



Ark John Keats Academy

July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

As the government confirmed the final stage of “unlocking” will take place on Monday 19th July, there are a number of changes which will occur in our secondary school in September I wanted to make you aware of.

Covid safety

We will continue to follow all government guidance around Covid safety. The government guidance is clear that ventilation is key, and so we will continue to keep classrooms well-ventilated. We will also retain our hand sanitiser on entry to lessons and an enhanced cleaning programme.

Covid testing

The government has advised that secondary school pupils receive two lateral flow tests on their return to school. We will do this as we did last March on the return to school. We will contact you in a separate letter to let you know the times and dates of your child’s first Covid test and their return to school date. Please continue to support your child to use lateral flow tests twice a week.

Arriving and leaving school

This year, we have used a staggered start and end to the school day to reduce pupil mixing. Next year, we will return to one start time for all pupils and one end time. All pupils should arrive to school at 8:20am for an 8:30am start. From Monday to Thursday, the school day will end for all pupils at 3:45pm. On Friday, the school day will end at 2:50pm for Years 7, 8 and 9 and at 3:15pm for Years 10, 11, 12 and 13.

Pupil groups

In KS3, pupils will continue to be taught in the same group for all lessons, including tutor time. In KS4, pupils will continue to be taught in the same group for Maths, English, Science and French. They will remain in their option groups for options subjects. In KS5, pupils will have no change to either their tutor group or their options group.

Lunch

Your child can still bring a packed lunch to school if they choose to do so. If you want your child to have school meals, you must ensure you have money on your ParentPay account for the days you want your child to buy lunch, as there will not be an opportunity to pay for meals in school in person. Please note that pupils should bring in healthy food: a sandwich or salad, fruit, yoghurt and cereal bar. No fizzy drinks or energy drinks may be consumed.

Uniform

We have been really proud of our students this year and their commitment to dressing smartly and in the correct uniform. Visitors to the school and members of the community often comment on how smart our students look, which makes me very proud too. In case you are buying your child new uniform for September, please find our uniform expectations listed below.

Blazer: Navy with fuchsia lining. Pupils must have their blazer with them every day.

Shirt: Plain light blue with collar. Long or short sleeved. Must be tucked in at all times, with the top button done up.

Tie: Navy with pink and gold repeated stripes. This should be worn with a minimum of 6 stripes showing.

Ark John Keats Academy
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Principal: Jo Facer
Primary Headteacher: Amy Baird



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Navy trousers: Trousers should have a pleated front and must be worn with black or navy socks.

Knee-length pleated skirt: Navy pleated front skirt. Must be worn knee length, with navy tights or knee length socks.

OR

Full length smart navy skirt

Plain navy tights: Ankle socks cannot be worn over tights. They must be worn under tights and be black/navy in colour.

Jumper: Navy knitted V neck with school logo.

Navy school rucksack

Plain black shoes: No trainers or boots. Laces must be black. No heels. If unsure contact your child's head of year prior to purchasing.

Black or navy coloured jacket: No large branding or pictures. All jackets must be zipped – no hooded jackets or jumpers that must be removed over the head are permitted.

ID card on correct year group lanyard

Having consulted with pupils and staff, here is a summary of the changes to the uniform policy that will be in place from September:

- Students will be able to wear a full-length navy smart skirt for religious reasons
- Students will be able to choose between wearing navy tights or navy knee high socks with a knee length pleated skirt
- Students will need to always wear their ID lanyard
- Students may colour their hair as long as it remains subtle. Hair accessories must be subtle and black or navy in colour. Long hair does not need to be tied back.
- Body piercings are banned with exception of a single, standard stud nose piercing or studded piercings on the ear lobe.

Can I take this opportunity to remind you that blazers must be worn each day at school, that trainers are not allowed unless on PE days worn with PE kit and that coats must be black or navy and without labels. On days when your child has PE, they should come to school in their full PE kit as they have done this year. We have received very positive feedback that this allows pupils to have more time exercising as they are not spending that time changing, so we will continue this.

Digital Strategy

We are excited to be moving forward with the Ark Digital Strategy, in which all students in Years 3 to 13 will be loaned a free Chromebook device for use at home as a tool to support with home learning, assessments and revision. If your child already has a device, you must arrange to bring in the device for a 'health check' and to sign the updated Home-School Agreement. We have sent a previous letter outlining when and how you do this. Alternatively, if your child does not have a device, then we will write to you in September to inform you of arrangements for when and how you will be able to collect this. Should you have any queries, please email ajkdigitalstrategy@arkjohnkeatsacademy.org

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During the summer break, Ark have set up a dedicated email address to support pupils and parents who are having technical issues with a loaned Chromebook device, so during this time please email devicesupport21@arkonline.org and a member of the Ark IT team will be in contact with you as soon as possible.

In addition to the ongoing technical support, we will also continue to monitor the activity of all Chromebook devices through the Senso platform. This platform will automatically raise safeguarding concerns, which may lead to parents being contacted by a member of the safeguarding team to ensure all pupils are safe, even when they are away from school.

Equipment

Please ensure your child comes with their full equipment as below:

2 black writing pens	1 pencil sharpener
1 blue pen	1 rubber
1 red writing pen	1 glue stick
1 green writing pen	1 15cm/30cm ruler
2 highlighter pens	1 Casio FX-85 ES or Casio FX-85 GT Calculator
1 whiteboard pen	Water bottle
1 compass	A reading book at age appropriate level.
1 sharpened pencil	
1 protractor	

Enrichment

All pupils in Year 7 and 8 will have a timetabled period of enrichment. In all year groups, a number of lunchtime and after-school clubs will begin to run again. Please encourage your child to try something new and commit to a club.

Staying home

As before, your child must not attend school if they, or anyone else in your household, has developed:

- a new and continuous cough;
- a high temperature;
- a loss of their sense of smell.

We must have accurate contact details that we can use to reach you during the day. This is so that if your child develops coronavirus symptoms we can arrange to send them home. If you have changed your mobile or work numbers then please let us know.

Term dates for next year

Autumn Term 1	
Day	Date
First Full Day	Monday 6 th September
Last Day	Thursday 21 st October
Staff Training Day (School closed)	Friday 22 nd October
Autumn Term 2	
First Day	Tuesday 2 nd November
Last Day	Thursday 16 th December
Staff Training Day (School closed)	Friday 19 th November
Staff Training Day (School closed)	Friday 17 th December

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<u>Spring Term 1</u>	
First Day	Thursday 6 th January
Last Day	Thursday 10 th February
Staff Training Day (School closed)	Tuesday 4 th January
Staff Training Day (School closed)	Wednesday 5 th January
Parent Meetings (School closed)	Tuesday 11 th January
Parent Meetings (School closed)	Thursday 13 th January
Staff Training Day (School closed)	Friday 11 th February
<u>Spring Term 2</u>	
First Day	Tuesday 22 nd February
Last Day	Friday 1 st April
Staff Training Day (School closed)	Monday 21 st February
<u>Summer Term 1</u>	
First Day	Wednesday 20 th April
Last Day	Friday 27 th May
Staff Training Day (School closed)	Tuesday 19 th April
Parent Meetings (School closed)	Tuesday 26 th April
Parent Meetings (School closed)	Thursday 28 th April
<u>Summer Term 2</u>	
First Day	Monday 6 th June
Last Day	Wednesday 20 th July
Staff Training Day (School closed)	Friday 1 st July
Parent Meetings (School closed)	Thursday 21 st July
Parent Meetings (School closed)	Friday 22 nd July

Thank you once again for your support with your child's education this year. We look forward to moving to a more normal way of learning in September.

Kindest regards,

Ms J. Facer
Principal

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