

24th May 2021

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the final week of the half-term.

The school has been closed to pupils today as teachers from across the Ark network of schools have come together to work on the process of awarding grades to pupils in Year 11 and Year 13.

I have had the opportunity to see for myself the high quality of the work that pupils in those year groups have completed. I am confident that pupils will achieve results that both you and they can be proud of.

I am also incredibly grateful to the work of our teachers, who as well as continuing to teach their classes, are also completing a huge amount of marking and moderation and taking on the significant responsibility of awarding grades accurately and fairly.

1. Covid Update

Further to my email on Friday afternoon, we have had one positive test from a pupil in a Year 10 class and this has now been confirmed by a PCR test.

Earlier today, I wrote to all Year 10 parents to explain that all pupils in 10 Boulton 1 will now need to isolate at home and not return to school until after the half-term holiday. Those pupils and parents have since received an email earlier today from Ms Ali with further guidance and instructions about remote learning.

As an additional precaution, all other pupils in Year 10 for whom we have consent will be tested in school early tomorrow morning.

This is an important reminder of the need to continue completing twice-weekly testing at home; please do contact the school if you have run out and need further test kits.

2. Summer Camp

I am excited to confirm that Ark St Alban's Academy will be hosting a summer camp for pupils in the week commencing Monday 9th August.

These camps will run free of charge and will include a mixture academic intervention (focussed on literacy and numeracy activities), sports and creative arts.

Spaces are limited and the exact size and the nature of the camp will be informed by the number of families who sign-up for their pupils to take part.

No places can be guaranteed, but if you are interested in your child attending our Summer Camp, please complete this [online form](#) to let us know.

It is likely that activities will take place between 8.30am and 1.30pm each day in the week commencing Monday 9th August.

3. Parent Consultation Group

I intend to form a Parent Consultation Group to work directly with me on a regular basis, providing feedback on the running of the school and a parent perspective on planned activities.

If you would be interested in joining this group, please complete this [online form](#) to express your interest and to indicate your preferences in terms of meeting times and so forth.

4. Fundraising

Again, further to my email on Friday, a non-uniform day is planned for Friday this week (Friday 28th May).

This is in response to pupil requests to raise money to support the victims of violence in Gaza and is hopefully one positive outlet for pupils wanting to take action around the conflict.

As with our previous non-uniform day, pupils will be asked to make a minimum contribution of £1 via the online payment system and I ask that this payment is made before 9am on Thursday morning.

I have included below a reminder of our non-uniform day dress code which Mr Cole will be reiterating with all pupils in the course of the next couple of days.

Non-Uniform Day Rules



During non-uniform day you will be allowed to wear your normal every day clothes and leave your school uniform at home. However, we do still want you to take pride in your appearance and be dressed appropriately for a day at school.

Therefore, here is what you can **not** wear on non uniform day:

No hats, caps or bandanas.

No jewellery – same rule as a normal school day.

No sunglasses.

No fancy dress.

No clothing containing offensive language or references to drugs, gangs or violence.

No leggings unless they are underneath other items of clothing.

No unusual hair styles including colours or cuts.



5. Key Dates

A reminder that next week is the half-term holiday and that pupils will return to school on Tuesday 8th June.

Over the half-term holiday, pupils will be provided with homework and revision materials to support them in preparing for their End of Year Exams which will begin in mid-June.

All homework set will be via Microsoft Teams, with a deadline of 9am on Monday 7th June for completion.

6. Year 11 – Next Steps

Most Year 11 pupils will finish their assessments on Thursday and will not be required to attend school on Friday.

This is with the exception of pupils who have missed any assessments, who may be asked to come into school either on Friday, or on the Monday after half term.

Whilst grading is being finalised, all pupils will be asked to attend school for a 1 to 1 meeting in the second and third weeks of next half term to discuss their options for Year 12.

Pupils will be informed of their meeting date and time this week.

Attendance to this meeting is compulsory, and it is therefore important that pupils and families do not travel abroad until it has taken place.

In addition, all pupils will be set 'bridging work' to be completed over the summer which will help them to prepare for their post-16 studies. More information on this will also be shared with you at the meeting.

7. Year 13 – Next Steps

In addition, many students in Year 13 will also be asked to attend school for meetings in June to discuss their plans for higher education.

It is therefore essential that students in this year group are also available to come into school throughout the first three weeks of next half term. Students will be informed by 11th June as to whether they are required to attend a meeting with Ms Taylor.

8. Keeping in Touch

A reminder that there will not be a Live Event on Wednesday this week and that those events will resume after the half-term holiday.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns. Please do get in touch

Kind regards,



Mr Guy Rimmer
Principal
Ark St Alban's Academy