



Weekly Parent Update

Dear parents/carers,

We've had a wonderful pillar day – year 10 visiting Bath University, three fantastic careers speakers presenting including Chief Executive of Barnet Council and two young diplomats working in the Foreign Office (FCDO). We also explored cover letters and interview skills with Y9, apprenticeships with year 8 and spending money wisely and dream careers with year 7!

Please ask your children all about their learning and aspirations for the future – we hope we have made them think more about their future today.

Ms Ryan, Principal

**Coming up
this week &
next**

- Netball Fixture : Yr 9 v QE Girls (Home) Thursday 26th January
- Ark Scholarship Music Residential – Ark Scholarship Music residential Friday 27th – Sunday 29th January
- Ark Network Training Day (school closed, as per calendar) Wednesday 1st February
- Yr 7 Trip to Tate Modern Friday 3rd February

Other notices for parents this week:

Ark Network Annual Parent survey

Ark are surveying 30,000 families across our 39 schools as we do each spring term It will take only 5-10 minutes to complete. Please represent our school – it would be very valuable to us.

Click here- <https://edurio.com/poll/6zBy7P> live until Friday 10th February

Key information about the survey

- The survey is anonymous, and the only information we request is your child's year group, their gender, and whether they receive Free School Meals.
- If you have more than one child at our school there is no need to complete the survey more than once.
- On the link you will also find a number of language translations to assist you if English isn't your first language.

Vaping –Raising awareness of the risk

We are concerned about the risk of vaping to our pupils. This [BBC article](#) is a useful summary.

It is important to note that vapes are amongst banned items at school. Please do get in touch if you have any queries via your child's tutor or via info@arkpioneer.org

Online Safety

As I'm sure parents are aware, extremist content can be found in many online spaces. This includes mainstream social media platforms such as TikTok, Instagram and YouTube and online games such as Roblox, Rec Room, Fortnite and Warzone which allow young people to connect with strangers easily. We want to ensure parents are aware of how to report matters of concern online, block inappropriate users and put into place safety features to reduce the risk – you can find out more here:

- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>
- <https://www.digitalparentingcoach.com/>
- <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>
- <https://parentsafe.lgfl.net/#h.kiustevr44ys>
- <https://www.taminggaming.com/>

In addition, please find below a list of platforms where more harmful content is usually found and where we need to be extra vigilant:

- 4Chan (Bulletin board)
- Bitchute (Video sharing platform)
- Gab (Social media)
- Parler (Social media)
- GETTR (Social media)
- Discord (Messaging platform)
- Telegram (Messaging platform)

Spring Clubs Timetable 2023 – for parent reference

Monday 4-5pm	Tuesday 4-5pm	Wednesday 3:10-4pm	Thursday 4-5pm
Basketball Year 9/10 Rugby Year 7, 8, 9	Handball: All year groups Year 7 Boys Football Table Tennis: All year groups	Girls Football Badminton Table Tennis: All year groups	Basketball: Year 7/8

In addition at school over lunchtime we have

- Library open every day before school, break, lunch
- Art & DT clubs - drop ins during the week
- Chess Club (Wednesdays)
- Music offer every lunchtime – Choir is Tuesday, band practice – other lunchtimes

Quick links	Curriculum Booklets & subject information	Form for reporting absence	Menu pricing, free school meals	All previous parent updates	News & pictures	School Policies
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