October 2025

Parent Newsletter

WELCOME Mr. PARKER

We're delighted to announce the addition of a new member to our teaching team. Please welcome **Christopher Parker**, who joins The Ark Christian School in September to teach **ICT in KS3 and Physics in Sixth Form.** His focus is on active learning in these subjects. We're confident his enthusiasm and commitment will significantly contribute to our students' academic and personal development. We extend **a warm welcome and wish him great success in this new chapter!**

And Miss HEATHER

It is a pleasure to introduce **Heather Widdison** offering her time and heart to accompany our students and their families in their emotional and spiritual well-being.
Heather Widdison feels a deep calling to servethrough faith in Jesus Christ, providing emotional support and Christian guidance to those in need. Her desire is to be a close presence, someone with whom students and families can speak openly, whether to learn how to manage their emotions, seek advice, or resolve questions about their faith.
With an **attitude of listening, respect, and love, Heather Widdison** is available at the Ark ensuring that our school continues to be a place where everyone feels welcomed, understood, and strengthened in their walk with God.
We are grateful for her willingness to serve and for her commitment to the Christian values we share.
Miss Heather's available at school on **Mondays & Thursdays** if you'd like to talk in person or if you prefer to reach out privately, you can email at **missheather@thearkchristianschool.org**

OUR GRADUATES THEN AND NOW

Taking a walk back in time, we remember the many students who once walked the halls of The Ark Christian School—young learners filled with dreams and determination. Today, those same students have grown into men and women living the very futures they worked so hard to prepare for.

Among our graduates are **Robbie and Ricky Hard**, who, upon completing their studies at The Ark, went on to serve their country by enlisting in **the British Army**. Others chose to follow the path of education—**Yasmine Edward and Olivia Stanford** are now dedicated teachers, inspiring the next generation, while Shannon Megeary has returned to share her gifts with us as a teacher at The Ark itself.

We also celebrate the achievements of **Bradley Marks**, who proudly earned his wings as a pilot this September, and **Leila Dixon**, whose lifelong love for animals has led her to a fulfilling career as a biologist.

Looking a little further back, we find **Ramy Abousetta,** now a talented journalist, and his former classmate **Noah Mouritze**, who has pursued a creative path as a screenwriter. We are equally proud of **Jade Abbasciano**, working with **the British Council** in the United Kingdom, and **Janinne Pringle,** who has established herself as an artist in the United States.

Our more recent graduates are also making their mark in higher education. **Nayra Vegas** is studying Social Education at the University of Granada; **Margaret Mourzekova** is pursuing Chemical Engineering at the University of Malaga; and **Miriam Vázquez** is deepening her passion for language through an English Studies degree.

On a more personal note, many of our former students have started families of their own. Among them is **Charlene Smith,** whose young son now attends The Ark —continuing the beautiful legacy of faith, learning, and community that has always defined our school.

At The Ark Christian School, we are reminded through their successes that education is not just about lessons learned in the classroom—it's about shaping hearts, nurturing character, and preparing our students to make a difference in the world.

Church dates for your diary

Sunday 7th December:
Christmas Perfomance at the Ark Church at 11.00 am

Sunday 14th December:
Carol service at the Ark Church at 7.00 pm

Bible Story

Esther – From Ordinary to Courageous
(Esther 1–10)

A story of **bravery, faith, and purpose**

Esther was a young **Jewish** woman living in Persia, raised by her cousin Mordecai after losing her parents. She was known for her kindness, wisdom, and gentle spirit—qualities that would soon change the course of history. When King Xerxes sought a new queen, **Esther** was chosen from many candidates, not only for her beauty but for her character. As queen, she **initially kept her Jewish identity a secret,** following Mordecai's careful advice.

Life took a dangerous turn when Haman, a powerful advisor to the king, devised a cruel plan to destroy all the Jewish people in the kingdom. Mordecai learned of the plot and sent word to **Esther**, urging her to speak to the king and plead for her people. But approaching the king without being summoned was forbidden —**and could have cost her life.**

After three days of fasting and prayer, Esther bravely decided to act. She said: **"If I perish, I perish." (Esther 4:16)**

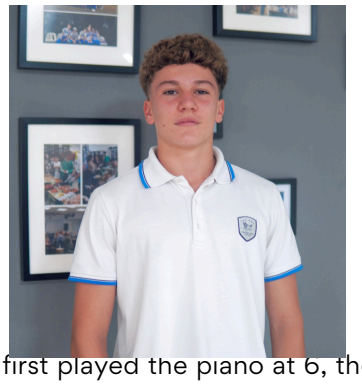
Esther invited the king and Haman to a series of banquets, carefully revealing Haman's evil plot at the right moment. The king was outraged, Haman was punished, and the Jewish people were saved. Esther's courage, wisdom, and faith had made all the difference.

What We Learn from Esther's Story
*Be brave and trust God, even when facing great risks.
*Stand up for what is right, especially when others cannot defend themselves.

Faith, courage, and wisdom together can change the course of history.

Get to know

This month we'd like to talk about **Miss Elena,** our wonderful **Year 2** teacher.
Miss Elena was born on March 27, 1981, in **Kyiv, Ukraine.** After living for a short time in England, she eventually settled here in Spain. She's been teaching for **16 years**, and she's been at The Ark Christian School since the very beginning — that's real dedication!
Before joining The Ark, **Miss Elena** worked at a language school, gave private classes, took part in a theatre group, and even finished Bible School in the UK. She studied at **Kyiv National Linguistic University**, which explains her love of languages and literature.
When asked what inspired her to become a teacher, **Miss Elena** wrote with a twinkle of humor: "Long holidays." 😊
Then she added, "Putting jokes aside, it's great to see young minds grow."
That's exactly the kind of answer you'd expect from her — funny, but full of heart.
Miss Elena is happily married, has two lovely children, and a "naughty dog" that keeps her busy. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family and friends, watching a good thriller, and reading. She's passionate about literature, especially the classics, and she encourages her students (and her own kids) to develop a love for reading.
Her mornings sound peaceful and full of purpose. She wakes up between 5:30 and 6 a.m., walks her dog, has breakfast, and says her prayers — a calm and faithful start to the day before the whirlwind of Year 2 begins.
When it comes to teaching, **Miss Elena** believes the most important thing is to motivate children and help them learn to be responsible and respectful. She integrates Christian values into her lessons through morning devotions, teaching children t**o love, forgive, and respect one another.**
"But the most important lesson I try to share with them," she adds, "is to respect their parents."
Her most memorable moment at The Ark was attending the graduation of two of her first students, Freddie and David — a proud and touching reminder of how much teachers shape their students' futures.



Aris Sánchez Rahbari (Year 10) is currently in his first year of IGCSEs. He admits it's **"very difficult"** but says he enjoys the chance to choose his own subjects — Business, Travel & Tourism, and Geography. His curiosity about the world and different cultures made those choices easy.
Outside the classroom, Aris is a talented musician and athlete. He recently earned his **Rockschool Certificate** for drums — an achievement that took years of dedication. He first played the piano at 6, then guitar at 7, and finally found his passion at 10 when he picked up the drums.
"I realised it was what I loved," he says. **Aris** says he couldn't have achieved so much without the people who inspired him. **Mr. Yamandú** helped him discover music in a fun, creative way, while **Pablo**, his drumming teacher, encouraged him to practise and improve. Together, they taught him that discipline and joy can go hand in hand.
At school, **Aris's favourite subject is PE,** which perfectly fits his passion for sports and rugby. With his South African roots, rugby truly runs in the family — and after seven years of playing, Aris proudly **won the Spanish Championship with the Andalusian team.**
He's also thankful for teachers who have guided him, especially **Mr. Gore,** whose happiness and encouragement always lift his spirits.
When it comes to inspiration, Aris immediately mentions his grandmother **Vanya**, whose kindness, strength, and hard work motivate him every day.
From the rugby field to the drum set, Aris puts his whole heart into everything he does.

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