

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March**

Dear Parents,

I hope you haven't been too severely disrupted by the recent cold weather.

It was an incredibly difficult decision to close the school on Friday, but given the travel conditions early in the morning, it was necessary.

Below I have shared some brief information and updates for the weeks ahead.

### **1. Strike Action**

A reminder that the school will be closed to almost all pupils on Wednesday and Thursday this week as a result of the strike action planned by teaching unions across the UK.

If there is progress in discussions between the government and teaching unions before Wednesday and the strike action does not take place, the school will be in touch by text message to confirm arrangements.

### **2. Progress Day**

Progress Day will take place on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March.

Please contact your child's form tutor to arrange an appointment. You can get in touch directly via email or you can ask your child to select an appointment time for you.

### **3. Year 11 Mock Exams**

Year 11 pupils will receive their mock exam results today and copies will be posted home early this week.

### **4. Year 9 Parent Event**

If your child is in Year 9, please save the date: Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April (4-5pm).

At this event you will be able to find out more information about the transition to Upper School, the process of choosing preferred subjects and how best to prepare for the beginning of GCSE courses.

### **5. Year 6 Places**

Earlier this month, families found out which secondary school their child will attend in September.

I am aware that many families were disappointed not to gain a place at Ark St Alban's. There were nearly 600 applications for just 120 places.

If you yourself were disappointed or if you know other families who were, it is important that the appeals process is properly followed and more information about appeals can be found here:

<https://arkstalbans.org/about-us/admissions-and-appeals>

## 6. Parent Governor

The school is currently seeking a Parent to join the Local Governing Body.

You can find out more information about the role and how to apply [here](#). The deadline for applications is Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

## 7. Parent and Community Group

Our parent & community group is open at the moment to any parent with a child in KS3 (Years 7-9).

### Session Topics

No.	Date	Session
1	12/01/2023	What does your child's school life look like?
2	26/01/2023	How to keep your child safe online
3	09/02/2023	Understanding young people's emotions and how we support your children at school
4	02/03/2023	Our Police School Partnership and how we work together to promote positive relationships with local police.
5	16/03/2023	Our Approach to Tackling Bullying at Ark St Albans Academy
6	20/04/2023	Supporting children to stay healthy
7	04/05/2023	Understanding Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and what school does to support these pupils.
8	18/05/2023	Why is school attendance important?
9	08/06/2023	How do we work with other services to support children and families?
10	22/06/2023	Understanding our school behaviour system and why it is important
11	29/06/2023	End of Year Celebration

### What To Expect

Please aim to arrive for 09:15 where we will ask you to sign in at reception and a member of staff will show you to our community room. At around 09:30 we will introduce the topic of the week and open up the discussion with parents – answering any questions you may have.

The main session will end around 10:00 with the last 30 minutes available for discussions with staff and building new links with other parents.

### 8. Useful Links

- [Term Dates](#)
- [Exam Boards](#)
- [Curriculum Maps](#)
- [Latest News](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

**Guy Rimmer**  
Principal