



January 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

I am pleased to be writing to let you know that this week, students have confirmed the name of our co-educational school as **Ark Alexandra Academy**.

The name of the school was chosen by the joint Student Council of Helenswood and William Parker and presented to tutor groups last week. The students wanted a name which was reflective of the locality of both schools, and which represents the local community and history of the area.

Alexandra Park was opened in 1882 and two lime trees were planted in the park to represent a new beginning and local growth. The students felt that this is symbolic of the new journey and the fresh start for our school. Students will now begin work on designing our new school logo.

Students were also keen to honour the legacy of the current school names and therefore they will be retained as site names i.e. the lower school will be the Helenswood site and the upper school will be the William Parker site.

We are also looking at 'house' names in the new pastoral structure, which will represent people who were born or who resided in Hastings and whose work has been influential and highly regarded locally, nationally and internationally.

As outlined in my letter earlier this month, no pupil transferring to the new academy will need to purchase a new uniform. New Year 7 students will wear the new uniform – but current students will remain in their Helenswood or William Parker uniform until the end of Year 11.

I would like to remind you that this week we are holding meetings with parents from both schools so that we can talk to you about the co-educational school and our plans for the transition process – and so that you can ask any questions that you may have. The first of these meetings will take place on **Thursday 31st January at 5.30pm** and **Friday 1st February at 9am** at Ark William Parker Academy, main hall, Parkstone Road, and are open to all parents and carers. Dates for further meetings will be published on the school websites.

Attached to this email are some FAQs, which I hope will answer some of the immediate questions that you have.

I look forward to seeing you at our meetings and sharing our plans for Ark Alexandra Academy.

Yours sincerely

Yvonne Powell
EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL