

Friday 27th September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: First Day of the Autumn Term for Year 7- Welcome Candlelight Service

We do trust you are all continuing to enjoy the Summer break.

We are approaching the beginning of the new school year and we are so delighted to welcome your child as they join the St Mark's community.

On **Friday 3rd September**, your child will arrive to the Academy, ready to start their day for 8.30am, where they will begin their day with a special Welcome Candlelight Service. This is a memorable start to their secondary school life, where they will be welcomed by our Principal Ms Fahey, meet key members of staff and will have the opportunity to participate and reflect during the service.

Each student will have a candle to symbolise the light of learning and knowledge that will forever shine bright throughout their time at St Mark's and beyond. As mentioned in our last communication, parents are welcome to attend this service. **The service starts at 8:30am and concludes at 9:15am.** As it is our first whole year group event for this academic year, within the context of COVID-19 safety precautions, we are encouraging all parents who wish to attend the service to take a COVID Lateral Flow Device (LFT) Test on the Thursday evening (2nd September) before. Parents should only attend if the test result is negative. We will not be requiring proof of the test result on the Friday morning however we do require all parents who attend to wear a face covering.

Students will arrive at the Academy through the Main Gate on Tamworth Lane while parents who wish to attend will enter the Academy through the Acacia Road entrance (Main Reception).

Thank you so much for your co-operation. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us at the Academy.

Yours sincerely,

Rev Andrew Wignal

Director of Personal Development and Academy Chaplain

Principal Hannah Fahey