

Transcript

Year 6 Open Event live launch

Thursday 24th September 2020 6pm



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Good evening and welcome to the NCEA Hucknall, my name is Mr Brailsford and I'm the Principal here. I'd like to thank you for your time and the launch of our Year 6 events week, we've got a series of things for you to look at on our website ranging from a school tour, head students talking to you, a number of videos for you to watch and each night after 4 o'clock we will be adding something new to our website for you to have a look at.

It is a pleasure for me to welcome you here – it is the first time we've done it as you'd expect- things are a little bit strange at the moment and we are doing the best we can do here, but hopefully you'll get a really good flavour of what national is about over the next few days.

Tonight we've got a lot for you to view, but before I do that, I will talk you through some of the things that I found, as I am new- I've been here for a year now- particularly what has impressed me the most, and then I am going to answer three particular questions that parents have sent in. Then, after that, I'll leave you alone to browse the website and click on various links to browse and find out more about this fantastic academy.

First of all, what is amazing about National? When I arrived, the first thing that I found, as well as being particularly warm and welcoming, was the community feel. It is actually a really special place, and I was told that when I arrived, but until you're actually here it is difficult to actually gauge. So, it has a warm welcoming feel, it is a Church academy, people say its National Academy and its not, its National *Church of England* academy, and that's really important because at the heart of everything we do here is God, and actually our ARCH values (achievement, respect, charity, humility) are seen through everything we do. What I would also say is that here, academic standards are extremely high, and this is something that we pride ourselves on. Classroom performance of teachers and students is vital and in terms of improving the life chances and what students go on to do, obviously the classroom is going to be a heavy focus. It always had a great reputation of having pastoral support and lots and lots of extracurricular opportunities and now what we're really pushing and being successful with is the academic side. It is an Ofsted good graded school which is fantastic, it's a key part of the community with a great selection of students here. We are very interested in promoting equality as you would expect from a Church of England academy.

A couple of things regarding questions that parents sent in. The first one was quite a natural one and you'll notice that the 3 questions I have chosen are very normal ones that parents will ask. The first one was what makes National so special. I have already mentioned ARCH values but for me it is about seizing opportunities. Our vision is 'life in all its fullness' and that comes from the gospel of John 10:10 and what that actually means is that every single student engages and has the opportunity to be successful and enjoy their life. And it doesn't say life at National - it is talking about *at National* and *beyond National*. So here we provide lots of opportunities both academic and extra-curricular to support a child's development and encourage them to feel part of the community and belong. What was really important when we had the lockdown a few months ago was that I reminded students that just because they are at home they are still National, and even when students leave and they go on to our sixth form centre known as HSFC or they go on to apprenticeships or jobs they are still part of our community, and students can still call us and ask for help and that's really important.

Unfortunately due to covid-19 the idea of 'life in all its fullness' is limited slightly so we have had to slow some events down and some extracurricular but there is still plenty to do. Later on when you click on the student videos lots of students are involved in telling you exactly how it feels here and what opportunities they've had so look out for clips from PE, from music and many other departments, rather than just listening to teachers you'll get this first hand from students

So here, it's about preparing for life, about being a community and knowing that you can trust someone here, it doesn't matter what year group they are, teacher or member of staff: you belong, and that's what's absolutely vital. So that's what makes National special, it is church of England academy, it's built around the ARCH values which come from the gospel, and also its about community.



The second question I was asked is how can you keep our children safe? And I am going to take that from a Covid point of view because obviously there is a lot of uncertainty out there. So before students returned back, we did a site review and conducted a full risk assessment. We put in place loads of things on site, including closing the front gates at the start of school, different entry and exit points to the school, and students are in a bubble, which means that during the day students are isolated to reduce significantly the risk of transmission. We've also added hand gel stations around school, all students are expected to gel their hands before and after lessons, wipe down desks to keep it clean, and we've introduced different food stations for different year groups to visit and therefore risk is reduced because the numbers are reduced. So there is just a few. We have brand new pedestrian crossings, the list goes on and on, but you'll be able to see far more of that. Currently, touch wood, it is Thursday, three weeks we've been back and we have no cases here, so we've done really well. Whether that is luck or due to the measures or the fantastic things that parents and students have done and followed the guidelines, but at the moment all year groups remain here and things are going well; which is testament to the measures we've put in place. If anyone was under pressure it would be me and I am very confident in the measures we have in place here to keep our students safe and if they have to continue into next year, when your year 6's come to year 7, we will do so: health and safety and safeguarding comes first here.

The final question: how do you cater for our year 6's coming up in terms of catching up? The first thing that I would suggest is that if your primary school goes into any form of closure, if a year group or a small number of students is sent home, what I would suggest is you must complete that work, that's the first thing, as that is expected from your primary schools. When you come up, we will be using KS2 data from testing, although if this is not possible (like this year's year 7 who have joined us) we will do baseline testing when they arrive with the aim of finding any knowledge and understanding gaps straight away. From that point, we will build a very specific curriculum around your individual child's needs- we will work out where the gaps are, where they have struggled and what's missing, and from that, our curriculum leaders will build the curriculum to make sure their development is very personalised and that they can catch up as quickly as possible. On our school improvement plan we have a specific section on catch up which is devoted to all year groups, not just year 11 but everybody, and that will be published very shortly to staff, students here now, the wider public and it can go on our website to see our plans. We are also using the governments national tutoring programme and also the catch-up funding in the best possible way to ensure students catch up, we are always planning for that. Is it likely that more students go home in terms of year 6 I don't know but if that does happen my advice would be number 1 make sure that you are completing all the work, and number 2 don't worry over summer if you are planning to come to National and you feel as though you have got some gaps, you will be tested and its nothing to fear, because its helping us to find the gaps which will ultimately help you be as successful as you can at National. So there's the three questions which I have answered.

Finally, it's just a massive thank you for me for joining us at our first live event, I hope you can appreciate we have done our best like I said, you are all very welcome and it would be wonderful to meet you and greet you one day. I am talking specifically to the year 6 students! If you joined it would be wonderful to meet you and greet you one day personally and have a chat with you as well.

So from me, it is goodbye from National, please have an explore of our website, God bless, and hopefully I will see you soon.

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Thank you.