

Ark Alexandra Academy

Additional FAQs from Year 6 parents meeting –

05/03/2019

Will ICT be on the curriculum?

We are not planning to teach an explicit IT course in the lower school however the use of IT will be an integral part of the curriculum as a whole.

How will the school support mental health and well-being?

We have been working with a counselling service and we are now appointing staff who will provide that support. Ark Alexandra will continue to have a “Tell Us” culture so that students feel safe and confident to speak out – and to share their challenges and issues.

What is the start date for September?

The start date for students will be Thursday 12th September.

What food do you serve at lunchtime?

We have a different menu each day – and it changes each week for four weeks. We will also be offering ‘grab and go’ if students are taking part in lunchtime activities. We will be endorsing healthy food and drink and therefore items with high sugar content will not be available to buy or be brought onto site. We will be providing parents with guidance and information on this.

What is the detention policy?

We are currently reviewing all policies for the new school and they will be made available on the Alexandra website in due course. Detentions will continue to play a part in our drive for excellent behaviour.

How much homework will we get?

In Year 7 it will be approximately one hour of homework a night. We are also looking at which online homework systems to use so that parents can access and monitor the setting and completion of their child’s homework.

How will parents be communicated with?

We are looking at software packages that will enable good communication between the school and parents and we will provide an update when this has been decided. There will also be at least two parent evenings in year 7 in order that you are kept informed about your child’s progress and develop a deeper understanding of your child’s learning.

How much notice will parents get for trips so that they have time to save the money – or pay in instalments?

We’re planning to use parent pay so that parents can pay in instalments when they are able. We will also plan any activities with as much notice as possible so that parents are aware and have time to plan.

Will you continue to run the ‘pathways’ that you do at the moment?

Yes. Some students will need greater support with maths and English and therefore they could have a reduced number of subjects in order that they achieve the highest outcomes possible.

How long is the summer holiday?

It will normally be six weeks. This year it's slightly different as we've extended the summer holiday to enable us to carry out the building works to accommodate the co-educational school.

What will the mobile phone policy be?

If we see or hear mobile phones they will be confiscated.

Will you have lockers for the students?

We do have lockers but it's likely that some students will have to share.

How many pupils will there be at the school?

We are anticipating that there will be approximately 1200 students in the school in 2019/20 – this includes the sixth form.

Will we do PE every day?

The aim is that students will do PE twice per week (unless it's being studied as a GCSE). There will also be opportunities to do sports as enrichment activities.

How many students per class?

The average class size will be 30.

Will there be woodwork?

Yes. Product Design is on the curriculum and will also be available as an enrichment opportunity.

Will food tech still be available?

Yes. Food tech will remain on the curriculum. We are also looking at using one of the dropdown days as a healthy eating/healthy living day.

Are you planning on setting maths groups or will it be mixed ability?

We are still discussing exactly how this is going to work.

What size uniforms will be available?

Uniforms will be available in all sizes. For example, blazers are available up to a 56 inch chest. Our uniform provider is Superstitch86.