



NOTTINGHAM UNIVERSITY
SAMWORTH ACADEMY

Tuesday 3rd December 2013

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you as the new Head of School at Nottingham University Samworth Academy. I am part of a wider team that has joined the Academy, with a clear purpose to improve the examination results achieved by pupils at NUSA. To this end, we have immediately made a number of changes to support Year 11, as their GCSE examinations are fast approaching.

We have now been in the Academy long enough to start making changes that will improve the support for all pupils:

- A move from the house system, to a year-based pastoral structure. This means that all pupils in Years 7 to 10 will have a new mentor, a new mentor group, and a new Head of Year, before the Christmas holiday. It is our view that the current house structure does not effectively support pupils' academic progress.
- From January, we will be changing the shape of the Academy day, moving from five lessons a day to six lessons a day. The start and finish times of the Academy day will not be affected for Year 11, but **Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 will finish ten minutes earlier, at 3.10 p.m.** There will also be some changes to the curriculum, as we try to improve the selecting of option subjects for Key Stage 4 pupils. All pupils will be issued with a new timetable in January.
- In light of the changes we are making, it will be necessary to extend the INSET time in January to a second day. This means that the **first day of the Spring term for Years 7 to 10 will be Wednesday 8th January.** We will be asking **Year 11 to start on Tuesday 7th January**, when they will be completing some internal assessments, and some revision lessons.

For parents and carers who would like to hear more about these developments, and our plans for the future of NUSA, there will be an open evening on **Wednesday 11th December from 6.30 to 7.30 p.m.** There will be an opportunity to hear from myself, and the Executive Principal of NUSA, Mr John Tomasevic. We will give our view of the recent Ofsted inspection, which is due to be published shortly, and there will be an opportunity for you to ask questions. There will also be an opportunity for you to find out more about the vacancy we currently have for a parent governor.

Yours sincerely,

**Mark Watts,
Head of School**

Executive Headteacher: John Tomasevic B.A. (Hons) Econ. M.Ed. N.P.Q.H. N.L.E.

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