



Ark Charter Academy

Monday 2nd November

Dear parents and carers,

We have been so proud with how well our students have settled into the new school year. There may still be many challenges facing our community and our country as we move through this pandemic but inside our school, we have created our 'new normal'.

Our school is calm and purposeful, our pupils are hardworking and focused and we are doing everything we can to keep each other safe and unlike many other schools across the country stay open.

As you will all be aware this Thursday the country will be moving into a national lockdown. This is because Covid infection rates are continuing to rise rapidly in England. Amongst other measures it means that households can no longer mix indoors. However, we are delighted that the government has said that schools will remain open. This is vital to ensure that your child's education is not further affected by the impact of Covid.

However this does mean that our safety measures are more important than ever.

Please discuss the following safety steps with your child and make sure that we all do everything we can to stay safe and keep our school open.

- Only use public transport if you have to – we recommend that students travelling by bus wear a face mask
- Regularly wash your hands for 20 seconds and use our hand sanitising stations which are located at every entrance/exit
- Maintain social distance at all times outside your classrooms – especially outside at break and lunchtime when you are mixing outside your class bubbles. The same applies for activities outside of school
- Wear a mask in all communal areas of school. We provided all students with two black face masks at the beginning of the year. If your child no longer has these masks, please ensure that you provide them with a plain black face mask to wear. If you have any concerns about your child wearing a mask please email their form tutor. If not we will expect all pupils to wear masks in communal areas to ensure we protect our community and keep our school open.

We are determined to do what it takes to keep our staff and pupils safe and to keep our school fully operational. At this stage the government have been clear that they will keep schools open but if this changes and we are told to close the school we have robust remote learning plans in place.

In any future lockdown where pupils need to learn from home, we will be providing significantly more live online teaching as we know this is the best way to support your child to continue to learn and work hard – even from home. We will share more details if or when this is necessary.



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For now we will focus on staying safe and supporting each other through these difficult times. We would like to draw your attention to some key events taking place this term.

Parents Evenings

Wednesday 18th November-Numeracy and Literacy Online Information Event for Year 7 and 8 parents and carers. 5pm-5.45pm via Zoom.

Parents with children in Year 7 and 8 will receive an invitation to this event which is an opportunity to learn more about how you can support your child with developing these key skills.

Wednesday 16th December-Year 11 Online Parents and Carers Evening

Parents/carers with children in Year 11 will be contacted shortly regarding this event which will take place via MS Teams.

Christianity in Action

As a Church of England school, it is crucial that our students have an opportunity to demonstrate our Christian values and support others who may be in need. The following events are schedule this term as part of our Christianity in Action Programme.

Friday 13th November-non-school uniform day in support of Children in Need.

The focus this year is on the impact that the coronavirus pandemic is having on the mental health and aspirations of UK children and so we will pledge to support them.

The suggested donation is £1 per student.

Students wishing to participate in the non-school uniform day should pay their donation on the gate. It is important that students are still dressed appropriately. Tops must cover their shoulders and midriffs (no crop-tops) and must not have inappropriate logos or slogans. Skirts should be knee length.

If students choose not to take part in the non-school uniform day, they are expected to wear full school uniform.

Monday 23d November-Friday 27th November: Christmas Card Campaign

We are aware that some members of our local community will find the festive season challenging due to loneliness. Students will be designing and writing Christmas cards which we will send to the local community including to residents of the local care homes.

Friday 11th December: Christmas Jumper Day

This charity day is led by Save the Children and raises money to improve the lives of children both in the UK and other countries.

The suggested donation is £1 per student.



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Students wishing to participate in Christmas Jumper Day should pay their donation on the gate. Students taking part in Christmas Jumper Day are expected to wear their normal school trousers /skirt and shoes but are not required to wear their blazers or tie. Given the time of year, if students would like to wear their school shirt or blouse under their jumpers they may do so.

If students choose not to take part in Christmas Jumper Day they are expected to wear full school uniform.

Other key dates

Friday 4th December-Inset Day

Friday 11th December-Thursday 18th December Christmas Lunches for students. More details will be sent regarding these lunches, which are free to ALL students, later this month.

Friday 18th December-last day of term. More details will be sent regarding the arrangements for the last day, later this month.

Whatever we have ahead of us we will face it together and do all we can to keep our children happy, safe and learning.

Kindest regards,

Fiona Chapman
Executive Principal

Emily Morey
Principal



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THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND



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