

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are delighted to welcome you all to the Sixth Form and would like to congratulate all of you on achieving such excellent grades at GCSE. Please take time to reflect on your results, and enjoy your successes but also to look forward to the next chapter of your education – A-Level. Well done to you all on a marvellous induction week you made a great start to Ark and have suitably impressed your teachers with your insights, input and drive. I know you were given a lot of information but please don't worry it will all start to filter through and make more sense in the coming weeks here when you start to live the experience.

You have come to us for the most important years of your education and as a Sixth Form team we are excited to guide you through to university. I am sure you have seen and heard about our fantastic results at both AS & A-Level. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and I would like to share some of the great stories here.

### A-Level

**This was our first ever set of results for Year 13**, our founding students have finally flown the nest and we are so proud of them.

Overall almost a third of the students achieved 3+ A\*-B grades at 'A' Level

<b>Year 13</b>	<b>%</b>
3+ A* -B	31%
3+ A*-C	57%
3+ A*-E	86%

Many students achieved the top grades (with 21% of grades A\*/A) which enabled them to attain excellent university places. Subject results also had many highlights.

	<b>A*-C</b>	<b>A*/A</b>
Mathematics	79%	32%
Further Maths	89%	67%
<b>In the Sciences</b>	<b>A*-C</b>	<b>A*-B</b>
Chemistry	67%	50%
Biology	82%	29%
Physics	93%	50%

We were also delighted that all students studying history achieved A\*-B, as did 86% of sociologists, 86% of economics students and 75% of philosophy and religious studies students. The progress of our students in Year 13 made from their GCSE grades puts us in the top **25% of sixth forms for progress**.

As a result **94% of Year 13 students have been accepted on university places** across the country. With a third attaining places at the top 10% of universities including:

Bristol, Warwick, Leeds, Sheffield, Birmingham, Bath, Nottingham, London Kings, Queen Mary College, Royal Holloway and Loughborough. Subjects studied include:

Mathematics – 5 students

Engineering – 7 students

Economics – 7 students

Psychology – 6 students

Biomedical sciences – 6 students

Psychology – 5 students

Economics – 4 students

History – 2 students

We are delighted that two students attained **their places at Cambridge**, one to study maths and the other philosophy.

These really are a very impressive first set of results and that puts us on an ALPS grade 3 from A-Level – meaning we are performing in the top 25% of Sixth form institutes across the country! We hope to build on this in the coming year with your son/daughter and are ourselves constantly striving to improve.

## AS

Our second cohort of AS students also rose to the occasion and our Year 12 AS results were an improvement on the year before. These fabulous results puts us on an exceptionally high ALPS grade 2 meaning our year 12 results are in the **top 10% of grades nationally**.

This only bodes well for the future. Some of the headlines are

- **58%** attaining **3 or more A\*-C** and **47%** attaining **4 or more A\*-C**
- Just under **half the grades achieved** by our year 12 students were **B, A or A\***. Additionally, **75%** of all results were a **C or above** and the overall **average grade** attained was a **grade C**.
- In terms of subject results, there were a number of highlights in the **STEM** subjects; **every** further maths student attained an **A\*-B** as did **43%** of students in biology and chemistry and **62%** of students in physics.

- **80%** of students attained an **A\*-C** in English Literature as did **93%** in philosophy and religion. Pleasingly, **78%** of geography students attained an A\*-B as did **68%** of our sociologists.

So no pressure Year 12!

You should be looking at the step up into A-Level. A Level stands for Advanced Level , GCSE stands for General Certificate. A Levels are a considerable step up and there are plenty of Year 13s who are more than willing to impart their lessons from last year.

To contextualise a minimum of 3Cs at AS Level is needed for solid foundation at A Level. Your son/daughters predicted grades next year for A Level will be based on AS results.

AAB is needed to get into a top Russell Group university. A\*AA is the average offer for Medicine. Degrees such as Law, Pharmacy, English Literature the average offer is AAA at Russell Group university and other top universities. In other words, your child needs to hit the ground running and work hard!

Some of the things they must do are:

- use their study periods and the study rooms wisely taking advantage of this excellent perk of being in Sixth Form
- increasing the number of hours spent on independent work at home (both homework and revision). The average working week in the UK is 43.5 hours. Your child has 20 hours of lessons a week. We expect your child to do at least 20 hours of independent study a week - that's 5 hours per subject. People at the top of their professions work a lot more than 43.5 hours a week - if your child wants the best grades, working more than the average will help them.
- decreasing the amount of time spent each evening/weekend on watching TV/gaming/social media
- turning off all electronic equipment when in bed (the blue light interrupts their sleep)
- using the expertise that is available to hand and asking their teachers for support through drop in clinics etc

We would also like to highlight the 3 week review which is imminent. At this point we will ask your son/daughters teachers and form tutor for some feedback on how they have settled in and how they have demonstrated their commitment to the Sixth Form and their subjects. We may have parental conversations at this stage should anyone not be meeting our expectation but equally we will follow up successes with celebrations and praise.

As you can appreciate we have much to discuss as the students start their extremely important Year 12. As they are aware, there is a very short time between now and their AS

examinations and we need to talk through all the factors that will contribute to their success both in their exams and in their personal development. We would also like to share the wide portfolio of opportunities that will greatly enhance their CVs both for university and life.

There is so much to do and discuss with both you and with your son/daughter that we have a special information evening for you both on

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October at 6.30pm**

At this meeting you will be able to meet the sixth form senior team and tutors:

Miss Keane	Director of Sixth Form
Miss Lewis Smith	Head of Year 12 - Pastoral
Mr Ding	Head of Year 13 – Progression
Mr Evans	Form Tutor 12 Foster
Ms Bondonga	Form Tutor 12 Hughes
Mr Dineen	Form Tutor 12 Hadid
Ms Rogers	Form Tutor 12 Rogers
Ms Bouquin	Form Tutor 12 Scott
Mr Grande	Form Tutor 12 Wren

We strongly encourage parents to read through the Sixth Form Student Handbook and planner with your son/daughter before this information evening.

Sixth form brings greater independence but the stakes are also much higher. This requires real commitment from our students to their chosen paths of study and the self-motivation that will enable them to research beyond the formal teaching to achieve the broadest understanding of their subjects. This is why we coined the sixth form strap line

**'Your future in you hands'**

We look forward to meeting you on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October.



**Tracey Keane**  
**Vice Principal – Director of Sixth Form**

**REPLY SLIP**

Pupils Name (PRINT).....

Tutor Group (PRINT).....

We **will/will not** be attending the **Year 12 Information Evening** on **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017** at **6.30pm**.

**Contact Details**

**Mobile Phone no**.....

**Work Phone no**.....

**Email Address**.....

**NB: If any aspect of your contact details change, please inform our admin officer, Miss Johnson at [f.johnson@arkacademy.org](mailto:f.johnson@arkacademy.org)**

**Many thanks.**

Please return this reply slip to your Form Tutor on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2017**.