



Ark Charter Academy

Friday 12th February

Dear parents and carers,

We have made it to the end of the term!

Thank you for all your superb efforts helping your magnificent children manage their learning through difficult circumstances. Our school staff are so grateful for your support as well. It goes to show the power of working together that at the end of the term, we can feel very proud of our young people's hard work, resilience and determination.

Half Term

There are some very tired faces around school (and online), and I'm sure that a half term break is exactly what is needed. I hope your children will find some time away from screens during this week, although I recognise that for many students their down-time is online! Our Wellbeing Day today was an excellent opportunity for students to participate in creative activities away from screens. We have enjoyed seeing the photos submitted by students today, we have a community full of talented artists, chefs and poets! We know that many of the usual activities they might enjoy aren't available during lockdown, but getting outside or trying creative, performance, artistic, musical and sporting activities are so good for their mental health.

Update to remote learning offer

We have been working hard to further develop our remote learning offer and I am delighted to say that more subjects will be offering live lessons from half term. In Year 7-9 the literacy lessons and literacy intervention lessons will now be live lessons. We will be able to offer live lessons in Art, Drama and Music when staff are not based in our community classroom. The updated timetables for students will be posted on the school website during half term and students will receive calendar invites for these live lessons.

Plans for returning to school

We still have no further plans on returning to school. I very much hope that we will be given the 2 weeks' notice promised by the government so we can put all the right actions into place in good time. We may be asked to stagger entry back into school with some year groups prioritised, and we are likely to need to organise lateral flow testing too. 8th March is still a date which we have as the earliest possible point of return, but there are no firm decisions just yet. After the half term then, we are continuing with remote learning for the vast majority of our students and continuing with some in-school places for children of critical keyworkers or vulnerable children.

Warm regards,

Fiona Chapman
Executive Principal



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THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND



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