



Dear Parents and Carers,

Another extraordinary term and, hopefully, the last where school has to deal with a completely unexpected series of events.

I am proud of the school's response to the most recent lockdown and appreciate the many, many parents who have taken the time to give us feedback on remote learning. I must take this opportunity to thank all the amazing staff at our school, who have worked so hard to make the virtual lessons possible and keep in touch with the students. We know that this lockdown placed significant strains on many of our students and we are aware that some will need more support over the coming weeks.

Our testing centre worked like a well-oiled machine. I believe that we have completed over 3000 tests over the course of the term, culminating with the three tests for almost every student over 9 days. A very special thank you to the testing team and our volunteers who worked so hard to make this possible.

Our students had some remarkable experiences in lockdown, with a range of speakers as part of the Beacon project. Please look out for the most recent addition of Aspire – our termly newsletter on all things Beacon Project. I am delighted to report that we have had generous donations to support our students, with dongles from Novacyt and a contribution to the purchase of new goals for the PE department from the Newmarket Festival.

The students have returned in a very positive frame of mind. We are grateful for their attitude to wearing masks in lessons and around the Academy when indoors. After Easter, we wish to maintain our high standards of uniform. Can we please remind students to wear their full uniform, with black shoes, black socks and no hoodies.

Internally, staff have achieved qualifications in Trauma Informed Schools and secured a Silver Artsmark Award. We have had two babies born this term – congratulations to Mark Kirby and his wife, and Tiffany East and her family on the birth of their sons.

At the moment, we are wrestling with Teacher Assessed Grades and trying to ensure that we come up with a system which rewards our students' potential, recognises the work completed over the two years of the programme of study, and is able to withstand challenge.

I hope that when we write to you again at the end of next term, that we are telling you about the usual range of activities that have been made available to the students, and that the spectre of Coronavirus is well and truly receding.

Have a very good Easter and as ever if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact Ms Wilson.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Froy', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nick Froy
Executive Headteacher
Newmarket Academy and Sybil Andrews Academy