



ARK ACADEMY

PROSPECTUS 2019





From our Chair of Governors

Dear Parent/Carer

I am honoured to chair the Ark Academy governing body and thrilled to see the progress the school has already made. Ark Academy's primary school is already achieving outstanding results. Our new secondary school is absolutely committed to offering the same exceptional opportunities.

Every one of our staff shares the same ambition. We have high aspirations for every pupil and we want each of them to achieve the best they possibly can and to gain the qualifications, skills and motivation that will give them the choice of higher education, help them to become good citizens and to contribute to the world around them.

Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, we hope our pupils will love coming to the academy and get a thrill out of learning. That is our vision for Ark Academy. I hope you will visit and see what we can offer your son or daughter.

Patrick Wall
Chair of Governors

Welcome from our Principal

Dear Parent/Carer

I am delighted to welcome you to our wonderful academy. We are now in our ninth year and our second group of sixth formers have just left to take up their excellent university places. Our sixth form goes from strength to strength that we want all our new students to aspire to.

We are engaged in a really exciting venture. We have excellent facilities and experienced staff who provide high quality teaching. We expect the highest standards from all involved in Ark Academy.

Our strong core principles, based on clear boundaries, commitment to hard work, excellence and citizenship guide all that we do. Our motto is "Civitas" as we are first and foremost citizens and this is what binds us together. We want our pupils to grow into well-rounded, confident, ambitious young people.

It is a privilege to lead Ark Academy and I am absolutely committed to enabling our students to achieve their ambitions. Together we have created a wonderful school that offers our pupils enormous opportunities. I look forward to working with you and your son or daughter to continue to develop our great school.

Delia Smith OBE
Principal



Mission statement

Ark Academy has at its core the pursuit of the highest standards possible in education. We believe in high aspirations, high motivation and high achievement for all. Through our extended curriculum and community life we seek to meet the needs of the whole person. Civitas – Citizenship – is at our core. We will build a community of civic pride and social justice in which all members are equally valued. We are committed to the service of young people and to helping them play their full part in society.

Our driving principles are:

- Excellence
- Citizenship
- Persistence
- Participation

Our goal

Our goal is that all our students will be able to go on to higher education and participate fully in our democratic society.

ARK Schools

ARK Schools is creating outstanding schools committed to radically improving the life chances of their pupils. Our vision is that all our pupils will do well enough to go to university.

Our principles:

- **High aspirations** for every pupil
- **High achievement, high motivation, no excuses**
- **Talented and committed** teachers and staff
- **Perseverance** – we'll do whatever it takes to help our pupils succeed



Excellence

Ark Academy will transform the educational opportunities and aspirations of its pupils.

Ark Academy is a new all-through academy for 3–18 year olds with the highest standards of academic achievement at its core. Our aim is that every pupil leaves the academy at 18 with the opportunity to study at the university of their choice. To realise this we expect every pupil to make rapid progress and to reach levels of attainment consistently above national averages.

We will nurture energetic and engaged learners who work hard and participate fully in the wider life of the academy and its community. We believe in the immense potential of each of our pupils and we are committed to giving them every possible opportunity to succeed.

To achieve this:

- We have high expectations of pupil behaviour and achievement and equally high expectations of the quality of our teaching.
- We will create an inspirational environment, characterised by order and respect so that teachers can teach and pupils can reach their full potential.
- We aim to be a centre of excellence in everything we do.





Mathematics and citizenship

A specialist mathematics academy

As a mathematics specialist academy we invest in the resources to attract the best mathematics teachers. We have high expectations and a commitment to excellence in mathematics and aim to cultivate confident and proficient mathematicians. By ensuring that pupils acquire skills as soon as they are able we can enable every pupil to maximise their knowledge and qualifications and offer those with particular ability the opportunity to accelerate their achievement.

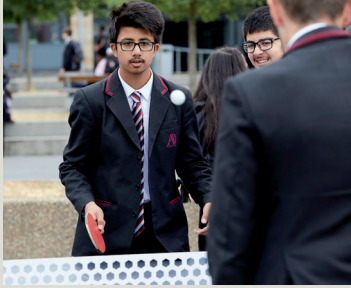
Working together and taking responsibility are central to life at Ark Academy.

Success depends on the ability to work with others and to take responsibility for oneself. Our students learn the value of citizenship and the ability to engage with the changing economic landscape with discipline and discernment. They work together, compete together and play together; learning to solve problems, share ideas and take risks.

Citizenship is not learnt in the classroom alone. We provide opportunities for our students to engage with their own and the wider community, to create plans to tackle community problems and to work together to realise solutions. Giving young people meaningful experiences that have a positive impact on their communities enables every student at Ark Academy to become an engaged citizen and a positive role-model.

This approach to citizenship helps our pupils to develop confidence and inter-personal skills without fear of failure, helping them to achieve their ambitions and make a real contribution to society.





Persistence

Our extended day gives every student extra time to succeed.

Pupils at Ark Academy have 30 hours of formal lessons each week, instead of 25, so that every pupil receives the teaching to fulfil their potential and secure a place at university. This extra time is of real benefit but it requires commitment. Our school day runs from 8.30am to 5pm on Monday to Thursday and 3pm on Friday in Year 7. Pupils need to be at school on time every day, prepared to commit themselves to every lesson.

At the end of formal teaching all Year 7 pupils have access to an extra hour of enrichment. This includes subjects and activities to help them develop as well rounded people and focused support to ensure that they achieve their academic goals and are sufficiently challenged.

Activities include music and an hour's extra sport each week. We place great importance on music and offer every pupil the opportunity to learn a musical instrument.

This extra time helps students develop the skills and attributes necessary for success. They know how to compete and to win and how to deal with setbacks or failure with humility and reflection. Broadening their experience and interests helps pupils to become well rounded young people whom universities will welcome as students.

Homework

Homework is vital to enable pupils to develop the ability to work independently and helps create an ethos of continuous learning. We set homework to extend and challenge our students and we monitor its setting and completion daily.



Participation: Work hard. Be nice.

Commitment to effort and strong relationships are at the heart of an outstanding school.

Ark Academy has the highest expectations of our students and we demand the same of all our staff; from the Principal to our lunchtime supervisors. We all work together to achieve our goal.

The house system

Our house system involves everyone and fosters strong relationships. The system ensures that every pupil is known personally by their teachers. Houses create schools within schools and are the focal point for many academy events. By building a feeling of collegiality the house system helps create a safe and caring environment where our pupils feel able to take intellectual risks. The culture of healthy competition encourages every student to take part in house events and display talent and potential. Our rewards policy operates through the house system and helps us to celebrate the successes and growth of every student.

Lunchtime

Pupils are expected to sit down and eat a hot meal at lunchtime and hold conversations with one another. This sustains them through our longer day and gives pupils and staff the opportunity to talk together helping pupils to learn to talk confidently with a wide range of people. Healthy snacks are available at break-time and before enrichment to ensure optimum performance.

Expectations for parents

Relationships between parents and the academy are as important as those between pupils or between pupils and staff. As part of our commitment to Civitas we ask every parent to commit to 10 hours voluntary work in the academy each year. This can be helping at the school fair, with reading groups, with sports teams or other activities. It is important for every pupil to feel that their parents are committed to their school. We can only become an outstanding academy if we have outstanding relationships with our pupils' families. So we want to get parents into the academy and make you feel part of the team.

Compassionately ruthless

Ark Academy sets high expectations for our pupils' attitude, behaviour and outlook.

Attendance

Pupils are expected to be at school on time every day. Absence and lateness compromise academic performance and achievement in examinations. We expect pupils to be absent only if it is a medical necessity. Holidays during term-time are not permitted.

Behaviour

We set high expectations and we expect our students to meet them. Pupils should be proud to wear the Ark Academy uniform and demonstrate this by their conduct in and outside school. The motto on our uniforms, 'Civitas', is a constant reminder that we belong to the same community and have a duty to help each other and to treat others as we would wish to be treated.

Home school agreement

We ask students, parents and teachers to sign a home-school agreement, demonstrating our shared commitment to putting in the effort to ensure that each child succeeds.





Every child, no excuses

We believe that every child can succeed, regardless of their starting point and that we never reach the finishing line.

Special Educational Needs

We provide an inclusive curriculum to ensure the best possible progress for all our pupils whatever their needs or abilities.

The academy follows the national guidelines in identifying, assessing and supporting pupils with special education needs. Individual Education Plans, regularly modified to meet pupils' differing needs, ensure effective provision. Support is given either in small groups or through withdrawal classes and is delivered by a team of skilled teachers, learning support assistants and specialist behaviour support workers.

English as an additional language

EAL pupils benefit greatly from our extended day, gaining extra support until they reach expected year levels in English.

Through careful assessment and a combination of small induction classes, one-to-one teaching and strong support mechanisms in the classroom, our EAL pupils have full access to the school's learning opportunities.

Gifted and talented pupils

Our provision for gifted and talented pupils is built around the idea that we never reach our full potential and one can always improve and get better. Thus we ensure that all pupils on the G&T register are fully challenged and supported so that they can excel and our curriculum is designed accordingly.

Admissions

Ark Academy is non-selective and serves children of all abilities. Applications for admission must be made through e-admissions if you are a Brent Resident – www.eadmissions.org.uk. If you are not a Brent Resident, then you must apply through the borough in which you are living. If the school is oversubscribed, priority is given to pupils with statements of special educational needs. In the secondary school a number of places will be provided for children from the Wembley area and from the Harlesden and Stonebridge Park area in the south of the borough. Places are offered in the following order of priority:

- Children with statements of Special Educational needs.
- Children who are currently in attendance in Ark Academy Primary.
- Children who are in public care.
- Children of Staff at the school where there is a demonstrable skill shortage – children of members of staff will have priority in the oversubscription criteria if the staff member is filling a post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage. ARK Schools is required to approve the Principal's designation of such posts and confirm the assessment that a member of staff appointed meets the requirements of the shortage. Priority will be limited to one place for each form of entry in any year.
- Children who have a sibling who already attends the school in Reception to Year 13 who will continue to do so on the date of admission (for this purpose "sibling" means a whole, half or step-brother or step-sister resident at the same address). In the case of twins or brothers and sisters in the same year group, where there is only one place available in the academy, both will be considered together as one application.
- Children of staff in the school – where there is no demonstrable skill shortage, priority may be given where the academy is oversubscribed to a child of a person who will have been employed in the academy for two or more years at the time the application for admission is made. Priority will be limited to one place for each form of entry in any year.
- Distance measurement – a child's home will be the address at which the child normally resides and which has been notified to the Academy and other relevant agencies as being the child's normal place of residence. 25% of the remaining places will be allocated to children who live closest to the school using straight line measurement from the main entrance of the academy to the main entrance to the child's home (Zone A) and 75% of the remaining places will be allocated to children who live closest to Fawood Children's Centre (35 Fawood Avenue, Harlesden, London, NW10 8DX) using straight line measurement from the main entrance of the Children's Centre to the main entrance to the child's home (Zone B).
- The school keeps a waiting list to fill any casual vacancies arising if pupils leave during the academic year or withdrawn from a place that has been offered.

Appeals

Parents/Carers/Legal Guardians who are not offered a place for their child are entitled to appeal to an independent committee under the provisions of the School Admission Appeal Code 2012. Parents/Carers/Legal Guardians wishing to appeal should complete an appeals form, available from the school office or on our website and can obtain detailed information about the appeals process from Ark Schools - admissions@arkonline.org.



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Ark Academy

Principal: Delia Smith OBE

Contact us:

Ark Academy

Bridge Road

Wembley

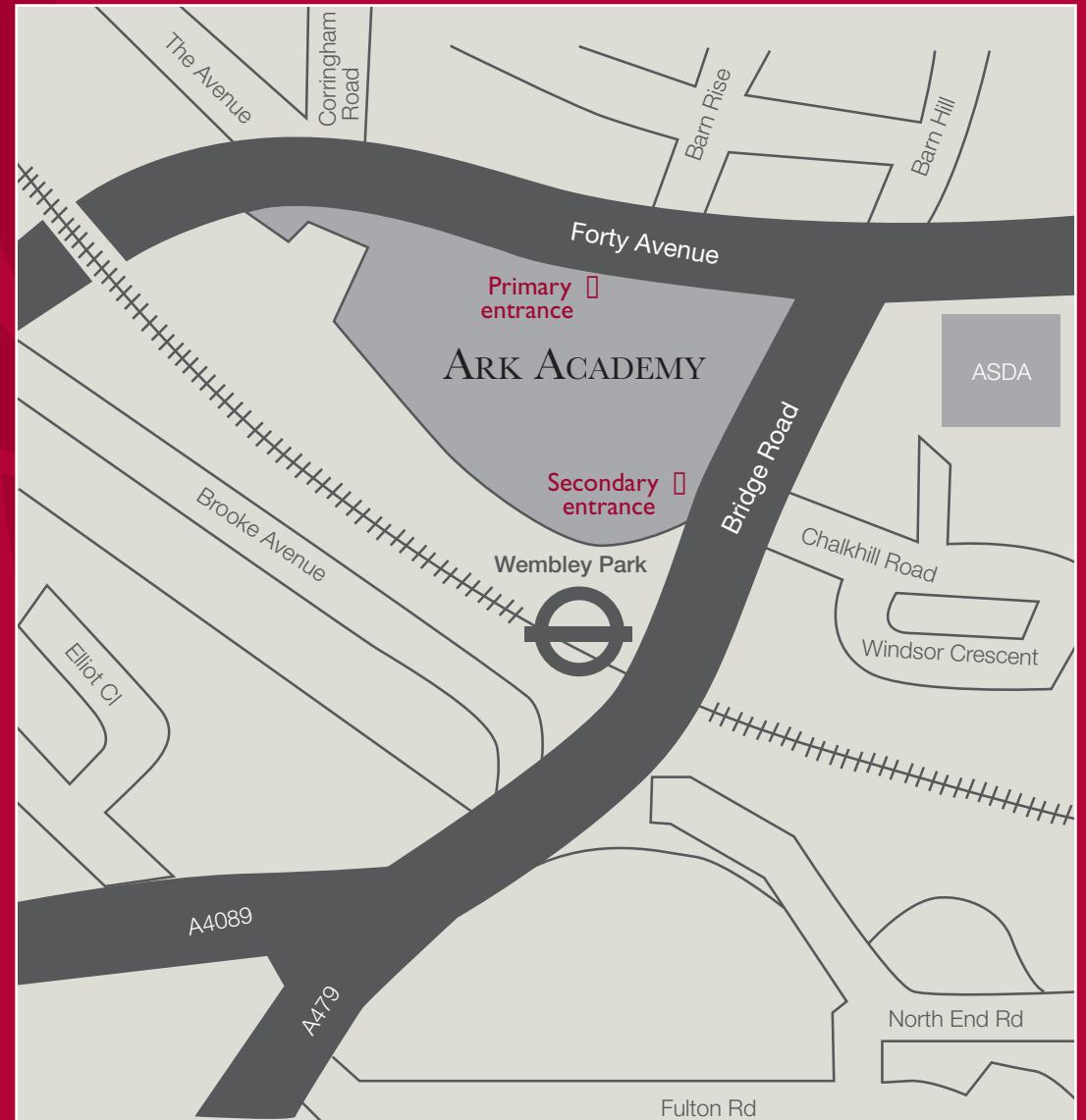
HA9 9JP

Tel 020 8385 4370

Fax 020 8385 4371

Website www.arkacademy.org

Email secondaryadmin@arkacademy.org





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