

6<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Please see below for information relating to the Spring term and looking ahead to the Summer term.

### **Year 11 Staff Verses Student's Prom Fundraiser Basketball Match**

This was certainly one of my many highlights since joining the academy, which reflected positively the strong relationships between staff and students. The Year 11 team did a superb job at organising and promoting the event, even convincing me to participate! The event was a great example of building the right culture at INA and, surprisingly, the teachers won.

### **Spring Music Concert**

On Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March we held our Spring Music Concert (postponed from the Autumn term), and it was certainly worth the wait. A truly inspiring and amazing evening. Huge congratulations to all the students who participated, and to our committed Music team who were determined to put on a show. It was lovely to see so many families join us at the academy, which we hope continues. Some more great news is that we have secured a performance place at the Ark Music Gala, which will return to the Barbican this year. There will be further communication about this in the Summer term from Mr Coughlin.

### **Academic Intervention**

I wanted to take this opportunity to highlight the commitment our Year 11/13 students and staff have demonstrated during the Spring term. We have provided a significant amount of additional time to our students to help close knowledge gaps as they prepare for their final exams this summer. Mr Ade, especially, deserves recognition for organising intervention each Saturday morning during the Spring term and Summer term.

### **Independent Learning**

Effective independent learning or home learning (more commonly referred to by schools) is a crucial component in securing excellent academic outcomes. The importance of this type of learning at home cannot be overstated, especially when we consider that from September to September, any student across KS3-4, **only spends 12% of their total time** being directly taught by an adult (with this time decreasing at sixth form and university). Therefore, we must always seek to maximise learning time inside the academy and whilst our students are at home, where they spend significantly more time. Recently, I have been speaking with students from Years 7-11 and in the sixth form about their experiences of independent learning at INA. This has resulted in the formation of an 'INA Independent Learning Working Group' to help improve our strategy and harness the power that effective home learning can deliver. We will be devising a new strategy over the coming months to help remedy some of the concerns/issues that students have raised as we prepare for the next academic year. We will continue to maintain the high standards and expectations that INA have cultivated around independent learning. Further updates will be communicated in due course.

### **School Counsellors – Place2Be**

I am pleased to announce that both of our Place2Be counsellors are now working at the academy, which means we have a five-day provision for the first time at INA. If parents/carers seek more information about the services that Place2Be offers, please visit <https://www.place2be.org.uk> or contact the academy to find out more information.

### **COVID-19 Key Control and Safety Measures**

We appreciate that the COVID-19 landscape is constantly evolving and that we are still experiencing the impact of the virus. Therefore, I must stress that we continue to be cautious and implement our control measures, as well as being prepared to move direction quickly to implement any additional measures that are necessary or following national guidance to schools. Below is a summary of the measures in operation for the Summer 1 term.

- PE kit will continue to be worn to the academy on days students have PE lessons.
- Maintain good hygiene for everyone by using hand sanitiser regularly. We encourage students to carry a pocket size hand sanitiser, as well as having stations around the academy.
- Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes i.e. regular cleaning in accordance with Government cleaning standards, with common touch points cleaned at least twice per day. We have continued with our additional cleaning across the two sites into this academic year.
- Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
- Students can wear face coverings if they wish (note: this is something that will be reviewed for the Summer 2 term).
- We will respond with the outbreak management plan if a COVID-19 outbreak is reported by relevant authorities. This will trigger a change in our guidance and safety measures at INA. For example, it could trigger us stipulating face coverings need to be worn in certain areas, amongst other key measures.

We will communicate any updates received from the DFE and government over the Easter period before the Summer term begins.

### **Expectations for Educational Trips and Visits**

As more educational trips and visits are taking place, and will continue to do so, it is important that we are clear regarding our expectations in this area. This is especially important as for a long period trips/visits have been curtailed due to the pandemic. Below is a short summary of our expectations:

- All consent forms must be completed by the deadline shown on the letter.
- Academy rules regarding conduct and behaviour apply on all education trips and visits. Failure to meet our expectations will jeopardise future trips/visits.
- Students who are not permitted to attend a trip/visit for whatever reason must attend the academy as normal. Under no circumstances is a parent/carer allowed to take their child to the trip/visit location independently. If parents/carers refuse to send their child to the academy they will face attendance actions e.g. fines.
- All trips/visits will require students to wear full academy uniform unless stated otherwise.



## ISAAC NEWTON ACADEMY

### Student Attendance (Year to Date)

Our attendance is still holding strong, and we end the Spring term with 95.5%. This is an impressive figure, especially considering the impact that COVID-19 has had this academic year, and when compared to the national secondary average for schools in the UK being 89.7%. A huge thank you to students and families for their grit and commitment to education.

- Y7 is 95.7%
- Y8 is 94.8%
- Y9 is 95.1%
- Y10 is 95.8%
- Y11 is 95.8%
- Y12 is 95.3%
- Y13 is 95.0%

Let's continue to demonstrate the highest levels of grit and resilience and work together to have as many of our students reach the **attendance target of 96% or higher**.

### Student Punctuality

We are currently reviewing our punctuality policy. This is because there are too many students displaying poor professionalism by arriving late to the academy in the morning. Punctuality is a key aspect of professionalism, and poor punctuality is something that will not be tolerated at INA or in the working world. It is especially concerning that during the Spring term, **only 466 students managed to have a 100% punctuality success rate, which means 660 students were late to the academy on one or more occasions**. Moreover, most of our students **live less than 0.5 miles** from the academy, which means unlike a lot of London students, their morning commute is not impacted by traffic or busses. Subsequently, this should lead to far higher rates of punctuality success. Punctuality to the academy in the mornings is the responsibility of legal guardians, as is attendance. Further information will be communicated to parents/carers and students regarding the changes to our punctuality policy. **Please ensure your child arrives to the academy and is in their year group line by 08.25am.**

### Uniform and Other Items

We have previously communicated the importance of students **modelling professionalism through their appearance**. We expect students to be presentable and always wear their uniform with pride, including during their commute to and from the academy. Please see clarifications below:

- Academy shirts must be tucked in at all times.
- PE polo shirts must be tucked in at all times.
- 2x single small/plain gold or silver studs in each ear only (note: diamond earrings, hoops etc. are prohibited).
- 1x single small/plain gold or silver nose stud only (note: as above).
- Coats or any other outdoor garments are to be taken off before entry into the academy building.
- Any prohibited items will be confiscated and taken to reception for collection by a parent/carer.



## ISAAC NEWTON ACADEMY

### Key Dates for Summer Term 2022

- Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April – Students return to school for 8:25am
- Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April – Student Progress Review Meeting (review of Spring term academic report)
- **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May – GCSE exams commence** (note: please see separate communication for full timetable for INA students)
- **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May – A-level exams commence** (note: please see separate communication for full timetable for INA students)
- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June – Year 10 & 12 End of Year Mock Exams start
- Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June – Year 7-9 End of Year Exams start
- Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June – Year 7-9 GL Maths and English Progress tests start
- Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June – Year 11 Prom
- Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June – Year 6 into 7 Transition & Taster Day
- Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July – Year 13 Graduation Party
- Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July – Academy Sports Day
- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July – Academy Awards Evening
- Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July – Enrichment Day/Reward Trips

### Start of Summer Term Arrangements – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April

Students are expected to arrive for 8:25am. Students will have a tutor programme and an assembly. Normal lessons will resume by period 1.

### Academy Communication

Please continue to use these email addresses and telephone numbers to contact the relevant academy staff if you have a query regarding your child. We appreciate the positive messages we have received about these contact email addresses improving communication. These have been live since the Autumn term. Please only use the [info@isaacnewtonacademy.org](mailto:info@isaacnewtonacademy.org) for general enquires.

- **Y7 - Mr Marecar:** [Year7pastoral@isaacnewtonacademy.org](mailto:Year7pastoral@isaacnewtonacademy.org) and +442081616002
- **Y8 – Mr Wang:** [Year8pastoral@isaacnewtonacademy.org](mailto:Year8pastoral@isaacnewtonacademy.org) and +44 121 260 5939
- **Y9 – Mr Athwal:** [Year9pastoral@isaacnewtonacademy.org](mailto:Year9pastoral@isaacnewtonacademy.org) and +442081616033
- **Y10 – Ms Stylianou:** [Year10pastoral@isaacnewtonacademy.org](mailto:Year10pastoral@isaacnewtonacademy.org) and +442081615985
- **Y11 - Mr Crowther-Green:** [Year11pastoral@isaacnewtonacademy.org](mailto:Year11pastoral@isaacnewtonacademy.org) and +442081615985
- **Y12/13 – Ms Patel:** [Sixthformpastoral@isaacnewtonacademy.org](mailto:Sixthformpastoral@isaacnewtonacademy.org) and +442081615908

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Morgan Haines  
Principal