



Ark Burlington Danes Academy

Press Release

For immediate release

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Ark Burlington Danes Academy awarded Gold Club status for exceptional educational achievements

Ark Burlington Danes Academy in Hammersmith and Fulham has been awarded Gold Club status under a scheme set up by the Mayor of London Boris Johnson to recognise exceptional schools in the capital. The Gold Club is part of the Mayor's drive to boost standards and raise attainment for all schoolchildren wherever they live in the capital and regardless of background.

London's schools continue to outperform the rest of the country with last year's GCSE results showing the city as the top English region for the sixth consecutive year.

In highlighting and celebrating schools that are 'bucking the trend', especially those that have pupils with previously low attainment, the aim is to inspire even more

schools in London to strive for similar academic success and offer them the chance to learn from the Gold Club schools.

Ark Burlington Danes Academy has been awarded Gold Club status, because of its unique ethos, where every student counts, every lesson matters and its belief that that great schools can do more than achieve excellent grades; they build and enrich lives.

Michael Ribton, Principal, said: *“As an award-winning member of the London School’s Gold Club, we are committed, not only to improving the life chances of our students at Ark Burlington Danes Academy, but also helping other schools to do the same. Part of our work as a Gold Club member is to offer training and support to other schools, both inside and outside the network, taking the best aspects of our practice and sharing it with colleagues. We, in turn, learn from others to continue to review and improve what we do to ensure our students receive the very best educational opportunities.”*

The Mayor of London Boris Johnson commented: 'Congratulations to Ark Burlington Danes Academy for its outstanding achievements and for the hard work of its pupils and teaching staff. London schools are going from strength to strength and our Gold Club members are testament to the fact all schools can aspire to attain excellence for all their pupils, whatever their circumstances. The Gold Club is a great platform for schools to share their bright ideas and approaches to enable every one of their pupils to achieve terrific results.'

113 schools have been awarded Gold Club status in 2015, the third year the scheme. They are being asked to share their good practice through seminars and hosting visits to their school so that other schools can learn from a range of approaches that have delivered success and achieved extraordinary performance of their pupils.

Photograph Caption:

John Dunford OBE (left) presenting London Schools’ Gold Award to Mark Pritchard (right), Assistant Principal, Ark Burlington Danes Academy, at an Awards Ceremony at City Hall on Friday 25th September 2015



Notes to editors

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- Gold Club members are schools that have 'bucked the trend' by achieving exceptional outcomes for all their pupils, whatever their circumstances. Funded by the Mayor, the school to school learning programme allows all schools across London to learn from the good practice of Gold Club schools in improving pupils' aspirations and achievements. It's a free opportunity to find out what Gold Club schools are doing to make a difference for their pupils and how they're doing it. The new 2015/16 school year programme will be published for the start of October.
- Seven per cent of London primary and secondary schools are eligible to be Gold Club members. The Gold Club scheme aims to identify the best schools in London by its criteria and member schools across inner and outer London are listed at: <http://londonschoolsgoldclub.org.uk/gold-club-members-201516> .
- Gold Club membership for 2015-16 is based on schools' pupil results in summer 2014. In 2014 London was the top performing region for the two main attainment measures, 5+ A*-C including English and maths (5 percentage points higher than nationally) and the English Baccalaureate (6 percentage points higher than nationally). London pupils' performance and progress at key stages 2 and 4, on which the Gold Club is based, continues to exceed the national average. This is especially the case with the results of pupils from more disadvantaged backgrounds. In terms of its pupils achieving the expected progress between key stage 2 and key stage 4, London exceeds the levels found nationally for both English (by 7 percentage points) and Maths (by 6 percentage points).

- For more information about the Mayor's Gold Club programme for schools go to www.londonschoolsgoldclub.org.uk.
- The Gold Club was one of the main recommendations to come out of the Mayor's Education Inquiry in 2011-12, in order to promote excellent teaching in all London schools. The [2015-16 action plan for the Mayor's education and youth programme](#) sets out progress in delivering the Mayor's key priorities including the London Schools Excellence Fund, London Schools Gold Club, the London Curriculum and a unit to help groups find sites for free schools (www.london.gov.uk/priorities/schools-and-education).
- For more information, please contact Sarah Dolly on 020 7983 4066 / communitydesk@london.gov.uk.

About Ark Burlington Danes Academy

A 'comprehensive grammar' in the heart of White City, London, Ark Burlington Danes Academy proves that great schools can do more than achieve excellent grades; they build and enrich lives. The academy has rightly earned a national reputation for giving its students an outstanding start in life. Its stunning success is a collaborative effort with both the ARK Schools network and the Church of England.

Every student matters. Every lesson counts. Formal, scholarly and courteous; sport and creativity flourish and are actively encouraged. A Christian community, the academy believes in *no excuses*. No matter your background, circumstances or ability, you *will* succeed. Manners and courtesy are profoundly important.

The significant rise in results, both at GCSE and A level, underpins the academy's success. Indeed, data interrogation is a major strength. Staff know with pinpoint precision the progress of their groups. The school's thorough models of intervention are equally as precise.

An overwhelming proportion of BDA Sixth Form students who apply to Russell and 1994 Group universities go on to achieve places. Offering over 20 different courses, the sixth form provides a diverse and expansive education, with an emphasis on independent study. A key part of the wider school community, it retains a rich and vibrant identity of its own.

The academy adopts a 'tough love' approach, where each individual is clear about what it takes to achieve. This is not to say that it is all about results; developing character matters as well as academic success. Of course, the two come hand-in-hand.

In November 2013 Ark Burlington Danes Academy was inspected by Ofsted and judged 'outstanding' in all four categories. *"The mission to provide the very best education for every pupil ... has become a reality in this outstanding academy."* (Ofsted 2013). Far from viewing this as the end of the journey, the academy is now seeking 'Teaching School' status and has become a 'Leading Edge School'. In 2015 an on-site two form primary school opened. The academy is now an all through school

Both the academy and the Ofsted report appreciate that the remarkable turnaround of a school in 'special measures' in 2006 is thanks to an impressive collective will-power. An amazing team of staff consistently rise to the challenge of teaching outstanding lessons: *"The commitment of all staff in this academy to the continuous improvement of teaching and learning is exceptional. They ... learn from each other."* (Ofsted).

Governors actively support learning and pupils take great pride in their school. Ofsted noted 'overwhelmingly positive' student feedback: *"Learning is brilliant at this school (Year 8), and Teachers really support us to meet our ambitious targets (Year 11), and We are given so many opportunities to really prepare us for the best universities (Year 13)"*.

The SLT provides drive, focus and direction to help both staff and students flourish. We do not accept excuses for underachievement. Our aim is to make Ark Burlington Danes not just outstanding but exceptional.

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