



# NATIONAL CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

The National Church of England Academy  
Annesley Road | Hucknall | Nottinghamshire | NG15 7DB  
Phone: 0115 9635667  
Email: [adminoffice@nationalce-ac.org.uk](mailto:adminoffice@nationalce-ac.org.uk)  
[www.nationalce-ac.org.uk](http://www.nationalce-ac.org.uk)

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Ref: RKi/MBR

Dear parents/guardians

What a first year as a Principal at National!

## This Year at National

I have always believed that often unexpected events can lead to unexpected gains. God reveals opportunities in the midst of pressures. There are things in life, big and small which define us and make us who we are. It has been a tough year for everyone in our community and we have come through it together and hopefully have better times ahead of us.

We should be thankful for what we have and for the people around us. Many don't or won't have the opportunities which lay ahead of us next year and we should try not to lose the sense of community support and spirit which has flourished over the last few months. There are difficult times ahead for every community and we are about to experience the greatest economic test of our time. At times it is hard to take positives from setbacks. In the Bible, the book of James 1:2-3 says "For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow".

All of us have had to find a little more resilience over the last few months. It is now we need to look out for each other more than ever before. There is an African proverb which is ideal to make my point, "If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."

Before I look ahead to next year I would like to reflect a little on this one. I would like to thank all of you who have welcomed me into this fantastic community. I would also like to thank all who have sent emails over the last 4 months or simply made little comments and showed great understanding for the difficulties our staff have faced both professionally and like many of you, with the complexities and demands of modern family life. Some opinions were shared regarding re-opening in June and during this difficult time we have all needed to make decisions we have been comfortable with at a very emotional and often personally challenging time. What we all want is for your children to return and receive a valuable education in safe surroundings. At this point, since reopening, we have thankfully had no reported cases of covid-19 and no children returning home with symptoms.

This year has been tough on all of our students, however, I do want to specifically mention our year 13 and year 11. I think it is only right to start with these students. No year groups have been affected by this year more and to have your time at National end so suddenly just before exams was extremely sad. I still remember the day you left and how well you all handled the situation. We wish you all the very best for the future and look forward to many of you hopefully returning to the Hucknall Sixth Form Centre next year.

Vision: 'Life in all its fullness' (John 10:10)



## **From September at National**

Looking forward to next year we have many positives ahead of us. In September we are welcoming the new year 7 students to our academy. We have specific activities for you on your first few days which will help you settle and get organised. Our students are great and I have seen many of them helping the new year 7 students at the start of this year. The main thing is to relax over summer and read the guidance we send out.

To all of our students, I would say that you have been very patient and shown incredible strength. If you don't think you have, you honestly have. This has been a tough time for everyone. Hopefully you will look back in later life with pride and understand the role you have played in helping others as well as yourselves.

## **Summary**

There are things I think we have learned over the last few months. Mock exams and assessments are important and form part of how a teacher predicts grades. It doesn't matter how many times a principal tells students, there are always some who think they don't matter. Hopefully this year has shown to everyone that they really do.

We have been made even more aware of how important hygiene is. The actions we take in our lives have a knock-on effect to others close to us and also around the world. As an academy I would say everyone has seen the value of staying calm, thinking rationally and working as a team.

Finally, I wish you a safe and happy summer. I know this year has not been what any of us wanted and I speak on behalf of all of our staff when I say how much we are looking forward to seeing all of our students return. As I said back in September, as a Church of England Academy, we really do want every child to live 'life in all its fullness' (John 10:10) and we are hoping to return to this as soon as possible next year.

**I have included a lengthy set of new guidelines for September with frequently asked questions at the back. Please read this as there are many necessary changes students are not familiar with and it will take a little time to get used to when we return.**

Thank you as ever for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Brailsford  
Principal