



1<sup>st</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I'd like to introduce myself as the Principal of Ark Alexandra. I hope my video welcome has given you some idea for what my vision is for your children. Put simply, I believe every student can achieve their best, in most cases beyond what they believe are their capabilities. I will have the highest expectations of the students, their capability and their conduct. We know that being in school is vital for children's education and wellbeing. **We can't wait to welcome our students back** and share with them our exciting plans for the year ahead.

I will be holding year group Zoom meetings for parents, later in the term, to introduce myself in the best way we can during this unusual period.

I will also be asking for the opinions of students, parents, staff and the wider community on what you all believe makes a great school so that we can continue to improve Ark Alexandra. That strategic plan will be publicised to all stakeholders by June 2021. It is so important that this project is completed together, so that everyone feels part of the journey.

## ***Covid-19 adjustments***

**The safety and welfare of our community, including you and your wider family, is our number one priority.**

There will therefore be some adjustments to the student experience in September to ensure the school is compliant with the most recent government guidelines on keeping children safe. Whilst it will never be possible to ensure a totally risk-free environment, I am confident that all reasonable steps have been taken to prepare our community for a wider reopening.

- Students will be allowed onto the site no earlier than 8.15 am. They must go straight to their social area that will be communicated from their Director of Progress.
- All students **MUST** bring a face covering with them.
  - Firstly, this is to ensure that in our community they are taking their responsibility seriously. That is on public transport, school transport or the local shops.
  - Secondly, they must wear that covering in any social area of the school. This is anywhere that is not a classroom, unless they are eating. The face mask should be **plain colour** (blue, grey or black), with no logo pattern or picture.

Principal: Mr L Collins  
Regional Associate Principal: Ms V Cockram  
Network Associate Principal: Mr J Scafe

- If they are moving to a classroom the students must use the hand sanitiser on entry and exit from the classroom.
- Students must adhere to the COVID addendum (which is found on the COVID FAQ on the website) of the behaviour policy for their, their family and our community's safety.

All relevant information on the return to school can be found on the COVID FAQ on the website.

If you would like to ask any specific questions, we are running an Ark Alexandra stand by Café Nero on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September and Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September between 11.00 am and 3.00 pm.

It is hard work to maintain excellent standards every day - but we do it because we care. Students must display impeccable standards of attendance, punctuality and organisation. Students must arrive in good time wearing full school uniform and with a full set of equipment, this now includes a plain-coloured face covering. The uniform policy is found on our website.

### ***Student induction***

The staff and student induction process will be extended this year to ensure all stakeholders are fully briefed on our high standards and expectations and have time to practice any adjusted school routines. The new academic year will consequently be staggered, according to the information below:

<b>Year Group</b>	<b>First day back at school</b>	<b>Entrance and Exit to School during the COVID period</b>
Year 7	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September 8.15-8.40 am	Up the pedestrian pathway towards the Sports Centre to meet staff on the grass playing field to the right of the school.
Year 8	Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> September at 10.00 am	On to the hard-court area to the left of reception in the front of the school.
Year 9	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> September at 8.45 am	At the Park Avenue main entrance. They will walk to the right of the roundabout.
Year 10	Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> September at 10.00 am	Through the Parkstone Road entrance. Into the main hall.
Year 11	Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> September at 1.00 pm	At the Park Avenue main entrance. They will walk to the left of the roundabout. Into the front entrance.
Year 12	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> September 1.30 pm	Through the Parkstone Road entrance.
Year 13	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> September 10.00 am	Through the Parkstone Road entrance.

We are keen to work with all parents to ensure every child returns to full time education in September. If you are concerned about your child's return, **you must contact the school during the week beginning 1<sup>st</sup> September** to discuss this.

Should you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact us via reception. Once again, thank you for your incredible support during this period and I look forward to seeing your child in September.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Liam Collins  
Principal