



# Ark Alexandra Academy

19<sup>th</sup> March

Dear Parent/Carer

We have had a busy couple of months, and I am now in a position to update you with further information about our new school, Ark Alexandra Academy.

Firstly, I am delighted to reveal our new identity. The logo you see at the top of this letter has been developed following a number of student workshops. Four designs were presented to students and staff who then cast a final vote last week. Students and staff also voted on the colour scheme and they have decided to adopt new colours of gold and navy.

The elements that make up the new logo draw on the heritage of both Helenswood and William Parker as well as encapsulating the Cinque Ports. Two intertwining vines represent the two schools coming together as one, incorporating the maple leaves from Helenswood's logo and two lime leaves - depicting the two lime trees planted at the opening of Alexandra Park.

I hope you agree that this is an elegant logo which is reflective of our heritage and represents a new beginning for our schools.

## House Names

I can also announce the new house names which were chosen by our students and staff:

- **Saunders** – named after **James Saunders**, one of the founders of William Parker, who left charitable donations in his will to provide Hastings and Rye with Schoolmasters and Schoolmistresses. Saunders School was then created and in 1878, both Parker and Saunders merged together to form Hastings Grammar School.
- **Parker** – William Parker School traces its origin to the bequest of the rector of All Saints' parish, **Reverend William Parker**, in 1619. Retaining this house name ensures his legacy lives on.
- **Clarke** – named after **Miss Nellie Clarke**, one of the first headmistresses of Helenswood School, also known as Hastings High School for Girls, which opened in the mid-late 1800's. An inspirational headmistress to the girls during World War One, she actively helped others and encouraged them to never stop fighting for justice.
- **Turing** – named after **Alan Turing** who was a former Hastings resident until the age of 14, code breaker and one of the greatest figures of the 20th Century. He represents perseverance, diversity and determination to succeed.
- **Blackwell** – named after **Elizabeth Blackwell**, a British physician, notable as the first woman on the Medical Register of the General Medical Council. She was a pioneer in promoting the education of women in medicine. She lived and worked in Hastings for thirty years. She defied the norm and challenged discrimination.

## **Uniform**

Attached is the new uniform policy. Please note that the new uniform is not currently available to buy but we will inform you when it is available for you to purchase.

As discussed at our parent meetings, students who are currently attending **will not need to purchase new items** until they grow out of their current uniform, at which point they can then replace it with the new Ark Alexandra uniform.

## **Parent meetings**

We are holding further parent update meetings on **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 5.30pm, and Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 9am**. Both meetings will take place at Ark William Parker Academy and are open to all parents and carers.

We are also offering an opportunity for parents to visit both school sites in the Summer Term on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May at 4.30pm to 6pm**.

## **New website**

I would like to direct you to the website for Ark Alexandra Academy which is now live and will be updated regularly with relevant news or information concerning the new academy <http://arkalexandra.org>. We will continue to use the individual Helenswood and William Parker websites until the end of this school year.

## **Transport**

We have been in discussions with Stagecoach to ensure that the bus services and routes reflect the travel requirement for our students.

To enable Stagecoach to plan this better, it would be very helpful if you could complete the very short transport survey by following the link below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/L6CMMN6> by the 31<sup>st</sup> March.

## **Building work**

We are beginning to prepare for the new school with a large programme of building works across the two sites. Please be assured that these works will not impact on the running of the schools – or the exam period. As a result of these works students will finish the Summer Term on the **12<sup>th</sup> July 2019**. The starting dates for each year group will be within the week beginning **9<sup>th</sup> September 2019**.

I look forward to seeing you at one of the parent meetings at the end of the month where I hope to answer any further questions you may have.

Yours faithfully



Yvonne Powell  
Executive Principal