

“It takes a whole community, to bring up a child”



# Ark Boulton Academy

1st April 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Spring is the season of growth and rejuvenation and as I write this the sun has begun to warm us: an apt metaphor for our first half term together since lockdown and as we see the green roots of recovery.

Students have settled quickly to their school routines and we can be optimistic about what the remainder of the year will bring. When we reflect on all that has been achieved and learnt during the term we do so with immense pride. We have seen considerable **commitment** and **self-discipline** from our students as they have started classroom lesson; reflecting the efforts that were made to continue their learning through our virtual academy during lockdown.

Since all students returned to the academy at the beginning of March we have successfully conducted over 2000 thousand flow tests in school and the national vaccination programme is well underway. Our school featured within a Sky News report and is an indication of the work that has taken place to ensure that your child is able to return to school safely. The result of which is that we anticipate all students returning. I would like to remind families that only students with medical exemptions should be absent from school.

During the holiday your child should continue to conduct two tests weekly using the tests provided. One on a Monday and one on a Thursday every week until further notice (stipulated by the government). All students involved in the programme have received training and conducted tests themselves in school, so are comfortable with the process.

It is recommended that the test is taken in the morning. However, you may choose to do the test the evening before, especially the first time, to give yourself more time to get accustomed to the test. If your child tests positive at home, they must complete a PCR Covid test and stay at home until they receive the results.

Within the packs there is also a leaflet with further guidance and details of how to register your tests. You must register your result to NHS using the link in the leaflet it can also be found here <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> and to the academy using this link: [Student results](#).

There is a great deal planned for the next half term. Students in Year 7 - 10 will be completing their subject assessments so that we can ensure that our students are able to make excellent progress in their classes and to take account of the impact of the recent lockdown. Additionally, these assessments will support our Year 9 with the options process in readiness for their graduation to Upper School next year. Our Year 11

*Herminder K Channa OBE JP – Executive Principal*

Ark Boulton Academy | Birmingham | B11 2QG

T: +44 (0)121 773 8156

E: [info@arkboultonacademy.org](mailto:info@arkboultonacademy.org)

W: [www.arkboulton.org](http://www.arkboulton.org)



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students are currently in the process of providing evidence and demonstrating their aptitude in all of their subjects. This will continue next half term so that we will be in a position to attribute the grades their efforts deserve.

We continue to develop our digital provision and every family that has requested a laptop, has received one. If you would like your child to have a laptop please contact the academy at [info@arkboulton.org](mailto:info@arkboulton.org). A reminder that all laptops will continue to be monitored for their safe use during the holidays through our Senso software.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your continued support and for your engagement sin the recent Ark surveys. The results of which will steer our work in the future.

Have a wonderful break and I hope that you are able to make the most of the reduced restrictions to spend time with your friends and family.

The Ark Boulton Leadership Team



*Herminder K Channa OBE JP – Executive Principal*  
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