



Ark St Alban's Academy

Tuesday 12th October

Dear Parents,

We hosted the final parent information event of the half-term last week. I am very grateful for all of you who were able to give your time to attend the events that have taken place this term and I hope to meet many more of you between now and the Christmas holidays at the end of the term.

1. Half-term Holiday

A reminder that next week is the final week of school before the half-term holiday.

Pupils will leave school on the afternoon of Thursday 21st October and they will then return for the start of the new half-term on Monday 1st November.

You can review all the term dates for the year ahead by [clicking here](#).

2. Online Safety - Parent event: How to keep your children safe online, Thursday 21st October 5-6pm

All parents are invited to attend an event led by [Digital Awareness UK](#) (an online safety organisation) which explains how children can be kept safe online.

Through the pandemic issues such as inappropriate content, too much screen time and online abuse have been increasing at disturbing rates, it's never been more important to protect young people from online risk.

The purpose of the session is to support parents in understanding the following:

- Major trends in how young people are using apps and games
- Critical digital issues to be aware of
- The practical steps you can take to protect your children from online risk and to encourage happy and healthy tech habits

There will also be plenty of time to ask questions about any concerns you may have around online safety.

If you would prefer to join this event remotely rather than attending the school site please email Georgina.Farrington@arkstalbans.org for details.

3. Covid Update

We were again fortunate to have another week where no pupil attended school who then went on to test positive for Covid on a PCR test.

This continues to show the value of LFD testing in keeping the virus out of the school, however we are running on average of around two pupils each week testing positive.

As we enter into cough and cold season, please make sure your child carries a pack of tissues with them into school each day which they can use to safely dispose of coughs and sneezes.

Although our shared priority must continue to be looking after the health of ourselves and those around us, the secretaries of state for education and for health have also written this letter to remind all pupils and parents of the importance of excellent attendance.

4. Examinations

Last week, pupils in Year 12 and Year 13 completed assessments in their A-Level subjects and parents can expect to receive information about the outcomes of those assessments before the half-term holiday.

A reminder also that all pupils in Year 11 will be sitting mock exams when we return after half-term, starting on Monday 1st November.

5. Sixth Form Opening Evening

Our Sixth Form opening evening will take place next Thursday (14th October) between 4.00 and 5.30pm.

If you know of friends or family with children currently in Year 11 and who are looking for a sixth form place next September, please do encourage them to attend.

6. Keeping In Touch

As we move towards the half-term holiday, please do get in touch if you have any questions or concerns. You can contact me via Ms Hooper (jayne.hooper@arkstalbans.org).

Kind regards,



Guy Rimmer
Principal