

ARK Kings News



Attendance 95% Well Done!

Our attendance for this half term stands at 95%, which represents an improvement of 1% on Spring 1. A huge well done goes to all students for the effort in improving attendance since September. The examination season is ahead of us and this is a timely reminder that good attendance and a great attitude to learning leads achievement.

Year 11 Easter School

During the Easter break there are sessions in the academy for Year 11 students. Each session will be subject specific and provide support around coursework, revision and examination techniques. Easter School will run on Monday 30th, Tuesday 31st March, Tuesday 7th April, Wednesday 8th April, Thursday 9th April and Friday 10th April. Full details are available online: www.arkkingsacademy.org/news/easter-school-offers-extra-support-year-11-students

Year 9 Options Evening

On Wednesday 22nd April students and parents will be invited to attend a special evening to discuss what subjects students wish to study for GCSE. There will also be an opportunity to discuss current attainment and performance with subject teachers.

Students celebrated World Book Day on 5th March by holding a 'Mad Hatter's Tea Party' themed storytelling session and reading to younger children at ARK Rose Primary Academy.



Message from the Principal

This half term has been a short but significant one for ARK Kings Academy and secondary education in Kings Norton.

The half term began excitingly with the unveiling of plans for our brand new school building. Contractors are due on site this summer and we expect to open our state of the art school in December 2016 2017. Throughout the project ARK Kings Academy will remain fully operational and the educational offer will not be affected.

While we are excited about our plans for a new school building and what this will mean for the families of Kings Norton, our focus remains firmly on ensuring we continue to rapidly raise attainment in our school. In 2014 we achieved record GCSE results (60% students achieved A*-C Maths, 60% of students achieved A*-C in English, while 81% of GCSE students gained A*-C in Science).

This year we are expecting our Year 11 pupils to do even better and be the best results ever achieved in this area.

This term we had separate monitoring visits from Ofsted and from Ark Schools. We received positive feedback from both groups who agree that we continue to make strong progress and there are effective procedures in place to ensure best practice in teaching and learning.

Throughout the half term, I have been reminded time and time again of the outstanding character our students regularly display. Whether it is having the confidence to take to the stage in Stratford-Upon-Avon for a Shakespeare performance, achieving highly at the ARK Spelling Bee, competing at the UK Mathematics Trust Challenge event or displaying exemplary behavior while

Year 7 Residential Trip

Year 7 students will have the opportunity to attend the Kingswood activity centre for a residential trip between Wednesday 6th and Friday 8th May. Students will take part in outdoor activities designed to build confidence, resilience and team work skills.

Look out for more details after the Easter break when students will bring home letters inviting parents to an information evening about the residential.

Year 7 French Trip

This year's French trip will take place between Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th July. Look out for more details after the Easter break when students will bring home letters inviting parents to an information evening about the trip.

New Build Update



The new building will open in December 2016 providing a modern and inspiring learning environment for 800 pupils. Included in the building will be a 3 court sports hall and dance studio with community access, climate controlled classrooms which maximise the use of natural light, outdoor amphitheatre and dining area and state of the art facilities for teaching technology subjects.

on the Year 9 trip to London, these students have shown us all there is no limit to where hard work, determination and ambition can get. I look forward to helping even more of our students realise their full potential.

Preparation for GCSE Examinations

It is a critical time for Year 11 students. For many, examinations have already begun with Art, Music and the speaking and listening components of English, French and German already well underway. For all Year 11 students the examination season will begin in earnest practically as soon as the summer term begins. The next few weeks are critical in determining the success of students this summer.

Students have revision guides and materials from their subject teachers and time invested now in revision will be invaluable when it comes to performing well in examinations.

In addition to attending Easter School sessions students should dedicate sufficient time to revision over the Easter break and the following weeks.

Parents and carers can help too. Create the time and space for your child to revise at home: somewhere quiet and with all the usual distractions (television, computer, phone etc.) removed for the duration.

At ARK Kings we are happy to support students (and families) with developing revision plans and how to best prepare for examinations. If you would like more information, please get in touch with the school via your child's form tutor.

Dates for Your Diary

Monday 30 th March – Friday 10 th April	Year 11 Easter School. Targeted support for Year 11 students.
Monday 13 th April	First day of summer term. School starts at normal time of 8.25 am
Wednesday 22 nd April	Year 9 Options and Parents' Evening
Monday 4 th May	Bank Holiday. Return to school Tuesday 5 th May
Wednesday 6 th – Friday 8 th May	Year 7 Kingswood residential trip
Monday 25 th – Friday 29 th May	Summer half term holiday
Monday 1 st June	Students return from half term. School starts at normal time of 8.25 am
Friday 26 th June	Staff training day. School closed to students.
Tuesday 7 th – Wednesday 8 th July	Year 7 French trip
Friday 17 th July	Last day of Summer term.