



19th October 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

This has been a very positive half term and I am grateful to have received such a warm welcome from staff, pupils and parents. One of the strengths of St. Mark's is the partnership with parents and I thank you for your attendance at the Expectations Evenings and the Year 7 Mass. Our new Year 7 pupils have made an excellent transition into Secondary School and they have quickly become part of our community.

During this half term we have had very successful Open Mornings, Open Evening and Into Sixth Form Evening. These are important events for the school and we welcome increasing numbers of visitors each year. I would like to express my thanks to the hundreds of pupils who supported in departments, gave tours of the school and helped with the organisation of the evenings. They were excellent ambassadors for the school.

I would now just like to highlight some key information for you:

Online safety

This is an increasingly complex area and there are useful resources for parents on the following website:
<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

Free School Meals entitlement

Claiming Free School Meals will benefit your child and it will benefit the school as the Government will provide additional funding for every child registered to receive Free School Meals. It will benefit you, saving over £500 per year in food bills. The following guidance is from Hounslow Borough:

Your children are entitled to free school meals if you receive one of the below benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Universal Credit and have an annual income of no more than £7,400
- Child Tax Credit, but not entitled to a Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by the Inland Revenue) of no more than £16,190
- Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
- or are being supported by the National Asylum Support Service (NASS)

If you require further information or guidance (regardless of where you live) you can contact the FSM lead for Hounslow on 02039497743 or access the following link:

https://www.hounslow.gov.uk/info/20025/schools_and_colleges/61/free_school_meals.

You may also contact our Welfare Administrator, Mrs S. De Roeper via the School Office telephone number or email. Rest assured that the school will deal with all enquiries in the strictest of confidence.

Uniform

Thank you for your support in ensuring that our high standards are maintained as the vast majority of pupils take great pride in their appearance. Our full uniform policy is available on the School Website but I would particularly like to draw your attention to the following points:

- Boys' hair should be no shorter than number/grade 3 (no shaved heads or patterns shaved into hair).
- Girls' earrings - Single plain pair of gold or silver studs (one in each earlobe). No other piercings are allowed.
- Winter coats should be plain navy blue or black and be long enough to cover the school blazer

Phones

Pupils in years 7-11 are not allowed to bring mobile phones or any other electronic equipment into school. If they are found on pupils, they will be confiscated for 24 hours and the item will only be returned to a parent or carer.

Events during the next half term:

Monday 29th October: all pupils return to school

Thursday 1st November is a Holy Day of Obligation - the Feast of All Saints. There will be Mass in the Main Hall at 8am. All Year 7 pupils are expected to attend and all other pupils are welcome. Pupils not attending should attend Mass in their local parish on Thursday evening. Registration for the whole school will be from 8.50 – 9.00 am.

Thursday 8th November: Year 7 Tutors Evening 3.30pm – 5.30pm

Thursday 29th November: INSET Day

Friday 30th November: School is closed

Monday 3rd December: Year 11 Exams begin

Thursday 6th December: Year 9 Parents' Evening 4pm – 7pm

Tuesday 11th December: St. Mark's Carol Service

Tuesday 18th December: Prizegiving

Wednesday 19th December: pupils finish school at **1.10pm**

Finally, our new website is now live so please visit: <http://www.st-marks.hounslow.sch.uk/>. This has more key information regarding the school, including the Parent Pupil Handbook for the current Academic Year.

Yours sincerely,



Ms Andrea Waugh-Lucas
Headteacher