



23rd September 2013

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome back to the New Year. I would like to begin by thanking you for your support in ensuring that all our students returned looking so smart in their new uniform, and so well prepared for the start of term. Your attendance at tutor meetings was appreciated and really supported the very positive attitude that we have seen from students during the first week back.

I am delighted to have been appointed to lead ARK William Parker Academy and want to assure you of my commitment to ensuring that this school is fully focused on delivering an outstanding education for all of our students. It has been a pleasure to meet all of our boys over the last week and I look forward to seeing them develop and make great progress over the coming year.

There have been a number of changes that have taken place over the summer to support our new start as ARK William Parker Academy. A lot of work was carried out in the building to make it a better place for our boys to learn:

- We now have two canteens, one serving Key Stage 3 students and a separate one for Key Stage 4 and 6th Form.
- The corridors and stairways have been decorated along with a number of classrooms being refurbished.
- We are in the process of establishing a new library.
- A new 6th Form Common room is in place.
- A new playground has been built.
- All of the Lower School building has been decorated.

I hope our students are pleased with the changes! I am also pleased to report that we have some new members of the Academy Leadership Team:

- Mr Hatley has remained with us and will be leading the staff in the development of Teaching and Learning.
- Miss Longhurst has joined us to lead the development of the Academy's Behaviour Policy, our systems for supporting students and to oversee all aspects of child protection.
- Mr Ives will be leading the development of the curriculum, as well as managing student performance data which includes the setting of academic targets.
- Mr Leadbitter has joined us as Head of Upper School. He will have a strong focus on ensuring all students are supported to achieve their target grades in all exam courses.
- From the existing staff Mr Baker, Mrs Morris, Miss Reid and Mr Olorunda have also been promoted to the post of Assistant Principal.

We now have a new Governing Body for the Academy which is being led by Sarah Driver. Sarah has for many years been a champion for young people with dyslexia, she has worked closely with ARK Schools over recent years and is passionate about securing a great future for ARK William Parker. Sarah will be writing to parents over the coming weeks to invite nominations for the role of parent Governor.

I am very keen to ensure that all parents feel that they have easy access to the school. The senior leadership team will be running Parent Surgeries every Wednesday between 8.00 and 9.00am. This is a time when you can drop in without an appointment to see me, Mr Hatley or Miss Longhurst. The Academy will also be open every Wednesday at 9.00am for parents to book a tour of the school and get a view of how we are progressing.

There will be regular parent consultation meeting throughout the year with the first one set for Monday 14th October at 7pm in the school hall. This meeting will be an opportunity for me to update you on what we have been doing over the first six weeks of term and for you to ask any questions that you may have.

In order to keep you up to date, I will be posting a weekly parent bulletin on the Academy website and publishing a fuller newsletter at the end of each half term.

I look forward to working with you over the coming years and wish you and your son a very successful year.

Yours sincerely



Mark Phillips
PRINCIPAL