



Academy visit

Last week saw a social entrepreneur and fellow Brummie visit Ark Chamberlain Academy. Anisa Haghdadhi popped in to see Years 5 and 6 for a special assembly based on inspiration. She spoke about how she started her own social enterprise at the age of seven. The recipient of the British Empire Medal for Services to Education and Young People also discussed her project 'Beatfrees' of which she is CEO.

Anisa who grew up in Kings Norton and attended King Edwards VI Five Ways School, before graduating from Aston University in 2012, explained how it was all down to determination and self-belief. The 'Beatfrees' boss also brought along an apprentice who recited a poem to the children of Ark Chamberlain.



Soon it was time for the now motivated pupils to go back to lesson, but before they left, they all thanked Anisa for coming in and delivering such an inspiring assembly.

V Cambridge were particularly lucky as they managed to spend an additional 30 minutes with Anisa, who spoke to them about being awarded the Birmingham Young Professional of The Year Aspiring Talent Award and how she'd received the

Sky Academy Arts Scholarship for Creative Producing out of thousands of applications.

Monitoring visit and drop in

Ofsted will be conducting a 'section 8' monitoring visit in the academy on Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th December. This is to check that the academy is rapidly improving following the previous Ofsted inspection in June 2015 that placed the academy once again in 'special measures'. The two visiting inspectors will be around the academy and are keen to talk with parents to find out their views about the changes since the last inspection.

We are also keen to get your views about the changes in the academy and to keep you updated on the work that we have been doing. We therefore invite all parents to a 'drop-in' session with our regional director of primary for Ark, Gail Peyton. This will be held in the academy hall from 14:45 until 15:15, when you can collect your children as usual.



Staffing changes from January 2016

We are very pleased to be welcoming three new permanent teachers to the academy in January 2016, two of which have travelled from Australia to join us (Miss Wheeler Y6 and Miss Brown Y5). Miss Ayling joins us from another local school and is a talented musician. She will be working in Y5. She will be taking the lead on science within the academy. In addition, we will be welcoming back Mrs Jabeen, who is returning from maternity leave to teach in Y3.

Miss Kennedy, our vice-principal is also getting married in the holidays and will return in January as Mrs Wright. We wish her well.

PE kit

Please note that we would strongly suggest that pupils bring their PE kit into the academy on the first day of next term and leave it in their classroom, ready to use, until the half term holidays. Too many of our pupils are forgetting to bring their PE kit in to the academy on the correct day each week and this is an easy way of solving the problem. If pupils do forget their kit we have some spare PE uniform for them to wear so that they will not miss their PE lesson.

Parking

We have been requested by local residents to bring to the attention of parents that there have been a number of issues relating to inconsiderate parking on Oldknow Road lately. We would therefore ask you to please be respectful of residents and avoid parking in disabled spaces or in such a manner that traffic congestion is caused or safety is compromised.

Safeguarding – “Everybody’s business”

This week we have a profile of Miss Michaela Bowles who is responsible for the welfare and safety of our children.



“At Ark Chamberlain we want to create an outstanding climate for learning. It is important that our pupils feel happy, supported and cared for in order to achieve their full potential. We believe that our pastoral team provides support and guidance that pupils need.

Our pastoral team is made up of Mr Pinnock and Mrs Hussain our parent support workers, Mrs Hayre and Mr Jamal our learning mentors and Mr Coyne our special educational needs co-ordinator. I oversee the areas of parent support, attendance, behaviour, mentoring and safeguarding. If you want to find out more about our work in this area, please do look on our website where you will find further information and can download our safeguarding policy.

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 16th Dec – Y3 performance in the hall, please gather from 09:00.

Wednesday 16th Dec – Xmas lunch in the academy for all pupils (pupils who normally bring a packed lunch can take Xmas lunch if they wish) and staff.

Thursday 17th Dec – parental drop-in from 14:45 until 15:15 in the hall to discuss the improvements to the academy this term.

Friday 18th Dec – non-uniform day for York House pupils only (winners of Marvellous Me competition)

Friday 18th Dec – The academy closes at 13:00 for the holidays, opening to pupils again on Thursday 7th January 2016 at 08:00 We are open for taking lunch monies in reception on Tuesday 5th and Wednesday 6th Jan between 14:00 and 15:00 each day.

Make the Grade

Make the Grade is a partnership between business and education to equip young people with the skills they need to prepare for the world of work. Ark Chamberlain has been working with a range of employers to create imaginative activities for pupils, which will enhance their confidence, resilience and aspiration. We have chosen students from Years Five and Six, who will be taking part in events over the coming academic year both in school and on workplace visits.

This first event gave the children the opportunity to discuss their career aspirations and life goals with some of Birmingham’s leading business managers. They worked in small groups with a mentor and reflected on the skills they need to develop alongside their academic progress, in order to realise their ambitions. The children thoroughly enjoyed the day and are looking forward to the next event.

