

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



Ark Boulton Academy



Dear Ark Boulton Family,

We finish the year with a feeling of **gratitude** as we reflect on all that has been achieved over the term. As an academy we have not had to close any ‘bubbles’ and the school has remained open to all, for the duration. Our students have therefore been able to receive the lessons that they need to close any gaps in learning that might have appeared due to lockdown. Across all year groups students have been required to demonstrate **hard work, resilience** and **self-discipline** as they have prepared, through study, for their end of year assessments; our Year 11 students finally being able to complete their assessments in examination conditions that will hopefully reflect their Summer experience.

One of the greatest challenges as an academy that we have faced this year is the ability to meet with our families. The recent onset of the Omicron strain of Covid has again meant that we have had to change our arrangements for sharing how well your children have performed on their return to school and in their recent assessments. As such, on Wednesday 5th January and Thursday 6th January we will be hosting parent meetings via ‘School Cloud’ an online portal that allows us to create virtual meetings so that we can share your child’s progress report. Students have received taught sessions on how the system will work and we have sent letters explaining the process. Home and school relationships with families continues to be a key theme of our school improvement journey this year and I would like to share with you the work that we have been undertaking to support this.

- We have adopted ‘My Child At School’ an application that is linked to our school information system we can use this to provide live information about your child’s attendance, behaviour and progress. Your child has been taught how to use this please ask them to show you.
- Nearly 80% of our families have received an academy laptop supporting online learning and communications between school and home. We have enough laptops to be able to provide one for every child in the academy – please let us know if your child does not have their own laptop
- Adopted ‘School Cloud’ a portal specifically designed to allow us to hold virtual parents’ evenings.
- Parentpay, an application that allows the academy to be cashless and means that children no longer need to bring money into school and where they can make payments to the school, safely.
- Email and text message communications. All of our news is sent via email and text message with links to letters on websites. This is a far ‘greener’ way of working which means that all important information is sent directly to families – please let us know if any of your contact details change.
- The academy shares much of the work that it undertakes on ‘Twitter’, please follow us to see the many activities that staff and students undertake on a daily basis.
- In November we held a parent clinic. Here, we shared a number of curriculum resources describing the way that we teach students about challenging topics such as sexual harassment and sexual violence. We hope, variant allowing, to be hosting more of these sessions in the near future.
- Finally, we are keen to elicit the views of our families and will be sending out a survey in the new year. The responses that we received last year supported our decision making and we highlighted through a “you said, we did” email any changes the academy made.

Herminder K Channa OBE JP – Executive Principal

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- Surveys remain the primary method for us to attain the views of our community. We have recently asked students in all year groups to complete an ‘Edukit’ survey on their devices. This survey is completed three times a year and helps us to understand the health and wellbeing of our students.

Next year, will again, begin with student testing. In line with government guidance asking all schools to test students, on-site, on return in January, Ark Boulton have made the following arrangements. If you have previously consented for your child to be part of the onsite testing in school, then they will be required to attend school for their Lateral flow test at the time specified below.

If you would like to consent for your child to take up the offer of having their Lateral Flow test in school, please complete the consent form found [here](#) by Monday 20th December, 2021.

Please also use this form if you have decided you no longer want your child to be part of onsite testing, though we would encourage that testing is taken and will support making our academy a safe place to work and study.

Wednesday 5th January 2022

Year 9	Arrival window	Year 10	Arrival window	Year 11	Arrival window
Compassion	9.00-9.30	Compassion	10.30-11.00	Compassion	2.00-2.30
Courage	9.00-9.30	Courage	11.00-11.30	Courage	2.00-2.30
Discipline	9.30-10.00	Discipline	11.00-11.30	Discipline	2.00-2.30
Forgiveness	9.30-10.00	Forgiveness	11.30-12.00	Forgiveness	2.30-3.00
Honesty	10.00-10.30	Honesty	11.30-12.00	Humility	2.30-3.00
Humility	10.00-10.30	Humility	1.30-2.00	Justice	3.00-3.30
Justice	10.30-11.00	Justice	1.30-2.00	Resilience	3.00-3.30

Thursday 6th January 2022

Year 7	Arrival window	Year 8	Arrival window
Compassion	9.00-9.30	Compassion	10.30-11.00
Courage	9.00-9.30	Courage	11.00-11.30
Discipline	9.30-10.00	Discipline	11.00-11.30
Forgiveness	9.30-10.00	Forgiveness	11.30-12.00
Honesty	10.00-10.30	Honesty	11.30-12.00
Humility	10.00-10.30	Humility	1.30-2.00
Justice	10.30-11.00	Justice	1.30-2.00

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I would like to remind our families of the importance of attendance at school and the impact that missed lessons will have on a child’s examination results. We know that students that have an attendance of less than 95% are far less likely to attain strong GCSE grades. Covid has changed many of the ways that we work not least the need to frequently test for the virus. Please continue to test at home so that you can confidently send your child to school and minimise the disruption to their learning. Students will be sent home on Friday with their exercise books so that they can continue to revise prior to return on Monday January 10th.

Finally, we want all our families to enjoy a safe holiday and we wish you a prosperous New Year. We look forward to welcoming you back in 2022.

Mr D Richards

Head of School



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