

ARK ACADEMY

YEAR 12 GCE CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

A Mathematics and Citizenship Rich School



www.arkacademy.org

MISSION STATEMENT

Ark Academy has at its core the pursuit of highest standards possible in education. We believe in high aspirations, high motivation and high achievement for all. Through our extended curriculum and community life we seek to meet the needs of the whole person. Civitas – Citizenship – is at our core. We will build a community of civic pride and social justice in which all members are equally valued. We are committed to the service of young people and to helping them play their full part in society.

In light of this we aim to:

- *Provide every student with the knowledge, skills, self belief and motivation to be successful in their learning and lives*
- *Welcome, value and respect all who come to the school*
- *Build a community based on justice and a sense of personal responsibility*
- *Provide opportunities for all to experience CIVITAS whilst developing a spirit of tolerance and understanding for all cultures, traditions and faiths*
- *Promote dialogue and co-operation with the wider community*

Our Driving Principles are:

- ***Excellence***
- ***Citizenship***
- ***Participation***
- ***Persistence***

Our goal

Our goal is that all students should be able to access higher education and participate fully in our democratic society.

Introduction

We have reached an important year in your education – the start of the study which will lead you to your chosen **university** and eventually – your chosen **career**!

This booklet focuses both on the **year 12 curriculum** and the **upcoming AS examinations** and has been designed as a ‘go to guide’ for you to reference during the key months ahead.

It includes:

- A comprehensive **timeline of the year**, including dates for key assessments and both sets of mock exams
- Details of any **controlled assessments** to be taken – worth a percentage certain subject grades
- An overview of the **external exam process** including GCE exam entries and number of subjects
- Our plan for **supporting all students** to achieve their best this year through independent study, targeted intervention and revision
- The **provision curriculum**: the **MPQ** qualification, **university preparation** & UCAS applications

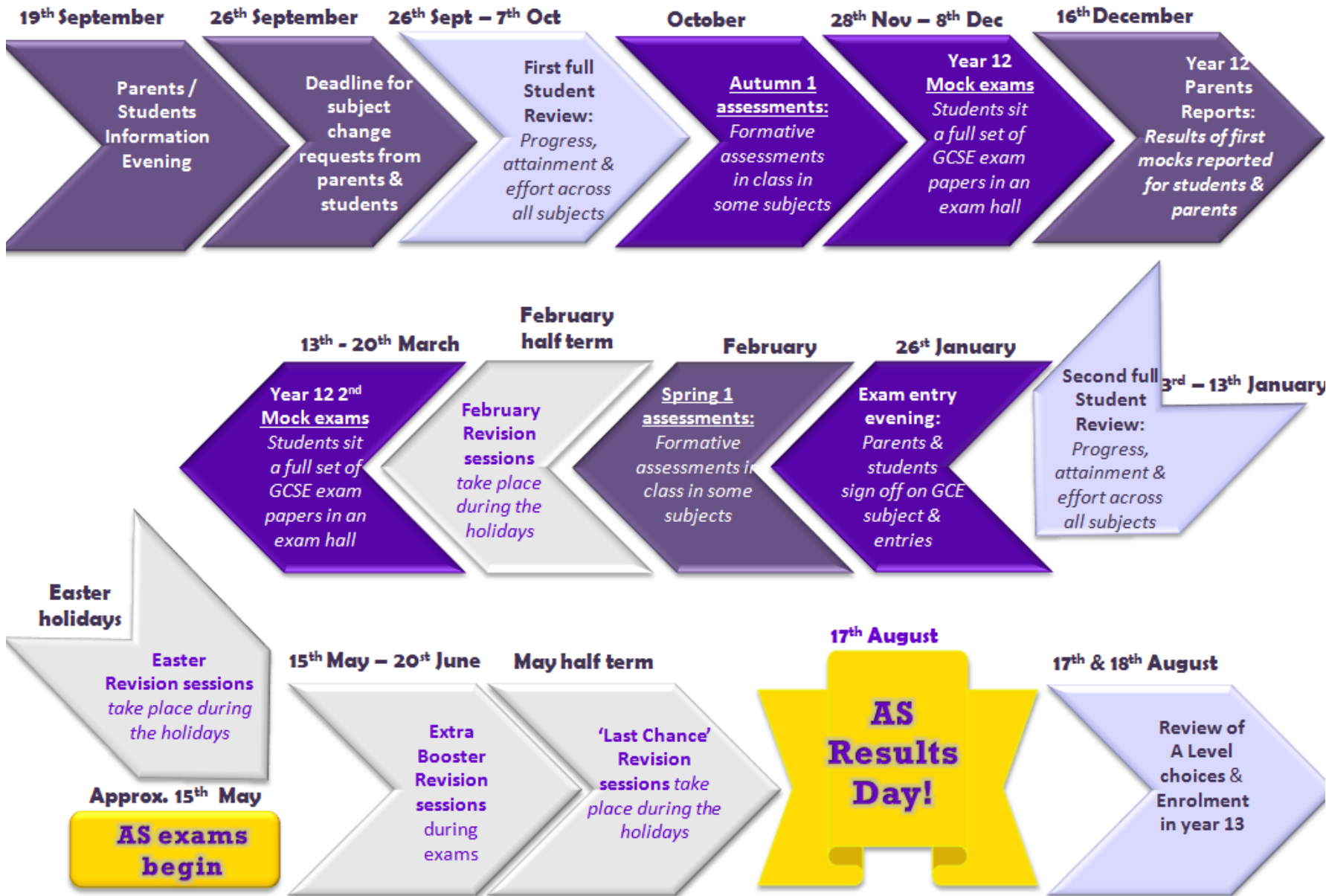
Individual subject guides will be available to collect to supplement this booklet and each will explain

- The **exam board** for the subject & **outline of the course** at AS (year 12) and A2 (year 13) level
- **Controlled assessment** this year (where applicable)
- Information on the maintaining appropriate **notes / folders** for that subject
- Details of when **homework** is set and marked
- Advice on what students need to do to **prepare well** for the each **examination point**

Should you have any questions about the curriculum and assessment plans for the year please speak to individual teachers or the relevant Head of Department. Alternatively contact one of the senior team who will be more than happy to help:

Miss Keane	Director of Sixth Form	t.keane@arkacademy.org
Mr Sawbridge	Assistant Principal – Sixth Form	t.sawbridge@arkacademy.org
Mr Alexander	Assistant Principal – Sixth Form	r.alexander@arkacademy.org
Ms Ryan	VP - Curriculum and Assessment	a.ryan@arkacademy.org

Year 12 Timeline 2016 - 17



The External Examination Process:

GCE Exams 2016-17

GCE Target Setting

We want to ensure that every one of our students is challenged to reach their potential in their AS & A2 exams and take the process of setting and sharing targets very seriously. Every Ark Academy Sixth Form student will be set **challenging A Level targets** this year based on their **average GCSE score**, their baseline assessment result the subject grades they achieved at GCSE (where applicable). The targets will be based on historic data of the **top 25% attainment** at Key Stage 5 across the country.

Students will receive their targets for **individual subjects** from their teachers next week and these will be compared to **current attainment** and **teacher predictions** at every assessment point in the year ahead.

Interim and Mock examinations: *Reviewing attainment through the year*

This coming term is a very important one for teachers and heads of department in every subject, who look carefully at each A Level student's progress, attainment and commitment to the subject. By the time you read this, the first **Year 12 Review** will have taken place, during which teachers will report to senior staff on the effort and attainment of each student so far. This will enable us to intervene effectively to support your son/daughter. In almost all cases, we will advise students to continue to study four AS subjects as this maximises their options and we will contact parents if we advise otherwise.

The first set of mock exams will take place before the Christmas holidays from **28th November – 8th December**. Students will be tested on everything they have learnt in year 12 up to that point. Where possible, students will sit full GCE papers.

The second set of mock exams take place in spring 2 half term, from the **13th – 24th March**. In most cases, students will sit full GCE papers in every subject in an exam hall and their overall result should be indicative of how they will achieve in their real GCE exams in May.

Exam Entries

The results of the first set of mock exams, will determine the **GCE external exam entries** for every student. Each student and their parents will then attend the **Exam Entry evening** at Ark Academy on **26th January**, where both will sign off on all GCE entries. More detailed information on the exam entries process and the external exams themselves will be sent out in advance of the evening.

A **draft AS examination timetable** is included overleaf. Please note that these dates are provisional and an updated timetable will be circulated as soon as it is available.

GCE DRAFT Exam timetable 2016-17

Board	Code	Name	Timetable date
EDEXCEL AS LEVEL	8ECO 01	MARKETS & MARKET FAILURE	15/05/2016
OCR A LEVEL	G571/01	REL STUDS: PHLSPHY RELGN (AS) WRTN	19/05/2016
EDEXCEL AS LEVEL	8ECO 02	THE UK ECONOMY	22/05/2016
EDEXCEL AS LEVEL	8BNO 01	LIFESTYLE,TRANSPORT,GENES	25/05/2016
OCR A LEVEL	G572/01	REL STUDS: RELIGIOUS ETHCS (AS) WRTN	27/05/2016
EDEXCEL AS LEVEL	6GP0101	PEOPLE AND POLITICS	05/06/2016
EDEXCEL AS LEVEL	8BNO 02	DEV.,PLANTS & ENVIRONMENT	06/06/2016
EDEXCEL AS LEVEL	8PH0 02	CORE PHYSICS II	06/06/2016
EDEXCEL AS LEVEL	6GP0201	GOVERNING THE UK	08/06/2016
EDEXCEL AS LEVEL	6677 01	MECHANICS M1	14/06/2016
EDEXCEL AS LEVEL	6678 01	MECHANICS M2	16/06/2016
EDEXCEL AS LEVEL	6689 01	DECISION MATHEMATICS D1	16/06/2016
AQA A LEVEL	SPAN1	GCE SPANISH UNIT 1	15/05/2017
AQA A LEVEL	7191/1	SOCIOLOGY AS PAPER 1	16/05/2017
AQA A LEVEL	GEOG1	GCE GEOGRAPHY UNIT 1	16/05/2017
OCR A LEVEL	H167/01	PSYCHOLOGY: RESEARCH METHODS WRTN	16/05/2017
EDEXCEL AS LEVEL	6663 01	CORE MATHEMATICS C1	17/05/2017
AQA A LEVEL	MEST1	GCE MEDIA STUDIES UNIT 1	18/05/2017
AQA A LEVEL	7131/1	BUSINESS AS PAPER 1	18/05/2017
AQA A LEVEL	7711/1	ENGLISH LITERATURE A AS PAPER 1	19/05/2017
AQA A LEVEL	GEOG2	GCE GEOGRAPHY UNIT 2	19/05/2017
EDEXCEL AS LEVEL	6667 01	FURTHER PURE FP1	19/05/2017
AQA A LEVEL	MUSC1	GCE MUSIC UNIT 1	22/05/2017
AQA A LEVEL	PROD1	GCE D&T: PRODUCT DES (3D-DES) UNIT 1	22/05/2017
AQA A LEVEL	TEXT1	GCE D&T: PRODUCT DES (TEX) UNIT 1	22/05/2017
AQA A LEVEL	7191/2	SOCIOLOGY AS PAPER 2	23/05/2017
EDEXCEL AS LEVEL	8PH0 01	CORE PHYSICS I	23/05/2017
OCR A LEVEL	H167/02	PSYCH:PSYCHOLGICAL THMS CRE STD WRTN	23/05/2017
AQA A LEVEL	7711/2	ENGLISH LITERATURE A AS PAPER 2	24/05/2017
EDEXCEL AS LEVEL	6664 01	CORE MATHEMATICS C2	24/05/2017
AQA A LEVEL	7131/2	BUSINESS AS PAPER 2	26/05/2017
AQA A LEVEL	FREN1	GCE FRENCH UNIT 1	05/06/2017
EDEXCEL AS LEVEL	8HI0 1C	BRITAIN 1625-	TBC
EDEXCEL AS LEVEL	8HI0 2C	FRANCE & RUSSIA REV.	TBC
OCR A LEVEL	H033/01	CHEM B (SLTRS): FNDTNS CHEMISTRY WTN	TBC
OCR A LEVEL	H033/02	CHEM B (SLTRS): CHEMISTRY DEPTH WTN	TBC

Supporting you to achieve your best

In addition to all the hard work taking place in lessons every day, special support will be provided for Year 12 in this crucial year. Staff will be going above and beyond to ensure that every student can fulfil their potential in their AS exams in the summer. These additional levels of support will be available in a variety of ways as detailed below.

Study Periods

The majority of sixth form students have six study periods during the weekly timetable. Some students, who are studying three subjects, will have twelve study periods.

Having study periods and two exclusive, designated study rooms is a great privilege of being a sixth former at Ark. Our students welcome the opportunity to have two rooms for their exclusive use where they can study without interruption, using school lap tops, focussing on reading and homework which needs to be done well and on time. How well students work in this time is the students' responsibility although the time is also monitored by teachers and the Study Area is supervised during the school day. **It is critical that students use their Study Time effectively and students not working will lose privileges.**

Saturday & holiday revision sessions

Saturday and holiday revision sessions will be available during the school year, especially in the build up to exams. Teachers will make arrangements for these sessions and keep you informed. Of course, Sixth Form requires independent study so the majority of preparation for exams outside of lesson time must be done independently.

Independent learning

Finally, it is absolutely essential that students are completing independent work (in addition to homework) outside of school. By making this investment of time now it will pay huge dividends in the exams this summer.

Preparing for University

Preparing for University requires getting top grades at AS Level. Top Universities, including the Russell Group Universities, are looking for A and B grades at AS Level. With low academic grades, students have limited choices for university.

EPQ- Extended Project Qualifications

To be successful at university and in a career, it is essential to be able to learn and research independently.

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) supports students to develop independent study skills and it is highly rated by all universities. In fact, some universities request that students have an EPQ when students apply to them. EPQ students can gain up to an A* and the equivalent UCAS points of an AS Level. Students must choose a topic, plan, research and develop an idea and decide on a finished product. A project topic may be directly related to a main study programme, but should look beyond the specification.

During the EPQ, students learn to:

- ✓ **Manage** – identify, design, plan, and complete a project (or task within a group project), applying organisational skills and strategies to meet stated objectives
- ✓ **Use resources/research** – obtain and select information from a range of sources, analyse data, apply it relevantly, and demonstrate understanding of any appropriate connections and complexities of a topic
- ✓ **Develop and realise** – use a range of skills, including using new technologies, to solve problems, to take decisions critically, creatively and flexibly, and to achieve aims
- ✓ **Review** – evaluate the outcome, including learning and performance.

A finished product may take the form of a:

- ✓ research based written report
- ✓ production* (eg charity event, fashion show or sports event etc)
- ✓ an artefact* (eg piece of art, a computer game or realised design).

A written report must accompany these options

The **EPQ** is graded on an A*–E scale & 70 UCAS points are awarded for an A*. **The EPQ** is available to students who **excel in the MPQ**.

The Mini-Project Qualification (MPQ) is an award by the Ark Academy for students who complete a Literature Review of 1000-1500 words on a topic of their choice.

Through the MPQ, students learn research skills which support their learning in all subjects.

All students complete the MPQ and **the deadline** for this is **Monday 7 November**. Parents are kindly asked to support their son/daughter by reminding them of this important deadline.

The Ark Diploma

The most successful and interesting students in Britain develop knowledge, skills and interests beyond their academic subjects. This is up to your son/daughter, but at Ark we do everything we can to support.

That's why we have the Ark Diploma: a diploma which will help your son/daughter **structure** time and commitments beyond the classroom and help develop knowledge, skills and interests. The Ark Diploma **awards** personal development through **extra-curricular activities, leading societies and clubs, community outreach and "off specification" learning**. The Ark Diploma **appeals to universities** because it is evidence that students are active and well-rounded young people – someone universities would want on their campuses.

By achieving this Diploma, your son/daughter will develop a range of knowledge, skills and interests which will enhance their CV so they can access top universities and career opportunities. We hope that the Ark Diploma will also support your son/daughter to become **independent thinking, purposeful, compassionate and joyful**, enjoying life at school, separate from the rigours of examinations.

There are two levels of Ark Diploma available:

Ark Gold Diploma (complete 5 out of 8)	Ark Diploma (complete 5 out of 8)
Completion of two terms' work of Outreach or Civic engagement project with excellent attendance	Completion of one term's work of Outreach or Civic engagement project with excellent attendance
EPQ	MPQ
Leadership of school society	Active membership of school society
Participation in five or more House Competitions	Participation in three or more House Competitions
Regular performance for the school (sport, drama, debating)	Performance for the school (sport, drama, debating)
Leading charity fundraising	Participating in charity fundraising
Leading subject competitions or "off spec" learning	Involvement in subject competitions or "off spec" learning
Over 40 hours of work experience.	Over 20 hours of work experience.
Completing 5 AS Levels (includes Ma / FM double or a heritage language AS)	

*Because the experiences in the Ark Diploma are so important for personal development, we **expect all Year 12 to complete the Ark Diploma**.

****The Ark Diploma brings together all the enrichment, societies, clubs and "Off Specification" learning that we do.**

The UCAS application Process

Ark Academy will support your son/daughter to choose the right university pathway and career with confidence. The right university degree and career will probably make your son/daughter a happier, more prosperous, and more enlightened person.

Critical for a degree is the UCAS Application. **UCAS stands for Universities and Colleges Admission Service.** UCAS coordinates applications to different universities – a student can apply to up to five universities through UCAS.

Ark Academy provides expert advice on UCAS applications and it is critical that students follow this advice. The Ark Academy Home School Agreement, signed by students, parents and teacher states that students “will accept help, guidance or support, be that academic or pastoral, when offered it and understand that Ark Academy will make decisions in my best interests”.

Often people present the UCAS process to be very complicated and difficult: it is not, if your son/daughter is **organised, honest** and, after taking some time to weigh up different options, **decisive**. By September 2016, your son/daughter should have:

- 1) Chosen a preferred degree;
- 2) Chosen five universities where this degree may be studied (with a favourite, “firm choice”, and an “insurance choice” - a back up which requires lower grades for entry);
- 3) Completed a UCAS form and written a personal statement explaining why it is the preferred degree.

So, this year, building up knowledge of universities, degrees, and perhaps gaining some degree related work experience is important (essential in Medicine, Pharmacy and Law), but the most important is the AS Grades. **Get good AS grades and your son/daughter will have lots of good universities to choose from, get bad AS grades and their aspirations will be impossible.**

Ark Academy subject teachers and tutors will work together to write an honest and supportive UCAS reference which will be completed in the Autumn of 2017: the sooner your son/daughter chooses their degree and completes the UCAS Application, the sooner this reference can be completed. This reference will state their academic achievements so far and describe evidence of their academic passion for the degree of their choice. Above all, however, it will describe honestly and supportively their learning attitude since starting in Ark Academy Sixth Form: **those students with excellent attendance, punctuality and an Ark Diploma, will benefit from a strong reference.**

Your son/daughter’s predicted A2 grades (which are given to universities) will depend very heavily on the AS grades: your son/daughter must do well at AS to have a wide choice of universities and degrees.

The provisional timetable for UCAS applications is over the page. Open Days: the Ark Academy will lead outings to Universities, in Autumn 2016 and Summer 2017. Students will have authorised absence for **one day** this year to go independently to a University Open Day as well.

UCAS 2017/18 DEADLINES – by these dates...	All sixth formers should have...	Those applying for Oxford & Cambridge/Medicine (early applicants) should have....
End of Summer Term (July 2017)	Logged on and registered with UCAS Apply. Told their tutor and relevant Head of Department. Started a Personal Statement template. Collected holiday reading lists from relevant HoDs. Replied to email re choices. Updated their “Ark Diploma” information.	
Start of Term (September 2017)	(1) finalised their subject and university choices (including college choice for Oxbridge candidates) (2) informed relevant tutors/HoDs of any changes (e.g. to subject choices or from regular to early application)	
End of Week 1 (September 2017)	Completed Personal Details, Choices and Education sections of UCAS form via UCAS Apply	
Week 2 (September 2017)		(1) Completed final draft of Personal Statement & shown to tutor. (2) Started attending enrichment lessons
End of Week 3 (September 2017)	Completed draft of Personal Statement & shown to tutor.	Completed online UCAS forms, paid and submitted for school to check (this does not submit the form to UCAS, only the school can do that!)
End of Week 4 (September 2017)		
End of Week 5 (October 2017)	Completed online UCAS forms, paid and submitted for school to check (this does not submit form to UCAS, only the school can do that!). Those not applying this year should complete form but not pay and submit.	(1) Found out college / course requirements for written work to be sent and discussed this with tutors / teachers. (2) If necessary, arranged for written work to be marked.
End of Week 6 (Mid October 2017)		
End of week 7 (Late October 2017)		
End of week 8 (Late October 2017)		Submitted to TSA marked written work to be sent (if required) plus completed cover sheets
End of week 9 (November 2017)		Be prepared to sit entrance tests (BMAT, Oxford TSA, HAT, PAT, ELAT, MAT, MLAT, etc.) in November

Subject Contacts

Subject	Name
English Literature	Amy Hanna
	Natasha Lewis Smith
	Martin Thompson
	Carey Johnstone
	Jude Wada
Maths	Emi Ozeke
	Janette Bowley
	Oscar Skehel
	Aishling Ryan
	Tom Ding
	Alina Milea
	Katie Butler
	Emily Iliffe
	Nicolas Triantafidilis
	Khadija Khairam
Biology	Morag Armstrong
	Colin Clarke
	Heather Rafferty
Chemistry	Tracey Keane
	Claire Hickling
	Maryam Salad
Physics	Adam Dineen
	Ragavan Nagaratnam
History	Tom Sawbridge
	Fred Oxby
	Joe Coward
Geography	Edward Chandler
	Andrew McGregor
French	Mathilde Bouquin
	Zahira Ransome
Spanish	Guillermo Mumoz
	Patricia Calle
Economics	Robert Alexander
	Emily Iliffe

Business	Robert Alexander
	Alan Semugabi
Media	Jade Downey
	Simon Gardiner
Art	Daniel Paton
Drama / Theatre Studies	Alice Jackson
	Aelisha Lisk
Music	Lynne Sharp
PE	Stephen O Carroll
	Nicola Addison
Philosophy & Ethics	Rebecca Owen
	Jess Mclvor
Sociology	Tim Dainty
Psychology	Anna Mason
	Cynthia Bondanga
Government & Public Politics	Tom Sawbridge
	Paul Nugent

The easiest and quickest way to contact your son/daughters teacher is via email. Staff emails all follow the same format: the first letter of their first name followed by a full stop followed by their surname then @arkacademy.org.

For example If you wish to contact Tracey Keane her email is t.keane@arkacademy.org