

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



Ark Boulton Academy



2nd November 2021

Dear Year 8 Parents/Carers,

Firstly, I would like to thank you for the support you have provided to your children and our community during these ongoing challenging times. As we welcome students back to the Autumn 2 term, we continue to make academic progress in our compassionate approach to Covid recovery with face-to-face teaching in the classroom. As such, I wanted to take the opportunity to share with you information concerning what your child has been learning last half-term and how this is being developed this half-term.

In September, Year 8 students successfully completed reading tests and our regular fortnightly assessment cycle in all academic subjects started.

In English lessons, Year 8 learnt about the fictional classic ‘Sherlock Holmes’ by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, which continues this term. In daily Literacy lessons students are also reading ‘The Other Side of Truth’. This is a young adult novel about Nigerian political refugees during a waging campaign of suppression against journalists in the country. Whilst Science lessons were focussed on Chemistry last term, learning about acids and alkalis, this term, students will learn about the fundamental topic of changing substances. In Maths, students are working on sequences within the topic of algebra.

In Humanities lessons, students have enjoyed learning about the English Reformation in History and continue to look closer at the impact of the Reformation on the rest of the Tudor monarchs. Students' progress from studying about global perspectives when learning about growth of global populations and pressure on resources to a topic on rivers in Geography. Whilst in Religious Studies students continue to learn about the Jewish faith and traditions and reflect on the impact of the Jewish tradition in world situations such as the Holocaust.

In French, students learned basic greetings when visiting Paris, this term, they practise past and present tense when using phrases to prepare them for travel around France. In Creative Arts, students have experienced lessons where they learn how to perform a piece of West African music learning djembe and ensemble skills. In Art, students have been introduced to Surrealism and methods of grid drawing and build on this to learn about watercolour and in Drama, students have had an introduction to drama skills and forms through text in how to create a drama performance from the play 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night time'.

As you will know, Character Education is of central importance in our academy. Last term, students' Character Education lessons were focused on virtues and how they link to identity as we navigate the digital world with safe online behaviour, as well as learning about the dangers of smoking, vaping and inappropriate online content. We will continue this term to explore relationships which could become unhealthy, harassment, inappropriate language and the effect this has on others. This is important in supporting students to develop a vocabulary around these issues and understand how build effective relationships. As part of the new statutory policy on Relationships and Sexual Education, we will then look at sexual behaviours and how abuse and violence can have harmful and long-lasting effects. This will conclude our work on the importance of respectful

Herminster K Channa OBE JP – Executive Principal

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relationships this term. This work is explained further in our policy: <https://arkboulton.org/page-strips/our-policies-18>

These topics, across subjects are interesting and challenging for our students. If you would like to discuss these with us in greater depth, we are offering a voluntary Parent Coffee Morning on Friday 12th November at 10:30 am – 11:15 am where senior leaders will be available to meet with you in our Main Reception area. Please complete this survey by 10th November if you would like to attend: <https://forms.office.com/r/dfggCWVYQX>

Finally, we will be writing to you later this term to provide you with an update of your child’s academic progress following their ‘Boulton Termly Assessments’.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs Assi
Assistant Principal (Lower School)



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