



YPO/CS

26 September 2019

Dear Parent,

As you know we have been experiencing some IT and communications issues, for which I humbly apologise. This has meant that we have not received parent questions or concerns.

We are working to address the issue as quickly as possible and will ensure that the web site has the relevant information for all parents, particularly 7 parents.

Results

I am very pleased to tell you that we have had some strong GCSE, A level and BTEC Level 3 results for 2019. Ark William Parker achieved the highest results in its history with 59% 4+ English and maths, which is a significant improvement.

Similarly, Helenswood achieved 67% 4+ English and maths, thus matching their highest results. The outcomes for each school reflect the hard work of our staff but also the support and ambitions of our parents, thank you. This is a great platform on which we will build the continued success of Ark Alexandra.

The results for the 6th Form were again particularly strong and we are very proud of our students who have all accessed the university or a career of their choice, of which 2 students have been accepted into Oxford and Cambridge. Similarly, some students have been very successful in securing fantastic apprenticeships.

I would like to thank and congratulate the parents of year 11 and year 13 who have worked with us to secure their child's success.

Refurbishment

Over the summer there has been some extensive building works and redecoration. Both campuses' have new and extended dining halls with new furniture. The toilets on the William Parker campus have been refurbished and we now have refurbished boys' and girls' toilets as well as non-gender specific toilets. The dance studio and classrooms in the upper building have also been redecorated. The Helenswood campus now has a lovely garden area where students can sit quietly and calmly to socialise or to eat their lunch.

Throughout the year, we shall continue to redecorate and during Easter and Summer 2020, we will have more extensive works taking place during the school holidays.

EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL: Yvonne Powell, OBE
REGIONAL ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL: Victoria Cockram
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Enrichment

As you know, period 7 on a Monday and Tuesday is enrichment. Whilst we are planning and preparing the programme, students have been in tutor groups and they have been focusing on building effective relationships. We aim to start the enrichment programme very soon and your child will have a menu of activities from which he/she can select an activity.

Buses and Transport

Now that we have completed the first week of the autumn term, we are more informed about the new bus timetable and we are aware that there have been a few challenges with timings, particularly with some buses arriving late in the mornings. Please note, that we do not penalise students for the late arrival of the bus and they will be exempt from the late detention. We are working closely with Stagecoach to address some of these issues.

Homework

Homework is now being set and each student should know the day that each subject is setting homework and the deadline for the work to be completed. Your child has a homework diary in which they will record their homework, so please do ask them to show you their diary in order that you can support them in planning their study time. We will share with you the homework APP, Show My Homework, very soon as this will enable you and your child to view the homework that has been set. Later this term, we will launch the parent APP that will allow you to see the attendance and behaviour points for your child. We will provide you with all the relevant information prior to the launch.

Biometric System/ParentPay

Our Biometric system, through which you can pay for your child's lunch, should be up and running by Monday 30th September. If you have paid money into the parent account, your child will have their meal and once the biometrics system is working, the account will be debited accordingly. NO student will go without food.

Assessments

Parents of students in years 8 to 13 will receive the summer term assessments which will provide you with information about your child's academic progress for each subject as well as their attendance for the academic year 2018/2019. This will include a letter explaining the grades and the targets for your child. Please support us in ensuring your child uses the assessment report to work towards their targets: working hard every lesson and completing all class and homework to the highest standard.



Our Culture

All year groups have made a great start, particularly year 7. The priority over the last week has been to settle the students and to provide them with as much support as possible in building new relationships with other students. This is an ongoing theme in our work for the rest of this term. I am especially proud of the 11 students who have readily settled into continuing their GCSE classes as well as meeting and making new friends during break and lunch times.

We are creating a praise rich culture where parents will receive a communication informing them about their child's praise points. We want every student to have as many praise points as possible as recognition for demonstrating our values, Faith, Excellence and Kindness. You will be receiving daily/weekly updates of your child's praise points. Praise points are awarded when a student demonstrates our values. Similarly, negative points are logged when a student does not adhere to our high expectations. If your child has received any negative points, please discuss this with your child in order that they can repair the issue and therefore avoid repeating any behaviours that are less than excellent. Also, please celebrate your child receiving the praise points. We truly believe that every student can achieve excellence and the very best outcomes and progress – this is our ambition for every student.

We have a number of events in the autumn term calendar and we have enclosed the information.

We look forward celebrating your child's progress throughout the year as this is also a celebration of your active support. This week we shall update the website to keep you informed and to enable you to access information.

Thank you for your continued support as we work with you to ensure your child achieves their very best, every day, every lesson.

Yours faithfully

Yvonne Powell
Executive Principal

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<u>Open Morning</u>	Thursday, 3 October, 2019 - 09:00
<u>Inset Day</u>	Friday, 4 October, 2019 (All day)
<u>Open Morning</u>	Thursday, 10 October, 2019 - 09:00
<u>Open Morning</u>	Tuesday, 15 October, 2019 - 09:00
<u>Open Evening</u>	Thursday, 17 October, 2019 - 17:00
<u>Open Morning</u>	Tuesday, 22 October, 2019 - 09:00
<u>Inset Day</u>	Thursday, 24 October, 2019 (All day)
<u>End of Term 1</u>	Friday, 25 October, 2019 (All day)
<u>Inset Day</u>	Friday, 25 October, 2019 (All day)
<u>Start of Term 2</u>	Monday, 4 November, 2019 (All day)
<u>Inset Day</u>	Monday, 25 November, 2019 (All day)
<u>Inset Day</u>	Tuesday, 26 November, 2019 (All day)
<u>End of Term 2</u>	Friday, 20 December, 2019 (All day)