



Year 8 Transition FAQ's

How will you be communicating with us during this period of transition?

We communicate with parents via call, text, email, and letter, so it is important that we always have the most up to date contact information for parents. We ask for a minimum of two emergency contacts. Please email info@arkalexandra.org if you have made any changes to your contact details. We will be posting a transition booklet to all Year 8 students which has information about the transition and what to expect at the William Parker campus.

Will there be a transition day before the end of the summer term for the Year 8 students?

As we continue to receive further government guidance about the reopening of schools, we have carefully considered whether it is safe for students to visit the William Parker campus this term. As visits are not possible before the summer break, we will be producing a virtual tour, so students and parents can familiarise themselves with the campus.

When will we meet the Head of Year 9 and Year 9 tutors?

Mrs Hodgkin will remain as the Head of Year for your child. New tutors will be making contact with students before the end of Term 6. Ms Ringsell will be joining the Year Group as Director of Progress and looks forward to meeting your child in September.

When we will be able to buy school uniform?

We are in regular contact with Super Stitch (our uniform providers) about how the current situation may affect their uniform supplies. This is their latest update:

'We have all the uniform for Ark Alexandra on order with our suppliers and are very confident that they and we, will be able to supply in time for return to school. We are currently working on re-opening and will be following the Government guidelines in order to keep our staff, the students and the parents safe.' Uniform can be ordered online at <https://www.superstitch86.co.uk>. Items cannot be tried on in the shop, but Super Stitch will extend the period for exchanges, until the end of August. Those students wearing the legacy uniforms of Helenswood and William Parker can continue to do so.

When will my child start at Ark Alexandra in September?

We will welcome Year 9 students back to school from the 8th September 2020, with a staggered induction and transition timetable. There will be some invite only appointments taking place on the 7th September. We will share detailed plans for the start of term in September, including protocols and risk assessments for schools, when we receive further government guidance about schools reopening.



Will the school bus routes be running in September?

We are in frequent contact with Stagecoach about the bus routes and will update this page when we have further information, on our website. Stagecoach are recommending that those travelling on the bus, follow Government guidelines and PPE should be worn if possible, for those over 11 years old.

Which buses can my child take to the William Parker Campus?

Please visit www.stagecoachbus.com to plan your route to school. It is a good idea to practise this before the first day of school in September.

What are the protocols in place for my child, when they return to school in September?

Our risk assessments will be adapted for September and all relevant details related to how we implement the Government guidance, will be sent to parents and students prior to students returning. Our subject teams are developing their curricula to take account of current school closures to ensure that all students can be successful in their learning next year.

My child has special educational needs. Will there be any special transition activities?

Our SEND team is already working hard to ensure a smooth transition for your child. There will be additional small group transition visits to the William Parker campus, when these happen will be dependent upon Government guidance.

My child is feeling anxious about returning to school. What can you do to support?

We fully appreciate that the current situation may cause students to feel anxious about returning to school. Our tutor team and Head of Year, as well as our whole staff, will support students to feel as comfortable as they can. Please highlight in your weekly calls, if you or your child have concerns. We are following Government guidance to ensure that all members of our school community feeling safe within school.

Where does my child go when they attend the William Parker campus?

We will be reviewing the entrance and exit routines as part of the guidance that we receive.

The main reception of the William Parker campus is at the Park Avenue entrance. However, students can use the Park Avenue and Parkstone Road entrances to arrive and leave the school site at the end of the day. If your child is arriving late or leaving to attend an appointment, please use the Park Avenue entrance. If you are due to attend a meeting, please arrive and sign in at the Park Avenue reception.



When will my child choose their options?

Your child will choose their GCSE options during Year 9. The Year 9 curriculum will provide a bridge between Key Stage 3 and GCSE studies, and extend their current learning. At William Parker students will also have access to a wider range of enrichment opportunities including the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

If you have any other questions about the transition process, please contact us:

- For general questions, please email info@arkalexandra.org
- For specific questions related to your child, email Mrs Hodgkin, d.hodgkin@arkalexandra.org