

19th December 2018



Dear Parents and Carers

It has certainly been a different term. The refurbishment programme continues at a furious pace. As I hope your child has told you almost every classroom and communal space has been redecorated (painted walls, new carpets, blinds and furniture). The entire school's ICT equipment has been replaced and the systems upgraded (over 600 new computers, interactive whiteboards in every classroom and Juno sound systems). The audio-visual equipment in the Main Hall and Performing Arts Studio has also been replaced – apparently, the quality is the same as a theatre or cinema! Work is taking place as I write on a complete transformation of the SEND area and this is due for completion in January. Outstanding parts of the refurbishment which will take place over the coming months include the Engineering, Art, Music and Food areas, as well as the Tennis courts, and a new signage system inside the school. We were delighted to hear that the project has been extended to include 85% of the school's windows and all the entrance doors.

I am also pleased to be able to tell you that last week I instructed SEH French to be the contractors for the Library project. The site set up will begin next week and the building work will begin in earnest on January 4th and is due for completion on August 19th. I do realise that all this work will have caused some disruption to the normal business of the school, but I hope you will agree that with the careful planning that has gone on behind the scenes this has been kept to an absolute minimum. I am confident that when the work is complete Newmarket Academy's physical environment will be amazing and put us at the very forefront of the national education position.

Obviously the building work has been an important aspect of the school this term but still less important than our core purpose which is to facilitate the development of successful learners. Last summer's results were our best ever and the sixth consecutive year of improvement. What pleased us most was the accuracy of our predictions which told us that our pre exam strategy is working and does deliver the results we expect. We are confident that the results of 2019 will once again be our best ever. The year 11 students sat their mocks in November and received their results in a 'Results Day' model. As usual we saw a full range of reactions from tears to shock to a real sense of achievement. What has impressed us is the response of the students – they have shown us that they want to do well and are prepared to put in the sustained hard work that is required to deliver these challenging predictions. We hope parents and carers in Year 11 will continue to work with us to support and challenge the students through the coming months. Please get in touch if there is anything we can do.

Away from examinations and buildings it has been the usual incredibly busy term. Highlights include the Dubai Future Champions Education Week, the powerful and moving drama work led by Charlotte Kuell to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the ending of World War One. We took 10 students to Lexington, Kentucky as the second leg of the Exchange programme set up by Neil Fisher and supported by community funding. The Newmarket Festival came in to deliver the 'Dragons Den' and distributed over £3500 to a range of students in all year groups. They hope that even more students will apply next year. We have had feedback on a review carried out by Mr Jenkinson – a National Leader in Education looking at a range of aspects of the school. I will be forwarding his initial letter outlining his reflections on the school.

Principal: Mr.N Froy (BA Hons) NPQH

Sporting highlights include:

- Y10 Boys Football Team were crowned West Suffolk Champions and won every game
 - Y11 Boys Football Team are through to the last 16 of the County Cup
 - We had 8 students qualify from the District Cross Country for the County race
 - Three of them then qualified from the first County Race to the County Final
 - Y11 Boys Rugby were Runners Up in the West Suffolk Cup
 - One student won a place at the England U18 Lawn Bowls Academy
 - One student continues to excel in the IAME Euro Series Karting
 - Several students were selected for the UK Dodgeball trials
 - Two students took part in the National Kuk Sool Won Championships
 - Two students excelled in the Dance Centre of Advanced Training
 - One student is achieving well at a Professional Football Academy
 - One student is achieving well in amateur Horse Racing
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- Our Sports Leaders officiated at nine events over the term, and took part in a Dodgeball Leaders qualification. We were delighted to receive the following feedback “The tutor, John Rudland, was exceptionally impressed with both the attitude and ability of those leaders that attended the course. He even went as far as saying that they were the best group of leaders he has encountered this year. As a PE teacher and team manager of the England Dodgeball teams, he should know!” from Ian Jackson

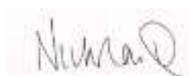
In terms of staffing we appointed Mr Messer to join our Science team permanently and Mr Sorento to teach Music. I am delighted to be able to tell you that Richard Hall has been seconded to a Deputy Headteacher role in a school in the Trust for the spring term. His role will be filled by a current member of staff.

Next term will be equally busy. There will be a focus on homework and presentation in books. We would also request that all students come to school equipped for learning. We will be carrying out checks to ensure that this is the case.

Can I remind you that on the last day of term – Friday 21st December, we will close at 1.10pm, after a whole school assembly. Lunch will be available for those students who are usually provided with lunch. We return to school on Monday 7th January.

It remains for me to wish you all a happy, peaceful and relaxing holiday and New Year.

With best wishes



Nick Froy
Principal