



24<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear all Parents and Carers,

## **Start to the Year**

Please can you congratulate your children on their start back to school. They are working hard in their lessons and have shown a remarkable willingness to engage with their teachers. They are also, looking very smart in their uniforms. However, I would appreciate it if parents could also remind students that necklaces and rings should not be worn. In addition, students are only permitted one stud pierced earring in either or both ears.

Our golden ticket reward system has restarted with over 19,000 golden tickets given to students by teachers. You can see daily updates on your child using MyChildAtSchool app. You can find information about that app, and how to get logged in here <https://arkalexandra.org/about-us/information-parents>

I am delighted with the extracurricular activities that we have organised for your children this year. We have returned to break-time and after-school clubs, and we have expanded the range of activities available. Mr Morgans will be writing soon with the full breakdown, and we will also post it on our website and our Facebook page.

## **Ofsted Monitoring Visit**

Our most recent positive Ofsted report will be published next week. We look forward to sharing their findings with you.

## **Open Evening**

Last night was our second open evening since becoming Ark Alexandra. It was a fantastic evening where parents were clearly hearing the positive messages about our school in Hastings and the surrounding areas. We had over 1,000 visitors shown by our students where they saw our broad Key Stage Three curriculum. Videos of the speeches will be on our website to see the trajectory of our school.

## **Vaccination**

You will probably have heard that the Government has given the go-ahead for students aged between 12 to 15 years old to be vaccinated. As with all vaccinations, we will seek parental consent. This announcement was only made this week. There is a link to a [news article produced by the BBC here](#). At the time of writing, we have been advised that the expected dates for Ark Alexandra will be the 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> October. I will communicate with parents next week with further information once this is confirmed. Ark Alexandra will follow the relevant guidance regarding vaccinations as provided by the COVID Immunisation Team, Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust.

**It is important to note that although we will be providing space for the vaccinations to occur, the vaccine process itself is being administered by the East Sussex Public Health team.**

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

## **Public Examinations**

We do not yet have the final proposals for the 2022 examination series for Years 11 and 13 students. And with the change from Gavin Williamson to Nadhim Zahawi, as Secretary of State for education, we are expecting a further delay. However, Gavin Williamson has said, "Exams will always be the fairest way to assess students, which is why they will take place next year, but it's right that next summer's arrangements take into account the disruption young people have faced over the past 18 months." I agree with this statement and hope to see a return to nationally set and assessed exams next year. However, I also hope that we will see appropriate measures to allow for the COVID disruption that students have experienced. The kind of measures that are being considered include:

- Giving schools and colleges some choice about their students' topics or content will be assessed in GCSE English literature, history, ancient history and geography.
- Providing advanced information on the focus of exam content to help students focus their revision. • Giving students a formulae sheet in GCSE mathematics and an expanded equations sheet in GCSE physics and combined science.
- Changing requirements for practical science work and practical art and design assessments.

We are expecting a final announcement before half term, and we will write to parents and students when we have more information.

## **Parents Evenings**

Last year we used an online system for our parents' evenings. We felt that it had worked well, as, in the main, it reduced the queues and made the evening run efficiently. There are, of course, negatives in the fact you could not spot a teacher you wanted to see who had a space. We want to ask whether you would like to continue with the online system but add anything to make the evening better or return to face to face meetings. A questionnaire will be coming out shortly.

With regards,



Liam Collins  
Principal