

Weekly Parent Update

Dear parents/carers,

We hope you all enjoyed a rest and some family time over the pupil holidays. We are excited to welcome pupils back ready to learn and make the most of the summer term! You will notice we have made the change to our new website, with the [Parent Hub](#) bringing together key information for you as well as the information on curriculum [here](#). It is formatted to work well on phones and tablets as we know this is most frequently used, you can let us know what you think of the new website [here](#).

Below you will see updates on Parents Evenings – **we can't wait to meet every year 8 family tomorrow from 3:30pm**. It's an earlier start to support those observing Ramadan. As a result, school will finish school at 2pm tomorrow.

Other useful updates below include updates on the clubs and enrichment offer for the summer term as well as an update on Industrial Action.

Ms Ryan, Principal

<p>Coming up this week & next week</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Year 8 Parents evening – tomorrow Thursday 20th April <i>School finishes at 2pm to allow early parents evening start at 3:30pm, to support those observing Ramadan</i> - Y10 Duke of Edinburgh Expedition Friday 21st—Saturday 22nd April - - Y7 & 8 Oxford Trip (50 pupils) Tuesday 25th April - Y7 & Y8 Individual UK Maths Challenge competition Wednesday 26th April - Industrial Action planned for Thursday 27th April – school closure <i>As a result we will be rescheduling Year 7 Parents evening – see below</i>
---	--

Year 8 Parents evening – tomorrow 20th April from 3:30pm

We are looking forward to meeting all Year 8 parents at parents evening tomorrow.

To recognise that some of our families will be fasting and likely preparing for Eid, we will **start at 3:30pm and finish at 7pm**. Pupils should be in attendance; it is not compulsory to wear uniform.

To help facilitate parents evening starting at 3:30pm school will finish at 2pm for all pupils.

As part of the evening, parents/carers and pupils can hear more about the **year 8 experience** through the **First Give Social action project**, where pupils have campaigned and fundraised for 6 key charities. There will also be **tea and coffee** and an area for parents to mingle and chat informally.

Industrial action – school closure & Year 7 Parents evening rescheduled

Unfortunately, due to planned industrial action we expect school to be closed on both Thursday 27th April and Tuesday 2nd May. We know the difficulties this presents and thank our families for their support in this action. We will provide supervision for vulnerable children and children of critical workers. [Please use this form if you have not previously signed up but need help on these dates](#). We will also be able to accommodate a group of Y10 pupils and will base this on those that need most support following spring assessment data – we will contact individual parents.

This also means we need to reschedule the Year 7 Parents Evening due to take place on 27th April. We will hold it instead on **Thursday 25th May**. We hope this gives families time to arrange leave from work if

needed to attend with their child. Arrival slots for the evening will be from 4:30, 5:30 and 6:30 and we will finish approx. 8pm. [We ask that all parents sign up to a new arrival slot here.](#)

After school Clubs available this half term

Sports offer: Pupils should sign up by arriving at Sports Hall at 4pm Mon, Tue, Thu & 3:10 on Wed and letting lead sports teacher know.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Cricket: Year 9 & 10	Basketball: Year 9 & 10 Athletics: All year groups	Rounders: All years Badminton: All years Table Tennis: All years	Cricket: Year 7 & 8

Food Technology – Cookery classes

- Year 10 Tuesday 4- 5pm
- Year 9 Wednesday 4- 5pm

Pupils sign up via sign up sheet with Mr Mogagi and must commit to attending all sessions for this half term. New opportunity to sign up after May half term.

Duke Of Edinburgh Bronze Award: After school Wednesday for those undertaking the award

Art GCSE Drop in sessions: Tuesday and Thursday 4 – 5pm

Academic Intervention & Homework Support: Selected pupils targeted for extra support after school Monday – Thursday 4 – 4:45pm. Contact Mrs Britton SENCO for any queries r.britton@arkpioneer.org

Lunch Clubs this half term

Table-tennis, basketball, football: Available every lunchtime, your child should check the year group rota on their form board

Library Opening Hours:

- Every day 8am-8.30am – open before school for all pupils
- Every day 11.30am-11.45am – open during breaktimes for all pupils
- Monday Lunchtime – Years 8 and 9 time
- Tuesday Lunchtime – Years 7 and 10 time
- Wednesday Lunchtime – Years 8 and 9 time
- Thursday Lunchtime – Years 7 and 10 time

Music:

- Join Choir on Tuesday lunchtimes
- Join band practice on

Pupils should ask Ms Barnes or Mr Medland for a lunch pass to skip the queue if joining.

Chess Club – Wednesday lunchtime – Ms Adams room

Lunchtime Games Club in Pupil Support: Every lunch time, our Pupil Support team run a Lunchtime Games club, which provides a quiet and smaller space for pupils to have fun, play classic board games and make friends to support key pupils. Contact Mrs Britton, Assistant Principal/SENCO for any queries r.britton@arkpioneer.org

Art GCSE Drop in lunchtime sessions: Friday lunchtimes for any year 10 pupil

DT Club – Y10 pupils: Wednesdays - First half lunch in G12

Coding Club: Y10 Computer Science pupils – lunchtime every day in library

Enrichment this term

Here is the latest [timetable for Enrichment](#) this term. All pupils access enrichment Thursday & Friday period 7. In year 7 and year 8 (Friday), this is a carousel offer to help them get to know different enrichments. Years 9 and 10 choose (as do Year 8 for Thursday). We are pleased we the diversity of sessions offered. We are also pleased to have added Stagecoach running extra Dance enrichments Thursday and Friday.

National Alert Emergency Test – this Sunday

Please be aware there is a National Emergency Alert mobile phone messaging test at 3pm on Sunday 23rd April 2023 [About Emergency Alerts - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk.\)](#) We have made pupils aware also.

Information in relation to how to switch off these alerts in order to protect the phone owner in scenarios such as domestic violence can be found here: [Managing Emergency Alerts on your phone to stay safe if you're experiencing domestic abuse - YouTube](#)

Oxford University Trip

We were very proud of the quality of application for the University trip for year 7 and 8 pupils. 50 year 7 and 8 pupils have received a letter that parents need to sign for permission to attend the trip.

A reminder, we are focussed on every child having university experience from year 7. With the return after covid-19 closures, universities have skewed this towards year 11-13 in other schools. However, this year we have offered the following:

- Year 7 pupils – Introduction to university study & virtual tours of City University & University of Nottingham
- Year 8 pupils – Exploring campus versus city university study & virtual tours of Warwick University & University of Exeter
- Year 7 & 8 – 50 pupils on trip to Oxford University
- Year 9 – All pupils on day trip to Royal Holloway University in June
- Year 10 – All pupils on day trip to University of Bath in January
- Year 10: three extra trips for smaller groups to Loughborough University (January), Cambridge University (February) and University of Bristol (May)

Immunisations - Y9 (Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio and Meningococcal vaccinations) this Friday 21st

The NHS School Immunisation team will be here this Friday 21st April to administer the Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio and Meningococcal vaccinations for Year 9s. Parents need to complete consent online if they wish their child to be vaccinated – please see the letter [here](#).

Year 8 Values & Character Curriculum next half term – RSE (reminder)

As we shared last half term, Y8 pupils will be covering some of the relationships and sex education (RSE) curriculum during their Values and Character sessions taught each morning by their tutor.

All RSE sessions follow government guidelines and are pitched appropriately for year 8 pupils. Topic to be covered include:

1. Healthy and unhealthy relationships
2. Forms of abuse
3. Self-worth

4. Consent and appropriate use of technology (sexting)
5. Where to ask for help or advice

If you have any questions regarding the Values and Character curriculum please email Mr McCarville, Vice Principal at j.mccarville@arkpioneer.org

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