

Tuesday 1st November 2021

Dear Parents,

Welcome to half-term two of this academic year.

I hope that you and your family enjoyed a restful break last week. Below, I have included some information and updates to guide you through the next few weeks:

1. Key Dates

Please review the table below and add these key dates to your diary.

Key Dates	Activity
This Week	Year 11 Mock Exams
Friday 19th November	Teacher Training Day (School Closed to Pupils)
Monday 29th November	Year 13 Mock Exams begin
Monday 6th December	Assessment Week begins (Years 7-10 and Year 12)
Thursday 16th December	End of term (final day of school for pupils before the Christmas holidays)
Friday 17th January	Teacher Training Day
Tuesday 4th January	Teacher Training Day
Wednesday 5th January	Progress Day (pupil and parent appointments throughout the day)
Thursday 6th January	First day of the Spring Term

2. Y11 Mock Exams

This week, all pupils in Year 11 are sitting mock exams in almost all of their GCSE subjects and parents can look forward to seeing the results later this half-term.



3. Covid Update

We know that locally the number of people testing positive Covid increased throughout the last half-term. The two most important strategies we have to stop the spread Covid are LFD testing and vaccination.

Pupils will be given new stocks of LFD test kits to take home so that home-testing can continue. It is important to record the results of all (both positive and negative) LFD tests on the Governments Track and Trace website, <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>.

This week, the local NHS provider (Birmingham Community Healthcare) has also shared [this letter](#) with parents providing guidance around how you can book an appointment for your child to be vaccinated at an NHS clinic.

4. Mobile Phone – Danger

I really appreciated the number of parents who attended the event run by Digital Awareness UK which took place on the final Thursday before half-term. Their [news and insights](#) webpage is a really useful resource for parents.

Before the half-term holiday we had two separate incidents which required police and social services involvement as a result of activities pupils were engaging in on social media. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that my strong advice is that no pupil under the age of sixteen needs a smartphone – they are incredibly dangerous.

If you would like help or support in talking to your child about keeping safe online, please get in touch with their head of year who will be happy to help.

5. Parent Governor

The application window is now open for the vacant Parent Governor position on the school's local governing body.

[This document](#) outlines what the role entails and provides information about how to apply. The deadline for applications is midday (12pm) on Friday 19th November.

6. Keeping In Touch

Unfortunately, Ms Hooper (PA to the Principal) is going to be away from school for a number of weeks due to ill-health. I haven't yet planned exactly how things will work in Ms Hopper's absence, but for the time being, please email info@arkstalbans.org if you are trying to make arrangements to speak with me.

Kind regards,



Mr Guy Rimmer
Principal

Ark St Alban's Academy