



St mark's news October 09 Issue 7

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- St marks visions.
- Year 11 summer ball pictures.
- Information of Transformation centre.
- Parent Classes
- Contact Informa-

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A letter from the Principal.

Dear Parent/ Carer,
Welcome to the first edition of St Mark's News for the Academic year 2009/10. We have started the year with a number of new initiatives and systems that are really beginning to shape the future of the Academy and our path to greater success. Parents will be aware of our examination successes of last summer through the exam news that was posted to all parents at the start of term. We improved our 5 A*-C grades by 15 % and our 5 A*-C grades including English and maths by 9 %, these were some of the biggest improvements across the whole borough. If you missed this letter which also included our Ofsted report feedback, please look on the Academy website where a copy of both documents can be found in our 'letters home' section. The term has started with staff, students and Governors redefining the vision for St Mark's Academy. Our vision states that :

-At St Mark's C of E Academy we respect and celebrate the God given uniqueness of each member of our Community.

-We will empower all learners to realise their academic potential and to enjoy success within a safe and supportive, yet challenging environment.

-We will inspire our Community to become responsible and active citizens, offering a positive contribution to our local, national and global society.

The Vision statement encapsulates all that we are aiming to achieve at the Academy, it is more than our hopes and dreams, it is a statement of what we promise will be the experience of every student

who attends the Academy and who completes their education with us. The vision statement has to be a living reality for each student and we are working together to see that this is the case across every year group in the Academy. Parent's views about our vision are being invited at the Coffee morning which will take place on 22/10/09 and through a sample group of 50 parents from across the Academy, if you would like to express your views about our vision please e mail the Academy



or write in via your child's coach.

This half term has been an exciting start to the year, our new House system is embedding and coaching groups are working well together. Within the first 6 weeks we have provided opportunities for parents in years 7, 10,11,12, and 13 to meet with us at special curriculum events, all parents were invited to our specialism launch, which was a huge success and thoroughly enjoyed by all. This week we are holding our first Black History Cultural event on 22/12/09, I trust many more parents will join us to celebrate the many cultures represented amongst staff, students and parents that make up the community of St Marks. We have also started our first ever parent classes for parents who want to develop

classes for parents who want to develop basic IT skills. This is just the beginning, please let us know if there are areas that interest you, we would be delighted to provide more opportunities for our parents to develop their skills and to use the Academy as a place to extend their own learning.

St Mark's Academy is moving forward and making huge strides in its improvement strategy, we want to encourage all of our parents to join with on this exciting journey and to share in our successes. At the start of this year we thanked God for the progress we had made over the past year and looked forward to the journey ahead, we have great aspirations for the future and made Ephesians 3, Verse 20 our prayer for the year, this is also my prayer for you and all your families this year, "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to his power that works in us, to Him be glory" Let us dream big dreams, believe big things and achieve what others may think is impossible, together that is what we, the community that is St Marks, will achieve.

Yours Sincerely,
Esther Holland.
Head teacher

Year 11 Summer Ball



Some of the Year 11 students enjoying the occasion.

“It’s fun and educational”
Omar Bahir

“Yes, so that they can see how good it is.”

When all the hard work of the GCSE exams was over, 80 Year 11 students celebrated in style at their Leaver’s Ball. Held at the Croydon Park Hotel, students arrived to have photographs taken in the warm summer evening sunset, they then enjoyed a superb three course meal in the hotel’s function suite which was decorated with balloons in pink and grey

St.Mark’s school colours. After dinner Year 11 crowned their Prom King and Queen with traditional sashes and certificates, there were also speeches from Mr Sharpe (Head of Year 11) and Mrs Lattery-Lee (Deputy Head) followed by a short prayer by Ms McLean reflecting on the memories of St Mark’s and looking forward to the future. Students danced

the night away with London R&B and Hip Hop DJ, Larizzle. At the end of the night there were some tears as a wonderful evening and their St Mark’s school career came to a close. As a souvenir of the event, each student received a photo CD in the post giving them a lasting memory of their special night.



St Mark’s Summer School

15 Students participated in the 3 day Drama, Art and English project based on the Michael Morpurgo novel ‘My Father is a Polar Bear’ with the themes of identity and belonging. Our aim was to use a short story as stimuli for a range of reading, writing, dramatic, musical and artistic activities. Students composed and

told some quite humorous polar bear jokes:
Q: Have you ever seen a man-eating polar bear?
A: No, but down at the restaurant I once saw a man eating chicken. Summer School was additionally an opportunity for students to gain confidence in their new school and to make new friends through team-

work and problem solving. When asked if he would recommend Summer School to his friends one learner enthusiastically replied: “Yes, so that they can see how good it is.”



Students working better together.

Young scientists at St Mark’s

A small group of year 6 primary school students from Lonesome Primary school have attended the first of many science enrichment classes this week. The students had great subject knowledge and

spent the first session investigating the design of balloon rockets. Future investigations for the year 6 enrichment projects include heart dissections, fire writing and flame tests.

The ongoing project will bring fun and creative ideas to the young scientists of tomorrow.

Transformation Centre

Romans 12:2

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

OPENS

Monday, 2nd November 2009

The Academy embraces the Every Child Matters government agenda and is committed to ensure that students obtain the 5 outcomes:

- Be healthy
- Stay Safe
- Enjoy and Achieve
- Make a Positive Contribution
- Achieve Economic and Social Well-Being.

Every student has the potential to achieve their very best. However, the Academy recognises that some students struggle to do this. Therefore, to prevent the risk of permanent exclusion and to help improve behaviour, we have created the Transformation Centre within the Academy to assist these students. This provision will help students break down barriers to learning so that they can achieve their full potential.

Students will be identified from the following criteria:

- Risk of permanent exclusion, due to fixed term exclusions.
- Low self esteem and confidence, due to poor attendance.
- Serious concerns due to persistent disruption in the classroom and/or around the school.

As I am sure you agree it is vital that parents/carers meet with the Academy prior to their child attending the Transformation Centre, which will be arranged by the Head of Houses or Pastoral Managers.

Students will start at 9am and finish at 2.30pm. They are required to bring in a packed lunch or, if students are provided with lunch at the Academy, this will be collected

from the canteen. Students will spend a minimum of 2 weeks to a maximum of 6 weeks in the Transformation Centre and will be completing work from all their curriculum subjects.

It is very important that the parents/carers of the students, who are identified to attend the Transformation Centre, are supportive of this provision and will commit to assist with requests made from the Inclusion Manager. This will enable the student to be successful and achieve their full potential at the Academy because Together Everyone Achieves More (TEAM work).

Further information about the Transformation Centre can be found in the Policy located on the Academy's website.

“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

Parents ICT Classes at St Marks Academy

Ms Bello in the ICT Department has been running IT for Parents classes as a trial during October.

The parent community IT classes have been successful and numbers growing by the week. Parents are very positive about the classes and the classes have been an excellent way of involving parents and the community in the activities within St Marks Academy. There will be another class at 6.30 pm on Wednesday 4 November. Please come along if you would like to find out more and develop your IT skills.

We are planning to run more IT for Parents classes next Spring; please feel free to tell us more about what you would like to see in these classes.

Parent Support Advisor:

Hello,
My name is Deana Drewett. I am a Pastoral Manager and Parent Support Advisor for St. Marks Academy. I have worked at St.Marks Academy for 9 years. I am lucky enough to know most of the children as I was a learning mentor and ran a daily lunch club. I have a family of my own with three children and know only too well how frustrating being a parent can be. I am here to help and aim to invite parents in for coffee mornings starting from Tuesday November 3rd 08.30-09:30am. I hope these mornings will be very helpful. I am willing to help with anything: filling in forms, claiming for free school meals. Feel free to discuss any issues or concerns. If I cannot answer immediately, I will find out for you. I am looking forward to my new role and hope to be of help to as many parents as possible.

Our Aims:

We aim to offer support to parents and carers and to encourage involvement in their child's learning. We recognise that bringing up children can be difficult. You know your child better than anyone. You are the experts; we aim to provide another viewpoint and any new ideas that may help.

The PSA can Offer:

- Friendly, non-judgemental advice and support.
- Home visits
- Open door policy
- Information
- Sign posting to a range of services
- Help with a child's behaviour
- A chance to talk through any issues and concerns.

UNIFORM

A reminder for all Parents.

- Winter uniform should be worn by all students.
- Formal shoes, not canvas shoes, should be worn at all times.
- Hoddies are not allowed in the Academy and should not be worn as an outdoor coat.
- No caps are permitted at the Academy. Woollen hats only should be worn.
- A single pair of stud earrings are only items of jewellery permitted.
- No face piercing or any sort is permitted at the Academy.
- Head coverings for religious reasons should be plain black only.

Dates for your diary

Monday 2/11/09 Half term starts 8.30 am

Friday 27/11/09 Inset day. School closed for Students

Monday 30/11/09 Inset day. School closed for Students

Monday 7/12/09 11 am. Coffee morning with the Head-teacher

Friday 18/12/09 last day of Autumn term

Monday 4/1/10 Inset day. School Closed for Students

Tuesday 5/1/10 Spring term Starts for all students. 8.30 am.

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Inspiring the talent and imagination of our community.

Be inspired.....