



12th February 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Thank you for all your support during this half term, for us here at school and for your children. It has been a challenging time for us all, but it has been great to see the Alexandra community pull together. This half term has seen us all learn lots of new things and the students have engaged brilliantly in live lessons. I have learned how to use Teams and have really enjoyed popping into some online lessons and seeing students interact with each other and their teacher.

In numbers, we have:

- Been able to support our students with the delivery over 510 devices that the students can effectively use for online learning
- Averaged 92% attendance to lessons
- Delivered over 10,000 live remote lessons
- Presented 94,000 Golden Tickets for great attitudes to remote learning
- Sent over 38,000 text messages, checking on the welfare of students who hadn't registered at the beginning of a lesson
- Made over 5,000 phone calls to speak to students that were struggling or were vulnerable
- Completed 691 Lateral Flow Tests
- Conducted the options evening online with over 250 parents and 41 staff
- Held 7 online Q&A's about remote learning with over 250 parents attending
- 6 Ark Bursary applications submitted (our students can be awarded to up to £30,000 to support their study at university).
- Supported 58% of year 13 to have submitted their applications to universities
- Continued to deliver wider the curriculum remotely, such as:
 - bullying and the impact/ effects of bullying.
 - recognising and challenging forms of discrimination.
 - developing positive relationship peers, parents, dealing with conflict.
 - financial management, budget debt and exploring online issues (gambling, online add on to games)
 - wellbeing and study skills.
 - Duke of Edinburgh's Award
- 2 paper aeroplanes stuck on the projector in the hall at the William Parker site!

Principal: Mr L Collins
Network Associate Principal: Mr J Scafe

Lots of you, both students and parents (and teachers too!) will be very tired; we understand the struggles of balancing your own work and that of your children as well as caring for others, all while being largely confined to our homes. So, over the half-term break, please do take the opportunity to get away from the screens. Whilst term-time and holiday-time might be slightly blurred in these strange times, do try to get some time relaxing and some time outside (within Covid restrictions, of course!) Recognising the amount of screen time our young people are having, we organised a 'Screen Free Day' last week; I hope your sons and daughters enjoyed time away from their computers and tablets on this day.

It is likely that we may see some more students back at school next half term, so we can look forward to brighter days and a gradual return to some sense of normality as we approach springtime. As you may know, the government plan to give us more information, including a possible phased return into school, on Monday 22nd February. I will be in touch again after this announcement.

We are extremely proud of all of the work that has gone into online lessons from staff, students and parents/carers. Everyone pulling together has meant that engagement across the school has been 92% which is fantastic. We'd like to thank all members of the community for their resilience through this difficult time and thank you for your continuing feedback.

This feedback has resulted in us moving away from absent text messages after every lesson, which were in place. However, we will be trialling a new system which will enable us to ensure students continued wellbeing and that gaps are not developing in their learning.

A text message will be sent if students have not signed into their tutor period (8:45 – 9:15). You will also receive, via e-mail a weekly attendance report for your son/daughter which will compare their attendance to the year group. We will continue to make daily phone calls to students as these have proved invaluable to assisting with engagement to lesson. Please bear with us as we endeavour to get the balance right with notifications that go out to parents/carers

We have a new remote learning section on our website <https://arkalexandra.org/teaching-learning/remote-learning> . Please do check it out for detailed information on the learning topics for each year group. Also, on our website is place2be <https://arkalexandra.org/life-school/place2be-ark-alexandra-academy> . Please check this out if your child is struggling with being at home. There is help available so follow the links and we will be in touch.

If your children are sharing a device to access their learning, we should be able to provide you with extra devices next half term. Please contact your son/daughter's Head of Year and we will be in touch when we receive more devices.

- Head of Yr 7 – Mr Sully – s.sully@arkalexandra.org
- Head of Yr 8 – Ms Scott – k.scott@arkalexandra.org
- Head of Yr 9 – Mrs Hodgkin – d.hodgkin@arkalexandra.org
- Head of Yr 10 – Miss Clark – s.clark@arkalexandra.org
- Head of Yr 11 – Mrs Deeprise – k.deeprise@arkalexandra.org

So, over half term, please be safe, look out for each other and follow Covid protocols. I look forward to seeing students back in school soon.

Kind regards



Liam Collins
Principal