

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

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

We are delighted to welcome you all back to the Sixth Form and would like to congratulate all of you on achieving such excellent grades at AS Level. You have done exceptionally well and have put your year group in the top 10% nationally of Sixth Form providers (in terms of progress made) by achieving an **ALPS grade 2**.

You have done very well in your AS examinations with some excellent outcomes that lay a very solid foundation for university applications.

<b>3+ Grades</b>	<b>% Attained</b>
3+ A-B	29
3+ A-C	58
3+ A-E	86

- **47%** attaining **4 or more A\*-C**
- Just under **half the grades achieved** by 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.

We really hope to build on this in the coming year with your son/daughter and are ourselves constantly striving to improve. A great foundation will lead to bigger and better things. As Mr Sawbridge so eloquently phrased it "Take time to reflect on your results and enjoy your successes. But do not stew on the results for too long! These results are only a half time check of what you have learnt so far."

For almost all of your subjects these results do not count towards your final A-Levels. In other words, if you did well, you cannot be complacent. If you did less well, you can still get great A Levels. Well done to you all on a marvellous induction day you made a great start to Year 13 and it is great to see how many of you have come back in the right frame of mind, ready to hit the ground running having learned your lessons from last year. You have suitably impressed your teachers with your insights, input and drive – long may it continue.

With that in mind we really don't want to take our eye off the ball so would 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 into Year 13 and how they have demonstrated their commitment to the Sixth Form and their subjects. We may have one to one parental conversations at this stage should anyone not be meeting our expectation but equally we will follow up successes with celebrations and praise.

On the theme of celebration I am delighted to announce our new Head Boy and Head Girl, their deputies and the Senior Prefect team who will be supporting them throughout the year.

**Head Girl** Minali Alwis

**Head Boy** Adedamilola Adelekan

**Deputy Head Girls** Fatima Ahmed Sultan and Fatima Ali

**Deputy Head Boy** Cameron Russell and Elliot Howard

I am very excited to be working closely with these young leaders and the Senior Prefect team. It is exciting to anticipate how they will set the bar for all other pupils in the school, be exemplary role models and also bring their own vision to the fore in the Sixth Form.

**UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service)** and Uniforg seem to be the buzz words around our Sixth form building and in tutor groups at the moment. This is your son/daughters way of applying to university and finding the correct university and course for them. If they haven't already shown you please ask them to give a guided tour. I would like to highlight the **early entry deadline of 15th October** for anyone hoping to apply to Oxford or Cambridge or hoping to study Medicine Veterinary Sciences and Dentistry. Any other courses you wish to apply for the general rule of thumb is - the earlier the application is made the better. We ask parents to please support your son/daughter to make informed, realistic choices. To contextualise 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. All

applications are based on predicted grades and while these will be released shortly I can inform you that they will be based on AS grades.

**Study Periods** have had a small make over this year. In order to help support your son/daughter in achieving the best possible grades at A-Level and getting them ready for the realities of university life, off site permission to study during study periods is given to all. This privilege carries huge responsibility, not only to self-regulate their study but also to ensure they make it to school on time when they should be here. I would like to point out it is also a privilege that may be revoked should your son/daughter not be able to handle the responsibly and their grades start to fall short of the expected. There is support and mandatory study periods on site for those who aren't quite on track – pupils have been spoken to individually about this and are fully aware of the expectation of them.

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

As you can appreciate we have much to discuss as the students start their extremely important Year 13 and their university application. As they are aware, there is a very short time between now and their A-Level examinations and we need to talk through all the factors that will contribute to their success both in their exams, university applications 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 18<sup>th</sup> September 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 Coward	13 Carver
Mr Triantafilidis	13 Ford
Miss Iliffe	13 Kwolek
Mr Chandler	13 Bell
Mr Clarke	13 Dyson

Year 13 brings greater independence but also 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 18<sup>th</sup> September.



**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**.