

7 October 2016

Dear Parent/Carers

We have had a really busy start to our new academic year with much to celebrate and be proud of. Our summer results show that last year's Year 11 students made great progress while at Ark Kings and all students have progressed to further education or training. It is likely that Ark Kings will be rated in the top 5 – 10% of schools nationally for the progress students made and we are very proud of this. It is a real testament to the hard work students and staff made and we look forward to even better this year.

At the start of September we welcomed 115 Year 7 students to Ark Kings which means we are full in that year group. I have to say a big thank you to you for ensuring all students are smartly dressed in all year groups. I am particularly pleased there are very few, if any instances of inappropriate footwear. Sometimes students say to me 'why are you so insistent on smart uniform and no jewellery'. Well, my response is always the same, 'If we get the 'small' things right in school then everything else will follow'. This is what is really happening day by day, week by week and month by month in Ark Kings. If students have great attendance, have a positive attitude and work hard, they will do extremely well in Ark Kings and then eventually these habits will prepare them for the wider world.

As you know we welcomed Ofsted to Ark Kings this week. We were delighted to show inspectors around the academy and as expected students were our best ambassadors. I will notify you as soon as the report is published.

The new academy build has really taken shape over the last few months. I attend meetings with the construction company regularly and have been impressed with the quality and specification of the facilities that are being prepared for our students. At my most recent meeting I was notified that the build is behind schedule. We were looking forward to moving in to the new building in December, however, this will now be postponed. We are likely to now move into the new building at Easter, although there is a possibility that the build will be completed by February half term. As a result we will no longer need additional time at Christmas and the last day of the autumn term will now be **Friday 16th December 2016**. Students will return from the Christmas break on Wednesday 4th January 2017, following staff training on Tuesday 3rd January 2017. I understand that this will be disappointing news for students eager to get in to our new facilities, but it is important that all classrooms and learning spaces are finished to the highest specification.

I will update you with the date of the new school openings as soon as this is confirmed and give sufficient notice for parents/carers to make alternative arrangements for children as it is likely that the academy will be closed to students for a number of days around this time.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Have a good weekend and I look forward to the final couple of weeks of this half term.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Punton', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Roger Punton
Principal