

Parents/ Guardians,

As our sunny summer holidays draw to a close I hope you have enjoyed a good rest and are looking forward to our new academic year. The autumn term starts on Thursday 6 September at 8.25am. This week has seen our Year 11 pupils receive their GCSE examination results. The school has the best set of results ever, and has improved further on the performance of previous years. There have been some incredible individual sets of results with pupils achieving the highest grades in the new, harder exams. A real congratulation to all of our year 11 pupils and to the staff that have worked tirelessly to support them in their learning. This cohort of pupils have really espoused our motto of, **“Aspire. Expect. Achieve. Together.”** We wish them all success in the future at college, employment or training.

One of the reasons the year 11 pupils did so well this year was due to their positive attitude to learning, excellent conduct and good attendance. It is no surprise that these are key parts of pupils being successful in school and ultimately in the workplace as adults. As we start the new academic year we will have a real drive to improve our standards further. Pupils learn effectively where there is great teaching with excellent conduct and attitude of pupils.

When pupils return on Thursday 6 September we will be revisiting our expectations and standards. This will include expectations for attendance and punctuality, behaviour around school, in lessons, on the journey to and from school, and attitudes to learning. These are the foundations for pupils to achieve academically. I know you will be supporting this drive to improve further at home, with conversations to explain why these things are so important; thank you in advance for your support with this.

A reminder of some changes that are happening from the start of term, that I wrote to you about in the letter in July, I explained the reasons why and the rationale for the early finish.

- **Uniform changes**

We will be introducing ties for girls for all year groups, this is after listening to pupil voice, with girls requesting to wear ties. Each girl will be issued with a tie on their first day back by their form tutor. In addition to this, we have again listened to pupils, who have highlighted an inconsistency between boys and girls with regards to wearing ear studs. From September ear studs will not be allowed for girls and boys. If you are concerned that your child's earlobes may heal over during the school day, please buy them a pair of small clear plastic bars that can be worn while at school. These changes in uniform for girls and boys will make pupils look even smarter.

- **Early finish on Fridays**

School will finish on Friday afternoon at 2.00 pm. The timings of the school remain the same for the Monday to Thursday:

Monday	8.25 am – 3.30 pm
Tuesday	8.25 am – 3.30 pm
Wednesday	8.25 am – 3.30 pm
Thursday	8.25 am – 3.30 pm
Friday	8.25 am – 2.00 pm

We are really looking forward to the academic year ahead with a new year 7 cohort and a number of new members of staff that will be joining the school. Each year we get better together as a school community and I thank you for choosing Ark Kings for your children. As always please do not hesitate to contact myself or members of my staff if you have any questions about how we, and you, can support your child further. I look forward to seeing you in September.

Yours sincerely,



Roger Punton
Principal
Ark Kings Academy

Shannon Road
Kings Norton
Birmingham B38 9DE
Tel: 0121 459 4451

Email: info@arkkingsacademy.org
Website: www.arkkingsacademy.org