



Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you and your families continue to stay safe and well. As we now approach the final week of an unprecedented academic year, I write to thank you for all of your support, effort and tenacity in getting through to this point. We are so grateful to families for the commitment made to home schooling and supporting your child's wellbeing. We are so proud of the way this community has pulled together in response to the many challenges we have faced so far and is very encouraging for the challenges that still lie ahead.

I am immensely proud to say that Ark Alexandra has remained operational throughout the entirety of the pandemic including over the Easter and May half term holidays. Not only was this huge feat achieved but since March 23rd we have made over 11,000 welfare calls as part of our commitment to the safety and well-being of our students. We thank you for your cooperation and support with this.

From Monday 13th July, we will be scaling down our whole school approach to phone calls. Calls from academy staff will continue for vulnerable students including some SEND students. We will continue to make calls to targeted students in the summer holidays to check in with them and their families. The weekly virtual tutorials will continue as scheduled and we strongly encourage your child to participate in these crucial pastoral sessions.

We have worked hard to ensure that all students have been provided with appropriate curriculum work throughout the school closure. We have provided every student with access to the Show My Homework Gateway with full support for remote learning. We have also sent booklets and work packs to students who are unable to access the online resources. It is very important that your child completes the work that has been provided in order to avoid falling behind with their Academic progress as we prepare to return in September. If your child is having any difficulties with regards to school work, please contact the Head of Year by email and we will do our best to assist accordingly.

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



Ready for September

Before the end of term, we will write to you to inform you of your child's return date in September. As you will know we are having to adapt the planning in order that we create year group bubbles and restricted areas for each year group. We shall continue to share the detail of the planning so that you can be assured that we are doing everything possible to keep students and staff safe whilst ensuring that we have your child in lessons continuing the learning that is so essential to their development and progress.

Here are some important reminders for all students and their families as you get ready to start the summer holidays:

Safeguarding

-Online safety – Students & families should always be on high alert pertaining to behaviours online. Students should never give out any personal information or share images of themselves. They must protect their passwords and activate their privacy settings. They must avoid befriending people they do not know.



Please pay close attention to the guidance and age restrictions on social media platform

County Lines – Any child, any gender can be a victim as this form of exploitation does not have a 'type'. Children are typically approached in person or online and a process of exploitation begins. The exploiter will build trust and develop a relationship with a child by listening and becoming a friend. They will show the glamour of their lifestyle without sharing the criminal aspect of it. The relationship will be deepened with gifts and rewards while testing loyalties through simple tasks, such as delivering an innocuous package or message to another gang member.



Further guidance and advice can be found here:

<https://www.childrensociety.org.uk/what-we-do/our-work/tackling-criminal-exploitation-and-county-lines/county-lines-resources>

General Support:

Coronavirus information and guidance <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Childline <https://www.childline.org.uk/>

Educational sites:

The Oak National Academy <https://www.thenational.academy/>

BBC Bitesize <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

Ark Alexandra <https://arkalexandra.org/>

With best wishes,

Ms Y Powell, OBE.