

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the start of half-term four.

Below I have shared some brief information and updates.

### 1. Strike Action

A reminder that the school will be closed to almost all pupils on Wednesday 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. Earthquake in Türkiye and Syria

The non-uniform day and bake-sale organised by sixth formers before half-term raised a massive £1460.

The money has been shared with the [Disasters Emergency Committee](#).

### 3. Progress Day

Please save the date for Progress Day: Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March.

You will be able to book an appointment with your child's form tutor and to visit the school to review their school work and their end of term report.

I will confirm next week when the booking process will begin.

### Parent Governor

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

While there are currently a number of governors who are also parents, the specific role of Parent Governor is currently vacant.

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.

### 4. Term Dates

The term dates for the next academic year will be published shortly, but I can confirm that the next school year will likely begin on or near to Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September.

## 5. Parent and Community Group

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

Our group is informal and an opportunity to get to know other parents and learn more about your child's school experience.

There will be staff members present to answer any questions you may have, and we aim to have staff members who can translate for parents where Arabic, Urdu and Somali are their main language.

Information about session topics can be found further below.

### 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.

### 6. Useful Links

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

**Guy Rimmer**  
**Principal**