

5th June 2015

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome back to our final half term of the academic year. The year has certainly passed very quickly, it doesn't seem very long since we welcomed our new year 7 students in September and year 11 embarked on their final year at Ark Kings.

At this time of year we start looking forward to the next academic year and start planning. As part of this planning I have reviewed the shape of the school day and week. I have listened to comments made by parents through the parent forum and individual meetings, students through the Student Council and form discussions and from members of staff. For some time I think the shape of our school week is not the easiest to follow with different finish times on a Monday and Friday compared to Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. As you know Ark Kings Academy starts earlier and finishes later than most secondary schools. The late finish presents difficulties for sports clubs, enrichment activities and other after school activities. This is especially acute in the winter when it is dark very early.

At the moment we teach 30.5 hours per week which is about 5.5 hours more teaching and learning time than a typical secondary school. This gives extra time for learning which is invaluable in allowing students to reach their potential and make great progress.

From September 2015 we will still have the same start of 8.25am but will finish every day at 3.30pm. This will allow more time for club and enrichment activities, along with ensuring pupils are able to travel home at a reasonable time. Break and lunchtimes will remain the same and we will still have a 30 hour teaching week plus form time every day.

Schedule – Monday to Friday

8.25am to 8.45am	Form time
8.45am to 9.45am	Lesson 1
9.45am to 10.45am	Lesson 2
10.45am to 11.00am	Morning break
11.00am to 12.00pm	Lesson 3
12.00pm to 1.00pm	Lesson 4
1.00pm to 1.30pm	Lunch break
1.30pm to 2.30pm	Lesson 5
2.30pm to 3.30pm	Lesson 6

I hope you will agree this is a sensible way ahead and will have a positive impact for parents, students and ultimately learning. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

I have also included term and holiday dates for 2015/16. I know these have been sent out earlier and are on our website, but thought I would send them out once again. As you know we do not authorise holidays in school time, so please ensure you book any holidays within our published holiday dates.

2015-2016 Academic Year

(for students – staff training days are listed separately below)

Autumn Term	Thursday 3 September to Friday 18 December 2015
Autumn Half Term	Monday 26 October to Tuesday 3 November 2015
Christmas Holiday	Monday 21 December 2015 to Tuesday 5 January 2016
Spring Term	Wednesday 6 January to Thursday 24 March 2016
Spring Half Term	Thursday 11 February to Friday 19 February 2016
Easter Holiday	Friday 25 March to Monday 11 April 2016
Summer term	Tuesday 12 April to Wednesday 20 July 2016
May Day Bank Holiday	Monday 2 May 2016
Summer Half Term	Monday 30 May to Friday 3 June 2016

2015-2016 Staff Training Days

On these days the academy will be **closed to students** so that staff can complete essential training and professional development.

Tuesday 1 and Wednesday 2 September 2015

Monday 2 and Tuesday 3 November 2015

Monday 4 and Tuesday 5 January 2016

Thursday 11 and Friday 12 February 2016

Monday 11 April 2016

Friday 24 June 2016

Yours sincerely



Roger Punton
Principal