

16 April 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

RE: Founding Assembly of Merton Citizens, Thursday 19 April, 7.00pm - 8.30pm

We are so privileged to be hosting the public launch of the Merton Citizens at St Mark's Academy on Thursday 19 April at 7.00pm. We want as many of our students, parents and the wider school community to be a part of this momentous occasion.

Merton Citizens is an alliance of 18 organisations – schools, churches, mosques, and hospitals - working together to make a difference in our Borough. Merton Citizens builds the capacity of people to participate in public life, to act together for the common good, to win change, and to strengthen civic institutions in the process.

At present our school is one of the founding institutions planning work around various areas - housing, mental health, litter, and welcoming refugees. So far a group of our students have been involved in a listening campaign where issues that affect young people and the wider Merton community have been highlighted, discussed and evaluated in a proactive way. Our students have even attended a meeting with the Directors of the South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust at Springfield University Hospital. Here, amongst other groups, they confidently presented on how young people in schools can be better supported in regards to mental health.

We would love for you and your child to attend the first ever official assembly on Thursday evening. The leader of Merton Council, Councillor Stephen Alambritis, and other key decision makers will be here, as well as representatives from the alliance. The opportunity for us as a school community to be able to open our doors to the wider community in this way is invaluable and they will be able to see just how significant our amazing students are; a school founded on love, hope and trust. Together, we can effect change in our borough for the greater good.

If you are able to attend, we would be grateful if you could RSVP via email to school@stmarksacademy.org.uk with the number of people who will be attending with you.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Peterkin".

Lisa Peterkin
Principal

Principal Lisa Peterkin