

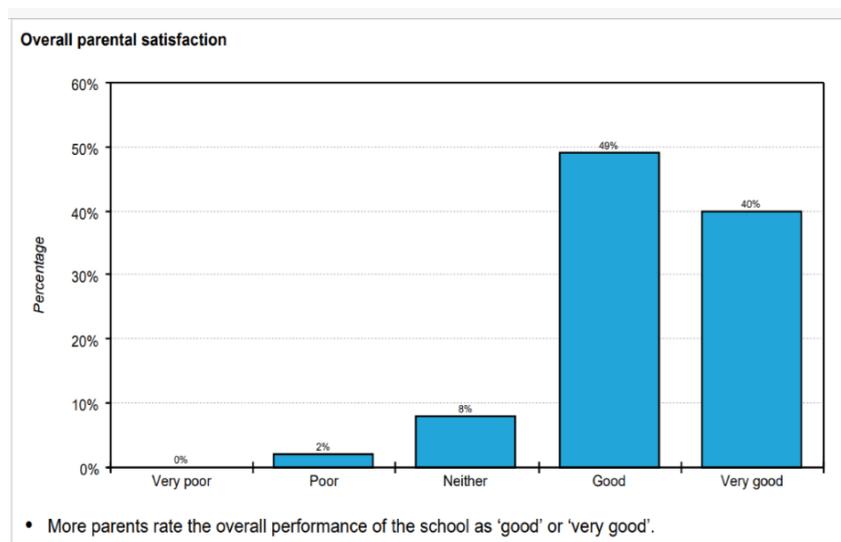
Dear Parents and Carers,

15 July 2022

I want to start by saying a heartfelt thank you for working in partnership with the school this year. We have achieved so much together as a community, despite the challenges that Covid continued to bring. I want to explain what a privilege it is leading this incredible community of transformation founded on love, hope and trust and working with the young people we serve.

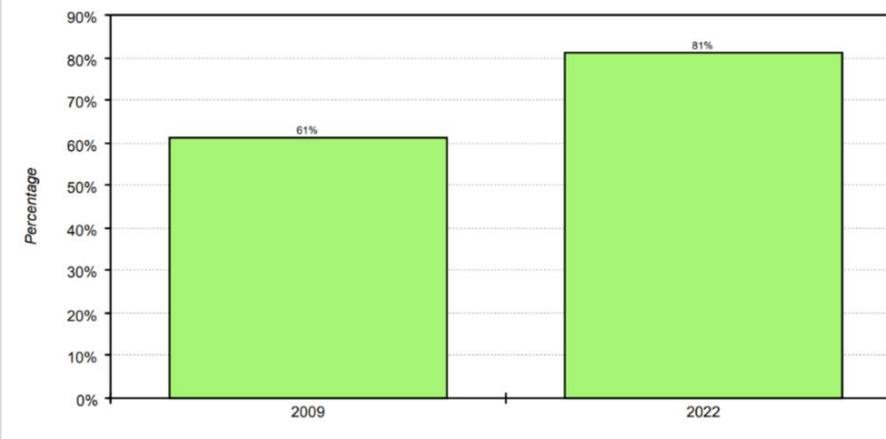
I am so proud of all the Academy has achieved over the past year and want to thank you as parents for playing a leading role in the continued success of St Marks'. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of some of these below:

1. We launched our transformational enrichment offer. This will be updated in 2022/23 to allow us to realise the God-given potential in every child at St Mark's. Please look out for further communication in September and see the offer [here](#).
2. The school was commended by a mock Ofsted inspector, the CEO of Anthem Trust and SSAT for exceptional behaviour, safeguarding and teaching and learning.
3. In March the Academy paid for every young person to take part in science week by going on a trip to enhance their curriculum experience. It was a joy to see how much our students enjoyed the day and members of the public praised them for their behaviour.
4. In April we celebrated the feedback you gave us through the Kirkland Rowell Parent Survey. 260 completed questionnaires were returned to the Academy. This was a 50% increase from previous years and represents the strengthened partnership between parents and carers and the Academy. Parents and carers gave an excellent overall performance score



Principal Hannah Fahey

Graph showing the overall performance scores trend broken down over time.



- There was a significant improvement since the previous survey for the overall performance score.
 - The following academic areas received significantly higher scores than the previous survey: Digital Information Technology (DIT), Maths, French, English, History and Geography.
 - The following non-academic areas received significantly higher scores than the previous survey: Careers advice, Developing moral values, Community spirit, Control of bullying, School discipline, Levels of homework, School facilities, School communication, Caring teachers, School security, Teaching quality, Developing potential, Social health education, Developing confidence, Availability of resources, Computer access, Truancy control, Exam results, Happiness of child and Choice of subjects. The following additional areas received significantly higher scores than the previous survey: Promoting racial harmony, Teaching for special needs, Quality of school management, Treating all pupils fairly and equally, Explaining to parents how to help their child, Tailoring workload to child's needs and ability and Ensuring pupils do best and make good progress.
5. This year we will celebrate record numbers of Year 7 students join the Academy. Please see the numbers below to reflect the reputation of the school within the local community. First choice applications to the Academy have doubled within a year.

Year	Number joining Year 7
2020	124
2021	156
2022	176

6. The week beginning 11th July saw us launch a range of careers opportunities for students across all years. A big thank you goes to Ms. Glymidou for the hard work sourcing external companies.
7. St Mark's Academy received a publication in the Bridge Newspaper for our SSAT Award that recognised our transforming climate for learning. Please see this below:

St Mark's Academy lives up to transformational motto

St Mark's secondary academy in Mitcham has been recognised for its exceptional climate for learning by the Schools, Students and Teachers Network (SSAT).

"Climate for learning" is one of 12 categories that make up the SSAT's Leading Edge Framework for Exceptional Education; St Mark's is now also hoping to achieve "leading for moral purpose" and "quality assurance". Only one school in England has been recognised in all 12 categories.

"It just seemed like a great way to collaborate with other schools and also gain that recognition that we believe we absolutely deserve here at St Mark's," said Principal Hannah Fahay. "Over the next two years we're going to apply for each strand and hopefully be transforming in it, which is something only very few schools in the country are able to showcase."

Schools looking to gain official recognition in one of the categories must submit evidence that they meet the criteria. They are then paired with another school which reviews the documentation and also does a mini-review in person. The report for St Mark's described student behaviour, teacher relationship and teaching practice as exceptional.



All this is possible, Hannah believes, because of the school's clarity of vision. "We really think about what it is that lies beneath everything we do here at St Mark's," she said. "What our students deserve in life, our Christian ethos and our values have underpinned that."

Hannah herself knows how St Mark's can change a person, having arrived 14 years ago at the school as a newly qualified teacher before becoming its principal. "Transformation is quite literally what happened to me," she said. "I want everyone to feel the same transformational experience, whether that's continuing professional development, going to university or internal progression."

End of Term Arrangements

The last day of term is Friday 22nd July 2022. Please see the timetable for this half day below. Students will be safely dismissed according to the times below:

Year group	Departure time
Year 7	11:40am
Year 8	11:40am
Year 9	11:40am
Year 10 and SMART	12pm
Year 12	11:40am

September Start up Arrangements:

We are very much looking forward to welcoming back all year groups at the start of Autumn term from Friday 2nd September. The information below outlines our full opening plans.

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. The timings of the day for each year group are given below.

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13	SMART
Start Date	Friday 2 nd Sep	Tues 6 th Sep	Tues 6 th Sep	Mon 5 th Sep	Mon 5 th Sep	Friday 2 nd Sep	Mon 5 th Sep	Friday 2 nd Sep
Line up	Outside Student hub	Outside DT classrooms	Outside Tennis court	Inside Tennis court	Inside Astro	Straight to CT	Straight to CT	Outside office spaces
Start of Day	8:30am	8:30am	8:30am	8:30am	8:30am	8:30am	8:30am	8:30am
End of Day	12:45pm	3:05pm	3:05pm	3:05pm	3:05pm	3:05pm	3:05pm	3:05pm

During your child's first day we will be outlining Academy 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.

Timings of the day:

Below you can see the new school day for 2022/23. Please note that all students will now begin and end the day at the same time, however we continue to run a split lunch:

	KS3				KS4/5				SMART*		
	START	Warning Bell	END		START	Warning Bell	END		START	Warning Bell	END
Before School	07:45	08:27	08:30	Before School	07:45	08:27	08:30	Before School	07:45	08:27	08:30
CT	08:30		08:50	CT	08:30		08:50	CT	08:30		08:50
Change over	08:50		08:53	Change over	08:50		08:53	Change over	08:50		08:53
Period 1	08:53		09:45	Period 1	08:53		09:45	Period 1	08:53		09:45
Change over	09:45		09:48	Change over	09:45		09:48	Change over	09:45		09:48
Period 2	09:48		10:40	Period 2	09:48		10:40	Period 2	09:48		10:40
BREAK A	10:40	10:47	10:55	Change over	10:40		10:43	Change over	10:40		10:43
Period 3A	10:55		11:50	Period 3B	10:43		11:35	Period 3B	10:43		11:35
Change over	11:50		11:53	BREAK B	11:35	11:50	11:53	Period 4S	11:35		11:50
Period 4	11:53		12:45	Period 4	11:53		12:45	BREAK/LUNCH	11:50	12:45	12:48
LUNCH A	12:45	13:17	13:20	Change over	12:45		12:48	Period 5B	12:48		13:40
Period 5A	13:20		14:10	Period 5B	12:48		13:40				
Change over	14:10		14:13	LUNCH B	13:40	14:10	14:13				
Period 6	14:13		15:05	Period 6	14:13		15:05				

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 (No smart watches) and one pair of plain stud earrings are permitted. No facial piercings are permitted.
- Mobile phones, Air pods and headphones are not permitted to be seen or heard on site and will lead to confiscation.

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 are permitted to attend the Academy in full St Mark's PE kit on the days this appears on their timetable.

Notes from parents will not be permitted as a substitute for missing or inappropriate items. Students will be subject to a sanction for missing or incorrect items.

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 Mark's 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.

Essential daily equipment	Recommended daily equipment
Pen – Black or blue ink	Pencil case
Pen – Green for responding to work	Glue
Pen- Purple for challenge tasks	Colours
Pencil	Maths set
Ruler	Highlighters
Reading book	Water bottle
	Hand sanitizer
	Calculator

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 dedicated behaviour team to ensure that the expectations of our student's 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 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, Progress Leaders for each year group, Coaches and a 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.

Attendance

At St Mark's Academy we recognise and celebrate the positive impact that good attendance (96%+) has in developing our students' academic progress and emotional wellbeing. In fact, attendance is one of the biggest predictors of our students reaching their academic targets, enriching and expanding their life choices beyond secondary education. We celebrate students' attendance weekly during coaching time, and reward students with vouchers, i-pads and experiences. We recognise that some students require some further support and we have a dedicated and supportive Attendance Manager, Education Welfare Officer and Director of Inclusion who work together with the young people and their families to ensure that attendance does not act as a barrier in our students learning. It is important to note from the outset that St Mark's is proud to hold the highest attendance figures within Anthem Trust and we will not compromise our high standards.

Catering

AIP, our catering provider, will continue to offer a break and lunch service next year. The 'grab-and-go' offer has proven particularly popular amongst students this year.

Parents are reminded to **top up students' lunch accounts online**. It is necessary to top up accounts at least 2 hours before the student is required to use the funds. This is to allow the system time to update and for the funds to become available. In exceptional circumstances, if parents are unable to top up online, then Academy staff will assist students to top up their accounts manually. This will need to have been discussed with a member of the student support team, or the student's coach, prior to needing to top up. You can top up your child's dinner account [here](#).

From September, we will continue to listen to student voice about what they enjoy and would like to improve regarding the food offer. We will work closely with the catering team to review the menu and

change this, where required, to reflect a diverse range of tastes and cuisines from a range of cultural backgrounds.

In addition, our Breakfast Club is open to all students daily between 7:30-8:20am. Please await further information from our Attendance Team outlining the Breakfast Club Launch.

We pray that you have a restful and safe break and enjoy time together as a family. I encourage you to ensure your child has dedicated time for reading every day throughout the summer break. Developing students' literacy is a moral responsibility we must drive as teachers and parents, and I know I can rely on your full support to prioritise this. I look forward to welcoming families and students back to the community that will love, encourage, challenge and support them endlessly in September.

With Love, Hope and Trust,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Hannah Fahey', written in black ink.

Hannah Fahey
Principal