



Ark Greenwich Free School

Weekly Parent Bulletin

Friday 9th October 2020

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

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week we have been celebrating Black History Month through our assemblies and character education programme. Scholars have been learning about how Charles Drew and Harold Moody confronted adversity with tenacity and conviction in order to alter events and change the lives of many. The selfless acts of these figures can be an inspiration to us all as we move forward together to create a more inclusive Britain. The theme of black history is also prominent across the curriculum and we can look forward to our annual black history month concert which will be taking place online this year.

I continue to receive a steady stream of positive correspondence from members of the public about the conduct of our scholars on public transport. Scholars have been giving way to members of the public and giving up their seat to demonstrate good manners, courtesy and respect. This has clearly made a big impression on local residents who are keen for us to reward the scholars concerned. In recognition of their efforts, we arranged for everyone to receive a free cup of hot chocolate with optional whipped cream, sprinkles and marshmallows on the playground this Friday.

Once again, I would like to extend my very best wishes to all of our Year 11 scholars who will be commencing their mock exams on 19th October.

Best wishes,

Mr Spiers, Headteacher

Key Upcoming Dates

Monday 19th October— 13th November, Year 11 Mock Exams

Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd October — Drop Down Days *Further details will be sent shortly.*

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

Wisepay Outage and Data Breach



We were recently made aware by Wisepay that there was an outage on their systems. Soon after we were told that there was a breach of their systems, and some families' accounts were compromised. Due to this, any families that have been impacted by this breach will be contacted by reception with further guidance from Wisepay. All passwords for Wisepay have been reset. In order to gain access to your accounts, please contact Miss Cashford at ccashford@arkgreenwich.org who will provide you with a reset link. Should you have further questions in regards to next steps from Wisepay, please see the attached letter to this bulletin.

Parking Enforcement



The issue of parents and carers parking, dropping off, and picking up children from the entrance/exit of the Royal Herbert Pavilion building parallel with the school has been raised again from the Pavilion's management and a Greenwich MP. We kindly ask that you respect our neighbours and do not drop off or pick up in these areas, as they are private property. Please find an alternative location to do so. Thank you for your cooperation. Further guidance on visiting AGFS is here: https://arkgreenwichfreeschool.org/sites/default/files/Advanced%20Visitor%20information%20-%20Getting%20to%20AGFS_o.pdf

My GCSE Science for Years 10 & 11



After much detailed consideration, the Science Department has chosen www.my-gcsescience.com, a leading provider of online GCSE Science education for schools. These learning videos and exam preparation materials are an important resource to support your child through their GCSE course. They can be used to learn at home alongside classroom teaching and to support your child's independent revision in the lead-up to their GCSE exams. The Science Department have registered all Year 10 and Year 11 students to this wonderful online platform. To gain access to www.my-gcsescience.com your child needs to enter the following details:

Username: AGFS student email address *or* surname.firstname

Password: agfs

Year 8 Vaccinations

Update

Today, 9th October, our year 8s received only their HPV vaccinations. MMR vaccinations, which were initially meant to happen today will be done in 6 months time along with the HPV top up job. Oxleas Trust had a shortage of the MMR vaccinations, which is why they were not administered today.

Weekly Assembly Reminder

Each week scholars have two assemblies, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Please note scholars may return home slightly later on assembly days, or if they are taking part in an intervention or detention. Please see the schedule of assemblies below:

Assembly	AM	PM
Monday	Y7	Y11
Tuesday	Y8	Y10
Wednesday	Y9	Y7
Thursday	Y10	Y8
Friday	Y11	Y9

Dismissal is from 4:00-4:30pm Monday -Wednesday and 3:00-3:30pm Thursday and Friday.

Y9 and 10 Career Meetings

Beginning this week AGFS will be facilitating one-to-one careers meetings for all pupils in Years 9 and 10. These meetings are in preparation for Y9 GCSE option choices for Y10 Post 16 Progression choices. Both year groups will meet with a qualified careers advisor. Careers meetings are compulsory for all Year 9 and 10 scholars.

This initiative is part of the new Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEAIG) programme which will see AGFS collaborating with employers to enrich our students' careers education. We are committed to ensuring that our scholars receive sound careers advice and that their future aspirations are sky high.

At the core of this schools' mission is the commitment for every child to go on to university or post-16 provision so they may expand their life's possibilities. We endeavour to further instil the value of ambition through this experience. Our aim is for these interviews to provide a bespoke and personalised experience to give your child the careers information they need. We greatly look forward to supporting your child with this process. If you have any queries or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to email our Careers Lead, Mrs Neville at lnerville@arkgreenwich.org.

Our scholars were surprised with a special treat of hot chocolate this Friday during lunch time. We've recently had several positive emails and comments from the local community commending our scholars on their behaviour on public transport.

We're very proud that they continue to show the characteristics of our school outside our gates.



Yum!



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.

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.

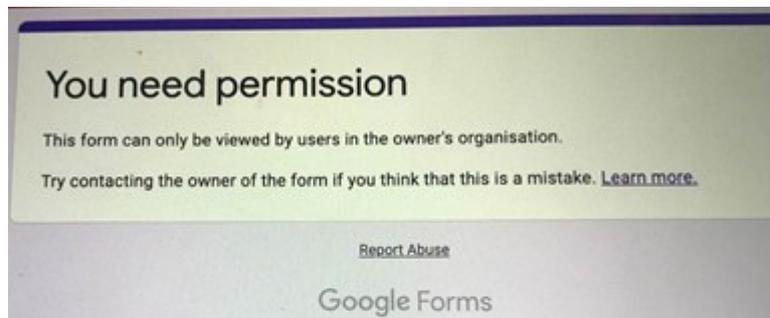
We celebrate the incredible diversity in our community, and look forward to highlighting the rich plethora of black history in the month of October.

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 in on the sticker in their planner.

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.

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. 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	William Scolah, 7W
2	Kelly Kamulingi Pereira, 7H
1	Henry Phipps, 8H
2	Jessica Apouakap, 8S
1	Marcus Lam, 9W
2	Charlie Pressnell Miller, 9H
1	Funmi Ogundokun, 10W
2	Kayla Nkonde, 10S
1	Demiri Berisha, 11H
2	Asher Clarke, 11H



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.](#)



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

FREE Virtual Post 16 Careers Fair— Y11 Students

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:

- December Half Term - 21st - 24th December or 28th - 31st December 2020
- February Half Term - 15th - 19th February 2021

VWEX Opportunities

Experience have just added some new virtual work experience opportunities that are looking for students like you 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.

Duration: 26th – 30th October 2020, Ages: 14+, Application Deadline: 09th – 16th Oct.

Please complete your application early as employers may make selections before the advertised deadlines.

For a full list of placements—sign up or login here: <https://www.s4snextgen.org/>

If you have any questions about the process, have forgotten your login details or are having technical issues, please get in touch with experience@speakersforschools.org or call **02075 493 669** and the team will be more than happy to help.