



February 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

Many thanks to those parents and carers who were able to attend our meetings in January and provide your feedback on our plans for Ark Alexandra Academy. Your feedback is very valuable in helping me to confirm plans for the school going forward.

### **Uniform**

Initially we had planned to introduce the new school uniform slowly – with only the new Year 7 students wearing the Ark Alexandra uniform. However, feedback from current parents and students has been that our current students would also like to wear the new uniform.

We are therefore in discussions with our uniform provider as to how we can do this in the best way – and which minimises any cost to parents. I will provide a further update on this as soon as I am able – hopefully ahead of the February half term.

### **Bus routes**

During our parent meetings in the Autumn, and last month, many parents again raised questions regarding bus routes to and from the school sites. We have already been in contact with Stagecoach regarding the changes to the school and are meeting with them again next month. I would therefore parents to send an email to [hastingsconsultation@arkonline.org](mailto:hastingsconsultation@arkonline.org) detailing the concerns or suggestions that you have by Friday 1 March. This information will then be collated and passed onto Stagecoach for consideration.

### **Term dates**

In order that we can complete the necessary building works over the summer, we will be ending the summer term for students on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July. Staff will finish on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July.

In September – term will start for students on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September.

### **400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations**

As you may be aware, 2019 marks the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of education taking place on the William Parker school site and we want to mark this anniversary and celebrate the rich history of the school.

During the final week of the year (the week commencing 8 July) a series of events will take place including the staff and students at both William Parker and Helenswood – and involving the William Parker Foundation, the church and other local dignitaries. We are still confirming the details for these activities but the week will end with a summer event on the afternoon of Friday 12 July.

**Parent meetings/school tours**

Our next parent meetings to update you on our plans and to listen to your feedback and questions will take place on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 5.30pm, and Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 9am, both at William Parker. This meeting is open to parents and carers from Helenswood and William Parker.

We will also be providing opportunities for parents to visit both school sites. We will write to parents again nearer the time with further details for this.

Yours sincerely

Yvonne Powell  
**Executive Principal**