



20th August 2020

Dear Parents & carers,

Ready for September: returning to school

I hope you and your family are well. We shall be writing to you again very soon to explain all the relevant protocols and systems that we are introducing in order that we follow the Government's advice and do all we can to keep your child and our staff safe. This letter is an early reminder of previous communications about preparing your child to return to school.

Uniform

Please refer to the web site, parent page, where you can see the full uniform listing.

Uniform is available from Superstitch. Should your child's blazer not be ready for September, please contact us. Whilst there may be issues with blazers, ALL students should have their white shirt, school tie and school trousers or skirt with BLACK shoes (NO trainers). Students can still wear the old Helenswood or William Parker uniform. If you are experiencing any issues with uniform, please email us: info@arkalexandra.org. Please note that you can purchase the white collared shirt and the navy trousers from any alternative store.

PE Kit: the students must wear the school logo top purchased from the uniform provider, but they can wear navy tracksuit bottoms, jogging bottoms or shorts and these can be purchased from any other store. Leggings must NOT be worn. Skirts MUST be knee length and NO shorter.

Make-up / Hair / Jewellery

We have very high expectations related to our student's dress code, so it is timely that we remind students about these expectations.

Students should not have contrasting hair colours or sculpted shaved images or lines in their hair. Long hair MUST be tied back from the face, at all times.

Please ensure your child does not have nail extensions or painted nails when they return to school.

Similarly, the only piercings on view should be a single earring in each year that is the size of a small stud earring.

Rings should be removed and bracelets and necklaces must not be worn to school.

Equipment

All students must have a school bag and they should have the relevant equipment:

Transparent pencil case

At least 3 black pens

3 green pens

3 pencils

An eraser

A calculator

A dictionary

A protractor

A pencil sharpener

Highlighter pens

A compass

Students must also have a reading book with them at all times.

We advise that every student carries a water bottle with them. *Please note that as a result of Covid 19, students cannot refill their water bottles in school.*

Returning to school: dates for each year group

We intend to induct each year group in order that every student knows exactly what is expected and the understands the revised expectations related to keeping them and each other safe in line with the guidance from the Government. As a result, we have staggered the induction for each year group, but as of Thursday 10th September, **ALL students will be in school.**

Year group	Date of Inductions	Start and finish time for induction
Year 7	7 th , 8 th and 9 th September	7 th and 8 th Sept: 8.45am - 1.00pm 9 th Sept: 8.30am - 3.15pm
Year 8	Weds 9 th September	10.00am - 3.15pm
Year 9	Tues 8 th September	8.45am - 1.00pm
Year 10	Weds 9 th September	10.00am - 3.15pm
Year 11	Weds 9 th September	1.00pm - 3.15pm
Year 12	Tues 8 th September	1.30pm - 3.15pm
Year 13	Tues 8 th September	10.00am - 12.35pm

Thursday 10th September 2020:

Students to arrive and ready for a normal school day:

8.30am arrival

3.15pm dismissal

4.10pm dismissal for year 11 on a Monday and a Tuesday only.

Sleep patterns

I am sure that as a result of lockdown and the holidays, we have all altered our sleep patterns and as a result we may have stayed up later and awoken later. We are asking our parents to begin to adapt the sleeping patterns prior to their child's return so that every child has at least 8 hours undisturbed sleep. A gradual change will make it far easier and more manageable for every student.

Results for year 13 and year 11

This has been such a difficult time for our year 13 and year 11 students. The uncertainty has caused a great deal of concern and anxiety. We continue to support and work with all students and we have done everything possible to ensure that all our year 13 students are now enrolled in a university of their choice or they are enrolled onto their apprenticeship course. We are working with year 11 students to ensure they ALL have their place at our 6th Form or at an alternative college or 6th Form. We shall continue to support any individual student who needs further career guidance or support and we shall sustain this until we are sure that every student is happy and secure in their post 16 or post 18 place of study. I am exceptionally proud of our students who, despite this difficult time, have remained calm and resilient - all the wonderful attributes that will serve them well in their future.

At this point, I would also like to thank my wonderful staff for always going above and beyond and for working so hard to ensure that we continue to improve the outcomes for all our students.

Enjoy the rest of the holiday and we shall be in touch very soon with further communication about how we will keep your child and our staff safe when they return in September 2020.

Yours sincerely,



Yvonne Powell
Executive Principal