

Ark Putney Academy
Pullman Gardens
London
SW15 3DG



Principal: Ms Alison Downey

Preparing every student to be a pillar of any community

9th February 2021

Dear parents/carers

I am writing to you for a final round-up before half term with some information regarding our return to remote learning and community classrooms on **Monday 22nd February**.

Digital Learning

We are extremely proud of the fact that we have been able to replicate our school timetable through our digital learning strategy. As the term draws to a close we are increasingly aware that our programme is one of the most comprehensive on offer in the local area, with all timetabled lessons being taught live. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff at the academy for their dedication in making this work for students and to thank the students who have engaged in their learning, despite the difficulties that it presents.

As this is a new situation, we have taken extensive feedback from all stakeholders on what is going well and what could be improved. The overall view from all is that:

- Following the whole school timetable really works in terms of keeping structure, routine and engagement.
- Screen time is an issue for everyone in terms of health and wellbeing.

As a result, we have decided to continue with the timetable as it stands but ask departments to consider how they can reduce screen time in their lessons by setting some independent work. If remote learning continues for a long period of time, we will calendar additional 'screen free days' as and when we feel that they are appropriate.

After we return from the break staff have requested that students make sure they have their cameras on at the beginning of lessons as it is difficult to teach to blank screens. Please can you encourage your child to do this as it will help make the lessons feel more real. There have been some instances of poor behaviour, where unknown people enter the teams lesson. We appear to have resolved this but there are still some inappropriate comments in the chat from students. Please ensure that your child understands that an MS teams lesson is a formal lesson and students should conduct themselves appropriately at all times.

Digital Devices

As you will be aware, to engage in digital learning all students need to access a device which has a camera and a microphone. We have now rolled out over 400 devices to families thanks to the DFE, our founding partners and Ark Schools. These have transformed online working for many of our students. We still have some unallocated devices

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left so please contact Ms Stone l.stone@arkputneyacademy.org if you still do not feel that your child has access to an individual device. As ever, we cannot make promises but we will do our best to support you.

Upcoming events

24th February Year 9 Options

Year 9 are starting the process of choosing their options for next year. We have already taken a survey of their preferences for option subjects and on Wednesday 24th February we will be running an online options evening that we expect all students to attend. Ms Stone will be in touch with further details.

3rd March Year 10 Parents' Evening 2.00pm-6.00pm

Year 10 will have an online parents' evening and we are using a virtual system that allows parents to book appointments with teachers.

The process of conducting an evening online means that it takes longer than usual so on this afternoon there will be no live lessons for APA students so that we can start the evening at 2.00pm instead of the usual time of 4.00pm. Teachers will set work on Teams so that students can continue with their studies. Periods 1-4 will operate as normal on this day and all students will be expected to attend live lessons.

The path to re-opening

The Prime Minister has stated that he hopes to re-open schools from **8th March** onwards and will make an announcement as to what this will look like on **22nd February**. My sense of this is that it will be a staggered start back, with students being tested on entry to the academy using the lateral flow tests. It is therefore important to complete the COVID testing consent form that has already been issued so that we can ensure that students and staff can return safely. If you have NOT done this already, please complete and submit the form now. Once I know what is expected I will write to all parents with the details of this which remains dependant on the rate of infection falling significantly.

CLICK HERE to complete the COVID Testing Consent Form

Finally, school will not be open for any students over the break. Wandsworth LA will be issuing Wonde vouchers to cover the free school meals arrangement for this week so please download these in the usual way.

I hope that you and your families remain safe and well in these challenging times.

Best wishes



Alison Downey

Principal

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