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Aspire. Expect. Achieve. Together.

Dear Parents/Carers,

The Summer term has arrived and has been introduced to us with not just one but two celebrations. We enjoyed the holidays which included Easter and many families are now awaiting the arrival of Eid later this week and a bank holiday weekend. After the challenges of the last year the positivity that comes with these events and the warmer and lighter months is very much welcomed.

This half term sees a number of changes introduced to the students at the secondary site. We have now broadened our curriculum and all students will be taught, each week, three hours of reading and two hours of character. These sessions will be led by our form tutors. The opportunity for tutors to be able to spend this additional time, with their tutees, will ensure that our teachers get to know their students well and will be able to better support them in their learning journey. The 'house' system of the primary academy has now also been introduced to our secondary students and we look forward to adding a number of competitively spirited events to our calendar in the near future.

Other changes include the introduction of a one-way system in the academy to support the movement of students from one class to the next. We have devised a route around the academy that from means that it should take no more than two minutes for a student to transition from one class to the next. This will maximise the time students spend learning each day. Additionally, all students will now be required to enter the academy through the 'side gate'.

As the new Principal at Ark Kings, I am keen to share with the families of our community the vision that I have for the academy and the work that we will be undertaking in the coming months and years. Next Friday (14:30 – 15:30) I will host our first 'Kings Counsel'. During the time I hope to be able to introduce myself and we will share some of the work that we will be undertaking in our Character curriculum.

Attendance

Attendance remains a high priority at our academy it is well researched and reported the difference that strong attendance can make to a student's outcomes. Students that attend for over 95% of the time are much more likely to achieve the grades that they require to have genuine career choice and to be successful once they leave school. It is great to see our attendance improving after the pandemic and we are thankful of the support that our families are providing to ensure that students arrive punctually and fully equipped each day

Year 7	3 rd
Year 8	1 st
Year 9	1 st
Year 10	2 nd
Year 11	1 st

Year 11

A thought for our Year 11 students who will be beginning to sit their formal GCSE examinations this half term, the first year group to have done so since 2019! For a number of our Year 11s their spring holiday did not begin until the end of the first week as they joined teachers at the school to continue their preparations, attending Easter school. We wish our Year 11 students well as they enter the final leg of their GCSE journey. And our fingers are crossed that they attain the results their efforts deserve.

Finally, I'd like to thank the families that I have already met for the warm welcome they have given me at the Academy, and I look forward to all that we can achieve in the coming years.

Yours sincerely,

Mr D Richards
Principal (Secondary)

Key Dates

Monday 2nd May 2022 – May Bank Holiday

Monday 16th May 2022 – GCSE Exams starts

Monday 30th May 2022 to Friday 3rd June 2022 – Half term holiday

Tuesday 28th June 2022 - GCSE Exams ends

Friday 22nd July 2022 - End of School Year

Monday 25th July 2022 to Friday 2nd September 2022 – Summer Holidays

Monday 5th September 2022 to Wednesday 7th September 2022 – Teacher Training Days

Thursday 8th September 2022 – Start of Autumn Term