



## Off to a great start!

We hope that you like the new Ark Chamberlain Primary Academy and, most of all, that your children are proud to be members of our academy community. A particularly warm welcome to our brand new year three pupils.

The term has got off to a really positive start and pupils have responded well to our focus on good behaviour, perfect uniform and, most importantly, demonstrating our three values to 'respect, believe, achieve'.

It is wonderful to see that already over 150 parents have signed up to our new communication system, Marvellous Me. Staff are keen to use this more and more to share academy life with you and will be receiving further training on the system next week. In addition, we try and give updates on both our Facebook page and Twitter feed on a daily basis.

We have been very busy making sure that we have the most up to date information about your child on our computer systems. Some parents may receive a request over the next few days to update or check our information to make sure that we have everything recorded correctly. Many thanks to you in advance if you receive a request like this for completing and returning it to us promptly.

Over the next few weeks I look forward to having the opportunity to chat with many more parents and always welcome any comments on the service that we provide.



Wendy Baxter  
Principal

## Eid-Ul-Adha

A happy Eid-Ul-Adha to all our Muslim families. This year we have been advised that Eid will fall on 24<sup>th</sup> September. As we know that a number of members of staff will be absent from the academy on that day, we have taken the decision to close the academy to pupils. This is because we cannot be sure of the number of pupils attending on that day and are unable to guarantee that we can meet our usual high standards of health & safety. Please note however that the academy will be open as usual on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Friday 25<sup>th</sup> and we are expecting all pupils to attend. Any absence related to Eid would therefore be unauthorised and could count towards a fine for non-attendance, which we would all wish to avoid.

## Jeans for Genes Day



I am sure you will have noticed that many members of staff have been wearing their jeans to work today. This is not the new staff dress code, but rather our attempt to raise funds on the annual 'Jeans for Genes' day. This is a day when we raise money to support research into the many different genetic diseases. This year we hope to raise over £100 towards this charity and any donations that you might like to make are gratefully received.

## Miss L Kennedy Featured Staff Member



Miss Kennedy joined the Ark Chamberlain staff this term as our new vice principal. This means that she is responsible for the day-to-day running of the academy and takes full charge when the principal is not available.

Miss Kennedy says that she loves to spend any spare time exercising in the gym and she is also very busy at the moment planning her wedding, which is due to take place in December. She has a four year old daughter who has just started reception. "I am really pleased to have joined the staff here at this exciting time in the history of the academy. I have been very impressed by the enthusiasm of the pupils and how polite they are."

Miss Kennedy studied at the University of Roehampton in London and was awarded a BA(hons) in Education. She was previously deputy head in a school in Aston and has spent many years working in Kent schools. She has taught across the primary age range, from nursery to year six. She particularly enjoys teaching PE and history.

## Dates for your Diary

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> Sept – academy closed to pupils

## Safeguarding "Everybody's business"

We take safeguarding very seriously within the academy and work hard to ensure that your children understand how to keep themselves healthy and safe in a variety of different situations. Our designated safeguarding lead is Miss Dempsey, a member of our senior leadership team. We also have Mr Pinnock and Ms Hussain, our parent support advisors, to help you if you want any information or help. It doesn't matter what it is, we won't judge you and we will work with you to get the support and advice that you require.

As part of the new government requirements of schools, our staff will be undertaking training in how to safeguard our pupils from extremism and radicalization on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October. To enable all staff to attend, we will be closing our reception at 16:00 on that day.

## Academy Clubs

We are excited to offer several after school clubs which will be starting from next week. The timetables for the sports and staff clubs are below:

Year 3 and 4:

Monday – British sign language

Wednesday – ICT

Thursday - art

Year 5 and 6:

Monday – chess

Wednesday – chatterbox (reading)

Wednesday – cooking

Sports Clubs (open to all year groups):

Monday – basketball

Tuesday – cricket

Wednesday – dodgeball

Thursday - hockey

If your child has received a letter today, this means that they have been selected for the club.

Every club will start at 3:30pm and will finish at 4:30pm. **Please remember that all year 3 and 4 children must be collected promptly at the end of the session.**

These clubs will run each week (apart from half term) until the 18<sup>th</sup> December.