



St Alban's Academy

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2 2015

Mr Gould wins national teaching award!

مدير المدرسة السيد ديفد غولد يفوز بالجائزة الوطنية للمدرسين

Mr Gould WAXAA UU KU GUULEYSTAY ABAALMARINTII WAXBARIDDA QARANKA



Mr Gould, Principal of Ark St Alban's Academy, was today the recipient of a prestigious national teaching award. He was awarded a Silver Pearson Teaching Award for Lifetime Achievement. More than 4,000 entries were received for the Pearson Teaching Awards this year with just 58 Silver Awards being made across several categories. Mr Gould joins a list of exceptional teachers from across the UK who will now be considered for a single Gold UK Teaching Award in each category. The Gold Awards will be announced at a ceremony to be held at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, in October 2015 which is filmed and broadcast by the BBC.

The award was presented to Mr Gould by students from his Year 10 and 11 Health and Social Care

Group after their GSCE exam. Mr Gould, has spent his entire career teaching in the West Midlands, mainly in schools with high levels of disadvantage. When he joined St Alban's over 24 years ago it was undersubscribed and in danger of closure. In 1999, he was made Headteacher and set a vision for the school where all the students, regardless of their starting point, would have the skills to go to university or to a career of their choice.

Under his leadership Ark St Alban's Academy has been transformed from one of Birmingham's lowest performing school to one of the best in the country. In 2014 the academy was in the top 100 state schools in the country for the progress of its students, and in 2013 it was the top performing school in the country for student progress in mathematics. St Alban's Academy was rated outstanding by Ofsted in 2011, singling out the school's "outstanding spiritual, moral, social and cultural development "as well as praising" an ethos for learning that nurtures mutual respect and tolerance, motivates students and encourages their positive self-esteem, particularly for Muslim girls."

The Pearson Teaching Awards were established by David (Lord) Puttnam in 1999, to celebrate and recognize outstanding educational professionals.

Oscar-winning actress Emma Thompson, president of the Teaching Awards said: 'I am genuinely proud and honoured to be the president of the Teaching Awards. I owe so much of what I've done to my fantastic teachers at school and university and it is exciting to join in celebrating what is probably the most important profession of them all.'

Principal's message

As you probably already know I am retiring as Principal of St Alban's Academy at the end of this term. I am very proud of what we have achieved here with your powerful support. I know that I leave the academy in very good hands and that it will go from strength to strength in the years ahead. I wish you and your family all the very best for the future and I trust that your children will continue to make the most of their God-given talents and climb the mountain to university.



An Ark school

Chantelle talks about her work!



Chantelle Boyle is an A Level student at St Alban's Academy Sixth Form. Her Art work was seen by visitors during the 150 Year celebration tours. The central theme behind her project was the Holocaust with a focus on those who died a tragic death; the voices of whom we will never hear.



'There were many difficulties I faced when producing the artwork. I wanted my instillation to capture an element of pain that was caused by the Holocaust. I needed an approach which was going to show my empathy as the topic is very sensitive, especially for the holocaust survivors and victims'

Dates for your diary

Summer Holiday -
17/07/2015 - 03/09/2015

Year 12/13 Induction Day -
03/09/2015

Year 7 Open Evening -
23/09/2015 -5pm until 7pm

Sixth Form Open Evening -
15/10/2015

Chaplain's message

For as long as space endures
And for as long as living beings
remain

Until then, may I too abide
To dispel the misery of the
world.

Buddhist text

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Rest in peace John Goodman

The Rev. John Goodman who served as chairman of the Trustees of St Alban's School for half a century has sadly passed away. Rev. John Goodman used and enlarged the proceeds of the sale of the school's former land to form a charitable trust for the benefit of the school, church and community of St Alban's, Highgate. The Trust owns the land beside the school which is now landscaped and equipped for school and community use. Under Father Goodman's guidance the Trust continued to give welcome annual support, for example most recently to the Duke of Edinburgh Awards programme at St Alban's Academy and to Stanhope Hall, the Highgate community centre.

Welcome undergraduates!

In September three Aston University Undergraduate students, Jaskit Kaur, Suaad Ahmed and Diviya Pankhania, will begin "The Ark Experience Placement" as part of their industrial year. This work-based placement will give the undergraduates a valuable experience working in an outstanding educational establishment. They will be full-time members of staff involved in all areas of the Academy. Their main responsibilities will include supporting students in Y7 and 8 not making expected progress and mentoring students requiring pastoral support.

After a rigorous selection process, the successful applicants were appointed in June and have recently completed their induction. During their induction they met key members of staff, learned about Academy life and developed an understanding of the Ark ethos. They also played a key role in the Year 7 "Summer School" supporting the transition of students from Y6 to Y7 during a week-long induction.

St Alban's Academy welcomes you to the team!



RSC Regional School's Festival at Stratford - Final Curtain Call!



As I am sure you remember, in March, twenty three students from St. Alban's Academy performed on the Swan Theatre Stage in Stratford-Upon-Avon. What you may not know is that children from nine different regions, all over the United Kingdom also performed Shakespeare in their local Theatres. On July 8th, selected children from these schools, who demonstrated outstanding commitment and talent previously, came together to perform extracts from Henry IV and

V on the Royal Shakespeare 'Main Stage'! The four students selected from St. Alban's, who stunned us with their performances in March, were: Ibrahim Ibrahim (Yr8), Sunni Singh, Sabba Mohammed and Faris Ahmed (Yr9).



Sixth Formers meet the chairman of the FCA



On Wednesday 20th May students from Years 12 and 13 had the opportunity to hear from the Chairman of the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), John Griffith-Jones, during a visit to Birmingham. John spoke about his own career, as well as overcoming challenges and setting goals. The students also had the opportunity to ask questions about careers in finance.

Women into engineering



Five Year 8 girls from Ark St Alban's Academy are today celebrating after winning an engineering award from Birmingham City University. Held as part of National Women in Engineering Day, the Engineering Challenge was hosted by Birmingham City University and sponsored by Doosan Enpure. It brought together Year 8 girls from across the city to find out what it means to be an engineer and to hear from women working across all fields of engineering about their experiences, their jobs and how they got there. Working in teams of five, the girls were asked to try and solve a real life engineering problem - how to help Nepalese tomato growers transport their crop down a steep mountain to the market below, without it being damaged. The girls had to develop plans and drawings, and then built their solution using equipment provided by the university.

The Ark St Alban's team developed an innovative system using tubing and netting which successfully delivered 182 tomatoes in the two minutes allowed to the destination in one piece. Year 8 student Ahlam, said, "taking part in this challenge has inspired me to think more about engineering - it's not about fixing cars - it's about design and solving problems. I've realised that it is something I could do as a career. I really enjoyed it." Ehtekam added, "before I took part in this challenge, engineering wasn't something that I had really thought about doing but now I'm definitely considering it."

Ark St Alban's Academy specialises in both engineering and mathematics. In 2014, the Academy achieved a 100% pass rate in GCSE double award engineering and an 83% pass rate in GCSE product design. 80% achieved A* - C in mathematics, maintaining the standards that saw the academy rated the top performing school in the country for progress in maths in 2013/14. Nourimane, another member of the winning team, said "we were so surprised when we won. We really wanted to but I couldn't believe it when we did!"

Message to parents

St Alban's Academy school uniform is now being sold by Clive Mark at their Kings Heath store and a temporary store in Small Heath. The details are as follows:

Clive Mark
Kings Heath branch
38 - 40 Poplar Road
Kings Heath
Birmingham
B14 7AD

Opening times
Mon - Sat
9AM - 5.30PM

Clive Mark
Small Heath branch
Unit 1-2 Anderton Road
Small Heath
Birmingham
B11 1TG
(Next to the Birmingham Hotel, opposite Small Heath Station)

Opening times and dates

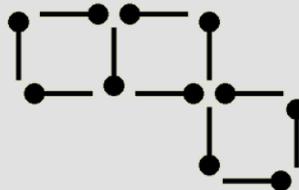
Saturday 18th July	9.00am - 5.00pm
Sunday 19th July	10.00am - 2.00pm
Saturday 25th July	9.00am - 5.00pm
Sunday 26th July	10.00am - 2.00pm
Monday 27th - Friday 31st July	9.00am - 5.30pm
Everyday in August	
Monday - Saturday	9.00am - 5.30pm
Sunday	10.00am - 2.00pm

Uniform is also available online at www.clivemark.co.uk/stalbans

Please note that pencil cases can only be bought from St Alban's Academy at a cost of £2.50 each.

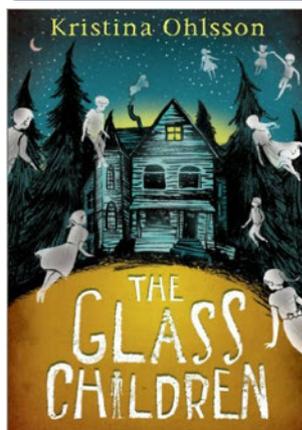
Maths puzzle

In this diagram 11 matches make 3 squares:



Your challenge is to move 3 matches to show 2 squares.

Recommended read



'The Glass Children' by Kristina Ohlsson.

When Billie and her mother move into a new house in the country not long after the death of her father, something is not quite right about the place. The furniture is old and dusty, the paint peels off the walls and most mysteriously of all, the ceiling light swings to and fro of its own accord. Strange messages appear warning Billie to leave the place.

Billie has difficulty convincing her mother something is wrong, so it's up to her and her friends Simona and the Turkish boy Aladdin to uncover the truth. Is the place really haunted? Who were the enigmatic 'Glass Children?' Billie's discoveries will lead her to the heart of not one - but two mysteries.

Part thriller, part ghost story, this Swedish based tale is perfect for year 7's/8's looking for an exciting fast paced read.

Warwick University's Chemistry Department visits!



The Science department had visitors from the University of Warwick's Chemistry department. A level Chemistry students from St Albans Academy took part in a spectroscopy workshop led by scientists from the University of Warwick. Our A level students were able to utilise a very expensive infra-red spectrometer

that the University brought to the school. Students analysed unknown compounds using the spectrometer in order to work out the chemical structures and hence the identity of each compound. The workshop enabled students to apply their A level Chemistry knowledge to an industrial context.

