

24<sup>th</sup> January 2013

Dear parents and carers.

### Free school meals and discounted uniform

The Government gives extra funding to schools for students eligible for free school meals. It is given to ensure students from lower income families do not miss out and allows the school to provide extra resources to help each child achieve their best. This funding is called 'Pupil Premium'. This year, the school receives an extra £600 per year for every child eligible for free school meals. From September, it rises to £900.

This funding helps us to provide up to 4 hours extra English and maths per week compared with most schools. It helps us provide after school clubs, school trips and give every child extra literacy teaching in years 7, 8 and 9.

Please help us to help your child. By registering for free school meals you will get a discount of 20% off school uniform bought from the school shop. If you are already registered you don't need to do anything – you can get the discount now.

#### What you need to do

**Check** that you qualify (see the attached application form).

**Register** if you think you qualify. **Fill in** the attached form and send it back to the school office.

**Save** more than £350 per year by your child getting a free school meal

**Support** the school get £600 extra this year and £900 next year to help your child achieve.

If you don't want your child to have the school meal you can still register and the school will still get the funding to help your child.

*No one will know that you have registered and it will not affect any other benefits you are claiming.*

### Year 11 exam preparation

To help our Year 11 students prepare for their GCSE exams we are holding a range of catch-up lessons for the next few weeks. All sessions take place in the respective subject areas are compulsory for some but open to all students.

Monday 4pm – 5pm	Tuesday 4pm – 5pm	Wednesday 4pm – 5pm	Thursday 4pm – 5pm	Friday 2pm – 3pm
	Food Technology ICT/ Business Art	Mathematics Music French Art	Science	English

Your child will have been informed by the subject teacher if they are expected to attend.

### Term dates

Key dates for this term are:

- End of half term – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February
- First day back after half term – Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February
- Year 11 parents' evening – Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February at 4:30pm
- Year 9 options evening – Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February at 5.00pm

**Poor weather**

Like us you may have experienced difficulty travelling in the recent snow and ice. My intention is that the school stays open whenever possible.

In the event that we need to close the school we will:

- Update the school website [www.arkkingsacademy.org](http://www.arkkingsacademy.org) with a flash message. Please check it daily when the weather is poor.
- Send a text to all parents for whom we have a mobile number.
- Notify local radio stations (BBC West Midlands, Free Radio, Heart FM)
- Notify Birmingham City Council who will place it on their website

Please send your child to school with a coat and proper school shoes. Trainers are not acceptable footwear in the academy and your child will be given a detention if uniform is not correct if there is no valid written reason provided from home.

**Serious incidents**

It is my great pleasure that the vast majority of students behave in an excellent way all of the time. They take pride in themselves, their work and the academy.

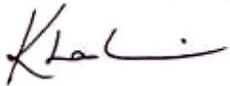
I hope it will be rare for me to write to you regarding serious incidents but on this occasion I feel I should. There have been two separate incidents recently where different students have either brought a knife into school or threatened to use a knife.

Let me reassure you that in both instances no-one was harmed, that I took swift action to isolate the students concerned and that the police were informed and supported the school in taking the right action. It is a criminal offence for a child to be in possession of a knife and both the school and the police will not tolerate it. In both cases, these students have been permanently excluded from ARK Kings Academy.

I have held a whole school assembly today to talk to students about these incidents, to reassure them and to remind them of what to do in the unlikely situation that something like this should happen again in or beyond school. If your child has any suspicion that someone is in possession of a knife they should speak to a member of staff in school immediately so that we can take the necessary action.

I am sure I have your full support in taking this firm line in these matters and thank you for your support of the Academy

Yours sincerely



Kieran Larkin  
Principal