



Progress Update

As we near the end of our second term as Ark Chamberlain Primary Academy, I wanted to write to all parents and give you an update on our progress.

Many of you will be aware that we had our second Ofsted monitoring visit last week. I am not allowed to share the results of this with you until they are officially confirmed, but the report should be public in the next 3-4 weeks. What I can say is that I remain confident that the academy is on the road back to outstanding.

Pleasingly I know that our pupils generally talk positively about the changes in the academy. I know that they feel safe and enjoy coming to school. However, I am aware that, for many of them, they have already had a number of different class teachers this year. As a parent of three children myself, I understand that this will be a concern to you, as it is to me. However, I would like to reassure you that my top priority is to ensure that all pupils in the academy have the very best teachers. This means that some teachers choose not to continue with us because they are unable or unwilling to meet our high standards, or have simply chosen to move on. In addition, I refuse to take new teachers onto our staff unless I know that they have the potential to be outstanding. This means that we still have a number of supply teachers supporting us.

Despite these challenges, we are gradually improving the situation and have had four new teachers join us in January with another four joining us for the summer term. We hope to be fully staffed with permanent teachers by September.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support, which is truly appreciated.



Wendy Baxter
Principal

Academy Events

We have had a very busy half term with a number of academy events of note taking place. Wed 24th February saw the grand final of our writing competition and we were lucky enough to have three prestigious judges to make the final decision – Dr Ahmed from Aston University, Ms Mack, PR consultant and Ms McKinney, journalist. I know that it was a difficult decision for them but the overall winner was Rahan in VI Warwick, who wrote and spoke eloquently about the problems of pollution.



Wed 24th February also saw the grand final of a competition run by Selfridges department store. A number of our pupils had been chosen to take part and made some beautiful globes that have been put on display in their window. Whilst we didn't win on this occasion, I know that the pupils who took part had an amazing day.



Academy Events cont

World Book Day was celebrated in the academy on Thursday 3rd March and staff and pupils alike came into the academy dressed as their favourite book character. We followed this up with a visit from 'Dreadlock Alien', an acclaimed poet, who spoke with all the pupils and helped to share his love of poetry.



New Building

The arrangements for our move into the new building are moving forwards with the furniture now on order. Unfortunately, the furniture that we have chosen is going to take approx. six weeks to be delivered so we are unlikely to be able to move in for the start of the summer term. However, we think it will be worth the wait.

Last week all the pupils had a vote on names for our new building, our present Year 6 building and a name for the area of the academy that surrounds the library. These have now been approved by our governing body and we are just awaiting final confirmation of go-ahead from the people that we are naming them after.

New building – Agrawal Building

Year 6 building – Farah Building

Library area – AbdusSalam Building

Safeguarding – “Everybody’s business”

Just a reminder that if you have any welfare concerns at all relating to our pupils, staff or procedures within the academy, please do make contact with Miss Bowles, our safeguarding lead, who will be happy to discuss this with you.

Dates for your diary

Fri 18th March at 09:15 – a special event for Y6 parents hosted by our Vice Principal, Mrs Wright, in the main hall. She will talk about the national changes to assessment this year and how parents can support their children during SATs.

Wed 23rd March at 09:15 – Year Four end of term performance in the main hall.

Thu 24th March at 13:00 – End of term. Please note that pupils will have an early lunch and will be dismissed at 13:00 ready for collection by parents.

Easter school – for selected Year Six pupils, details on a separate letter. PLEASE NOTE THAT BUILDING WORK IS TAKING PLACE ON SITE DURING THE HOLIDAY BREAK AND PUPILS MUST ONLY ENTER/EXIT VIA THE Y6 GATE.

Tue 12th April – The academy opens at the usual time for the summer term.

W/C Mon 9th May – SATs week for Year Six

Please note that we now have our draft closure dates for 2016/17 INSET and these are available on the academy website calendar. We will print these in full in the next newsletter.

Goodbye to staff

We will be saying a sad farewell to Mrs Harris and Mrs Hughes at the end of term. We wish them both well in their new endeavours. We will be welcoming Mrs Hussain, Miss Holness and Mr Taylor into Year Four and Year Three respectively. In addition, Mrs Twort will be rejoining the academy next week following her maternity leave.