



March 2015

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the term comes to an end I am writing to update you on some important developments as well as give you information regarding arrangements for next term.

Progress Assessments

You will be aware students have been undertaking assessments and examinations over the past half term. The results of these will inform teachers how best to support students in lessons and how teaching can be targeted best to pursue further progress in the summer term. Heads of Faculty, Heads of Department and class teachers will be working together to agree intervention strategies, where necessary, to help students gain momentum with their learning and will communicate with parents and carers so that we can work together to support our students. If you have any questions or need a fuller explanation about your son's results please contact the Head of Department, in the first instance. Contact details are available on our website.

The School Day

As part of developing the working relationship between ARK William Parker and Helenswood Academies we have looked closely at how the school day runs in each. We are aware that there are many families who have children attending both academies and that our staff often teach at both sites. In order to ensure further efficiency it is our intention to begin a consultation with parents and staff, next term with a view to amending the times of the school day at ARK William Parker to bring it in line with the start and finish times at Helenswood Academy. This would mean starting at 8.45am each day and finishing at 3.20, with an earlier finish on Wednesday to continue to allow for staff training activities. At this stage we would like to invite you to express any views you have about this proposal and send to principal@arkwilliamparker.org.

School Calendar

We will be publishing our school calendar for 2015/16 early next term but in the meantime I can confirm that the Academy will open for Year 7 and 12 students on Friday 4th September. All students will then return on Monday 7th September. We will endeavour, as in previous years, to follow the East Sussex term dates for the remainder of the academic year. Induction arrangements for students joining the sixth form will be sent separately.

Routines for Learning

You will remember from our curriculum information evenings during the autumn term that we launched very clear routines that underpin the learning in lessons, every day. Heads of Key Stage have recently spent time in assemblies reminding students of the some of the basic elements of these, which are extremely important. In order to ensure the appropriate rigour which supports good learning please help us to ensure:

- Students always attend wearing their full uniform and we remind you that Hoodies are not permitted as part of this.
- If students elect to wear trainers during certain activities at break or lunchtimes these must be changed in time for lessons.
- Headphones are not worn inside the school buildings.
- Students arrive promptly for the start of the day and in good time to get to their form rooms in time for registration.
- Toilets are used at break and lunchtimes to avoid disruption to lessons.
- Students have all the basic equipment needed for lessons, everyday (full details are on the school website).

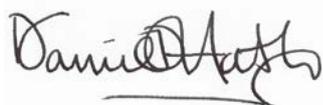
I am confident you will understand that we are clear that time spent dealing with ensuring these basic standards in lessons is not a profitable use of time and can often be a distraction from the core business of learning and so we would very much appreciate your support in reiterating these requirements at home in time for the start of the summer term.

Many of our students are now well into preparing for terminal examinations and are commended for the diligent way in which they are going about attending additional revision and support classes. We will be offering a full range of booster classes in our Easter revision school, during the holiday.

As always it is our pleasure working with students each day and particularly pleasing is the number of students who will be receiving Community and BRIDGE awards during our end of term celebration assemblies, this week. This is testament to the hard work and effort we see from them in and around the Academy and I am delighted we will have the chance to recognise so many students in their efforts, across the curriculum.

We very much look forward to welcoming students back to lessons on Monday 13th April and in the meantime wish you an enjoyable Easter break.

Yours sincerely



Daniel Hatley
Acting Principal