



Ark Elvin Academy

Newsletter

Spring | January 2016



Here's to a great 2016!

Happy new year to all of our pupils, students, parents, families and friends. I hope that you had a wonderful break and are looking forward to a happy and prosperous 2016!

We have saved this newsletter for the start of term this time, as we have so much exciting news to share with you. Autumn term at Elvin was very busy, with all children and adults working incredibly hard to get the very best results and ensure that all of our pupils can get the outcomes they deserve. It feels like the time between everyone coming back to school in September and our end of term celebrations went incredibly quickly, although we did pack a lot in during that time. We've included a number of highlights of our biggest successes, and plenty of examples of why we are so very proud of our pupils, in this newsletter. I hope you enjoy reading about these as much as we have enjoyed the experience.

We are welcoming a number of new colleagues this term, who have joined us in our mission to improve the outcomes of all of our pupils and help them to be successful at university and beyond:

- **Mr Stefan Clarke** is our new Head of Science, and co-tutor for 11 Picasso with Mr Nascimento. He will be working closely with Mr Barrett to ensure that our Science department continues to go from strength to strength.
- **Ms Dadri-Ann Williams** is our new Head of Modern Languages, and co-tutor for 11 Da Vinci with Ms Villikko-Sefton. She will be working closely with Ms Bayes to ensure that the language department continues to deliver excellent results for all of our pupils.
- **Ms Amy Martin** is joining us as our new Special Educational Needs Coordinator. She will be working closely with Ms Flindall and our learning support team to ensure that all pupils are given the support they require.
- **Ms Courtney Reindel** is joining us as a Music teacher, and co-tutor for 11 Pissarro with Ms Akesse.
- **Ms Gurvene Sidhu** is joining us as an English teacher, and co-tutor for 11 Kubo with Mr Sheridan.
- **Ms Jacqui Cascarino** is joining us as a Food Technology teacher, and co-tutor for 8 Coelho with Mr Kunnassery.
- **Ms Jayleigh Mathyi** is joining us as a Science teacher, and co-tutor for 7 Burns with Mr Fayers.
- **Ms Kiarra Wilson-Knott** is joining us as an Art teacher, and co-tutor for 7 Wheatley with Mr Akhtar.
- **Ms Kimberley Evans** is joining us as a Maths teacher, and co-tutor for 7 Owen with Mr Kavanagh.
- **Mr Ryan Matthews** is joining us as a Geography teacher, and form tutor for Westminster.
- **Ms Eneyorele Ilenbarenmen** is joining the team as a Human Resources Administrator.
- **Mr Karam Bhogal** is our new Finance & Resources Director. Mr Bhogal has 8 years of experience in a similar role and will be line managing Finance, Catering, Admin and Facilities.

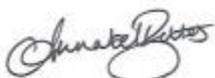
This term we will be focusing on pupil progress, as always, and making absolutely sure that we are doing everything we possibly can to improve outcomes for all pupils. We will be looking at how we provide the very best support and guidance to pupils in all year groups, to help them reach and exceed their targets. This is particularly true for years 11, 12 and 13 as they get closer to their end of year exams. We will be talking to year 11 every day about what they should be doing to ensure they are successful. As well as supporting pupils with their studies we will also be providing them with lots of information about applying for (and being successful) at sixth form, in college and/or in the work place. This is a busy and sometimes stressful time for all pupils, especially those in exam years. Our focus is on helping them to succeed and helping them understand how they can manage their workload and their stress. I look forward to seeing year 11 parents at parents' evening next week, and year 10 parents at parents' evening on Wednesday 10th.

Finally, I am delighted to share the results of House competitions for Autumn Term. In our singing competition in Autumn 1, **Farah House** were the winners, followed by **Angelou House**, with **Mandela House** in third place. For our Christmas Card competition – the winners of which are displayed on the front of this newsletter – **Aya** and **Vanshika** (year 7), **Bipasha** and **Hetvi** (year 8) were runners up, with **Bandana** (year 8) in third place, **Hanna** (year 11) in second, and four joint winners: **Klea**, **Priyanka**, **Malak** (all year 10), and **Vince** (year 8).

This leaves our current house points totals, including the all-important merits, as follows:

1st: Mandela (18,830 points)	2nd: Farah (18,360 points)	3rd: Angelou (17,950 points)
4th: Malala (16,370 points)	5th: Rowling (15,430 points)	6th: Sutton (14,090 points)

Best wishes,



New building gets the green light



At the end of October, our new state-of-the-art school building secured approval from Brent's planning committee. The current premises will eventually be demolished and replaced with a brand new building scheduled to be completed in 2017. We will still have use of our existing building while the new building is being built, with building work starting this term.

The new two and three storey building will have a prominent new library and a dining hall opening onto a courtyard, along with modern classrooms, a 5 court sports hall and a sixth form common room and study space. Outside, pupils will benefit from a new all-weather pitch for sports like football, hockey, rugby and cricket and a multi-use games area for sports like basketball, netball and mini-tennis. There will be a brand new entrance to the school from Wembley High Street along a tree lined avenue.

Miss Bates said: "This is great news for our students, who have wanted a new building for some time. With new leadership, a new uniform and improved teaching and behaviour, this new building marks the latest step in our journey towards becoming an outstanding school."

A year 7 parent said: "I can see that Ark Elvin is making real improvements, which is why I was confident to send my child there. The new building is the latest sign that things are on the up."

Khadija in year 11, who wrote to the Prime Minister in 2013 asking for a new school building, said: "I never thought this would actually happen. I'm so pleased that the plans are going to go ahead. I can't wait to step inside my new school."

Applications open for Elvin Sixth Form



Applications for joining the Elvin Sixth Form in September 2016 officially opened at our Open Evening for internal candidates on 25th November. We have had a great response so far, and applications are still open.

WHY CHOOSE ELVIN?

- We want you to really belong here and feel supported
- We want you to achieve higher here than you can anywhere else
- We want you to be and feel equipped for what comes next

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

For A-level study all students must meet our basic entry requirement which is 5 GCSE grades A* - C and a B in the subjects that you wish to continue studying to A- level.

COURSE AVAILABILITY

We offer many subjects at sixth form but unlike many institutions we are able to cater specifically for your needs. If there is a subject that you would like to study and there are several pupils that would meet the minimum requirement for a class, then we will work very hard to ensure that we are able to offer this academic pathway to you.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply, or for more information, visit our website at arkelvinacademy.org

Pupils impress at Shakespeare Schools Festival



On 9th November a group of Elvin pupils performed at the prestigious Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, as part of Ark's Shakespeare Schools Festival. The pupils worked very hard in rehearsals, and performed brilliantly. Malgorzata, a leading cast member, writes this report:

"Our cast had the pleasure to perform 'The Tempest' and watch other ARK Schools perform different Shakespeare plays. From rehearsal to changing in dressing rooms to an actual performance: we had the opportunity to feel like professional actors and actresses.

'The Tempest' is a very interesting play. It's set on island called Milan where a bad magician, and rightful duke of Milan, Prospero (played by Malgorzata F) and his beloved daughter Miranda (Hetvi M) are living alongside the awful slave of Propsero, Caliban (Ritik H). Prospero is trying to get his dukedom back from his brother Alonso (Satura H) the usurping duke of Milan, so he creates a bad tempest with the help of his spirit, Ariel (Hitaxi M and Nehal B). As the ship sinks Alonso (Mehul G) the king of Naples, Sebastian (Tiara B) the brother of Prospero, Antonio, Ferdinand the son of Alonso, Boatswain (Ikram A), the Mariners (Yousra A and Emiola B) Gonzalo (Kamar A) an honest old counsellor, Francisco (Denisa C) the lord attending Antonio, Trinculo (Michael A) the jester and Stephano (Joshua O) the drunken butler split across the sea and later on they find each other on the island except for Stephano, Trinculo and Ferdinand. Trinculo and Stephano found each other on the other part of island while 'befriending' Caliban. Ferdinand was wandering elsewhere on the island after the voice of Ariel. There he met Miranda and fell in love with her, Prospero as a good father was testing Ferdinand for a while to see if he is worth his daughter's love but then after Ferdiand passed the test he allowed them two to marry. When everybody reunited Prospero got his dukedom back from Antonio and gave up his powerful magic.

We received a wave of applause that made us all smile from ear to ear despite limited rehearsal time we got positive feedback. We were very stressed at the beginning but overcame the stress as we stepped into the scene and performed beautifully! It was real Magna Aude."

Well done to all the cast members, and to Miss Spiers, for all their hard work.

Follow your child's progress towards success



We have been working hard this year to improve how we communicate with parents, and how we make sure everybody knows how your children are doing in school. It's particularly important for pupils and parents to know how much progress they are making. This shows how much a pupil's grades are improving, and how much they are learning in class. We set every pupil a target grade for each subject, based on how they have done in the past.

This week all pupils will receive a Pupil Progress Card which they will keep in their planner – please see the example on the right. Please ask to see your child's Progress Card, and discuss it with them.

A green circle means your child is on target, amber just below and red below where they should be. In Year 7 children in English and maths will be receiving a 1-9 grade, to fit with new GCSE grading. Year 7 parents will be receiving more information about this. In Year 10 pupils will also be graded 1-9 in maths and English.

Year 11, 12 and 13 received the results from their mock exams today in a special results day envelope. We are very proud of the focus, effort, and dedication that all the pupils in these year groups showed throughout the mock exam period. There is a lot more hard work to do between now and the final exams in just a few months' time, and we look forward to seeing the excellent grades they will receive in the summer as a reward for this effort.



Elvin John

Form group	9 SIMMONDS
Attendance (%)	98.4



	Autumn 1 Result	Autumn 2 Result	Autumn 2 Target	On track?	End of Year Target
Art <i>Mr J. DELGADO</i>	3c	3c	4a	●	5b
Design and Technology <i>Miss R. SHORR</i>	1a		4a	●	5b
Drama <i>Mr D. MILLES</i>	4c	4a	4a	●	5b
English <i>Mr E. FAYERS</i>	3a	4b	4a	●	5b
French <i>Miss A. AKESSE</i>	3b	3a	4c	●	5b
Geography <i>Mr P. GUNWALDS</i>	3b	4b	4a	●	5b
History <i>Miss C. GUNER</i>	4b	5b	4a	●	5b
Mathematics <i>Mr A. SALOOM</i>	4c		5c	●	6c
Music <i>Mr M. POLLARD</i>			4a	●	5b
Physical Education <i>Mr M. PATEL</i>	5b	5b	4a	●	5b
Religious Education <i>Ms M. WILLIAMS</i>	5a	5a	4a	●	5b
Science <i>Mr E. MUMTAZ</i>	2b		4a	●	5b
Spanish <i>Ms A. UZIANI</i>	3b		4a	●	5b

Pupils speak at Houses of Parliament



During the October half term, a group of Elvin pupils travelled to the Houses of Parliament to speak on a panel at an event entitled 'Beyond Academisation'. Below is a report from Malgorzata in year 10:

"On the 28th of October our school was invited to contribute to a panel discussion event called "Beyond Academisation". Happily we took a trip down to Parliament along with Mr. Lauder and Ms. Williams. Before the event started we had the pleasure of a very short tour around the Parliament and also to meet couple of Ms. Williams' friends who work there. They were kind enough to explain in brief their story and give some advice if we wanted to start getting our heads around politics.

In the meeting we were delighted to meet and listen to a couple of important figures in educational world such as Ian Mearns MP, Education selected committee member who spoke about smart investing of money in the correct things and people to make education develop and to give teachers what they deserve for the important job they are doing; we met Cllr Anntoinette Bramble, Portfolio lead member for Children's services at Hackney Council who presented the number of academies in Hackney which is just under 50% and stated that "Academisation isn't for every school". Also we heard from Graeme Duncan, CEO of Right to Succeed, who shared a thought that I'm pretty sure almost everybody agreed with - "Education is about great people", I think this idea applies to our school almost perfectly due to the great staff we have at Elvin. Ms. Williams took part in the discussion too and explained her experience working in different non-academy schools in Cardiff.

We had the opportunity to speak about our own experiences since our community school changed into an academy. Anahita from year 10 spoke about the difference that different head teachers made over the couple past years and how it affected the school as a place, pupils and their learning. I spoke about the GCSE results in year 2015 and answering the main question of the event "Is academisation the only answer to improve schools?" I linked to what Mr. Duncan said and stated that what improves school is great leadership and great teaching not just changing the name of this particular institution from 'community school ' to an ' academy '.

I think we all got something out of this meeting and most surely it made us change the way we think about teachers at least in small amount. In my opinion it was a great opportunity for us, to speak our minds and ask these knowledgeable people what we want to know."

Elvin Team wins silver in debating competition

Our Sixth Form debating team won second prize in an Ark debating contest at the end of November. The team submitted this report:

“On Monday 30th November, 5 of our sixth form students and two staff members (Mrs Folaranmi and Ms. Jones) travelled all the way to Ark Globe Academy in Southwark, London. Ark Elvin was scheduled for the second round against Walworth Academy. At the first round team A from Walworth had won - and Ark was against team B. The round’s topic was if ‘Westerns museums should repatriate cultural artefacts’ and in this round Olufunke Morofolu and Syed Haque represented Ark Elvin. They trained hard for this challenge and their hard work showed - they won the first round against Walworth.

At the final round it was only Team A Walworth academy against team B from Ark Elvin - Iman Hussein and Kieran Stephens. The topic was ‘should performance enhancing drugs (PED) be used in sports.’ Ark Elvin was against the use of PED. The judges were impressed with the sharp rebuttals and defence arguments Ark Elvin had, however in the end it seemed that Ark Elvin was not destined to win.

Ark Elvin won 2nd place in the competition and even if we didn’t win, the experience was thrilling and the students would love to do it again.”

Can you help us buy books for our library?

Our governors have launched a campaign to raise £5,000 for new books for our library. If you can help, or know anyone that can, please go to <https://www.justgiving.com/Ark-Schools-Appeal-Ark-Elvin-Book-Drive>

Spring 1 Key Dates

Please put these dates in your diaries:

Monday 4th January:	Staff training day (no school for pupils)
Tuesday 5th January:	Start of term for pupils
Wednesday 13th January:	Year 11 parents’ evening
1st – 5th February:	Assessment week
8th – 11th February:	Review week
Wednesday 10th February:	Year 10 parents’ evening
Thursday 11th February:	Last day of half term for pupils
Friday 12th February:	Staff training day (no school for pupils)

And finally... we are proud to support the **Keep Wembley Tidy** campaign. Please recycle this newsletter once you have finished with it. Please also remember to always dispose of rubbish responsibly – we are working with Keep Wembley Tidy to follow up any local residents who leave rubbish bags on the street, which is illegal and does not have a place in our wonderful community. We know that all our parents share our pride in the local area, and will work with us to keep improving it.