

March 25, 2022

Dear Ark Kings Family,

The opportunity to lead a secondary school is a rare privilege and as I visited Ark Kings, last Thursday I was humbled by the warm welcome I received from the families and students of our next Year 7 cohort. The event certainly reminded me of the responsibility that is attendant to the role of Principal and the education of the young people of Kings Norton.

On Monday, I began my tenure by speaking with students, from all year groups, during an assembly about the importance of community. When preparing for my first encounter with the students and staff I thought about the events that recently unfolded through COVID-19 and the increased importance and power of community. It is especially important that our young people encounter positive role models, for too many months our children have been influenced by social media and the negative behaviours frequently encountered online. I therefore reminded the students of the need for all of us to be role models; supporting those that are taking their examinations in the Summer and positively influencing the siblings that will be joining us in September.

These times, more than ever, require our children to be successful at school. My aim is that Ark Kings can provide the education that will ensure our students achieve academically. Excellent examination results matter, however I am also aware that for our students to be successful they should also be taught the character necessary to ensure that they are the best versions of themselves. At Ark Kings it is our intention to deliver a personal development curriculum that helps our students to understand and navigate the world of study, work and beyond. Additionally, our intention is to provide a wide range of enrichment opportunities which can develop important personal qualities, such as: teamwork, communication, creativity and tolerance. All of which will foster role models and leaders who will not only contribute positively to the wider community but who will look back at their time at the academy with fondness and affection.

As we enter into the final two weeks of the half term, I can share with you two exciting new appointments who will be joining the leadership team. Mr O'Brian will be starting at the academy in Easter and will be our Vice Principal with responsibility for behaviour and attitudes and in September Ms Lewis will lead, as Vice Principal, the Academy's work on personal development.

Finally, it has been a whirlwind first week where I have already met many of our family of staff students and parents and I am looking forward to the future collective achievements of the academy.

Sincerely,

Mr D Richards,  
Principal

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