

15th February 2013

Dear parents and carers.

As we approach the half year point at the end of this half term, I'd like to take thank you for your support in helping us make a strong start to our first year. Our students have risen to the new expectations we have put in place. The vast majority of them come to school on time every day, work hard, do their homework, are polite and respectful and are a credit to their parents and the school.

On occasion, we have had to take a strong line on poor behaviour – and we will continue to do so in order that every child can learn in uninterrupted lessons where teachers can teach and students can learn. I am sure you will support us in taking this approach.

Going forward I would particularly value your support on working towards 100% attendance and uniform compliance.

This letter includes:

- Our focus on attendance;
- Detail about our after-school programmes;
- Information about term dates;
- Year 11 Exam preparation;
- Half Term and Easter school for Year 11s;
- Important information about the correct uniform;

Attendance

I would like to stress the importance of attendance to school. In order to experience the best education the first important factor is to be present at all lessons. Whilst we have an impressive number of students who have a 100% attendance rate so far this academic year, we would like all of our students to aspire to be achieve this. Please play your part by encouraging your child to be in school on time every day.

This will be a focus in the academy next half term. You may be contacted about your child's attendance at the start of next half term.

Enrichment Programme – launched 28th January 2013

As the word ‘enrichment’ suggests it is aimed at adding an extra layer of value to the school experience for all students by providing opportunities to develop communication, team work, creative, problem solving and sporting skills amongst others.

Enrichment at ARK Kings takes place within, alongside and beyond the normal school curriculum. We have already had our first highly successful day where students took part in a range of special workshops and challenges.

The full range of afterschool clubs and activities was launched on Monday 28th January. There is no cost to students to take part in any clubs, though for sporting activities they will need to bring their PE kit and please be aware that on those evenings when your child will be taking part in afterschool activities they will be home later than usual. The following after school activities are now available to students:

Tuesdays 4pm – 5pm	Wednesdays 4pm – 5pm	Thursdays 4pm – 5pm
<i>Year 9 Football</i> Sports Hall/Outside	<i>KS4 Art</i> Art Room	<i>KS3 Netball</i> Gym/Sportshall
<i>Choir</i> Music Room	<i>KS4 Netball</i> Gym	<i>Fusion Ensemble</i> Music Room
<i>KS3 Art</i> Art Room	<i>Paper Modelling</i> Art room	<i>KS4 Football</i> Sports Hall/Outside
<i>French Leaders</i> 2-10	<i>Badminton Club</i> Sportshall	<i>Debate Club</i> 1:6
<i>Basketball Club</i> Gym		<i>Free Think 1.30pm-2pm</i> 1:6
<i>Film Club</i> Library		

Term dates

Key dates for this term are:

- End of half term – Friday 15th February
- First day back after half term – Wednesday 27th Feb (staff will be training on Monday and Tuesday after half term)
- Year 9 options evening – Wednesday 13th March at 5pm.
- Final day of Spring term – Thursday 28th March
- First day of Summer term – Wednesday 27th April.

Year 11 exam preparation

To help our Year 11 students prepare for their GCSE exams we are holding a range of catch-up lessons for the next few weeks. All sessions take place in the respective subject areas. They are compulsory for some but open to all students. Your child will know if they are expected to attend.

Tuesday 4pm – 5pm	Wednesday 4pm – 5pm	Thursday 4pm – 5pm	Friday 2pm – 3pm
Food Technology ICT/ Business Art	Mathematics Music French Art	Science	English

Half Term School for Year 11

Some of the Year 11 students will be attending half term classes in English, ICT and Food Technology. If your child is invited to one of the sessions they will need to arrive at reception 15 minutes before the start time of that session. Failure to do so will result in them not gaining access to that specific session.

They will also need a packed lunch if they are remaining all day. They will not be allowed off the site at lunch. For this half term school, your child will be allowed to attend in casual clothing.

We hope that all our Year 11s will put time aside to study for their GCSEs this half term, with the knowledge that this is a very important few months for them.

Easter School 8th -12th April 2013 (the second week of the Easter break)

There will also be classes held during the Easter break to further assist the studies of our Year 11 students, details are as follows:

Tuesday 9th April	Wednesday 10th April	Thursday 11th April	12th April
History 9am -3.30pm	English 9am-12pm	Maths 9am-12pm	ICT Business 9am-3.30pm
Geography 9am -3.30pm	MFL 12.30pm – 3.30pm	Science 12.30pm – 3.30pm	Art 9am-3.30pm
			Music 9am-3.30pm

Uniform

We believe it's important to maintain the highest standards of uniform in school, so as a reminder the requirements are listed in the table below. Please help to ensure your child adheres to these guidelines:

Please also that by registering for free school meals you will get a discount of 20% off school uniform bought from the school shop. If you are already registered you don't need to do anything – you can get the discount now.

Girls	Boys
<p>Main uniform Black blazer with purple trim and academy logo* Grey fine knit v-neck jumper: purple strip and logo* White reverse blouse # Black pleated skirt or black trousers # Black tights or black socks # Black low heeled shoes (no trainers) #</p> <p>PE Kit Black or white trainers (no fashion shoes/pumps) # Purple polo shirt with academy logo * Black shorts # Black tracksuit bottoms # Shell rain jacket with academy logo * (optional)</p> <p>School bag Rucksack with academy logo *</p>	<p>Main uniform Black blazer with purple trim and academy logo * Grey fine knit v-neck jumper: purple strip and logo * White shirt # School Tie # Black trousers # Black socks # Black shoes (no trainers) #</p> <p>PE Kit Black or white trainers (no fashion shoes/pumps) # Purple polo shirt with academy logo * Black shorts # Black tracksuit bottoms # Shell train jacket with academy logo * (optional)</p> <p>School bag Rucksack with academy logo *</p>
<p>Outdoor clothing Outdoor coats must be plain black All shell rain jacket with academy logo can be purchased from school * No leather, denim jackets or hoodies are allowed Hats, scarves and gloves must be plain black</p>	
<p>Hair, headwear and accessories Hair must be of natural colour and in an appropriate style. No tramlines, mohicans, extreme styling or eyebrow designs Students are allowed to cover their heads for religious and cultural reasons</p> <p>For Girls: Piercings: one stud earring in each ear only Hairbands/clips in academy colours only No make-up, false nails or coloured nail varnish.</p>	

I hope you all have a very enjoyable half term break.

Yours sincerely



Kieran Larkin
Principal