



January 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

We were pleased over the Christmas break to receive approval from the Department for Education on our proposal to bring together Ark William Parker and Ark Helenswood academies. This means that on 1st September 2019 the schools will come together as one co-educational, 12 form entry, Church of England school.

The name of the new school has not yet been decided. During our consultation we proposed naming the name Ark St Helen's Academy but this was not well received and therefore we have been running workshops with the school councils at both schools to decide on a new school name; the new school logo will also be decided through the same process. We would hope to be able to announce the new name before the end of the month with the logo development following this in February.

Please note, no pupil transferring to the new academy will need to purchase a new uniform. Over the next few weeks we will be holding meetings with parents from each school so that we can talk to you about the co-educational school and our plans for the transition process – and so that you can ask any questions that you may have. The first of these meetings will take place on **Thursday 31st January at 5.30pm** and **Friday 1st February at 9am** at Ark William Parker Academy and are open to all parents and carers. Dates for further meetings will be published on the school websites. We will also be arranging site tours so that parents are able to visit both schools through the summer term.

Admissions arrangements

We want all of our Helenswood and William Parker students to join the co-educational school and every student currently on roll is guaranteed a place in September. Therefore, if you would like your daughter to remain at the co-educational school you don't need to take any action.

If you wish, you can apply for a place at an alternative school for your daughter via East Sussex County Council's (ESCC) admissions website – www.eastsussex.gov.uk/admissions and follow 'apply for a school place'. This application should be made by **Sunday 24 February** and you will then receive a decision directly from ESCC by Friday 5 April. A flyer outlining further detail from ESCC is available on our school website under 'Admissions'.

As confirmed during the consultation phase, any pupils already enrolled in GCSE courses will be able to continue these at the new school and will not need to enrol in alternative subjects.

I look forward to seeing you at our meetings later in the month and sharing our plans for the co-education school.

Yours faithfully

Yvonne Powell
Executive Principal

Executive Principal: Yvonne Powell, OBE