

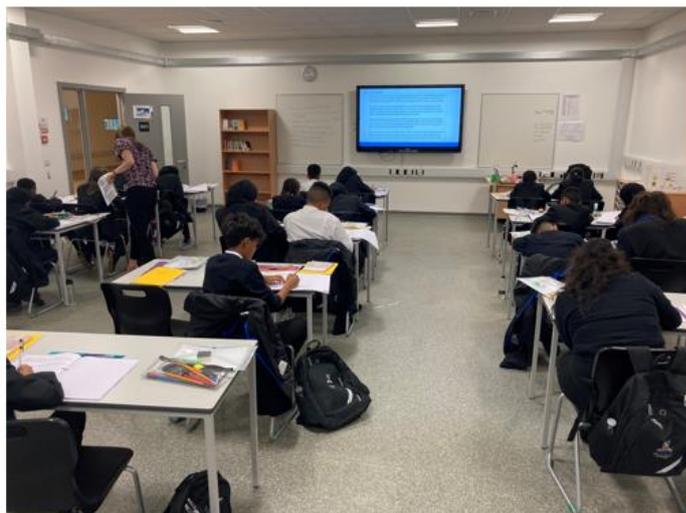
14th September 2021

Pupils in all year groups have made a really good start to the new school year. Thank you for making sure that all pupils were ready and prepared to start school last week, looking smart in their uniforms and ready to learn.

1. Welcoming the Class of 2028

The highlight of the half-term so far has been welcoming Year 7.

This group of Year 7 pupils have started their journey at Ark St Alban's Academy and will be studying with us until they are eighteen years old – in the year 2028!





2. Welcome Year 12

It has also been exciting to welcome a new cohort of Year 12 pupils into the sixth form and to begin talking to them about their university plans.

They have made a strong start in all of their subjects and they have already heard from a number of guest speakers as we seek to support them in getting excited about their futures.

I'm looking forward to welcoming the parents of Year 12 pupils into the school tomorrow afternoon to share plans for the year ahead with them.

3. Parent Events

I am looking forward to inviting all parents into the school in the next few weeks and to meeting many of you for the first time.

Please check the table below carefully to see when the parent information event for your child's year group is going to be taking place:

Year Group	Date
Year 12	Wednesday 15 th September (4-5pm)
Year 7	Thursday 16 th September (4-5pm)
Year 8	Wednesday 22 nd September (4-5pm)
Year 11	Thursday 23 rd September (4-5pm)
Year 9	Wednesday 29 th September (4-5pm)
Year 13	Thursday 30 th September (4-5pm)
Year 10	Wednesday 6 th October (4-5pm)

4. Covid Safety

The most important way that we are planning to keep everyone in the community safe is through regular lateral-flow device testing.

Last week, our testing team completed over 800 tests and found one positive case. That pupil was then able to return home to isolate until a PCR test could be completed and the result shared with the school.

Since pupils have returned from the summer holidays, we have had one instance of a pupil testing positive on a PCR test (a Year 7 pupil who attended school on the very first day of school but has not attended since).

On Friday afternoon, pupils will be given new stocks of LFD test kits to take home so that home-testing can continue. It is important to record all Lateral flow tests on to the Governments Track and Trace website, <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>.

Each week when I write to you (this will be on Tuesdays moving forwards), I will update you on any instances of positive PCR tests so that you are aware.

You can find out more information about our approach to keeping the school Covid-safe at the parent information events (dates and times can be found in the table above).

5. Homework

Pupils got into great habits around homework last year and we want to continue to build on those. The first piece of homework for all year groups will be set this week, with many pupils receiving their first piece of homework today; in all year groups pupils will receive a mixture of online and paper-based homework. [Click here](#) to see the timetable.

All homework is due the day after it is set; pupils who do not complete their homework will be required to stay behind to attend homework intervention, so they do not fall behind, and if pupils require help, they are invited to the daily homework club that runs 3-4pm. For more information email homework@arkstalbans.org.

6. Lunch

One thing that many pupils and parents have asked me about recently is the reopening of the canteen.

I can now confirm that this will happen in the week commencing Monday 20th September (next week). Pupils will have a choice of a grab-and-go packed lunch (£1.75) which they can take outside with them or a hot meal (£2.30) which they can eat in the canteen (a vegetarian option will be available, and all ingredients are halal).

If your child is eligible for free-school meals, they will be able to collect either grab-and-go lunch or a hot-meal each day without any further action from you. However, if your child is not eligible for free-school meals, then you will need to top-up your child's [i-Pay account](#) with at least £1.75 each day (£10 each week). Pupils will also be allowed to continue to bring a packed lunch if they prefer.

7. Enrichment

Our wide-ranging enrichment offer starts next week! The table below contains the details of each after school activity for the Autumn Term, with even more clubs and opportunities being added every week.

Pupils need to complete this short Microsoft Form to sign up: <https://forms.office.com/r/xKzHVHqZa>

Key Stage/Year Group	Enrichment Activity	Day	Time
KS3/KS4/KS5	Drama	Monday	3-4pm
Year 7	Boys football	Monday	3-4pm
KS3/KS4/KS5	Chess (and board games)	Tuesday	3-4pm
KS3/KS4/KS5	Climbing	Tuesday	3-4pm
KS3 (Y7, Y8, Y9)	Girls football	Tuesday	3-4pm
KS4 (Y10 and Y11)	Girls football	Tuesday	3-4pm
KS3/KS4/KS5	Cooking	Tuesday	3-4pm
KS5	Boys football	Tuesday	Period 6
Y11	Boys football	Wednesday	3-4pm
KS3/KS4/KS5	Korean club	Wednesday	3-4pm

KS3/KS4/KS5	World cinema club	Wednesday	3-4pm
KS3/KS4/KS5	Cricket	Wednesday	3-4pm
All years	Fitness club (invitation only)	Wednesday	7.25-8.10am
Y8/Y9	Boys football	Thursday	3-4pm
KS3/KS4/KS5	Handball	Thursday	3-4pm
KS3/KS4/KS5	Dance club	Thursday	3-4pm
KS3/KS4/KS5	Coding/Computing club	Thursday	3-4pm
KS4	Boys fitness club	Thursday	3-4pm
KS3/KS4/KS5	Girls basketball	Friday	2.25-3.30pm
KS3/KS4/KS5	Boys basketball	Friday	2.25-3.30pm
Y10	Boys football	Friday	2.25-3.30pm

8. Keeping in touch

I am looking forward to seeing you at the upcoming parent events, but in the meantime if you have any questions or concerns you can contact me via Ms Hooper (jayne.hooper@arkstalbens.org).

Kind regards,



Mr Guy Rimmer
Principal
Ark St Alban's Academy



 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



Shortlisted
Secondary school
of the year

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