



St Mark's Church of England Academy

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A community of transformation founded on love, hope & trust

Principal: Hannah Fahey

Dear Parents and Carers,

25 August 2023

I hope and pray you have had a great summer break. It with great joy that I write to you to mark the start of our 7-year journey of transformation together.

I am proud to tell you that the academy is celebrating an exceptional set of GCSE and A Level results. 24% of A Levels at the academy awarded A*-A and 60% awarded A*-B. This is compared to 25% and 57% in 2022 and 11% and 25% in 2019 respectively. The BTEC picture is equally impressive with 45% recording a Distinction* or Distinction. The number of students awarded Merit grades as increased from 83% to 86% between 2022 and 2023. Similar students taking GCSEs this summer made progress that was well above similar students nationally. This should remind you that you have chosen an exceptional secondary school for your child, and I can't wait to see their destination data when they leave us in

September Start up Arrangements:

We are very much looking forward to welcoming back all year groups at the start of Autumn term from **Monday 4th September**. The information below outlines our full opening plans.

It is really important that your child arrives at 8:25am at the Main Student Entrance on Tamworth Lane. The date and start and end times for Year 7 are listed below:

	Year 7
Start Date	04/09/2023
Line up before CT	inside the tennis courts
Start of Day	8:25am
Candlelight Welcome Service	8:50am-9:40am
End of Day	12:45am

We are excited to welcome parents and carers to a special candlelight service between 8:50am and 9:40am. This will mark the start of our time together as a partnership and be a way to bring our new cohort and their families together for collective worship.

If you would like to attend, please indicate this on the form below. Please note that a maximum of two spaces per child will be given to families:

<https://forms.office.com/e/mJEQVYEnpt>

During your child's first day we will be showing our 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



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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 timings of the school day for 2022/23. Please note that all students will now begin and end the day at the same time.

All Years

08:25	Lineup/Coaching
08:45	transition
08:50	Period 1
09:40	transition
09:45	Period 2
10:35	Break (20)
10:55	transition
11:00	Period 3
11:50	transition
11:55	Period 4
12:45	Lunch (40)
13:25	transition
13:30	Period 5
14:20	transition
14:25	Period 6
15:15	End of day

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 receive a 30-minute detention. For the avoidance of doubt, the full uniform policy can be found on our [school website](#).

Our school uniform supplier, Uniform Direct, will supply all required branded items such as ties, blazers and St Mark's PE top.

Please note:

- Visible makeup is not permitted e.g. lip gloss, mascara, eye shadow, false eyelashes.
- Nail varnish is not permitted. Nail extensions or decorations are not permitted on health and safety grounds.
- No jewellery except for a wristwatch and one pair of plain stud earrings are permitted. No facial piercings are permitted.
- Mobile phones, air pods, portable gaming devices or tablets are not permitted on site (6th Form may use these items in the common room only)

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 Marks 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 stick
Pen- Purple for challenge tasks	Coloured pencils or pens
Pencil	Maths set
Ruler	Highlighters
Calculator	Water bottle
Reading book	

Behaviour Expectations

At St Marks we have firm behavioural procedures that are based around restorative justice. We offer our students reminders as a means of readjusting their behaviour and use positive reframing to remind students on how to correct and improve their behaviour. We have firm intervention structures in place to support any struggles that students may experience, and our procedures are delivered with transparency and consistency. Behavioural issues are centralised and overseen by our Vice Principal and Student Support Team to ensure that the expectations of our students' behaviour are caring yet uncompromising. Daily detentions are run, and parents will be informed if their child is to sit a detention.

Acknowledgement of exceptional and exemplary behaviour is also at the forefront of our procedures. We offer a range of praise strategies including positive phone calls home, praise post cards, weekly and termly awards, achievement points and for those who consistently go above and beyond, breakfast with the head teacher.

Pastoral Support

We pride ourselves at St Marks on our pastoral support provision. We have a dedicated student Well-being Co-ordinator, Director on Inclusion, Student Support team, Progress Leaders for each year group, coaches and 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

St Mark's has the highest expectations for student attendance as we know that attending school every day allows students to make the most progress in their learning, secure exceptional results and be able to move on to transformational careers in the future. Our minimum attendance expectation for all students is 96%. To support our families to secure excellent attendance for their children, we monitor attendance closely and ensure that all absences are followed up carefully by either your child's coach or our attendance officer. Where there are more serious concerns about

a child's attendance, our Progress Leaders, Education Welfare Officer and Pastoral team will work closely with you as a family to ensure that your child has support to attend school by creating a Parenting Contract for Attendance.

If your child is not able to attend school due to illness you must ensure that you contact the school on each day of the absence. If your child has a medical appointment, where possible please try to book these outside of school hours, and if their appointment means that they will miss school please ensure that you share a copy of the medical appointment details with our attendance officer – Mrs Drewett - ddrewett@stmarks.anthemtrust.uk.

Quality of Ed info

We continue to develop the quality of teaching so that our students receive transformational learning opportunities every lesson, every day, all the time.

Our ambition has been to create a curriculum that is diverse, thought-provoking and enriching, so that our students develop curiosity, interrogation and an understanding of the wider world around them, supporting them to be courageous advocates for change. We are now at a point where we are actively involving the students in this journey of transformation supporting them to realise their God-given potential, encouraging them to debate and discuss the choices we have made, helping them to craft a sense of belonging in their school curriculum to live life in all its fullness.

We pride ourselves in giving the best to our students, enabling them to thrive and engage, giving them the opportunity to aim for their dreams equipped with skills to achieve them.

Catering

We continue to work with our catering providers, AIP, to provide students with a variety of high-quality meals throughout the week, at both break and lunch time.

Our ambition is to become a completely '**cashless**' school. One of the many benefits of this is that it speeds up the time it takes for students to be served and maximises the amount of time they have to eat and relax at break and lunch time (as they're not spending time queuing to top up their accounts). As such, we ask that you top up your child's account [here](#), regularly, at least 2 hours before your child is required to use these funds. This will allow time for the system to update and your child's funds to become available.

Breakfast Club will restart from Monday 11th September. Breakfast club is open to all students and runs from 07:45 – 08:15am in the dining hall.

We pray that you had a restful and safe break and are thrilled to be able to welcome students back to the community that will love, encourage, challenge and support them endlessly.

With Love, Hope and Trust.



Hannah Fahey
Principal