

Principal: Delia Smith OBE

Friday 3rd September 2021



Dear Parents/Carers of Year 7

We are delighted to be welcoming your son/daughter to join Ark Academy on

Tuesday 7th September.

All students in Year 7 need to be in school for line up at:

8.15am

We have ensured all safety measures that can be taken are in place and through our induction programme all students in Year 7 will be absolutely clear as to how to keep safe and really thrive in Ark Academy.

As you will be aware changes to some of the Covid-19 arrangements have been made by the government over the summer break.

Face Coverings

The government has removed the need to wear face coverings on the school premises. However, they continue to recommend that they are worn in enclosed, crowded spaces where you come into contact with a wide variety of people. This includes public transport. We will continue to advise/promote the wearing of masks in crowded corridors, canteen and any other public spaces. Students/staff who wish to wear masks in other spaces may do so.

Close contact tracing

Schools will no longer be responsible for contact tracing for positive cases of Covid-19, this will be led by NHS Test and Trace. Any child under the age of 18 years old and double vaccinated adults identified as a close contact of a confirmed positive case will not need to isolate even if contacted by NHS Test and Trace but will be strongly advised to take a PCR test.

Covid-19 testing on return to school

However, with the return to school of so many students after the summer break all schools/colleges are required to take two supervised lateral flow tests within school. The first of these will take place at the start of the induction programme. After this initial period, we will continue to issue lateral flow tests to all students to use every 3 to 4 days to take at home. Staff will continue to do the same.

We will continue to operate in year zones but bubbles in the strictest sense will no longer operate as we enable students to use practical areas and also mix for larger group activities such as assemblies.



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Outbreaks

In the event of an outbreak at school, we may be advised to reintroduce bubbles and face coverings and may be asked to support with close contact tracing.

Staying Safe

For most people, Covid-19 will be a mild illness. We will continue to promote

- Washing hands with soap and water often and for 20 seconds.
- Using hand sanitiser gel if soap and water not available.
- Covering mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Putting used tissue in bin immediately and wash hands afterwards.
- Additionally, and very importantly we will keep **spaces well-ventilated** this means doors and windows will be open wherever possible. **All evidence shows that this is one of the key mitigating factors in preventing Covid spread.**

At lunchtime we will provide a hot lunch (paid for in advance on **Parent Pay**, unless your child receives free school meals). Your child can, if they wish, bring a packed lunch instead. This should be nutritious and **not contain crisps, sweets or fizzy drinks.**

I am sure your child will be beautifully kitted out in full school uniform including proper school shoes (no trainers). On the day that your child has PE they will come in their PE kit as we are not using the changing rooms. This is the only time they are allowed to wear trainers to school.

Contact details – if any of your contact details have changed, in any way (mobiles, other phone numbers, address) please contact, Mrs Boyle (c.boyle@arkacademy.org) with the changes. It is vital that we hold all the most up-to-date information, particularly in current circumstances.

If you have any further information or queries regarding your child's return to school, please contact the Head of Year 7, Ms Alwan (n.alwan@arkacademy.org).

Overall, our aim is to provide the best possible teaching for your child in a safe and happy environment.

I hope your child is very excited for next Tuesday.

My best wishes



Delia Smith
Principal

Advance Notice

Wednesday 13th October – Year 7 Parents' Information Evening (virtual)

Timings of the School Day 2021-2022



The school day is as follows:

KS3 Timetable							
Monday - Thursday				Friday			
<i>Start</i>	<i>Finish</i>	<i>Duration</i>		<i>Start</i>	<i>Finish</i>	<i>Duration</i>	
8.15	8.20	00:05	Line Up	8.15	8.20	00:05	Line Up
08:25	09:20	00:55	P1	08:25	09:20	00:55	P1
09:20	10:15	00:55	P2	09:20	10:15	00:55	P2
10:15	10:40	00:25	Break	10:15	10:40	00:25	Break
10:40	11.10	00:30	Tutor time	10:40	11:35	00:55	P3 - PSHE
11:10	12:05	00:55	P3	11:35	12:30	00:55	P4
12:05	13:00	00:55	P4	12:30	13:25	00:55	Lunch
13:00	13:55	00:55	Lunch	13:25	14:20	00:55	P5
13:55	14:50	00:55	P5	14:20	15:15	00:55	P6
14:50	15:45	00:55	P6				

