



Ark Greenwiche Free School

Weekly Parent Bulletin

Friday 2nd October 2020

*“There is sufficient evidence that this school could now be judged **OUTSTANDING**”*

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week staff have been reaching out to all of our families by telephone. We arranged these calls because we wanted to build further on the close home-school relationships that were developed during the lockdown period. Please do let us know if you have found these conversations useful so that we can take a view on whether or not to continue with this initiative.

Scholars continue to diligently observe our new covid-safe routines whilst in school. They are walking purposefully between lessons in single file, sanitising their hands on entry to all rooms and sitting in rows facing forward. These measures seem to have brought an extra sense of calm and order to school life which is impacting positively on the overall learning experience.

Our new lunchtime carousel means that year group bubbles arrive to the dining hall in turn without coming into contact with scholars from other year groups, except for briefly passing one and other in the corridor. This has also allowed us to facilitate a family dining experience that is leading to new friendships being built and the enhancement of conversation and public speaking skills. Each year group has a protected period in the playground where they can gain access to plenty of outside space. We have also been able to put on a range of safe enrichment activities for KS3 scholars on a Wednesday afternoon and are looking forward to the first round of drop down (activity) days on 22nd and 23rd October.

Finally, I would like to wish our Yr.11 scholars every success with their upcoming mock exams which begin in 2-weeks' time. I know many are already revising hard and will be determined to achieve some outstanding results.

Mr Spiers, Headteacher

Key Upcoming Dates

Monday 26th— Friday 30th October, Half Term Break

As every parent in the school has been contacted by a member of staff this week and additional tutor calls are being made, we will not be hosting an online tutor evening next week. If you would like an additional conversation with your child's form tutor, please email them directly, and schedule a mutually convenient time to call.

School Work During Absence

There may be occasions this term when a child is well enough to complete school work but, due to restrictions and advice linked to Covid-19, it is not advisable for them to attend school. In these cases, scholars must work independently so that they do not fall behind. Thanks to significant improvements nationally in the quality of remote provision, scholars can be supported with the topics they are studying in school through the *Oak National Academy*, *Greenshaw Learning Trust Online Curriculum*, *Seneca Learning* and *BBC Bitesize*.

If scholars can work at home, they should go to <https://arkgreenwichfreeschool.org/news/education-during-isolation> and download a 'work from home diary'. They should then follow their timetable, using the online platforms and the topic list to guide their learning. Scholars should list the work they have done for each subject on the diary and then parents should countersign this to check it has been completed. When scholars are well enough to return to school, they should present the work from home diary to their form tutor, who will sign it and store it. Golden tickets will be issued to scholars who show tenacity and endeavour while working from home.

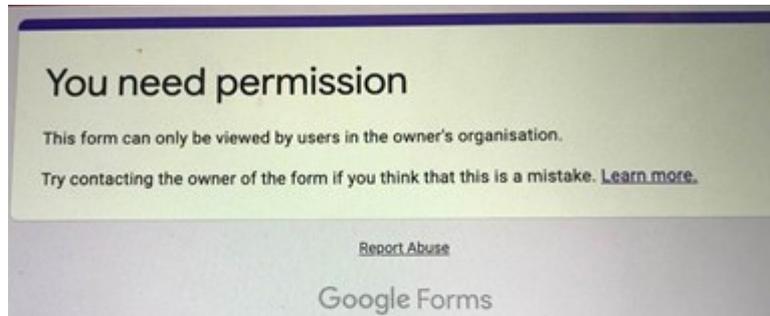
If you have any questions about these arrangements, please contact Mr MacPherson (dmacpherson@arkgreenwich.org) in the first instance.

Scholar Independent Learning

Scholars each have stickers in their planners which details all their user and log in details for our Homework platforms.

Google Forms

Scholars are using Google forms to complete important prerequisite tests as part of their independent learning. Some scholars have received the below error message when they click on the link to the tests:



This is being caused by someone else being logged into Google Chrome.

Scholars and parents should always use Chrome when accessing SMHW, and to press this link if they come across this issue: <https://accounts.google.com/logout>

This will sign whoever is logged into Chrome out.

Students will then need to log into Chrome, by pressing this link:

<https://accounts.google.com/ServiceLogin?service=chromiumsync>

Scholars should log into Chrome using their school email address and password. This info is on the sticker in their planner.

Black History Month

Yesterday marked the first day of Black History Month in the UK. In assemblies next week we'll be discussing the importance of celebrating this month across our school community, the death of George Floyd and the work of Black Lives Matter.

While this month is a celebration of black history, we strive to promote equality, to celebrate all cultures, and to educate our scholars around privilege, bias, and racism. A sub-group of AGFS staff is working to review and expand upon the provision we offer to scholars throughout the year around equity, diversity and inclusion. Furthermore, we are implementing a drop down equalities day and will be celebrating diversity and equality during International Women's Day. It is important we promote this regularly and not off the back of one event.

We celebrate the incredible diversity in our community, and look forward to highlighting the rich plethora of black history in the month of October.

Barcelona Refunds to Collect

We are happy to report that we are now able to reimburse families for the cancelled Barcelona trip earlier this spring. Please send your child's name, your name, bank sort code and account number to finance@arkgreenwich.org and they will start processing your refund.

All-School Strategic Priorities

This year at AGFS, we have set four strategic priorities that will determine our focus across our school community in 2020-2021.

- 1) Use laser precision to embed mastery of core knowledge and skills across the curriculum, including through formative assessment, to facilitate access to the very highest outcomes.** This means our teaching staff are working every day to assure our scholars know exactly the core information and skills necessary to achieve in mocks and exams, and to gain top marks on GCSEs.
- 2) Immediate return to exemplary standards following lockdown alongside a 'watchful waiting' approach to wellbeing and pastoral care.** This means our standards haven't fallen, in fact, we've raised them again, to help get our scholars back into an environment that is structured, has clear rules and expectations, and allows everyone to flourish and feel safe. We continue to keep a close eye on our scholars, and our full staff are committed to excellent pastoral care.
- 3) Bring parents and carers into play as a powerful force for educational achievement.** This means we want to engage with you even further. Over lockdown we built closer relationships with AGFS parents, and we want to communicate effectively with you, and enable you to drive incredible educational achievement for your child.
- 4) Turbo charge our approach to the enhancement of key enabling character traits.** This means manners, speaking loud and proud, being courteous, ambitious, scholarly and fellowly all matter. It is our mission to enhance these key character traits in all of our scholars, and we ask your support in expecting this of your children.

We ask that all parents and carers help AGFS to support your children in achieving these goals as a community. We are all in this together, to drive the greatest achievement in this school.

Scholar Detentions and Interventions

We are working hard to ensure our communication with parents around golden tickets, interventions and detentions are as effective as possible. To support us, please ensure you check your email daily for notifications from us. Please save our email address (info@arkgreenwich.org) as a contact in your email account and check that our emails are not being diverted to your spam/junk folder.

We give out sanctions to eliminate low level issues and maximise learning. We know you will work with us by speaking to your child about this when a sanction is issued. Please note, teachers have a full timetable and it may take up to twenty four hours to respond if you request a call back. If you have any questions about a notification received from AGFS, please contact reception via info@arkgreenwich.org or by phone in the first instance. Please be patient for teacher responses to enquiries.

Congratulations to the 'Students of the Week' for showing their commitment to our school values!



| | |
|---|----------------------|
| 1 | Carlton Coley, 11H |
| 2 | Demiri Berisha, 11H |
| 1 | Safira Oliveira, 10N |
| 2 | Elma Ngua, 10W |
| 1 | Cameron Beaver, 9N |
| 2 | Shanaya Khan, 9N |
| 1 | Henry Phipps, 8H |
| 2 | Lucy Snow, 8N |
| 1 | Youcef Lerari, 7N |
| 2 | Eleonora Vajega, 7N |



Contact Details

A member of AGFS staff should have contacted you by today (2nd October) as part of our termly calls home to parents and carers. One important part of this call was to check we have all the up-to-date contact and emergency contact details for your child. If you know that you have updated contact or emergency contacts for us please do provide these or update them at any time by emailing info@arkgreenwich.org. If you have not been contacted yet this week, we will follow up with you in via email to schedule a call.

COVID-19 Symptoms

The symptoms of Covid-19 include a high temperature, persistent new dry cough and loss of smell or taste. Student should isolate if they have any or only these symptoms. Seek assistance from 111 if needed. Other symptoms reported are not classed to require isolating or quarantining. If a member of your household has been asked to isolate due to coming into contact with a positive case—unless your child is showing symptoms themselves they must still come to school. [The most recent Government Guidance for parents is available vis this link.](#)

Family Dining

At AGFS we believe in developing the whole child – this means we do more than simply achieve great exam results. Our character development programme permeates all aspects of school life, with Family Dining being a focal point each day. During Family dining scholars will eat lunch with their year group and sit with different people each day. This helps scholars to develop conversation skills and extend their friendship groups. A member of staff will facilitate a discussion around the character theme of the week and scholars share their reflections with each other and the whole year group. Our themes for the first term are linked to self-confidence, resilience and independence. Scholars speak in an overwhelmingly positive environment because they are quick to support one and other. It has been a delight to see how their public speaking skills have flourished as they become able to proudly state their views and opinions. Scholars also give appreciations where they identify someone they are grateful for – parents are often highlighted by scholars. We know that our scholars will need these characteristics to be successful and encourage parents to try this at home too.

What to Do With Covid-19 Scenarios

We want our families to know what to do if they come into a scenario where they confront Covid-19. Please read below for such scenarios. To get a corona virus test visit <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. To inform the school always call reception or email info@arkgreenwich.org.

| What to do if... | Action needed... | Return to School When... |
|---|--|--|
| ...my child has COVID-19 symptoms | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not come to school - Contact school to inform us - Self-isolate the whole household - Get a COVID-19 test - Inform school immediately about the test result | ...the test comes back negative. |
| ...my child tests positive for COVID-19 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not come to school - Contact school to inform us - Agree an earliest date for possible return. (Min 14 Days) - Self-isolate the whole household | ...they complete 14 days (min) isolation and feel well enough to attend. |
| ...my child tests negative | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contact school to inform us - Discuss when your child can come back (same/next day) | ...the test comes back negative or your child is well enough to return. |
| ... my child is ill with symptoms not linked to COVID-19 (runny nose and/or sore throat). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not come to school - Contact school to inform us - Check temperature and for symptoms of COVID-19 - If no COVID-19 symptoms, agree an earliest date for possible return | ...they feel better and have no signs of illness for 48 hours |
| ...someone in my household tests positive for COVID-19 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not come to school - Contact school to inform us - Self-isolate the whole household - Household member to get a COVID-19 test - Inform school immediately about the test result | ...the child has completed 14 days quarantine. |
| ..NHS test and trace has identified my child as a close contact of someone with symptoms or confirmed COVID19 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not come to school - Contact school to inform us -The student and household member must self - Isolate for 14 days | ...the child has completed 14 days quarantine. |

Apprenticeship Opportunities through Young Professionals

Young Professionals UK are really excited to share that they have an exclusive event taking place next week with BP for students looking to get into: Business, HR, Technology, Banking, Finance and Trading! BP are one of the biggest companies in the UK, with over \$280 billion in revenue, 73,000+ employees globally and offer some of the highest paid apprenticeship programmes in the UK.

3 Amazing Apprenticeship Opportunities: (You can apply now or wait until the event next week to find out more!)

HR / Business, London, £22,000 starting salary <https://on.bp.com/3iaqhrF>

Technology, London, £24,000 starting salary <https://on.bp.com/2HxHRZL>

Trading / Finance, London (Canary Wharf) £27,500 starting salary <https://on.bp.com/3n8s7gm>

Exclusive Online Webinar:

- Tuesday 6th October, 5pm - 6pm
- An introduction to BP and their opportunities
- An interactive workshop session with senior business leaders
- BP is the 7th largest company in the UK with over \$280 billion in revenue
- To book your place please follow the link below <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/bpuk>



Virtual WEX Placements in Oct. Half Term Available to Y10-11

Speakers for Schools - Experience have just added some new virtual work experience opportunities and are looking for scholars to apply. Apply as soon as possible to give yourself the best chance of securing high quality work experience at a top employer and a boost to your future career aspirations.

What opportunities are on offer? For a full list of placements - [sign in here to search and apply.](#)

- [LONDON STUDENTS VWEX: Work with an International Construction and Engineering Organisation](#)
- [VWEX: Virtual Work Experience for Y10 and Y11 within Tesco`s Property Department](#)
- [UKNA :Spend three days with national arts organisation, UK New Artists, gain a Bronze Arts Award](#)
- [WE Evolve, One week Work Experience with Santander - Online](#)

Application Deadline: Today, 2nd October 2020, must be Age 14+

If you have any questions about the process, have forgotten your login details or would like a quick chat about the programme, please get in touch with experience@speakersforschools.org or call 02075 493 669 and the team will be more than happy to help.

FREE Virtual Post 16 Careers Fair— Y11 Students

FREE VIRTUAL EVENT
Universities | Colleges | Apprenticeships

Just because you can't attend a Careers Fair in person this autumn doesn't mean you have to miss out on exploring all your post-18 options!

Join on Wednesday 4th November from 12pm - 6pm for the UK University & Apprenticeship Search Virtual Fair.

The event will feature over 80 universities, colleges and apprenticeship providers for an incredible event designed to support you from the safety of school or home. Universities will include Russell Group, Red Brick, Modern and Specialist institutions.

For more information about the event, [click here to open it in your browser](#). Students will need to register themselves for the event, to visit here <https://ukunisearch-london.vfairs.com/>

Work Experience Opportunities – Y10 and Y11 Students

We are pleased to announce, in conjunction with InvestInEducation, the most ambitious schedule ever of career experience programmes for this term, with some exciting new initiatives, including:

- 8 x brand new industries
- 9 x online internships during half-term
- 10 x flagship Summer Internships

And much more...

All autumn term programmes will be delivered 'Live Online'.

Full details of the programmes available can be found here <https://tinyurl.com/InvestInEducationWEX> where you can also register for a place.

Please note that WEX placements can only take place during the following dates/times. AGFS will NOT authorise any placements found that take place during the school term.

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

- 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

School Communications

Don't miss out on communications coming from AGFS! All school emails are saved [here](#). To make sure you never miss a notification, sign up to our free Xpressions App. More details are attached to this bulletin. Please note, text replies to school messages go unmonitored. Please communication with the school via the normal channels at 02083193692 or at info@arkgreenwich.org. Also follow us on LinkedIn and Twitter at:



@ArkGreenwich



Ark Greenwich Free School