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Aspire. Expect. Achieve. Together.

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Y11 Parents' Evening

We are looking forward to welcoming our Y11 parents to our Parents' Evening on Thursday 24th March 3.50-6.30pm. You can book your appointments by following this link: <https://arkkings.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

New Y7 (September 2022 intake) Induction Evening

We are looking forward to welcoming our new Year 7 September 2022 intake on Thursday 17th March 2022 4.45-6.00pm for an induction presentation and tour of the school. Current pupils in Year 7-11 will finish early at 12.30pm on Thursday 17th March to allow time for staff to set up and prepare for this event and to allow some parents and families to have earlier tours and meetings with staff.

Mobile Phone use in school

Please continue to reinforce our mobile phone policy to your children as we are still having to reinforce this message with pupils in school. We do not want to get to the point where we ban phones in school completely, but this will depend on pupils following policy and home and school working together to make this successful. Pupil mobile phones are to be switched off once through the school gates, put away and not to be used during the school day. Please do not contact your child on their mobile phones during the day, please phone the school office if you need to leave a message for them. Thank you for your support with this.

Attendance Matters

In my last newsletter, I wrote to you regarding attendance, explaining how we are currently much lower than national average since post COVID-19. Our minimum school attendance target is 95%+.

We have seen some improvements in Years 7, 8 and 11, over the last two weeks, but between home and school we need to continue to work hard on improving attendance rates in all year groups.

These are the current figures for each Secondary Year Group:

Year Group	% Attending- Year to date (September 2021- Average March 2022)	Compared to National	Position in Ark out of 23 schools
Years 7-11 overall	90.8% (+0.1%)	-3.2%	21 st (down one place)
Year 7	92.7% (+0.1%)	-1.3%	22 nd (down one place)
Year 8	91.8% (+0.3%)	-2.1%	19 th (up 1 place)
Year 9	90.3% (-0.3%)	-3.7%	20 th (same)
Year 10	90.6% (-0.3%)	-3.4%	16 th (same)
Year 11	87.4% (+0.1%)	-6.6%	23 rd (same)

How we can achieve better attendance:

- Work together with families to support your children to be in school, every day, on time. We will notify you if your child arrives late to school and work with you to improve this. All arrivals late to

school will be followed up. Late arrivals to school, without prior notification or agreed reason, will be marked as an unauthorised late. Unauthorised lates can lead to fines and prosecution. Please ensure that your child arrives to school on time every day for registration at 8.30am.

- Use of Education Welfare Officers to conduct home visits to support families with attendance. As part of our safeguarding- we always need to know where our pupils are. If your child is too unwell to attend school, please phone the school office before 8.30am. If we do not hear from you, we will phone, text or conduct home visits. This is part of our safeguarding process.
- We will provide regular attendance reports for parents, so you are always well informed on your children's attendance levels.
- Hold early intervention parent attendance meetings if attendance concerns develop.
- Track patterns of absence and report back to parents.
- Praise and reward individual pupils for attendance above national average and those with outstanding attendance above 98%.
- Implement a new e-praise reward system for all pupils. An app where pupils can collect praise points to spend on items in our e-praise shop- launching this half term. This has now been ordered and delivered and we are in the set-up phase of this, ready to launch soon.
- Ensure you are familiar with our Attendance Policy on our website www.arkkingsacademy.org

Thank you for your support in ensuring your child/ children attend school every day and on time.

Pupil, Parent and Staff Voice- Behaviour and Attitudes

One area of pupil, parent and staff voice that has come across very strongly in the last two weeks, is concerning Behaviour and Attitudes in and out of school of some of our pupils.

Pupils, parents and staff report that:

- Learning is disrupted by some pupils in or out of class
- Some pupils are unkind to other pupils and do not show tolerance and respect for differences
- Some pupils are verbally and physically aggressive with other pupils
- Some pupils are verbally and physically aggressive towards staff
- Some pupils often blame their actions on 'banter' or 'only joking' to excuse their poor behaviour

Actions:

- Our Behaviour policy can be found on our website www.arkkingsacademy.org Our policy clearly sets out our expectations of our code of conduct and the rewards available and sanctions
- We are currently reviewing our behaviour policy to ensure that it is more reflective of rewards as well as sanctions and include reviewing and updating the COVID-19 adaptations as we move further out of the pandemic. Once this is finalised, we will share this with all pupils and parents.
- Our current policy is clear on processes of working with parents where there are initial concerns around behaviour. We will always work very closely with parents to ensure the right support is in place for their child to prevent further incidences of undesired behaviour or further/persistent breaches of the behaviour policy/ code of conduct.
- If persistent breaches occur (e.g. persistent truancy, verbal aggression, physical aggression, defiance, refusal to follow instructions [there is not an exhaustive list]), then these can lead to more serious sanctions such as suspensions or permanent exclusions where support or alternative provision has failed. We work hard with all pupils and parents from Nursery to Year 11 to help pupils to make the right choice and to have self-regulated behaviour and excellent conduct, as well as ensuring that pupils and parents are signposted to the right help at the right time. However, when there are persistent breaches of the code of conduct and behaviour policy or serious incidents, after thorough investigations, sanctions may warrant suspensions or permanent exclusions. Our exclusions policy is on our website www.arkkingsacademy.org
- Our behaviour policy on permanent exclusion states:
Permanent exclusion will be considered if a student: a) Is in persistent breach of the provisions of this policy and as a result of his/her actions there is a serious detrimental impact on the welfare and education of others attending the academy, or b) Commits a serious breach of the behaviour policy by being involved in what may be termed an exceptional incident. There is not a comprehensive list

of exceptional incidents and students, and parents should be aware that these will cover actions which constitute unlawful acts whether or not they result in criminal prosecution. This sanction will also apply if the actions of a student takes place outside of the academy and are of such a nature that the reputation and good standing of the academy is brought into disrepute.

I want to assure you that our staff team in post are here to support all pupils to achieve their best and conduct themselves well in and around school, as well as outside school. I am aware that we have further work to do here as a whole school community and we are working hard with families to ensure behaviour and attitudes improve and the right support is implemented. However, verbal and/or physical aggression between pupils or towards staff will not be tolerated, whether this is repeated actions or a serious one-off incident.

I am pleased to let you know that we are adding capacity to our staff team to ensure that we can support all pupils to have excellent behaviour and attitudes and that we are working very closely with local partners such as the Violence Reduction Unit and Inunity to deliver a series of targeted lessons, assemblies, interventions, training and workshops for staff, pupils and parents on Behaviour and Attitudes. I will let you know when these are booked in over the coming weeks. We will be adding in some additional training days to ensure that all staff are fully trained in how to support all pupils to have excellent behaviour and attitudes. These days will be added immediately after the Easter holidays- see key dates.

Netball Match

On the 9th March our Year 9/10 team played against Hall Green's Year 10/11 team this evening and secured a 10-2 victory! Miss Lloyd reported that there was some fantastic play with 2 of our players making their netball debut. Well done to Miss Lloyd and the following players: Xanna , Jenice, Kelisha, Denise, Maizie, Jessika, Omnia, Grace B, Abbie E, Taylor R, Karysha and Michelle T who was awarded player of the match. A fantastic result- well done team!

Comic Relief Friday 18th March 2022



Pupils have been telling me that they are keen to be able to have non-uniform days. I am pleased to let you know that we will be holding our first non-uniform day this Friday 18th March 2022 in support of Comic Relief- donation £1 per pupil. If your child wishes to come to school in non-uniform please ensure that their choice of clothes is appropriate for school- e.g. no high heels or open toe footwear, minimal bare skin on display, no offensive slogans or images on clothing. We really want this to be a big success for our pupils as they have asked for this to happen and to be able to raise money for such a worthy cause. Primary pupils are also raising money for Comic Relief on the same day, so this will be our first all through fundraiser together. If this is successful, then we will hold more of these events. Your child's form tutor will collect the £1 donations at morning registration.

Please see our key dates coming up.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs C Brasenell
Executive Principal.

Key dates- Spring Term 2022:

Thursday 17th March 2022- Year 7-11 pupils finish school at 12.30pm for Y7 new intake evening preparation and parent meetings.

Thursday 17th March 2022- New Year 7 September 2022 Parents' presentation and school tour 4.45pm start (with some individual meetings earlier in day).

Thursday 24th March 2022- Year 11 Parents' Evening 3.50-6.30pm.

Thursday 7th April 2022- Student Challenge Day

Thursday 7th April 2022- Pupils from Nursery- Year 11 break up for Easter

Monday 11th April- Friday 22nd 2022 April Easter Holiday period

Monday 25th April 2022- Wednesday 27th April 2022- Staff and Year 11 pupils return- Secondary Staff Inset days and Y11 focussed study sessions.

Thursday 26th April 2022- Years 7-10 return to school.