



# Ark Boulton Academy

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## Mr Ptak – Leader of Enhanced Provision



Welcome!



It has been another busy yet, successful term for us. We started this term with much excitement about the Team's move to our new base – it is on a ground floor and is fully accessible for our students with mobility difficulties. We have qualified for the semifinal of the Boccia competition and we are

busy supporting our Year 11 students with college applications and revision techniques. We are also working very hard to achieve the SENDIA Award. We are looking forward to continuing our work together with our families in 2020 and we wish all of you a very happy and peaceful holiday.



### SENDIA Award Update

Since June 2018, our Academy has been working hard towards the SENDIA award accredited by Optimus Education. The SENDIA award structures the provision that schools deliver to ensure it is high-quality for students with SEND. Compliant with the SEND Code of Practice, the award framework focuses on removing barriers to learning through early identification, inclusive teaching and leadership. It also allows us to evaluate impact of our current practice and to improve classroom practice and student outcomes. This is a prestigious award for our Academy and we have many ARK Boulton staff, external agencies and parents involved to ensure our policies and provision are first class.

Mr Ptak has been organising several meetings with parents, teachers, 1:1 Support Assistants to strengthen our role of advocates for our SEND students.



The SENDIA Award is an ongoing project, which as an Academy we collectively work towards with professional from external agencies, the SEND link governor and parents.

The working Group consist of the following professionals:

- Mr Ptak – Leader of Enhanced Provision
- Mrs Higgins – DSL
- Mr Szwaba – Assistant Principal
- Mrs Bibi – 1:1 Mobility and Support Assistant
- Mr Craig Hetherington – Teacher of PE and Achievement Leader
- Eleanor Linford – SEND Link Governor
- David Hill - Pupil and School Support
- Shakeel Ahmed – Parent

In our most recent meeting with our External Verifier, Linda Evans, was very complimentary about what the Academy provides for students with SEND. We will be assessed in February and will let you know the results in our next Newsletter.

## Rehaan – Star Pupil



I took on the challenge to do a 5k Fun run at Cannon Hill Park, in my wheelchair, on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2019. After lots of thinking, I decided to raise money for the Birmingham Children's Hospital. This is a very important charity to my family and me because I have been a patient with them since I was born. I spent 28 days at the hospital when I was born, in the neonatal ward and ever since then I regularly attend the hospital as an outpatient, several times a year. My doctors and nurses are brilliant. It was my way of saying thank you.



To help me get physically ready for this challenge I trained at my local park for 4 weeks. I was advised by my Personal Trainer to do interval training before the run. Therefore, every other day I went to the park and practised running! I started with 1k for the first week and then built up every week to 5k. It was



Exhausting, my shoulders and arms would ache, but I never gave up!

After 4 weeks of training, I managed to complete the 5k run. All my family and some friends came to support me on the day.



My Mum and Dad were extremely proud of me. Finally, all of my training and hard work had all paid off. The Birmingham Children's Hospital was very proud of all my hard effort and asked me to come in for a cheque presentation. With the help of all of my teachers at Timberley, friends, neighbors' and family, I managed to raise a whopping total of £440.50. Anything is possible!

## Boccia Games



On the Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019, Ark Boulton students travelled to Queen Alexandra College, Birmingham to compete in the Boccia Inter-Schools Competition. For our Year 7 students this was their first sports competition for Ark Boulton so they were very excited to be competing for their school.

When we arrived at Queen Alexandra, all the students were raring to practice their Boccia skills before the games began, we then had a quick briefing and



was ready to start. Ark Boulton was in group 2 and were the second to compete in this group. We undertook our first game; 3 students took their place and we won the first game 2-1. This was some of the pupils first time playing Boccia and they really shown passion towards the competition. We then came in to our second game and 3 other students took the stand and once again we shown great enthusiasm and was rewarded with a 4-2 win.

At this stage, we knew that we were in prime position to make it to the finals with one game to go. The last game was our hardest, we were against a very strong team and knew this would be challenging, but this did phase our students.



By the end of this game it was 2-2 so we had to have one more game to decide a winner, the atmosphere was tense, and the students gave it their all and unfortunately fell at the tie break with a loss of 3-2.

This didn't mean we would not reach the next round to the finals, we were just waiting for an email from Birmingham Schools to see if we had gained

a spot to the finals and to our delight Ark Boulton have reached the finals of Boccia which will be held on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at Nechells Wellbeing Centre. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate all students involved, their behaviour was outstanding and they a credit to Ark Boulton Academy.

**By Mrs N. Brazil**



## Meet Afia Begum from Physical Difficulty Support Services

My name is Afia Begum and I am one of the PDSS teachers supporting children with physical difficulties at ARK Boulton Academy. I attended Ark Boulton Academy many years ago, when it was known as Golden Hillock School. My first visit since leaving brought back many fond memories especially when Mr. Ptak referred to the LSC Room as Mr. Whitehouse's old classroom. This reminded me of some of the best years of my life, and where I made life-long friends, and gained a strong educational foundation on which I have built my career.



At secondary school my favourite subjects were Art and PE. I attended after school clubs for the Arts and Sports and I was a part of the girls Netball and Rounders Team.



I still enjoy sports and in 2017 I took part in a Marathon for Cancer Research. After leaving Secondary school I went onto study Art, English Literature at college and then a degree in Sociology before obtaining my teaching qualification. I pursued a career in teaching because of the positive influence teachers have had on my education, pushing me in the right direction and giving me the confidence, to be the best that I can be. Now that I am a teacher with over 10 years of experience, I always endeavour to instil this ethos into all my students no matter what social, economic or physical barriers they may be confronted with. This naturally led me into my current role with the PDSS.

This is now my fourth year working for the PDSS. My main motivation for joining the team was because I saw first-hand the positive impact that the service had on the children and schools. In my role as a PDSS Teacher, I support children in mainstream educational settings who have a physical difficulty. I become involved once the school have referred the children to the service to say they are concerned with a child's physical mobility and require support and advice. I often work closely with the SENCO and the child. At Ark Boulton you may see in the classroom observing or working in the LSC room. My role as PDSS Teacher involves:

- Working with staff to overcome physical barriers to access
- Conducting observations and discussions with pupils
- Listening to the pupils needs
- Meeting parents
- Liaising with other agencies and services
- Statutory work e.g. contributing to Educational Health Care Plans
- Attending meetings and review

## Welcome to the New Learning Support Centre

The Learning Support Centre (LSC) has now moved from upstairs in E Block to downstairs in D Block (DG14), which is adjacent to the computer room. The Learning Support Centre is a safe



space for our students with Special Educational Needs where all can come take a break during the busy day, socialise with their friends or catch up with their work. There are two members of staff on duty during break and lunchtime to make sure all students are safe and happy.

It is a bright spacious area, which houses many different activities, such as social games, board games, reading corner or a fun filled interactive smartboard,

guaranteed to both educate and entertain our pupils at break and lunch times. There are beanbags in the corner of the room where students can sit and read or socialise with friends. Students have access to lockers to store their



possessions and a peg to hang their coats. In addition to this there are colourful chairs and desks which are allocated in the centre of the LSC for studying throughout the day and homework club.



Throughout the week, each member of the Enhanced Provision Team supervise the LSC to ensure they give their undivided attention to students who wish to enhance their social skills or

improve their work in various subjects or to attain higher grades in exams, and are always available for support and advice whenever pupils need it.

The Faculty of Enhanced Provision runs after school Homework Club every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday between 3.30 – 4.30 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend the Homework Club.

By Mrs S. Trench



*This time of year brings to mind those things in life that are most important. Family, friendship and community.*

*May the New Year be filled with love, peace, inner contentment and happiness for all.*

Ark Boulton Family



## Dates for your diary

### Term dates

Students will break up for Christmas holidays from **1:00pm** on Friday 20th December and will return to school on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020,

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