



**St Mark's Academy**  
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Dear Parents and Carers.

I hope you are having a wonderful break as a family and remain safe and well. It is with great excitement I am writing to you to share our start up arrangements for the new academic year.

Once again, we are in full celebration mode at St Mark's. Following the unprecedented success of last week's KS5 outcomes, it gives me great pleasure to announce that our academy is celebrating our best ever externally validated Key Stage 4 results today. Our provisional Progress 8 (P8) Score is an exceptional **+0.70**, meaning on average our students achieve significantly higher grades than similar students nationally. This translates to an ALPS score of 2, placing the academy's results in the top 10% of all schools nationally when compared to outcomes in 2019!

When analysing our top grades, **19% of entries were awarded a grade 9 to 7, with an incredible 24 grade 9s.** We also had 94% students achieving a grade 4 or above (A\*-C) which is 12% higher than 2019.

The Progress 8 Score in **English was an exceptional +0.78** and in **Maths was +0.45.** Both these values have increased significantly since 2019 when they were +0.58 and +0.22 respectively. In **English 79% of students achieved a grade 4 or above and 65% a grade 5** or above compared to 72% 4+ and 56% 5+ in 2019. Similarly in **maths, we have seen an increase of 7% of students achieving a 4+ and 10% more being awarded a 5+.** This is an increase from our last set of externally validated data in 2019.

I hope these outcomes fill you with a sense of hope and inspiration as you think about the outcomes your child will be able to celebrate when they leave the academy in Year 13.

**September Start up Arrangements:**

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

It is really important that your child arrives 5 minutes before the designated time at the entrance listed below. Students will not be allowed to enter the building before school. The timings of the day for each year group are given below. Please note that all students will enter and leave every day from the Main Gate and **not** the Visitors' Entrance. Once your child has attended on their first day, they should attend according to the timings of our normal school day (see below).

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

### **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 and break for Years 7-9 and 10-13.

Year	Arrival at the Main Gate	Line up	Finish at the Main Gate
7	8:25am	8:30am	3:05pm
8	8:25am	8:30am	3:05pm
9	8:25am	8:30am	3:05pm
10	8:25am	8:30am	3:05pm
11	8:25am	8:30am	3:05pm
12/13	8:25am	8:30am	3:05pm
SMART	8:25am	8:30am	3:05pm

### **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 and collection from a family member.

### **Uniform Expectations**

Can I ask you to ensure that all aspects of your child'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.

<b>Essential daily equipment</b>	<b>Recommended daily equipment</b>
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 7:45am-8:20am. Please await further information from our Attendance Team about the Breakfast Club Launch date.**

We pray that the rest of your break is restful and safe. I encourage you to ensure you continue to ensure your child has dedicated time for reading every day. 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 from Friday next week.

With Love, Hope and Trust,

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

Hannah Fahey  
**Principal**