



A community of transformation founded on Love, Hope and Trust.



YOUR JOURNEY OF TRANSFORMATION BEGINS HERE...

Welcome to St Mark's Church of England Academy - a community of transformation founded on Love, Hope and Trust.

The Vision

My vision is to provide an outstanding quality of education for students, dedicated to academic and character excellence, through the inclusive Christian values of Love, Hope and Trust. I have taught and been a leader within the Academy for more than 13 years. It has been a place where I have been able to transform professionally, and I want to afford the same transformational experience to every family who embarks on a seven-year journey with us.

St Mark's offers a commitment to developing every young person holistically within a community underpinned by the ethos and teachings of the Anglican Church. Our mission is to nurture and empower every young person in our care and facilitate a real zest for learning that will enable them to strive for success, irrespective of their starting points. Our unwavering dedication to this mission means that students consistently achieve excellent results, and many have gone on to study at the most prestigious universities in the UK.

Our students' success in every aspect of their development is supported by a dedicated and highly skilled staff, who give their time and energy unconditionally to ensure every St Mark's student has the opportunity to transform and become an active member of the school and local community.

Through our ambitious and broad curriculum and in the vast range of extra-curricular opportunities, we are able to realise the God-given potential of every young person we serve.

The best way to experience life at St Mark's is to visit us during a normal school day. As Principal, I am passionate about encouraging you to see our transformational Academy in action, walk around the incredible facilities and to meet our exceptional students and staff.

Our parents and carers are fundamental to the success of this community. Our strong partnership with you ensures the highest standards of achievement, student destinations and personal development. I really look forward to meeting you.

Hannah Fahey, Principal

“The Academy’s provision for the personal development and welfare of pupils is outstanding. It is highly enriching and supportive and focuses on ‘values in action’.”

- Ofsted





us all
es forever:
and one another
their trust in us.
and in your world
to those around us.
f and neighbour
h other with joy.
r promise
ve may flourish.

Forwards Ever, Backward Never
"Every day is a new beginning. Treat it that way. Stay away from what might have been, and look at what can be."
As we begin a new term, God encourages us with these words:
"Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."
Jeremiah 29:11
"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."

"I have come so that they may have life
— life in all its fullness."
John 10:10

"The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding."

- SIAMS

FAITH AND VALUES IN ACTION AT ST MARK'S

St Mark's Church of England Academy is an inclusive Christian community committed to developing the values of the Church of England through everything we do. As you walk through our doors you will see our Christian values of, Love Hope and Trust come to life. These shared values have shaped St Mark's over recent years giving the Academy its distinctive character.

The biblical passage that serves as the theological underpinning for our Christian vision and values is Romans 12: *Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.* (Romans 12:2)

This epitomises the Church of England's Vision for Education, taken from Jesus' words in St John's gospel: *I have come in order that you might have life- life in all its fullness.* (John 10:10)

We welcome students of all faiths and those who have none as we strive to develop a mutual understanding and respect between all faiths. We have an employed chaplain who leads our Christian ethos, working holistically to enrich the personal development of our students and offering support to our staff, parents and the wider community.

Collective Worship is an important part of the school day where students, of all faiths and none, reflect and respond to life's big questions, with opportunities for stillness and quiet. This provides students a space for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Collective Worship at St Mark's reaffirms our values, celebrates and gives thanks for the achievements and gifts of every member of our community.



LOVE

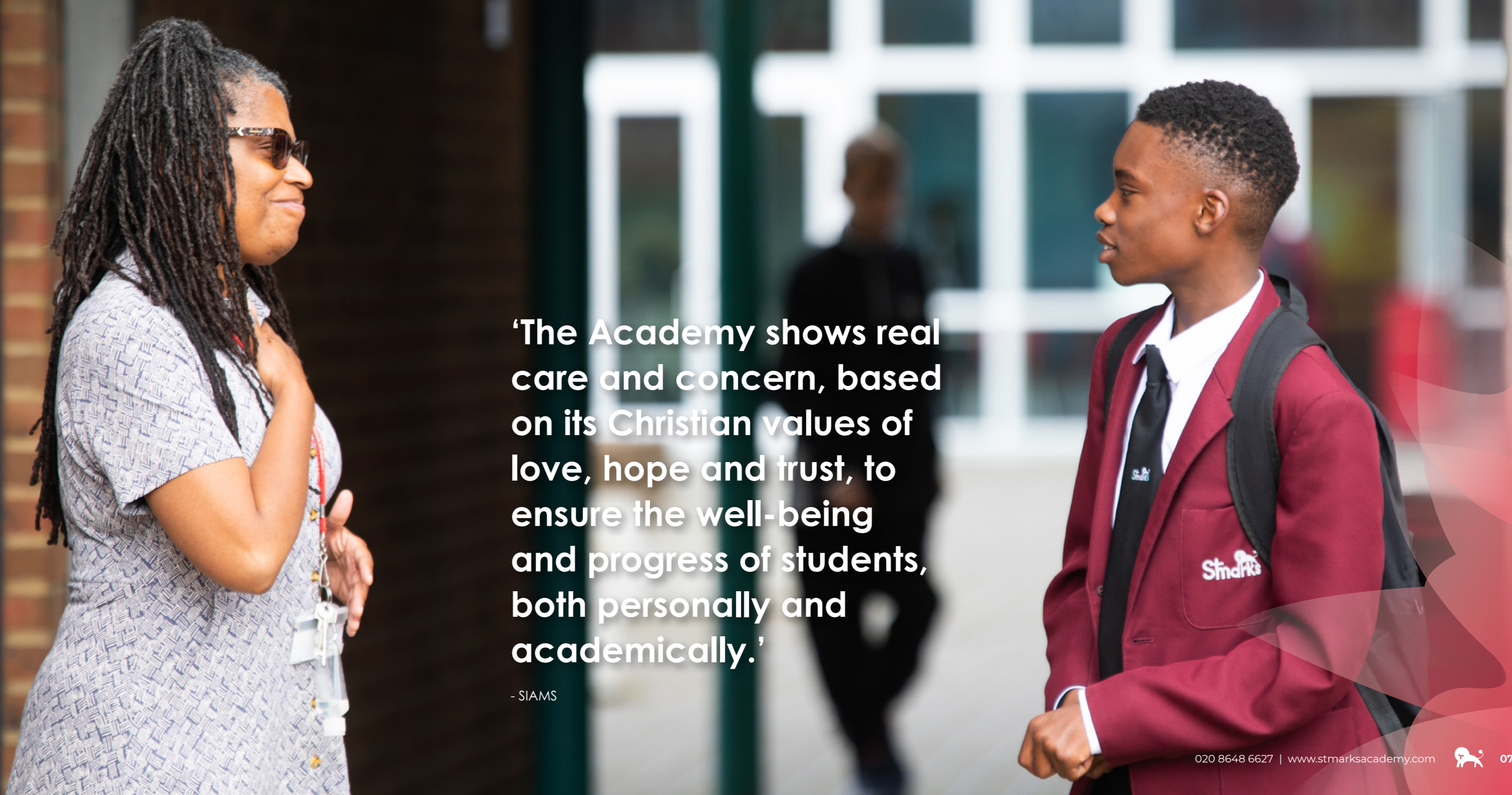
Romans 12:10 - *Love one another warmly and be eager to show respect for one another.*

We are transformed to love

Our LOVE values each person and the gifts they bring; it encourages all to participate in building a school community in which all can flourish. This is exemplified through high-quality learning and teaching across the curriculum.

Learning is our core purpose. At St Mark's we structure learning to ignite our students' curiosity and inspire them to become successful, lifelong independent learners who can be agents of change in the world. Our specialist teachers are extremely enthusiastic and passionate about their subjects, spending considerable time planning a transformational curriculum, and instilling their passion for their subjects to the students.

Our curriculum is broad and balanced and maximises the opportunities for a successful transition into higher or further education, training and employment ensuring that students have the skills and abilities to thrive in the world of work and in their wider communities.



‘The Academy shows real care and concern, based on its Christian values of love, hope and trust, to ensure the well-being and progress of students, both personally and academically.’

- SIAMS

HOPE

Romans 12:12 - *Let your hope keep you joyful, be patient in your troubles, and pray at all times.*

We are transformed in hope

Our HOPE means that we expect the best of ourselves and others; it enables perseverance in the face of setbacks and encourages the fresh starts that come from forgiving ourselves and others. Through a transformative curriculum, we create **pathways to success** for every student in our diverse community.

Our Curriculum

The curriculum at St Mark's has been carefully designed to draw on the rich and varied backgrounds of our students. We have a relentless desire to provide all students with a curriculum that is broad and balanced; one that is diverse, one that is fully inclusive and one that is decolonised.

We are always striving to reshape our curriculum in a way that destabilises unconscious bias, misrepresentation and inaccessibility. This, in turn, empowers students to become thoughtful, informed citizens who will challenge and interrogate prejudiced ideologies and practices. They will genuinely celebrate equality and diversity as benchmarks for a just, liberating and thriving society.

At St Mark's, students participate in enriching experiences, giving them the ambition, confidence, cultural capital, and employability skills to be successful in their future university and professional career.



Key Stage 3

Our Key Stage 3 curriculum is engineered to maximise progress in the core areas of English, Mathematics and Science. We offer a wide range of traditional academic subjects, such as languages, geography, history and R.E. alongside an impressive range of creative subjects. These include, art, PE, drama, music, design and technology, ICT and our exceptional PSHE provision, known at St Mark's as, Lifeology.

All our programmes of study at Key Stage 3 are built with the demands of GCSE and A Level in mind. Knowledge, understanding and skills are developed from Year 7 through to the end of Year 13, ready for university entry, employment or training.



Key Stage 4

In Year 9, students go through a carefully designed 'guided choice' process to select the best possible range of subjects for themselves.

All students take Mathematics, English Language and Literature, Double or Triple Award Science and RE. In addition to this, students take three subjects from:

- History
- Geography
- Spanish
- French
- PE
- Drama
- Psychology
- Food Technology
- Music
- Design Technology
- Sociology
- Citizenship
- Art
- Film Studies
- BTEC ICT
- BTEC Business or Functional Skills.

This offer ensures that all students are well placed with options to further their studies in Key Stage 5 at St Mark's.





Specialist support for all

We are committed to ensuring that every student is afforded the opportunity to aspire to greatness whatever their ability or level of need.

Our impressive provision for our high flyers means they are expertly stretched and challenged through activities such as debating, collaborating with the Brilliant Club and visiting top universities to get them thinking straight away about their future endeavours.

Our SEND department is a beacon of excellence, providing ambitious, bespoke support for any young person at St Mark's who may need it. Their innovative approaches ensure young people with additional needs are fully supported to achieve their full potential.

Our fantastic EAL department work closely with every student who comes to the Academy who may not speak English as their first language. Again, as each student is different, we create a tailor-made support plan, so they are fully supported and given all the skills needed for them to quickly feel confident to be fully immersed in mainstream lessons.

“Students are very complimentary about their Lifeology lessons and appreciate the direct teaching and discussion about contemporary issues.”

- Anthem Schools Trust Review

The Sixth Form

Ready for the Next Step

Preparing for Success in the Future

As an 11 to 18 Academy, students continue to flourish within our school-based Sixth Form, where they can enjoy the extra freedoms and responsibilities of a post-16 setting, while remaining part of a nurturing and transformational community founded on Love, Hope and Trust.

Our expert Key Stage 5 team are dedicated to preparing Sixth Form students for their next stage of their education. Whether your child's ambition is to attend a Russell Group University, undergo an apprenticeship, or gain credible qualifications leading directly into employment and training, St Mark's Sixth Form supports them to achieve their dreams.

Sixth Form students have a bespoke enrichment offer designed to enhance their employability skills and physical and mental health. These include, driving theory lessons, the EPQ, an impressive range of sporting clubs, Sports Leaders qualification, volunteering at local primary schools and debate club.

Sixth form is an opportunity for students to transform themselves into successful citizens ready for the rest of their lives. St Mark's Academy provides a setting in which our students are equipped to compete against those from world class settings. Our alumni network of medics, Oxbridge applicants and Year 13 leavers show the impact of our incredible provision.



“Being the third generation of a St Mark’s student in my family, I can say from experience that the staff are always there when you need them and always want to help. The lessons are high quality, and everyone has a positive attitude to learning, because there is a mutual respect between pupil and teacher. I couldn’t be where I am now if it were not for St Mark’s, and I’m glad I made the choice to join the St Mark’s family.”

- Year 13 Student



TRUST

Romans 12:5 - *In Christ, we are many parts of one body and we all belong to each other.*

We are transformed through trust

Our TRUST encourages us to rely on God, and one other, as we all take responsibility for ourselves and for the whole school community. We offer outstanding care, guidance and support.

Pastoral care and safeguarding

Pastoral care is the foundation that St Mark's Academy is built upon. The welfare of our community underpins all decision making and initiatives within the Academy. Our highly trained staff deliver safeguarding practices and procedures that have been described as 'World Class' by external agencies. The support and care of our students is delivered with empathy and compassion.

Caring for each other

We use a centralised behaviour system that is caring yet uncompromising of our high expectations. Students are assured that they will be supported by our dedicated behavioural team, spoken to one to one and treated with respect. Our Progress Leaders and Coaches lead the way in helping students use a restorative approach to resolve conflict and reflect upon their actions. We use our values of, Love, Hope and Trust to underpin appropriate behaviours that we wish to see in each other to thrive within our community. Students at St Mark's are proud of their school and treat others how they wish to be treated.

Caring for our community

St Mark's considers not only the student but their family as part of our community. As a member of our community we want to share good news with you regarding the achievements of the Academy and those of your child. Regular updates will be sent home regarding their academic progress alongside behavioural and achievement updates.

We maximise opportunities for parental engagement asking parents to assist with reviewing policies and curriculum alongside giving feedback on interventions and enrichment activities. Parents at St Mark's are given the opportunity to fully immerse themselves in all aspects of their child's education.

“Your endless emotional support has been valuable with regards to my son's education, socialisation and most importantly his mental and physical well-being. He is so comforted knowing he can come to see anyone at anytime he needs to.”

- Year 9 Parent



LEADING THROUGH SERVING

So we are to use our different gifts in accordance with the grace that God has given us. If our gift is to speak God's message, we should do it according to the faith that we have; if it is to serve, we should serve; if it is to teach, we should teach; if it is to encourage others, we should do so. Whoever shares with others should do it generously; whoever has authority should work hard; whoever shows kindness to others should do it cheerfully. (Romans 12:6-8)

We are transformed by God and each other through the gifts that we have been given by God

In the Gospel of Mark, the writer Mark describes St John the Baptist's voice (which witnesses said sounded like a roaring lion) crying out in the wilderness to prepare the way for Jesus' ministry, and Mark himself helped deliver the Gospel message to people with boldness, like a lion. So people began associating Saint Mark with the lion. The lion symbolises courage strength and leadership. At St Mark's, we are courageous in heart, strong in our faith and leaders in the community through service.



Student Leadership

The Academy champions student voice and leadership opportunities, enabling students from all years to be courageous advocates within the school and community.

Students at St Mark's not only serve in leadership positions within school, but they also lead with a wider sphere of influence, representing on platforms such as the Merton Youth Parliament and London Citizens.

Every year we widen the opportunities available, ensuring student voice and leadership remain an integral part of Academy life. All students are invited to participate in student surveys as well as attending our extended leadership meetings, which all feeds into our school improvement plans.

Lead Prefects

Our impressive sixth form prefect team all have assigned roles that truly reflect the demands of a modern school. Our prefects focus on the areas of: well-being, enrichment, charity and fund-raising and sustainability. To oversee that, we also recruit head prefects who help lead weekly meetings to ensure all promises are kept and are delivered to the highest possible standard. They are at the forefront of all positive change at the sixth form and the wider Academy community.

Student Council

Each year, a group is elected across the school, to represent all young people on the Academy Student council. They work together on a weekly basis to discuss key issues and concerns, enabling student voice to be part of school improvement projects and decisions. The whole Academy goes through a voting process; each student will then be interviewed and asked to present ideas.

Student Ambassadors

This is the most popular leadership activity students of any age can participate in. As ambassadors, students proudly represent the public face of the Academy. Students take this role very seriously, endeavouring to serve as respected role models. Student ambassadors lead on Open Days and Parents' Evenings, and deliver presentations to parents, students, and governors.

We collaborate with all our student leaders on new exciting projects and help to prepare and develop them as future leaders.

"I have been fortunate over the years to experience amazing opportunities that wouldn't have been possible without the help of the school. These activities have pushed me to my limits and allowed me to be confident in positions of challenge and leadership, such as my current role as Head Prefect."

Prefect



“The school welcomes everyone and all students feel valued.”

- Year 8 student

LIFE IN ALL ITS FULNESS

I have come in order that you might have life- life in all its fulness.
(John 10:10)

Enrichment Opportunities - St Mark's Supra Et Ultra

At St Mark's we are passionate about providing the widest range of cultural, geographical and physical experiences to enhance our students' cultural and social capital. Our thriving enrichment programme is an essential part of our mission to promote employability skills, academic attainment and positive physical and mental health.

The Academy's provision for enrichment gives students the opportunity to go *Supra Et Ultra*, Latin for 'above and beyond'.

From script writing to steel pans, football to Latin; the enrichment offer at St Mark's really has something for everyone. Our highly innovative and broad offer gives students a sense of agency and ensures they develop their interests, whilst also nurturing their God-given talent.

Enrichment days happen throughout the academic year. These days include trips to places such as London theatre shows, art galleries, historical monuments, places of worship, field trips, museums, and some of the top universities in the country. We also invite inspirational speakers, well known sports people, leading professionals and experts in their field to come and lead workshops in school on these special days.

Students are also able to participate in the Jack Petchey Speak Out challenge, spelling bees and poetry slams. The Learning and Resource Centre is open throughout the day for students to play chess and use the high-quality ICT facilities.



KOINONIA (COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS)

Koinonia is a Greek biblical word that is often translated as 'fellowship' or 'community'. It denotes family. A central element of being a family is interdependence: all are needed and valued and each person is important to the whole.

Working together towards common goals

Parent partnership

At St Mark's, we truly prioritise our relationships with families. We strive to develop genuine partnerships with parents and carers and all the unique skills and talents they bring. We see parents and carers as key stakeholders in the success of their child.

The relationships are forged from when your child first enters the school and grow throughout their time with us. Parents have an opportunity to engage with us through one-to-one meetings, extended leadership forums and information evenings. These are real opportunities for us to get to know a family and to work collaboratively to enable every young person to thrive.

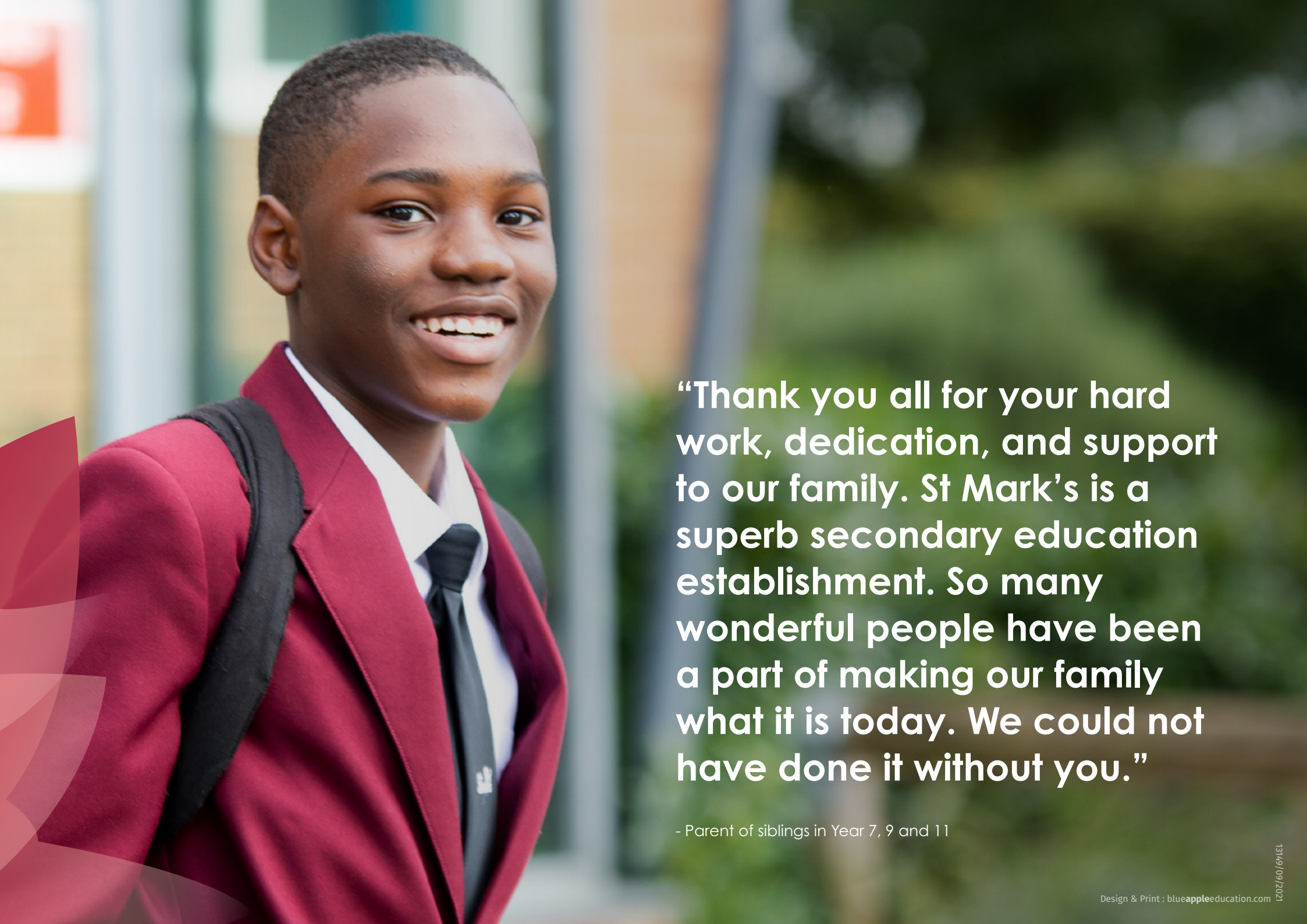
We take pride in the way we communicate with families. Staff will not hesitate to contact parents to offer support, guidance and encouragement. We operate an open-door policy, enabling all

parents to come to see us should there be any reason to do so. We use ParentMail to send out important messages via email and text message to give updates or to share our newsletters as this is the quickest and most efficient way to communicate with you. We also have a parents' section on our website that serves as a go-to for any information that you may need to access about the Academy.

New parents receive a parent handbook, which gives clear guidance as to how parents can work with us to best support their child. We have an extensive programme of Parents' Evenings throughout the year. These are vital to the success of all students by giving parents an opportunity to meet with staff to discuss the progress of their child, and receive a written report that clearly and effectively documents their learning journey.

For all parents and carers who are passionate about making a difference in supporting the Academy, contributing their ideas and expertise, we have developed the Friends of St Mark's Academy (FOSMA) forum. Here, parents have the opportunity to join us in our strategic planning, share their voice and contribute their skills to all areas of Academy life such as Teaching and Learning; Behaviour and Attitudes; our Christian Ethos; Student Personal Development and Well-being; Academy events and Community Engagement and Fundraising.

We seek to build strong relationships with many community partners including our feeder primary schools, local churches, businesses and residents. We also engage in extensive charity work and community initiatives, empowering our students to become courageous advocates of change in the Academy, their community and their world.



“Thank you all for your hard work, dedication, and support to our family. St Mark’s is a superb secondary education establishment. So many wonderful people have been a part of making our family what it is today. We could not have done it without you.”

- Parent of siblings in Year 7, 9 and 11



For more information about our transformational community,
or to arrange a visit, please contact us:

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Email: school@stmarks.anthemtrust.uk

Telephone: 020 8648 6627

Twitter: [@stmarks_academy](https://twitter.com/stmarks_academy)

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ACADEMY

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