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### Principal's Update

Happy New Year, new term and new decade! January is a time when we reflect on what has been achieved and focus our minds and energies on what we want to achieve in the year ahead.

At Ark Victoria, the autumn term was full of very real achievements: attendance above national averages across our school, real success in the autumn term assessments, including the first Y11 mock exam series, great attendance to parents' evenings and a successful introduction of P6 for Y11 students, an initiative which Y6 pupils will soon be embarking on in preparation for their SATs.

Our recruitment drive was also very successful: we welcome Ms Samina Rashid as our new Head of Science, Mrs Aneesa Simjee as Deputy Head of Science, Mr Abdul Aziz, teacher of Science, Mr Hugh Blackwood, Head of Year 9 and subject lead for Drama, Ms Alex Farrant, teacher of French, Mr Hassan Mahmood, Student Support Manager for Year 10, Mr Justin Mahon, Student Support Manager for Key Stage 2.

We would also like to congratulate Ms Zarina Akram who has been appointed Head of Year 7, Mrs Daljit Hayre, appointed as our Director of Welfare, working closely with our Deputy Headteacher for Welfare, Kathryn Bailey, to support our children's well-being and safety. Mr Latham has also been appointed to a new role, Director of Student Experience, which is a crucial role to help support extra-curricular, trips, visits, student experience and student leadership.

So, as we look ahead, we have a very clear focus on the assessment and examination series ahead of us. Y11 begin their second series of mock examinations next week and Y6 are focused on developing their reading and maths skills and knowledge. As well as the interventions our students receive, we will be running a Y11 mentor and well-being programme, to support students as they enter this potentially stressful period.

We are also busy planning our work on character education, focusing on the values we hold dear: ambition, resilience and kindness as well as honesty, compassion, truth and commitment. We will be working with staff, students and parents to arrive at a programme which supports our students to become compassionate human beings and positive members of our society.

These are ambitious aims and we remain committed to providing the very best for our pupils and the Ark Victoria family. We look forward to working with you in this pivotal term, to secure success for all our students and help realise our new year's goals.

### Primary Update

The term has started very well in our primary phase with all the children returning to school ready to work hard this term. It was lovely to see them returning with smiles on their faces and so keen to come back after the holidays.

This term we will have a continued focus on reading. We know that being a good reader will allow our children to be successful in all areas of the curriculum and in their future education and careers. Reading is so important and we urge you to read with your children every day - up to and including children in Year 6. We are working very hard to develop a love of reading for our children and are so pleased that our fantastic library is now open again for the children to use. We will also be running parent workshops this term to help you support your children with their reading at home. This will start with Year 1 and dates are included below.

We are continuing to enhance our curriculum through trips, clubs and visitors. This term we are running a range of extra school activities including sports clubs, debating clubs and phonics clubs. Year 4 had a fantastic trip to Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery this week and Year 3 will be visiting Lapworth Museum next week.

Thank you to parents for your support, as always, with the Year 5 and Year 6 classroom changes as well as some changes in staffing. These have gone very smoothly; the children have settled in and are working very hard.

### Year 4 visit Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery

Year 4 had the amazing opportunity to visit Birmingham Museum Art Gallery in the city centre this week as part of their topic on the Anglo-Saxons. Children were able to visit the Staffordshire Hoard Gallery, where they dressed up in Anglo-Saxon clothes, examined various artefacts including jewellery, swords and board games and then went on to explore an exciting trail of Anglo-Saxon history.



### Primary Messages to Parents

A bulleted list of messages to parents relating specifically to primary

- Reading workshops – Dates for workshops in Oldknow Hall:
- Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2.15pm-3pm: Reading Workshop (1 Simmonds and 1 Tolkien)
- Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2.15pm-3pm: Reading Workshop (1 Yousafzai and 1 Zephaniah)
- Applications for Reception 2020 have now closed – please see Mrs Henry if you have not completed your application.
- The outcomes of our parent surveys were overwhelmingly positive – thank you for your feedback. We are working to address any minor issues identified and will update you in the following newsletters.

## Secondary Update

### Secondary Parents Evening

Parents' evenings are an opportunity for you to meet your child's subject teacher face to face, to discuss their current progress and how they can improve their learning. For your diary, the dates of the secondary Parents' Evenings are as follows:

- Thursday 6th February - Combined Year 9 Parents' and Guided Choices Evening
- Thursday 27th February - Year 11 Parents' Evening
- Thursday 19th March - Year 8 Parents' Evening
- Tuesday 27th March - Year 7 Parents' Evening
- Thursday 9th July - Year 10 Parents' Evening

The letter regarding the combined year 9 Parents' and Guided Choices Evening will be sent home shortly. Replies will need to be with your child's form tutor by Friday 24th January 2020

### Prefect Team

Before the winter break, a group of students were chosen to be part of the prefect team. They have been involved in helping out with queues to the dining hall during break and lunch. The prefect team also helped with the Matilda performance by directing guests to the Oldknow hall, helping to seat guests and selling refreshments.

This term, the prefects have been allocated to year groups and will provide mentoring to students who need support and helping students with their reading. We will be looking at the new prefect team consisting of students from year 10 after the Easter holidays.



### Year 11 Mock Examinations

Year 11 Mock Examinations will be starting on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020, exams will be running through until Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020. Please make sure you are prepared and have revised all subjects that you are studying. GOOD LUCK to all students involved

### Reaching the Level 3 School Games Finals for the First time!!

Yesterday we hosted our very first Level 2 School Games tournament in Handball on behalf of the Central Sports Partnership. We had 2 other schools in attendance Small Heath and Holy Trinity. The students played in a round robin tournament, winning their first game against Small Heath 7-1 and beating Holy Trinity 4-1 to become overall winners!

Our students behaved impeccably and were outstanding ambassadors for Ark Victoria demonstrating excellent Sportsmanship and really embodying the school values of Ambitious, Resilient and Kind. The School Games organiser said that they were great ambassadors for the school and thanked them for helping out Small Heath when they were short of players. A big shout out to Umar

Zaman who won the award for Honesty and Hamza Ahmed who won the award for Respect from the other schools. Imran Ali also had some amazing shot stopping techniques in goal too. The PE department were very proud to host the event, see these students develop and to watch the students play with such enthusiasm and respect. They did it enjoy it really and worked exceptionally hard. So please say congratulations to them on their win and applaud their excellent behaviour.

The finals will be held on 21st January, so watch this space...



### All Through Update

The school engaged in a wonderful performance of Matilda for parents at the end of last term. The students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and parents, staff and other students were really impressed by the performance. Well done to all those involved.



All students and staff were invited to enjoy a special Christmas lunch during the last week of term. Thank you to the catering team for feeding us all a wonderful meal it was enjoyed immensely by all involved.



**Uniform reminder**

We are proud of our smart school uniform which demonstrates our commitment to the school community. We encourage adults and children to be aware and proud of their appearance and presentation in school. Our school uniform provider is Clive Mark Schoolwear, 2282 Coventry Road, Birmingham B26 3JR. Telephone 0121 722 2286. They provide all of our branded uniform items.

**FSM reminder**

If parents believe that their children may qualify for entitlement to Free School Meals please contact the office for more details. This allowance is a statutory right and it is important that you use it if you qualify. We will help you all we can with your application.

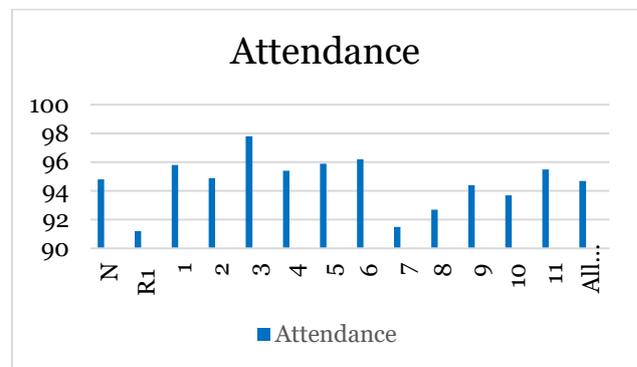
**Secondary behaviour reminder**

I will strive to ensure that Ark Victoria is a great academy for everyone by:	
-	Wear my full school uniform with pride
-	Following staff instructions, remembering that the adult is in charge
-	Going quickly, safely and directly from one lesson to the next, not running and keeping to the left hand side of the corridor
-	Ensuring that the academy remains calm and friendly by using the normal conversation tone around the building
-	Enthusiastically celebrating the success of others and accepting rewards confidently and with pride
-	Taking pride in the environment by helping to keep the academy clean and tidy
-	Create a safe environment; ensuring that I do not bring prohibited items to school and immediately reporting any prohibited items that I am aware of
-	Switching my mobile phone off whilst I am in school and ensuring that it is put safely away
-	Being a great ambassador for Ark Victoria both in and out of the academy
-	Being punctual: arriving on time to school and to my lessons in the right frame of mind to work hard and make progress
-	Being organised: ensuring that I am equipped for learning
-	Being calm: speaking clearly and listening to others carefully
-	Being respectful: being supportive and considerate to other pupils and adults at all times
-	Being resilient: showing tenacity by trying my hardest, even when I find things difficult
-	Contributing- making contributions to class discussions that can be heard by everyone else "No Excuses"
-	Being independent: completing my work on time and to the best of my ability

Good behaviour leads to pupils enjoying school and not missing any learning. Pupils who behave are rewarded with house points. Poor behaviour will not be tolerated and has an impact on your child's learning and other children. This has a direct impact on your child's grades.

**Latest Attendance Statistics**

The national average for attendance is 96% so it is important that your child attends school at all times. There is evidence that shows that lack of attendance will affect your child's grades. The long term impact is that your child will have gaps in their knowledge which will impact at the end of each year. Punctuality also has a big impact on your grades. If your child is late every day by 5 minutes, this is the same as missing 3.5 days of school a year (13 lessons). Being late 10 minutes every day is the same as missing 7 days of school a year (35 lessons). Being late 15 minutes every day is the same as missing 10 days of school a year (50 lessons). Being 30 minutes late a day is the same as missing 22 days of school (110 lessons). It is important that if your child is ill, you phone in and leave a message explaining why. Appointments should be made out of school hours to ensure your child does not miss their education. Our expectation is that every child is on time and always in unless they have are unable to due to a serious illness.



**School Menus**

To view our wide range of meals and snacks please head over to the website and have a look.

- <https://arkvictoria.org/secondary/secondary-lunch-menu>
- <https://arkvictoria.org/primary/primary-lunch-menu>

**Dates for the diary**

List of dates for next 2 weeks

- Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January – Year 11 Mock Exams start.
- Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January - 3 Yousafzai visit Lapworth Museum.
- Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January – 3 Watt visit Lapworth Museum.
- Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January – 3 Cadbury visit Lapworth Museum.
- Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January – 3 Tolkien visit Lapworth Museum.

**Term Dates**

List of term dates for remainder of year

- Spring Term: Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020 – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020
- Half term: Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020 – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2020
- Summer term: Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2020 – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020
- Half term: Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2020 – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020

**School Council Overview**

The school council is investigating getting Ark Victoria registered as an Eco School. Eco-Schools develops pupils’ skills, raises environmental awareness, improves the school environment and creates financial savings for schools as well as a whole host of other benefits. Further information will be coming out in the next few weeks.

**Primary School Council**

The first meetings of the Primary Year Council took place during the Autumn term in the Headteacher’s meeting room, following a tightly fought election process. During the meeting, a representative from each year, who will attend the whole school council, was elected. Each pupil made a speech about why they wanted to be a school councillor and then the year council voted. Some of the votes were very close.

On the agenda was ‘What would we like to do at lunchtime?’ The pupils came up with some lovely ideas such as a reading or drawing shed and a dance area. They also wanted more equipment to play with. We are now looking at ways to fundraise so we can implement these ideas.

**Secondary School Council**

Secondary pupils learnt about democracy by electing representatives for each form to stand on the Year Council. Pupils produced a manifesto production which they presented followed by a secret ballot during PSHE.

During the first meeting of each Year Council, a School Council representative was elected. As with Primary, this was very tightly fought. Secondary pupils discussed the types of reward they would like at school. Many wanted reward trips to a theme park but there lots of interesting suggestions such as a movie afternoon. We responded to their request by holding a celebration breakfast for students who had 100% punctuality and attendance and had received 0 behaviour points as well as celebration assemblies at the end of term.

**Whole school council**

The whole school council meeting took place at the end of the Autumn term, following the Year council meetings. It was inspiring to see both primary and secondary pupils speaking on equal terms sharing their ideas.

We discussed what we like about Ark Victoria, which was lots, and a project pupils, in both primary and secondary, could get involved in. The Year council were keen be involved in an environmental project. Mr Brom is picking up the Student leadership baton this term. He has a fantastic group of students, who are great ambassadors for our school.

Ark Victoria Whole School Council 2019

The year councillors spoke very confidently and listened respectfully to each other’s ideas, values we want to encourage at Ark Victoria.



**Recommended Read**

The Lion, the Witch and the wardrobe was written many years ago by C.S. Lewis. It is a popular children’s classic that has appealed to many different generations. This book is part of The Chronicles of Narnia series. This book describes the story of four children called Peter, Edmund, Susan and Lucy who discover the land of Narnia. This book is full of action and adventure and contains many positive role models. I would recommend this book to KS2 pupils.

**Maths Puzzle**

**Can you make 24 from the numbers 3, 3, 8, and 8?**  
**You can only use the operations + - x / ( )**  
**You have to use all four numbers.**

**Primary Puzzle**

6	+		=	14
+		+		+
	+	9	=	16
=		=		=
13	+		=	

20	-	12	=	
+		+		+
25	-		=	13
=		=		=
	-		=	

**Fun Fact**

Q is the only letter in the alphabet that does not appear in the name of any of the United States!

**Ark New and Updates**

- Ark Isaac Newton granted £27,000 to build science laboratory
- Year 13 students described as ‘STARRS’ during professional pathways conference

