Why are high expectations so important in Ark Kings Academy? Why are we insistent on making sure we ‘get the small stuff right’? Well, these are some of the core things we continually work on in ‘my school, your school, our school’ in order to get the big things right.

Uniform standards, punctuality, respectful and tolerant behaviour, working hard, are so important in creating the right culture in our school for students to succeed. By creating the right conditions for learning everyone can make great progress, achieve their goals and reach their potential. This of course depends on ones own motivation to aspire to be the best you possibly can be.

This half term has been very busy with the Year 7 Kingswood Residential, university visits, art trips, debating trip and sporting fixtures to name but a few of the enriching activities students have been participating in. Next half term the Year 9 students will be going to London for their residential and the summer term has a Year 8 trip to France and potential Year 10 trip.

Last week I sent a letter home detailing the consultation on the exciting proposed merger with Ark Rose Primary. This is a truly wonderful opportunity to create an all through academy, where children can start in Reception and stay in the same school until they progress to college. Students are really excited about having younger siblings join the Ark Kings family and are already talking about the potential merger and the benefits it will bring.

The new build completion is nearly upon us with the moving date set for the Easter holiday. Students will finish on Wednesday 5th April and return on Thursday 27th April 2017. Year 11 will be in school from Tuesday 25th April, with focussed revision sessions. More details will follow in due course including the Easter school timetable.

Indeed these are exciting times at Ark Kings Academy, the new build, potential merger, increase in pupil numbers, and together these are making us a ‘small school but a bigger family.’

Roger Punton
Principal

Mission Statement
At Ark Kings Academy every student will make excellent progress, develop outstanding character and be successful in life, education and employment

Ark Kings students attempt the Big Physics Quiz at Birmingham University

On Monday 23rd January a group of 16 students from Year 9 took part in the Physics Big Quiz held at Birmingham University. This was a great experience for them and although they did not win they did very well. They were up against some of the biggest schools in the area including Kings Edwards and Alcester Grammar School.

Mrs R Chalk—Director of Science

Year 7— 100% Attendance Celebration

Year 7 were set a challenge to have 100% attendance. On 24th of January 2017, we had every single child in year 7 in school, in lessons and learning. We achieved our target! This was a momentous day and to show our appreciation, we decided to give the year a little treat. We had an extended lunch with a VIP lounge and snacks, as well as karaoke for the year to show their talent. Attendance is very important, as there is a direct link between achieving well and being in school. Well done year 7s, let’s keep it up!!!

Mr Rajani—Head of Year 7 Learning
Before Christmas Ark Kings had a visit from a Wasps rugby coach to run a session for the year 8 and 9 boy’s rugby team. Although a wet and windy evening the boys all got stuck in showing exemplary behaviour and a positive attitude and gained a lot from the session. The boys who participated were then invited to come along and watch rugby at the elite level with Wasps playing a European Champions Cup game against Toulouse.

Before the match, accompanied by Mr Smith, Ms Cremin and Ms Hulme, the boys went and enjoyed the pre-match activities where they had their picture taken with the mascot and got to do some rugby related games such as, tackling and passing. Once the boys had soaked up the atmosphere, and got their flags to cheer on Wasps, it was time to find their seats and cheer Wasps on to victory. In a very tense match the scores were close right up until the end with Wasps trailing right up until the last minute. Then in the 79th minute Wasps scored a try to win the game, the crowd erupted in celebration which our boys joined in on. This capped off an enjoyable afternoon for all.

We hope to run more trips like this in the future giving pupils an insight into sport at the elite level and the focus and determination it take to get there.

Mr C. Smith — Ark Teacher Trainee in PE
Year 7 Students visit Symphony Hall

On Monday 30th January all of Year 7 visited Symphony Hall to watch the CBSO perform a selection of orchestral Music.

The music ranged from the theme from ET, Elgar’s Enigma Variations and Pizzicato Waltz by Strauss. The students enjoyed sitting high in the Grand Circle looking down on the Orchestra so they could spot individual instruments when they were pointed out and feel the power of a whole orchestra playing together. Watching music played as an audience in Symphony Hall was a new experience for many and something they all enjoyed. As it was an educational experience for Year 7’s across the city they can now bring what they have learnt back into their music lessons.

Mr Bull
Teacher i/c of Music

Ark Kings Debaters attend workshop at St. Albans

The school trip to St Albans Debate workshop was a real success! We arrived around 10 am and straight away pupils were introduced to our young and energetic session leader Alex (who was also a debating champion). We met other pupils and staff from St Albans and all students engaged in fun games and activities to improve their debating skills. We also had the opportunity to learn about the origins of debating and the interesting formalities that go along with it. Finally, the workshop ended with a practice debate in which pupils from Ark Kings went up against the older students of St Albans. Impressively, our pupils threw themselves into controversial debate on whether parents should be punished for their children’s crimes. You will be relieved to know that our pupils argued against the motion! Overall, it was a fantastic trip which has enriched our pupil’s understanding of competitive debating and helped them to confidently argue their views. Hopefully we can continue to develop these skills and be champions at this year’s Ark Network Debate!

Miss Cremin - Ark Teacher Trainee in English
Spring Term Electives for KS3

After a fantastic spring term enrichment elective launch, key stage three students have begun taking part in one of a range of elective sessions led by academy staff. From building robots to broadening minds, our electives serve to give students the opportunity to enjoy something new, collaborate with students from other year groups, improve themselves and support the improvement of others.

**CUSHION MAKING**

**Mrs Critchlow**

Students are building skills using needle and thread to cut out and sew letters neatly onto a background.

Rubi Cheshire – I like cushions because it’s fun!

Darcie Wright - It’s a good way to learn new skills.

Brandon Walmsley ..........

It’s really fun and entertaining! If I was allowed, I would stay here all weekend and carry on sewing!

**Film Club**

Ms Busby

Film Club is a great way to relax after a long week, with the chance to sit down with friends, enjoy your favourite snacks and watch a great movie. Enjoy a real cinema experience with popcorn and the latest blockbuster, from all action hero’s to your favourite Disney film – the choice is yours!

What do the students say?

Last week we really enjoyed Mutant Ninja Turtles. Cowabunga!

My favourite is Batman! He is my favourite action hero.

I like being able to chat with friends and relax at the end of the week, the elective is a really good idea and I don’t think any other school does this which makes us really special.

**Some of the Electives on offer to students this term**

**The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes: A Scandal in Bohemia**

A Scandal in Bohemia is a famous Sir Arthur Conan Doyle story that was published in series in The Strand magazine. It is set in Victorian London and depicts two venturesome characters, John Watson and Sherlock Holmes.

In A Scandal in Bohemia, Sherlock and his keen-witted companion Watson, are faced with a mysterious case based upon a photograph that could cause controversy throughout the public. Sherlock retrieves a letter from an anonymous sender, however, only in a short period of time is he to figure out who the sender really is. Using clues from where the paper was from and initials of a location, his brilliant deducting skills infer that the sender is in fact the King of Bohemia.

As the King arrives outside of Sherlock’s house, in his royal brougham, it appears that he is making his identity. Although he believes that his true identity is secure, he is shocked to find that Sherlock has already figured him out. Despite this, he states his case of business, taking it as a quite serious matter. He introduces another character into the story, being Irene Adler.

Irene Adler is a most charming woman, but also with the intellect of that which could challenge Sherlock Holmes. She is quite deceiving and sly, threatening the King with a compromising photograph shows the King with Irene Adler, this may damage his chances on getting married to the Princess of Scandinavia since she has strict principles.

Throughout the story, a lot of stops are pulled to solve the case. Accompanied by Watson, he almost solves it all together, but seems to have waited just a little bit too long. By the time he has returned to Irene’s house to retrieve the photograph, it would seem that she has departed Britain, travelling to a different country where Sherlock cannot find her. The character Irene Adler, is formerly known as ‘The woman’ the only person to have ever outsmarted Sherlock Holmes.

Reviewing these interesting characters, I can only say that Watson is my favourite. Being the narrator, we can pick up on how he feels throughout these situations. There is a lot of character development when you look through his eyes, and a fair amount of Sherlock you can learn. Occasionally he can describe how he sees Sherlock as, and what his true personality is. Although others may view him as ignorant, Watson can see that Sherlock is merely misinterpreted, being actually quite a nice person if you get to know him.

In conclusion, this book covers a scandal being prevented, and a case being solved. I would rate this 5/5 stars and would highly recommend this to an audience of detective fiction fan, varying from older children to adults. Despite the tough vocabulary for other younger readers, I believe this has a great story line and base.

I would say that there aren’t any plot holes, being a considerably amazing story. This story is living proof that although it has lived throughout many years, people can still enjoy reading it today.
The Student Leadership Team (STLT) were appointed in December after a rigorous application process that included a formal letter, a speech to the student body during Hustings, and a formal interview with the Principal, Head of Year and Student Leadership lead.

Following this process, a structure was created to mirror the senior leadership structure in school, to group the STLT into three smaller teams, overseen by the Head Boy and Head Girl:

**Academic** – focused on learning concerns and attitude to learning

**Pastoral** – focused on wellbeing and student confidence

**Operational** – focused on event planning and new build launch

In weekly 30 minute meetings with the Student Leadership lead, the STLT are working towards developing 8 student leadership competencies. Each week there is a focus specifically on one of the 8 competencies:

- self-awareness and development
- strategic planning
- learning and reasoning
- civic responsibility
- communication
- interpersonal interaction
- group dynamics
- personal behaviour

In their three small teams, the STLT are working towards developing leadership projects that will widen participation in student leadership across the school, while the HB and HG are overseeing projects and ensuring teams are supported to develop projects that fit into the overall vision for the Spring term: To create a clear structure for student leadership and student voice across the school.

**STLT Projects:**

- **Academic**: developing a policy on student council, with a focus on using student voice to improve student attitudes to learning, study and other academic concerns

- **Pastoral**: developing policy on the Buddy Project, a peer mentoring scheme that pairs KS4 mentors with KS3 students to develop student confidence, drawing on data from the PASS survey

- **Operational**: developing an event launch for World Book Day, after which she will move to event planning for the new build.

**Student Leadership Competencies**

So far, students have explored self-awareness and development, strategic planning and learning and reasoning, in preparing their STLT projects.

Over the next two weeks we will focus on civic responsibility, with a visit from the National Citizen Service, and communication, as we prepare to launch our STLT projects to staff and students in assemblies and staff training sessions after half term.
Year 11 Intervention

The class of 2017 began the term with a countdown to the February mocks. It was great that parents got to meet each of their child’s subject teachers at parents evening in the second week back. Students were pro-active in setting themselves action steps with each teacher to ensure they make the academic progress they need to.

In virtue sessions we have backwards planned our study; timetabling in all the topics that need to be covered for each subject and setting a study skills focus for each week. This will ensure that no subject is forgotten about and no one is cramming at the last minute! In virtue and assemblies we have learnt how to manage our time effectively and avoid procrastination. This has helped us to be effective and productive with the time we set ourselves for study. It also means that we can fit our study around hobbies and spending time with our families, as well as getting sufficient sleep, exercising and eating healthily.

The study skills we have looked at this half-term are: mind maps, note taking, GCSE pod and using past papers. Many students have shared brilliant examples of how they memorise new content, and how to structure exam answers. It helped that the teaching staff had done a professional development session on study skills, as this informed the planning of the Year 11 team. This term has also been really busy with pupils attending interviews for their prospective college, apprenticeship or sixth form places. We have also had national citizen service in to launch the summer programme they have on offer, they will be joining us in a couple of virtue sessions next half term, focusing on self-belief and managing exam-stress.

English re-launched their reading for pleasure sessions in the mornings, so that students are now in their sets and cover exam related content. There is also a group of students receiving additional intervention on a Tuesday after school. Maths have had lots of interventions in place this term, which will hopefully boost the maths grades in the February mocks. Our year group family has responded enthusiastically to the ‘walking-talking’ exam paper session on a Monday. Each morning in form time, students complete 5-a-day maths questions. These have been led brilliantly by volunteers from Mr Rajani’s set. Pupils have also been attending an extra lesson on a Wednesday afternoon and benefitting from a drop in clinic on a Thursday.

French, PE, ICT, History and Geography have all had drop down days to enable all students complete their coursework to an extremely high standard. There are also additional catch-up sessions after school for pupils that need to cover content that they may have missed. In RE pupil’s have been doing a lot of work on practice exam questions, and each student has specific action steps on to help them make the progress they need to. In science, some pupils have been staying after school on a Thursday to complete coursework, and others on a Tuesday for Chemistry catch up. Lots of students have also been leading the way with GCSE pod, downloading exam questions and completing their study packs. In art pupil’s already have the title for their exam, and a trip to Oxford helped to inspire their research projects. In music pupil’s practical compositions and performances have been excellent, I have been lucky enough to hear a few of them.

Year 11 are extremely lucky that teachers are giving up their free time to put on half-term sessions in school to help students prepare for their mocks. A timetable of this and the students required to attend will be sent out to parents. During the mocks, there will also be breakfast session to help with any last minutes preparation and get pupils in the right mind-set. Overall I am extremely proud of the pro-active attitude each of our year group family has taken towards being successful on their individual journey to success.

Important dates for your diary:

15th March Mock results parents evening
28th March Parent forum – everyone welcome

Aspire

Every student is encouraged and helped to aspire to great things in their lives – both what they can do now and what they can be and will do in the future.

Expect

Every student can expect to be taught well, to work hard, be respectful of others and make no excuses.

Achieve

Every student can achieve. We will do whatever it takes to help ensure each student succeeds each and every day.
The Duke of Edinburgh Award

Well Done to Charlotte!

We have our first Student who has completed her Bronze Award Charlotte Hatton from last year’s year 11.

The new cohort has now started and are busy completing their Skills, Physical and Volunteering sections so they can attempt their expeditions later in the year.

Staff and Students at Ark Kings say a fond farewell to Mr Rotin

All the staff and students at Ark Kings would like to wish Mr Rotin a very happy retirement.

He will retire on 31st March 2017.

Mr Rotin is a member of our site team along with Mr Lee & Mrs Hegney.

Mr Rotin started with the school back in June 1990, that is 26 years of service, which is a very long amount of time with one employer.

We would like to say goodbye, good luck and a big thank you for years of dedication and hard work.

NEW BUILD UPDATE

Our new build is coming along nicely. We can’t wait for our students, staff and community to walk through these doors together.

We will be inviting parents in for a tour of the new school sometime in March, so we will keep you update when we arrange a date and time for this and you could be one of the first to cross the threshold!
Hello and welcome to our new regular article in the school bulletin featuring City kitchen, what’s going on in the school dining room.

City Kitchen at Cityserve were awarded the Catering contract on 1st January 2017 and in the coming additions of the bulletin you will be learning a lot more about us. City Kitchen - made fresh feeds over 70,000 children within a 90 minute window every school day, and we buy around £12 million worth of food every year.

We work closely with the School Food Plan and ensure all of our food is fresh and nutritious. We don’t tell students what they should eat, we work with them to understand what they want to eat and then we ensure that it meets the required standards of school food compliance.

Our menus work on a three week cycle and below is a typical example as to what the students have to choose from currently. Menus and food offers change seasonally, the new menu will be introduced after Easter.

**Next Time:** Meet the Catering Team and look out for Chrissies recipe of the month - **Chicken Balti** with Wholemeal Rice & Naan.

**Vegetable Curry with Pilau Rice & Naan (v)**

**Selection of Chutneys**

**Available**

- **4oz Handmade Beef/Chicken Burger** with Crisp Garden Salad
- **Vegetarian Quorn Cheeseburgers** with Crisp Salad
- **Roast Gammon or Quorn** served with Pineapple, Broccoli, Cauliflower
- **Cheese Bake** topped with Garlic Breadcrumbs & Garlic Bread
- **Mince Beef and Potato Pie**
- **Pan Asian Broth with Oriental Egg Noodles & Stir-Fried Vegetables (v)**
- **Three Varieties of Homemade Deep Pan Pizza (v)**
- **Tempura Battered MSC Fish with Chunky Chips & Mushy Peas**

**Assorted Wraps & Burritos Available Daily**

- **Assorted Vegetarian Pasta Dishes Made Fresh Daily**
- **Choice of Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables & Jacket Potatoes**
- **Selection of Homemade Tray Bakes, Muffins & Cakes**

**Halal & Vegetarian options available daily. For any allergen requirements please speak to the catering supervisor.**
Thank you for supporting Children’s Mental Health Week 2017 and helping us to spread a little kindness!

Ark Kings Academy is proud to support Children’s Mental Health Week 2017

Many children go through tough times just like adults and in those moments, the smallest acts of kindness can make a big difference. That is why Ark Kings Academy is joining hundreds of other schools to ‘spread a little kindness’ by taking part in Children’s Mental Health Week.

The Week is hosted by children’s mental health charity Place2Be, who support pupils, families and teachers in schools across the UK. During the Week, we will be delivering Assemblies and helping children understand the impact of kindness on themselves and others.

If you would also like to get involved and support the campaign, Place2Be has created helpful advice and resources for parents and carers who you can find on their website: www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk.

Children’s Mental Health Week 2017 – 6-12 February

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Please write your answers, with your name and form and post in the student post box which is by the new student notice board in the canteen area and all correct answers will be entered into a prize draw and announced in the next Newsletter.

GOOD LUCK!
Ark Kings would love you to keep collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers!

Thanks to everyone who has already donated Active Kids vouchers. We hope you’ll keep collecting as the more we receive, the more new cooking and sports equipment, and experiences we can provide for our kids.

So here’s a reminder of how to take part.

**You can collect vouchers from Sainsbury's from now until 2 May**

In Sainsbury’s Local Stores, you’ll get one voucher for every £5 you spend. Every time you shop at a Sainsbury’s Supermarket, you’ll be given one voucher for every £10 you spend at the till. Or online at sainsburys.co.uk, you’ll still receive the equivalent of one voucher for every £10 you spend, but they’ll all be printed on one piece of paper up to the value of 50 vouchers – so make sure you keep it safe.

**Donate your vouchers to us by 30 June**

Simply bring your vouchers into the school Reception or give to your child to drop them in our collection box located in the dining room. We need all voucher donations by 30 June. After 30 June, we’ll count all the vouchers we’ve collected and then we’ll be able to order cooking and sports equipment, and experiences.

So please get all your friends and family to keep collecting vouchers for us too.

Keep collecting to get more kids active.

Thank you for your continued support.

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**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 17th February 2017</td>
<td>Break up for Half Term</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 27th February</td>
<td>Students return to school for Spring2 Term</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 6th March 2017</td>
<td>Year 11 (Mock Results)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 15th March 2016</td>
<td>Year 11 Mock Results Parents Evening</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 17th March 2017</td>
<td>Inset Day (no students in school)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 28th March 2017</td>
<td>Year 9 Parents Evening</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 28th March 2017</td>
<td>Parent Forum—Everyone Welcome</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 5th April 2017</td>
<td>End of Spring 2Term</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday 6th April 2017—</strong></td>
<td><strong>Wednesday 26th April 2017—</strong> Easter</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>longer holiday dates due to</strong></td>
<td><strong>Holidays</strong></td>
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<td><strong>new build</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>* Year 11’s will be in school</td>
<td>Students in years 7, 8, 9 &amp; 10 return</td>
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<tr>
<td>* Year 11’s will be in school</td>
<td>to school for Summer1Term</td>
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<tr>
<td>* Year 11’s will be in school</td>
<td>May Day Bank Holiday</td>
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<td>* Year 11’s will be in school</td>
<td>Year 10 Parents Evening</td>
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<td>* Year 11’s will be in school</td>
<td>Year 9 Options Evening</td>
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<tr>
<td>* Year 11’s will be in school</td>
<td>Year 7 Parents Evening</td>
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_Aspire. Expect. Achieve. Together._