



Ark Putney  
Academy



Sixth Form Prospectus

## We are an Ark school

We are proud to be part of the Ark family – a network of over 30 high-achieving schools across Birmingham, Hastings, London and Portsmouth. Each of us has our own unique character and ethos but we all share the same mission – to ensure that every child, regardless of their background, has the opportunity to go to a good university or into the career of their choice.

A strong focus on teaching and learning has seen Ark get some of the best results in the country – at primary, GCSE and A level – but we are about more than just exam results. We want our young people to develop far beyond the classroom which is why we offer a range of exciting extra-curricular activities. Highlights include network-wide sports events, performing for packed crowds at our annual Music Gala and Shakespeare's Schools Festival, taking part in work experience with some of the UK's biggest companies and summer schools at top universities.



# Welcome

## from the Head of Sixth Form

Dear students and parents,

I am delighted to welcome you to Ark Putney Academy Sixth Form. We pride ourselves on being an inclusive school-based sixth form which is devoted to helping every student achieve their potential and supporting them into their chosen university or career. We are equally proud of our track record with Oxbridge and Russell Group applications as we are of consistently beating our target grades in vocational qualifications.

Our sixth form students are in small classes where they get great teaching and intensive one-on-one support from highly skilled teachers. Our teachers know their students' strengths and weaknesses and painstakingly plan, prepare and make themselves available to meet students' needs. As a result we are in the top 10% nationally for student progress.

We give every one of our sixth form students the opportunity to broaden their horizons with topical speakers and extra-curricular activities. All students develop their own project and take part in structured debate, discussion and presentations. Each student is also a leader and a role model and we expect each of our students to do something significant to make a difference to the life of the school or the wider community.

We hold open days throughout the year. Please go to [www.arkputney.org](http://www.arkputney.org) for more details.

I look forward to meeting you.

Matt Neuberger, Head of Sixth Form

## Our Pathways

We offer a wide range of subjects and ways to study. Students can choose to study any of the following:

Four A levels with the option to reduce to three

A BTEC Extended Diploma (equivalent to three A-levels) alongside one A-level

A BTEC Extended Diploma alongside a retake in GCSE English and/or maths

All students will also undertake an independently researched Extended Project Qualification which is equivalent to half an A-level

See all of the subjects that we offer at [arkputney.org](http://arkputney.org)

If you are not sure which pathway is right for you, come and see us and we can support you in your decision.



# 10 reasons to choose Ark Putney Academy Sixth Form

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1. Top 10% of schools nationwide by progress from GCSEs



2. One third of A-level entries graded at A or A\*



3. 60% of students offered a place at a top-third university



4. Outstanding leadership and volunteering opportunities



6. Small teaching and pastoral groups with teachers who go above and beyond



7. Generous scholarship and bursary programmes



8. The opportunity to develop a personal project



9. Valued relationships with employers and universities

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5. Enrichment activities to suit every interest



10. Exciting and influential speaker programme

The Sixth Form Society is considered one of the best in London, with a history of very high calibre speakers visiting our school. In recent years we have welcomed figures such as Ken Livingstone, Peter Tatchell, Justine Greening and John Sweeney amongst many others.

Our talks also give Ark Putney students an opportunity to investigate advanced study and the world of work from a different perspective, building contacts with influential leaders and exploring a full array of post-18 opportunities. This year we welcome a broad range of speakers from sectors as diverse as: film production; literature and the arts; politics; human rights; law; finance; medicine; and science.

Our Sixth Form Society exposes our students to some of the most pressing issues affecting their world, igniting a desire to contribute to a better, fairer society, and giving our students a real opportunity to shape the views of influential leaders in a variety of fields.

# Succeeding beyond the classroom

We believe in developing students beyond the classroom – that's why we offer many opportunities alongside the formal curriculum.

We encourage students to give back to the school and wider community. You can become a prefect or house captain, join one of our school committees, support inter-house competitions and take part in paired reading and tutoring for younger students.

All our students also take part in Ark network events, such as the Ark Music Gala at the Barbican, the annual Shakespeare Schools Festival, and other events such as debating and sporting competitions.

We rotate enrichment activities on a termly basis but some of the activities we have offered in the past are:

- African drumming
- Amnesty International
- Animation & games design
- Catering
- Chess
- Debating
- Economics
- First aid
- History
- Jewellery making
- Mathematics
- Model United Nations
- Music groups
- Paired reading with local primary schools
- Poetry
- Sailing
- Sports
- Theatre Olympics

# Our facilities

We have recently completed a £30 million project to refurbish our whole school building. We finally have an inspiring learning environment that the whole school community can be proud of and a brand new dedicated sixth form area separate from the rest of the school including a common room and specific sixth form classrooms. This unique space gives our sixth form students the environment needed to focus on their studies and develop as young adults.

Our renovated facilities include a four-court sports hall, where students can enjoy games from football to badminton, as well as an activity studio for dance, boxing and other aerobic activities. We also have state of the art 3G AstroTurf pitches for outdoor sports. We have a new art facility on our top floor, with stunning views across London and a 200 seat drama theatre. Our modern languages department has just opened a brand new languages lab to for conversation practice.

“The cultural diversity in our sixth form has helped me gain an understanding of the wider community”  
Blehony Gnabroux  
Year 13 Student

# University and career success

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We believe that all of our students have the potential to go onto university or into a career of their choice. To achieve this we offer support and guidance to suit every student.

## Work experience

Every year 12 student takes part in work experience. We offer unique opportunities to gain experience and advice from a huge range of companies and industries. Below are just a few examples of where our students have worked:

- Barclays
- Bouygues
- Buckingham Palace
- GlaxoSmithKline
- Goldman Sachs
- International management consultants
- KPMG
- Local primary schools
- Solicitors firms

## University preparation

For students looking to go to university we have a range of programmes that provide support and advice on the journey to university.

Support can be anything from helping you to make your choices, to helping to write personal statements and going on university visits. Some of our sixth formers participate in the Danson

Foundation Oxbridge mentoring scheme, where they meet current students from Oxford and Cambridge to gain advice and an insight into university life. We are also part of the Teach First Futures programme which gives students access to; mentoring, residential university courses (including Oxford, Cambridge & Southampton), and competitive course support.

We work closely with Ark to develop strong relationships with universities and our students have access to Ark's University and Careers Success Programme.

## Financial support

Students can apply for a number of bursaries and scholarships to support them whilst at sixth form, and as they move on to university.

During sixth form students can apply for a Vulnerable Bursary (up to £1200) or a Discretionary Bursary (approx. £50 per term).

To help pay for university students can apply for a range of bursaries from £3,000 for the first year, to scholarships worth £40,000. In the past few years, 26 of our students have been awarded bursaries.

More information and application forms will be available at the start of term.

High attaining applicants (six As/7s or above) can apply for a £500 entrance scholarship.

# Our students

We are extremely proud of all of our students and what they achieve. Every year we have the great privilege of celebrating the results of two years hard work and helping students prepare for the next step in their journey.

Here are just a few of our students who received top A level results and accepted places at some of the best universities in the country:

**Maia** achieved A\* s in History and Sociology and an A in English

Literature. She is going to Kings College London to study English Literature.

Maia, who served as Head Girl at Ark Putney, was overwhelmed when she opened her results.

*“When I first saw what I’d achieved I cried. My brother came into school with me on results day and when we called our mum we were screaming! I didn’t think that 2 A\*s was within my reach! All the hard work has paid off and it’s definitely*

*worth it, I can’t believe it.*

*The teachers have been so supportive – Offering me extra help outside of normal lesson time, not only with my academic work but also with my university applications. I’m so grateful, I couldn’t have done it without them.”*

After university Maia hopes to pursue a career in the media or law .

*“I have really prospered at Ark Putney Academy, especially through the creative side of the school. I sang as part of the Spark choir for three years, and I played two leading roles in the Shakespeare schools festival.”*

*“The support we receive at Ark Putney will help us to excel in our future”*

Ala Manis  
Year 13 Student







**Vitessa** achieved As in Psychology and Sociology and a B in History. She is going to Surrey University to study psychology.

*“This school has been really supportive. My psychology teacher told me to write as many essays as I could, and then offered to mark them for me after school in her own time. If I have any questions, the teachers here are always willing to help. The classes are small, so you get a lot of personal teacher attention. They know your weakness and strengths.”*



**Hemiel** achieved A\*s in Maths and Biology and an A in Chemistry. He is going to Leicester to study Medicine.

*“As head boy I extremely proud to be an Ambassador of Ark Putney Academy.*

*In my free time I volunteer at an Age UK care home and British Heart Foundation on Saturdays. I also assist in year 7 maths lessons at school twice a week. I also set up a lot of charity and school events , for example recently I set up and captained in a student vs teachers football match to sponsor a child in Burundi through Action Aid Charity.*

*I think this school helped me to become very independent. I have a really good work ethic because of Ark Putney, they taught me to be an individual and not rely on others. I have what they call here a growth mindset.”*

# Achieving our goals



We use six key principles in everything we do:

We believe that success is built on six pillars:

**1. Effort:** Each of our students has individual targets based on their GCSE results. Students will only achieve their targets by working to the best of their ability. Students are expected to demonstrate outstanding attendance, punctuality and behaviour throughout the two years of Sixth Form.

**2. Enthusiasm:** We provide opportunities for students to broaden their horizons by engaging with topical speakers, extra-curricular activities and structured debate, discussion and presentations. We expect students to make the best possible use of these opportunities.

**3. Independence:** Students will routinely receive feedback on their progress. We expect them to reflect on that with their tutor and address

and identify any concerns as quickly as possible.

**4. Teamwork:** We expect our students to support and challenge each other academically and to work together to help the Sixth Form and wider school community thrive.

**5. Commitment:** We provide our students with a high level of career and university advice. We expect students to commit to researching and planning for their chosen pathway.

**6. Community:** Each student is a leader and a role model and we expect each one to do something significant to make a difference to the life of the school or the wider community.

We also have an experienced Special Educational Needs Team, who can step in to support and students who are having any difficulties.





*“ The environment  
the school community  
offers invokes innovation  
and helps us to motivate  
each other ”*

Yoojin Lee  
Year 13 Student

# Applying

## for a place at Ark Putney Sixth Form



To get a place at Ark Putney Sixth Form, you'll need to meet the following criteria:

For A level and level 3 courses you'll need 5 9-4 passes at GCSE, preferably including English and Maths, and including a 6 or merit in the subjects you want to study

If you've never studied the subjects you want to study, we'll look at your English and Maths grades

If you are interested in joining our sixth form, please go online and register your interest with us at [arkputney.org](http://arkputney.org)



# Ark Putney Academy



If you'd like to know more about Ark Putney Sixth Form Academy, please get in touch.

We'd love to hear from you.

## Pay us a visit

Ark Putney Academy  
Pullman Gardens  
London SW15 3DG

## Get in touch

Telephone: 020 8788 3421  
Email: [info@arkputneyacademy.org](mailto:info@arkputneyacademy.org)  
Web: [arkputney.org](http://arkputney.org)

*“I joined Ark Putney for sixth form. The teachers here are really supportive and they go above and beyond to make sure every student fulfils their potential”*

Chesandra  
Year 13 Student

