



Ark Blake
Academy



Prospectus

2023–24







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Welcome to Ark Blake Academy and thank you for your interest in our school.

We are a growing and successful academy based in East Croydon and opened in September 2020. We are consistently oversubscribed in every year group, and currently have students in Years 7-10. We will continue to grow, and we look forward to our first cohort of students completing their GCSE studies in the summer of 2025.

At Ark Blake Academy, we believe that each of our pupils is born with unique potential for greatness and that they can take responsibility to achieve this. Our mission for the school is to embed a powerful, knowledge-rich curriculum and provide fantastic opportunities for character development, all underpinned by an environment where exemplary behaviour is the norm.

In terms of 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.

We have a wonderful state-of-the-art building, opened in Summer 2020, which means that students are able to flourish in a first-class educational environment. We enjoy welcoming visitors to see our impressive facilities, and invite you to join us at one of our Open Events.

Mr S Rispoli
Principal



Why choose Ark Blake Academy?

“No bird soars too high, if they soar with their own wings.”
William Blake, 1789

Ark Blake provides a positive, calm and purposeful learning environment. Behaviour is respectful and considerate, and our pupils consistently work hard. Through teaching our strongly held Ark Blake values, and each pupil living them out every day, we are creating the confident, independent and successful young people of tomorrow.

To empower our pupils on their journey toward success, we teach a rich curriculum, full of challenges and important knowledge and skills. We want to develop well-rounded, accomplished pupils and so our curriculum is broad and balanced, with the Humanities, Art, Drama, Technology and Sport all being valued in addition to our emphasis on core studies of English, Maths and Science.

Our teaching inspires and challenges our pupils. Ark Blake’s skilled teachers are passionate subject experts, who ensure that the learners in their classroom are supported and are clear on how to improve. We enrich our curriculum and give our pupils abundant opportunities for learning beyond the classroom. These experiences help our pupils develop confidence and interests that will stay with them throughout their education and adult life.

The pastoral care of our pupils is at the heart of our school and each child is known, valued and nurtured as an individual throughout their seven years with us. As members of a form group, year group and one of our Houses, pupils have a strong sense of belonging. A daily emphasis on values and character ensures that our pupils flourish as young people, from Year 7 onwards. Our pupils enjoy school and feel empowered to take responsibility to achieve their best.

Our mission

All our pupils fulfil their unique academic and personal potential. Every pupil lives according to Ark Blake’s values and go on to attend university or follow the rewarding career of their choice.





Our vision

Ark Blake Academy is proud to be an Ark School. Ark is a Charity which transforms lives through education, and which aims to give every child a great education.

Like all Ark schools, the success of Ark Blake Academy will be formed around Six Pillars:

- Exemplary behaviour
- An academic curriculum
- Excellent teaching inspiring high achievement
- Knowing and valuing every pupil
- High expectations in all that we do
- Teachers and pupils are continually learning

At Ark Blake we believe that each of our pupils is born with unique potential for greatness which they can take responsibility to achieve. We believe that by working hard and living according to Ark Blake's values, our pupils can seize greatness, lead lives that bring fulfilment and strengthen their communities.

Ark Blake provides an excellent academic education, built on foundations of our strongly held values. We empower our pupils to take responsibility to 'seize greatness', achieve academic excellence and flourish as knowledgeable, confident, articulate, responsible citizens, who live according to Ark Blake values.



Life as a pupil at Ark Blake Academy



Year 7, 8 and 9 and 10 pupils are currently enjoying the opportunity of being pupils in our wonderful new building. We look forward to welcoming our fifth cohort in September 2024.

In the classroom

Our teachers bring expert subject knowledge, passion, and enthusiasm to the classroom, using highly skilled teaching and assessment methods to inspire their pupils. Our pupils know their strengths and areas for development and really believe that they can be successful. There is a positive, calm and purposeful climate for learning and our lessons are framed with clear and simple routines that make sure the pupils arrive calmly, stay focused and work hard throughout.

Our curriculum

Our curriculum in each subject area is designed to prepare our pupils for the world of work and university study, through A-Level, GCSE and Key Stage 3, and ensures that our pupils are on a pathway to success. As a school we are passionate about our pupils being taught a rich curriculum, full of challenge and important knowledge and skills. Our curriculum also develops skills, character and health and has real breadth. Our curriculum delivers excellence in the full range of subjects in our excellent facilities.

Humanities, art, drama, technology and sport are valued and celebrated in addition to our emphasis on core studies of English, maths and science. In Years 7, 8 and 9 we implement Ark's Key Stage Three Mastery Curriculum Programme which research has shown enables pupils to make excellent progress. In Years 10 and 11, all pupils will study a core of academic subjects at GCSE level including: English, maths, science, history or geography, and a modern foreign language. In addition to this, they will be able to select up to three option subjects in a wide variety of disciplines.

Across our entire curriculum, we place a significant emphasis on reading. We know the vital importance of ensuring that all our pupils can read with fluency and confidence so that they can seize their greatness. At the heart of our tutor time programme are our Reading for Pleasure lessons where we aim to cultivate a love and excitement about reading.



Enrichment

Our wide-ranging enrichment and extracurricular programme allows our pupils to develop their passions and interests, as well as gain in confidence and self-belief. Each pupil will have access to a range of enrichment options each year, including: sport, technology, creative writing, Latin, chess, music, art, drama, debate, finance, coding and languages. A full range of clubs including homework, sports, drama and music are also timetabled.

Regular trips and visits make the most of museums, universities and all the best that London has to offer. There are opportunities to participate in outdoor pursuits to build confidence and leadership skills. Pupils have access to Ark events such as: Shakespeare Schools Festival, debating competitions, maths challenges and sports days. Pupils can also participate in our annual shows, music concerts, the school choir or take up instruments.

Our facilities

Our impressive building and well-located site in Morland Road, Addiscombe has first-class facilities including:

- Four-court sports hall
- Activity studio with sprung floor for dance
- Fitness suite
- 3G pitch on the roof
- Multi use games area on the playground
- Fully kitted out drama studio
- Apple Mac suite for music
- Large music recital room and practice room
- Large dining hall
- Fully stocked library
- Brand new classrooms for all subjects including ICT suites, DT rooms, textiles and three large art rooms



Our values



At Ark Blake our values are strongly-held and central to all that we do. Our school aim reminds us that it is by working hard and living according to Ark Blake's values, that our pupils can seize greatness, lead lives that bring fulfilment and strengthen their communities.

Ark Blake's values are:

- **Bravery:** seize greatness, even if you feel fear
- **Leadership:** positively influence others to seize greatness
- **Aspiration:** aim high and don't accept less than greatness
- **Kindness:** greatness does not come without humility, empathy and generosity
- **Endeavour:** seizing greatness takes time, effort and determination.

Our values are talked about at every opportunity and are the basis for the character traits that we expect our pupils to show. We encourage our pupils to be brave and ready to take the opportunities that life presents. Our pupils are prepared to show leadership, taking the initiative and leading by example. Our pupils are aspirational, aiming high and knowing that high expectations and hard work pay off.

Our pupils are kind in word and deeds, recognising that all are worthy of respect. Our pupils show endeavour, working hard and navigating obstacles in their way while maintaining a positive attitude.

Our school aim also expresses our belief that each of our pupils is born with the unique potential for greatness for which they can take responsibility to achieve. In addition to our five Blake values, we teach our pupils that it is through taking responsibility that they can apply all they have learned to build a fulfilling life and have positive impact on their community and the world.

About Ark



We exist to give every young person, regardless of their background, a great education and real choices in life. We are a network of 39 schools, educating more than 30,000 pupils in areas where we can make the biggest difference.

Find out more:

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