Growing together,
reaching higher
Principal’s Welcome

I feel very proud and humbled as I reflect upon the first year of Ark Boulton Academy and our achievements, which would not have been possible without the continued support from our community. Firstly, the success of our Year 11 students, who have worked extremely hard to secure a strong set of GCSE results, which saw a 7% increase on A*-C grades, including English and Mathematics. Our students have shown remarkable strength of character, determination and commitment to ensure they achieved the results required for Post 16, for further education and university, or through training.

We were delighted to welcome our new Year 7 intake this September. Starting a new school can be a daunting prospect, particularly for students starting at secondary school. Here at Ark Boulton we intend to make the transition as smooth and pleasant as possible for both students and their family. Our students took part in various induction activities to ensure a smooth transition into Ark Boulton including tours around the academy, ice breakers with students and staff, ‘get to know me’ profiles, and assemblies.

The Ark Music Gala, the Great Debate in London, visits to Warwick and Oxford universities and an outward bound residential in Canada are just a few of the visits and activities that our students have been able to access as part of Ark. This year Ark Boulton will be increasing its’ enrichment after school programme to include chess, astronomy, cooking, debating and many more activities to support the development of our students.

The academy has also seen a lot of building work over the summer. This was to improve the learning environment for our students. New windows and roofs have been installed all around the academy. Two new drama studios and humanities rooms have been fitted. A new ‘Learning Support Centre’ which will offer extra literacy and numeracy support so our students are able to make faster progress, has also been purposely designed. March 2017 will see the opening of our new reception area which will put Ark Boulton front facing onto Golden Hillock Road, with a new dining hall set for completion in September 2017.

In our first year of GCSE results we are celebrating the excellent achievements of our Year 11 students.

Ayan Mohamed Aden, one of our star students, achieved 3 A*s, 4 As, and 1 B grade and hopes to go on to study Finance and Accounting at college. “Hard work really pays off and I’d like to thank the teachers at Ark Boulton and my form tutor who gave me the motivation and support I needed to get the results I have”.

Murtaza Ali Nawaz has secured a place at Solihull Sixth Form and hopes to study Biology, Chemistry, and Maths at A Level. “I want to study at A Level and pursue a career in medicine in the future”. Murtaza achieved 1 A*, 5 As, 2 Bs, and 1 Distinction for his GCSEs.

Mohammed Islam would like to thank all his teachers, especially Mr Mohammed for helping him achieve his grade in History. He is now going on to study Biology, Chemistry, and Psychology A Level at King Edwards, Aston.

58% of students achieved grade A*-C in Maths and 66% in English; 52% of the cohort achieved a pass grade in both English and Mathematics with 48% achieving five A*-C GCSE grades that include English and Mathematics, an increase of 7% from last year’s results.

Herminder Channa, Principal at Ark Boulton said: “I am so proud of our students who have worked extremely hard to secure a strong set of results. Our students have shown remarkable strength of character, determination and commitment to ensure they achieved the results required for post 16. After speaking to students today, it is clear to see the gratitude they have for teachers and staff at Ark Boulton for their continuous support. A real team effort!”

We wish our students all the very best for the future.

“I feel very proud and humbled, as I reflect upon the first year of Ark Boulton Academy and our achievements, which would not have been possible without the continued support from our community”

“We are all looking forward to another exciting year at Ark Boulton. Our mission is that together we give each of our students the skills, personal qualities and qualifications they need to be successful at university and in the career of their choice. Together we make them role models for future generations, helping them to fulfil their potential and raise aspirations. Together we support our students to develop a lifelong love of learning, a sense of personal and civic pride and the confidence to not just navigate the modern world, but to shape it.”

Herminder Channa
Principal

“After speaking to students today, it is clear to see the gratitude they have for teachers and staff at Ark Boulton”

“Celebrating the excellent achievements of our Year 11 students”
We were delighted at Ark Boulton Academy to have opened our doors to prospective students and their parents between 20th – 23rd September 2016.

Our open events give students an insight into Ark Boulton and what we have to offer in terms of secondary school transition support.

Starting a new school can be a daunting prospect and we intend to make the transition as smooth and pleasant as possible for both students and their family. Our students take part in various induction activities to ensure a successful and enjoyable move to secondary school.

We had a large number of Year 6 students attend with their parents and families. They took part in tours around the academy with our Student Ambassadors, got involved with our interactive activities, and had the chance to speak to members of senior staff, teachers and current students. Our parent visitors commented; “The student ambassadors were very helpful!”

We would also like to take this opportunity to say congratulations to our prize draw winner, Ashraf Sheikh from Greet Primary School, who successfully completed our quiz on the night. He was entered and won a Kindle Fire! A huge thank you to Mrs Tyler (Principal at Greet) and all the staff who made it possible for us to surprise Ashraf at school with his prize.

It was a pleasure to have met so many enthusiastic young students and we hope you thoroughly enjoyed your visit to Ark Boulton.

If you wish to visit, please contact us on 0121 773 8156 or email info@arkboulton.org

On Wednesday 28th September, we invited the parents of Year 7 for a ‘Settling In’ event. This was a chance for parents to familiarise themselves with the academy. They were able to meet key staff in the school.

Ark Boulton Academy aims to not only establish a relationship with students, but with their family and the wider community also.

Assistant Principal Mrs Bhargav commented:

“How great it was to see our parents attending and supporting the academy to support their child’s education. The attendance was excellent and we had positive responses to the start of the academic year”

Our ambassadors did a fantastic job meeting and greeting our visitors and ensured everyone knew where they were going. These events wouldn’t go so smoothly without their help! We are very proud to have them represent us as an academy. Even our parent visitors complimented them on their behaviour and help provided. Well done team!

“The students have done a great job in making us feel welcome and greeting us… lovely to see students taking on such an important role.”

Year 7 Parent
On Wednesday 9th November, Ark Boulton Academy invited all Year 11 students and their parents and families to a GCSE Success Evening.

The aim of the event was to provide advice and guidance on how to best prepare for the Summer examinations and completion of the GCSEs that they have been studying towards. We had advice clinics on Examination Health and Mindfulness, Examination Codes of Conduct, information on new GCSEs and a series of stalls for material on specific subjects.

“What a wonderful evening!....I am so proud of the enthusiasm and support shown by parents...”

Our Assistant Principal, Mrs Bhargav commented; “What a wonderful evening! Another successful event, where Year 11 students along with their families were able to gain an insight into effective study skills, revision techniques and speak to their teachers about revision plans. I am so proud of the enthusiasm and support shown by the parents who attended, many of whom gained insight into the exam procedure and components of GCSEs.”

All students who attended received a study pack which included subject specific revision guides, a study skills planner, a personal revision guide, and stationary. All equipped for the crucial months ahead.

Mr Hussain, a parent, commented how he “now feels more equipped to support his son whilst he is revising at home.”

With an amazing 84% attendance for the event, we are proud of our Year 11’s progress thus far, and look forward to supporting and helping them to achieve the best grades possible in the months ahead.
Parent Clinic

Our relationship with parents is central to the success of our students, and the academy as a whole.

We have a dedicated platform every week for our parents to attend a ‘drop in session’, where you can meet with the Principal and other members of the academy’s Strategic Leadership Team in an informal environment to ask questions, raise concerns, and discuss matters of interest.

**Every Friday**
08:50am - 10:05am
At Ark Boulton Academy

You can find out more about the academy on our website or by contacting us on the details below:

www.arkboulton.org
0121 773 8156
info@arkboulton.org
This term has already been imperative in career awareness and guidance for students across the year groups. We have had several events take place in order to help students think about their future career options and equally the kind of higher education or training they may require to reach their ambition.

Information, advice and guidance (IAG) plays a key role in our strategy, alongside our dedication to help young people to develop a lifelong love of learning, helping to develop the community of the future.

**Year 7 Assembly**

We were delighted to have staff from 2nd City UK speak to our Year 7 students about careers in digital marketing and enterprise.

2nd City UK are marketing, digital and communication professionals. They gave advice on what is needed to work in this particular field in terms of education, qualifications, persona and social skills. They also spoke about the variety of the career and how it is needed in so many different companies and organisations.

Ark Boulton works closely in partnership with ‘Ahead Partnership’, a social enterprise company who connect schools and communities with businesses to improve economic development.

**Coventry University**

Year 9 students attended a ‘Super Science Challenge’ Regional Inspiration Day. Students participated in interactive science based taster sessions, had a campus tour and attended a higher education talk.

Students particularly enjoyed being scientists for the day and exploring laboratories!

Well done to: Suffiyan Mohammed, Arisha Yasin, Eliza Brozbhan, Ayshah Tahirah, Aaima Alam, Aneel Iqbal, Mohammed Khan, Aqsa Younis, Haleema Bi and Beyaye Darame for attending and taking part.

**Year 11 and Parents**

Year 11 and their parents had the chance to meet and talk to professionals from various academic and professional backgrounds at our careers fair on Wednesday 7th December.

This enabled students to ask any questions and discuss their opportunities post Year 11. We believe it is important to support aspirations, and the decisions made today will help mould the future.

Employability Day saw professionals from across many backgrounds come in to the academy to deliver bespoke workshops for our students. The aim was to understand the professionals’ organisation, career choice and learn about the relevant skills required for the working world.

We had support from The Royal Navy, The British Army, Ahead Partnership, Author - Glenn James, Capsticks LLP (Legal), BAM Construct (Civil Engineering and Construction). As well as dedicated workshops ranging from CV and application writing to work ethics and professional dress codes.

A special thanks to Amey PLC, Aston University, Royal Air Force, The British Army, Capsticks LLP WYG Group, Your Beautique, Ahead Partnership, ADP Architecture, and Birmingham City Council for supporting.

Well done to: Suffiyan Mohammed, Arisha Yasin, Eliza Brozbhan, Ayshah Tahirah, Aaima Alam, Aneel Iqbal, Mohammed Khan, Aqsa Younis, Haleema Bi and Beyaye Darame for attending and taking part.
Nine of our students were given the opportunity to take part in an interactive workshop called ‘Girls Fence’ - a project supported by Sport England.

“The project aims to challenge misperceptions of and raise aspirations among young women, by tapping into the confidence-building and empowerment associated with fencing. The initiative also aims to break down misconceptions about fencing and make it more inclusive to young people of all backgrounds.” Sport England.

Firstly, students took part in an interactive workshop where issues around stereotypes and more holistic elements of the project were discussed. The session was then followed by taking part in fencing, delivered by a female fencing coach.

Well done to Remiah Omar, Henna Hussain, Asma Salan, Ayah Hazem, Amani Abdalla, Anna Marie, Sana Hanif, Sonayha Navid and Farzana Hossain for taking part.

Enrichment has been one of the high priorities this term at Ark Boulton Academy. Our aim is to provide students with the skills, qualities and qualifications required to be successful at university and in the working world.

How can taking part in an enrichment activity help to achieve this? It’s simple. The world of work and further education is constantly raising its’ standards, expecting more from applicants. Therefore, we greatly believe that involvement with an enrichment activity will help provide students with more opportunities and demonstrate their commitment, determination, resilience and passion for their future. All key qualities that employers and universities value.

Most importantly, enrichment activities are fun! They provide an opportunity to learn and develop in a more relaxed environment with peers.

“Cooking club is awesome because you can learn new skills with your friends. I have now learnt how to cook, which I couldn’t really do before”

Hibaaq Osman
Year 9 Student

This term has seen a huge increase in the amount of students taking part, with some clubs oversubscribed. A few of the many favourites include food, journalism, walk in the woods, girls football, ukelele, and drama club.

A new, revamped enrichment programme will be launched in January 2017, with more exciting opportunities. Keep an eye out for more information in the new year.

In the meantime, if you have any queries with regards to enrichment, please contact Mrs Huckstep, Director of Health & Wellbeing.
Boulton Gallery

Macmillan Cancer Support Bake Sale - We raised £239.90

Food Technology

Year 7 - First Day

Poppy Appeal - We raised £233.65

Crime Scene - Science & Forensics Lesson

Volleyball Club

Student Council Reps

Geography Field Trip to Dovedale, Peak District

Open Evening

Decorating the academy

Rowing Competition

13 14
Season’s Greetings

Wishing you happy holidays and a joyous new year. We look forward to seeing you all again in 2017.

Key Dates

2nd January- Bank Holiday

3rd - 5th January - Staff Training Days
Academy closed to all students. There will be some Year 11 catch up sessions running on these days. If this applies to your child then you will receive a letter separately.

6th January - Progress Review Day
All parents should attend for an important meeting with their child’s tutor. You will receive a letter to inform of your appointment time.

9th January - All students return for Spring Term

We’re now on Facebook & Twitter
Follow us @ArkBoulton for daily updates