



Ark Boulton Academy

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SEND Spring 2019 Newsletter

Mr Ptak – Leader of Enhanced Provision



Welcome!
Another eventful term has passed at Ark Boulton Academy. This term our students participated in exciting sports activities competing against students from schools around Birmingham. We celebrated World Book Day, with reading exciting stories! Year 9 have also chosen their GCSE Options.

As we are aware April is dedicated to Autism and we celebrate Autism Awareness Day on the 2nd of this month. During the month we focus our attention on the issues that people with the Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) face in their everyday life. We also promoted autism awareness and autism acceptance.

As we are approaching the Easter Holidays, I hope that all students and their families have a safe and restful break. I would also like to take this opportunity to wish all our Year 11 students all the best with their GCSE Exams.

World Book Day



On Thursday 7th March we celebrated World Book Day. A list of activities were put together that helped the day to be as exciting and memorable as possible!

Staff dressed up as their favourite book character. This worked very well and students were engaged in lots of discussions with staff around books and reading.



Creative writing workshops took place with the school's resident writer Mrs Andrews: activities were based around the books currently available in the school library, which was excellent practice for GCSE Language Paper 1.

Students were invited to come and listen to teachers reading extracts from their favourite books in the library. On the day, Lead Learning Time focused around



celebrating reading and in each lesson, subject teachers read a chapter from "A Sound of Thunder" - a science fiction short story written by Ray Bradbury. What a memorable day! **Miss Javaid**

SEND Winter School Games



On Thursday 14th February, we participated in the SEN Winter Sport Games and proudly represented Ark Boulton Academy. The games took place in Doug Ellis Sports Centre



at Birmingham City University, where we were all given a yellow t-shirt to represent our school.

As we were one of the first schools to arrive, we took this opportunity

to practice all the different activities we were participating in throughout the day. We all put 100 % in to the practices as we were all determined to win and make the school proud.

After all the schools were introduced to each other, we were asked to cheer when they called our school names out, we were the loudest and the proudest!!



Eager to start, we participated in all the activities such as chest ball throw, a run with a jump up the wall, the standing long jump and many more. As an Ark Boulton team we were determined to beat other schools and in some competitions we did, with pure determination and concentration we all managed to complete all activities without missing any obstacles out. I was really proud to represent Ark Boulton because all my fellow students showed determination and compassion. We all worked together as a team to get the best scores possible and we all did really well. Unfortunately we did not get any medals.

Even though we were disappointed with the result, we had the Ark Boulton spirit and I was so proud to represent my school with my friends. We all learnt very valuable lessons throughout the day: "No matter what you do, even if you fall down, get back up and achieve your best". **Aadam Zaman**

Meet Katie Callicott Educational Psychologist

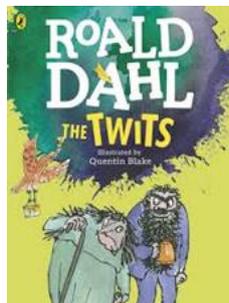
Katie Callicott is an Educational Psychologist working for Birmingham City Council and supporting students and families at ARK Boulton Academy.

Katie enjoyed science and psychology at college. She studied psychology to degree level and wanted to pursue a career as an Educational Psychologist because she enjoyed learning about psychology more than her other subjects and because her parents were teachers and so schools were a familiar context to work in to her.



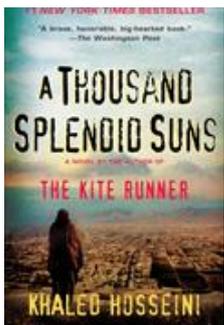
In order to become an educational psychologist, she had to be a teacher first and so she was a year 6 teacher for 3 years. Katie then applied to the University of Birmingham and got on to the Doctoral Programme, called the Applied Educational and Child Psychologist course. She studied to become an Educational Psychologist for 3 years and had 2 children along the way, and so the 3 years became 5! As part of the course, she had to conduct research and she chose to research supervision of professionals in education. This is because she has always been interested in life-long learning and wanted to learn more about ways of continuing to learn as an educational psychologist. Katie has since continued to gain experience in supervision, supervising trainee EPs, taking part in peer supervision and supervising practitioners in schools – giving them a safe place to reflect on practice and feel supported. She has also become interested in the use of video to support reflective practice and has trained and become accredited in Video Interaction Guidance. She is currently learning how to supervise other VIG guiders. Hence Katie continues on her journey as an educational psychologist who is interested and passionate about never being satisfied with the status quo and always looking for ways to improve, both in what she knows and how she works with people.

Katie's favourite book is The Twits by Roald Dahl, as she likes an easy read that makes her laugh.



She also likes fiction books that help her understand different times in history and

different cultures. For instance, she is currently reading A Thousand Splendid Suns, by Khaled Hosseini which is about life in Khabul, Afghanistan under the Taliban.



Staff Training



One of the pillars at ARK Boulton Academy is that *we are always learning.*

On 1st February all 1:1 Mobility Support Assistants took part in a Handling People and Hoist training run by Kevin Sanders from Multicare Medical Ltd.

Ark Boulton Academy is one of 8 Fully Accessible Mainstream (FAM) schools in Birmingham. Therefore we are proud that we can support students with Physical Difficulties along with students with other Special Educational Needs.



To be able to provide care and support for students with Physical Difficulties we need to ensure that all staff who are involved have the knowledge and expertise to meet the needs of our students fully.

At Ark Boulton Academy we understand the importance of ensuring that our staff are well trained and up to date in moving and handling practices. This enables our staff to safely use a hoist and to apply safe moving and handling techniques. This does not only prevent accidents, it also benefits the students in many ways. They will experience increased comfort, dignity and in some cases, empowerment during the transfer.



"I am super excited to continue using the hoist for students and find it rewarding when helping students especially when they are uncomfortable. I feel it makes them as independent as they can be." **Ms Bibi**

Dates for your diary Term dates



Students will break up for the Easter Holidays on Friday 12th April 2019.

The students will return to the Academy on Wednesday 1st May 2019.

Contact details

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