



Ark Alexandra Academy



Ark Alexandra Academy
Prospectus 2021-22



Ark Alexandra Academy

Welcome

from the Chair of Governors

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to lead the Local Governing Body and on behalf of the governors I am pleased to introduce this prospectus.

Our school is deeply embedded in two communities; Hastings and the Church of England and I am determined that Ark Alexandra Academy will deliver an excellent education for all our students by providing a supportive and safe environment, through which students will have access to a curriculum that will enable them to follow their choice of career path.

I know that our staff are committed to our Church of England school, its values and vision and through this to the education of the students, their welfare and personal development. We will build on the recent successes of Ark Helenswood and Ark William Parker Academies while respecting the legacy of education in the community we serve.

I hope you find this prospectus useful and we will be delighted to welcome you to Ark Alexandra Academy.



Clifford Smith
Chair of Governors

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



Ark Alexandra Academy

Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

I'm proud to welcome you to Ark Alexandra Academy, where we are committed to providing all our students with an outstanding education.

Ark Alexandra Academy is a Church of England school with strong universal Christian values of Faith, Excellence and Kindness that inform our ethos and culture. Our school has an inclusive admissions policy that welcomes, without preference, students of all faiths and none.

Our purpose is simple and is clear — that we want every child to be able to go to university or into a career of their choice.

We are driven to raise the attainment of all our students in order that they can secure a successful career and future. We are not going to accept mediocre, and instead we shall be striving for and demanding excellence with a no excuses attitude. We truly believe that the potential of our students is boundless and we are intent in securing the highest academic outcomes for your child.



We aspire for our students to also develop essential personal qualities in order that they are compassionate, kind and caring young people who will actively contribute to their local community and beyond. Our goal is that they leave us highly employable and will serve their community well.

Our demand for excellence will be unrelenting and will be evident through our high standards and our high expectations. We want your child to achieve and to demonstrate excellence and we shall be unrelenting to achieve this.

I know you will want the same for your child and I look forward to our successful working partnership where we will work closely to ensure the very best development and success for your child.

I look forward to welcoming you into the Ark Alexandra Academy family.

*Mr I. Collins
Principal*



Our vision

At Ark Alexandra Academy our vision is clear and uncompromising, that we provide an excellent education that enables all our young people to:

- Achieve the highest academic results that provide the best opportunities for their future success.
- Develop the attributes and skills to be both highly employable and to be positive contributors to their community.
- Be creative, emotionally intelligent and physically active young adults in order that they can lead a happy and healthy lifestyle.

To achieve the highest academic results, it requires total commitment and hard work from both staff and students in our Ark Alexandra family — and the full support of our parents.

Our values

Our values underpin our ethos, culture and behaviour. Our students and staff develop and model these universal Christian values:

- **Faith** — with belief and conviction in our purpose, we will be confident in our ability to achieve, persevere when faced with adversity and be reflective in all that we do.
- **Excellence** — with drive and determination we will achieve excellence in everything we do, every day, every lesson – never settling for less.
- **Kindness** — we will be friendly, generous, compassionate and considerate to each other and our community.

We care about the development of the 'whole child' and by instilling and practising these values, our students will become valuable members to our society. Ark Alexandra Academy will enable students and staff to flourish.





Ark Alexandra Academy

Aiming for excellence

Our expectations and standards are high and we have a 'no excuses attitude' as we believe in the potential of every student. We will have clear and well-defined expectations of all our students and we will expect them to adhere to these as stated in our policies and the Student Respect Code. Faith, Excellence and Kindness should inform all our behaviours, interactions and language.

*Faith
Excellence
Kindness*



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Our Curriculum

The Lower school on the Helenswood Campus

Our Lower school students in years 7 and 8 are based on the Helenswood Campus. Our working partnerships with local primary schools ensure that we secure a seamless transition between primary and secondary school, embedding high expectations and standards with curriculum rigour and challenge.

Students will have a form tutor(s) and a Head of Year to support their progress and to care for their welfare. In years 7 and 8, students will have a range of experiences that teaches them about the world of work and why their personal development and academic attainment is so vital to their future success. This will include visits to businesses and universities as well as interactive workshops.

The curriculum for years 7 and 8 will:

- Build on the students' progress and attainment from primary school.
- Be academically rigorous.
- Create articulate, aspirational and confident students enriched by exposure to a range of cultural experiences.
- Embed excellent rituals, routines and disciplined study habits.
- Inspire students to have ambitious goals and develop the courage and resilience to achieve them.
- Demonstrate relevance to the world of work.



“
Our purpose is simple and is clear — that we want every child to be able to go to university or into a career of their choice.
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The Upper school on the William Parker Campus

Our Upper school students in years 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 will be based on the William Parker Campus, where we will extend and build upon the progress achieved in the Lower school. In year 9, students transition to the William Parker Campus where they will begin their subject options alongside the core subjects of English, Mathematics, Science and History and / or Geography. The range of options includes: Triple Science, French, Spanish, Art, Design and Technology, Photography, Drama, PE, Dance, Business Studies, Health and Social Care.

Choices will be informed by their long-term aspirational goals, as well as their personal strengths and interests. Their progress at the Upper school will secure excellent outcomes by:

- Continuing to build on mastery in English, Mathematics and Science whilst securing strong progress and attainment in their chosen subjects.
- Being relentless in building subject knowledge, skills and cultural references through excellent teaching and wider experiences.
- Instilling communication skills so that students are able to present themselves confidently in any situation and write at length with stamina for a variety of different purposes and audiences.
- Developing emotional intelligence that will enable our students to: know how to modify their behaviour according to the context; develop strong interpersonal skills; listen and understand another's point of view; be able to positively challenge and debate that view confidently and knowledgeably.
- Preparing our students to be positive contributors to their communities through a character programme.
- Participating in and following a programme for careers education advice and guidance that is refined for each individual and provides meaningful work-based experiences.
- Learning what success looks like and how to be resilient and patient when faced with challenges.



Culture, ethos and behaviour — the Pastoral System

Ark Alexandra Academy has a strong sense of family. We have dedicated pastoral teams and structures so that we know each student as an individual, recognising their strengths and talents and understanding the support they need to fulfil their potential. The school operates a year group system, led by a Head of Year. This supports excellent attendance, exemplary behaviour, strong progress and attainment, and personal development through careers education and character lessons.

We provide specialist support to students who are high achievers. Alongside the work that is integral to our teaching and provision, we have a strong partnership with Villiers Park who will deliver a programme of mentoring, coaching and preparation for students aspiring to the best universities. We have been exceptionally successful with enabling and supporting students to study at Oxford and Cambridge University and other excellent universities.

We have a dedicated team who will provide specialist support for students with particular learning or emotional needs and we also have a counselling service for referred students. This team will work closely with students and parents to remove barriers to learning and progress.

We provide very high quality Careers Education and Guidance in order that our students have clear goals and ambitions for their career and this includes clear milestones that mark their progress.

Building partnerships with parents is a priority — ensuring that communication is effective and timely. We provide curriculum information evenings to explain what your child will learn and how; termly communication informing you about your child's progress and development; direct contact with teachers through subject parent

evenings and opportunities to engage with the school's progress and development by becoming a member of the Parent Working Group.

We will keep you informed about your child's progress every term and because your role is so critical to your child's success, we have implemented a Parent APP that will allow you access to your child's behaviour and attainment records as well as having updates on attainment and behaviour through our parent contact application MCAS.





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Ark Alexandra Academy 6th Form

Our small, effective and highly successful sixth form offers specialist and high-quality teaching and support for each one of our students. It provides a seamless transition from GCSE into post 16 qualifications in an environment where every student is known as an individual. We are ambitious for all of our students to achieve the best outcomes and progress to a top university or into a career of their choice.

To achieve this, we have:

- High expectations of our students' attendance, hard work and study habits.
- Expert teaching in vocational and academic subjects from teachers who have a proven record of success and who have strong working relationships with their students.
- High quality 1:1 career advice and guidance that supports all students to make informed choices regarding their future and prepares them well for their application to university and the world of work.
- Wider curriculum experiences that include volunteering opportunities within and beyond the school such as certificated coaching qualifications and outdoor and adventurous activities.
- A character programme that continues to support the development of their social, moral, spiritual and cultural understanding.
- The opportunity to apply for a bursary to support their academic studies whilst in the sixth form and for university.

Our students progress to top tier destinations such as Oxford, Cambridge and many other Russell Group Universities.

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At sixth form, students achieved a 100% pass rate (A–E) with 55.1% of students achieving A–B grades.*

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“I’m stunned.
I’m really thankful
for the help from
all my teachers and
Villiers Park.”

Noah Palombo

A*A* A* in Biology,
Chemistry and
Physics, is studying
Natural sciences at
Cambridge University.





Enrichment

It is important that we expose our students to new and different experiences as well as maximise the strengths of our community in the sports and the arts. Students will get an opportunity to participate in a selected activity, such as gardening, animation, Martial Arts and a range of sports. Enrichment activities run both at break times and after school every night of the week. We encourage students to choose varied experiences so that they can broaden their knowledge skills outside the curriculum.

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Ark Alexandra Academy



“I feel proud —
I wasn’t expecting
this. I want to thank
my teachers who have
helped me a lot. They
have always made
the time for me.”

Malina Jitaru

2 x 9s in History
and Spanish,
3 x 8s in English
Literature, Physics
and Geography, 4 x 7s
in English Language,
Maths, Biology and
Photography and
1 x 6 in Chemistry.



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Creativity and sporting excellence

Creativity and sporting excellence have long been at the heart of the Hastings community, and Ark Alexandra Academy offers our students the very best opportunities to engage in sports and the creative arts.

In addition to our high-quality sports facilities, including our Olympic sized athletics track and gymnastics hall, Ark Alexandra Academy also offers scholarships in the arts and sports to continue the proud legacy of Helenswood and William Parker students.

Some of the additional extra-curricular activities we offer include:

- The Duke of Edinburgh award (bronze, silver and gold).
- Combined Cadet Forces — army strand.
- Community support through the church and local charities.
- Extra-curricular clubs that are directly linked to external clubs, for example Hastings Athletic Club, girls' gymnastic and acrobatic club and other local sporting clubs.

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Admissions

Ark Alexandra is a non-selective 11–18 co-educational academy. Applications for admission must be made on East Sussex County Council's Common Application Form. Please visit www.eastsussex.gov.uk/educationandlearning/schools/admissions/apply/ for more information.



“Just work hard and be ambitious. It doesn't matter where you come from as long as you put the effort in you can achieve anything.”

Riyadh Ul-Hoque

3 x 9s in History, Sociology and RE;
5 x 8s in Maths, English Language, Biology, Physics and Spanish and 2 x 7s in English Literature and Chemistry.





Ark Alexandra Academy

10%
increase

in students achieving
the higher grades

Ark William Parker Academy's GCSE results have shown a marked improvement with a 12% increase taking them to 59% for 4+ English and Maths (the national benchmark).

59%

for 4+ English
and Maths



67%

for 4+ English
and Maths

Ark Helenswood Academy, highest performing school in Hastings, sustained 67% for 4+ English and Maths, with 49% of students achieving the higher grades.

49%

of students achieving
the higher grades



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Get in touch



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