



September 2019 arrangements for students currently at Ark Helenswood

As you will be aware, following consultation by Ark during the Autumn term, Ark has received full support to take forward their proposal to bring together Ark Helenswood and Ark William Parker Academies with effect from 31 August 2019 and to create a co-educational Ark Academy. The Department for Education has approved this proposal and it will take effect from September 2019.

As part of this process, Ark Helenswood will close on the 31 August 2019 and therefore your daughter will need a new school place for September 2019. However, please note that Ark have guaranteed that all pupils currently at Helenswood will be offered a place at the co-educational Ark Academy, **so you do not need to take any action**. All pupils at William Parker will remain on roll at the school which will become a new co-educational Ark Academy.

If your child is in year 8, 9 or 10 at Ark Helenswood at the moment and you are considering a change of school you will need to bear in mind that some schools select options for year 9, and some for year 10, so that students joining after the beginning of the course may find that they are not able to study the subjects they prefer, or indeed the ones that they have studied in the past. Even subjects that are not options, such as maths and English, may be taught differently, with different texts or different topics taught in a different order. **We would strongly recommend that you seek the advice of your child's current school**, as well as the school you are considering, before deciding whether to apply for and accept a place at a different school.

Ark has confirmed that students currently studying GCSE courses who transfer to the new school will continue to follow the courses they have been studying at Ark Helenswood (or Ark William Parker).

Ark has also confirmed that current Helenswood (or William Parker) students will not be required to purchase a new uniform as part of this process.

Some parents may consider applying for a place at another school instead of taking up the place offered to them at the co-educational Ark Academy. However, no additional places will be created at other schools as part of this process, and most other schools in the area have no vacant places. Any places which do become available will be offered in line with the published admission arrangements for the school or academy in question, and **no priority will be given to pupils from Helenswood or William Parker**. There will be no provision for new school uniform for families choosing to change their child's school, and no home to school transport will be provided unless there is eligibility under existing provisions. If you apply for another school and cannot be offered a place there, your daughter will be offered a place at the co-educational Ark Academy.

However, if you wish to apply for a different school, you have the right to do this, and the process is as follows:

- Apply online at eastsussex.gov.uk/admissions by **24 February 2019**
- You will then receive a decision by the end of term 4 (**5 April 2019**)
- Appeals will then be heard during terms 5 and 6.

For further advice on the admissions process please email admissions@eastsussex.gov.uk or telephone 0300 330 9472 between 10am and 3pm Monday to Friday.

