

17 July 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to you at the end of the Academy year. Can I take this opportunity to thank you for all the support that you have given the Academy and your son or daughter over the last year.

End of Term Arrangements

The academic year ends on Friday 21 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.

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 only on **Monday 4 September**.

- New Year 7 students should be in the Academy by 8.30am and report to the main school hall when they arrive for the start of a welcome assembly.
- The new academic year will start for Years 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 on **Tuesday 5 September at 8.30am**.

Term and Holiday Dates 2017/18

Monday 4 September 2017 Start of Autumn Term	Year 7 students only arrival time of 8.30am
Tuesday 5 September 2017	All students return at the normal time of 8.30am
Thursday 14 September 2017 Open Evening	Open Evening - 5pm to 7.30pm School will close early at 12.40pm. On Friday 15 September school will start at the later time of 9.40am
Open Mornings	School will be open for visitors from 9.00 to 10.30am on the following Wednesday mornings; 20 and 27 September and 4, 11 & 18 October
Half Term	Monday 23 October to Friday 27 October 2017
End of Autumn Term	Friday 15 December 2017
Start of Spring Term	Wednesday 3 January 2018
Half Term	Monday 12 February to Friday 16 February 2018
End of Spring Term	Thursday 29 March 2018
Start of Summer Term	Monday 16 April 2018
Half Term	Monday 28 May to Friday 1 June 2018
End of Summer Term	Friday 20 July 2018

I would like to take the opportunity to remind parents that the timings of the Academy day will be 8:30am to 2:45pm from September 2017. We are also moving to a split lunch model; students in Year's 11, 7 & 8 will have their lunch break at 12:30pm and those in Year's 9 and 10 will have lunch at 1:20pm.

INSET Days

Friday 1 September 2017, Monday 30 October 2017, Friday 10 November 2017, Monday 18 December 2017 and Monday 19 February 2018.

Staff 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:

Anna Elgar - Head of English
Sally Turner - Teacher of English
William Bryan - Teacher of Geography
Georgina Emery - Teacher of RE
Kimberley Reid-Christie - Teacher of English
Vidhi Pandya - Teacher of Science
Nicholas Beever - Teacher of Music
Vijendra Gurbah - Teacher of Maths
Omar Rizwani - Teacher of Maths
James Wilson - Teacher of Science
Drinna Ferrer - Teacher of Science
Anna Bryndza-Wrobel - Teaching Assistant
Darjan Trenchfield - Teacher of Science
David Pamment - Teacher of Maths
Stella Wanderema - Finance Assistant

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:

Charlotte Plummer - Teacher of PE
Harriet Lewis - Teacher of English
Florence Glanfield - Teacher of Music
Peter Bancroft - Teacher of Geography
David Rogers - Teacher of Science
Rebecca Prentice - Teacher of English
Janine Carter - Teacher of PE / Science
Patrick Leonard - Teacher of English
Andrew Vagg - Teacher of Science
Lauren Meys - Teacher of Maths
Mark Lee - Teacher of Science
Katherine Gavin - Head of RE
Maria Taylor - Business 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.

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 24 August so please look out for news in the local press and on our website. A-Level results will be released on Thursday 17 August.

Raising Expectations

We know that outstanding schools have very high expectations of student behaviour and of the way that students present themselves. We also know that high expectations of behaviour, presentation, attendance, punctuality and politeness are valued very highly by employers. 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 has improved this academic year; however, we are targeting further improvement. 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 2017/18. Please note that any unauthorised absence may lead to sanctions or further action in partnership with the London Borough of Merton.

Please note that the government's threshold for Persistent Absence is 90%. This recognises the very strong link between attendance and GCSE results. Ultimately, unauthorised absence may lead to 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. Year 7 to wear clip-on tie only. 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.

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