



## Academy Update

It's been a very busy couple of weeks in the academy which began last Monday with a celebration of World Teacher Day. All staff were invited to a special breakfast to mark the day and pupils contributed to academy assemblies by talking about how their teachers had helped them.



As some of you may already have seen from the local paper, we had a journalist from the Birmingham Mail visit us last Thursday and this resulted in a very positive write-up on the changes within the academy. It was such a proud moment for me to show someone around and be able to talk about all the things that our wonderful pupils are engaging in.

This week I have signed the contract on an amazing new project for our pupils in partnership called 'Make The Grade'. This involves close working with a number of different business sectors so that our pupils get a real taste of the world of work and the opportunities that they can access through a university education. Watch this space for further news of this.



Wendy Baxter  
Principal

## “Its all about the effort!”

This week our pupils have learned all about how they can make themselves smarter by putting in lots of effort to literally exercise their brains. The latest research on learning tells us that brains act rather like muscles and using them really helps them to grow. It also advises that we do not praise our children for the results of their work but rather praise the effort that they have put in.

Oxford Learning have five tips for parents on their website as follows:

- 1 Pay attention and praise skills which do not sound pre-determined eg children that persevere with something they have found difficult.
- 2 Be a role model – avoid saying that you can't do something or that you are terrible at something, instead say that you are working to improve your skills or need to put more effort in.
- 3 Encourage your child to forget taking the easy route.
- 4 Remember making an effort applies to all life skills and not just academic ones.
- 5 Discourage envy of peers – instead talk about what we can learn from others that will make us more successful.



## Y6 Applications for Secondary

Just a reminder that all paper-based applications for secondary schools from year 6 parents now need to be back in the academy. The deadline for online applications is 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015.

## Learning Support Mentors



My name is Mrs Hayre the Senior Learning Mentor for Ark Chamberlain Primary School. I have worked with schools for over 30 years in voluntary and paid capacity. I have had a variety of roles within schools i.e play leader, parent worker, centre manager, integration/class support, administrator and a cluster manager for 8 schools. I enjoy my diverse skill set that has enabled me to work with families, outside agencies and children.

I was born and grew up in Essex; a small town called Grays, and moved to the Midlands 29 years ago. I have three grown-up children who attended local schools in the area, went on to grammar school, then university and two of whom are now working in their chosen careers. My son is an optometrist, my eldest daughter is a pharmacist and my youngest is at Hatfield University studying law. As a parent I realized early on the importance of education, so my husband and I supported our children at home throughout their studies, offering them different opportunities to learn, grow and excel. I received my BA(Hons) in 2007 in supporting teaching and learning through ICT so its never too late to learn!

Mr Jamal and I offer support and guidance to disaffected, underachieving or vulnerable pupils. We provide the support mechanism to help pupils to overcome difficulties that are getting in the way of their learning.

## Safeguarding – E-Safety “Everybody’s business”

This week we wanted to focus on e-safety and how you as parents can help your child to stay safe online. [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk) has a wealth of information and advice on this subject and we have reproduced below a summary version of their top tips for parents:

- Talk to your child about what they’re up to online.
- Watch Thinkuknow films and cartoons with your child.
- Encourage your child to go online and explore!
- Keep up-to-date with your child’s development online.
- Set boundaries in the online world just as you would in the real world.
- Keep all equipment that connects to the internet in a family space.
- Know what connects to the internet and how.
- Use parental controls on devices that link to the internet, such as the TV, laptops, computers, games consoles and mobile phones. Find your service provider and learn how to set your controls

## Marvellous Me App

Thank you to all of those parents who have already signed up to use this app. We now have approaching half of all parents using this regularly. We are sending out letters with this newsletter to all parents who haven’t yet signed up with details of how to do this.

## Diary Dates

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct – last day before half term

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> Nov – first day back after half term

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> Nov – parents’ evening which will run from 16:00 until 18:30 (note that this is a slight change to the previously advertised times)

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> Dec – Autumn term assessment week