



Ark Boulton
Academy

Growing together,
reaching higher.





The Ark School Network:

Ark Boulton Academy is part of the Ark network. Ark is an international education charity which runs a network of 34 high-achieving, non-selective schools in Birmingham, Hastings, London and Portsmouth. In 2015, Ark opened its first school in India.

Our schools give children and young people from all backgrounds an exceptional education and real choices about their future. Each Ark school has its own distinctive character but they all share the same goal: *to make sure every child can go to university or pursue the career of their choice.*

Welcome To Ark Boulton Academy:



I am delighted to introduce you to Ark Boulton Academy.

I chose teaching as a profession, driven by the idea that children's experiences and interactions are paramount for our future. It should be a right that all children have access to an excellent standard of education, are able to pursue the career of their choice and become successful in their chosen field, so they are able to give back to communities and feel a sense of belonging.

The new Progress 8 measure, introduced in 2016, demonstrates that students at Ark Boulton Academy make significant progress during their time at school. Our score of +0.1 (estimated at the time of going to print) is likely to position us among the top 45% of schools nationally, above the national average, meaning that our students progress further and more quickly than students in other schools.

My vision for Ark Boulton Academy is that: together we give each of our students the skills, personal qualities and qualifications they need to be successful at university and in the career of their choice; together we make them role models for future generations, helping them to fulfil their potential and raise aspirations; and that together we reach higher by ensuring that our young people compete on level terms for places at university and in an ever changing job market.

At Ark Boulton Academy we work together to ensure that each of our children overcome barriers to learning, catch up where needed and achieve at the highest levels by working harder, behaving better and making faster progress than children in other schools. I look forward to welcoming you to our academy.

Herminder Channa

PRINCIPAL



Our Vision:

Growing together, reaching higher.

As a learning community we aim to grow together in understanding and cooperation, respecting each other's needs, beliefs and backgrounds, working ever more closely to fulfil individual potential for the greater good. Together with families and the local community, Ark Boulton Academy is dedicated to helping our young people develop a lifelong love of learning, a sense of personal and civic pride and the confidence to not just navigate the modern world, but to shape it.

Our Virtues:

Life at Ark Boulton is underpinned by our set of virtues which are present throughout our curriculum and enrichment activity:

- Courage
- Justice
- Honesty
- Compassion
- Self-discipline
- Gratitude
- Humility
- Service
- Commitment
- Charity

Staff at Ark Boulton will role model each of the virtues, through ever action towards; and every interaction with our students, parents, visitors and community at all times. Role modelling will immerse our students with the behaviours we want to see.



A year at Ark Boulton Academy:



Students at Ark Boulton Academy have access to a wide variety of enrichment activities that not only enhance academic learning but widen horizons, providing new experiences and opportunities and increasing aspirations.

September 2015

Ark Boulton Academy opens its doors for the first time. In our first week of term we welcomed BBC Radio 4 to the academy. Today Programme presenter, Sarah Montague, interviewed Principal Mrs Channa which was later broadcast as part of The Educators series.



December 2015

Our students collected 542.4kgs of food which was donated to the St John's Church food bank in Sparkhill.



February 2016

Students represent Ark Boulton at the Ark Senior Great Debate Championships in London and win the award for the 'Most Improved Team' on the day.



October 2015

Ark Boulton's Year 8 and 9 girls football team won the School Games final and qualified to play in the Birmingham Winter Games.



November 2015

Ark Boulton's boys badminton team won the School Games final and qualified to play in the Birmingham Winter Games.



March 2016

Students raise £1105.05 for Sport Relief by taking part in a series of events during lunchtime and after school; beat the teacher at table tennis, penalty shoot-out, football tournaments and cake sales.



March 2016

Ark Boulton Academy hosts the Ark Birmingham Music Gala with performances from all six Birmingham schools, culminating in all of the students coming together in a 'massed choir'.



April 2016

Year 11 student Amna is awarded the Stuart Horne Bursary enabling her to participate in three-week-long, all expenses paid, adventure in the Canadian wilderness learning how to sea kayak, surf and remote camp.



June 2016

Ark Boulton Academy wins Secondary School of the Year at the School Games Central Partnership Awards recognising our excellent sporting achievements throughout the year. Two students were nominated for Sport Leader of the Year and Miss Huckstep was nominated for Head of PE of the Year.



May 2016

Principal Mrs Channa attended an event at Buckingham Palace to be presented with Ark Boulton Academy's Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) Gold Award.



July 2016

Year 10 students visit Warwick University and Keble College, Oxford. The same month Amirul Islam and Raisa Hana are among a few students selected to take part in the Oxford University Summer course - experiencing life at Oxford and learning useful techniques for research and critical thinking.



August - Results

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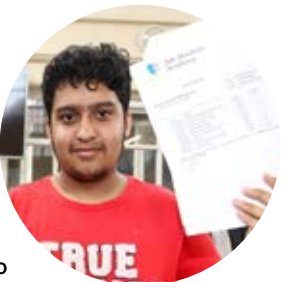
In 2016, Ayan achieved 3 A*s, 4 As, and 1 B at GCSE. She went on to study Finance and Accounting at college. "Hard work really pays off and I'd like to thank the teachers at Ark Boulton and my form tutor who gave me the motivation and support I needed to get the results I have".

Ayan



In 2016, Murtaza achieved 1 A*, 5 As, 2 Bs, and 1 Distinction at GCSE. He has gone on to study Biology, Chemistry and Maths A Level at College. "These grades mean that I can now study for my A Levels and pursue my dream of a career in medicine in the future".

Murtaza



Our Approach:

Like other Ark schools, we use the six pillars in everything we do.

High expectations

With the right teaching and support, we believe every child can realise their potential. We set exceptionally high expectations for all our students and do whatever it takes to achieve them. Our aspirations are no lower for our most vulnerable students.

Exemplary behaviour

Our academy is characterised by an orderly and calm environment. We expect students to be well mannered and treat other students, staff and parents with respect. Staff deal with misbehaviour quickly, and praise good behaviour.

Our smart uniform and logo reflect our local history and were chosen by our students. We expect all students to wear their uniform with pride and to be ambassadors for the academy at all times - both at the academy and in the community.

Excellent teaching

A teacher is the most important factor affecting pupil achievement. That's why we dedicate more time to training our teachers than most schools.

We work side by side with our teaching staff to ensure excellent teaching and support them with exceptional training and development.

Depth before breadth

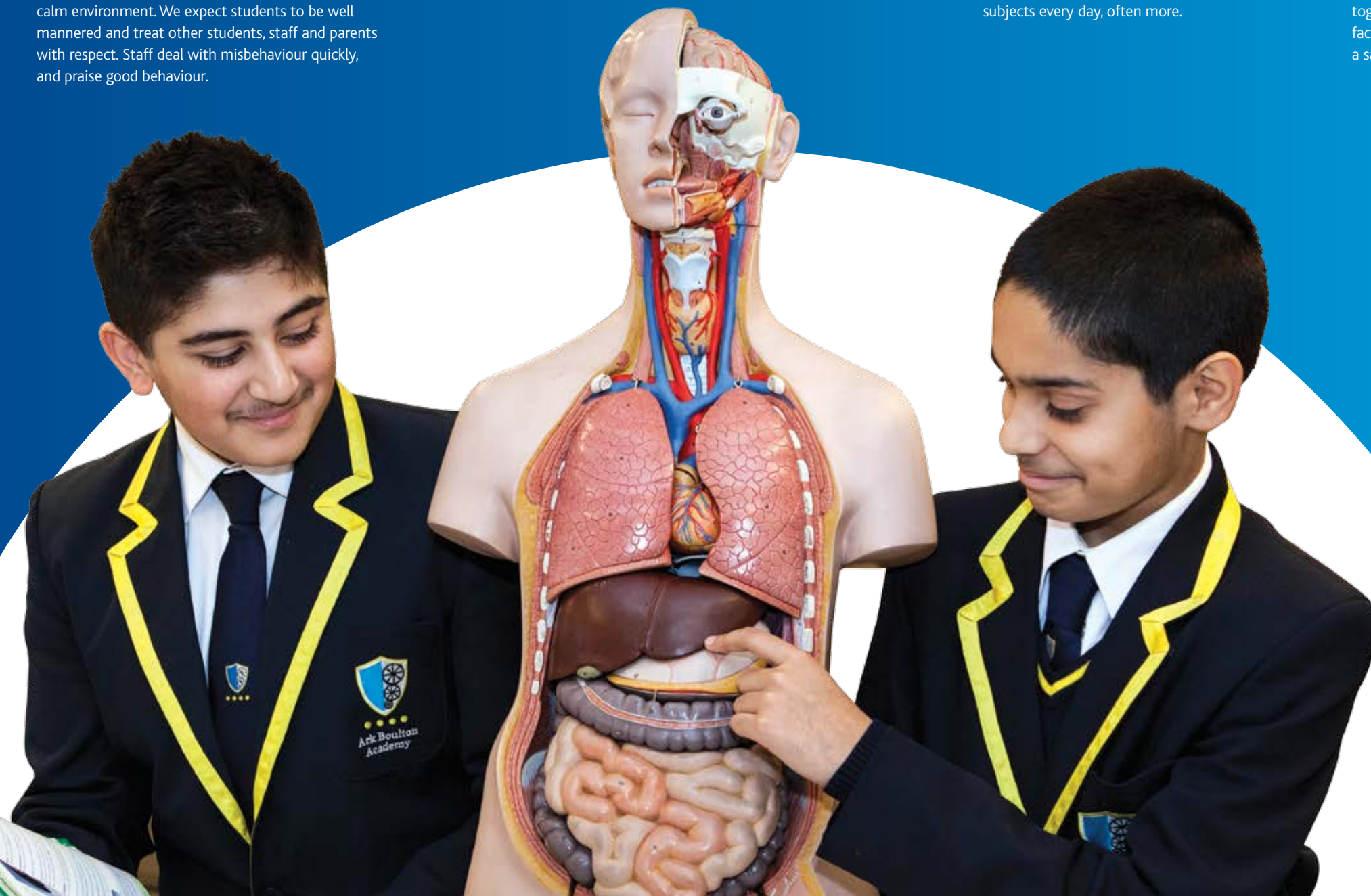
When students secure firm foundations in English and mathematics, they find the rest of the curriculum far easier to access. That's why we prioritise depth in these subjects, giving students the best chance of academic success. All of our students – regardless of age or ability – have at least 45 minutes of these subjects every day, often more.

More time for learning

Our school day is longer than most schools. In a typical week, our students get around five hours more teaching than average. This gives our students more time to progress academically. It also allows them to take part in extracurricular activities which develop their wider personal, social, sporting and musical skills.

Knowing every child

We organise our schools so that every pupil knows and is known well by their teachers. Children do best when teachers and families work together: we involve families in all aspects of school life and encourage participation and collaboration. We keep parents well informed of students' targets and progress and work together to understand any challenges children may face at home or at school. Together we aim to create a safe, happy and dynamic school environment.



"Ms Ahmed is the best English teacher we have had. She brings the text alive making it easier to understand."

Student



"Whenever we leave Miss Cardwell's room we have learnt something new, something we did not know at the start of lesson."

Student

Applying For a Place:

Ark Boulton Academy is a non-selective, non-denominational, mixed school serving 11–16 year olds. To apply, you will need to go through the Birmingham City Council website – www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions

When we admit students, we prioritise children with statements of special educational needs. Then, if our academy is oversubscribed, we offer places to children in the following order of priority:

- "Looked After" or previously looked after children.
- Children who, at the time of the admission, have a sibling, resident at the same address, who attends the academy.

- Children who live closest to the academy by straight line distance from their home to the main entrance.

We'll keep a waiting list which is used to fill casual vacancies if students leave during the year or withdraw from a place that has been offered.

Helping Every Child To Achieve:

Every child can achieve. But all children are different. That's why we tailor our approach to suit our students.

Students with English as an additional language

Students who speak English as an additional language will benefit from our emphasis on the core curriculum. We will give them extra support until they reach the expected achievement for their age in English, including careful assessment and the chance to learn in small groups.

Students with Special Educational Needs (SEN)

We believe that it is vitally important to identify and assess children with special educational needs, so that we can give them tailored support. Our skilled teachers and learning support assistants will support students in class, in small groups or in sessions outside the classroom. Our staff training embraces the practice of "Quality first teaching", so all our students, whatever their starting points are able to make rapid progress.





Principal: Herminder Channa

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