



Spring term 2 update

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing this to you in the middle of the half term break – and it is as busy as ever in school. Many of our Year 11 students are in school attending additional revision sessions in preparation for their upcoming mock exams and teachers are busy preparing for the new term. Our site staff are completing further works on our existing building, while it is all steam ahead with the new build which is still on track for completion by the end of this year.

The spring term got off to a great start with the introduction of some key changes that have been very well received by students, staff and parents. Our new format **parent review meetings** for Y7-10 received very positive feedback from parents and carers 98% of whom said that the meeting helped them understand how better to support their child and 99% felt the information in the report was very useful.

We also held the interviews and first meetings for our new **school council**. Each form now has a lead representative and deputy to represent the views of the students and help us improve our school. Representatives have already supported me with the interview process for new teacher positions we have appointed to and helped design our end of term rewards trips – more of which to follow.

Lunch times have seen a real improvement with a reduction in the queuing time for school lunches and an increase in the numbers of students attending our range of **lunch time activities** including chess club, boxing and music. And KS4 have made the most of their separate dining space – although the table tennis has become very competitive! Many parents have taken up the opportunity to apply for free school meals since January and I would really like to encourage all parents to apply if they think they

might be eligible. A successful application not only gives your child **free school lunches** it also gives the school additional funding that we can use to better support your child's learning – so please see the FSM information at the end of this newsletter and apply as soon as you can.



Spring 2 assessments

All pupils in every year group will be completing assessments in the first few weeks of term. For Y11, 12 and 13 these are their mock examinations where they complete full exam papers before their real GCSE and A Level exams in just under 12 weeks' time. We are running revision sessions after school to support pupils in these important year groups and have written home separately sharing ways in which you can support your child. In years 7-10 these assessments are an important progress check to review progress made over the spring term and a great opportunity to develop revision techniques and check understanding. Please ensure your child is completing their homework and revision activities to prepare for these assessments and if you have any questions about how best to support your child contact their form tutor directly.

Our new rewards system

This half term we will be launching our new rewards system – this will help recognise all the pupils who are making the right choices every day. We have worked with our school council to help develop this new system. Over the next half term all pupils who achieve a minimum of **120 merits** based on our ‘Elvin 10’ will be invited to attend our end of term award trips – all of which will happen in the last week of term. Merits will be awarded for pupils who display any of the following learning expectations:

‘The Elvin 10’

- I arrive on time to lessons; ready to learn
- I am kind, polite and show respect
- I demonstrate leadership
- I participate fully in lessons
- I work hard; complete all work to a high standard
- I take pride in my presentation and detail of my work
- I display a growth mind-set. I don’t give up
- I work well independently and as part of a team
- I learn from my mistakes
- I dare for greatness - ‘magne aude’

Please check your child’s planner weekly and see how well they are doing in their merits – this is a great way to see the recognition your child gets for making the right choices in school and focusing on their learning.

Strong discipline

Strong discipline is at the heart of our school, providing the calm and focussed environment that allows pupils to learn, show and receive respect and develop the behaviours that will enable them to play a full role in society. Our rewards system will help our children develop a disciplined approach to their learning. However if your child does not meet our expectations then a fair sanction is appropriate. Our sanctions system works in the following ways:

Level 1: Rule reminder

Level 2: Individual warning

Level 3: A consequence recorded in the child’s planner (a check or correction)

Level 4: An escalation consequence (a same day correction or extended correction)

Level 5: The pupil is removed from the lesson.

The behaviour grid in your child’s planner records if any sanctions have been given in a day. Each day your child starts with a ‘clean slate’ and an opportunity to start again with no sanctions hanging over them.

Certain behaviours will automatically lead to a child being removed from a lesson, taken to our seclusion room and contact made with home. We will not tolerate any of the following behaviours:

- Refusal to sit in seating plan
- Refusal to hand over planner
- Behaviour that persistently disrupts other students learning
- Physical or verbal abuse.

If you have any questions about our rewards or sanctions system please do not hesitate to contact me or your child’s head of learning or form tutor.



Kind regards,

Rebecca Curtis

Interim Principal

Key Dates

20 th Feb	Staff INSET day
21 st Feb	First day back for students
22 nd Feb	NFER national reference test for selected Y11 pupils
23 rd Feb	Tate Britain art trip Y11, Y12
24 th Feb	Oxford University trip Y12
27 th Feb	School council meeting
27 th Feb	Exam Week – all year groups
6 th Mar	Globe theatre trip – Y7
8 th Mar	international Women’s day celebrations
23 rd Mar	Diamonds & moonstones – London tour
	Y11 parents meeting 17:00 ‘Supporting your child through their exams’
27 th Mar	Awards trip week
31 st Mar	Last day of spring term
3 rd -5 th Apr	Y11, 12 and 13 supervised study
10 th -12 th Apr	Y11 GCSE revision residential
18 th Apr	Academy INSET day
19 th Apr	Summer term starts for all students



Is your child eligible for Free School Meals?

If you are a parent or carer, and receive any of the benefits below, then your child is eligible for Free School Meals:-

- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance.
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit (provided you are Not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross household income of no more than £16190)
- The Guaranteed Element of State pension Credit
- Income related Employment and Support Allowance
- Working Tax Credit run on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

What to do next?

If your application for Free School Meals is successful, Ark Elvin Academy will also receive extra funding from the Government to use in support of teaching and learning (Pupil Premium). This will be used by the school to enhance teaching and learning opportunities for your child.

If you would like to apply for Free School Meals you can:

- Ask at Reception for an application form
- Apply online at www.link2ict.org/FSM