

Dear Parents/Carers,

13 December 2021

I want to start by saying a heartfelt thank you for working in partnership with the school this term. We are one of the only schools nationally to keep Covid cases below outbreak level and this has had a direct impact on the quality of education our young people have been able to experience. I am so proud of all the Academy has achieved over the past term and want to thank you as parent/carers for playing a leading role in the continued success of St Mark's. Our Christmas Newsletter will follow shortly, where you can read about these successes.

This letter will communicate:

- Arrangements for the end of this term
- Arrangements for the start of the Spring term 2022

End of Term Arrangements

The last day of this term is Friday 17 December. Students will be dismissed at the following times and be free to make their own way home:

- Year 7 and 8 @ 11:50am
- Year 9 @ 12:00pm
- Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 @ 12:10pm

January Start up Arrangements

In order to test students for Covid 19 after the Christmas break, the government have asked schools to stagger the return of students. Please see the day each year group will return to the Academy below. Please do not send your child to school prior to their first day back. Consent has previously been obtained from 95% of parents and carers. Any parents who have not consented previously will be contacted again to ask whether your choice has changed.

Remote education will be provided for Year 8, 9 and 10 on Wednesday and Year 9 on Thursday. Please ensure your child/children complete this at home for at least 5 hours that day. A handout has been attached to this letter to support you.

Coaching Group	Tuesday 04.01.2022 ALL STAFF INSET		Wednesday 05.01.2022			Thursday 06.01.2022		Friday 07.01.2022
		Year 12 13:30 – 14:30	Year 13 14:30 – 15:30	Year 7	Year 11	SMART	Year 8	Year 10

Principal Hannah Fahey

Free school meals over Christmas break

All students who are eligible to receive free school meals will be provided with a food voucher, via email, for £30 before the end of this term. Families are encouraged to apply for eligibility if they have not previously done so at: <https://www.merton.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools/free-school-meals>

Staff farewells:

Please join our community in saying farewell to the following colleagues:

- Mr Uddin (Year 10 Progress Leader)
- Ms Plummer (Year 11 Progress Leader)

Ms Brayton will take on the role of Year 11 Progress Leader and Ms Gallagher will communicate arrangements regarding Year 10 directly with families.

Finally, I want us to reflect and remember that Christmas is a time for good news. After a challenging year, it is my prayer that Christmas brings hope and joy to you all. I wish you and your families a restful break and pray for your health and happiness over the festive period.

Yours faithfully,

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

Hannah Fahey
Principal