



# Ark Charter Academy

Newsletter  
Spring 1

Justice



Courage



Respect



Kindness • Independence • Determination • Honesty • Team Work • Responsibility

## Acting Principal's Welcome

Dear parents, carers and students,

It has been a busy start to Spring 1 half term. I would like to thank all the parents and carers for their attendance to the Parents' Evenings this half term. It has been extremely encouraging to see so many of you attend to support the students. It is important we continue to cultivate a strong school-home relationship to pave the way of success for our students. This, I know you will agree, is



instrumental in our mission to provide every student a great education and real choices in life.

The half term break has come around very quick; I wish students and staff alike a well-earned break. Although, some of our Yr11 students will be involved with in-school interventions over the half term to work towards their exams. Well done to those involved and all focusing on exam preparation and revision. I would also like to thank the staff who work tirelessly to ensure our students are surrounded by motivated and inspirational individuals who spark passion in their everyday learning.

**Mr Masters, Acting Principal**

### Dates to remember

18<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> February - *Half Term*  
25<sup>th</sup> February - *Students start back for Spr 2*  
11<sup>th</sup> March - *Network Hub Day*  
12<sup>th</sup> March - *Inset Day*  
8<sup>th</sup> April - 19<sup>th</sup> April - *Easter break*  
22<sup>nd</sup> April - *Bank Holiday*  
23<sup>rd</sup> April - *Students start back for Sum 1*

*If you wish to comment or contribute to Charter Academy's newsletter, we would love to hear from you. You can contact us on:*

**info@charteracademy.org.uk**

Everything within the newsletter is subject to possible amendments by the Acting Principal.

## Academy News

Letters were previously sent to parents, staff, students and carers informing all of the presence of a trained guide dog on site. If you missed it; meet Aster.

Aster the guide dog is a golden retriever and a trained companion supporting Mrs Antar onsite, full time.

Aster is a certified dog and is highly trained and recognised by The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.

Whilst we appreciate that it may be exciting for students to have a guide dog on site, it is important that students remember Aster is a working dog and that staff and students alike all follow the below guidelines:

- Unless given permission by the handler, nobody should touch/stroke or pet Aster.
- Aster wears a harness to indicate that she is working- it is important staff and students do not approach Aster or disturb when the harness is being worn.
- Nobody should give food to Aster, other than the handler, under any circumstances.

The member of staff's right to have a certified guide dog is protected under Human Rights legislation- Equality Act 2010 and Aster will be under the care of Mrs Antar at all times.

From a health and safety perspective, the school has carried out a comprehensive risk assessment and the appropriate insurance is in place. Mrs Antar has also had full accredited training directly with The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. Parents of students with allergies or phobias will already have been spoken to, but if you have any concerns please contact Mrs Norton, Operations Manager on 02392 824204.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Welcome to the Charter Community Aster!



### Communication

We are constantly working hard to ensure our communication both within the school and also with parents, carers and other stakeholders is as quick as possible. Whilst we endeavour to respond to any communication on the same day, it is not always possible. Response times are outlined below:

Form of communication	Response Time within
Phone call*	2 working days
Written communication (letter, email etc.)	5 working days

**\*Any communication regarding a safeguarding issue would be responded to on the same day.**

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## Duke of Edinburgh

We would like to share with you some exciting news about The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) in Ark Charter Academy. Our school has recently received a grant after successfully applying to the DofE's Diamond fund. This will enable us to reach and support more disadvantaged young people who want to do their DofE at Ark Charter Academy. The grant will help fund the expedition section for our first cohort of Bronze Award participants and has enabled us to use an Approved Activities Provider and offer the expedition component at a much reduced cost to all our Bronze participants. The grant will also allow us to purchase tents and stoves for the coming years and will fund the training of our DofE leaders.

The DofE's Diamond fund is made up of £1.5 million raised by over 15,000 supporters during the Charity's Diamond Anniversary year (2016), £1 million from the #iwill Fund for England – a joint investment from The National Lottery and the Department of Culture, Media and Sport to support young people to access high quality social action opportunities – and additional DofE donations to double Diamond Anniversary fundraising in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. With a total of £3 million to invest over the next four years, the Charity aims to work with Licensed Organisations, like Ark Charter Academy, to give more disadvantaged young people the chance to develop life-changing skills and attributes – such as communication, determination and teamwork – for life and work, create new friendships and gain the confidence to reach their full potential.

However, the funding we have received will only go so far and we are still in need of some donations to help our participants fulfil their expedition kit requirements. If you have any of the following items and would be willing to donate them to us, we would be very grateful:

- waterproof over trousers
- waterproof jackets
- personal first aid kits
- whistles
- head torches
- compasses
- mess tins
- 3 season sleeping bags
- sleeping mats

Lastly, we'd like to thank you for your continued support of Ark Charter Academy and the DofE. We look forward to seeing the impact this project has on our young people's lives.

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### **A reminder to parents and carers:**

Please remember to top up your child's lunch accounts regularly as credit cannot be guaranteed. This can be done easily via Wisepay, which can also be used to pay for other things online, such as uniform and trips.

**Thank you.**

## Carol Service 2018



On Thursday 20th December Year 7 and 8 students visited St Luke's church to experience a traditional Carol Service. The service was coordinated to enrich students' cultural awareness and to show respect for these traditions. Each tutor group nominated a student speaker to read a short excerpt from the bible, telling the nativity story. Students from both years stood during each carol, and sang if they wanted to. It was great to see everyone involved in the festive celebrations. We would like to thank St Luke's Church for using their Grade II listed organ for accompanying the service.



## Welcome Yule - Performing Arts Winter Concert 2018

On Tuesday 18th December Ark Charter Academy welcomed friends and family to come and enjoy our annual Christmas Concert- Welcome Yule!

The evening was packed full of astounding performances. Highlights from the first half included a very loud Back in Black drum solo by Sam Holden, the Chamber Choir's performance of This Is Me from The Greatest Showman, and Anwen Crawford's tear-jerking rendition of With You from the musical Ghost.

In the second half we fully embraced the festive spirit, with a fun-filled programme of Christmas themed music. From traditional pieces such as God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman and O Holy Night to All I Want for Christmas Is You and Rockin' Robin, the students demonstrated their enthusiasm, talent and commitment throughout the evening.

The Performing Arts Department would like to thank everyone who attended this event. The students work very hard in preparation for these performances and it creates such positive memories for those involved.



# Uniform Policy

## Outdoor Clothing Items

Outdoor coats must be plain black with no logos. No leather or denim jackets or hoodies or body warmers/gilets are permitted. All outdoor clothing must be removed when in the Academy buildings. Items not permitted will be confiscated and a negative point logged on Bromcom.

## Jewellery, nails and makeup

- Students are allowed to wear a wrist watch
- **One** small metal stud in each ear. No diamond style ear studs are allowed.
- No facial piercings are permitted, nor are piercings covered by a plaster.
- No bracelets
- No rings
- No false nails or coloured nail varnish.
- No makeup in Key Stage 3. Makeup worn in Key Stage 4 must be subtle and suited to a work environment.
- No false eyelashes.

## Hair and Headwear

Hair (including hair extensions) must be of natural hair colour (no red, blue, orange, purple, pink, etc) and appropriate style (No tramlines, Mohicans, extreme shaving or styling or hair or eyebrow designs etc.). Long hair must be tied back for practical lessons. Hair decorations should be small and plain with no patterned headbands or bandannas allowed. Students are permitted to cover their head for religious or cultural reasons. Headscarves must be plain black or grey. Turbans and handkerchief/remaal to tie a topknot must be plain black or grey.

## Shoes:

Plain black leather 'school' shoes (not suede). If shoes have a heel, this should be a low heel.

- No trainers or canvas pumps.
- No branding along the sides of the shoe.
- No metallic chains or decoration.
- Should contain a stiff rubber or leather sole that is not a 'platform' sole.
- Black laces.
- No boots of any kind.

### Main uniform

Item	Description
<b>Blazer</b>	Charter logo
 <p data-bbox="188 801 357 909"><b>formal trousers</b></p>	Plain black formal trousers. No jeans' styles, skinny or legging type trouser or combat trousers. Although some retailers advertise these as 'school' trousers, they do not comply with the academy's policy. Please check with us if you are unsure.
	As provided by Charter. Black with Academy logo on the hem of the central pleat. Must be measured and ordered from the academy. Must not be rolled up.
 <p data-bbox="188 1352 325 1393"><b>Blouse</b></p>	Plain white (no logo of any sort) with a collar and long or short sleeves It must be tucked in at all times. The top button must be fastened. Girls may wear the purple and white blouse available from Charter.
<b>Tie</b>	As provided by Charter. All students must wear the tie. Ties to be worn with a small knot that covers the top button of the shirt. Seven stripes must be showing on the tie. Ties are not required for the purple and white striped blouses.
<b>Jumper</b>	Plain black knitted V-neck jumper with long sleeves, no logos. No hoodies or sweatshirts.
<b>Socks</b>	Plain black or grey socks or tights only.
<b>Charter Bags</b>	As provided by Charter. Charter backpacks, side bags, large document bags or/and PE bags are the only bags to be used.

**“CONGRATULATIONS to our PORTSMOUTH LIT QUIZ team. We took part in a quiz tournament against schools (state and independent) from across the city at Fratton Park. Out of just over 30 teams one of our groups narrowly missed third place overall and scored top marks in one of the rounds. We have all learnt more about team work, resilience, courage, determination and kindness and I am really proud of everyone who took part. Thank you to all the staff, parents and carers who supported by accompanying, driving, spectating, encouraging and accommodating us. Looking forward to next year already!”**

This half-term we have welcomed 4 new members of staff to the Charter community:

- Miss Afzal- Seconded Vice Principal
- Ms Bailey, Assistant Vice Principal- Teaching & Learning
- Mr McPherson, Extended SLT
- Ms Barry- PE Teacher

We wish all new members of staff the very best of luck in their new roles!

We also warmly welcome back Ms Claxton, Head of Drama, following maternity leave.

**Active COMMUNITIES NETWORK**

**PORTSMOUTH ACTIVITY PROGRAMME**

**STARTING 29TH OCTOBER 2018**

MONDAYS	TUESDAYS	WEDNESDAYS	THURSDAYS
<b>JAG TAG</b> Charter Academy Sports Hall 3.30 - 4.30pm   8-18 years <small>A simplified introduction to American Football, partnered with the Jacksonville Jaguars and Portsmouth Dreadnoughts. For Charter Academy pupils only</small>	<b>GB BOXING AWARDS</b> Somerstown Community Centre Dance Studio 4.30 - 5.15pm   8-13 years 5.30 - 6.15pm   13-18 years	<b>ARCHERY</b> Priory School 2.30 - 3.30pm   8-18 years <small>Limited space available, please call the office on 02393 3686123 to book your place</small>	<b>TENNIS</b> Charles Dickens Activity Centre Sports Hall 5 - 5.45pm   8-18 years
<b>HUB FOOTBALL</b> (weather dependent) Somerstown Hardcourt Next to Somerstown Adventure Playground 5.30 - 6.30pm   8-18 years		<b>TENNIS</b> John Pounds Centre Sports Hall 4 - 4.45pm   8-18 years [GIRLS] 4.45 - 5.30pm   8-18 years [BOYS]	<b>DODGEBALL</b> Charles Dickens Activity Centre Sports Hall 5.45 - 6.30pm   8-18 years
<b>CRICKET</b> Somerstown Community Centre Sports Hall 7 - 8pm   8-18 years		<b>CRICKET</b> Charles Dickens Activity Centre Sports Hall 6.15 - 7pm   8-18 years	

All sessions are FREE and open access for young people aged 8 - 18 years who live or are educated in Somerstown, Buckland, Portsea and Landport. ACN also operate in the Leigh Park area. Please call the office for more information on 02393 686123

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**@CharterAcademy**