

A Community founded on Love, Hope and Trust.

St Mark's Academy End of Term Newsletter



- A message from Ms Peterkin, Principal

Dear parents and carers. I say with a heavy heart and the fondest of memories a farewell to the St Mark's community. Being a leader and Principal for 11 years has been the most rewarding experience and I would like to thank you all for your support as we transformed together the provision and life chances of students.

St Mark's is a special place; the teaching and learning is transformational and our destination data shows it is now commonplace for our students to study at world class

universities each year. Outcomes have been above the national average for several years and the leadership at all levels are the strongest I have ever worked with and will continue to improve the life chances of every young person. These examples are just some that I will hold dear to me as I leave this academic year and take up a new role as Executive Principal at Education for the 21st Century, I have the pleasure of being Advisory Principal at St Marks for the next term and will end my tenure in December 2020.

The school is in a great place to continue its journey of improvement to outstanding and beyond. I know I will be hearing about the great things the community is celebrating as it comes back together in September. I would not change my time at St Mark's for the world and wish you all a restful break.

I am pleased to announce that Hannah Fahey will be the Interim Headteacher, effective from 1 September 2020.

End of term:

Friday
17th July 2020

Autumn Start Date:

Year 7/12: Friday 4th
September
Main School: Monday 7th
September



In this Edition:

Covid-19 update and safety measures at the Academy - P2

Covid-19 Government guidance - P3

Amazing work from our students being produced at home! - P4 to 5

Looking after your Health and Well-being - P6

The Academy has a new Principal - P7

End of Term Prayer - P8

COVID-19 Safety Measures at the Academy

Since lockdown in March of this year, St Mark's Academy have been working hard to follow and impose strict government guidelines to ensure that all staff and students at the academy is safe. Below is just some of the changes that we have made for September and the beginning of the new academic year.

Social Distancing Mats



We have placed several of these social distancing mats around the academy as a constant reminder to socially distance. This coupled with wall markings ensures students and staff follow this guidance.

Social Distancing Markings



At St Mark's Academy we have also placed 2m social distancing markings in various places including the canteen, in order to guide staff and students of where they need to be stood when queuing for lunch but also where they should be seated.

Brand New Entry/Exit Points for Visitors



We have brand new entry and exit points at the academy to ensure a one way travel system within the school. We also have multiple posters around to ensure staff and students are clear how the one way system works.

Hand Sanitizer Stations



The newest addition students will notice when returning in September is our Sanitizer stations and wall pumps. We will continue asking students and staff to wash their hands regularly and use the hand sanitizers as often as possible. To ensure a germ free environment.

COVID-19 Useful Guidance

Q. What are the symptoms of coronavirus?

A new continuous cough
A high temperature
A loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. However, if you have any of the symptoms above you must stay at home and arrange to have a test to see if you have COVID-19 (Coronavirus) symptoms.

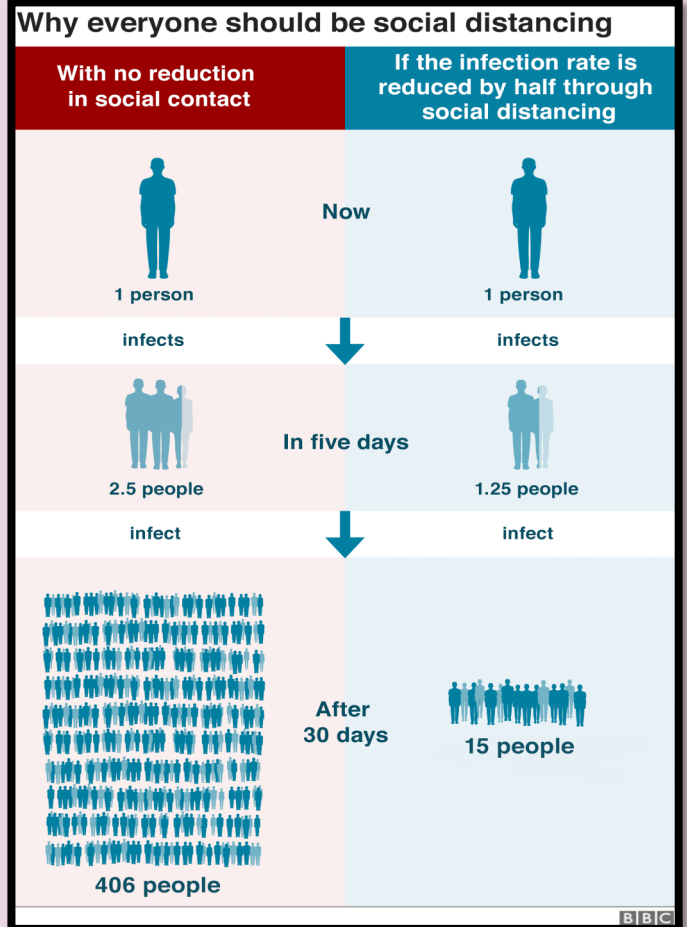
Q. What should I do if my child has symptoms?

Keep your child home to self isolate for 7 days. Other members of the household must self-isolate for 14 days. **Do not send your child into school.** Visit the NHS website to order your free test.

Reduce the spread of infection in your home by washing your hands regularly for 20 seconds using soap and water, or use hand sanitiser, and cover coughs and sneezes.

Consider alerting people who you do not live with and have had close contact within the last 48 hours to let them know you have symptoms of coronavirus COVID-19.

If your child does test positive for Covid-19 It is extremely important you inform the school as soon as you find out to ensure we can contain the spread if your child has been in contact with others. The number for our main reception is as follows **020 8648 6627**



Q. What should I do if my child's symptoms get worse?

It's important to get medical help if symptoms get worse. **Call NHS 111** or visit 111.nhs.uk/covid-19/



Home Learning

KS3 - Art

Year 7 work is inspired by an artist called Raku Inoue who makes insect shapes from found pieces of nature the students were asked to create an insect in a similar style to the artist.



Caitlyn - Year 7



Alex – Year 7



Leonardo
Year 7



Well done Year 7!

EAL - Student

June was refugee month and the smart and EAL group worked on a whole class poem centred around the theme Imagine.

Trapped

I'm Trapped

Have you ever had to escape?

You feel terrified because you have no power

To save your life.

With death, dark thoughts playing with your brain

Like blood they stain your thoughts remain

Trapped

126,720 refugees have escaped

45,244 pending asylum

Grateful

I'm grateful, safe, protected and alive.

Given a second chance to live a new life

Memories, nightmares keep flowing like waves of the sea.

Taking me back to where I was trapped.

I remind myself that I am lucky

Rescued from death, to live again.

To help others

My sisters and brothers

Giving them love, hope and trust

Widening their scope to escape the dust.

Helping them to escape the trap

The choking darkness of their reality

That always affects their mentality

By simply becoming refugee welcome

We can raise a weapon

That includes and gives a new freedom to all who are trapped.



Home Learning

Modern Foreign Languages

Creativity was at its best in the MFL department this term! By embedding in the MFL home learning timetable the Content Language Integrated Learning approach (CLIL), which uses the foreign language for a real, authentic purpose and has shown to raise levels of engagement and motivation, students were offered the opportunity to explore language learning in a new and exciting way.

Our amazing students have been working really hard every week to complete a number of projects such as:

"Why learn a language?", "Racism", "Virtual trips to France and Spain", "Mindfulness", "Famous French and Hispanic Artists", "Learning about the history of Tapas", and "How was Eiffel Tower built?"

They have all expanded their cultural knowledge and understanding of the language they are studying. Have a look at their brilliant work!

Favourite things about learning Spanish

Mihail has created this lovely poster over lockdown, depicting all his favourite things about learning Spanish.



Well done Mahail!



English

Our year 7 students have been writing poetry inspired by Imtiaz Dharker's poem 'I Need'. Here is Briahanna's version, in which she reflects on her favourite dishes and flavours.

My Poem/ my version of 'I Need'

I need the hot sun to make me thirsty,
so I can sit down and sip some cool coconut water.

I want to catch a cold,
so mom can make some special soup

Her soup with many flavours and spices
making every sip surprising

The sweetness of my older sisters' pastries,
Making me urge for more.

I could do with some mangoes,
just to remember back home

While I'm here, I'll have an ice lolly,
And maybe some fruit punch

I want to go home,
Where everything is healthy and natural

- Completed by Brihanna

Well done Brihanna!



Wellbeing and Support page

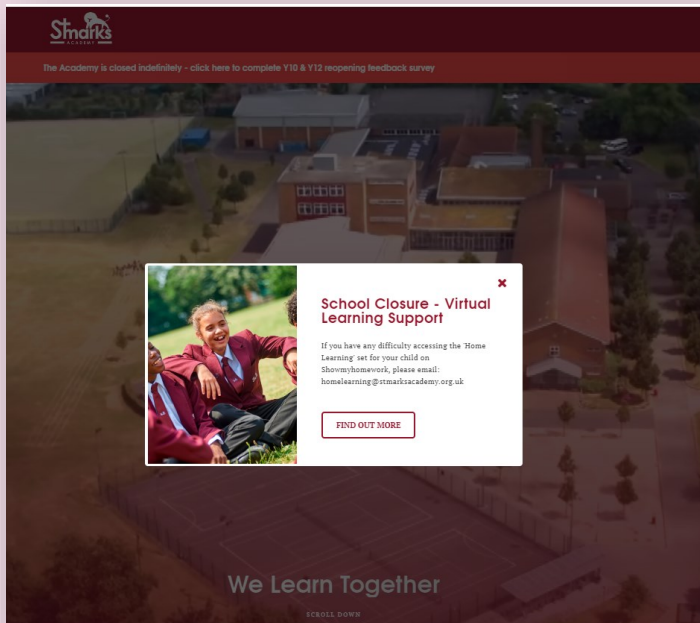
During these uncertain times, you might find yourself feeling worried about the spread of coronavirus COVID-19 and its impact on you, your family and friends. It is normal to feel this way and it is important that we acknowledge them and to look after our physical and mental health.

You might find keeping up-to-date with new information helps you feel empowered, or you might find it overwhelming. Over the coming days and weeks, it is important that you take proactive steps to maintain a routine, do things you enjoy and give yourself a sense of normality.

Because of this we have created a brand new health and wellbeing support page on our website. Please follow the steps below to view this.

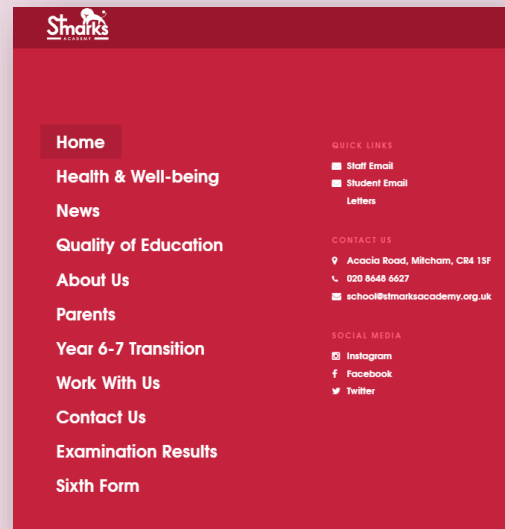
Head to our website: <https://www.stmarksacademy.com/>

Step 1:

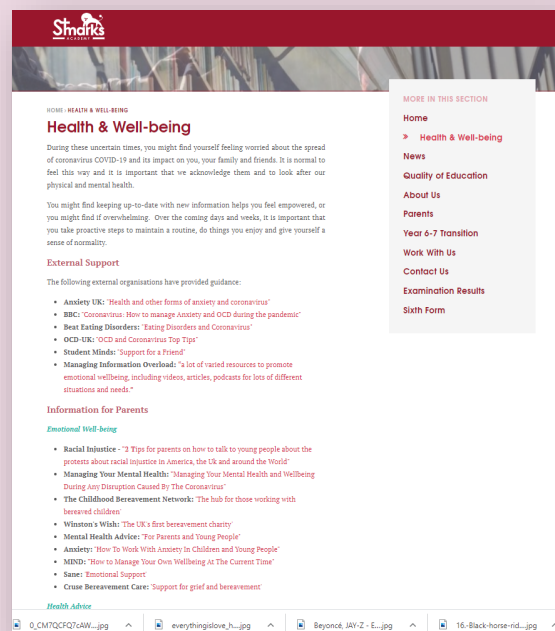


Head to the main menu and select the Health & Well-being page

Step 2:



Step 3:



Have a read through our advice and tips, there is also activities for students to complete as well as information for both parents/carers and students on how to look after your mental wellbeing

St Mark's Church of England Academy, Acacia Road, Mitcham, Surrey, CR4 1SF

T: 020 8648 6627 E: school@stmarksacademy.org.uk W: www.stmarksacademy.com

Change of Staff List

Members of staff leaving the Academy

*Thank you for all your work here at
St Mark's Academy*

Nicola Brown	Teacher of Drama
Dan Dalton	Director of Science
Tom Galligan	Teacher of Science
Stella Gbolonyo	Teacher of Maths
Gifted Ghansah	Vice Principal
Olivia Page	Associate Principal
Lisa Peterkin	Principal
Isabelle Schaffner	Teacher of Science
Katherine Zadawaski	Teacher of Art



Members of staff joining the Academy

Welcome to St Mark's Academy

Ayesha Ahmedabadi	Social Sciences Teacher
Ardita Ardhulla	Science Teacher
Simran Bhadare	Director of Science
Shanay Brown-Whitethorn	Science Teacher
Aimee Gallagher	Vice Principal Behaviour & Attitudes
Amanda Gray	Head of Art
Anthony Green	Cover Supervisor
David Gymanfi	Science Teacher
Laura Jones	Teach First Geography
Rob King	Teach First Maths
Elliot Koubis	PGCE student MFL
Jennie Smyth	Vice Principal
David Morris	Deputy Facilities Manager
Meriel Palmer	Educational Welfare Officer

St Mark's has a new Principal



It is a great honour to be able to lead the St Mark's community in this interim period. I have worked at St Mark's for 11 years so it is a community that I know and love. Being able to continue to serve parents, students and staff during this complex transitional phase is a privilege.

I know that this period of unrest will have presented different challenges to you as families and I want to thank you for all you have done to promote home learning in the virtual world. Please be assured that the school has been, and will continue to, work tirelessly to ensure that every young person in our care receives not only a learning experience of the highest quality, but a targeted pastoral programme to promote positive mental health on return to school.

I pray that you will all have a restful and safe break and urge you to continue to promote home learning and foster a love of reading within your homes over the summer holiday.

- A message from Ms Fahey, Principal

End of year Prayer



God of all beginnings and endings,

We praise and thank you for the gift of this school year that has now come to an end.

It has been a time filled with grace and blessings,
With challenges and opportunities, joys and sorrows.

Let our efforts of this past year bear fruit and help us to reflect on all that has been achieved, even in the midst of the challenging disruption that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused. Thank you for the resilience, strength and courage You have given us to thrive, and not just survive, throughout this time. New gifts have been birthed, skills have been developed and relationships have been strengthened. For this we give you thanks.

Bless us, according to Your will, with the fulfilment of our summer hopes and dreams. Give us the rest and refreshment we need this summer. Watch over us in the weeks ahead, and guide each day as you have done this past year. Keep our families safe, keep our friends safe and keep our communities safe.

Help us return to school in September with a new spirit and a new energy. May we continue to grow in age, wisdom, knowledge and grace all the days of our lives. May love, hope and trust continue flourish.

Amen.