



# Ark Blake Academy

## Applicant Information

**2024**

6 Morland Road, Croydon CR0 6NA

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## Welcome from the Principal

Dear Candidate

Thank you for your interest in Ark Blake Academy. We are a growing and successful academy based in East Croydon. Opened in 2020, we are now consistently over-subscribed in every year group with students currently in Years 7-10. We look forward to our first cohort of students completing their GCSEs in the summer of 2025.

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 grow and look forward to welcoming our fifth year group in September 2024 we are seeking outstanding candidates to join our brilliant team.

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.

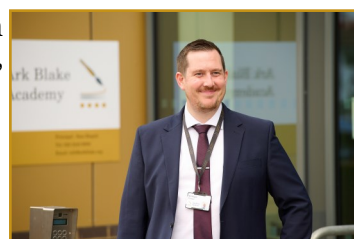
At our recent Monitoring Visit in February, the huge improvement to the Academy since September 2023 was recognised and this is a testament to the hard work put in by staff and students:

- *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*

If you want to further your career and 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](mailto:v.rouse@arkblake.org) or call us on 020 3443 9000.

**Mr Sam Rispoli**  
**Principal**



## What our students say about Ark Blake Academy:

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

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

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

**“No bird soars too high, if they soar with their own wings.”**

## Our Senior Leadership Team

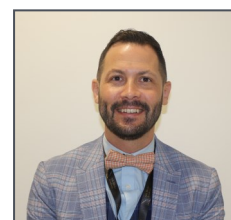
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**Alick Sylvestre**  
Vice Principal  
Curriculum & Standards

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!

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 Careers Teachers to ensure that they meet the Teachers' Standards and fully qualify into the teaching profession.



**Daniel Murphy**  
Vice Principal  
Teaching & Learning



**Myles Preston**  
Vice Principal  
Culture & Ethos

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 trained as a History Teacher but have also taught A-Level Politics and PE at schools in Mitcham and Croydon. 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.

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 children love!



**Lydia Pérez-McMillan**  
Assistant Principal  
Safeguarding & Attendance



**Angela Loudon**  
Assistant Principal  
Inclusion, Wellbeing & Reading

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.



## What our staff 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, Head of PE**

*I joined Ark Blake in 2022 with a background in Psychology and they have already gone above and beyond with helping my development. There is a wide variety of both internal and external training available to help with a number of roles. Ark Blake pride themselves on developing a family ethos among both staff and students which has led to a real connectiveness within the Academy. As we are a relatively new school, the staff and students here are growing together to help the academy develop for the better, and colleagues can't do enough for you here.*

**Alfie, Reading & Mental Health/Wellbeing Officer**

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**

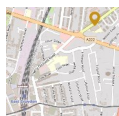
*I began working for Ark Blake at the end of last year, what attracted me to work here is the fact that students are very keen to learn and always willing to improve. There is a caring community where not only learning is the priority but also students and staff work together for the same purpose. The Ark 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, Pastoral/Reflection Room Manager**

## 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 on site 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