



# Ark Helenswood Academy

## 2015/16 Newsletter - Term 4





## Upcoming Events

<b>13 Apr 2016</b>	Year 11 Parent / Carer Evening from 4:30pm (invite only)
<b>20 Apr 2016</b>	Year 7 Parent / Carer Evening from 4:30pm
<b>2 May 2016</b>	May Day Bank Holiday
<b>18 May 2016</b>	Year 8 Parent / Carer Evening from 4:30pm

## Term 5 Dates

<b>11 Apr 2016</b>	Welcome to Term 5
<b>27 May 2016</b>	End of Term 5

Please contact the Academy for more information about our events.

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Dear Parents/Carers,

A busy end to a busy term once again and one in which Helenswood girls have enjoyed lots of varied opportunities to shine:



- 6th Form students took part in MADE revision training on the Ark William Parker site on Wednesday 24th February 2016.
- The Ark Helenswood Academy debate team celebrated winning the Ark Schools debate competition.
- Year 11 students attended a careers convention organised by the Head Girl Team in association with Future First, the alumni association on Tuesday 8th March 2016. This was an event which also allowed us to mark International Women's Day – the theme this year of pledging to support women's aspirations for vibrant and exciting careers was an ideal opportunity to hear more about the working lives and success of 'old' Helenswood girls. It was such a pleasure to be able to welcome them home and we look forward to seeing more of them in the future.
- Two students celebrated achieving places in the East Sussex Youth Orchestra this term.
- Year 10 students had the opportunity to listen to a piano recital from one of the competitors from the Hastings International Piano Competition.
- Ark Helenswood students participated in Safer Internet Day 2016 to raise awareness of keeping safe online.
- Lower School students took part in Sports Relief Day on Friday 11th March; walking, running, or crawling over 120 miles around the school site. Each student has been encouraged to raise sponsorship for this event and final funds will be counted on Friday 18th March.
- Year 10 students took part in MADE revision training on Tuesday 15th March 2016.
- 6th Form students carried out their annual Geography Field Trip w.e. Friday 11th March to Swanage.
- The Lower School site and Upper School students hosted and facilitated the Hastings Borough Council Youth Matters Conference on Thursday 17th March. Key discussions centred on how organisations and individuals can work together to help young people overcome barriers to success. What do young people want? What is getting in the way? What gaps are there in existing provision? How these could be filled? An inspirational morning of work from both our young people and community partners.
- Year 7 students had a further opportunity to work alongside alumni in a workshop hosted by Future First on Monday 21st March.
- The annual Helenswood Dance Show took place in the Ark William Parker School Hall on Tuesday 22nd March at 7pm.

We will be saying 'good-bye' to a few colleagues at the end of this term:

- Ms Nieto (Assistant Principal and MFL teacher) will be leaving the academy at the end of Spring 2 following a period of part-time MFL teaching. She is relocating and taking up the post of Head of MFL in another school. We would like to thank her for amazing contribution to both the Spanish teaching in the academy and of course her work leading teaching and learning in the academy in most recent years. She is a truly inspirational teacher and will be very missed by us all.
- Mr Sheldrake (part-time Science teacher) will be leaving at the end of term. Mr Sheldrake trained to teach with us, and has spent most of his early career with us. We wish him well as he moves on to a new school
- Mrs Metcalfe (Maths teacher) has been with us for a short period of time, and we wish her every success as she moves onto pastures new.
- We are waving a temporary farewell to Miss Chicken as she commences her maternity leave. We look forward to seeing her back again in a year's time! (Although we hope to meet her and her new baby before then).

And so of course we will be saying 'hello' or indeed 'welcome back' to colleagues who join us to replace them:

- Ms Amigo has been appointed as full-time Spanish teacher, and has been working alongside Ms Nieto for the past term to ensure that her classes have great consistency and continuity.
- Mr Daniels has already joined the Maths Faculty and is looking forward to taking over Mrs Metcalfe's classes.
- Miss Granger is returning to the academy after a brief time at Ark William Parker and will be looking after Miss Chicken's maths groups.
- And Mrs Carrington is returning to the Science team to take over Mr Sheldrake's classes.

It will be great to welcome new and old members to the team once again when we return to school for term 5.

And so a reminder that we will finish term 4 at 3.20pm on Thursday 24th March, with all students returning to school at 8.45am on Monday 11th April. Our partner school Ark William Parker will be starting the term with a staff training day on Monday 11th April - but all Helenswood students will return to lessons on Monday 11th April. There will be no Ark 6th Form lessons on this date.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our families for your support of another term's work and wish you all a safe and restful Spring break. I look forward to seeing you all back again on Monday 11th April.

With best wishes  
Lucy Monk  
Principal



All of this, and of course we still continue our daily routine of lessons and great learning!

Huge congratulations to all of the staff and students who have contributed to such a wide and varied programme of events this term, and we look forward to more exciting engagements for Ark Helenswood students in terms 5 and 6.

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# Ark Helenswood celebrates International Women's Day



Are you a Helenswood alumna who would like to support and mentor current students? We'd love for you to join our alumni association.

Email Petrina De Gouttes on [petrina@futurefirst.org.uk](mailto:petrina@futurefirst.org.uk) for more information.

Past and present Ark Helenswood students have come together to mark International Women's Day and share experiences of school and the working world. Our Year 11 classes heard from former Helenswood students who are now working in technology, psychology, fashion, medicine and business to inspire them to aspire and succeed.

Students received wristbands with the event's hashtag, #greatgirlsgreatgoals, as mementoes of the day and a reminder to aspire towards high academic and professional aims ahead of their GCSE exams this summer.

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**I went to Helenswood  
and now I solve  
problems for some of the  
world's biggest brands."**

Elaine, Partner and Consumer Products Leader



Start thinking



Find out more



Get involved

To find out more about your career options, visit  
[www.futurefirst.org.uk/findoutmore](http://www.futurefirst.org.uk/findoutmore)



# Ark Helenswood win the Ark KS3/4 Debating Championships



“As a teacher, it’s a real privilege to be able to run the debating club each Friday and help develop students’ talents for public speaking and debating social issues. Through the club, students have learned teamwork and presentation skills, all of which will be invaluable at university or in their professional lives.”

**Miss James**

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Congratulations to Miss James and the Ark Helenswood girls on winning the Ark KS3/KS4 Debating Championships. A former World Champion was chairing the final panel, and he commented how impressed he was with the girls. It’s a particular feat this year given there were double the number of schools participating from last year.

Team member Abbie Bowers said: “It feels really great to have won the competition, to have that validation about our abilities and to have come back to Hastings with the trophy, but it was also fantastic to meet other students in the Ark network. It really showed that we’re part of a community.”

# Ark Helenswood girls' artistic endeavours are forever captured on the pier!



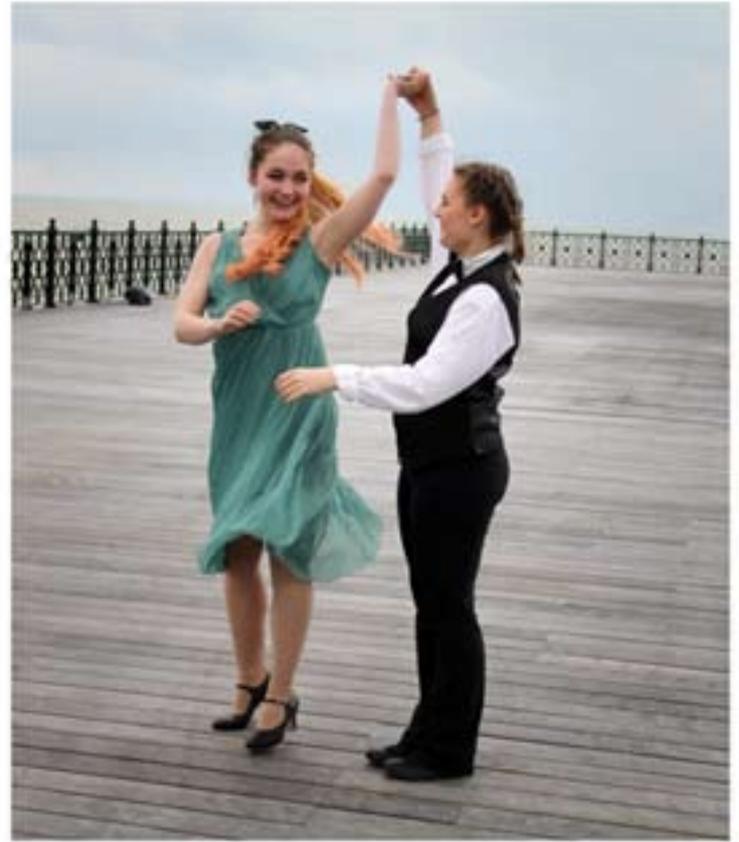
Ark Helenswood's girls were invited by the Hastings Pier Charity to have their feet mapped onto the pier in the outline of a waltz. Accompanied by Elaine Vanner, Dance Teacher at Ark Helenswood, A Level dance students Charly Guyatt and Phoebe Hunter danced the waltz on the soon to be re-opened pier, so that visitors will be able to trace the girls' footprints and dance a waltz themselves.

Charly Guyatt and Phoebe Hunter, 6th form A Level dance students said:

"We went to the Pier to perform the waltz for a forthcoming project. It was a privilege to have been asked to take part in this valuable experience and to be on the Pier before the official opening! All the staff we spoke to were lovely and all made us feel so welcome. We are very happy the Pier is being re-built as it is an important part of our town's history and is in many of our childhood memories."

Hastings Pier Charity said 'We would like to thank Elaine Vanner, Dance Teacher at Ark Helenswood and her A Level dance students from Ark 6th Form, East Sussex who helped us this week by dancing the waltz on the Pier. Our Learning and Education team will be using their work to support the heritage interpretation of the Pier ballroom which has been funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.'

If you'd like to see the girls in action, they and other Ark Helenswood girls will be performing in their forthcoming Dance Show on Tuesday 22nd March at Ark William Parker Academy, Main Hall – 7pm, Tickets cost £7 and are available on the door.



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# Working together to increase security at St Helen's pathway



**Pictured left to right:**  
Ed Clarke (Ark Helenswood),  
Rev Paul Parks (St Helen's  
Church), Andy Batsford  
(Local Councillor) and John  
Whittingdon (Community  
Safety Manager for HBC)

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As we work endlessly to ensure the students of Ark Helenswood Academy are safe, both in and on the way to and from school, we have worked in partnership with Sussex Police, St Helen's Church and Hastings Borough Council to increase security in the pathway. New CCTV is being installed at the church as well as in the pathway, the hedges have all been trimmed back to increase visibility and the Community Payback Team have both funded and fitted fencing along the wooded side.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the safety of the girls and the wider public.

# The St Helen's pathway Safety Sign competition winner is...



You don't know who is lurking here

**ENTER AT YOUR OWN RISK**



Ark Helenswood  
Academy



A joint effort by Abi Baker and Sam Evans successfully designed the winning safety sign to be printed and placed at both ends of the St Helen's pathway.

Congratulations to the girls, enjoy the winning vouchers and thank you for your contribution towards making the area safer!

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# Year 12 Politics and Sociology students visit the Houses of Parliament

On Monday the 14th of March, Year 12 Politics and Sociology students from Ark 6th Form, East Sussex attended the Houses of Parliament for a trip related to the specific elements of their A-level study. The visit enabled students to observe the inner working of the British Parliament and to see at first-hand concepts discussed in class and how they operate in practice.



James Hamilton, Head of 6th Form and teacher of Government and Politics said "This was a fantastic opportunity for the students at Ark 6th Form to see at first hand the operation of their democracy and to experience a place steeped in political History.

The visit certainly added weight to their educational experience in Government and Politics".



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# Year 10 students taking part in the first Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award



Students arrived at Swattington Campsite early on Saturday morning to 're-pack' their rucksacks to include tents, pegs, poles, cooking equipment ....'It's never all going to fit in' were the cry's' , but with a little brute force and tactical folding, the girls were set for their first day of walking in the Kent country side.

The girls walked the first few Kilometres with Miss Scott and Mr Burchall, giving guidance and navigational instructions. The girls were then asked to follow their pre-planned route cards and maps to the differing checkpoints, navigating foot paths and bridle paths and heaving their heavy rucksacks.

Six hours later, exactly as planned, the girls returned to the campsite and were ready to pitch their tents and begin cooking their evening meal under the stars.

A 6am start on Sunday morning, saw the tents being packed away, rucksacks stuffed and breakfasts of portage and sausage sandwiches being cooked on a frosty grass. The girls were off again, with their rucksacks for another the six hour walk, being met at check points along the way! The looks of relief and delight when the students arrived at the finish point of Bodium Castle on Sunday afternoon were indescribable - home to a warm bath and a roast dinner.

The girls were fantastic, all exhibited excellent teamwork, determination, resilience, technical skills (and only minimal moaning about blisters and aching backs).

The girls are now ready and raring to go for their official expedition assessment in May.

Keep practicing the Navigation girls and VERY well done!



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# Ark Hastings pupils catch a glimpse into the future of driverless cars



A group of pupils from Ark Helenswood, Ark William Parker, Ark Little Ridge and Ark Blacklands were treated to an exclusive viewing of a revolutionary driverless car.

The car was unveiled at Amber Rudd's Transport summit for the first -time showing off the next generation of surface transporter vehicles that will be totally controlled electronically - a leading technology to speed travel, reduce carbon emissions and eliminate accidents on the road.

The car was then taken to Ark William Parker school grounds where the children had an opportunity to sit inside the car and hear from Professor Nick Reed, Academy Director from the Transport Research Laboratory, about their research work behind the future of road transport.

This first vehicle - a prototype - is proving the control systems and is being aimed at travelling air crew and personnel as well as passengers around major airports, such as Gatwick. These trials are to test to the limit of safety - so that a driver will no longer be required - so reducing the risks of any form of accidental damage. Once proved on this research vehicle, the control system can be applied to all surface transport - cars, lorries and even buses.

Professor Nick Reed said  
'What we're doing is creating  
safer, cleaner transport that is  
more accessible, cheaper and  
improves mobility for  
everyone.'

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# Year 10 Business Studies students were chosen to take part in the Taylor Wessing insight day in the City of London



Throughout the day students were able to network with a variety of Taylor Wessing employees, across all departments, including, corporate law, ICT and systems, Human Resources, Management, Administration and reprographics. Students worked in small groups with employees, discussing job roles and routes into an international business. Students were given an insightful session on CV writing and what not to do when applying for job roles within a legal / business organisation, delivered by the Human Resource Department.



Taylor Wessing is an international corporate law firm, whose client list includes multinational organisations such as Google, Virgin and Burberry.

After a 'bleary eyed' start on the 6am train from Hastings to London Charing Cross students arrived at the Taylor Wessing offices to be greeted over refreshments by the senior partner, Rob Young, who delivered an inspiring key note presentation, giving students an overview of Taylor Wessing.

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# Ark 6th Form students attended the Barclays LifeSkills Tour



James Hamilton, Head of Ark 6th Form, said: "Our vision at Ark 6th Form East Sussex is to enable every student to achieve a place at university or pursue a career of their choice. In combination with the rigorous academic curriculum at Ark 6th Form East Sussex, sessions like those run by Barclays Life Skills are a really invaluable way for students to access the skills they need to succeed."

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Students at Ark 6th Form East Sussex were given top league advice on preparing for university and their future careers in a session organised by Barclays Life Skills. The students were taught on how to train like top champions for the world of work by representatives from the bank during an intensive session on CV writing, interview skills and professional presentation.

To help inspire them to go for the top, students were able to pose for a photo finish with the Barclays Premier League Trophy.

Year 12 student, Danielle Ramsbottom, said: "The session gave me a lot of information on things that I hadn't thought of, like the importance of body language. I want to go to university and become a teacher, so it's great to have those presentation skills while I'm getting ready to apply to university."

# And finally... Sports Relief 2016



Staff and students dressed in 'retro-sportswear' such as shell suits and leg warmers to raise money for Sports Relief 2016.

At the time of writing the total is an amazing **£1,228**.

Thanks to the PE Team who organised the events for the day and well done to everyone who contributed!



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