



14<sup>th</sup> November 2013

Dear Parent/Carer

As we move into the second half of our first term as ARK William Parker Academy, I would like to bring you up to date with some changes that I hope will support the progress of many of our students.

We have been joined on our teaching team by Salome Houghton who will be leading the Academy's drive to improve the literacy levels of any student who has been identified as needing additional support. Ms Houghton is extremely experienced as an English and Literacy teacher and she will be supporting the work of the English Department. Some boys will now have a literacy lesson every day to ensure that their reading age very quickly matches their actual age. It is my view that this intensive literacy work is a vital part of raising standards across the school.

It is very important for the development of the Academy that we give our students the opportunity to express their views and opinions on the way we do things. To help this happen Mr Olorunda organised our first 'BUZZ' session in which all the boys were able to discuss:

- Their views on changes that have been made to the school this term.
- Their views on how we can ensure that bullying is addressed effectively.
- Any other changes that they would like to see in the future.

All students took an active part in the meetings which were very well chaired by Year 11 prefects. Mr Olorunda and I met with the group chairmen and listened to their feedback. Actions that will be taken as a result of students views will be communicated in assemblies over the next two weeks. BUZZ sessions will now happen every half-term.

On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November all staff members went to London to join the ARK Summit. This happens once a year so that all staff working in ARK schools can meet and be part of a training day and also celebrate the achievements of colleagues that make a significant contribution to their own Academy.

This year David Evans was given an award for his contribution to ARK William Parker. Mr Evans did a great job of coordinating all the building improvement work that went on over the summer.

Can I please ask all parents to support our uniform policy by not letting boys wear hooded tops to school. In cold weather we would ask that boys wear a proper coat to school. Given the nature of the site, something waterproof would be advisable. Any student wearing a hooded top will have it confiscated. To avoid any confusion, my definition of a hooded top is one made of cotton sweatshirt material. A coat with a hood is acceptable and will work over a blazer.

I have noticed a slight increase in boys arriving late to school. Please encourage your son to be on the school site by 8:25am. For those arriving early, breakfast is available in the Lower School canteen. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Phillips'.

M Phillips  
**PRINCIPAL**