



Ark John Keats Academy

18th June 2020

Dear parents and carers,

It is a privilege to be able to write to you to introduce myself as the new Principal of Ark John Keats Academy.

My name is Jo Facer, and I have worked in education since 2006, when I taught drama to 6-11 year olds in Dublin. I went on to train as an English teacher with an organisation named Teach First and have worked in a number of secondary schools in London and Kent as a Head of Department, Assistant Principal and Vice Principal. In the past year I have worked at Ark Schools, overseeing the development of a new school that will open in west London in 2021. If you are interested in hearing more about what I think about education, I have written a book designed to be used by teachers called *Simplicity Rules*, which was published by Routledge last year.

It is my belief that a great education is one which transforms children and young people's destinies. There are no limits to what children can do, if given the right curriculum, teaching, pastoral support and, of course, expert parenting. Every one of your children will exceed expectations if we work together towards that common goal of academic success and access to opportunity. Every one of your children will behave impeccably and reach our very high standards of pupil behaviour, if given the right support, guidance and love. I know from my colleagues in Ark and I have heard from Ark John Keats' governing body what a supportive and collaborative group of people the AJK parents are, and I am excited to meet you when we are able to.

Ark John Keats has already proved a leading light in Enfield. Last year's founding GCSE results were the among the strongest in the area, and we know that there is no reason this cannot be continued and, indeed, exceeded in the years to come. We are not complacent. Ark John Keats will benefit from having the school's founding Principal, Jerry Collins, to oversee it in his role as Regional Director for Ark, as well as the founding Primary Principal, Amy Baird and the strong and committed group of Vice and Assistant Principals remaining in place across both phases of the school to provide crucial continuity to our children at what is perhaps the most challenging time in education, certainly in my career to date.

It is a very strange time to become a Principal of a school. I cannot wait to meet many of you, but I know for some of your children who live with those who are extremely clinically vulnerable, or who are themselves shielding, it may be some time before we can meet. In the meantime, if you have any queries or comments, please email me at jo.facer@arkonline.org.

Sending you and your families all my best wishes,

Jo Facer
Principal

Executive Principal: Jane Witheford
Secondary Headteacher: William Mackintosh
Primary Headteacher: Amy Baird

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