

ARK ACADEMY

YEAR 12 GCE CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

A Mathematics and Citizenship Rich School



SIXTH FORM

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
- 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

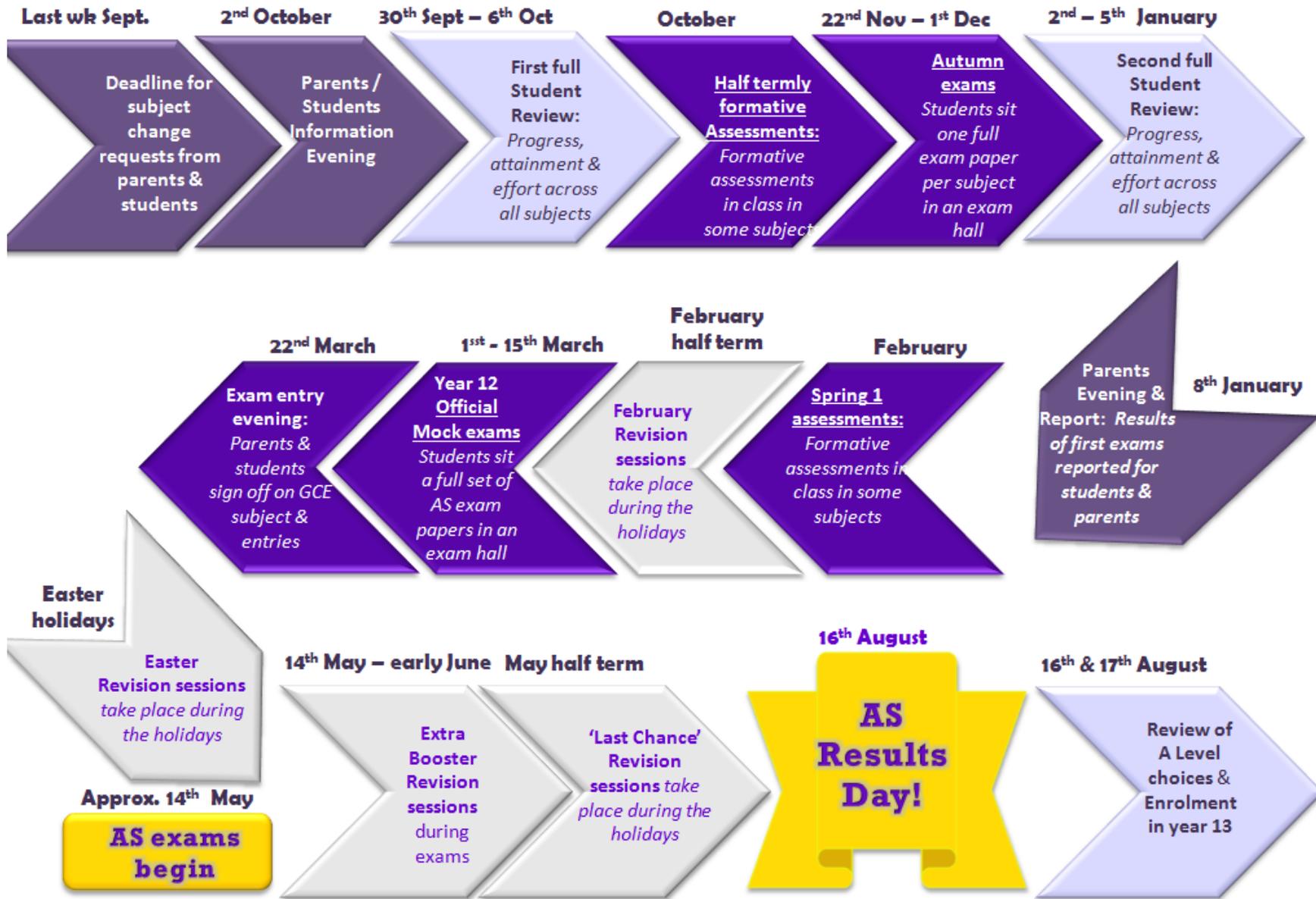
Individual subject guides will be available to collect to supplement this booklet and each will explain

- 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 Ding	Senior Tutor: Year 13	t.ding@arkacademy.org
Miss Lewis Smith	Senior Tutor: Year 12	n.lewissmith@arkacademy.org
Ms Ryan	VP - Curriculum and Assessment	a.ryan@arkacademy.org

Year 12 Timeline 2017 - 18



The External Examination Process:

GCE Exams 2017-18

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 full exams** will take place before the Christmas holidays from **22nd November – 1st December**. Students will have one exam per subject that they take. The paper will test them on everything they have learnt in year 12 up to that point. In some cases, students will sit a full GCE paper.

The main **mock exams for year 12** take place in spring 2 half term, from the **1st – 15th 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/June.

Exam Entries

The results of both sets of exams, but in particular, the 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 Tuesday 22nd March, 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.

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

All sixth form students studying four subjects 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, 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.

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 2018: 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.

Open Days: the Ark Academy will lead outings to Universities, in Autumn 2017 and Summer 2018. Students will have authorised absence for **one day** this year to go independently to a University Open Day as well.

Subject Contacts

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

Subject	Code	Teacher Name
Art	DPA	Paton, Daniel
	SSA	Sandeman, Sarah
Biology	CCL	Clarke, Colin
	LSA	Sach, Laura
	SMC	McGrath, Shannon
Business Studies	LCO	Lucia Coker
	ASE	Semugabi, Alan
Chemistry	SIQ	Iqbal, Sofia
	CHI	Hickling, Claire
	ESH	Shortis, Ellen
	MSA	Salad, Maryan
	TKE	Keane, Tracey
Economics	CRU	Russell, Charlotte
	EIL	Ilfie, Emily
English Literature	AHA	Hanna, Amy
	ICL	Clark, Isabel
	NLE	Lewis-Smith, Natasha
	TSA	Sawbridge, Tom
Further Maths	ARY	Ryan, Aishling
	NTR	Triantafilidis, Nicolas
	OSK	Skehel, Oscar
French	TDI	Ding, Tom
	MBO	Bouquin, Mathilde
	ZRA	Ransome, Zahira
Geography	ECH	Chandler, Edward
	LTA	Tamburello, Lucia
Government and Politics	JCO	Coward, Joseph
	PNU	Nugent, Paul
History	FOX	Oxby, Fred
	JCO	Coward, Joseph
	JGR	Grande, Jonathan
	TSA	Sawbridge, Tom

Subject	Code	Teacher Name
Maths	AMI	Milea, Alina-Elena
	ARY	Ryan, Aishling
	EIL	Iliffe, Emily
	EOZ	Ozeke, Emi
	KBT	Butler, Katie
	OSK	Skehel, Oscar
	TDI	Ding, Tom
Media	ATA	Tarling, Aimee
	SGA	Gardiner, Simon
Music	EHA	Hazledine, Edmund
	LSP	Sharp, Lynne
Product Design	HIZ	Izzidien, Hassan
	MFA	Falconer, Michelle
Textiles	HIZ	Izzidien, Hassan
	MFA	Falconer, Michelle
PE	KGA	Gallagher, Kelly
	SOC	O'Carroll, Stephen
Physics	ADI	Dineen, Adam
PSHE	ADI	Dineen, Adam
	CBN	Bondonga, Cynthia
	CCL	Clarke, Colin
	CEV	Evans, Charles
	ECH	Chandler, Edward
	EIL	Iliffe, Emily
	JCO	Coward, Joseph
	JGR	Grande, Jonathan
	KRG	Rogers, Kimberley
	MBO	Bouquin, Mathilde
	NTR	Triantafilidis, Nicolas
Psychology	CBN	Bondonga, Cynthia
	KRG	Rogers, Kimberley
	RMA	Matthews, Ryan
Religious Studies	JMC	Macivor, Jess
	ROW	Owen, Rebecca
Science	HRA	Rafferty, Heather
	TKE	Keane, Tracey
Sociology	CBN	Bondonga, Cynthia
	KRG	Rogers, Kimberley