

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



Ark Boulton Academy

Dear Ark Boulton Families,

We finish the most challenging of academic years, Friday, this week. I am certain you will want to join me to collectively breath out as we look forward to a well-deserved Summer, let's hope the sun joins us, as many will this year, once again, be remaining in the UK for our holidays.

2021 we have, more than any other year, had to practice the virtues we teach. We have had to demonstrate **compassion** and **empathy** for those families that have been impacted by the virus. We have been required to show **self-discipline** to maintain the social distancing measures required to keep our community safe and we have had to have an abundance of **resilience** and **courage**; working and adapting within an environment that is strange to us.

Next Monday has been dubbed “Freedom Day” as we see many of the restrictions being removed and life beginning to feel a little more like we remember it pre-pandemic. However, we should also look back at the last 18 months with a measure of **gratitude**. We should remind ourselves of all that has been achieved. In the last 12 months we have offered every family in our school community a laptop so that students can complete their schoolwork, even if self-isolating. The school has developed its remote learning: planning, preparing, uploading and sharing an entire secondary school curriculum through our website. Staff and students have learned new skills as we have all been required to be proficient in the use of Microsoft Teams and increasingly **patient** as we are reminded that we are “on mute”. We have become expert in the creation and completion of online forms, implemented a new parent portal (My Child at School), undertaken a parents evening using ‘School Cloud’ and become ever more email conversant, all of which are skills which will help our students be successful in the next stage of their education.

The year has brought with it further highlights, we recently welcomed visitors from the **Association for Character Education (ACE)** who came to assess our work on **character** and **virtues**. ACE are an awarding body as well as a community for schools, organisations and individuals interested in character education to share expertise and practice. The organisation supports schools, teachers and other educationalists to develop and promote character education responses that enable young people and societies to flourish. The assessment resulted in Ark Boulton Academy being awarded a **School of Character Kitemark Plus** status. Only 8 schools in the country have achieved the Kitemark Plus, of which only 2 are secondary schools. The recognition stems from our grounding ethos that **we love our children** and realise that **it takes a whole community to bring up a child**. Our students demonstrated **a huge sense of pride in their school** and spoke fluently on definitions and application of virtues that the assessors recognised were difficult topics. Our Kitemark Plus status will help us to raise the profile of character education in other schools in **Birmingham and the U.K**

Our students were also, once again, successful in the recent Envision Event, this has certainly become a pattern as Ark Boulton students have now been awarded in each of the four years they have participated. Let's hope our football team can draw inspiration from them ready for the World Cup in 18 months time! Furthermore, I am sure that you will join me in wishing our Year 11 students every success for the future.

Herminster K Channa OBE JP – Executive Principal

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The new academic year will see the Ark Boulton implement a new timetable as the restrictions are lifted and we will, of course, continue to communicate any changes that are made nationally as we receive them. I have highlighted some of the key changes below, in preparation for the start of the next academic year.

Timings of the academy day:

As part of our planning to recover from the impact of lockdowns we have changed the timings of the school day so that as of September 2021 Friday lessons will now finish at 14:00. This allows us the chance to create an additional teaching period so that all students will receive 25, one-hour lessons, each week. Additionally, we will be moving away from the use of a split timetable as restrictions are reduced and we are able to return to pre-pandemic arrangements. During the last 18 months the academy has had to adapt in many ways, some of the changes that have been necessary will continue. The use of a staggered gate time and different student entrances has reduced congestion on the Golden Hillock Road making student journeys safer at the beginning and the end of the school day, we will continue this practice in the new academic year. The timings of the school day are below and can also be found on our website.

Timings of the School Day

Monday to Thursday	
Breakfast Club	08.00-08.20
Gates Open	08.15-08.25
AM Registration	08.25-08.30
LLT/ Future Skills	08.30-09.00
Period 1	09.00-10.00
Period 2	10.00-11.00
Break	11.00-11.20
Period 3	11.20-12.20
Period 4	12.20-13.20
Lunch	13.20-14.00
Period 5	14.00-15.00
PDP/ Future Skills	15.00-15.30
C1 Detention (30 mins)	15.30-16.00
C2 Detention (1 hour)	15.30-16.30

Friday	
Breakfast Club	08.00-08.20
Gates Open	08.15-08.25
Period 1	08.25-09.25
Period 2	09.25-10.25
Period 3	10.25-11.25
Break	11.25-12.00
Period 4	12.00-13.00
Period 5	13.00-14.00
C1 Detention (30 mins)	14.00 - 14:30
C2 Detention (1 hour)	14.00 - 15.00
C3 Detention (1.5 hours)	14:00 - 15:30

September 2021 Student Return

We will have a staggered start to the new academic year, supporting the testing of students prior to beginning lessons. The schedule for the return to school is below.

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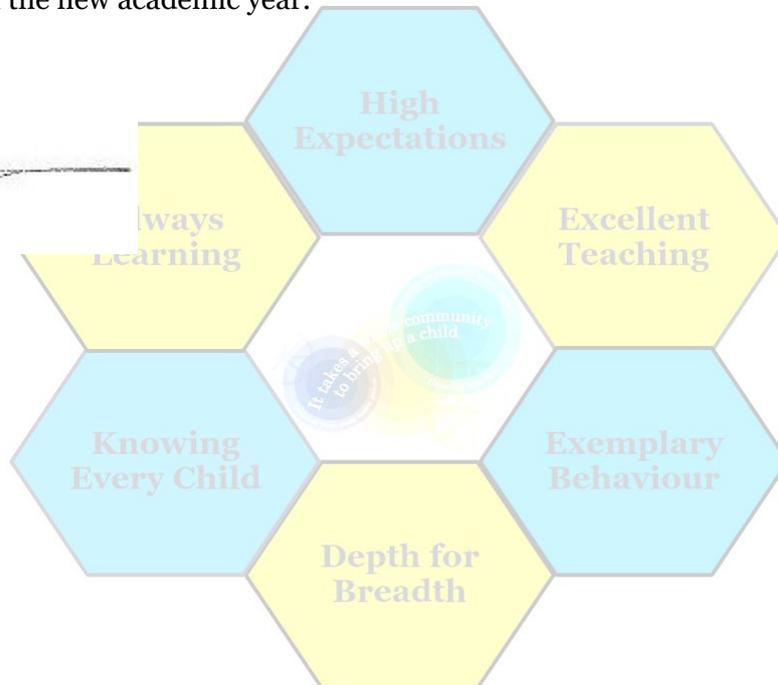
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Year Group	Start Date	Start Time
Year 7	Monday 6 th July	08:25
Year 8	Tuesday 7 th July	08:25
Year 9	Tuesday 7 th July	08:25
Year 10	Tuesday 7 th July	08:25
Year 11	Monday 6 th July	09:00

Finally, we wish all of our school community a wonderful and safe Summer break and we look forward to seeing our students in the new academic year.

Yours faithfully,

Mr D Richards



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