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Aspire. Expect. Achieve. Together.

Dear Parent/Carer,

Y11 Parents' Evening

Thank you to all parents, carers and pupils for attending our Year 11 Parents' evening on Thursday 24th March 2022. All Y11 parents and carers have received their child's mock GCSE results. This is an important time for them to be studying for their GCSEs with only a few school weeks to go. Please support your child to complete self-study and revision at home, thank you.

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. 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.

Social Media

Please be vigilant with your child's social media accounts. It has been reported to us that there are several fake accounts on Snapchat and other social media platforms which is causing distress to pupils and families. Please regularly check your child's devices to ensure they are staying safe online and operating within the law.

Attendance Matters

Well done to Year 8 who are leading the way in improving school attendance this term. Thank you for supporting your child's education by ensuring they are in school, every day on time, unless they are ill. If your child is too unwell to attend school, then please phone school on 0121 459 4451 by 8.30am. We are continuing to work with our Education Welfare Officers, if families have not contacted school re their child's absence or there are attendance or punctuality concerns. Our Education Welfare Officers will conduct safe and well home visits as part of our attendance follow up processes.

Pupil, Parent and Staff Voice- Behaviour and Attitudes

In my last newsletter, I wrote to you regarding parent, pupil and staff voice surrounding behaviour and attitudes in school. Here is a reminder of the key concerns raised in our recent surveys:

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 will be relaunching our new Behaviour Policy after Easter. Mr O'Brien who joins us as Vice Principal will be launching this with all staff, parents and pupils.
- Our current policy is clear on processes of working with parents and carers where there are initial concerns around behaviour, and this will remain in our relaunched policy. We will always work very closely with parents and carers 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.

There have been a few incidents and concerns raised by West Midlands Police re conduct of pupils from several local schools on their way home. Please ensure that your child goes straight home after school and isn't going anywhere that isn't agreed by you.

Football Match

On the 31st March the Year 7 and Year 8/9 Girls' Football team played matches away at Ark Victoria. The Year 8/9 match was won by Ark Victoria with the final score of 4-1 but we had some great performances from Laila G who scored a great goal and Hope Sy who made some great saves in the 2nd half. Our Year 7 team went down 1-0 in the first half but with some excellent teamwork from the girls, they ended up winning the game 3-2! Well done to all who played and to Miss Lloyd for organising the matches. Team members were:

Laila G, Kelisha, Sophie, Miah, Maddison C, Leila A, Hope S, Lis, Layla B, Nikoloy, Codeii-Leigh, Rhyannah and Lizzie.

Comic Relief Friday 18th March 2022

Thank you for your support fundraising for Comic Relief. Overall, we raised over £900 across the all through school. Well done everyone!

Staffing, staff leavers and joiners

As always, schools have staff leavers and joiners at the end of each term/ half term. We wish all the best to the following staff and thank them for their hard work and time at Ark Kings Academy:

- Mrs Lawson - moving on to a new challenges
- Mr Brocklebank - moving on to a new leadership post nearer to home
- Mr Holtom - promotion to Vice Principal at a new school
- Miss Peacock - moving on to a new school

We look forward to Mr O'Brien joining us after Easter as Vice Principal for Behaviour and Attitudes. After Easter we will be re-structuring our staff to ensure all roles are covered within school. We will write to you with the updated staff list after Easter.

Please see our key dates coming up.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs C Brasenell
Executive Principal.

Key dates- Spring Term 2022:

Thursday 7th April 2022 - Student Challenge Day

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

Friday 8th April 2022 - Y11 study sessions - letters to follow

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 study sessions - letters to follow.

Thursday 28th April 2022- Years 7-10 return to school.