

Dear Parents and Carers,

8<sup>th</sup> December 2025

I am writing to introduce myself. My name is Ms E Marshall, Vice Principal of Safeguarding (DSL), Behaviour and Attitudes. Having now joined St Mark's, I am delighted to be part of this wonderful community. Over the past few weeks, I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know our students and staff, and I have been impressed by their enthusiasm, dedication, and pride in the Academy. I am excited to continue building strong relationships with families and look forward to working together to ensure every child flourishes both academically and personally.

As you know, maintaining high outcomes and ensuring our students are truly transformed requires us to have high expectations of our community at all times. In recent weeks, we have noticed an increased level of non-compliance with uniform and equipment expectations, and we wanted to take this opportunity to ask for your support to correct this. We will be working with our progress leaders and coaches to challenge all non-compliance in line with our behaviour policy.

Due to us now experiencing colder weather, it is important that all students are wearing a **non-branded school coat** as appropriate attire for the winter. A reminder that hoodies are not permitted. For PE lessons, please ensure students are wearing **the full St Mark's tracksuit** to keep them warm.

For all parents and carers please see key information below regarding Academy expectations for uniform for all students:

Uniform expectations Years 7 -11	
St Mark's blazer	Must be worn daily to the Academy.
White shirt	Must be able to button up to the top.
St Mark's grey jumper	This is an optional item and not compulsory for students. It cannot be worn without a blazer.
Rewards black or burgundy jumper	Issued by the Academy. Students do not need to wear a blazer with these jumpers. <b>*Please note these are rewards for students and not available to buy.</b>
Smart Black or grey trousers	Trousers must be an appropriate length and not sag or reveal any clothing items worn underneath. <b>Flared trousers and those made of legging material are not permitted.</b>
Black pleated skirt	Skirts must be an appropriate length and worn to the knee. <b>Figure hugging straight skirts are not permitted.</b>

Year group tie	Students must wear the appropriate tie for their year group daily. Year 7 – Black Year 8 – Red Year 9 – Green Year 10 – Blue Year 11 – Burgundy
Socks	Students must wear black or grey socks. <b>White socks, fluffy socks or pattern socks are not permitted.</b> Socks must not display any sports or other logos. Socks are not permitted to be worn over the knee.
Tights	Tights must be black or grey.
Shoes/boots	Students must wear smart black shoes or boots. Items are not permitted to have a heel or any form of fashion accessory on them such as studs or decoration. Students are not permitted to wear black trainers.

#### PE kit expectations Years 7 - 11

St Marks polo t-shirt	Compulsory for all students. <b>Sports branded t-shirts or plain black t-shirts are not permitted.</b> A dark colour, plain base layer can be worn in cold weather underneath the polo shirt.
St Marks tracksuit bottoms	Compulsory for all students. <b>Sports branded bottoms or plain black bottoms are not permitted.</b>
St Marks tracksuit top	This is an optional item and not compulsory for students. <b>Sports branded tops or plain black tops are not permitted. Hoodies are not permitted.</b>
Shorts	These are optional. Must be purchased from the St Marks uniform provider. <b>Sports branded shorts are not permitted.</b>
Trainers	Students must wear appropriately supportive sports shoes. <b>Students are not permitted to wear high fashion designer brands.</b>

#### Uniform Expectations Year 12 and 13

Smart trousers	Trousers must be an appropriate length and not sag or reveal any clothing items worn underneath. <b>Flared trousers and those made of legging material are not permitted.</b>
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Smart skirt or dresses	Skirts and dresses must be an appropriate length. <b>Figure hugging straight skirts and dresses are not permitted.</b>
Shoes/boots	Students must wear smart shoes or boots. <b>Students are not permitted to wear black trainers.</b>
Smart tops	Students must wear smart tops, shirts, blouses or polo shirts. Casual t-shirts, any <b>items with slogans or logos and casual jumpers are not permitted.</b>
*Students who study PE Sports wear	Jogging bottoms and tracksuit tops that are not figure hugging or reveal any midriff. <b>No slogans are permitted.</b>
*Students who study PE Trainers	Students must wear appropriately supportive sports shoes. <b>Students are not permitted to wear high fashion designer brands.</b>

#### Banned Uniform Items - all students

- Plimsoles, vans, crocs, sliders, sandals or flip flops
- Leggings
- Jeans
- Cycling shorts
- Hoodies
- Slogans or branded writing on any item of clothing
- Smart watches
- Nose rings
- Multiple earrings
- High fashion branded coats or outdoor items (Canada Goose, Gucci, Louis Vuitton...etc.)

#### Safe Behaviour at the Level Crossing

We have recently received notification from members of the local community that some of our students have not always been safe when using the level crossing near the Academy. The safety of our students is of the utmost importance, and we ask all families to reinforce the message that crossings must be used responsibly at all times. Students should wait patiently, follow signals, and avoid distractions such as mobile phones when crossing. Thank you for supporting us in keeping every child safe both inside and outside of school.

#### Upcoming Key Calendar Events

##### Christmas Jumper Day – 10th December 2025

All students are invited to take part in Christmas Jumper Day on **Wednesday, 10th December 2025**. **Students may wear a festive Christmas jumper with their usual school uniform**. The Christmas jumper can replace the normal school jumper, but **all other uniform expectations remain in place**. We look forward to seeing everyone get involved and spread some festive cheer!

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	
Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day	10 December 2025	Students may wear festive jumpers alongside their uniform
ACE Awards	11 December 2025	Celebrating student achievement
Enrichment Day	17 December 2025	Whole school enrichment activities
Last Day of Term	19 December 2025	Students will be dismissed at 12:00 midday

### **Communication with the Academy**

We kindly ask that if you wish to discuss a concern, you contact the Academy by email at [school@stmarks.anthemtrust.uk](mailto:school@stmarks.anthemtrust.uk) or request an appointment in advance. Please note that staff are not always available to meet immediately but will respond to emails or appointment requests within 48 hours. This ensures that we can give your concern the time and attention it deserves, while maintaining the smooth running of the school day.

We truly appreciate the continued support of all families in helping us uphold our high standards and ensuring every student takes pride in both their presentation and their learning. Together, we can maintain an environment where every child thrives.

Yours faithfully,

Miss E Marshall  
**Vice Principal**