

Wednesday 11th January 2017

Letter Number 2 – Years 7 - 9

Dear Parents/Carers,

A belated Happy New Year, I hope you received the Civitas Magazine and read the many highlights of last term.

House Charity week was undoubtedly one of the highlights of Autumn 2 with some amazing events which I hope you read about in the magazine. In total, after a fantastic effort by our students and staff we raised

£4,427.78

House	TOTAL	Charity
Curie	£1,171.80	UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency
Newton	£403.71	CLIC Sargent for Children with Cancer
Plato and Plato Just Giving Page	£856.21 £1,270	Muir Maxwell The Epilepsy Trust for Children and Families
Socrates	£726.06	WaterAid

I would also like to congratulate:-

Curie – Noreen Alaswad

Newton – Gayathri Sajeendra and Roshan Patel

Plato – Bano Ahmed

Socrates – Mezdha Afzali

who received our fundraiser awards at our end of term celebration assembly for their fantastic efforts on behalf of their houses.

Plato House also showed true Civitas by raising £600 to host a lovely Christmas meal for some of our senior citizens who would be alone on Christmas Day, the students were amazing! (Please see our website)

Before the Christmas holidays you received the first set of reports for your child using the new grading system. I am sure parents will have discussed your son/daughter's attainment but also crucially whether they are making progress towards their targets. These targets are based on what they should achieve from their Year 6 SATs results. Disappointingly (this is a national statistic) 40% of students fail to make the progress they should make from primary school. We need to ensure our students see the point of working throughout **key stage 3 to be the best they can be.**

You have received the Spring 1 calendar to advise you of upcoming events. It is a very significant term for Year 9 who begin the process of looking at their GCSE pathways. I cannot stress how important it is for Year 9 to be making greater progress in the next two terms to put themselves in the best position for choosing and starting their GCSEs. An additional important date for your calendar is:

End of KS3 science exam – Tuesday 7th February 2017.

We also look forward this half term to the Year 7 trip to Kingswood, always a highlight of their year.

All our clubs and societies begin again on **Monday 16th January**. I attach the fantastic offer and I do hope as the days get lighter, your son/daughter takes up these opportunities to broaden their horizons/support their special interests.

The Student Planner

This is a vital tool for student organisation and unfortunately some of our students have not looked after their planner properly. Too many are not being used to record homework and unfortunately are not being signed regularly. We have ordered a new batch of planners and if your son/daughter has 'lost' their planner or has one that is no longer fit for purpose, please could you get them to buy a new one for £3.00.

Attendance remains a key factor in student attainment and progress and whilst overall attendance was reasonable in autumn term there is room for improvement. I was, however, disappointed with the number of students who failed to return on the first day of term (4th January) and it is vital that all these absences are covered by a note explaining the reason for the absence. Not only does attendance affect progress but it is also a key factor requested by all sixth forms and colleges. On Tuesday 10th January there were the following absences:-

Year 7 – 8

Year 8 – 13

Year 9 - 12

So please ensure your son/daughter really gets into the habit of attending every day.

Safeguarding

All of our teachers and support staff are trained in safeguarding and identifying signs of a child being harmed or at risk of being harmed. However, parents may be aware that a child attending the academy is at risk and wish to pass this information on so that appropriate action can be taken. Therefore if you are concerned about a child's safety please contact one of our secondary safeguarding leads. These concerns will be dealt with in absolute confidence.

Tim Dainty: t.dainty@arlademy.org

Jade Downey: j.downey@arkacademy.org

Claire Hickling: c.hickling@arkacademy.org

Parental meetings

If any parent should wish to organise a meeting with a member of staff, then an email should be sent to that member of staff (First name initial.surname@arkacademy.org) or reception should be

contacted by telephone (0208 385 4370). Parents should not simply arrive at school without first making an appointment, as the member of staff is likely to be teaching or in a meeting and therefore unavailable. Further to this, can all parents and relatives wishing to meet and speak with a teacher please ensure that they sign in at reception and wait to be called. No parent should ever enter the academy without first signing in at reception.

Spring term is not a long one, but a hopeful one of increasing light and renewed energy. We look forward to a really productive and enjoyable term.

My best wishes

Delia Smith
Principal

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Science STEM Club <i>Years 7, 8, 9</i>	Science Experiment Club <i>Years 7, 8, 9</i>	Reading Lexia <i>Year 7</i>	Science Ark Alive <i>Years 7, 8, 9</i>	Drama Drama Club <i>Years 7, 8, 9</i>
Library Book Club <i>Years 7, 8, 9</i>	Science Forensic Science Club <i>Years 7, 8, 9</i>	DT DT Club <i>Years 8, 9</i>	Maths Chess Club <i>Years 7, 8, 9</i>	PE Y7 Boys Football <i>Year 7</i>
Music Junior Choir <i>Year 7</i>	English Film Club <i>Years 7, 8, 9</i>	Year 9 Glow Club <i>Year 9</i>	Music Senior Choir <i>Years 8, 9, 10, 11</i>	PE Y8 Boys Football <i>Year 8</i>
Music Music Tech <i>Years 7, 8, 9</i>	English Debating Club <i>7, 8, 9, 10, 11</i>	PE Senior Boys Basketball <i>Years 12, 13</i>	North London Citizens NLC <i>Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 11</i>	PE Basketball Fun <i>Year 9</i>
PE Girls Football Fun Y8-10 <i>Years 8, 9, 10</i>	Music Samba Band <i>Years 7, 8, 9</i>	PE Senior Boys Football <i>Years 12, 13</i>	PE KS3 Girls Hockey <i>Years 7, 8, 9</i>	Duke of Edinburgh D of E <i>Year 10</i>
PE Y7 Boys Basketball <i>Year 7</i>	Music Rock Band <i>Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 11</i>	PE KS3 Boys Rugby <i>Years 8, 9</i>	PE KS3 Fitness Club <i>Years 7, 8, 9</i>	
	Maths Maths Challenge Y7 <i>Year 7</i>		PE Serge Betsen Football <i>Years 7, 8, 9</i>	
	Maths Maths Challenge Y8 & Y9 <i>Years 8, 9</i>		Art/Maths/DT Craft Club <i>Years 7, 8, 9</i>	
	Art Art Club <i>Years 7, 8, 9</i>			
	PE Y7 Girls Football Fun <i>Year 7</i>			
	PE Y8&9 Boys Basketball <i>Years 8, 9</i>			
	PE Serge Betsen Rugby <i>Years 7, 8, 9</i>			