



22nd July 2022

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope you and your family are well. This letter outlines key timings and information in preparation for your child's return to school in September.

Firstly, I would like to wish you and your family a safe and restful break. This has been a challenging year as we have all returned to a normal working pattern and I would like to thank all of you who have taken the time to write a positive note to staff. Those small things make a huge difference to us. I can tell you that in my 22 years working in schools, I have not worked with a more dedicated group of staff.

Next year finally gives us the opportunity to restart on a positive note. For example, we will start in September with Alexandra being over-subscribed in Year 7, with our first waiting list of children wanting a place at our school.

With that opportunity of a positive start in mind, I want to highlight that we will start the year with an **Academic Review Day on Monday 5th September.**

The aim of this Academic Review Day is to strengthen relationships between parents/carers and our Academy. You will be able to have a one-to-one meeting with your student's form tutor (s) to discuss all aspects of their progress this year. There will also be opportunities to speak to me and my Senior Team about a variety of aspects of the school, such as:

- **How do we use cognitive science in our teaching?**
- **What is maths mastery?**
- **What is it like to be in a lesson at Alexandra?**
- **How does our curriculum work?**
- **What are the reasons behind our behaviour and rewards policy?**
- **What does it mean to be a church school?**

and many others. There will also be opportunities to sample our delicious school dinners!

All students, except sixth form students are expected to attend this meeting in **full school uniform** and with their stationery equipment.

The meeting will last approximately 10 minutes and will take place between 11 am to 7 pm. A link to book the meeting will be sent out over the summer via email to parents/carers.

As this is such an important meeting, we expect all parents to join us. However, if you are unable to, you should still make an appointment and your student should still attend in person. Their form tutor will attempt to contact you during that meeting time.

Students who do not attend their meeting on Monday 5th September will be expected to come to school on Tuesday 6th September, with their Chromebook and work independently in a



supervised room until you are able to make a meeting with their Head of Year or a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Uniform:

Please refer to the website parent page (<https://www.superstitch86.co.uk/product-category/senior-academies-colleges/ark-alexandra-academy/>), where you can see the full uniform listing.

Uniform is available from **SuperStitch – phone number 01424 852225**. Should your child's blazer not be ready for September, please contact your child's Head of Year.

ALL students should have their white shirt, school tie and navy school trousers or navy skirt with **BLACK** shoes (NO trainers). Skirts **MUST** be between knee length and 2 inches above the knee and **NO** shorter. Rolled skirts are not allowed.

If you are experiencing any issues with uniforms, 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 Academy logo top purchased from the uniform provider, but they can wear navy or black tracksuit bottoms, jogging bottoms or football-style shorts and these can be purchased from any other store. Leggings must **NOT** be worn.

Make-up / Hair / Jewellery:

We have very high expectations related to our students' 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. Hair that is shoulder length or longer **MUST** be tied back from the face in all practical subjects. Students are not to wear false eyelashes.

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 ear that is the size of a small stud earring.

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

Make-up can be worn, but it must be subtle and of natural tones.

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 (preferably mechanical pencils which can be bought at all stationers or online)**
- **An eraser**
- **A calculator**
- **A dictionary**
- **A protractor**
- **Highlighter pens**

Students in the sixth form are also expected to bring arch lever folders, paper and file dividers

Students must also always have a reading book with them.

We advise that every student carries a water bottle with them.

Students are to bring a suitable bag capable of carrying books, PE kit and equipment.

Returning to school:

Following the **Academic Review Day on Monday 5th September**, all students will return to the Academy on **Tuesday 6th September**. Students will be expected to be on site by **8.40am** and will be with their tutor group during period 1 and 2 before attending lessons from period 3.

Sleep patterns:

As a result of school holidays, I am sure many students will have altered their sleep patterns, perhaps staying up later and waking up later the next morning. We would ask that parents and carers take responsibility for getting students back to a healthy sleep pattern before the start of term. This consists of at least 8 hours of uninterrupted sleep per night with regular sensible bedtimes. A gradual change will make it far easier and more manageable for every student. As a rough rule of thumb, bedtimes should be around 8pm for our youngest students, moving to around 9-10pm for Years 9-11 and 10-11pm for our Sixth Form students.

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 summer holidays and we shall be in touch soon with further communication about the start of year and home learning opportunities over the summer.

Yours sincerely,



Liam Collins
Principal