

Parent update 19/10/22

Dear parents/carers

Thanks to all parents who visited us for the 8 welcome to Pioneer sessions we put on this term. Slides attached for everyone's reference and these include timelines for each year and key information.

Thank you also to everyone for your support settling pupils in for a fantastic first half term. [Year 7 celebration assembly is Thursday at 2:20pm and the link is here to join if you'd like to watch online.](#) You can read about some of the latest events, including fantastic news on the Air Quality win posted [here](#).

Tomorrow Thursday 20th is pupils last day before the half term break. On Friday 21st teachers are training focussed on subject curricula, taking place at different Ark schools around London. Pupils will not be at school. On Monday 31st October, teachers are training here at Pioneer, focussed on GCSE exam specifications and pastoral updates for the term ahead. **Pupils return to school from 8am on Tuesday 1st November.**

1. Parent feedback welcome – final reminder – open until tomorrow AM!

[Just click here](#) to feed back by 9am Thursday. We will follow this up with a **Parent Forum on Wednesday 2nd November at 6pm** here on site - where we'll discuss feedback, issues and planned actions and get parental input and ideas. We'd love you to attend if you can.

2. Work Experience – hosting Y10 pupils – contacts and help needed!

Work experience planning has started for our founding pupils.

Ms Riches is our Work Experience Coordinator & **Mr Biswas**, Head of Year 10 will act as Work Experience Oversight

We would appreciate any contacts you have (including yourselves) that would like to host a pupil for a week in July (likely W/B 3rd July).

[Please complete the form here by November 2nd to share any contacts](#)

The form will take just 2 minutes to complete! Thanks to everyone who can help

3. Parent Webinar: Y9 Options update – all year 9 parents tonight

This is taking place **today** at **6pm**: [Here is the link for joining](#)

4. Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh, final places available

Following on from parent feedback we have extended our deadline for Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) sign up to the 11th November 2022. This is for Y10 pupils only. We require a **£30 initial deposit** that can be paid through **Ipayimpact** – This will go towards the expeditions that will take place in the Summer Term.

If you have any questions regarding DofE, please email our Lead Ms Sweetman r.sweetman@arkpioneer.org. We have attached the parent permissions for the afterschool sessions as well.

5. Lost property, coats & labelling items

- We keep our coats with us through the school day. Pupils mainly keep them on the back of their chair except in SC, DT, PE where they are hung up/left in a designated area. Pupils should rarely bring chromebooks to school and don't have heavy textbooks. As a result their bag and coat should be manageable to keep with them. Our experience shows this is the best way to avoid losing multiple items, which is what otherwise can happen when things are left in lots of different places through the day.

We ask that all items are labelled in particular coats, bags, blazers and jumpers. You can label the name in permanent marker or buy iron-on labels on [uniform4kids](#) or Amazon.

- Year 10 have grown in independence and maturity and can use lockers from this year onwards instead of handing in phones in morning and to store any other academic materials. Parents need to sign up for a lock on [ipayimpact](#) (email r.shah@arkpioneer.org for any query).
- Any item that we find that is lost but labelled, we return directly to the child. Anything not labelled is handed into the main office & the **lost property trolley** is wheeled into the dining hall – pupils can check for anything lost. We will be clearing it out every half term and are reminding pupils to check this week.
- As a final note, as per our Uniform policy, we ask that coats are be **plain** and **professional** and without large logos – this is to avoid peer pressure to buy specific brands each year

6. Barnet Local area Half term Activities *BACE*

It is not too late for parents to book on to the fully funded half term activities and book tickets to the *Black History Month Family Showcase* – information is attached.

7. Barnet Options and Careers Event - Middlesex University **Today 19 October 4:30-7:00**

Reminder: We wanted to share a great opportunity for year 9 and 10 pupils to learn all about education, training and employment opportunities run by Barnet Council. The Barnet Options and Careers Event at Middlesex University includes over 40 exhibitors including: Army, Metropolitan Police, London Fire Brigade, a global IT company HCL technologies, TJX Europe (TK Maxx), a representative from the Department of Transport as well as the government Legal Department and representatives from a local NHS trust. There will also be a range of apprenticeship providers.

In addition there will be two optional presentations:

- One aimed at supporting Year 9 students with how to approach the GCSE Options process
- A Post 16 Options Panel – including information about university courses, apprenticeships and T Levels – useful for Y10

Parents interested can register in advance via this [booking link](#).

We hope you all enjoy a lovely half term break.

Best wishes

Ms Ryan