



31<sup>st</sup> March 2014

Dear Parent/Carer

With this being the final week of term I would like to update you on the development of the Academy.

As you will be aware, I have had to carry out a restructure of the Academy support staff. As I took over the school in September it was clear that the finances were in bad shape, and we were not using our income well to support the education of our students. In order to protect teaching posts it was necessary to reduce the administration of the Academy. I have also restructured the way that we support students with Special Educational Needs and those that are vulnerable. The Academy is committed to working with all students and to ensure that we do this well I have introduced the role of Teaching Partner. There will be eight well qualified Teaching Partners who will provide learning support across the curriculum. I have also set up a Student Services Team who will work directly to support students experiencing difficulties. The Student Services admin team will also provide a more efficient route for parents and carers to communicate with the Academy.

This term has been dominated by the preparation of Year 11 and Sixth Form for the public exams. There will be revision classes for both year groups over the Easter holiday. Timetables will be sent home but will also be available on the website. I would encourage students to attend as supported revision is often more productive than independent working.

Over the term our students have continued to participate in activities beyond the classroom. Sports teams have continued to excel as have our teams attending competitions with Model United Nations under the leadership of Ms Daw. Sixth Form students have visited ARK Walworth Academy and a group of Key Stage 3 students joined in with the ARK Spelling Bee at Evelyn Grace Academy in London. I would like to thank Mr Osborne and his team for taking a group of William Parker and Helenswood students skiing, and this week Ms Warren is taking a group off to Kabubbu in Uganda.

As is often the way at the end of a term we will be saying goodbye to some of our teaching staff team. Mr Osborne and Mr Buchan will be leaving the Science Department and Ms Roadknight is leaving the English Department. I am sure that you will join me in thanking them all for the contribution that they have made to the school.

I am delighted to report that Mrs Magorrian has agreed to take over the leadership of science and will be joined by three well qualified new science teachers in September. With Mrs Magorrian taking on this new challenge Year 10 will be looked after by Mr Leadbitter, Head of Upper School and Mrs Grimmer who has been working alongside Mrs Magorrian over recent months. We will also be joined by two new English Teachers, Mr O'Halloran and Ms Maunder.

I would like to thank all of you who have attended meetings this term to support your son. I am especially grateful to Year 9 parents who attended Option interviews making the process so worthwhile for our year 9 boys.

We will be finishing the day slightly early on Friday. Students will attend normal lessons for the first three periods of the day. There will be celebration assemblies during period four and students will be dismissed just prior to lunch. Food will be served during an extended break and students who receive free school meals can use their allowance at that time.

The new term begins on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April at the normal time. May I take this opportunity to wish you an enjoyable Easter break.

With best wishes.

Yours faithfully



**Mark Phillips**  
**Principal**