



### Another successful year for Ark St Alban's students

IN BADAN OO GCSE IYO A LEVEL AH AYEY STALBANS KA GAARTAY GUUL.

سنة اخرى مملوءة بالنجاح لطلاب مدرسة ارك سنت البنس الاكاديمية



We are celebrating GCSE results once again with 77% of our pupils achieving the new benchmark score of 4 or better on English and Maths GCSEs (equivalent to a C grade) - and 21% passing the 'EBacc' at grades 9 to 5 – a basket of academic subjects that are valued by top universities and employers.

Our Progress 8 score of +0.7 is well above the national average of 0 and is likely to see us among the best schools in the country for pupil progress. This score reflects progress made by each pupil in the same eight subjects from year 7 to year 11.

Former Ark St Alban's Principal Mark Gregory said: "I am very pleased with this year's results – particularly in this new, more challenging, exam environment. Our pupils have worked incredibly hard to achieve their potential and that is reflected in our Progress 8 score which is, once again, well above the national average. I want to thank the pupils, our staff and our families for their continued hard work and support of Ark St Alban's Academy and I look forward to seeing what our students go on to achieve in our Sixth Form and elsewhere."

We are also celebrating our outstanding A level and BTEC results as the number of students achieving the top grades rose yet again. The number of students achieving at least three A\*-B grades, including equivalents, rose by 20% to 49% - the grades needed to get into the country's top universities – while 100% of students taking BTEC vocational qualifications passed with Distinction and above.

In 2016 92% of students at Ark St Alban's Academy went on to study at university – with many going to the county's top institutions such as King's College London, Edinburgh and Warwick.

### Principal's Message

I would like to thank our students for demonstrating self-discipline, integrity and belief throughout the half-term. They make us proud every day by working hard in class and preparing for the end of term assessments ahead. Also, many of our students have represented the academy with pride at our open events and when participating in school trips and sports fixtures.

It has been great to see almost all our students arriving on time and ready to learn throughout the past seven weeks. We always ensure that students understand the importance of attendance, punctuality and readiness to learn. We expect every student to arrive on time for every school day, as doing this demonstrates a commitment to making the most of what our school has to offer and climbing the mountain to university.

Finally, I would like to thank all our talented and committed members of staff for supporting our students so effectively and challenging each Individual to make the most of their god given talents. The first half-term of the academic year is behind us and now we look forward to building upon this successful start in the half-term ahead.

I wish you all well for the upcoming half-term break and I look forward to welcoming back all our students to the academy at 8.25am on Monday 30th October.



## Sports news

A big shout out to the Year 8 boy's football team for their level of discipline and integrity during their match with Small Heath School. Congratulations to the 'man of the match' Mus'ab Guled who is proudly showing off his medal. An intense match but the hard work paid off.

It's been a very strong start for Ark St Alban's sport this half term with success across boys' and girls' activities. The Year 7 boys' started their school sports career with a hard fought 4-3 win against Holy Trinity securing the 3 points putting the boys' at the top of the league. This half term girls' sport at Ark St Alban's has experienced a boom! Not only with the Girls' Football team winning impressively 3-0 against Small Heath, but to further cement the girls strong half term the Year 11 Girls' Rowing team produced an outstanding performance to earn a place in the National School Winter Games finals, with Camp Hill Girls' School (a private school) the only school to pip the girls to first place.

What a fantastic start from everybody this half term and we can't wait to see what the pupils achieve during the rest of the year!



## Macbeth trip

Returning victoriously from battle, the King's General, courageous and respected soldier, Macbeth, is persuaded by prophecy that he will become King of Scotland. Spurred on by his wife's ambition for him, he embarks on a spiralling course of violence - ever more brutal and senseless - leading ultimately to civil unrest, his wife's death and his own tragic downfall.

Ark St. Alban's would like to invite our students to watch Shakespeare's Macbeth at the Crescent Theatre in Central Birmingham. It's a brilliant play that is also a GCSE English text. Therefore, it is recommended that all Year 10 and 11 students attend on November 1st or November 2nd. Students should ask their form tutor or English teacher for a letter.



<http://www.crescent-theatre.co.uk/theatre-event/?EventID=94932>

## Ark St Alban's joins forces with Digital Schoolhouse



This year the school has become a Digital Schoolhouse lead school. This is a project supported by Ukie and Playstation, so is really exciting! Digital Schoolhouse have been recognized internationally for promoting play-based learning as a way for teaching computing. We will be running weekly workshops with local primary schools on Monday morning. We have already run two workshops with Oasis Woodview Academy and are looking forward to running more in the future!

## Year 10 students enjoy Aimhigher's UniFest

The Aimhigher partnership in Birmingham coordinates an annual programme of university summer schools called UniFest, to give young people from the city the opportunity to fully experience the world of Higher Education by living and working on a university campus for 4 days.

St Alban's sends more students than any other school in Birmingham, 24 Year 10s took part in the programme in the summer and we hope to send even more in 2018.

A student evaluation carried out by Aim Higher revealed that 98% felt it improved future aspirations, 97% had more knowledge about Higher Education, 94% thought social skills improved and 89% said it improved study skills

Here are just a few comments from our students:

"Now that I have experienced university life, I think that I will think carefully about what I would like to do in the future".

"It has really helped me build confidence in socialising with others".

"I now feel very confident about going to university because of this wonderful opportunity".

"I had a lot of fun and made friends with people I wouldn't normally be friends with".

## Universify

In August Universify ran the first of two courses for Year 10 students in Somerville College, part of the University of Oxford.

Over the week students covered many different academic subjects, ranging from Earth Sciences, which saw students build earthquake proof buildings with marshmallows and spaghetti, to Moral Philosophy. On top of the academic classes students worked in groups to design their own university, which they presented to the rest of the group at the end of the week. The group work built on a session with the Somerville Admissions tutor, who provided an insight into university life and the range of subjects available for people to study at university. In these sessions students worked with Universify volunteers, all current or former university students, to discover what life is really like at university.

Fadumah Shire and Halla Mohammed - now in Year 11 - both were described as getting stuck into the course and were eager to try all new experiences.

They will attend the final weekend session in Oxford just before Easter. They told me they have learned a great deal from the experience and are both hoping to go to university, maybe Oxford!

Look closely on second and third rows in the middle of the photo to see our two lucky students...



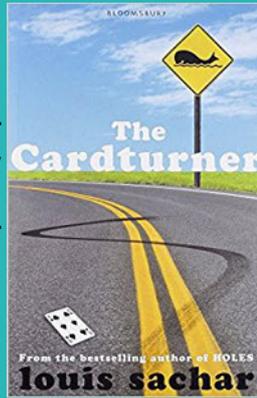
## BTEC science students explore their options

Year 12 and 13 BTEC Science students attended a careers fair in September where the NHS showcased some of the many careers available for students leaving sixth form with this great qualification. Local universities were also on hand to give advice about the degree programmes students need to access to launch their careers in science and health.

Students were invited to get involved with interactive sessions with nurses, radiographers, neurologists, cardiologists, paramedics, optometrists, pathologists, podiatrists and many more. Students were surprised at the range of careers and degree courses available to them and should now have plenty of food for thought.

## Recommended Read

I'm sure that there are a lot of niche books on the market about learning to play Bridge, but none will be as entertaining, as funny and as moving as Louis Sachar's "The Cardturner". Even if you find card game rules a big turnoff, it won't really matter because there are pointers to skip these passages if you wish. There's even an appendix which includes a transcript of a fake lecture given by one of the characters, and references to some of the more arcane terminology and phrasing used in certain passages. If it all sounds a tad dry and academic, this couldn't be further from the truth, it's a emotional read which sees the protagonist go through a life-changing experience after forging a relationship with his uncle. Even the minor characters come across as fully rounded individuals.



## Dates for your diary

23/10/2017 to 27/10/2017 - Half Term

01/11/2017 - Progress Day

08/12/2017 - Network Inset Day

14/12/2017 - Awards Evening

18/12/2017 - Year 7, 12 and 13 Parents Evening

## Uniform

All uniform must be purchased by at the following address:

38 Popular Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7AD

Normal opening hours are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday to Saturday 9.30 to 4.30pm. For more information please visit their website at:

<http://www.clivemark.co.uk/schools/a/ark-st-alban-s-academy.html>

## Maths Puzzle

In the image to the left, what number should replace the '?' In order to solve the equation?

Please give your answer to the the Maths department to receive a House Point!

## Message to Parents

Please be respectful to local businesses when parking to collect your children or visiting the school. Poor parking can make it extremely difficult for deliveries and is, of course, a safety hazard in relation to our students. The parking restrictions outside the school are in place to try and avoid accidents and hence we ask that you do not park on the hazard or double yellow lines when collecting students or visiting the school.



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Pupil Premium  
Awards 2016  
Local Winner



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OF ENGLAND



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