



3 March 2017

Principal: Roger Punton



Offer of a YR7 School Place for September 2017

Congratulations! Your child has been offered a place in Year 7 at Ark Kings Academy the most improved school in Birmingham and the most improved sponsored academy in the UK!



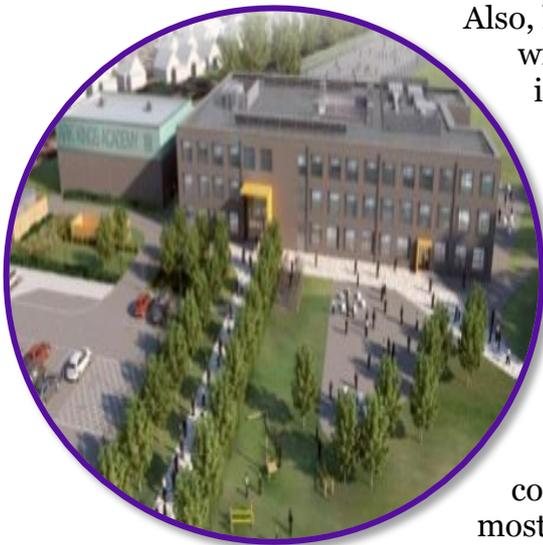
This is great news for you. Your child will be attending a school where excellent teaching, student progress and character development are at the heart of everything we do.

We're delighted to be welcoming your child into the Ark Kings family and this also means a **free place on our annual summer school in August** (details to follow).

Our students are proud to be part of the Ark Kings family and this is evident in the excellent attendance record that students maintain, the standard of work in their books and by the way students wear our uniform with pride. Uniform is important to us, so much so that all **Year 7 students will be provided with a free school uniform.**

You'll agree that attending a successful school where students **aspire** to excel, **expect** to be challenged and are determined to **achieve** success is in itself reason enough to accept a place at Ark Kings. We are a **small school but a big family** - we are working **together** to achieve great things and we will support each other when we need to. In addition to all this some of the key entitlements your child will benefit from include: a unique **character development** programme, opportunities to compete with a wide range of peers both **academically** and in **sports**, specific **tuition in musical** instruments as a part of our band musicianship programme, wide and varied **educational visits** and **residential experiences.**





Also, let's not forget our **brand new school building** which will be opening in April 2017. Meaning your child will be in the first Year 7 cohort who begin their education at Ark Kings in the new, **state of the art building and facilities**.

It is an exciting time to join Ark Kings Academy. In 2016 OFSTED confirmed that we are a **“Good”** school (see attachment below) and in 2017 we will move into our brand new school building which will provide our students with a **modern and inspiring learning environment**. In 2015 we were the

country's most improved academy and Birmingham's most improved school. This success continued in 2016 with

our Progress 8 score of +0.5 (estimated) which is likely to position us among the **top 10% of schools in the country**. This demonstrates that Ark Kings Academy students make **significantly better** progress than the national average. Year 11 students have also matched the previous record best Attainment 8 score of 4.4. This is testament to hard work of students and staff and the support from parents and carers.

Find out more about Ark Kings

Transition to secondary school is a daunting time for parents too, and we know how important it is for parents and students to feel happy with their choice of secondary school. To find out more we have arranged an optional open evening to give you the opportunity to ask any questions you have to myself and my team on **Monday 13th March between 6-7pm**.

18.00 – 18.15 Arrival and welcome (refreshments provided)

18.15 – 18.35 Welcome from Roger Punton, Principal

18.35 – 19.00 Questions and Answer Session

If you wish to know more about Ark Kings and the excellent opportunities and educational experience we offer, **please visit our website, find us on Facebook or get in touch to arrange a personalised** tour of the academy. We're very proud of our students and our academy and we'd love to welcome you and show you around.

What you should do now

Confirm your child's place

To confirm a place for your child at Ark Kings Academy, please return the allocation form from Birmingham City Council to us. Your form must reach us by **Thursday 16th March 2017** at the latest. Once you have returned your form we will write to you again to complete the induction process.

Best wishes,

Roger Punton
Principal



September 2017 Induction Timeline

Wednesday 2nd March

**Parents receive offer letters from
Birmingham City Council**

Please contact us and Birmingham City Council if you have not received this letter.

**Monday 13th March
6.00- 7.00pm**

Open Evening for parents and students

An opportunity for you and your child to ask any questions, learn about our academy life and meet key members of staff.

**Thursday 16th March
12.00pm**

**Deadline for confirming your child's place at
Ark Kings Academy**

Please can you respond as soon as possible, as we are oversubscribed and have a waiting list.

April-June

Taster sessions at Ark Kings Academy

A chance for your child to attend Ark Kings for a morning/afternoon to get a taste of life at Ark Kings. We will arrange this with your child's primary school and notify you in due course.

Wednesday 5th July

Induction day at Ark Kings Academy

A whole day for your child and all the year 7s to attend Ark Kings for a formal induction. Pupils will be able to collect their free school uniform vouchers.

**July/August-
Dates will be confirmed by
the induction day.**

Summer school

The summer school will help children get to know each other, and the school, so that they feel prepared for and excited about their move to secondary school. Free, fun and lots of activities for your child to take part in. Further details to follow.

September

First day of term for new Year 7s

An exciting time for all pupils. The exact date will be communicated before the start of the year.

October

'Settling in' parents' evening for new Year 7s

At Ark Kings we believe in having a strong parent-teacher relationship. To help build the relationship and to see how well your child has settled in we will be holding a parents evening within the first term at Ark Kings

Ark Kings is a good school – Ofsted 2016

We are delighted that Ofsted Inspectors have declared that **Ark Kings Academy is a GOOD school.**

We are very pleased the academy has been judged ‘good’ in every area and that our overall effectiveness has also been recognised as ‘good’.

- Effectiveness of leadership and management - Good
- Quality of teaching, learning and assessment - Good
- Personal development, behaviour and welfare - Good
- Outcomes for pupils – Good
- **Overall effectiveness – Good**
-

Inspectors have praised our leadership and management saying that, *“The principal, senior leaders and governors share a vision to deliver high-quality teaching and learning for all pupils in the school. They are ambitious and aspirational to provide pupils with the best learning opportunities and experiences. Changes in leadership since the last inspection have skilfully realigned a knowledgeable, determined and enthusiastic team led by a principal who is totally inclusive and committed to the achievement of the pupils in his care.”*

Inspectors also praised the quality of our teaching and, importantly, the strength of relationships between our staff and students. *“Teachers show strong subject knowledge and enthusiasm. As a result, pupils are interested and engaged in their learning activities. Teaching makes a very positive contribution to pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. This helps pupils to reflect, work well together and listen carefully to the opinions of others. Teachers establish good working relationships with pupils and they help pupils to overcome any barriers to learning they might have.”*

We are particularly proud of the way that our students have been highlighted in the report with inspectors saying that, *“Pupils are helpful, polite and courteous to staff, visitors and to each other. The atmosphere in school is one of tolerance, sharing and learning together. Pupils conduct themselves well around the school and the atmosphere is calm and orderly, both during and between lessons, and at breaktime and lunchtime. Pupils’ behaviour and attitudes to learning are good across all years and all subjects. Pupils are punctual to lessons, bring the right equipment with them, settle quickly and approach their work with enthusiasm.”*

This judgement serves to remind us all of the progress made by the academy’s pupils, staff, parents and wider community in support of our mission to be a school where every student will make excellent progress, develop outstanding character and be successful in life, education and employment.

We recognise that there is still much to do in order to achieve our mission and the academy is focussed on taking the steps necessary to become an outstanding school.

You can download the full report from our website.