



28th March 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am proud of all the events and activities that we have been able to offer ranging from the visit of the Deputy Governor of the Bank of England to the generous support of the Newmarket Festival in the Dragons Den process and the Live Your Dreams Programme. However before expanding on the achievements of the school I would like to let you know of two excellent developments which reflect our transformation and will underpin our future ambition. The first is the expected year 7 intake in September 2018, so far the Local Authority have offered nearly 180 places for the new year 7 – this represents a significant increase on our usual year groups of 130. To us this is the confirmation that the school is a ‘Good’ school which serves its local community well. We have resisted pressure from the Local Authority to increase the number beyond our agreed Pupil Admission Number as we believe strongly in retaining the ‘small, happy and ambitious’ vision for the school.

I am also delighted to be able to announce that the school has received a very significant donation from the local community to build a massive extension to the current library. As you know we have always believed that reading - both for pleasure and for understanding - is the key to future success. The extension is the gift of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum. We have recently applied for planning permission and assuming this successful anticipate that work on the project will begin in the summer this year with a view to completion in the summer of 2019. We are obviously incredibly grateful to the support of HH who is committed to supporting the young people of Newmarket and the villages around the town achieve academic excellence through the building of a fantastic resource. We feel that it is the ultimate backing and support for our stated aspiration to a beacon of excellence.

The spring term is always incredibly busy. It is the shortest term but somehow we cram as much in as the other terms. This term has seen the visit of Sir David Ramsden who was robustly challenged by our students on issues from Bitcoins to Brexit. Matthew Hancock opened our first Jobs and Apprenticeship Fair which had 28 stalls of local businesses reflecting the cross-section of opportunities in the town. We hope that your child was able to meet some local employers and be inspired to pursue careers in one of the areas. Our mathematicians excelled in the UKMT challenge exceeding all previous records. Our Challenge Days have tackled important and relevant issues from Staying Healthy in current environment to looking at Radicalisation. The NAGBP continues to provide amazing opportunities for all of our students. Our mathematicians worked at Huntingdon Racecourse, Travel and Tourism and Business Studies students were involved in real life developments in local businesses and attractions, and our Art students worked all day with a professional sculptor. We are incredibly lucky to be the only school in the UK with the backing of a project of this scale which does so much to raise the aspiration and ambition of our students and offer them so many fantastic opportunities. We faced the always difficult ‘snow closure’ decision and I would like to thank you for being so understanding.

I would like to thank the World Challenge team who took students to the Peak District that bitterly cold weekend as part of the preparation programme. I think this is symptomatic of the commitment of the staff at the Academy who go the extra mile for the students. As you may know we are one of four founder schools in the new Abbeygate Sixth Form and we are very pleased to have been involved in the selection of the Headteacher and also planning for its opening in September 2019. It has been confirmed that Abbeygate has ensured that buses to and from the new school will stop at the Academy.

I am glad that we are beginning to offer a greater range of trips for students. February half term saw the ski trip visit to Torgon, Portes Du Soleil, the World Challenge Trip to India will take place in the summer and in October this year 11 students will take part in the Lexington Exchange. We are very lucky to have

Principal: Mr.N Froy (BA Hons) NPQH

Newmarket Academy, Exning Road, Newmarket Suffolk. CB8 0EB
Tel: 01638 664412 Email: admin@newmarketacademy.co.uk website: www.newmarketacademy.co.uk

substantial funding from the local community to support these trips and make possible trips of a lifetime for some of our students.

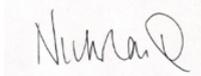
The weather this term has had an effect on our attendance figures. However attendance remains significantly above national figures placing us in the top 2% of all secondary schools. At present we are at 96% and continue to hold a high line as the link between attendance and outcome is clear.

Our focus as we go into the Easter holidays is to support our exam classes. The students have all had feedback on their mock examinations and know where they must concentrate their efforts. There are six weeks until the exams start in earnest and we would urge students to push themselves over the holidays. We have sent out revision guidance and a programme of Easter revision sessions. We hope that you will insist that your child attends the relevant sessions. These final weeks are vital in embedding knowledge and practising examination techniques. Please remind your child that the law requires young people to re-sit their English and Maths if they do not achieve 4+ and thus we would urge them to do everything possible to avoid countless resits at college. We have made available a significant number of revision tools and hope that each student will engage in regular and focused revision sessions. If you have any questions or queries about any aspect of the build up to the exams in May please contact your child's Head of House.

The acknowledgement of the school's transformation as evidenced by the rise in applications and the incredible gift of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed will support the acceleration of the school's rapid rise in reputation in the community. We are delivering on our promise to support successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens.

Have a good Easter.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Froy', is enclosed in a light grey rectangular box.

Nick Froy

Principal