

20 December 2012

Dear parents and carers

At the end of my first term as Principal of ARK Kings Academy it has been my great privilege to oversee and lead your son or daughter in their education. I believe that a great education transforms the life chances of a child and it is my commitment to you that ARK Kings is setting out to do just that.

We have asked many new things of students this term and the vast majority of them have risen admirably to the high academic and behavioural standards we have put in place. This gives me great confidence in what can be achieved and with your support and the hard work of your son/daughter I know that in the New Year even greater things can be achieved.

In a small number of cases, behaviour has not been acceptable and we have not and will not be tolerant if it disrupts the calm and orderly environment of lessons and the learning of others. I am confident that parents and carers support our clear line on this.

### **Achievement assembly**

On the last day of term, we will hold an achievement assembly where we will celebrate what has been achieved by individuals and collectively in the academy this term. If your child has received an award they will be notified in assembly, so please ask them when they come home that day. I will write to you in the New Year notifying you of which students received awards for their hard work, efforts and achievement.

### **Important dates**

After the Christmas break, students return to school on **Tuesday 8 January 2013**.

Half term ends on **xxxx** and starts again on **xxxx**

The last school day before the Easter break is **xxxx** and students return to school on **xxxx**

### **Reports to parents**

We will issue our next report on your child's achievement, attendance and behaviour on Friday 11 January – please look out for it.

### **Uniform**

The vast majority of students wear the correct uniform each day. Thank you for the support you have shown in ensuring your child leaves home in the morning looking smart. People in the local community have commented on how smart our students look. However, in some cases the boundaries are being pushed and so as a particular reminder:

- Girls need to wear proper school shoes (not pumps or ballet shoes).
- No trainers are allowed except for wearing in PE lessons.
- No piercings are allowed other than a single ear stud in each year for girls.

- Coats should be black (a school jacket can be purchased through the school shop).

### **Attendance**

It goes without saying that the greater attendance at school the more children achieve. Research has shown that if students have less than 95% attendance they will not achieve the highest grades in English and Mathematics.

Too many students are missing too much time off school and addressing this will be a key focus of the school in the New Year. We will be contacting you to meet with you to discuss poor attendance.

Obviously if your child is genuinely too poorly to attend school we will understand. Please make sure that you contact school on telephone number **xxxxx** by **xxxxam** to let the school know if your child is going to be off school.

I would ask that any appointments outside of school are arranged beyond the school day and that the school is notified in writing in advance to request any potential absence.

### **Extreme weather**

In the event of extreme weather during the winter months our position will be that the school is open unless you are notified otherwise. In rare event that there is a need to close the school I will ensure that local radio stations are informed, our website is updated and that you are texted if there is a need to close the school.

However, it will be an exceptionally rare for me to decide to close the school and I will do all I can to ensure that lessons continue.

### **Looking ahead to 2013.**

Your first point of contact if you need to talk to someone in the school is your child's form tutor who will aim to get back to you by phone or via your child's planner.

Let me finish by wishing you, your child and your family a peaceful and restful Christmas.

With all best wishes for further success in 2013.

Kieran Larkin

Principal