



# Ark Greenwich Free School

Weekly Parent Bulletin

**Friday 17th July 2020**

*“There is sufficient evidence that this school could now be judged **OUTSTANDING**”  
(Ofsted, 2020)*

## Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come to the end of another school year I would like to once again express my sincere thanks for all you have done to keep your children safe and learning during this period of school closure. We can be proud of the way our community has responded. In many ways, we seem to have become closer to our families during lockdown than ever before. I look forward to building further on these relationships in September.

Scholars must demonstrate high levels of independence and organisation this summer to strike the right balance between work and play. The summer core knowledge work is critical for all children in all subjects. But they must also spend time outside in the fresh air with friends and family (whilst adhering to government guidance on social distancing).

Everything you need for September can be found in our return to school letter [here](#). September will be an exciting time and we can't wait to share our plans with scholars.

Thank you once again for all your support this year and I wish you a safe and relaxing summer.

Mr Spiers  
Headteacher

## Upcoming Dates for the New Academic Year

**Friday 4th September, Year 7 First Day of School** arrive from 7:45-8:20.

**Monday 7th September, Year 8 First Day of School** arrive from 7:45-8:20.

**Monday 7th September, Year 11 First Day of School** arrive from 13:50.

**Tuesday 8th September, Year 9 and 10 First Day of School** arrive from 10:45-11:10.

**Thursday 20th August, Graduated Y11 Virtual Results Day** Y11 scholars will join the virtual results day via MS Teams. Details have been sent to all parents.

## Uniform and Equipment Reminders for September

Scholars must arrive in good time wearing full school uniform and with a full set of equipment. Please see our uniform policy [here](#) and our equipment list [here](#). Our strict uniform policy includes:

- No makeup, jewellery or unnatural hair colour
- Skirts must fall below the knee when standing and trousers must be worn around the waist
- Bags must be black rucksack style. No large logos or handbags. Coats must be black or blue
- Accessories such as hair bands must be school colours (blue, black or grey)
- Top button must be fastened, ties should fall to the top of the belt and socks must be black
- Mobile phones are **not** permitted on the premises under any circumstances.

Scholars not wearing the correct uniform will not be permitted into circulation and parents will be contacted.

Congratulations to the 'Students of the Week' for their great participation online and on homework.

1	Yusuf Asimi
2	Paulo Manalili
3	Andrew Zacchi
4	Edoardo Bognolo
5	Kate Yarushinskaya
6	Uthman Abudu
7	Roma Ghool
8	Isabella Harris
9	Kika Iwelumo
10	Rania Nvo

## Uniform Orders for September

Our uniform providers have updated their website with an easy to use, mobile friendly website allowing you to simply order online. There is a click and collect and a delayed payment options too. Go straight to the AGFS Uniform page via: <https://khalsaschoolwear.co.uk/school/greenwich-free-school/>. Please note, we have taken the decision to cancel the onsite store at AGFS this summer. Want to try on in store? The new Crayford Shop is now open with ample parking. Location details below:

Khalsa Schoolwear  
Crayford Store  
Unit 1, Crayford Commercial Centre,  
Greyhound Way,  
Crayford, DA1 4HF

## Royal Borough of Greenwich SEND Coffee and Chat

Beginning on July 15th RBG is hosting a series of online coffee and chat sessions with Carol Foyle, their key contact for the Borough for SEND families. Please see the attached documents in today's bulletin for more information.

Don't miss out on communications coming from AGFS! All school emails are saved at the below links: [Year 7 and 11 Transitions](#) and [Years 8-10 Communications](#)

## Digital Detox Over Summer Holidays

All scholars and staff have certainly had to up their screen time over the school closure period. While being on MS Teams was necessary, it's important that we take a much needed break away from all things digital.

We recognise that many of our scholars have had unlimited access to their mobiles, video games and computers throughout lockdown. With summer holidays now under way, we strongly encourage your entire family to practice a digital detox over the next six weeks.

Research shows that over exposure to screens and video games can affect quality of sleep, mental health, stress and anxiety. For more information click [here](#).

While it's difficult to expect your family to go completely offline, there are easy ways to minimise screen time:

- Set a daily maximum for screen time ( 2 hours is plenty for children and teens)
- Turn off phones, television, etc during all meals
- Set aside time for no-screen activities (sport, painting, picnic in the park, etc)
- Make the detox a family competition
- Move all electronics out of bedrooms (no computers, TVs or mobiles)

## Exam refinement and end of term arrangements

On 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020, parents and scholars will receive important documents:

1. End of year report with end of year 11 predictions and information about attitude to learning, attendance and behaviour.
2. Details of the compulsory summer independent learning tasks all scholars must complete. This will involve self-quizzing and revision of the 'core knowledge' from this year's work. All scholars will be tested on this in the first week back in September.

Key Stage 4 students will receive a *personalised learning checklist*, which explains strengths and weaknesses in individual subjects and gives students next step advice on how to improve.

## End of Year reports and Summer Independent Learning

We are unapologetically ambitious for all scholars, therefore we deliver a traditional, academically rigorous education designed to provide them with the knowledge and skills to access a Russell Group university.

Assessment is a key tool that measures how well knowledge and skills are mastered over time in an examined format. Teachers rigorously monitor scholars' progress throughout the year and reports provide a judgement on your child's attitude to learning and an indication of their progress.

When reviewing your child's report, please consider the following:

- Scholars who go on to study vocational courses, typically achieve grade 4/5 throughout KS3/4.
- Scholars who achieve grade 6+ throughout KS3/4, go to a Grammar School or 6th form.

It is vital scholars reflect on the precise gaps in their knowledge and understanding and use the [Summer Independent Learning](#) to address these gaps. Doing this will put them in the best possible position for September. More information about the Summer Independent Learning will be enclosed with the report.

### Shielding?

Should your child or family be on the vulnerable list or be shielding due to symptoms or living with someone in the vulnerable category, please make us aware by contacting reception at [info@arkgreenwich.org](mailto:info@arkgreenwich.org).

### Great Resources for All

BBC Bitesize Resources for learning from home are created by teachers and other educational experts, featuring a mix of videos, animations, practice activities, quizzes, and games. Access the site free at: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/dailylessons/>

Oak National Academy provides a sequenced plan of video lessons and curricular resources to use flexibly, to complement existing teaching and planning. This is another excellent resource available to parents for free at:

<https://www.thenational.academy/information-for-parents-pupils>

### Mace – Design a health centre contest

**Who:** KS3-5 students

**What:** You have been appointed as architect by Mace, an international consultancy and architecture firm, to design a new health centre in a small town in the UK. The health centre is next to the park, where there is plenty of green space and has a bus stop and cycle pathway next to it. The only requirements you have been given by the local Council are that it must be welcoming and accessible to everyone and should be able to accommodate six consultation rooms, reception, toilets and a waiting room. The rest is entirely up to you. You must provide a design for the health centre, created by hand or using Google Sketchup, a programme that is used by students and professionals in building design.

**Find out more:** Please see the PDF attached. **Closing date Friday 24 July, 5pm**

### J.P. Morgan Hosts Free Online Sessions

J.P. Morgan's Emerging Talent team are running fantastic digital learning sessions that will provide tips on 'How could we be more resilient?' to 'CV and Interview Practice' and much more. Register your interest as soon as possible by clicking the links below:

#### **Technology at J.P. Morgan**

**Date:** 27th July 2020 at 4pm BST

**Registration link:** <https://event.on24.com/Technology at J.P.>

#### **How Can We Be More Resilient?**

**Date:** 20th July 2020 at 4pm BST

**Registration link:** <https://event.on24.com/How can we be more resilient>

#### **J.P. Morgan Next Steps**

**Date:** 3rd August 2020 at 4pm BST

**Registration link:** <https://event.on24.com/J.P. Morgan Next Steps>

### GSL Summer Catalyst @ Home (11 – 15 year olds)

- The GSL Summer Catalyst @Home has been curated for socially active and creative young people. During the programme students will build leadership, future world of work skills and confidence. The programme creates a community where young people can share and discuss like-minded topics.
- A fully funded one week live course (part time 3 hours per day delivered in the mornings on week days) followed by the option to complete 3 online courses in your own time, with scheduled times to access support

More info here: <https://www.globalsocialleaders.com/gsl-summer-catalyst-at-home/>

### Summer Activities Within the Borough

Scholars can access the following provision and activities over the summer holidays:

Young Greenwich Youth Service - [www.young-greenwich.org.uk](http://www.young-greenwich.org.uk)

SEN parents - [www.greenwichcommunitydirectory.org.uk](http://www.greenwichcommunitydirectory.org.uk)

Woolwich YMCA activities list can be seen in the attached documents.

### Summer Reading

Top tips for reading with your child over the summer holidays can be found [here](#).

### Brunel University: 'GetUReady' programme

**Wed 3 June – Wed 22 July, 11:00 - 15:00**

**Who:** KS3 – KS5

**What:** We're running a series of live online, interactive sessions to help students develop their study skills and prepare for university life. We'll have sample undergraduate-level lectures from leading academics.

**Find out more:** <https://www.brunel.ac.uk/study/get-u-ready>

### Virtual School with CTK for year 11s

Christ the King have set up a [Year 11 Virtual School](#), that has a number of resources to support year 11 students with their transition to post-16 study and includes the following:

- Transition booklets for all the subjects offered at Christ the King Sixth Forms which includes activities for students to complete, online and reading resources to help students prepare for their post-16 studies.
- A Free careers download activity pack which students can access and work on.
- CTK Year 11 Careers Hotline, is proving popular so if students need any impartial advice the CTK Team are here to help at this difficult time.

Here you will find transition booklets for all our subjects, to help you prepare for your post-16 studies. You can also download a free careers guide with activities and tips to help you find out more about your options after school. Their careers advisors are ready to help and give you specialised careers advice, please contact them on [careers@ctksfc.ac.uk](mailto:careers@ctksfc.ac.uk) if you need any careers support.

## Y11 Work Experience – Further Details

Given the Covid-19 pandemic and the need to close schools and businesses, understandably this has had an impact on students searching and securing their WEX placements for September 2020. AGFS, by law, are committed to providing Y11 students with a WEX placement before they leave in July 2021. Therefore, AGFS are able to open up additional dates for students to complete their WEX placement with providers.

Students need to follow either process 1 or process 2 below:

### **Process 1 - Already secured your placement prior to lockdown**

- 1) If you secured your placement prior to lockdown, students now need to contact their provider and confirm they are still able to attend the placement during 1st - 4th September 2020.
- 2) If the provider is unable to provide the placement during September, ask if they can accommodate during the additional dates available (see dates below)
- 3) If the provider is unable to provide the placement on any of the dates available, students will need to actively research for a new provider and follow process 2 (see below)
- 4) Notify Mrs Neville of any changes to your original placement via the Connect Placement App so this placement can be verified by AGFS..

### **Process 2 - Not secured a placement prior to or during lockdown**

- 1) Actively search for providers in your area/chosen field to secure your placement with them, ideally for 1st - 4th September 2020.
- 2) If the provider is unable to accommodate your placement during September, ask them if they can provide this during the other dates available (see dates below)
- 3) Once you have secured your placement add the details to the Connect Placement App so this placement can be verified by AGFS.

### **WEX Dates Available for placements during Academic Year 2020-21:**

September - 1st - 4th September 2020

October Half Term - 26th -30th October 2020

December Half Term - 21st - 24th December or 28th - 31st December 2020

February Half Term - 15th - 19th February 2021

If you are successful in securing a placement, please upload the details onto the Connect Placement App so Mrs Neville can verify this for you. The employer may even ask to conduct an interview over the phone to help secure the placement. Please make sure details of any new & secured placements are entered no later than **24th August 2020**.

**Note: Any placements secured during term time will NOT be authorised by AGFS, with the exception of the September 2020 dates.**

### **Y11 Virtual WEX Placements between 17th - 21st August 2020**

Further to this week's assembly on Monday 6th July, you should now all have received an email direct from our WEX provider, Changing Education, providing you with details on how to access the virtual WEX programme taking place during 17th - 21st August 2020.

The email from Changing Education can also be accessed here: [https://mailchi.mp/7ef524a15487/virtual-wexhello-7878126?e=\[UNIQID\]](https://mailchi.mp/7ef524a15487/virtual-wexhello-7878126?e=[UNIQID])

The programme has been designed to equip you with the 'soft skills' all employers are looking for in young people and a variety of workshops. Therefore, these skills will help prepare you for your transition into Y11, KS5 and your future career.

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Please remember this does not replace the 'face to face' WEX which students will still need to undertake, so please continue to contact employers to secure your placement for September 1st - 4th 2020 and upload the details onto the Connect Placement App so this can be verified. Mrs Neville will continue to check the platform over the Summer break but please make sure details of any new & secured placements are entered no later than **24th August 2020**.

Please contact Mrs Neville via messaging in SMHW or on email, [lneville@arkgreenwich.org](mailto:lneville@arkgreenwich.org) if you have any queries or questions.

### **Y11 Virtual Insight Days - Connect students to employers & employees**

In place of work experience week this year Arcadis will be running a series of Insight & Skills sessions. These sessions will be hosted online and will be run between the **16th- 28th July**. There are a range of sessions scheduled over alternative dates and times, so please follow the registration process detailed below and you'll be sent a link by email to join the event online in advance.

The sessions will be hosted by our recruitment team and our recent graduates and apprentices will give you their views into life at Arcadis and as well as wider industry key facts and knowledge. Their graduates and apprentices will give you some great INSIGHTS into their career with Arcadis to date, what made them choose the career they are undertaking and what skills are required for each of the different positions.

Their SKILLS SESSIONS will give you hints and tips and guidance on a variety of aspects that will make you stand out from your peers. This invaluable knowledge will help you develop essential skills and confidence when applying for roles at Arcadis across a range of sectors and roles.

Skills sessions will support you with:

- **Applications and CV writing:** Assisting you with the application process and how to create a great personal statement, CV and covering letter.
- **LinkedIn - Personal Brand:** How and why you should invest in a LinkedIn profile. Coupled with how to use LinkedIn to connect with individuals and groups that will help drive your career forward.
- **Assessment Centres:** During this session you will get some great insights into assessment centres, including how to prepare and what to expect from the experience.

Further details of our sessions can be found [here](#). To attend register now. Simply register for the sessions that are of interest to you and Arcadis will be in contact with further details and links to access in advance. Details can also be accessed via SMHW.

### **Attachments from Today's Bulletin**

Please see your attachments via email/Xpressions app to see further resources from today's bulletin. This includes information about:

- Mace design contest brief
- Royal Borough of Greenwich info for SEND families
- Free School Meals information
- Woolwich YMCA Summer Activities leaflet