



7th September, 2011

Dear Parent or Carer,

Welcome back to St. Mark's Church of England Academy or if it is your first time with us then a warm welcome to our community. I hope that the summer holidays were good for you and your family and that your son or daughter had a good first day of the new Academy year.

I am writing to let you know some good news regarding St. Mark's. Our exam results were almost double what they were last year!

- 44% of the young people in Year 11 achieved 5A*-C grades including English and Maths
- 88% of the young people achieved 5A*-C grades overall

We are very pleased with these results and especially the second figure which is one of the highest in Merton. We are also pleased that after disappointing results in previous years we have made such an improvement. Congratulations are due to the young people, their parents and families and the staff at the Academy.

I hope that these results give you even more confidence in the way that the Academy is improving. It is our aim, of course, to continue this improvement so that every student gets the best possible start in their adult life.

I'd like to take this opportunity to make you aware of some key dates.

Tuesday 13th September is our Open Evening where we invite parents considering choosing the Academy for their sons or daughters. Because of this event and the need to prepare for it the Academy will close early. Students will be **dismissed at 1.25pm** at the end of period 5. If this causes any problems for you in terms of supervision of your son or daughter then please let us know and we will arrange supervision – please write a note in your child's planner and ask them to show it to their Coach.

Friday October 21st is our next Training day and no student attendance is required on that day. This is the Friday before the half term break.

The half term break is from **Monday 24th October** until **Friday 28th October**.

We break up for the Christmas holidays on **Friday 16th December**.

I always welcome meeting with parents at any time. I know that many parents work and these days can work some very unusual hours. I am very happy to meet very early in the morning if that is helpful and on Wednesday evenings the Academy is open late and I am always available for a "surgery" until 7pm. If you would like to meet with me please contact Carol Low at the Academy and she will arrange this.

We have also arranged some coffee mornings where you can meet with me and also with our Academy Chaplain. The dates for these are:

Wednesday 5 th October, 2011	11.30 – 12.30pm
Wednesday 30 th November, 2011	11.30 – 12.30pm
Wednesday 25 th January, 2012	11.30 – 12.30pm
Wednesday 7 th March, 2012	11.30 – 12.30pm
Wednesday 16 th May, 2012	11.30 – 12.30pm
Wednesday 27 th June, 2012	11.30 – 12.30pm

Again, please contact Carol Low if you would like to come along. These are a good opportunity to discuss more general issues in the Academy and also meet a few other parents who may have similar questions or concerns.

I think that St. Mark's is on the "up and up" and I really hope that you do too! I hope that your son or daughter is happy at the Academy and that you feel that we are doing the best for them.

Yours faithfully,



Chris Mallaband
Academy Principal