



Ark Putney Academy

Sixth Form Prospectus
2016–17



We are an Ark school

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.



Welcome

from the Head of Sixth Form



Dear students and parents,

I am delighted to welcome you to Ark Putney Academy Sixth Form. We pride ourselves on being an inclusive school-based Sixth Form which is devoted to helping every student achieve their potential and supporting them into their chosen university or career. We are equally proud of our track record with Oxbridge and Russell Group applications as we are of consistently beating our target grades in vocational qualifications.

Our Sixth Form students are in small classes where they get great teaching and intensive one-on-one support from highly skilled teachers. Our teachers know their students' strengths and weaknesses and painstakingly plan, prepare and make themselves available to meet students' needs.

We give every one of our Sixth Form students the opportunity to broaden their horizons with topical speakers, extra-curricular activities and structured debate, discussion and presentations. Each student is also a leader and a role model and we expect each of our students to do something significant to make a difference to the life of the school or the wider community.

We expect all of our students to leave us with:

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

We aim to help our students grow into confident, happy and inquisitive adults and we welcome interest from all applicants who can demonstrate their ambition and drive.

We hold open days throughout the year. Please go to arkputney.org for more details.

I look forward to meeting you.

Matthew Neuberger, Head of Sixth Form

Finding the right pathway

We offer a wide range of subjects and ways to study. Depending on students' prior attainment and interests they can choose to join the Sixth Form studying:

- Four A levels (with an option to also take an independently researched Extended Project Qualification which is equivalent to half an A-level)
- A BTEC Extended Diploma (equivalent to three A-levels) alongside one A-level
- A BTEC Extended Diploma (equivalent to three A-levels) alongside a retake in GCSE English and/or maths

See all of the subjects that we offer at arkputney.org

If you are not sure which pathway is right for you, come and see us and we can support you in your decision.





Sixth Form Society

The Sixth Form Society is considered one of the best in London, with a history of very high calibre speakers visiting our school. In recent years we have welcomed figures such as Ken Livingstone, Peter Tatchell, Justine Greening and John Sweeney amongst many others. A visit from Matthew Barzun, the United States Ambassador to the United Kingdom, last year facilitated six of our Sixth Form students being invited to meet Barack Obama at a speech he was giving in Central London.

This year we welcome a broad range of speakers from sectors as diverse as: film production; literature and the arts; politics; human rights; law; finance; medicine; and science.

Our Sixth Form Society exposes our students to some of the most pressing issues affecting their world, igniting a desire to contribute to a better, fairer society, and giving our students a real opportunity to shape the views of influential leaders in a variety of fields.

Our talks also give Ark Putney students an opportunity to investigate advanced study and the world of work from a different perspective, building contacts with influential leaders and exploring a full array of post-18 opportunities.

Succeeding beyond the classroom



We believe in developing students beyond the classroom – that's why we offer many opportunities alongside the formal curriculum.

We encourage students to give back to the school and wider community. You can become a prefect or house captain, join one of our school committees, support inter-house competitions and take part in paired reading and tutoring for younger students.

All our students also take part in Ark network events, such as the Ark Music Gala at the Barbican, the annual Shakespeare Schools Festival, and other events such as debating and sporting competitions.

We rotate enrichment activities on a termly basis but some of the activities we have offered in the past are:

- African drumming
- Amnesty International
- Animation & games design
- Catering
- Chess
- Debating
- First aid
- History
- Jewellery making
- Mathematics
- Model United Nations
- Music groups
- Paired reading with local primary schools
- Poetry
- Sailing
- Sports
- Theatre Olympics

Our facilities

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We have recently completed a £30 million project to refurbish our whole school building. We now have an inspiring learning environment that the whole school community can be proud of and a brand new dedicated Sixth Form area separate from the rest of the school including a common room. This unique space gives our Sixth Form students the environment needed to focus on their studies and develop as young adults.

Our renovated facilities include a four-court sports hall, where students can enjoy games from football to badminton, as well as an activity studio for dance, boxing and other aerobic activities. We also have state of the art 3G AstroTurf pitches for outdoor sports. We have a new art facility on our top floor, with stunning views across London and a drama theatre to be completed in 2016. Our modern languages department has just opened a brand new languages lab for conversation practise.

“APA gives me lots of opportunities to fulfil my potential. The teachers are very supportive and push me to be the best I can be.”

Jumilia Condé – newly joined Year 12 student



University and career success

We believe that all of our students have the potential to go onto university or into a career of their choice. To achieve this we offer support and guidance to suit every student.

Work experience

Every Year 12 student takes part in work experience. We offer unique opportunities to gain experience and advice from a huge range of companies and industries. Below are just a few examples of where our students have worked:

- Barclays
- Bouygues
- Buckingham Palace
- GlaxoSmithKline
- Goldman Sachs
- International management consultants
- KPMG
- Local primary schools
- Solicitors firms

University preparation

For students looking to go to university we have a range of programmes that provide support and advice on the journey to university.

Support can be anything from helping you to make your choices, to helping to write personal statements and going on university visits. Some of our Sixth Formers participate in the Danson Foundation Oxbridge mentoring scheme, where they meet current students from Oxford and Cambridge to gain advice and an insight into university life. We are also part of the Teach First Futures programme which gives students access to; mentoring, residential university courses (including Oxford, Cambridge & Southampton), and competitive course support.

We work closely with Ark to develop strong relationships with universities and our students have access to Ark's University and Careers Success Programme.

Financial support

Students can apply for a number of bursaries and scholarships to support them whilst at Sixth Form and as they move on to university.

During Sixth Form, students can apply for a Vulnerable Bursary (up to £1,200) or a Discretionary Bursary (approx. £50 per term).

To help pay for university, students can apply for a range of bursaries from £3,000 for the first year, to scholarships worth £40,000. In the past few years, 26 of our students have been awarded bursaries.

More information and application forms will be available at the start of term.

Our students

We are extremely proud of all of our students and what they achieve. Every year we have the great privilege of celebrating the results of two year's hard work and helping students prepare for the next step in their journey.

Here are just a few of our students who received top A level results and accepted places at some of the best universities in the country:



Michael achieved an A* in Maths and As in Chemistry and Physics. Michael is going to the University of Manchester to study Materials Science and Engineering.

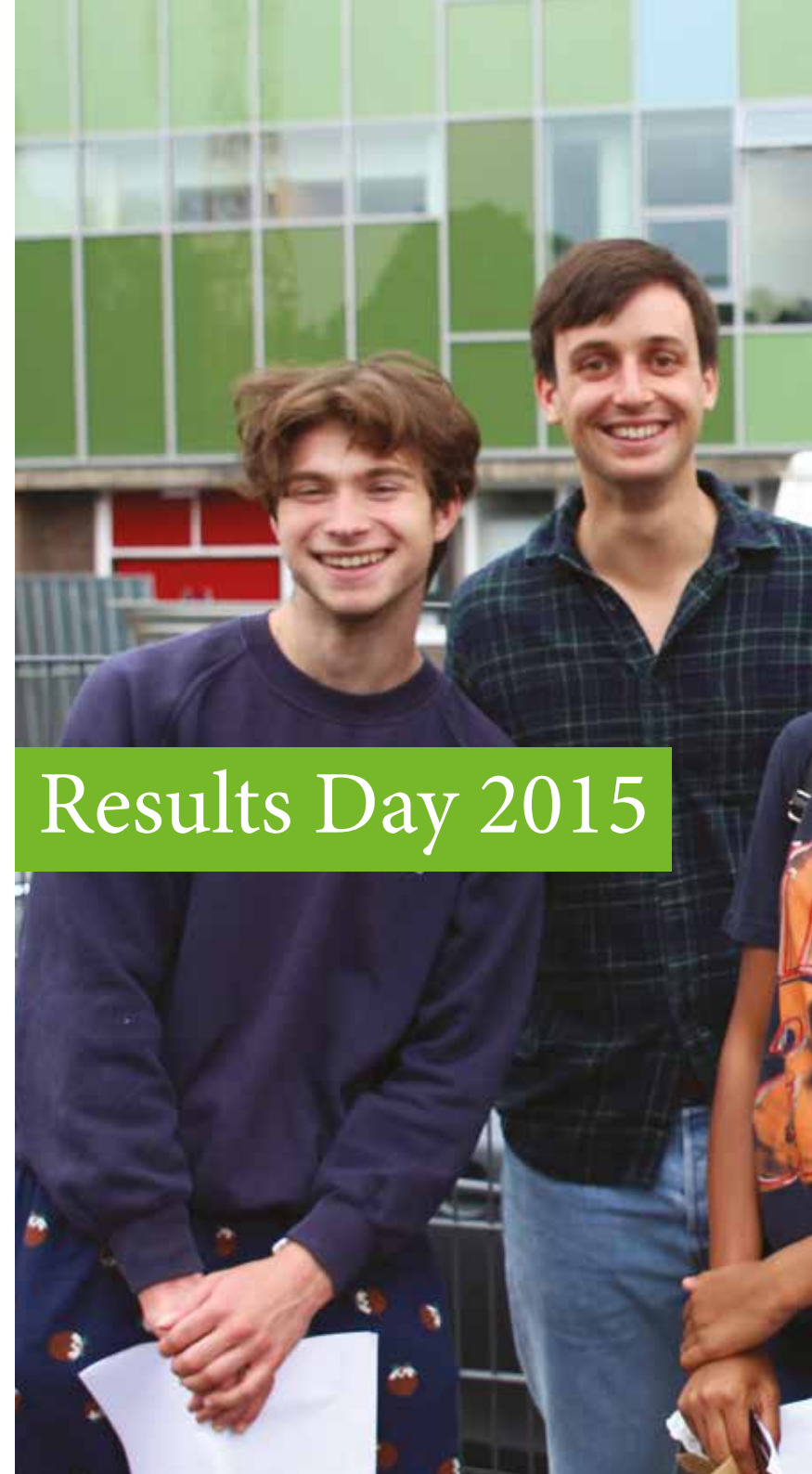


Hayley achieved an A* in History and As in Sociology and English Literature. She is going to the University of Manchester to study Politics and Modern History and wants to become a lawyer. Hayley was awarded a bursary for all three years of her course.

“When I first saw my results I actually cried. My mum was crying when I told her. I didn't think that A* was within my reach. All the hard work has paid off and it's definitely worth it, I can't believe it.

The teachers have been so supportive – for example my English teacher helped me write my university application, helped me get work experience in a law firm and stayed behind after school to mentor me on anything I was struggling with. I'm so, so grateful for their help.”

“If I'd gone to a college or a bigger Sixth Form, I really don't think I would have been able to get the individual support I had at Ark Putney – and that's so vital to getting the grades you need.”



Results Day 2015



Harry achieved straight As in English Literature, History and Sociology. He is going to the University of Cambridge to study History. Harry was awarded a bursary for his first year at university.



Maan achieved As in English Literature and a B in Economics. He is going to the University of Oxford to study History and Politics. Maan was awarded a bursary for all three years of his course.

Maan was inspired to apply to Oxford after talking to a former Ark Putney student who is now studying medicine at Cambridge;

“I wanted to be a novelist and so I was planning to go straight into work, get a job and write in my free time. When I talked to Sara about her experiences, she told me that when she was growing up, she had never imagined that she’d go to Cambridge. That made me realise that Oxford could be an option for me, that it was possible.”

“The teachers at Ark Putney have been really supportive all the way through my application. They set up mock interviews with Oxford and Cambridge alumni so I could practise answering the kind of questions I’d be asked.”

After Oxford, Maan hopes to either join the Civil Service, train as a barrister or go into journalism, “In the long-term, I would like to go back to Iraq and use the skills I’ve learned to help the country in whatever way I can.”

Achieving our goals



We use six key principles in everything we do:

We believe that success is built on six pillars:

1. Effort: Each of our students has individual targets based on their GCSE results. Students will only achieve their targets by working to the best of their ability. Students are expected to demonstrate outstanding attendance, punctuality and behaviour throughout the two years of Sixth Form.


2. Enthusiasm: We provide opportunities for students to broaden their horizons by engaging with topical speakers, extra-curricular activities and structured debate, discussion and presentations. We expect students to make the best possible use of these opportunities.

3. Independence: Students will routinely receive feedback on their progress. We expect them to reflect on that with their tutor and address and identify any concerns as quickly as possible.

4. Teamwork: We expect our students to support and challenge each other academically and to work together to help the Sixth Form and wider school community thrive.

5. Commitment: We provide our students with a high level of career and university advice. We expect students to commit to researching and planning for their chosen pathway.

6. Community: Each student is a leader and a role model and we expect each one to do something significant to make a difference to the life of the school or the wider community.



“I really enjoy the strong sense of community we get from working with younger students at APA”

Hemiel Sarker – Year 13



Sixth Form Welcome Barbecue

Applying

for a place at Ark Putney Sixth Form



To get a place at Ark Putney Sixth Form, you'll need to meet the following criteria:

For A level and level 3 courses you'll need 5 A*-C passes at GCSE, preferably including English and Maths, and including a B or merit in the subject you want to study

If you've never studied the subject you want to study, we'll look at your English and Maths grades

If you are interested in joining our Sixth Form, please go online and register your interest with us at arkputney.org



Ark Putney Academy

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

We'd love to hear from you.

Pay us a visit

Ark Putney Academy
Pullman Gardens
London SW15 3DG

Get in touch

Telephone: 020 8788 3421
Email: info@arkputneyacademy.org
Web: arkputney.org



“APA has a great atmosphere which really welcomes new students”

Hamza Tahir – newly joined Year 12 student

