



# Ark Burlington Danes Academy

## Press Release

For immediate release

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**30<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

## **Students at Ark Burlington Danes Academy donate to School in a Bag**

Students at Ark Burlington Danes Academy in Hammersmith and Fulham raised £609.96 for charity and the Student Council voted to donate it to School in a Bag.

Students raised money by holding a Cultural Gala for the local community and by holding a 'Colours of the Flag' day, where students dressed in the colours of the flag that represents their background. These events were intended to celebrate students' diversity and foster a sense of community as well as raise money for a good cause.

The Student Council, made up of representatives from every class at Ark Burlington Danes Academy, met and voted for the money to be donated to School in a Bag, a charity proposed by a student in the sixth form. On Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November, representatives from the Student Council welcomed Lis Foy, School Liaison Officer for the charity, to Ark Burlington Danes Academy and presented her

with a cheque. Students also helped to pack bags that will be sent to students around the world who might not get the chance to go to school.

School in a Bag is an initiative run by the Piers Simon Appeal (charity no: 1109503). The concept of School in a Bag was born in late 2009 following a collaboration project to send SchoolBags to orphan children in Swaziland, Africa.

School in a Bag is a simple solution created to help poor, orphan, vulnerable and disaster affected children throughout the world. Each SchoolBag is filled with stationery equipment and resources that will enable a child to write, draw, colour, calculate, express themselves and above all learn. Each SchoolBag delivered to a child will give hope to his or her future and has the potential to transform their lives.

Yasmin, a student in Year 12 at the school, said: *"It makes me very happy to know that I am helping those less fortunate than me. It warms my heart to know that we have helped to give children the chance to have an education."*

Ayan, a student also in Year 12, said *"It's amazing how such a small bag can make such a big difference."*

Lis Foy, School Liaison Officer at School in a Bag, said, *"Thank you very much to everyone at Ark Burlington Danes for inviting me to visit your school and letting me tell you about our charity School in a Bag. It was lovely to meet positive young people who are committed to making a difference to the world around them. The cheque for £609.96 will fund 40 SchoolBags, which will be sent to children abroad. I came away from the school with a lovely warm glow and I am looking forward to working with the students and staff in the future."*

PHOTOS BELOW

**Photograph Caption:**

Students from the Student Council from Ark Burlington Danes Academy and Principal Michael Ribton present a cheque to Lis Foy, School Liaison Officer at School in a Bag, on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015.



Students from the Student Council from Ark Burlington Danes Academy help to pack School Bags that will be sent to disadvantaged students around the world.



#### Notes to editors

For more information regarding School in a Bag, please see the website:  
<http://schoolinabag.org/>

#### **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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