different methods of being successful at school and what different qualifications they can do after GCSE's.

Year 7, 10, 11 and 12 University Talks

Cambridge, Nottingham, Nottingham Trent and Lincoln Bishop Grosseteste Universities have all come in and given talks about how, why and what they might want to do at university and how to be a successful student.

Year 7, 8 Newark and Sherwood Agricultural Society Scarecrow Competition



Students from the school were inspired by the local Newark and Sherwood Agricultural Society to create Scarecrows which were put on display at the Tractor show. The students who entered the competition all won tickets for the weekend fun at the showground and the school benefited by being presented with a Christmas tree which is displayed at the front of the school.

Year 9 DANCOP STEM Bus

Year 9 students were treated to a day of fun on the STEM bus. The students learnt about possible future employment in STEM industries whilst taking part in engaging activities in Rocket Forces, Code Breaking and Earthquakes and Volcanoes.



Year 9,10,11 Flowserve Engineering School

Engineering students from the Academy have been taking part in a 6 week course improving their knowledge and understanding of the skills and jobs required in the engineering sector. The pupils have taken part in activities both in school and at Flowserve. The Academy would like to take the time to thank a wonderful local company for taking the time to deliver such a fantastic opportunity for our students.



PERFORMANCES



Some of our performance groups at Newark Academy have been out and about across the County, showcasing their talents. Black Thunder Dance, NewArts Dance and Rock School all attended the Inspire Youth Arts MyFest at the Old Library in Mansfield, all currently waiting to hear if they got through to the main showcase event.

Also, Black Thunder performed at dance event Unite the Scene, which was such an amazing experience. Two of our dancers, Hannah Davidson and Ella Mahon got to take part in a collaboration piece with dancers from across the County. Fair to say, we have some huge talent in school!!



SPOOKTACULAR



Our annual Spooktacular event took place in October with many of our students involved. Well done to everyone who took part. A truly amazing performance.



HEALTHY MINDS WEEK

This term, we held our annual Healthy Minds Week, with an aim of raising awareness, knowledge and also reducing the stigma around mental health. All year groups were involved in various events that addresses body image, personal space, self-harm and much more. We were very proud to invite back to our school, award winning Satveer Nijjar to talk to our students about mental health. Assemblies this week were delivered by our Head Students and Peer Mentors, who are our schools mental health ambassadors, they did an amazing job!!

T4U SHOE BOX APPEAL



Students led the school in a Christmas shoe-box appeal for Teams4U, to send Christmas gifts to disadvantaged children in Romania. With a huge effort from students and staff alike, we managed to produce more than 50 shoe-boxes, which is just incredible. Thanks to all involved and to T4U for allowing us to be part of such a wonderful project!

YMCA MUSIC PROJECT

YMCA came in to run some taster sessions for their new enrichment club, which is aimed to inspiring future musicians by giving them an insight into all elements of the music industry. This included digital music technology, live music, singing and song writing and event management. We even got our very own Mrs Jones rapping!!



ASSIST HEALTH MENTORS



ASSIST from Nottinghamshire County Council took 26 of our year 8 students for 2 days of training at Newark Showground. Their training was focused on anti-smoking and they group did an amazing job. Now 14 of the students are going to be invited to become full time Student Health Mentors under our leadership structure.

ENRICHMENT

Enrichment got off to a flying start this year, with a huge variety of activities for everyone to get involved in. The clubs have all been working on some great projects, getting involved in the wider community and showcasing what they do. Watch out for the updated offer coming out after Christmas!



Digital Leaders have started a very exciting project with the Escape Rooms at Kelham Hall. Wes Thompson (club leader) will be working with them and Nigel Catt (owner of Letsxcape) to help design a new room and put together a series of puzzles for visitors to unravel.

PRINCE'S TRUST



Nine year 9 boys are undertaking the Prince's Trust Award with Mrs Goodman and Mrs Willis. This term they have completed project work around the OAP community lunch arranged by the Newark Academy College students. The students have written to businesses to ask for donations for gifts to give to the elderly at the lunch. They have made cakes and sold them during school breaks to raise funds for the fits which they wrapped and presented them at the Christmas meal.

With great care they made the table decorations using foliage collected from the woods by Mrs Goodman. These were astounding and the pride they took in making them was amazing to see. We look forward to working with them next year on exciting projects.



REMEMBRANCE WEEK



Remembrance Assemblies took place during the week commencing 5th November to mark the centenary of the end of the Great War. A group of students from Newark Academy held a series of assemblies at our local primary schools. A community performance took place at Barnby Gate Methodist Church. The performance explores the true story and wedding of Newark soldier and Sherwood Forester Ernest Simpson to Alice Covill in 1914 and their separation due to the

beginning of WW1. The piece reflects on the sacrifices made by soldiers and aims to inform young people of the losses. Ultimately this year's 100th anniversary reflects on the ending of WW1 and with it the jubilation that the war came to an end in 1918.

On Friday 9th November members of The British Legion visited Newark Academy and attended one of the assemblies. At 11.00 on Friday 9th November all staff, students and visitors observed a one minutes silence in the Courtyard, followed by Sally Goodman, a member of staff at the Academy playing The Last Post.

NEWS IN GENERAL

Early Intervention Officer joins the Newark Academy family

Following a successful trial across a range of Nottinghamshire schools, we are delighted to welcome PC Nick Stenner to the Newark Academy team. Nick is an Early Intervention Officer (EIO) who will support the Academy in raising awareness of the dangers of knife crime, drug and alcohol abuse and anti-social behaviour. Nick will also deliver a range of educational workshops and targeted interventions as well as attend community meetings where appropriate. We are delighted to be able to draw on Nick's considerable expertise as a police officer and more importantly, we are excited about the contribution that Nick will bring to the team in ensuring that our young people are fully aware of how they keep themselves safe in the modern world.

Nick will be available at key points in the school day and is a great point of contact for parents and carers who have particular concerns around cyber safety, drug or alcohol abuse, violence or criminal damage that happens away from the Academy and if parents and carers would like to discuss a community issue with Nick then please do contact the school.

Aspiration

This term we have been working closely with colleagues from Nottingham Trent University to develop links and programmes to raise aspirations for our young people. In October Nottingham Trent delivered 2 sessions of '**Revise wise**' to 60 of our year 11 pupils which focused on how to managing time effectively – how to revise. They followed this up with an assembly to all of our Year 11's discussing '**Next Steps**' and options available to them after GCSE's. Pupils whom took part in the sessions were very positive about the sessions and felt it helped them understand the importance of **how** we revise and not just **what** we revise.

Last week our year 7's also had an assembly on **Aspirations and Excellence** which was then followed up by a further assembly by NTU on an '**Introduction to Higher Education**'. Our Year 7's really enjoyed talking about their future aspirations – with one pupil exclaiming he wanted to be a Chief Executive Officer of a large company!

Year 12's were also invited to join **the 'Pitch for progression'** programme at NTU. If successful students would be invited to a residential at the university and assigned a mentor who would help with UCAS applications, understanding courses on offer and given first pick of taster sessions for courses at the University.

Over the next term there will be many more opportunities for all our year groups to explore higher education opportunities, including visits to campus and a summer residential.

Health Mentor

The school has employed a health mentor from 'Evolve' – an external provider that works with many schools in Newark to enable all children to achieve their potential, through improving physical health, emotional well-being and cognitive development – to work with some of our Year 8 and 9 pupils. Aaron will be with us for 1 day a week working in classes to support the pupils and also on a 1:1 basis. Aaron an ex-rugby player will also be offering enrichment sessions after school.

Rewards trip – Year 11

In September we launched a challenge to our Year 11's to spend 20 minutes of their lunch times revising independently. 'The Power of the hour' was planned and delivered by our Year 11 tutor teams. The reward for attending and hitting the 600 minutes target was met by 31 of our Year 11 pupils. All 31 pupils have won a free ticket plus food to our end of term reward trip to Nottingham Showcase cinema.

Success for All Evening – Year 11



In November our core subjects delivered revision workshops to Year 11 parents and pupils. The evening was very well attended and Parents found it extremely insightful in understanding what was expected of their child over the coming few months and how they could support their child in their revision. On the evening we also had a Yoga teacher deliver some relaxation techniques and the school's careers advisor and Head of Sixth Form discuss post 16 options. The next Success for All evening for Year 11's will take place for Non Core subjects in the new year.

Shadow

In August this year Annie Tait, a year 9 student, took part in a Shadow event. Many youth services and groups run by the local district council participate in this event which takes place from 6.00 pm until 2.00 am. There are various activities that help build communication and teamwork skills. This includes litter picking and points are awarded for the amount of litter that is picked. Over 400 teams took part across the UK

Annie has also applied to be a Member of Youth Parliament for The Pioneers. This is a group run by Newark & Sherwood District Council and focuses on young people with disabilities. Winners are announced in March time next year. If Annie does become an MYP she will be able to visit the House of Commons and meet local MPs. Good luck to Annie.

PINTSIZE THEATRE COMPANY

Our Y8 students were involved in an interactive drama workshop delivered by Pintsize Theatre Company this week. This drama looks at and raises awareness of the issues relating to young people, internet safety and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). This included a number of topics as, for example, what might constitute an unhealthy relationship, sexual exploitation and where student can get support if they are worried about a particular relationship.

CONGRATULATIONS TO HARLEY



Congratulations to Harley on becoming a finalist for the Sam White Junior Volunteer of the Year. Huge congratulations also for being signed at Derby County as a goal keep. Well done Harley.