

Dear parents and carers

Please look out for an article about ARK Schools in Thursday's Birmingham Mail

School Examinations

From next Monday (1 July), all students will sit a full set of end of year exams in all subjects in all year groups. I am keen that students learn the routine of formal examinations from the outset and understand the expectation of the examination procedures. Attached is the timetable for your child. You will get a report for your child before the end of term summarising their levels or grades for the year.

Key dates

As previously notified, the school will be closed to students this **Friday (28th June)** for staff training. Students should be back in school on **Monday 1st July** as usual for a prompt start at 8.25am for the start of their examinations.

The school year for students breaks up on **Friday 19th July**. Any requests for leave from school before that date will not be authorised.

Dates for the 2013-14 academic year

Term starts for all students on **Thursday 5th September 2013**

Half term: **Monday 28th October – Tuesday 5th November** (inclusive) **2013**

Students back to school on **Wednesday 6th November 2013**

Student last day at school for the autumn term: **Friday 20th December 2013**

Students back to school on **Tuesday 7th January 2014**

Students break up for half term at the end of **Thursday 13th February 2014**

Students back to school on **Tuesday 25th February 2014**

Students break up for Easter at the end of **Thursday 10th April** and return on **Monday 28th April 2014**

Students break up for half term at the end of **Friday 23rd May** and return to school on **Monday 2nd June**.

School closed for staff training on **Friday 27th June 2014** (*all ARK schools are closed on this date*).

Students break up for the summer holidays at the end of **Tuesday 22nd July 2014**

The dates in the spring and summer term may be adjusted slightly if we lose any days to poor weather to ensure students get the full quota of days they are entitled to. We will notify you if there is a change.

School Uniform

We have been working in partnership with a local uniform supplier, Clive Mark, who will be stocking our uniform in their Kings Heath store and online from the 19th July. Uniform will also be available from the school shop during term times. The shop opening times are:

Tuesdays 11:30-12:00

Thursdays 16:00-16:30

It will also be open on Monday 8th July between 15:00-17:00

If your child is eligible for free school meals, they are entitled to 20% discount on uniform purchases, but only for items purchased at the school shop NOT Clive Mark.

The school shop will not be open during the school summer holidays and will reopen in the Autumn Term.

Recognising achievement

The last assembly of the school year on 19th July will mark the achievement of students. This includes progress made over the year, work ethic, attainment in subjects and contribution to school life. Last week, it was my great pleasure to mark the end of Year 11's time at school with a special assembly in which I was able to mark the achievement of many students. Through a kind donation specifically given to recognise students we were able to provide prizes totalling up to £1,200 to support students continuing their studies next year.

The following prizes were awarded:

Sian Kelly for achievement in English.
Carrie Summers for achievement in Mathematics.
Tolu Odubanjo for achievement in Science.
Brandon Nolan for achievement in French.
Kai Islam for achievement in ICT.
Jade Sykes for achievement in Business.
Whitney Lumeyu for achievement in Humanities.
Steven Bassett and Chloe Porter for achievement in PE.
Michael Henderson for achievement in Creativity.
Mohamoud Abaire for excellent attainment in a wide range of subjects.
Danny Burrows for outstanding contribution to school life.
Richard Brookes for outstanding work ethic.

I am very proud of the outgoing Year 11. Their commitment and hard work right up to their exams was impressive. We look forward now to the next key date of Thursday 22nd August when they will receive their results in the school hall from 9am.

School day for next year

As you know, students at ARK Kings have more lessons per week than in most other secondary schools. That allows us to give every student at least one hour of English every day and one hour of Maths as well as at least two hours per week in all their other subjects. For next year we are slightly changing the shape of the school week. The school day for students next year will be as follows:

Monday: 8.25am -3.00pm (currently 4.00pm, giving more time for training and parental meetings).
Tuesday – Thursday 8.25am - 4.00pm
Friday: 8.25am - 3.00pm (currently 2.00pm, gaining the hour from Monday)
Students will have the same number of hours of lesson in each week.

Thank you for your continued support in working with us to help us give the best possible education for your child. I am impressed on a daily basis by the way students have responded to our high expectations academically, behaviourally and in uniform.

I value your continued support to ensure every child at ARK Kings can *aspire, expect* and *achieve* their best as set out in our school motto.

Yours sincerely,



Kieran Larkin
Principal