

December 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

As we approach our final week of term I am writing to give you an update on the completion of our new build. I meet weekly with Carillion, the company who are building our new school, to discuss progress and see how the school is coming on. The outside brickwork is nearing completion on both the main building and sports block and the interior spaces of classrooms, hall, dance studio and dining rooms are really taking shape. It is going to be an impressive environment when it is completed and one fitting for our students and your children to learn in.

The final completion date is now Easter meaning that children will move into the new building when they return after the Easter holidays. As the move into the new school will take a number of days we need to slightly amend the Easter holiday dates to allow time to ensure that everything is ready when the children return.

Students were due to finish on Friday 7 April and return Monday 24 April. Students will now finish term on **Wednesday 5 April** and will return on **Thursday 27 April**.

However Year 11 students will be in school on **Thursday 6, Friday 7, Monday 24, Tuesday 25 and Wednesday 26 April** as normal in order to continue to prepare for their examinations. I hope these changes to term dates do not cause any disruptions, but unfortunately they are unavoidable in order to have a smooth transition to our new school.

We are very excited about this next stage of our schools' transformation. As you know, Ofsted recently visited and rated our school as good – a fantastic milestone in our journey to outstanding. We are already well on the way to becoming an outstanding school and our new school building is an exciting part of that journey.

Thank you for your support this term, ensuring your children come to school regularly, work hard with a positive attitude, so that they make great progress and become responsible young adults we are all proud of.

This year's Christmas dinner will take place over 3 different days, students are allowed to wear their Christmas jumpers on their particular day:

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December – Year 9 & Year 10

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December – Year 8 & Year 11

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December – Year 7

The autumn term finishes on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 12 noon. Packed lunches will be available for students eligible for free school meals.

Students will return on Thursday 5 January 2017 as there will be 2 days of staff training taking place on Tuesday 3 & Wednesday 4 January.

If you have any question about changes to the Easter holidays or any other aspects of school life, please do not hesitate to contact myself.

I'd like to take the opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Punton', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Roger Punton  
Principal  
**Ark Kings Academy**