

Dear Parents/Carers,

18 July 2019

I am writing to you at the end of this incredibly successful and busy Academic year. Can I take this opportunity to thank you for all the support that you have given the Academy and to your daughter or son over the last year. We are delighted with all the achievements we have celebrated this year and hope you will enjoy reading about them all in the end of year newsletter. I am extremely pleased to be able to announce that we are increasing our staffing to meet the needs of a full year 7 cohort.

End of Term Arrangements

The academic year ends on Friday 19 July and we will dismiss students early – from approximately **12pm onwards**. All students will be off the Academy site by 12.15pm and are expected to make their way home promptly. This will then allow staff to meet together, say farewell to colleagues who are leaving and ensure that we are prepared for the new academic year in September. Please note the canteen will be open at break time only on Friday 19 July.

On the last day, students should attend as normal in full school uniform, fully equipped for learning.

Start of the New Academic Year

The new academic year will start for Year 7 & Year 12 only on **Tuesday 3 September**.

- New Year 7 students should be in the Academy by 8.25am and report to the main school hall when they arrive for the start of a welcome assembly
- Year 12 students should report to the 6th Form Common Room at 8.25am
- The new academic year will start for Years 8, 9, 10, 11, and 13 on **Wednesday 4 September at 8.25am**.

Term and Holiday Dates 2019/20

Tuesday 3 September 2019 Start of Autumn Term	Year 7 & Year 12 students only arrival time of 8.25am
Wednesday 4 September 2019	All students return at the normal time of 8.25am
Thursday 3 October 2019 Open Evening	Open Evening - 5pm to 7.30pm School will close early at 12.40pm on Thursday 3 October On Friday 4 October school will start at the later time of 9.40am (P2)
Open Mornings	School will be open for visitors from 9.00 to 10.30am on the following Wednesday mornings; 9, 16 and 30 October
Half Term	Monday 21 October to Friday 25 October 2019
End of Autumn Term	Wednesday 18 December 2019 – 12.00pm dismissal for students
Start of Spring Term	Monday 6 January 2020 at 8.25am
Half Term	Monday 17 February to Friday 21 February 2020
End of Spring Term	Friday 3 April 2020 – 12.00pm dismissal for students
Start of Summer Term	Monday 20 April 2020 at 8.25am
Bank Holiday (School Closed)	Friday 8 May 2020

Principal Lisa Peterkin

Half Term	Monday 25 May to Friday 29 May 2020
End of Summer Term	Friday 17 July 2020 – 12.00pm dismissal for students

INSET Days

Monday 2 September 2019, Thursday 19 December 2019, Monday 20 January 2020, Monday 20 July & Tuesday 21 July 2020

Senior Leadership Updates

Olivia Page – Associate Principal - Will be going on Maternity Leave in August
Dionne Jude – Vice Principal – moving to two days per week
Gifty Ghansah – will be joining the leadership team as Vice Principal
Rachel Sewell – will be joining the leadership team as Vice Principal

Leaving the Academy

It is the end of the Academy year and some staff are moving on to new jobs. We thank them for the contribution that they have made to St Mark's and wish them well in the future. The following staff are leaving:

Matthew Irvin – Teacher in charge of Art
Cecilia De Kock- Teacher of English / Year 9 Progress Leader
Ahshanul Asfaque – Teacher of Maths
Michal Valente – Teacher of Science
Forough Basirat – Head of Geography
Matthew Scrimshaw – Head of MFL
Charlotte Lawrence - Teacher of English / 2nd in charge
Olutoyin Daramola - Teacher of ICT/ Year 7 Progress Leader
Harriet Lewis – Teacher of English
Alfred Mapososa – Teacher of Maths

Staff Joining the Academy

I am really pleased to say that we are fully staffed for September and have recruited outstanding staff. The following colleagues will be joining St Mark's in September:

Chole Wedllake - Teacher of Music
Beth Lanham - Teacher of English
Charlotte Trim - Teacher of D & T
Isabelle Schaffner - Teacher of Science
Leona Hopwood - Teacher of Science
Katherine Zawadzki - Teacher of Art & Design
Alicia Wignal - Teacher of English
Anna Elgar – Teacher of English in charge of English across the Curriculum Lead
Adam Hansen - Teacher of Geography / Head of Geography
Lazarina Kuchkova - Teacher of ICT / Computer Science
Tom Gallighan - Teacher Science
Simon Hunt - Teacher of English
Lily Hart Dyke - Teacher of MFL Spanish & French
Yasmin Knox - Teacher of PSHE
Emma Hill - Facilities Manager
Catherine Fitz Gerald – Head of Creative Arts
Cheryl Giddy – Business Assistant
Tracey Roberts – Business Assistant
Aima Ahmad – Data & Examinations Assistant

The Summer Holidays

It is, as ever, a long break from school and can I ask you to ensure that you do know what your son or daughter is doing at all times and that they are safe during the holiday period. We are mindful that there is often a 'dip' in student performance following the long break. We would anticipate that you support your son or daughter in studying independently over the summer so they are poised to make rapid progress in the new academic year, please ask your child to use show my homework platform as staff have added summer homework.

Good luck to Year 11 and Sixth Form students

Two sets of students will be nervously waiting on examination results and we wish them all every success. We are hoping that the examination results will again show an improvement over last year. We receive the GCSE results on Thursday 22 August so please look out for news in the local press and on our website. Post 16 results will be released on Thursday 15 August.

Maintaining High Expectations

Our values of Love, Hope and Trust permeate across all that we do.

St Mark's already live up to very high standards. We believe that the way that we behave towards each other and the way that we display a shared commitment to high expectations will have a profound effect on learning in the Academy. We would be grateful of your support over summer to ensure all our young people are able to return to the Academy as polite and respectful learners able to manage their own performance. In order to maintain our standards and expectations, students will not be permitted to socialise in groups of more than five during unstructured times – i.e. during break or lunchtimes.

Attendance at the Academy continues to be an area of focus as the link between attendance and achievement in schools is absolutely clear. At the Academy we expect all students to attend every day as we know there is a strong link between academic performance and attendance of students. We will be monitoring the attendance of any student that fall below 100% in 2019/20. Please note that any unauthorised absence may lead to sanctions or further action in partnership with the London Borough of Merton.

We expect all students to arrive to the Academy each day by 8.25am, fully equipped to learn. We expect all students to have a school bag and all appropriate equipment, every day. Full uniform is a requirement – any student not wearing full and correct St Mark's uniform will not be permitted to access mainstream lessons. For the avoidance of doubt, the uniform code is listed below.

Please note:

- Visible makeup is not permitted e.g. lip gloss, mascara, eye shadow.
- Nail varnish is not permitted. Nail extensions or decorations are not permitted on health and safety grounds.
- No jewellery except for a wristwatch and one pair of plain stud earrings are permitted. No facial piercings are permitted.
- Mobile phones, mp3 players, portable gaming devices or tablets are not permitted on site.

Uniform code

Can I ask you to ensure that all aspects of your son or daughter's uniform are in place for the start of the new academic year, including full PE Kit.

Item	Description	Further information
Blazer	St Mark's Academy blazer	To be worn with sleeves at full length and with original buttons.
Trousers	Grey or black tailored trousers	No denim, lycra or decorations. To be worn full-length.
Belt	Plain black	No oversized buckles.
Skirt	Black, formal style, knee or calf length	To be demure and not shorter than knee length.

Shirt	Plain white traditional school shirt	To be tucked in at the waist, with sleeves worn at full length and securely buttoned to the neck. No fitted blouses. Logos or designs from undergarments not to be visible.
Tie	Year colour	To be worn with a closed knot at the collar with the logo visible beneath the knot. Clip-on ties to be worn securely over a fastened top button.
Jumper	St Mark's jumper	Optional. No other tops or hoodies are permitted on site.
Tights	Plain black	No fishnets or patterned tights.
Socks	Plain black or white	No other colours or patterns.
Shoes	Plain black, polished leather shoes suitable for office wear.	Plain black leather upper, stitching and sole. No coloured laces or stitching. No fabric shoes. No suede shoes. No trainers. No hiking boots. No boots above ankle height.
Coat	Sensible outdoor coat	Year 7 to wear plain black only. Plain black is preferred for all other years. To be worn outside only.
Bag	School bag	Plain black is preferred. Must be large enough to carry usual range of books, planner and equipment. No carrier bags, handbags or pouches.
Hat	No hats permitted on site at any time	Caps are not allowed
Scarf	Plain black only	Only headscarves worn for religious reasons are permitted in the buildings.

A new name for CfBT Schools Trust

We are delighted to announce that on the 2 July 2019, our multi-academy trust CfBT Schools Trust changed its name to **Anthem Schools Trust**. The Trust will unveil its Anthem branding with the launch of a new website in September.

The Trust has rebranded to reflect the significant changes that have taken place within the organisation over the past few years and has chosen the name Anthem to represent our unity of purpose for all 16 Trust schools. We are many voices, but one Anthem.

Commenting on the name change, Chief Executive Andy Yarrow said: "I am hugely excited by our new name and the message it conveys about our shared vision and passion for high-quality education across our diverse family of schools as well as the new phase that we have entered on our journey to become a high-performing, collaborative organisation."

Wishing all students and parent/carers a relaxing and enjoyable summer break and we look forward to welcoming students back to the Academy in September.

Yours faithfully,



Lisa Peterkin
Principal