



Ark Blake Academy

6 Morland Road, Croydon CR0 6NA

Tel: 020 3443 9000 www.arkblake.org Email: info@arkblake.org

Thinking of
Joining the Ark
Blake Team?



Welcome from the Principal

Dear Candidate

Thank you for your interest in furthering your career at Ark Blake Academy. We are a thriving and successful academy based in East Croydon. Opened in 2020, we are now consistently over-subscribed in every year group with students in Years 7-11. Here at Ark Blake you will find:

- B**ehaviour that is built upon our *'work hard, be kind and take responsibility'* ethos
- L**earning that is nurtured through our calm, purposeful and warm environment
- A**cademic excellence that is achieved through high quality teaching by passionate subject experts
- K**nowledge rich, bold and innovative curriculum that equips students for the future
- E**nrichment that develops lifelong skills and unlocks hidden talent

I joined the Academy in September 2023, and we also welcomed a number of senior and middle leaders to the Academy at this time. As we continue to prosper we look forward to welcoming further outstanding candidates to our brilliant team in 2025.

In terms of what drives our school culture, it is based around the simple but powerful belief of **'working hard, being kind and taking responsibility'**. We aim to become a leading school in London as quickly as possible by living out this day-to-day belief and ensuring our students leave with the 'master key' that opens any door for the future progression. We never accept that background determines outcomes, and we work relentlessly to reinforce this with our student community. We also aim to be exceptionally supportive of our fantastic staff body and have a genuine and meaningful approach to staff wellbeing and workload that means they are free to focus on what really matters for the day-to-day student experience.

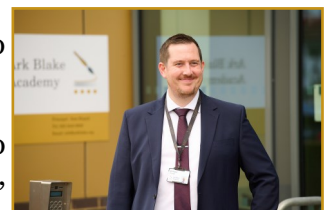
At our most recent Monitoring Visit in February 2024, the huge improvement to the Academy since September 2023 was recognised and this is testament to the hard work put in by staff and students:

- *This happy and well-functioning school is very securely good*
- *The improvements brought about since September have been remarkable*
- *Students behave very well in lessons and around the school. There is a palpably warm and harmonious atmosphere in lessons*

In our most recent staff survey 92% of staff agreed with the statement 'I am proud to work at Ark Blake'.

If you feel that you can add value to our fantastic team, we look forward to receiving your application!

If you have any questions about working at Ark Blake Academy or wish to speak with a member of our team, please contact Vicky Rouse, v.rouse@arkblake.org or call us on 020 3443 9000.



Mr Sam Rispoli
Principal

"No bird soars too high, if they soar with their own wings."

Meet Our Senior Leadership Team



I oversee Curriculum and Assessment and ensure we have a robust curriculum offer for all our students. Making sure that our students are able to make progress across the full suite of subjects is a key element of our work at Ark Blake and allows students to gain the 'master key' to a successful future. I am also a passionate teacher of MFL who routinely promotes active engagement and 'thinking hard' in the classroom!

Alick Sylvestre, Vice Principal - Curriculum & Standards

I lead Teaching & Learning at Ark Blake. This essentially involves embedding a consistent and high standard of learning in all classrooms. To ensure this is possible, I map out a CPD programme for our staff to enable them to continually professionally develop. As a staff body, we remain ever-reflective, and I ensure we are fully equipped with the highest skill set to ensure that we are getting the best progress and results out of our students. It is indeed true that we never stop learning! A large part of my role consists of working with our Early Career Teachers to ensure that they meet the Teachers' Standards and fully qualify into the teaching profession.



Daniel Murphy, Vice Principal - Teaching & Learning



I oversee Personal Development and ensure that we are developing a positive culture in the academy, where students have high standards of themselves and buy in to our key beliefs of working hard, being kind and taking responsibility. I am passionate about raising the aspirations of our students, but also want to ensure that our students leave our academy with empathy, tolerance, and resilience.

Myles Preston, Vice Principal - Culture & Ethos

I am an Assistant Principal and the Designated Safeguarding Lead. Safeguarding is at the heart of everything we do at Ark Blake and we work closely with all agencies in Croydon to support our students. I also lead on Enrichment and Student Leadership which are both vital parts of the students' day. We are currently running over 30 different clubs which the students love!



Lydia Pérez-McMillan, Assistant Principal - Safeguarding & Attendance



I oversee Access and Inclusion, Whole School Reading and am the Designated Mental Health Lead for the Academy. I am committed to helping students find joy in reading and to appreciating the benefits reading brings to their lives (both in terms of academics and wellbeing). My work in Inclusion and Mental Health sits well with this helping me to ensure parity for all and that every child realises their potential. Along with this, I teach History and Geography and am passionate about both subjects.

Angela Loudon, Assistant Principal - Inclusion, Wellbeing & Reading

I am an Assistant Principal and also a Designated Safeguarding Lead, as well as having responsibility for student attendance. Safeguarding is at the centre of our academy culture so that our students are supported to be in the best possible position to achieve. I also support in overseeing the Student Leadership Team and Enrichment, both of which help to enhance our students' experience at ABA.



Chris Lewis, Assistant Principal - Safeguarding & Attendance

What our team say about working at Ark Blake Academy:

Ark Blake is a place I love to come to work. You arrive in the building with students and staff welcoming you every day. Everyone adds to the atmosphere, and this has a great impact on wanting to succeed and push for greatness. The students know that we want them to do well and they acknowledge our time. The unique togetherness this school has means our students get super enrichment opportunities and leave with skills that give them the master key to life after Ark Blake.

George, Teacher of PE & Head of Year 7

I began working at Ark Blake in September 2023. I was immediately driven by what Ark Blake stand for. "Working hard", "being kind" and "taking responsibility" are at the forefront of everything that is done at Ark Blake. These 3 aspects encapsulate what values a school should have. There are very high expectations and a real drive for excellence. I feel really comfortable speaking to everyone in my department and I feel well supported by staff from other departments and SLT. The Pastoral Team at Ark Blake is incredible and there is a real hunger for the school to build on the progress that the school has already made.

Jermaine, Teacher of Maths

I began working for Ark Blake in 2023. What attracted me to work here is the fact that students are very keen to learn and always willing to improve. There is a caring community where not only learning is the priority but also students and staff work together for the same purpose. The Ark Blake pillars of working hard, being kind and taking responsibility are making an impact in every student as they are simple yet powerful when they work. It is a pleasure to take part in this educational journey where we are all growing professionally as well as personally.

Viviana, Teacher of MFL

From the moment I joined Ark Blake Academy, I was immediately greeted with a warm welcome from the staff and students. I was pleasantly surprised as in all my experience in working in schools, Ark Blake was the first school that actually showed they care about my needs and wellbeing. My colleagues work as a team, and everyone has each other's back regardless of their job role. We all work collectively for the betterment of the students by creating a safe environment where everyone can learn. During my time here, I have been able to apply my skills and knowledge regarding behaviour which has been complimented the school ethos and pledge. I genuinely feel happy when I come to work and look forward to my day, as no two days are the same.

Veronica, Reflection Room Manager

As a teacher, I am truly grateful for the opportunity to work at Ark Blake Academy because it embodies the values and community spirit that make teaching fulfilling and impactful. There is the strong sense of community among staff which makes it possible to share ideas, seek advice and grow as educators, which ultimately benefits our students. The school supports teachers through professional development opportunities, workshops and seminars, allowing me to continually improve my teaching methods. I also appreciate how the school fosters an inclusive environment that celebrates differences and encourages students to embrace diversity. Teaching at Ark Blake feels like being part of a family that shares the same dedication to student success and personal growth. I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to such a nurturing and forward-thinking school, and I look forward to many more years of growth, learning and impact here.

Kashida, Head of Maths

So, what do our students think?

'I like school because Teachers help me learn in lots of different ways and want the best for us.'

'The school is really modern, we are so lucky to have a sports pitch on the roof!'



'At school, our Student Leadership helps us be part of the decision making and improve our Blake community.'

An open letter from a Year 11 student:

Ark Blake is not only a place but a community filled with hardworking and committed teachers and students who are highly approachable and respectful. Our school also consists of a variety of facilities such as our rooftop pitch, dance studio, a gym that is often used by teachers and students, and an exceptional sports hall where we've hosted many competitions.

Ark Blake allows students to make new relationships through a range of extra-curricular activities such as Debate Club, Singing Club, Netball and a dedicated Basketball Team. Not only do we have after school clubs but also so many events that have taken place during my time here - especially our production of The Lion King which was iconic as it included heartfelt moments and brought students together!

As a student who has spent 5 years at Ark Blake and has witnessed all of the positive changes I can truly say that our school has improved for the better, bringing countless memories and friendships that will last.



'We love Student Leadership because we feel part of something and also feel that we are heard.'

'We feel comfortable expressing our concerns.'

'We get to be part of the decision making meetings, and even get a say in the Canteen.'

'We feel super involved in our school community.'

Staff Benefits:



Travel

19 minutes from Victoria Station
15 minutes from London Bridge
11 minutes from Clapham Junction
10 minute walk from East Croydon



Pay

We pay 2.5% higher than main pay scale



CPD

We offer twice as many training days as standard



Pension

We offer a generous pension scheme



Career Progression

Access to extensive network training including nationally recognised qualifications such as NPQML and NPQSL



Employee Assistance

All employees have access to a 24/7 Employee Assistance programme offering free and confidential advice



Support

We provide 1:1 support and coaching for every teacher



Breakfast

We provide a free breakfast for all staff daily



Fitness Suite

Access to our onsite fitness suite



Ark Rewards

Access to Ark Rewards scheme offering savings from over 3,000 retailers



Interest Free Loans

Interest free loans of up to £5,000 are available for season tickets or to buy a bicycle



Being Part of the Ark Network

We also offer our staff:

- Collaborative planning, centralised or shared resources
- Clear and consistent behaviour systems
- Knowledge rich curriculum & traditional T&L approach
- Highly visible supportive Leaders who have your back
- Centralised daily detentions
- Realistic and manageable feedback policy
- Excellent CPD opportunities – internal & within network
- Thoughtful and impactful meeting schedule with time for co-planning
- Friday afternoon co-planning following earlier student dismissal



Ark Blake Academy is part of Ark, one of the UK's most successful school groups, with a network of 39 schools in 4 locations across the country. As a proud member of the network, we also offer:

- Weekly staff training designed to meet the needs of the school
- Protected co-planning and department meeting time
- Access to high-quality, regular professional development
- Opportunities to collaborate with colleagues across the network