

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



Ark Boulton Academy



2nd November 2021

Dear Year 9 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 9 students successfully completed reading tests and our regular fortnightly assessment cycle in all academic subjects started.

In English lessons, Year 9 are learning about the fictional classic ‘Jane Eyre’ by Charlotte Bronte, which continues this term. Students will be able to use inspired pictures and narratives from the Victorian era of a bleak landscape to influence their creative writing pieces. In daily Literacy lessons students are also reading ‘Orange Boy’. This is a young adult novel which tells the story of a sixteen-year-old boy who’s date ends in tragedy and the involvement of drug culture and peer pressure. Whilst Science lessons were focussed on Chemistry last term in learning about the Periodic Table, this term, students will learn about the fundamental topic of quantitative chemistry. In Maths, students are working on probability within the topic of data handling.

In Humanities lessons, students have enjoyed learning about the Age of Revolution in History and continue to look closer at the British Empire and the topic of slavery. Students’ progress from studying about global perspectives when learning about growth of global populations and pressure on resources in Geography and learn to analyse the needs of the U.K. and to form opinions on renewable and non-renewable energy. Whilst in Religious Studies students continue to learn about the Sikh faith and traditions and reflect on key teachings of the religion and key festivals.

In French, students learned basic greetings when talking about themselves, this term, they practise how to describe relationships with people and how they spend their time with their friends. In Creative Arts, students have experienced lessons where they learn how to music technology to create tracks and compose their own music. In Art, students have been introduced to the artist Norman Duenas to explore the theme of mortality and methods of grid drawing. They will build on this to learn about watercolour and in Drama, students have had an introduction to drama skills in how to devise a drama performance in the theme of ‘gangs’.

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 in the global world we live in 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

Herminster K Channa OBE JP – Executive Principal

Ark Boulton Academy | Birmingham | B11 2QG

T: +44 (0)121 773 8156

E: info@arkboulton.org

W: www.arkboulton.org



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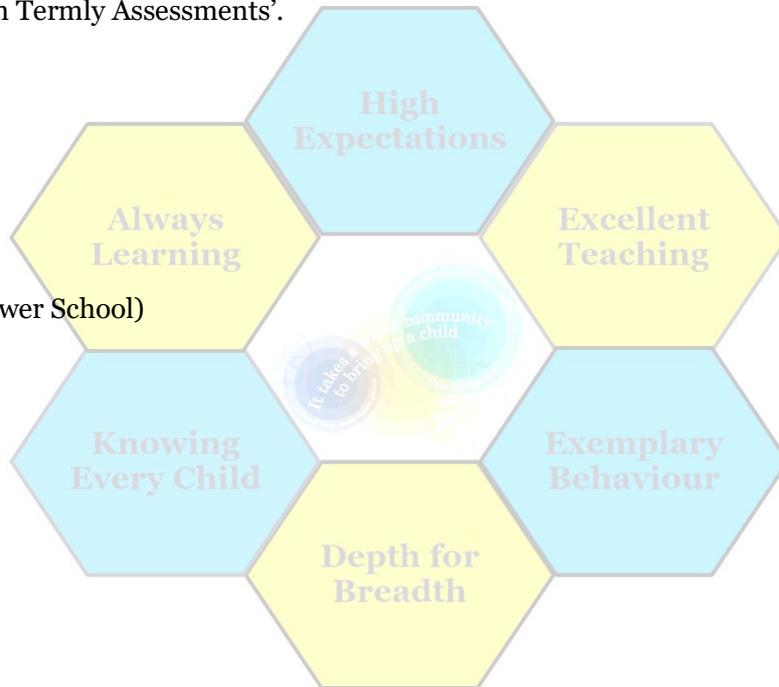
relationships. As part of the new statutory policy on Relationships and Sexual Education, we will then look at sexual behaviours and how abuse and violence can have harmful and long-lasting effects. This will conclude our work on the importance of respectful relationships this term. This work is explained 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 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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