



9th September 2015

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to give you important information about the start of the autumn term as well as to inform you of some key successes from the summer.

Examination Results:

I am delighted to be able to tell you that the academy once again saw increases in examination results at both GCSE and A Level. The number of students gaining 5 A*-C grades including English and Maths has risen to 50% and the pass rate for boys at A Level in Year 13 was 98%. I am sure you saw the coverage of our students' achievement in the press. Both outcomes reflect the immense hard work of students and we are extremely proud of their success. A large number of Year 11 students have joined us in Year 12 for their next phase of study.

Ofsted Inspection Report:

As you know Ofsted inspected the academy in July. The inspection report has now been published and is available on the academy website. We are extremely pleased with the findings of the inspection team who recognised the excellent work that has been done at Ark William Parker and the impact this has had on raising standards and improving educational outcomes for our students. The report also recognises the success in developing an environment where students feel safe, are confident and feel that social issues such as bullying are rare and are dealt with swiftly. Inspectors were also impressed with students' behaviour around the academy and how proud they are of their school. The report highlights key areas that we will work on to improve the academy further and accelerate the progress of students even more. We would be pleased to supply you with a hard copy should you wish. Please contact reception in order to have one posted to you.

I would like to invite you to come and discuss the report at a special information evening for parents and carers, which will be held on Wednesday 16th September at 6.15pm in the main hall. Not only will we have the chance to take you through the report in more detail, but I would appreciate the opportunity to give you details about how our academy improvement plan will address areas for improvement and afford us continued success across this academic year and beyond.

Behaviour for Learning:

In my letter to you at the end of the summer term, I outlined that we would be reviewing our Behaviour for Learning routines to ensure continued high expectations and to develop the rigour behind the academic engagement we expect. I spent some time with students in assemblies at the start of this week, along with my colleagues in the senior team, detailing our core expectations as well as amendments to the routines that will form the basis of the strategy. Ms Kelly, Vice Principal, is leading this work and has briefed students so that they are fully aware of the processes and expectations. Enclosed is an overview for your information. Our system has a starting point of rewarding good behaviour, attitude and effort meaning that the vast majority of our students who conduct themselves well and engage with learning will continue to be recognised. Disruption to the learning environment will be dealt with swiftly with clear steps.

We will be instituting a same day detention for students who need to be removed from lessons. In order to be removed, a student will have failed to respond to warnings and clear advice on how to rectify their behaviour. The detention will be for one hour after school and will be led by senior staff. In the event of significantly poor behaviour, students may be internally excluded. They will still attend school but the school day will be in isolation from the rest of the academy and will be from 9.30am – 4.00pm. The focus of teachers' time in the classroom must be on the core business of teaching and learning. Our revised system reflects our next steps as an academy in ensuring a culture of learning and progress. We will of course continue to offer students every support in developing their skills and attitudes but never at the expense of the learning of those around them. If you have any questions or would like to seek clarification, please contact your son's Head of Year or Ms Kelly, Vice Principal, in the first instance.

Senior Leadership Team:

I have pleasure in welcoming new colleagues to the leadership of Ark William Parker Academy. Ms Kelly joins us as Vice Principal, Mr Weakley and Mr Burchell both as Assistant Principal and Mr Hamilton joins us as Head of Ark Sixth Form, each with a wealth of experience in ensuring high standards and school improvement. These colleagues join myself, Mrs Morris, Vice Principal and Mr Olorunda, Assistant Principal.

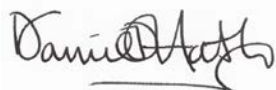
Curriculum Information Evenings:

We will once again be running a series of information evenings over the next half term offering you the chance to come and learn about the content of the curriculum for your son's year group as well as what he will be studying and how and when he will be assessed. These evenings proved extremely popular during the last academic year. Please check the academy calendar on our website for the dates of these important events.

We are very much looking forward to working with our students during this year and also welcoming you to the academy at the various information and parents' evenings.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Daniel Hatley
PRINCIPAL