

Dear Parent/Carers,

29 March 2021

It is both a privilege and an honour to serve the vibrant, dynamic and inspirational community of St. Mark's Church of England Academy through my appointment as substantive Principal. As we approach this period of hope in the Christian calendar, I am drawn to John 10 where we are reminded that Jesus came to earth to allow humanity to experience life in its fullness. As the leader of this inclusive Christian community, it is my mission to ensure that every life touched by this Academy is lived in abundance. My vision is to provide an outstanding quality of education for all young people, dedicated to both academic and character excellence, through the values of love, hope and trust.

I wish your families all the health and happiness as we approach our Easter break.

End of term arrangements:

The Easter break starts on Thursday 1st April and ends on Friday 16th April. Wednesday is a half day for the Academy where a phased dismissal will take place as shown below. As you will see, all students will have an extended period 3.

	AM 8:20 ->	P1 8:50 to 9:40	P2 9:40 to 10:30	P3/Break <i>Extended</i> 10:30 to 12:30			
Year 7	CT	P1	P2	Break	P3	11:50 Finish	
Year 8	CT	P1	P2	P3	Break	P3	12:00 Finish
Year 9		P1	P2	P3	Break	P3	12:10 Finish
Year 10		CT	P2	P3	Break	P3	12:20 Finish
Year 11		CT	P2	P3	Break	P3	12:30 Finish
Year 12/13		CT	P2	P3	Break	P3	12:30 Finish

Testing at home throughout the Easter holidays -

The government has issued guidance to remind secondary school students to continue with testing for Covid-19 over the holiday period:

- test twice a week at home from now on (all those who are able to)
- report results [online](#) as positive, negative or void
- **test before returning to school on 19th April**, the night before the first day of next term.

Reporting a test over the Easter break

From **Thursday 1st April to Tuesday 6th April**, please report confirmed positive Covid cases to contacttracing@stmarks.anthemtrust.uk. A member of the SLT team will be checking for reported cases between 9am and 11am during this time. Please provide your details in your email notification:

Principal Hannah Fahey

- Date last on site
- Date symptoms started
- Identified Close Contacts

You do not need to contact the school if you test positive and have not been in school for 48 hours prior to the test result or before symptoms developed. In these circumstances the normal NHS Test and Trace processes will apply. - After the 6-day period you will not be expected to email the school.

Free school meals vouchers during the Easter holidays

During the Easter holidays Free School Meals vouchers will be provided for eligible pupils. Please do look out for these before the end of term.

'Test and Trace' Support Payment for Parents and Carers

Parents and Carers of children who have been asked to self-isolate by their education setting or by NHS Test and Trace are now able to apply for a Test and Trace Support discretionary payment of £500 if they meet the eligibility criteria. The scheme which is administered by Local Authorities ensures that Parents and Carers receive the financial support they need if they are unable to attend work due to childcare responsibilities.

Applications for the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme are made through the Local Authority in which the Parent or Carer resides and not the local authority in which the educational setting is situated. For Parents and Carers residing in Merton, please visit <https://www.merton.gov.uk/council-tax-benefits-and-housing/benefits/apply-for-a-test-and-trace-support-payment> for more information.

For Parents and Carers living outside of Merton, please visit your Local Authority website for more information.

To be eligible, applicants must meet the following criteria: -

- They are the Parent or Guardian of a child or young person in the same household and need to take time off of work to care for them while they self-isolate. This is limited to one Parent or Guardian per household for the child or young person's self-isolation period.
- They are employed or self-employed.
- They cannot work from home while undertaking caring responsibilities and will lose income as a result.
- They in receipt of one of the following benefits
 - Universal Credit
 - Working Tax Credit
 - Employment and Support Allowance (Income-related)
 - Housing Benefit
 - Income Support
 - Job Seekers Allowance (Income-based)
 - Pension (Guarantee) Credit

Parents' and Carers' Evenings

Parents' evenings are an important part of Academy life and we will be hosting these events online this year, connecting parents and teachers by video call. We will be using School Cloud, which allows parent to choose appointment times accessible by mobile, laptop or a desktop computer.

Following the end of the recent lockdown, we have once again revised the dates for each year group and so they are now as follows (specific information about the booking of appointments will be shared with parents ahead of each date):

Y12: 22nd April

Y10: 6th May

Y7: 13 May

Y8: 10th June

Y9: 1st July

Easter Revision for Year 11

Students have received an individual timetable for support and a copy will also be posted home.

Year 11 Easter Intervention Schedule				
Mon 5th April	Tues 6th April	Wed 7th April	Thurs 8th April	Fri 9th April
	Business - 9:00 am to 3:00pm French - 9:00 am to 3:00pm PE – 9:00am to 12:30pm	Art - 9:00 am to 3:00pm Business - 9:00 am to 3:00pm DT - 9:00 am to 3:00pm French - 9:00 am to 3:00pm ICT - 9:00am to 12:30pm PE – 9:00am to 12:30pm	Art - 9:00 am to 3:00pm	History - 9:00am to 12:30pm
Mon 12th April	Tues 13th April	Wed 14th April	Thurs 15th April	Fri 16th April
DT - 9:00 am to 3:00pm ICT - 9:00am to 12:30pm Music – 9:00am to 3:00pm	History - 9:00am to 12:30pm Music – 9:00am to 3:00pm	History - 9:00am to 12:30pm		

Equality and Diversity

I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you my commitment as your Principal to eradicating the attitudes and behaviours we have seen come to light through the devastating murder of Sarah Everard. As a school we are committed to informing our students about how to keep themselves and their peers safe and promoting equality and tolerance through our values of Love, Hope and Trust. It is clear that this is a deep-rooted societal problem which will not be sorted by schools on their own, but we are committed to working in partnership with appropriate bodies to promote our agenda to tackle this issue. At St Mark's we have set up a working group

who are planning a series of assemblies and PSHE lessons to support our approach, so please do speak to your child about any key messages that have been shared during these. We also understand that parents and carers might need support and guidance so please do always contact the Academy should you have any questions about this issue.

I wish you all a well-deserved Easter break. I encourage you all to ensure your child continues to read for pleasure and engage in academic work over the holiday to support their continued academic and character excellence at home. I pray for your families safety and health over the holiday.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hannah Fahey', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hannah Fahey
Principal