

06 December 2017

Dear Parent/carer,

We are reaching the end of a very successful first term of the academic year, and look back happily at the many successes we have enjoyed over the last few months. I am thankful for our students, who have shown resilience and determination in preparing for end of term examinations and assessments. I am also thankful for our parents, who have supported our academy throughout the term and provided me with such a warm welcome to our community. Furthermore, I am sure that we all are thankful to our staff, who have worked hard to inspire and support our students as they climb the mountain to university.

Training Days

A reminder of INSET day on Friday 8th December

Please note that there are two additional training days for staff, one this term and one next term:

Friday 22nd December 2017 and Tuesday 9th January 2018 these dates differ to the student's planner.

Holiday arrangements

- Thursday 21st December is the last day of term and students will finish as normal. Students should go straight home unless they are in detention.
- The Christmas holiday runs from Friday 22nd December 2017 until Tuesday 9th January 2018 inclusive.
- Year 11 students who have an ICT exam and Year 10 students who have an Imedia exam will be expected to come into the academy on 9th January at 08.30am to sit their exams.
- The new term starts at 08.25 on Wednesday 10th January 2018 for all students.

Dates for your diary

Parents Evenings: 3.15pm-7.00pm

- **Years 7,12 and 13:** Monday 18th December 2017
- **Year 11:** Wednesday 10th January 2018
- **Year 10:** Monday 15th January 2018
- **Year 9:** Tuesday 23rd January 2018
- **Year 8:** Wednesday 31st January 2018

*Please note all students will be dismissed at **3.00pm** on the dates of parents' evenings.*

- February Half Term: Monday 19th February – Friday 23rd February 2018 inclusive



Ark St Alban's Academy

Mobile devices:

The academy's policy around mobile devices has not changed. Immediately upon arrival into the academy, **students must hand in their phone to student services**. Students seen with mobile devices in the academy will be asked to hand them in for collection at the end of the day. Students who are repeatedly in breach of this rule will have their phones confiscated, and returned to their parents.

The academy can take no responsibility for phones that are lost or go missing and will not invest time in retrieving them.

Uniform:

I am very grateful to parents and guardians for their continued support with our uniform policy. This support is particularly important, at this time of year, with regard to footwear. Boots are not allowed to be worn, and some retailers label shoes that do not meet our policy as 'school shoes'. Please feel free to check with our pastoral team before you make an expensive purchase. We will be very happy to advise you.

Bad weather:

In the extremely unlikely event that the academy is closed due to bad weather we will communicate this message on our website and via our text system. It is therefore important to make sure that your mobile number is up to date on our system. You should assume the academy is open unless you receive such a message.

If the academy closes during the day and we have to send students home, we will communicate this via text message. Students unable to return home will be looked after in school until someone can collect them.

As always, if you have any queries, please contact me at the academy.

I wish you all a restful and peaceful Christmas break with your families.

Yours faithfully

Mark Dalton
Acting Principal