

St Mark's students perform at the Royal Albert Hall

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Dear Parents and Carers.

I hope and pray you are well. It is with great joy that I write to you to mark the end of our spring term. As we know, Easter marks the miracle of the resurrection, a symbol of hope and Good News for us all. As always, it is my honour to be able to capture and celebrate the Good News and hope we have seen this term as a community of transformation founded on love, hope and trust.

Thank you for continuing to work in partnership with the school and doing all you can to support the school's mission to transform the minds of our community (Romans 12) allowing all to live life to the full (John 10).

End of Term Arrangements

The academy closes for the Easter break on Thursday 28th March. Students are required to remain in P3 for a slightly extended period.

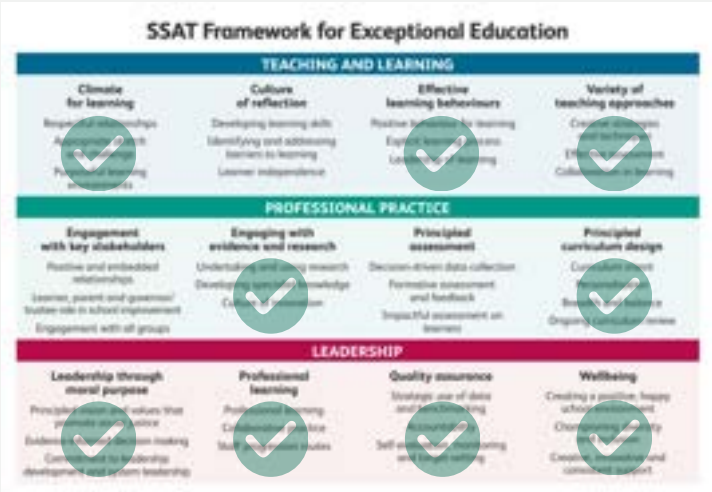
Year	Finish
7, 8, 9	12:00pm
10, 11, 12 & 13	12:05pm

Please ensure your child returns to the academy on Monday 15th April at 8:25am. Failure to return to school on this day may result in a home visit from a Senior Leader and member of the Attendance and Pastoral Team.



St Mark's is on track to be the 5th school in the country to achieve 12 quality marks at transforming level.

As you are aware, over the past year, St Mark's Academy has been applying for The Framework for Exceptional Education (FfEE). The framework covers 12 strands of practice within a school. I am pleased to inform you that we are on track to secure every quality mark by July 2024.



St Mark's Collaborative Review Day (CRD)

In January, St Mark's welcomed Anthem's Executive Team and an external inspector to conduct a full review of standards within the academy. The day involved conducting over 30 lesson drop ins, meetings with Senior Leaders, Middle Leaders and ECTs, book looks and student voice. Please celebrate the feedback below with me:

- At senior level – the Steplab instructional model has been used well; the school is a national hub. The forensic analysis of data identifies clear strands at whole school level which contribute to the CPD programme.
- On a day-to-day basis, subject leaders know the quality of teaching in their departments through a variety of monitoring activities. They are clear about the strengths and areas for development. The mathematics and English leaders can articulate how they monitor the quality of teaching and what the impact is.
- Strengths in teaching have ensured that the KS4 mock result data is 10% up from last year at the same time.
- The Quality of Education team have an extremely clear vision for curriculum intent.
- CPD on adaptive teaching has been of exceptional quality and has supported teachers in understanding individual needs as well as checking the achievement of particular students more effectively.

Enrichment Day Two

St Mark's Academy is dedicated to both academic and character excellence. It is part of our mission and vision to provide a transformational enrichment and careers offer that allows students to develop their character and cultural capital. The academy holds three enrichment days a year. This year we continue to respond to student voice and organised a range of external and internal events. Details can be found as you read on.

Please find our offer via this link:
<https://www.stmarksacademy.com/parents/enrichment>

Our Offer

Lunchtime Clubs: 12:30pm - 13:20pm

Club	Day	Room
Steel Pans	Monday	MU1
Cricket	Monday	Field (Sports Hall)
Board Games	Tuesday	MA7
Sixth Form Bible Study	Tuesday	The Chapel
Keyboard Club	Tuesday	MU1
Transform	Wednesday	The Chapel
Basketball (KS4 only)	Wednesday	Small Gym

Visit our website to view our full enrichment offer



A standout Statutory Inspection for Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS)

As a Church of England school, the academy experienced a SIAMS inspection on Monday 26th and Tuesday 27th February. It is a privilege to share our full report that can be accessed on our website.

As you read the strengths below, please celebrate your child and the staff at St Mark's. Words cannot quite do justice to how proud I am of the whole community and their achievements captured in the report.

- St Mark's is a school that genuinely transforms the lives staff and students.
- The vision is understood and powerfully experienced by all.
- The vision and values shape the life of the school in every way at every level (Trust, Diocese, policy, staff, students).
- The school's Christian vision is deeply understood by everyone.
- We have shaped a curriculum in a way that supports every student to flourish.
- The RE curriculum is engaging, thoughtful, challenging and inclusive. It supports all students to fulfil their God given potential.
- Love, Hope, and Trust permeates through everything we do, everyone can talk to it and are the whole community are proud of it.
- Staff flourish here and are committed to vision. It's definitely a shared journey. "Everyone is on the bus."
- The culture that is outward facing, offering extensive support to the trust, SDBE and borough. Leaders at all levels genuinely offer support because they want to reveal the God-given potential in all humans.
- High aspiration and expectation for everyone and everything: staff, systems and working with other schools.
- Collective workshop is highly valued by everyone and shapes the school day. Collective worship is an part of staff and student experience.

LOVE

Love one another warmly and be eager to show respect for one another

Romans 12:10



HOPE

Let your hope keep you joyful, be patient in your troubles, and pray at all times

Romans 12:12



TRUST

In Christ, we are many parts of one body and we all belong to each other.

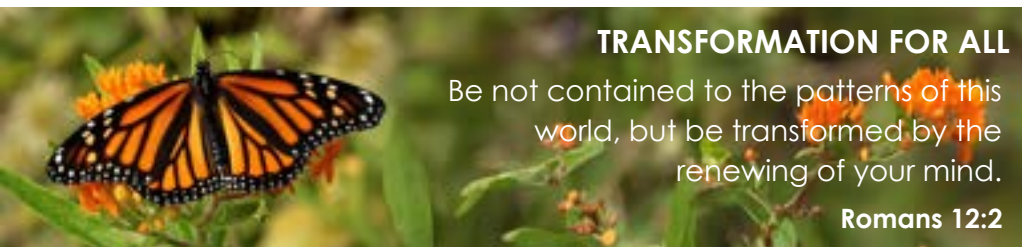
Romans 12:5



TRANSFORMATION FOR ALL

Be not contained to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Romans 12:2





Friday 29 March	Bank Holiday
Monday 1 April - Friday 12 April	Easter Break
Friday 26 April	Culture Day
Monday 6 May	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 7 May to Friday 10 May	Sustainability Week
Monday 27 May - Friday 31 May	Half Term Break
Thursday 6 June	Y8 Parents' Evening
Thursday 20 June	Y7 Parents' Evening
Friday 3 July	Speak Up Challenge
Monday 8 - Friday 12 July	Y10 Work Experience
Wednesday 17 July	Shakespeare Festival
Friday 19 July	Enrichment Day 3
Tuesday 23 July	Last Day of Term



St Mark's Academy Choir & Musicians Perform at Royal Albert Hall

On Monday 11th March our fabulous St Marks' Academy Choir and musicians treated us to some incredible singing and playing at the Royal Albert Hall as part of the Merton Music Foundation 'Music is for Life' concert.

The music was breath-taking, and we were so proud of our young people for their outstanding dedication and talent. Here is what some of our young people had to say about the event:

Soo Bishop, Creative Director, Merton Music Foundation said:

"Well, that was quite a night! Thank you for the vital role you and your colleagues have played in supporting your students and Merton Music Foundation, to produce an engaging and polished performance of the highest quality.

The evening was truly inspirational - an over-used trope, but in this case entirely justified. I hope you felt your efforts paid off and that your school's involvement in such a diverse and inclusive event was a positive and joyful experience for all."



"I really enjoyed the concert, as it really was a great opportunity to perform at such a prestigious venue. We had a lot of fun!"

Rodrigo R P

"Being at the Royal Albert Hall was nerve-wracking and fun and the music was very great to dance to!"

Isabelle B

"I liked how we met different people and got to sing together in a new place"

Jersey S

"It was very fun and really enjoyable. I liked the way the voices harmonised in the songs....I like being in the choir because you get to make new friends"

Nicola B







Science week focused on a study of 'adaptations over time'

The St Mark's community joined schools nationally to celebrate British Science Week between 8 - 17th March.

Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths took centre stage as the focus of student learning throughout the week based on this years theme of 'Time'.

The highlight, without a shadow of a doubt, was students (and staff) witnessing the live hatching of 14 beautiful baby chicks from eggs that were incubated throughout the week. They quickly garnered celebrity status - and rightly so - just look at them...

Sticking with the animal theme, students also got to handle a snake and staff dressed as animals considering the great diversity of the animal kingdom resulting from their evolution over millennia. This tied in to lessons focusing on adaptations over time, explored by students within the science department.

During coaching time. Students were given the opportunity to reflect on their past achievements, present wellbeing and future ambitions .



Chicks hatch following successful incubation

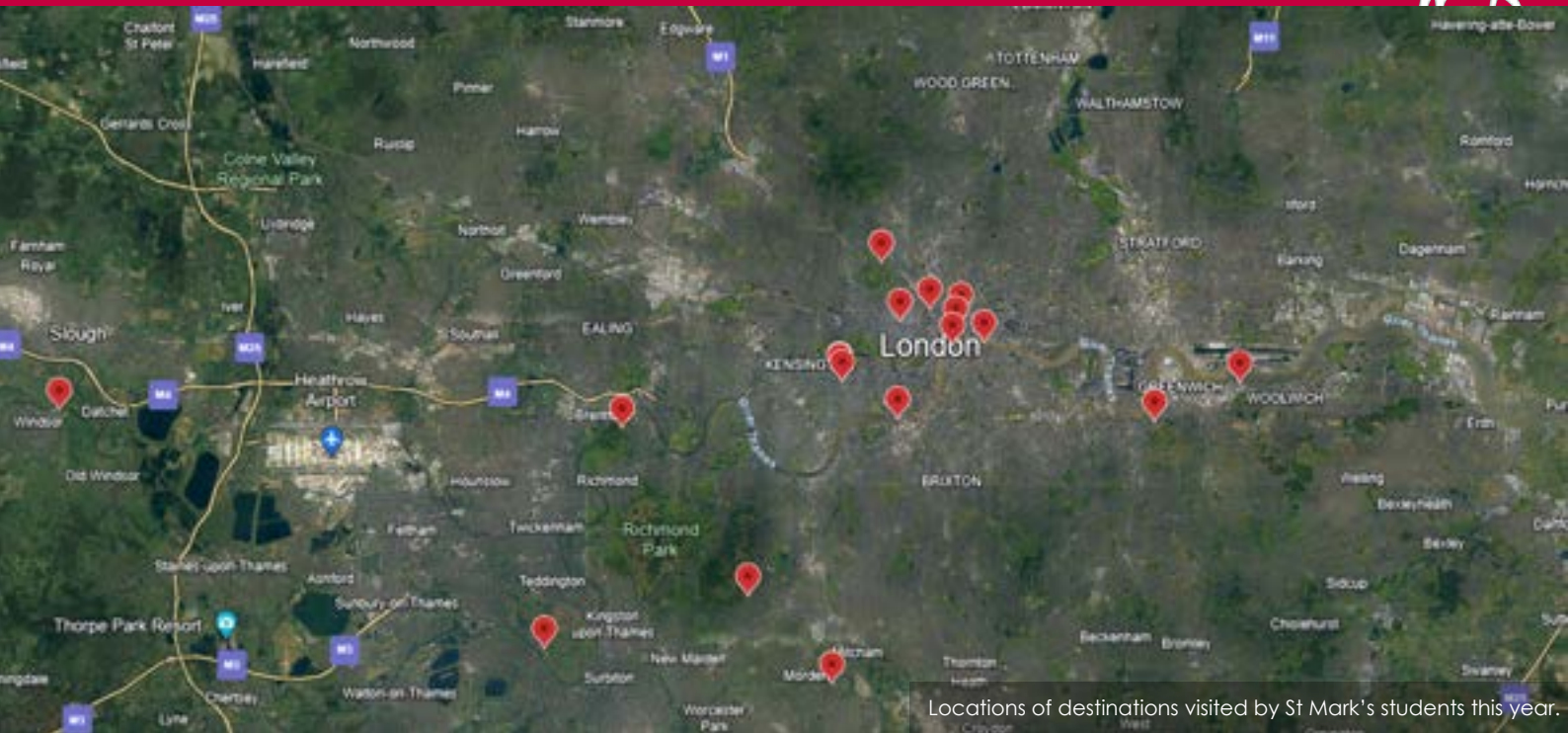


Our Sixth Form scientists were also thrilled having succeeded in cloning cauliflower using tissue culture.



Sixth Form cloned cauliflower





Locations of destinations visited by St Mark's students this year.

Enrichment

As part of our offer enrichment offer, all students participated in the second (of three) enrichment days on Tuesday 12th March. This day involves students taking time out of their regular classes to enhance their learning and apply their knowledge in real-life contexts either by participating in a school visit or with professional workshops within school.

The map above shows just some of the destinations our students have visited so far this year. These represent just those within, or closest to, London. Trips have also taken place, further afield, to destinations such as: Oxford University and museums; Cuckmere, on the South coast; and Auschwitz, Poland. Plans to make a return trip to a Parisian Chateau and to run an expedition to Peru are also currently in planning, amongst a range of enriching events within and outside of school.

We continue to see good attendance at our diverse range of enrichment clubs - open to all!



Activity based trips



Cookery club bakes!



The stage at The Globe Theatre



Cookery club proves extremely popular

ENRICHMENT - OUR BIG IDEAS

Our enrichment program focuses on giving our students opportunities and experiences based around 3 'big ideas'



**Cultural
Capital**



Employability



**Experiential
Learning**





Y9 visit to ZSL London Zoo



Y8 visit to Science Museum



Y10 Cervantes Institute



Y9 visit to ZSL London Zoo

WORLD BOOK DAY

7 MARCH 2024

A celebration of Literature

Our whole community came together, on Thursday 7 March, to celebrate World Book Day 2024.

Staff and students got fully involved by coming dressed in costumes representing famous literary characters, staff arranged a book exchange event with Sixth Formers, and everyone participated in a competition to guess who the "Shelfie" (a photo of your personal bookshelf) belonged to.

These engaging events served to highlight the importance of literacy skills and a passion for reading and underpinned activities that encouraged the development of extended writing opportunities across the curriculum.



Our English Team in full literary inspired costume



Sixth Form book exchange



#Shelfie





Sprint Finish Booklets

In the run up to exams it's important that students start to prepare effectively if they are to succeed and reach their potential.

We understand that this can be a time filled with anxiety for students (and families). We have therefore produced a small booklet, which has been given to each student to facilitate effective planning and revision during this period.

Students will have two in-school sessions to review their progress using this resource, and will be able to take this between school and home.

The booklet includes details of all exam dates, top tips and guidance on how long they should be allocating to study.

In addition, students are fully supported by their Head of Year, our fantastic pastoral and inclusion teams and all other academy staff. Should anyone require any support at all during this period students should be encouraged to reach out to a trusted staff member earlier so that we can provide effective support.

Do also check out the [Exam Information](#) page on our website. This contains exam timetables, links to useful resources to support with revision and wellbeing during this period and guidance on the rules and regulations surrounding the exam process.

A summary of some useful resources can be found [linked below](#).



Revision Planner

Week 11 – 3rd June



Top Tip: Work through past question papers. Practising writing essays and answering questions under timed conditions is fantastic experience. Ask your teachers for relevant past papers. You can also find papers online from the exam board website.

	Lessons/ Booster Sessions	Interventions	Independent Study	Completed
Monday 3 rd June	GCSE Maths Paper 3 – Calculator (AM) Higher Tier Foundation Tier – 1hr 30mins GCSE Citizenship Studies Paper 2 (PM) 1hr 40mins GCSE Physical Education Paper 2 (PM) Socio-cultural Influences & Wellbeing in Sport – 1hr 10mins			
Tuesday 4 th June	GCSE Spanish Listening and Reading Paper (AM) Foundation Tier 30mins + 40 mins Higher Tier 40mins + 1hr GCSE History Paper 2 (AM) Statistical England British Power & the People – 2hrs			
Wednesday 5 th June	Geography Paper 2 (AM) Challenges to the Human Environment – 1hr 30mins			
Thursday 6 th June	GCSE English Language Paper 2 (AM) Writer's Perspectives & Perspectives Writer – 1hr 40mins			
Friday 7 th June	GCSE Biology Paper 2 (PM) Aqueous – 1hr 40mins + 1hr 40mins Combined Aqueous – 1hr 40mins + 1hr 40mins			

Revision Planner

Week 11 – 3rd June



Top Tip: Make sure you understand the exam format and **know** as you know what to revise. Look over your syllabus and decide your approach. Leave your phone in a different room/box when you revise.

Saturday	Time	Revision Subject & Topic
40 Min Revision Slot		completed <input type="checkbox"/>
40 Min Revision Slot		completed <input type="checkbox"/>
40 Min Revision Slot		completed <input type="checkbox"/>
40 Min Revision Slot		completed <input type="checkbox"/>
40 Min Revision Slot		completed <input type="checkbox"/>

Sunday	Time	Revision Subject & Topic
40 Min Revision Slot		completed <input type="checkbox"/>
40 Min Revision Slot		completed <input type="checkbox"/>
40 Min Revision Slot		completed <input type="checkbox"/>
40 Min Revision Slot		completed <input type="checkbox"/>
40 Min Revision Slot		completed <input type="checkbox"/>

Useful Exam Preparation Videos

Managing Anxiety in Your Teens

<https://youtu.be/boYXxsZb4EA>

How to Manage Rumination and Overthinking

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QU0Ocyk3kj0>

Coping with exam stress

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XgkyhVMxQHY>

Sleep – Top Tips for Teens Relaxation

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AFQEHY-P_Bk

Parenting unmotivated and fed up teenagers: what can parents do to help?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rOwsAlHIdyU>









Artwork produced by the GCSE Art class



Student Leadership Annual General Meeting

At St Mark's student voice is incredibly important to us. It's vital that students have the opportunity to share their opinions and express their views as to what is important to them both inside school and within the wider community.

To provide opportunities for students to have such channels of communication, and really work alongside staff to make a meaningful contribution to the St Mark's community, students are offered the chance to participate in three key leadership groups:

1. Student Council
2. School Prefects
3. Black Is Great (B.I.G) Group

These teams, collectively, held their inaugural Annual General Meeting at which they discussed their achievements and successes this academic year and considered their upcoming priorities - one of which is to plan for our upcoming culture day.

They were fortunate to be joined by Kwajo Tweneboa who talked to the students about his work on leading social justice initiatives nationally, instilling in them the belief that they too can be change-makers.



Student Leadership AGM



Our Year 7 Boys Football Team celebrated a strong performance and well-deserved 5-6 win, away, against Harris Academy Morden





Our school is made up of a diverse international community, which we are proud to celebrate.

At St Mark's Academy, we have a dedicated EAL (English as an Additional Language) department that offers support in lessons as well as intervention classes to enable our students to thrive and achieve success.

In addition, something very unique to St Mark's, is that we have an alternative provision called the SMART Academy. Students who are in Year 11 and Year 12 who come from abroad have a bespoke timetable where they are able to access GCSE's and have specialist teaching. Students in the SMART Academy vary from High achievers, looking to pursue careers in medicine and engineering, to children who have never had access to formal education.

The EAL department consists of 6 members of specialist staff. Here are some of our highlights from this term:

King's College Wimbledon Partnership

Every Friday EAL beginner students in Key Stage 3 have the opportunity to improve their written and verbal English supported by students from Kings College, an independent school in Wimbledon.

All students have made great progress with their understanding of the English language.



Enterprise Day

For enrichment day Smart students were based at school and had an enterprise competition. They were given a bag of sweets and a plain white box. Their task was to do design, create a business plan and launch their product. Presentations were held the following days and the winning group and runners up were presented with prizes.

Young Ambassadors

This year we have launched a new accredited course at St Mark's Academy that has been run as a sixth form enrichment option. Three students: Ambar, Iago and Fabia have completed the Young Interpreters course. They are now known as Young Ambassadors and are equipped to help students that arrive as mid admissions to St Mark's Academy.

(Students may be new arrivals with English as an additional language or students who are transferring from another school). Young Ambassadors may be multilingual or monolingual. Their role is to be empathetic in welcoming to new students and their families. We hope to train our second cohort next term.

Theatre Workshop

The SMART students have had the opportunity to attend drama lessons within the academy that have been led and run by the Attic Theatre Company. Through these workshops' students worked on communication and interview skills while building their confidence and self-esteem in a new school environment.



ESOL Parent Classes

EAL adult classes for parents will resume on the 16 April 2024 (9:00am -10:30am). Free classes are available for parents who want to learn and understand English to better assist their children as well as to improve their own job prospects. Parents also have the opportunity to take an ESOL exam and gain a qualification.

Trip to Windsor

Smart students had the opportunity to visit Windsor on Friday 8th March. They travelled by coach and spent the morning visiting Windsor Castle. In the afternoon the group visited the town and played sports whilst having lunch in a local park.



EAL & SMART students visit Windsor Castle



Attendance Awards

Year	£20 Voucher	Easter Egg For 100% Attendance	Easter Egg For Most Improved Attendance
7	Lorenzo D	Anna G London B Daniel S	Maxim D JP F Carlo Y
8	Ashanna D	Michael R Saree A Nair V	Kai J Areeba A Munaya J-B
9	Lorenzo S	Peter E Tia R Ariadne S	Berk R Samuel A Matthew M
10	Zoe M	Rhonda O Waqas S Zakariya AH	Timaeus A Yushara A Alex K
11	Ryan G	Efe S Tia L Jachai C	Laiba C Roberto A Rosie J
Sixth Form	-	Brian A Weda F Jermaine P	Muhammad Ali C David F

Citizenship & Lifeology

It's been a year of great success in both Citizenship and Lifeology here at Saint Mark's. Year 11 in particular are celebrating excellent results in both subjects. The GCSE Citizenship course are proud to have earned great results in the most recent round of mocks and are currently in the midst of preparing for the real thing.

Meanwhile, the six Year 11 Lifeology classes have been completing the First Give project. They have picked social issues that affect the community here in Merton, identified local charities and planned social actions to raise money and awareness for their chosen cause. A massive thanks to all of Year 11 for showing such initiative, maturity and determination to educate themselves and make the world a better place!

Student Led Culture Podcast

Our podcast is about acknowledging ethnic and cultural differences that we and others have experienced in the UK.

We are currently working on arranging and organising a fundraiser to support the costs of our podcast whilst encouraging members of our school to join in and donate towards our podcast.

We believe that the process of this podcast will allow us to challenge ourselves and experience new things that we may have not previously experienced.

This will mean that we can become aspirational members of our community and encourage others to participate in courageous activities of their own.

This venture is supported by the Mark Evison Foundation.

ParentMail Information

If you experience any issues regarding ParentMail, please email Tracey Brown: tbrown@stmarks.anthemtrust.uk



If you update the school with your contact details, please also log in to your ParentMail account to update your details there to, to avoid missing any communication.



Sixth Form student launch culture podcast




OUTDOOR EDUCATION

We would like to recognise the following students who completed their Bronze & Silver DoFE Awards 2022-23. This honour will be bestowed upon them by the Mayor of Merton, at AFC Wimbledon, in April.

Students involved completed over 986 hours, collectively, developing their hard and soft skills through: volunteering within their community, participating in sports clubs, and learning and developing skills. Activities included hoop, ballet, rapping, ministering, police community work first aid, power boating and so much more!


Each group also had to undertake a qualifying expedition assessment lasting 12 hours for the Bronze award and 21 hours for Silver.

Join us in congratulating them.



Y11

Akshitha B
Marina K
Xiaoying F
Efe S
Lydiua M
Caitlin B
Gwen S
Tomiwa D



Y10

Kirst O
Nathan O
Jayda-Lea S
Kiezone H
Davina A
Iona S
Michaela M
William W

A Prayer for Easter

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" - John 11:25-26

In each of our own unique and personal situations, may we experience newness of life in all its fullness this Easter. May love, hope & trust abound in all our lives across our wonderful community.

Amen

ST MARKS ACHIEVES MORE AWARDS

We are pleased to announce we have been acknowledged, by SSAT, for our exceptional GCSE outcomes for last academic year.

TOP 20% FOR PROGRESS FOR KS4 OF ALL SCHOOLS NATIONALLY!



Teacher Training Opportunities

Have you ever considered teaching? Maybe someone you know has?

We are partnered with Teach First, a leading provider of teacher training.

If you're interested in finding out more about what's involved and what training opportunities are available, why not attend an online information event?

Sign up: forms.office.com/e/Vm2AkFkZta



anthem T Teach First Training Partner

Online Information Events

Thursday 21 March 2024 5.00-6.00pm

Monday 15 April 2024 1.00-2.00pm

Thursday 2 May 2024 4.00-5.00pm

Friday 17 May 2024 12.00-1.00pm

Wednesday 29 May 2024 7.00-8.00pm