

30th November 2020

Dear Parents,

Below I have included some updates and some reminders about key dates for the weeks ahead.

1. Training Day (Friday)

A reminder that school will be closed to almost all pupils on Friday. Teachers will be working with colleagues from schools across the Ark network to review the progress pupils have made in recent assessments.

Pupils and parents in Year 11 will be invited into school for appointments during the day on Friday to discuss the results of their recent mock exams with senior leaders and families of Year 10 pupils will also be invited into school to receive a laptop.

2. Digital Devices

So far this year we have been able to provide pupils in Years 11, 12 and 13 with a laptop. This is a result of funding received from a number of different sources including the Department of Education, Birmingham City Council and Ark Schools.

I am pleased that this week, we will also be able to do the same for pupils in Year 10, and it is my that in the Spring Term we will also be able to provide devices to pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9.

3. Christmas Holidays

I can confirm that on Friday 18th December, school will close at midday (12pm) for the start of the Christmas holidays.

4. Plans for January

A reminder that there are two further training days scheduled for Monday 4th January and Tuesday 5th January. This means that the Spring Term will begin for pupils on Wednesday 6th January.

5. Lunch Arrangements

After Christmas, the school will move to a cashless system for meal payments. To do so, parents will be able to top-up on online payment system and pupils will be able to order their lunches via an app.

This will make the school safer, more secure and will make lunch queues move more quickly in the future.

All families should have received a personalised letter, which includes their own unique sign-up code. If you haven't yet received your letter, please [click here](#) to email the school and to let us know.

6. Quest Story Writing Competition

I had the real privilege last week of awarding prizes to the winners of the first annual Quest Story Writing competition.

Five writers in Year 7 were successful in their excellent writing about journeys and adventures.

You can see the prize winners and their prizes in the picture below.



If you have any questions about the term ahead or about any other matters, please do let me know.

Kind regards,



Mr Guy Rimmer
Principal
Ark St Alban's Academy