



May 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

### **Year 7 Spelling Bee Competition**

In our quest to continually enhance Literacy Across the Curriculum and to assist our students to develop an extensive vocabulary repertoire, we will be hosting a Year 7 Spelling Bee Competition in partnership with our local primary schools. This will help students' spellings of a wide range of vocabulary and improve their written and spoken communication skills.

Throughout the Spelling Bee Competition, students will be asked to spell a variety of tier two level words (general academic words that fit across a wide range of topics and contexts) and tier three words (subject specific vocabulary). Students will be provided with a Spelling Bee Booklet, which all the words for each round will be taken from. This is available for students to access via the Year 7 Google Classroom and on the school website. We encourage all our Year 7 students to review the booklet to practise their spellings, learn new words and, ultimately, extend their vocabulary. The spellings are intentionally challenging.

Over the next two weeks, each form tutor will be given a list of ten words, randomly selected from the Spelling Bee Booklet, and will complete a form group written spelling test. The top spellers from each tutor group will be chosen to participate in the St Mark's Year 7 Spelling Bee Competition to represent their form and house, and the overall winners will go on to compete in the Hounslow Year 6/7 partnership Spelling Bee Competition. Students participating in the competition, at all rounds, will be awarded St Mark points to ensure they are awarded for their achievements and efforts.

The competition will follow the format of a Spelling Bee and students will spell words aloud to a panel of judges. There will be knock out rounds, a semi-final and the competition will conclude with a Grand Final, competing against Year 6 winning students, on 2nd July. Knockout rounds will take place during lunch time and details will be shared with students, so they can invite their friends along to support them. There will be prizes awarded for student participation and winners.

Please encourage your child to participate in this activity; they are guaranteed to learn new words, improve their spellings, develop their vocabulary and have an enjoyable experience.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Julien

Assistant Headteacher