



Ark Burlington Danes Academy

Tuesday 2nd March 2021

Dear parent/carer,

I am writing to welcome you to Burlington Danes Academy. I am delighted to hear that your child has been offered a place at Ark Burlington Danes for September 2021. We are so pleased that you have chosen our school for your family.

Your child will be joining us at an exciting time in the Academy's future:

- We are proud to be the **most improved school in Hammersmith and Fulham**, attaining a **10% improvement in our GCSE outcomes in the past two years in a row**.
- Last year, we achieved **our highest GCSE results since 2014**.
- In the sixth form, **more than 40% of our students went on to Russell group universities**, a statistic higher than most private schools.

We are delighted with the improvements that we have made over the last few years and are confident that our results are only going to improve in the years ahead.

As you will know, Ark Burlington Danes Academy has state of the art facilities for all subjects, particularly in sport, science and the creative arts. All of our teachers are highly academic subject specialists who know how to deliver the best for our students. As well as being experts in their subjects, our teachers are always willing to give that bit extra for our students to ensure they succeed.

We are driven in all that we do by our school vision. At Ark Burlington Danes Academy, we believe that everyone deserves to be accepted, included and empowered to live a life that is purposeful and fulfilling. Through learning to our fullest potential and living a life filled with kindness and thankfulness, we can be the ones to make the world a better place.

Our vision is demonstrated through our four values, **Aim High, Be Brave, Be Kind, Keep Learning**. We have been demonstrating all of these values while supporting our families through lockdown over the last year:

- **Aim High:** at BDA, we aimed high in our ambitions for student learning in lockdown. While other schools struggled to engage students, we distributed more than 600 chromebooks and delivered our full timetable live on Teams, making sure that every student could access every lesson every day.
- **Be Brave:** we didn't let lockdown hold us back from discussing many brave topics during lockdown: we debated the riots at the Capitol Washington DC, challenged cyberbullying and trolling online, celebrated LGBT history month and participated in Children's Mental Health Week, encouraging our students to reflect on their own wellbeing and how to take care of each other during this difficult time.
- **Be Kind:** we didn't just look after our students academically during lockdown. We also prioritised pastoral care. Every student received a weekly call from tutors during lockdown to check on their wellbeing. We also worked hard as a community to fundraise to set up a food bank, raising £17,500 over the past year which enabled us to distribute generous amounts of food to over 10% of our families.
- **Keep Learning:** we didn't let lockdown stop us from learning as much as we could. We are proud that our students maintained excellent attendance throughout lockdown, with 95% of our students attending live lessons every day, some of the highest attendance in Hammersmith and Fulham.

Ark Burlington Danes Academy

Wood Lane London W12 0HR

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burlingtondanes.org



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While the present government advice around social distancing and self-isolation is in place, it means that our usual induction and transition will have to be different this year. We will, however, do everything we can to get you and your child ready to start with us this September.

Here are some of the many ways in which we will support your child with their transition to secondary school in March:

- We have set up a **dedicated webpage** that will provide all the latest information on your child's transition. Please visit www.burlingtondanes.org/secondary/transition for more information. You can also look forward to lots of emails with more information from us.
- We are glad to offer a **New Parent Information Event** on **Thursday 11th March** at **5:30pm** live on Teams, where you can hear directly from our Principal and other key staff about what we can offer your child and ask any questions that you may have. This event can be accessed from our webpage and more details will be emailed to you closer to the time.
- **Taster lessons** will be available on our website very soon so that your child can sample life in the Year 7 classroom and take part in some fun and engaging activities across the curriculum.
- All families will receive a **welcome phone call from a member of our staff team** before Easter to gather more information from the person who knows your child best – you – about how we can best support your child academically and pastorally in preparation for September.

In addition, in recognition of how challenging the last year has been for many families, we are also **providing every child who joins our Year 7 cohort in September with a FREE blazer, school bag and chromebook** to ensure that they are ready for learning.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact transition@burlingtondanes.org with any queries or concerns and one of our dedicated transition team will get back to you as soon as possible.

I am confident that your child will be safe, happy and successful at Burlington Danes for the duration of their school education. I look forward to getting to know you and your child over the coming months and years and to welcoming you and your family to our school community.

I would be grateful if you would confirm that you are accepting our offer of a place at the academy by returning the attached form in the pre-labelled envelope as soon as possible. This is the first stage of the process and brings your child one step further along their exciting journey to secondary school.

Please also confirm with your Local Authority that you will be accepting this place at Ark Burlington Danes Academy.

I look forward to welcoming you to our school. I will do everything in my power to ensure that you and your child feel well supported during this exciting transition period between primary and secondary school.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Bhatia

Principal

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PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN TO:

Ms Rees, Ark Burlington Danes Academy, Wood Lane W12 OHR

Full Name of Child (IN CAPITALS): _____

Child's Date of Birth: _____

I **accept / do not accept** a place at Ark Burlington Danes Academy (Please delete as appropriate)

Child's Current Primary School: _____

Name(s) of Parent(s)/Carer(s) (IN CAPITALS):

Relationship to child: (please circle response) **Mother / Father**
Other (give details) _____

Address: _____

Post Code: _____

Telephone Numbers:

Mother: Home _____

Work _____ Mobile _____

Email: _____

Father: Home _____

Work _____ Mobile _____

Email: _____

Further information about your child's transition will follow once we have received your confirmation.

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