

Dear Parents and Carers,

26 August 2021

I hope you and your family are well and have enjoyed a restful and safe summer together. We could not be more excited to welcome you and your child or children back to the new academic year.

Below is a reminder of the important updates sent to you in July. Please do read through this letter carefully with your child.

### **September Start up Arrangements:**

We are very much looking forward to welcoming back all year groups at the start of Autumn term from **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September**. The information below outlines our full opening plans, designed alongside guidance on the easing of restrictions. We will be sharing a timetable for testing students on their return in a separate letter, so please look out for this.

The Government have confirmed that bubbles will no longer need to exist next academic year. Community voice has told us that you would like staggered starts and ends to remain in place, so our planning reflects this.

The start date and timings of the day for each year group next year are listed below. It is really important that your child arrives at the designated time and entrance as stated below. Students will not be allowed to enter the building before school.

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13	SMART
<b>Start Date</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sep	7 <sup>th</sup> Sep	7 <sup>th</sup> Sep	6 <sup>th</sup> Sep	6 <sup>th</sup> Sep	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sep	6 <sup>th</sup> Sep	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sep
<b>Entrance</b>	Main Gate (Tamworth Lane)							
<b>Line up before Coaching Time</b>	Outside the Tennis Court	Outside Student Hub	Inside Tennis Court	Outside Student Hub	Outside Tennis Court	Straight to Coaching Time	Straight to Coaching Time	Straight to Coaching Time
<b>Start of Day</b>	8:30am	8:30am	8:30am	9:20am	9:20am	9:20am	9:20am	9:45am
<b>End of Day</b>	2:40pm	2:40pm	2:40pm	3:30pm	3:30pm	3:30pm	3:30pm	2:45pm

Principal Hannah Fahey

During your child's first day we will be showing our systems, expectations and how the school will be operating. All year groups will complete an induction programme that aims to reintegrate our students back into an educational setting with high expectations and care at the heart of it. The induction process delivered by our dedicated pastoral members of staff allows students to undertake a variety of interactive activities such as quizzes, behaviour reconstructions and role-plays to promote fun and a sense of community within the year group. Students will be assigned a coach who will provide clarity around the rules and routines within the Academy, whilst developing a trusting and meaningful relationship with both the students and in subsequent weeks their parents. We will start the term by instilling a sense of community and look forward to getting our students back into lessons across the Academy.

### **Asymptomatic testing**

- Testing remains important in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within schools
- Please do ensure that your family continue to test twice weekly at home until the end of September, when this will be reviewed
- Your child should take one LFD test the day before they are due to return. Please inform the Academy if your child's LFD test is positive and DO NOT send them to school
- Pupils who receive a positive LFD test should isolate and order a PCR test within two days. If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive LFD, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test
- All pupils will receive 2 on-site LFD tests, 3 to 5 days apart, on their return in the autumn term.

### **Maintaining High Expectations**

Our values of Love, Hope and Trust permeate across all that we do. We expect all students to arrive to the Academy each day 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. Any nose piercings must be taken out or replaced with a clear plastic stud.
- Mobile phones, mp3 players, portable gaming devices or tablets are not permitted to be used on site.

### **Uniform Expectations**

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. Full details of the uniform expectation can be found [here](#)

- Students must wear their St Mark's blazer to the Academy daily
- The grey St Mark's school jumper is optional
- All white shirts must button up to the collar
- All students must have a St Mark's polo shirt for PE
- Students are recommended to have the St Mark's Academy tracksuit for PE
- Plain black jogging bottoms and shorts can be worn with the St Mark's polo shirt, no large logos, blocks of colour or stripes are permitted
- Black trainers must be worn with the PE kit
- Students can continue to wear full PE kit on days when they have a PE lesson

### **Equipment Expectations**

In order to set the tone of the Academy day and to create a calm and studious atmosphere within the building, we provide students with clear routines to follow at the beginning and end of lessons. In preparation for the wider world and to promote academic success we expect students to arrive at the Academy each day fully equipped to learn.

At St Marks Academy we have a list of equipment that is essential and must be present every day alongside a list of recommended items that students may find useful to carry with them.

<b>Essential daily equipment</b>	<b>Recommended daily equipment</b>
Pen – Black or blue ink	Pencil case
Pen - Green	Glue
Pen- Purple	Colours
Pencil	Maths set
Ruler	Highlighters
Planner	Water bottle
Reading book	Reusable mask
Calculator	Hand Sanitizer

### **Face Covering**

From Monday 19 July, the Government have confirmed that face coverings will no longer be required for pupils, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas. We are still encouraging staff and students to wear face coverings in communal areas. This precautionary approach will allow us to keep as many students and staff in school over the Autumn term.

### **Behaviour Expectations**

At St Marks we have firm behavioural procedures in place that give students the opportunity to make the right decisions. We offer our students reminders as a means of readjusting their behaviour and have firm intervention structures in place to support any struggles that students may experience. Our procedures are delivered with transparency and consistency. Behavioural issues are centralised and overseen by our Senior Vice Principal of Behaviour and Attitudes and Behaviour for Learning Lead to ensure that the expectations of our students' behaviour are caring yet uncompromising. Acknowledgement of exceptional and exemplary behaviour is also at the forefront of our procedures. Teachers make frequent positive phone calls home, nominate students for ACE awards, distribute achievement points and offer verbal praise in the classroom.

### **Pastoral Support**

We pride ourselves at St Mark's on our pastoral support provision. We have a dedicated student Well-being Co-ordinator, Director of Inclusion, Student Support team, Chaplain and Director of Personal Development and Progress Leaders for each year group, coaches and Designated Safeguarding Lead. Our student support team aims to nurture the entire student and celebrate their differences and elevate and adversities they may face. Where possible we seek to offer all pastoral support internally but also recognise that external intervention may be more suitable for some of our students. In such cases we make referrals in a timely and precise manner.

### **Key Priorities for 2021/22**

- To continue to embed our ambitious vision for the Quality of Education within all subjects with a specific focus on:
  - Literacy
  - Decolonising the curriculum
  - Experiential learning
- To launch and evaluate a new transformational enrichment and careers offer for all years
- To sustain recent improvements in attendance and punctuality across the Academy
- To develop students' levels of literacy across all key stages
- To further develop our engagement with the local community, including parents and carers

As parents, I am very keen to ensure you are heavily involved in guiding our policy and practice as we work together to secure Ofsted Outstanding for this community. Next half term we will be launching our first Friends of St Mark's parent group to begin this partnership. Please look out for further details when we write to you all this half term.

We pray that the rest of your break will be a safe one and are thrilled to be able to welcome students back to the community that will love, encourage, challenge and support them endlessly. I continue to urge you to encourage your child to read endlessly to support their levels of literacy as we return.

With Love, Hope and Trust,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hannah Fahey', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Hannah Fahey  
**Principal**