



Ark Putney Academy

Prospectus 2016–17







Welcome

to Ark Putney Academy



Dear Parent,

I'm proud to welcome you to Ark Putney Academy, a non-selective school for children between 11 and 18.



In 2013 Ofsted rated us 'Good' in every category and since this time we have been building on our success with constantly improving exam results at both A Level and GCSE. This year we have seen a significant rise in our headline figure at GCSE.

We're delighted to have moved into our new building last year, with new indoor and outdoor sports facilities, a stunning art space, and bright, comfortable teaching spaces. This refurbishment has made our school a truly exceptional place for children to learn.

We welcome all students who are ready to work hard and get involved in all aspects of school life. I look forward to working with you and your child to secure their future success.

Alison Downey

Principal

At Ark Putney we have a holistic view of educating young people.

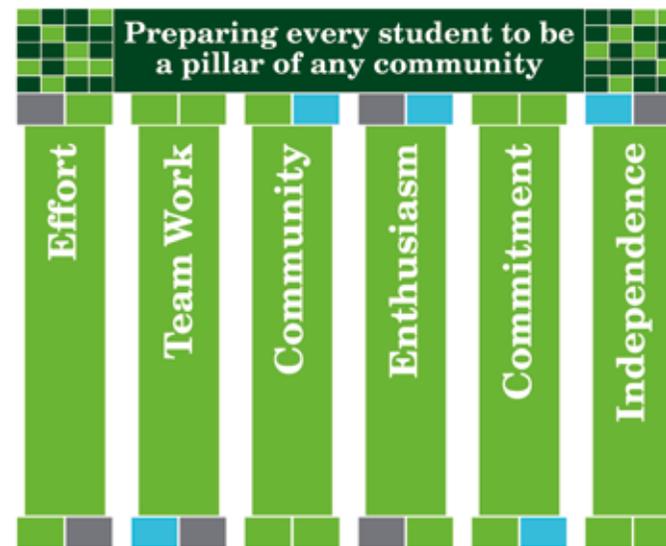
Our mission statement is:
Preparing every student to be a pillar of any community.

By this we mean that we are focussed on developing students to be the very best they can be in all aspects of their lives not only through academic progress but also by acquiring the soft skills that will enable students to be successful in the world such as good manners and the ability to speak confidently. We also expect our students to develop through participation in sports and arts activities and contributing to charity and community projects.

This can be illustrated by our core purpose, which is to provide students with:

- An appreciation and curiosity for life and learning
- The courage and ambition to unlock and fulfil their potential
- A desire to contribute to society in a positive way
- A sense of self-awareness, combined with the integrity to be compassionate towards others

The main drivers for this are our Six Pillars as listed below. These permeate academy life and can be seen in everything that we do, think and say at APA. They are also a focus of our assemblies, reflections and tutorial activities. They help to guide us in how we behave, what we do and what kind of people we want to be.



“The best thing about Ark Putney is the sense of community I feel with other students across different year groups.”

Tylar, Year 10



We are an Ark school

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We are proud to be part of the Ark family – a network of over 30 high-achieving schools across Birmingham, Hastings, London and Portsmouth. Each of us has our own unique character and ethos but we all share the same mission – to ensure that every child, regardless of their background, has the opportunity to go to a good university or into the career of their choice.

A strong focus on teaching and learning has seen Ark get some of the best results in the country – at primary, GCSE and A level – but we are about more than just exam results. We want our young people to develop far beyond the classroom which is why we offer a range of exciting extra-curricular activities. Highlights include network-wide sports events, performing for packed crowds at our annual Music Gala and Shakespeare’s Schools Festival, taking part in work experience with some of the UK’s biggest companies and summer schools at top universities.

“I came here as a primary school student to sing in the school choir, and I found the students and teachers at APA friendly and welcoming. I wanted to come here straight away.”

Shai, Year 10

Building a brighter future

Last year we moved into our £30 million refurbished building and premises. We finally have an inspiring learning environment that the whole school community can be proud of:

Exceptional sports facilities

Our indoor facilities include a brand new four-court sports hall, where students enjoy games from football and cricket to badminton and trampolining. We also have an activity studio for dance, boxing and other aerobic activities.

We have also just completed improvements to our outdoor facilities. We now have a state of the art 3G Astro turf space with two courts and one large pitch.





“I currently have three children at Ark Putney Academy, each of whom are very happy. I find the teachers very caring and supportive to the students and that they always have their best interests at heart. I have nothing but praise for them and feel that they have brought out the best in each of my children.”

Sue Garrard, parent

A Stunning art space

As part of the refurbishment we have created a new art facility stretching the entirety of our top floor. With panoramic views of the London skyline, this makes for a truly breath-taking and inspiring space for our students to express themselves creatively.

We are also coming to the end of the renovation a 200 seat drama studio, to be completed in December 2016. This will be a fantastic performance space with a fully lit and audio rigged stage as well as a green room and rehearsal areas.

Bright, spacious classrooms and specialist teaching spaces

Our classrooms, specialist rooms and corridors have all been refurbished, and are brighter and more spacious. This contributes to the creation of a 21st century teaching space where children are comfortable, happy to learn, and have all the facilities they need. We have a dedicated music area complete with recording studio and instrumental practise rooms. We have also just completed the installation of a state of the art languages lab which will allow students to practise their acquired languages skills at their own pace.

Achieving our goals

Six Pillars

We expect all our students to uphold our six pillars as they go about their day to day life in the school. These are:

Commitment - To show determination and resilience in every challenge you face

Community - A willingness to positively contribute to academy life and beyond, with the courage to support others to do the same

Teamwork - To work effectively with others and enable everyone to fulfil their role to complete a common task

Effort - To work to the best of your ability at all times in everything that you do

Independence - To demonstrate a level of self-discipline and sense of responsibility for your own success

Enthusiasm - To demonstrate a desire to positively engage and contribute without reservation

The Academy has a reward system that promotes the APA Pillar values and motivates students to meet expectations. An important part of the ethos of the Academy is to celebrate success, and progress, in every element of Academy life.

Students who consistently display our Pillar skills are nominated by Heads of Year and Heads of Department to receive Pillar badges which can be seen on their blazers.

In lessons, students are marked on their effort, homework and classwork every 6 weeks which forms our Attitude To Learning (ATL) league for each year group. This is non-academic and focusses solely on Effort, Commitment and Independence. The top 20% of the ATL league participate in a rewards trip at the end of the year.

At end of term celebration assemblies, students with the highest attendance and highest Pillar points are entered into prize draws. Students also receive post cards home and are rewarded in many different ways if they are making strong academic progress.

Our rewards system is accessible to all students because it targets improvement and application rather than attainment.

“I have found this school to be an excellent choice for my daughter. The transition from primary to secondary has been very easy indeed and she has been welcomed whole heartedly by both staff and students. This is a nurturing school that is proud of both its history and the direction in which it is heading.”

Andy Smart, parent



Community

Our House system provides students with a sense of belonging and ownership and cements the skills promoted by the Six Pillars. Our Houses are named after four influential figures from modern British culture, history and arts.

Each student belongs to a House and contributes towards the ATL cup, the Attendance cup and the overall House cup. The total points of each student are collated at the end of every term and the House with the highest score wins, there is also an overall winner at the end of the year. We have a House activity scheduled every week. This ranges from chess matches through to creative writing with the aim being maximum student participation. We seek to offer something that every student can become involved in.



We also provide every student in Year 7 and 8 with the opportunity to learn a musical instrument free of charge. This amazing opportunity is offered with the intention of broadening student horizons, whilst developing character and resilience.

Joining our school

If your child joins our school, we'll go through several steps to make sure they feel happy and secure.

First, their new Head of Year will meet them, so they can get to know each other. Members of our Senior Leadership Team and sometimes our Special Educational Needs Coordinator, will then visit your child's primary school, to learn about your child from teachers who already know them.

As well as looking at academic data from the student's primary school, we'll arrange for your child to sit GL tests, along with reading and comprehension tests. This way we can really understand the support they need.

If your child speaks English as a second language, our English as an Additional Language (EAL) Coordinator will give them a specialised induction, to help them get up to speed.

We ask students, parents, and teachers to sign a home-school agreement – this acknowledges that we will all do whatever we can to help students succeed.

We send home four data reports and one written report each year, and invite parents to parent-teacher meetings. By maintaining close links between home and school, we can create an environment where your child can excel.

“As a parent, it's a big step sending your child to secondary school - but I can't praise Ark Putney Academy enough. My son loves going every day and is stimulated and supported. I feel happy sending him too. The school is very approachable and I know I am listened to and understood. Everyone works together as a team to support the children. My daughter can't wait to join!”

Lydia Pulit, parent





Our admissions policy

Our school is a non-selective, mixed academy for children between 11 and 18.

You can apply for a place using Wandsworth Council's Common Application Form.

We prioritise children with Education Health and Care plans. Then, if we are oversubscribed, we prioritise children in the following order:

- Children who are in public care, or who have been in public care in the past
- Children of staff members where the staff member is filling a specific shortage of skills (only one place per class)
- Children who have a sibling at the school at the time you apply – by 'sibling' we mean a whole, half or stepbrother or sister who lives at the same address
- Children of staff members who have worked at the school for more than two years (only one place per class)
- Children who live closest to the academy, based on a straight-line distance from the main school entrance to the child's home



Ark Putney Academy

If you'd like to know more about Ark Putney Academy, please get in touch.

We'd love to hear from you.

Pay us a visit

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Get in touch

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“The teachers don't leave you out there on your own. They sit with you and tell you what to do, but they don't give you the answers. I feel that I'm an individual.”

Suzanna, Year 11

