

Friday 13th August

Dear Parents,

I'm writing to share with you some of the highlights from a busy and exciting week at Ark St Alban's Academy.

1. A-Level and BTEC Results

On Tuesday, Year 13 students collected their A-Level and BTEC results and finalised their plans for university.

We are incredibly proud that five students will be going to study medicine at university after achieving excellent A-Level results. Many students, including some of those going onto to study medicine, achieved straight A and A* grades showing that they have truly become experts in the subjects that they are studying. Similarly, in our BTEC Applied Science and BTEC Business courses, over two thirds (66%) of students achieved straight Distinction or Distinction* grades and have secured places at excellent universities including the University of Warwick, the University of Birmingham and Aston University.

Every sixth former has a place to study at university in the next academic year. It is exciting after seven years of working hard at school and at sixth form that they have now reached the top of mountain.



2. GCSE Results

Yesterday, Year 11 pupils collected their GCSE results and finalised their plans for sixth form and college.

The number of pupils achieving the very highest grades (sevens, eights and nines) was incredibly exciting to see and means that they are incredibly well prepared for A-Level or BTEC studies in the year ahead. It is also exciting to know that so many pupils will be returning to Ark St Alban's Academy in the September to begin their sixth form studies.

Every pupil has a place at sixth form or college organised for September and teachers and leaders have continued to support pupils and parents in finalising arrangements today. Leaders are also welcoming pupils from other schools who have applied for places at our school in September. There are still a small number of places left so please do direct friends and family towards us today – they can visit any time to discuss joining the sixth form.

For both Year 11 and Year 13, completing their courses in the last two years during the pandemic has been incredibly challenging and we are very proud of what they have been able to achieve.



3. Summer Camp

Sixty pupils have just come to the end of five busy days full of learning and extra-curricular activities at the Ark St Alban's Summer Camp.

Year 7 and 8 pupils have been involved in a range of activities including Drama performance, Science experiments, Geography fieldwork, debating and PE. Alongside this they have had daily English lessons focusing on reading and understanding Greek myths as well as mathematics led by specialist teachers. These activities have helped them with literacy and numeracy as well as confidence in presenting, considering other perspectives and problem solving. Alongside this, year 10 pupils have focused on preparing for their GCSEs through focusing on chemical bonding in Science, equations in Maths, creative writing in English, chronological overviews in History and exam technique in Geography.

There is no doubt that the pupils' enthusiastic participation this week will help them hit the ground running on return to school. Their experiences will help them succeed on return to school in September as they have seen their learning in new contexts and have had individualised support from teachers to help them understand and develop new skills from writing to fractions to sport!



4. The New School Year

Next week, the school will close again for the remainder of the summer holidays.

Teachers will be returning on Wednesday 1st September in order to spend several days planning and preparing for the start of the new school year. A reminder that year groups will return to school on different days and at different times in September. Please review the table below carefully.

Year Group	Date	Time
7	Tuesday 7 th September 2021	08:30am
8	Thursday 9 th September 2021	10:30am
9	Thursday 9 th September 2021	09:30am
10	Thursday 9 th September 2021	08:30am
11	Wednesday 8 th September 2021	08:30am
12	Tuesday 7 th September 2021	09:30am
13	Wednesday 8 th September 2021	09:30am

As ever, if you have any questions or concerns please do get in touch, remembering though that during the holidays responses may not always be as quick as they would be during term time.

I look forward to seeing you all in the new school year.

Kind regards,

Mr Guy Rimmer
Principal
Ark St Alban's Academy