

Ark Putney Academy
Pullman Gardens
London
SW15 3DG



Principal: Ms Alison Downey

Preparing every student to be a pillar of any community

28th January 2021

Dear parents and carers

We are now over the halfway point of this half term and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting your child with remote learning.

On the whole this continues to be a huge success with very high levels of engagement from the majority of students. We are monitoring all students with regards to the submission of work and tutors and pastoral leads are following up with parents where we perceive there to be an issue. Across the academy we have now rolled out over 340 devices for students to help with their home learning, some of these have been given to us by the DFE and charities but the majority of them have been paid for by Ark Schools. If you are still struggling with access to a device or wifi, please contact Ms Stone at l.stone@arkputneyacademy.org We cannot guarantee that we can help but we will do our best to source something to support your child in their learning.

We are keen to improve our digital lessons and have surveyed both staff and students for their feedback. One concern raised has been around screen fatigue for both staff and students. As you will be aware, studies show that being in front of a screen all day is not good for our overall wellbeing. With this in mind we intend to run a **'No screen day' on Wednesday 3rd February.** Students will be expected to log in for tutor time and collect assignments on MS teams which are not screen driven. They may have to upload things at the end of the day but they will not be expected to sit at the computer for six periods. On this day, Community Classroom will still take place with a slightly altered format. In addition to this Year 13 have an online session booked with Into University from 8.50-9.50am which will go ahead.

As you will be aware from recent press coverage, digital learning also comes with a need for a heightened sense of safeguarding. You will have seen that Tik Tok account holders have played a part in disrupting lessons which is unfair on the students who want to learn and on staff.

Below are listed some websites that help to keep your child safe online.

Over/.....

Ark

Email: info@arkputneyacademy.org
Website: www.arkputneyacademy.org
Tel: 020 8788 3421

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/staying-safe-online/>

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>

To help your child with general online learning, the guides that we have written can be found here

<https://arkputney.org/curriculum/digital-strategy>

Last week we were instructed by the DFE to stop lateral flow tests (LFTs) for students on site. They have also instructed us to not conduct contact testing which means that if we have a Covid case in Community Classroom we will have to ask students in close contact to self-isolate. The government has indicated that as students return to school they will be tested twice using LFTs so please can you continue to complete the consent forms if you have not done so already.

CLICK HERE to complete the COVID Testing Consent Form

In the meantime, staff who are on site are tested at least twice per week to try and manage the transmission of the virus in our community.

Finally, the news remains bleak regarding infection rates and deaths which impacts on any decision regarding the students return to school. Hopefully we should have some more guidance over the next two weeks to help us to prepare for next half term. Once I have any update I will write to you again.

In the meantime, I hope that you and your families stay safe.

Best wishes



Alison Downey

Principal

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