



September 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

We are very pleased with the start of the academic year and continue to work with you to improve your daughter's experience at Ark Helenswood.

Enrichment for Years 7 and 8 on Mondays and Tuesdays

The following enrichment activities will initially be available for Years 7 and 8 from Monday 18th September between 3.05 – 4.05pm.

MONDAYS	ROOM
Active citizenship	M38
Sports	Sports Hall
Dance	Dance Studio
Drama	Drama Studio
Design & Technology	M34
Maths	M45
Maths/ Origami	M44

TUESDAYS	ROOM
Horrible History	M37
Faith group	tbc
Chess	M05
Languages	M07
Sports	Sports Hall
Art	M28
Psychology	M10
Maths	M42
Maths/ Origami	M44
Homework Club	M09
School Council activities	MR1

The Club calendar for all year groups will be issued soon.

Place2Be (Year 7-10)

Included is a letter explaining Place2Be and the work they do in the academy. Please note that you should return the slip if you do **not** want your daughter to participate.

Ark Helenswood App

A new app for Ark Helenswood Academy will be going live within the next two or three weeks. The app will give parents/carers the latest news, events, dates, times and contact information. It will be available in both the Apple App Store and Google's Play Store, search for "Ark Helenswood" and install it.

High Expectations Policy

The academy High Expectations Policy will be published on our website on Monday 18th September.



Principal: Tracy Dohel

Parking

Parents are reminded that the staff car parks at Lower School should not be used for waiting during drop off and pick up times. In addition school buses need to be able to access the site so please could you be aware of this when parking or waiting and move on as soon as you are able. You may find it easier to arrange to pick your daughter up in a nearby road.

We have also noticed that a number of parents are taking advantage of the less crowded car park at Upper School and using it as a turning circle. Please could you practice extreme caution if doing so as students walk through this area especially at the beginning and end of the day.

Uniform

Revere shirt – please ensure that when buying or replacing your daughter’s school blouse that it has a revere collar. A complete uniform list can be found in the student planner or on the website. Could parents/carers also note the academy policy on piercings as below:

- *No other jewellery may be worn, including nose or tongue studs/rings or other body piercings***

***NB Covering these items with plasters is not allowed. Where girls wish to have new holes pierced in order to wear nose studs etc. out of school, we advise that they should not do this during a school term. We cannot make exceptions for those who wish to wear a stud to keep the hole ‘open’. We do not allow a ‘retainer’ to be worn.*

Toilets (Lower site)

Some parents have expressed concerns about the toilets being locked. Please be assured that students have access to toilets at all times – they are locked during lesson times but students are able to go to the main office and get the key which should then be returned. The toilets are unlocked at all other times of day.

Cashless Catering

As you are aware the academy is moving to a cashless system for the canteen, trip payments etc. Whilst we realise that not all families have internet access, it would be appreciated if those that do log on to the ParentPay site so that they can add credit to their daughter’s account. Our Finance Assistant currently has a number of students queuing at lunch and break times every day to add amounts as small as 50p.

To assist you with this our IT department will produce a letter containing a personalised login and password for every student who does not have an active account. Your daughter will be given the letter at tutor time to bring home.

Thank you for those parents/carers who have provided feedback regarding the start of the year which has been gratefully received. We endeavour to act upon the feedback wherever we can.

Yours faithfully



Ms T Dohel
Principal