

**A Community founded on Love, Hope and Trust.**

## St Mark's Academy End of Term Newsletter



### **- A message from Ms Fahey, Principal:**

I want to start by saying a heartfelt thank you for working in partnership with the school this term. It has presented challenges that I know we never thought we would have to work through as teachers and parents and having your full support and understanding in the decisions we have made makes our community even stronger.

I am so proud of all the Academy has achieved over the past term and want to thank you as parents for playing a leading role in the continued success of St Mark's. Below are just some of the highlights.

Despite national lockdown and rising cases of Covid across the country, the Academy has continued to achieve great things for the young people and families we serve. Last week marked the annual Renaissance Learning Awards, this year the theme was changed to recognise schools who had provided a transformational academic and pastoral offer during lockdown between March and September 2020. I am proud to share with you all the wonderful news that St Mark's Academy has been named as the winner of the 2020 Renaissance Lockdown Learning Awards for Going the Extra Mile. Please see the judges' comments below:

The Reverend Andrew Wignall (Director of Personal Development) posted daily reflections to support staff and students of all faiths and none. He played a key role in supporting the community's spiritual development and mental health during this difficult period.

Anthoula Glymidou (Head of MFL) designed bespoke languages resources for students on Teams which supported engagement that was 40% higher than similar students nationally.

Rachel Sewell (Vice Principal for Curriculum Implementation) has been nominated for leading an outstanding training programme for teachers each week to support their delivery of Teams lessons. Rachel carried out this work across five secondary schools within the Anthem Trust.

During lockdown, the school's Student Support Team truly went above and beyond by driving to pupils' homes in a minibus to make sure every child's mental health and wellbeing was supported.

Head of PSHE (referred to as Lifeology at St Mark's), Dominique Giovannoni redesigned the curriculum based on the latest research that was released during the Covid-19 pandemic to help students take care of their mental health during a very unsettling time.

I would like to celebrate four students in Year 13 who have been interviewed for a place at Oxford and Cambridge (Oxbridge) this term. The whole community is behind them and I am sure you will keep them in your prayers as they prepare to secure the grades needed to attend these prestigious universities. I know that together we can build on these achievements and continue to realise the God given potential in every young person we serve.

*Finally, I would like to take some time to think about Christmas and what it means for the St Mark's community. Christmas is good news. After a challenging year, it is my prayer that Christmas brings hope and joy to you and to the world that is crying out for good news. I wish you and your families a restful break and pray for your health and happiness over the festive period.*

- Hannah Fahey

### **Term Start Dates:**

**Wednesday 6th January 2021**

## *Covid-19 current guidance*

### **St Marks Procedure when dealing with a suspected case**

1. A member of staff would request for a first aider or radio for support from the main office or SLT
2. As soon as reasonably practical wash your hands as advised above
3. First aider will bring the student, staff member or visitor to the 'designated isolation room' Meeting room 1 – suspected cases must not isolate in the First Aid room
4. First aider **must wear PPE provided (disposable mask and gloves). PPE located in the isolation room and first aid room.**
5. First aider must inform a member of the Senior Leadership team on duty immediately. All suspected cases must be informed to me as soon as possible.
6. Main office will call home for student or staff and advised to go home
7. Main office will provide a letter to take home advising to contact NHS 111
8. First aider to record as per usual first aid arrangements and also inform myself as soon as possible
9. First aider to inform site team whenever the isolation room is used for these circumstances. Sanitising of surfaces such as door handle, table, chair, etc will be done after each use.

First aider to remove PPE and dispose immediately and wash hands

#### **Symptoms that parents should look out for:**

- 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

If you have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), however mild, OR you have received a positive coronavirus (COVID-19) test result, the clear medical advice is to immediately self-isolate at home for at least 7 days from when your symptoms started. Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital. You should arrange to have a test to see if you have COVID-19 .

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:

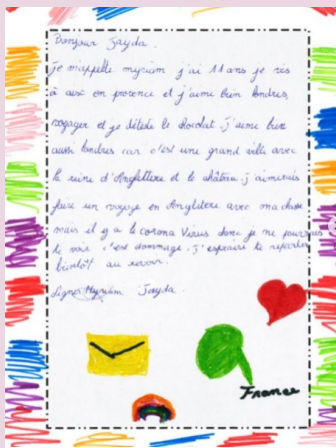
**020 8648 6627**



# Good News

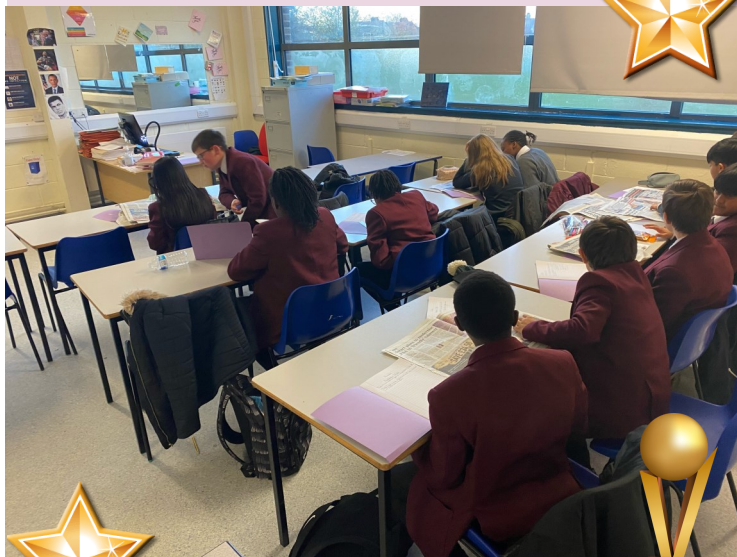
## Modern Foreign Languages

We have recently established a pen pal scheme with a school in Aix-en-Provence. Our students recently received their first letters and have written their first reply. To this end, they have also been learning about the culture and history of the area. We hope to maintain this scheme over with next few years, with a view to organising a school trip to Provence



## Well done Year 7!

Some of our Year 7s engaged in The Thinkers' Project! A new initiative allowing them to develop their deeper thinking surrounding the world of Journalism .



## Foodbank Donations

So proud of the generosity of our Academy community in donating so much to the Salvation Army Foodbank. The Year 10 students represented our Academy so well. Massive thank you to Janine Carter for coordinating this initiative so passionately.



## Sixth Form Inauguration

Our Sixth Form team being inaugurated by the peerless Reverend Wignall





# Good News

## Talks with Gareth Southgate

Some of our year 11 students had the chance to grill England Manager Gareth Southgate and YouTube legend Sharky in a special virtual Q and A



## Well Done Sixth Form!

Our Year 13 students receiving their mock exam results at our special assembly led by our Acting Principal Miss Fahey and Head of Sixth Form Miss Bhadare'.



## ACE Awards

It was amazing that The Winter ACE awards 2020 could still take place this year! Due to Covid there was a chance that the awards ceremony would not take place, however with a few changes to how they were ran, the Year 7, Year 8, Year 9 and Sixth Form were able to have their own ACE awards. The Year 10 and Year 11 will take place the second week in January.

The students were extremely excited about the event and with the new change of the whole year group attending it meant those who were receiving awards were kept a surprise.

There were awards for the Top conduct, Top engagement on Teams and the best progress. For the Winter ACE awards 2020 there was also subject awards. These were a new award. Each subject chose one student for this award and they were chosen for going above and beyond and showing excellent passion and enthusiasm in this subject. To those students who received a subject award they should feel extremely proud.

At the ACE there are normally live performances, however due to the mixing of bubbles this couldn't happen like previous years. However due to the hard work of the music and dance teachers there were still some very special performances. There were live dance performances at the KS3 ACE awards. The year 7's performed their firework dances, the year 8's their hand jive dance and at the year 9 ACE awards two groups performed their prop dances which they had choreographed themselves. The music teachers also created a videos so all the year groups could see 2 GCSE music bands performing.

The final two awards were The values award, and Head Teacher award. Only one students from each year group were selected and these at the schools most prestigious awards. These are given to students who demonstrate excellent conduct in and around school and embody the school values of Love, Hope and Trust.

Well done to all the students who received awards it is a testament to all your hard work this year.

The next ACE awards will be Spring 2021 who will be the winners at these awards.

**For photos taken at the awards please turn to the next page!**



# Photos at the 2020 ACE Awards!



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

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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 for 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



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



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.

# Important Announcements

Dear parents,

we are starting consultation on making minor adjustments to our admissions policy. The consultation document and new proposed policy can be found here: <https://www.stmarksacademy.com/page/?title=Admissions&pid=48>

The consultation period lasts for 6 weeks. The new proposed policy has no implications for current students.

- Mr Hampton

# Wellbeing and Support page

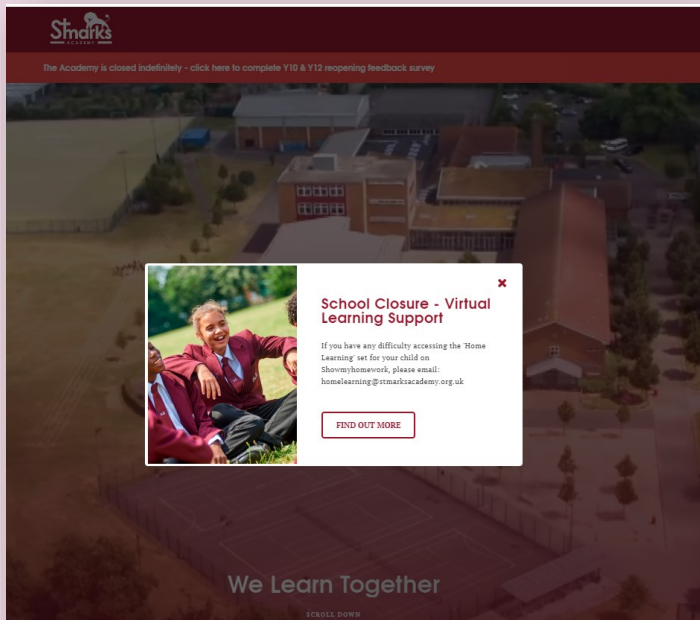
During these uncertain times, you might find yourself feeling worried about the spread of coronavirus COVID-19 and its impact on you, your family and friends. It is normal to feel this way and it is important that we acknowledge them and to look after our physical and mental health.

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.

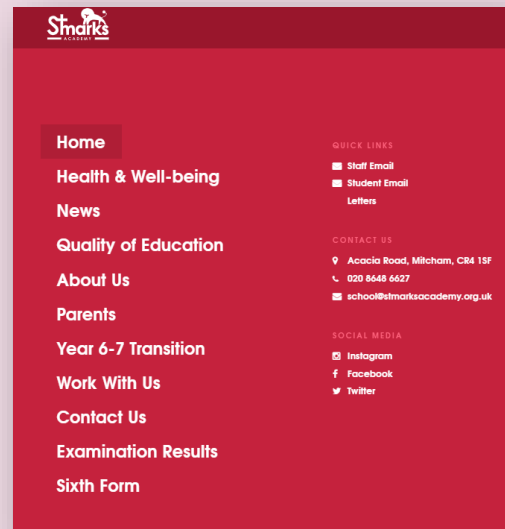
Head to our website: <https://www.stmarksacademy.com/>

**Step 1:**

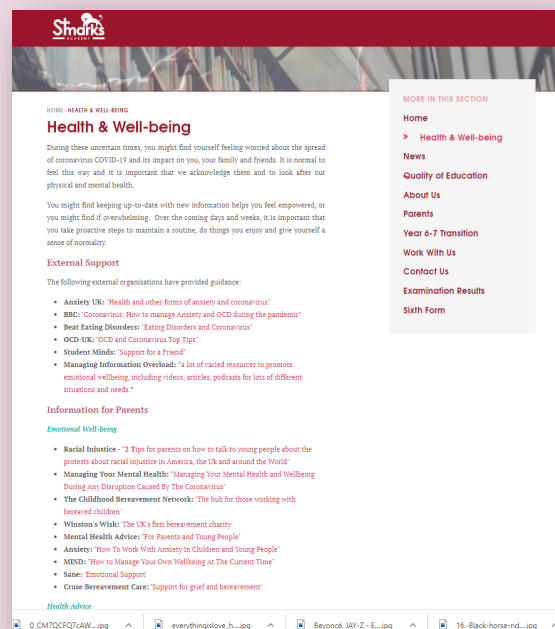


Head to the main menu and select the Health & Well-being page

**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

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