



Ark Elvin Academy

# Newsletter

Summer 1 May 2015



## A great start to the summer at Ark Elvin Academy

This half term has been very successful here at Ark Elvin. Our year 11s, 12s and 13s have started the exam season with an impressive amount of maturity and dedication. They are all demonstrating **magna aude** and striving to be the very best they can be. I am very much looking forward to celebrating the results of their hard work with them in August. We will be holding a special prizegiving event for years 11, 12 and 13 in September which I look forward to telling you more about in our final newsletter of the year. There are many other highlights from this half term which you will see in this newsletter. As always I am incredibly proud of all of our pupils and their fantastic achievements.

Finally, a big thank you to all pupils, parents, colleagues and other members of our community for their support in raising money for Sufra food bank – especially those who sponsored my run in the Paris marathon! It has been a real honour to work with the charity and I know that we will continue to do so in the future.

Best wishes,

## Nearly £2,000 raised for Sufra food bank!



The Elvin community has continued to build strong links with our local food bank in Stonebridge, run by the Sufra charity. Following our food drive at Christmas, when Elvin pupils collected 85 kilograms of food, Miss Bates has run the Paris marathon and a group of year 10 volunteers spent a Saturday afternoon packing bags in Waitrose – both to raise money for Sufra, towards their aim of building a soup kitchen. In total, the marathon raised £1,400 and the bag packing raised over £400. The representative from Sufra was very impressed with how well our pupils took to the task, working hard and having great conversations with the customers about the charity. Most impressively, many of the year 10s rushed to sign up for more volunteering with Sufra following the bag packing, showing a very strong sense of our school value of community. Halema, one of the volunteers, writes:



“I am extremely proud of our school working with the charity as I sincerely believe that we represent our school values, the main one being community. The day at Waitrose was amazing. I was very appreciative to be involved in the successful charity. I believe me and everyone represented great courage and lifted the community spirit, in order to achieve great mastery, and I believe it turned out be an amazing day - with all the courage and mastery. I surprisingly also learned how to pack shopping properly and enjoyed a good time talking to the lovely customers! I was very proud to tell the customers that our prestigious school is working with Sufra and as a young ambassador I am successful in achieving this. Everyone was great at accomplishing the objective of the day. We managed to raise over £400 altogether with the help of all the brilliant teachers. A special shout out to all the staff who helped out: Ms Noronha, Ms George, Ms Brooks, Ms Williams, and of course Ms Bates.”

# A season of transitions at Elvin

This term is the start of some big and important transitions for many of our pupils. Year 9 pupils have now all chosen their option subjects for next year, and are working hard to prepare for the start of their GCSE courses. Next half term will see a great deal of induction activities for year 6 pupils who will join us at Elvin next year, and pupils moving up from year 11 to join the sixth form.

## Year 6-7 induction

We've seen a lot of interest in joining our year 7, with the number of initial applications more than trebling since last year! Many of the new parents have said that they've chosen Elvin based on recommendations and positive reports from existing parents, so thank you to everyone in our community for continuing to support the school.

We've already had many of the new parents come for tours of the school, meeting pupils and popping into lessons, and next half term we will have one-to-one meetings with all the year 6s and their parents. This will be followed by two induction days on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> June, when pupils will find out their form groups and houses and take part in a range of exciting lessons. There will then be a summer school from 22<sup>nd</sup>–31<sup>st</sup> July where pupils will get to know each other better while brushing up on their English and maths and having a good amount of fun, before starting with a few more days of induction in September.

In the meantime we have been working closely with a number of our local primary schools. Mr Archer, who will be the Head of Year 7 next year, is visiting schools including Stonebridge, Oakington Manor, and Lyon Park to meet the large groups of children we are taking from those schools (if any pupils are keen to help with the visit to their old primary school, please let Mr Archer know).



We've developed a particularly strong relationship with Elsley Primary School, including working with them to support and host their sports day and end of year performance. Mr Short has also run level 6 writing workshops for year 6 pupils from Elsley and other schools they work with. At the sessions, the children were invited to imagine, create, and write about an imaginary planet – describing everything from the planet's environment to the alien inhabitants. Elsley pupil Roha said: "I think today has really pushed us to write better and I'm going to take some of the things I've learnt today back to Elsley with me."

## Sixth Form induction

We've been delighted that so many of our year 11 pupils, who are currently working incredibly hard to achieve great results in their GCSEs, have chosen to stay at Elvin for sixth form. Our year 12 already looks set to more than double, and we are still receiving more applications. Mr Edwards, in his new role as Assistant Principal, is devising an exciting induction programme to help pupils take the big step up to sixth form – where independent learning, deeper understanding, study skills, and broader experiences and responsibilities become all the more important.

The 4 weeks of induction, starting on 22<sup>nd</sup> June, will range from team building and presentations, through to cultural activities in central London, personal statement and CV workshops, careers fairs and university visits, and a healthy dose of fun and competition!

## Year 10 prepare for work experience



Our current year 10 pupils will be going out on work experience placements in early September, at the start of year 11. This opportunity will provide our pupils with employability skills and prepare them for their future goals. In preparation for their placement, all year 10 pupils participated in an assembly which informed them about the benefits of work experience and what to expect when they go out. The pupils are in the process of completing their CVs and thinking carefully about the areas of work in which they are interested. Form tutors are supporting pupils with completing their CVs and providing guidance on areas of interest. The deadline for completion of CVs and areas of interest forms is the 5<sup>th</sup> June.

## Lancaster University Workshop for Year 8 students

On 1<sup>st</sup> May, two students from Lancaster University came to meet 12 of our top Year 8 students for the first of three workshops: Sawdah, Alexandru, Marvyne, Sagher, Olutobi, Rhianna, Sabina, Veshalli, Viktoria, Qemal, Hital, Vihanga and Delaney. Sawdeh and Alexandru have written this account of the session:

“At first, we discussed four topics: poverty, education, environment and gender. We watched a video called ‘Like a Girl’, which questioned what it means to do things ‘like a girl’, then split into girls and boys, to talk about gender inequality. We shared our thoughts together as a group and discussed the differences between men and women. We learnt that women in Saudi Arabia are not allowed to drive, which is very unfair. We also learnt about education in different countries, and how many people have access to it. Below 70% of people are educated in Papua New Guinea, which was very upsetting to find out. Finally, we had the fun task of trying to invent and make something which could help the environment, coming up with: a recycling robot to encourage children to recycle, a mobile air-purifying wind turbine and a portable water-purifying, recycling machine! At the end, we had to vote on which topics we thought were the most vital. We chose poverty, hunger and disease, and the environment, so we will continue with these topics in the next two sessions. “



## £27,000 of university bursaries awarded to Elvin pupils

Congratulations to Jeneil McDonald, Jerome Lake, and Akshar Khengar, who each have been awarded a three year Marshall Wace university bursary, worth £3,000 per year to support them through their degrees. As part of the Ark network, our year 13 pupils had the opportunity this year to apply for a range of awards, up to £30,000. To win the awards Jeneil, Jerome, and Akshar fought off stiff competition from across the seventeen secondary schools in the network; successful written applications and personal statement were followed by a formal interview in central London by a panel of four interviewers, including two representatives from Marshall Wace, the asset management firm that funds the bursaries.

Jeneil, who has also impressed Portsmouth University enough that they took the unusual step of making her an unconditional offer to study Sport and Exercise Science, said “I couldn’t believe it when I heard I had won the award. I almost didn’t apply but I’m so glad I did, even though it was a really difficult process. The bursary means I will be able to do lots of things at university that I otherwise wouldn’t have been able to do”.

Well done also to Aliea, who won a place on the reserve list for a Driver Youth Trust bursary, and Leo, Robleh, and Saynab who also came close.

## End of year examinations

In the last few weeks of the year, every pupil in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 will be assessed in what they have learned so far. The purpose of every assessment at ARK Elvin is for every pupil and every teacher to understand where they are and to decide what to do next, but the assessments at the end of the year are special: they are the moment when everything that has been learnt all year is tested.

<b>Wednesday 1st July – Friday 3rd July:</b>	Year 7 & 8 end of year examinations
<b>Friday 3rd July – Friday 10th July:</b>	Year 9 & 10 end of year examinations

### How can parents help?

In order to be ready for this, our pupils should be *revising*. Their teachers will be working with them to help them to prepare, but it will help them all the more if they have a place to work at home for at least an hour per evening, but preferably more. We would love to have your support in this.

Making that time is important because:

- It checks their understanding.
- It helps pupils make links between different topics to see how the whole subject fits together.
- It helps to remind pupils of material they have forgotten.
- It reinforces what has been learned and make sure it sticks.
- It lets pupils identify and fill gaps in their knowledge.

To get the best from revision, pupils should:

- Start as early as possible.
- Make a revision timetable for the weeks before the assessment.
- Answer questions from their assessments this year.
- Identify the key points, examples and evidence for each topic- you will not be able to write very much on each in the exam!

Part of learning how assessment works is practicing how to behave in an exam hall, so every assessment will happen in the main hall under exam conditions. Teachers and pupils should know the outcomes of the assessments by the end of the school year and we are all looking forward to celebrating the success brought by everybody’s hard work since September.

## A smashing start to the cricket season!

Congratulations to our year 10 cricket team, which has a 100% record winning both its games so far in the Brent Cricket Cup. Both games were won by impressive margins. Against JFS in April we were 191 for 3 and bowled them out for 43, and against Preston Manor we won by 9 wickets, bowling them out for 41.

Well done to all those on the team: Arunan, Vyomesh, Lestor, Kushal, Dhrunik, Yenkes, Krutik, Dipen, Bavik, Keval, Bhargav, Ramachandr, Jamshed, and Nirmal. We look forward to more success next half term and hopefully lifting the cup!

## Year 11s inspired to study at Harvard



Some of our Year 11 pupils have been inspired to study in America after a talk from graduates of Harvard, one of the world's most well-known universities. The pupils went to the talk, at Ark Academy near Wembley Park, to find out more about studying in the US. They heard how American universities require students to study a broad range of subjects over four years, rather than one subject over three years as in most UK universities.

Harvard graduate Josh McTaggart told year 11s how he'd come from a working-class background to being the first member of his family to study at university, saying that Harvard's generous financial support had meant that he'd been able to leave university with less debt than if he'd stayed in the UK.

Year 11 pupil Saeeka said: "It really opened my mind to the possibility of studying in the US. I hadn't really thought about it before, but Josh has shown us that it's possible – he made it from a working-class family to being a Harvard graduate." Wiam added: "The talk was really interesting and gave me a lot to think about. I

want to study Medicine at university, which is a postgraduate degree in America, so I may stay in the UK, but now I know it's possible.”

## Library shelves are stocking up!

Earlier this month, two of our school governors – Erica Wax and Alex Bigham – offered to help in obtaining new books for the library. They have tirelessly been working hard in doing so, by visiting several schools, hosting book swap and book drops. They have been very successful and manage to obtain nearly 500 books. Some of these books titles include, 'How to Trade Options" and "How to design your own Garden". Also there are so many great authors and titles for example, all the Harry Potter series, Roald Dahl, classics such as "Animal Farm" and "Lord of the Flies", and Obama's and Mandela's autobiographies. We look forward to engaging all of our pupils into reading these new and exciting books after half term!

## Year 11 half term interventions timetable

Below is the timetables for Year 11 intervention sessions during the half term holiday. These sessions are open to selected pupils only, who will have received letters notifying them of which sessions to attend. Normal school expectations apply, for example regarding uniform, mobile phones, food, and punctuality.

	Saturday 23rd May	Monday 25th May	Tuesday 26th May	Wednesday 27th May	Thursday 28th May
AM	<b>History</b>	<b>Bank Holiday</b>	<b>Maths</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Science</b>
	Teachers: DME		Teachers: CWA, MCR(Ark),AWA, DWA, DWH, JMU, JNO, MOR	Teachers: SDR, ASA, KNO(Ark), AMC(Ark)	Teachers: KAL, AEL, GWE, SBA
	Time:9:30-12:30		Time: 9:30-12:30	Time: 9:30-12:30	Time:9:30-12:30
				<b>BTEC Science</b>	
				Teachers: TME	
				Time:9:30-12:30	
PM			<b>Maths</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Science</b>
			Teachers: CWA, MCR,AWA, DWA, DWH, JMU, JNO, MOR	Teachers: SDR, ASA, KNO(Ark), AMC(Ark)	Teachers: KAL, AEL, GWE, SBA
			Time: 1:00-4:00	Time: 1:00-4:00	Time:1:00-4:00
				<b>BTEC Science</b>	
				Teachers: TME	
				Time:1:00-4:00	

## Summer 2 events



### 25<sup>th</sup> June: Elvin's Got Talent!

Our six houses will compete in this fiercely contested talent show to win over the expert panel of judges. Expect to be wowed, impressed, and very entertained. House points – and reputations – are at stake!

Tickets will be sold in advance, with proceeds going to Sufra food bank.

### 10<sup>th</sup> July: International Day

We will be celebrating our school value of community with our first annual International Day, on the afternoon of 19<sup>th</sup> July. Pupils and staff will celebrate their cultures through dress, food, and performances.

***We are seeking parent volunteers to help plan and organise International Day. Please come to a meeting on the evening of 3<sup>rd</sup> July. Email [parentforum@arkelvinacademy.org](mailto:parentforum@arkelvinacademy.org) for more information.***



### 17<sup>th</sup> July: Sports Day

Sports Day will be at Willesden Sports Centre and will be the last chance to win lots of house points before the coveted 2015 House Cup is awarded!

Sports Day will have something for everybody – from classics including the 100m, through to fun events such as an egg and spoon race!

## Key Dates for next half term

<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June:</b>	Start of summer 2 half term
<b>Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June:</b>	Parent meeting: International Day planning
<b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June:</b>	Year 8 parents' evening
<b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June:</b>	Year 11: final exams and prom
<b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June:</b>	Start of sixth form induction
<b>Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June:</b>	Year 7 parents' evening
<b>24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> June:</b>	Year 6 induction
<b>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June:</b>	Elvin's got Talent: house talent contest
<b>Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June:</b>	Staff training day: no school for pupils
<b>1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> July:</b>	Year 7 & 8 end of year examinations
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> July:</b>	Year 9 & 10 end of year examinations
<b>Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July:</b>	International Day
<b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July:</b>	Sports Day
<b>Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July:</b>	Last day of term