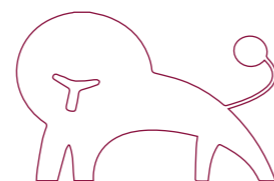




**A Community Founded on
Love, Hope and Trust**

The journey begins here...



I am extremely proud to welcome you to the vibrant, dynamic and inspirational community of St. Mark's Church of England Academy. I hope our prospectus gives you an insight into the exceptional offer we have for students, which develops them academically, spiritually, morally, socially and culturally.

My Vision

My vision is to provide an outstanding quality of education for all young people, 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 12 years. Over this time it has been a place where I have been able to transform professionally and I want to afford the same transformational experience to every individual who works or studies here.

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, including Medicine at Kings College London, Economics at Warwick, Biomedical Science at Bristol and Maths at Durham.

Our students' success in every aspect of their development is supported and encouraged 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 excel.

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.

We truly are an innovative school in the way we develop and support our staff, specifically through the use of cutting edge research to inform our award winning continuing professional development programme. Everyone within the Academy is a learner and, together, we never stop striving to develop our pedagogy and practice to promote excellence within our community.

Our values of love, hope and trust "permeate through the school" (SIAMS Ofsted Inspection) and underpin our culture and ethos. As our most recent Ofsted inspection report highlights, "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'. Pupils are confident, thoughtful and articulate" (Ofsted 2018).

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 inclusive school, the wonderful facilities and to meet our exceptional students and staff.

I really look forward to meeting you all.

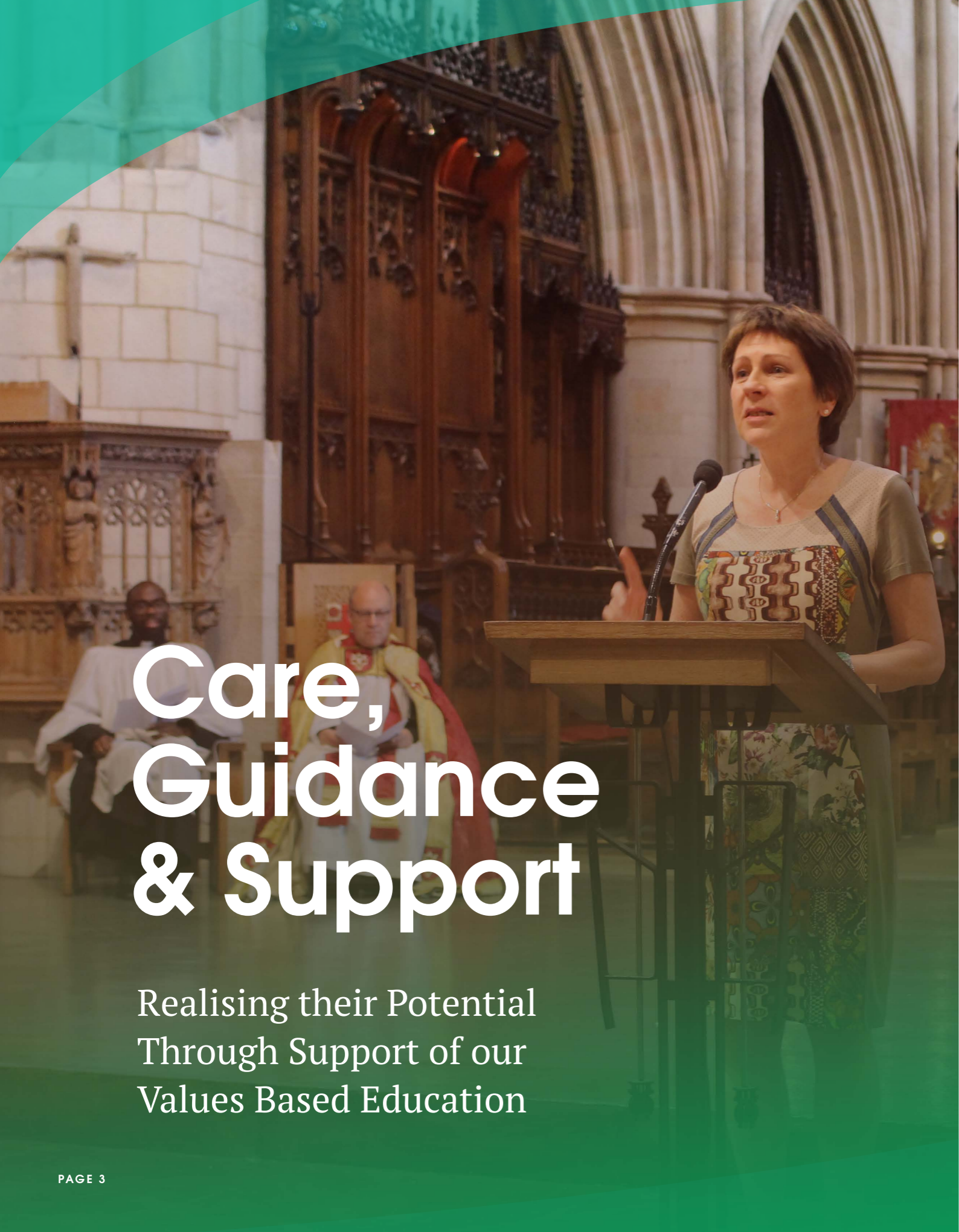
Hannah Fahey, Interim Principal

St Mark's CofE Academy



*"What makes us special is our values.
You can see them and feel them all around"*

– Year 9 student



Care, Guidance & Support

Realising their Potential
Through Support of our
Values Based Education

Faith and Values at St Mark's

St Mark's Church of England Academy is an all-inclusive Christian community committed to developing the values of the Anglican Church through everything we do. Our community is founded on the values of Love, Hope and Trust and these are clearly visible and tangible as soon as you come through our doors. These shared values have shaped St Mark's over recent years giving the academy its distinctive character. We welcome staff and 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. There is a designated chapel space and a multi-faith area in the Academy to support the spiritual wellbeing of all members of our community. We regularly practice collective worship, and this was deemed to be outstanding in our most recent SIAMs inspection.

Care, Guidance and Support

At St Mark's positive relationships are at the core of any support and guidance offered. We take pride in the relationships we have within our community, having developed a restorative practice for when things don't go to plan. We have a highly trained group of staff working closely with students, staff and families to always provide support where it is needed.

At St. Mark's Academy we pride ourselves on the quality of care, guidance and support given to all individual pupils. At the core of this provision is a year system led by a progress leader and supported by coaches, student support and the inclusion team. This system provides your child with the care they need whilst allowing them to nurture friendships and develop a strong sense of community. Coaches play an active role in ensuring that students are happy, well-supported to make

the right decisions and fully engaged in school life. Coaches also serve as the first point of contact between school and home. You will receive regular updates of your child's progress through written reports, online data and at Parents' Evening. As your child progresses through St. Mark's, their progress and well-being will be closely monitored, ensuring that students are recognised and rewarded when they succeed and supported when things are more challenging. We are an exceptionally welcoming community and the health, happiness and well-being of students underpins our overall Christian ethos and our values of Love, Hope and trust.

St Mark's is a cheerful, welcoming and friendly place in which everyone can feel at home and give of their best. We insist on the highest standards of good behaviour, mutual respect and concern and we expect all students to take responsibility and care for themselves and for others.

“ St. Mark's is like a family to me.

*I was made to feel at home
straight away ” – Year 12 student*

High Quality Learning and Teaching Across the Curriculum

Learning is our core purpose. At St Mark's we structure learning to excite our students' curiosity and to inspire them to become successful, lifelong independent learners. Our teachers are extremely enthusiastic and passionate about their subjects, spending considerable time planning interesting and interactive lessons and communicating their passion for their subjects to the students. We are fortunate to have a high quality learning environment.

Teachers at St Mark's teach responsively and plan learning carefully. We set clear goals and ensure that students meet the same 'Big Ideas' at different points and in different contexts across their 7 years at St Mark's. Our curriculum is carefully sequenced and designed to ensure that students know and remember more over time. In lessons, we use a range of strategies to check students' understanding and to identify where they need further support or challenge, and adapt our planning accordingly. This personalised approach means that our students make excellent progress during their time at St Mark's.

Students receive high quality career guidance in the form of one to one interviews, assemblies, coaching time activities and work related learning. This helps all students to be clear on their ambitions and to fulfil their full potential in their next steps and beyond.

We believe that every student, with a willingness to work hard and overcome any challenges can and will achieve great things and aspire to greatness. Our dedicated teachers motivate students to aim high and encourage every student to exceed their own expectations. Our curriculum is broad and balanced and maximises the opportunities for a successful transition into higher or further education, training and employment.



An Inspiring Place to Learn

"I always want to do my best in lessons because I enjoy them so much" – Year 7 Student

A 21st Century Curriculum

“I really enjoy the wide range of lessons that we do, it helps us to decide what we’d like to study in our GCSEs and beyond”

– Year 8 student

Pathways to Success

The curriculum at St Mark’s has been carefully designed to prepare our students to be successful in the 21st Century world. Skilfully constructed programmes of study coupled with high quality teaching and learning and excellent facilities allow our students to fulfil their potential.

Students in Key Stage 3 follow a broad and balanced curriculum that is engineered to maximise progress in the core areas of English, Mathematics and Science. We offer a wide range of traditional academic subjects, languages, Geography, History and RE alongside more practical subjects such as Art, PE, Drama, Music, Design Technology and ICT.

All our programmes of study at Key Stage 3 are built with the demands of GCSE and A Level in mind: students follow a logical ‘spiral’ where knowledge, understanding and skills are developed from Year 7 through to the end of Year 13, ready for university entry, employment or training. Our GCSE programme offers a very wide range of core and optional subjects.

We follow a model of a three-year key stage 4 at the Academy, giving the students the time and opportunity to maximise outcomes in the Year 11 GCSE examinations. Students go through a carefully designed ‘guided choice’ process in Year 8 in order to select the best possible profile of subjects for themselves. All students take Mathematics, English Language and Literature, Double Award Science and RE.

In addition to this, students take 3 subjects from: History, Geography, Spanish, French, PE, Drama, Music, Design Technology, Sociology, 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 either here in Sixth Form, at college or Apprenticeship programme.

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 provisions for our high flyers enables them to be expertly stretched and challenged as they work as part of the Russel group. This enables them to participate in extra activities such as debating, collaborating with the Brilliant club and visiting top universities to get them thinking straight away about their future endeavours. Likewise, our SEND department is a beacon of excellence which leads the way in their innovative approach to ensuring highly bespoke support is always in place should any student require it. This allows any young person with any additional needs to be fully supported to ensure that they too go on to achieve to their full potential. This also applies to our fantastic EAL department who 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.

Throughout the curriculum, subject teachers focus on developing cross-curricular skills including literacy and numeracy along with Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural skills (SMSC). The development of these skills ensures students are able to learn effectively and independently.

Ready for the Next Step

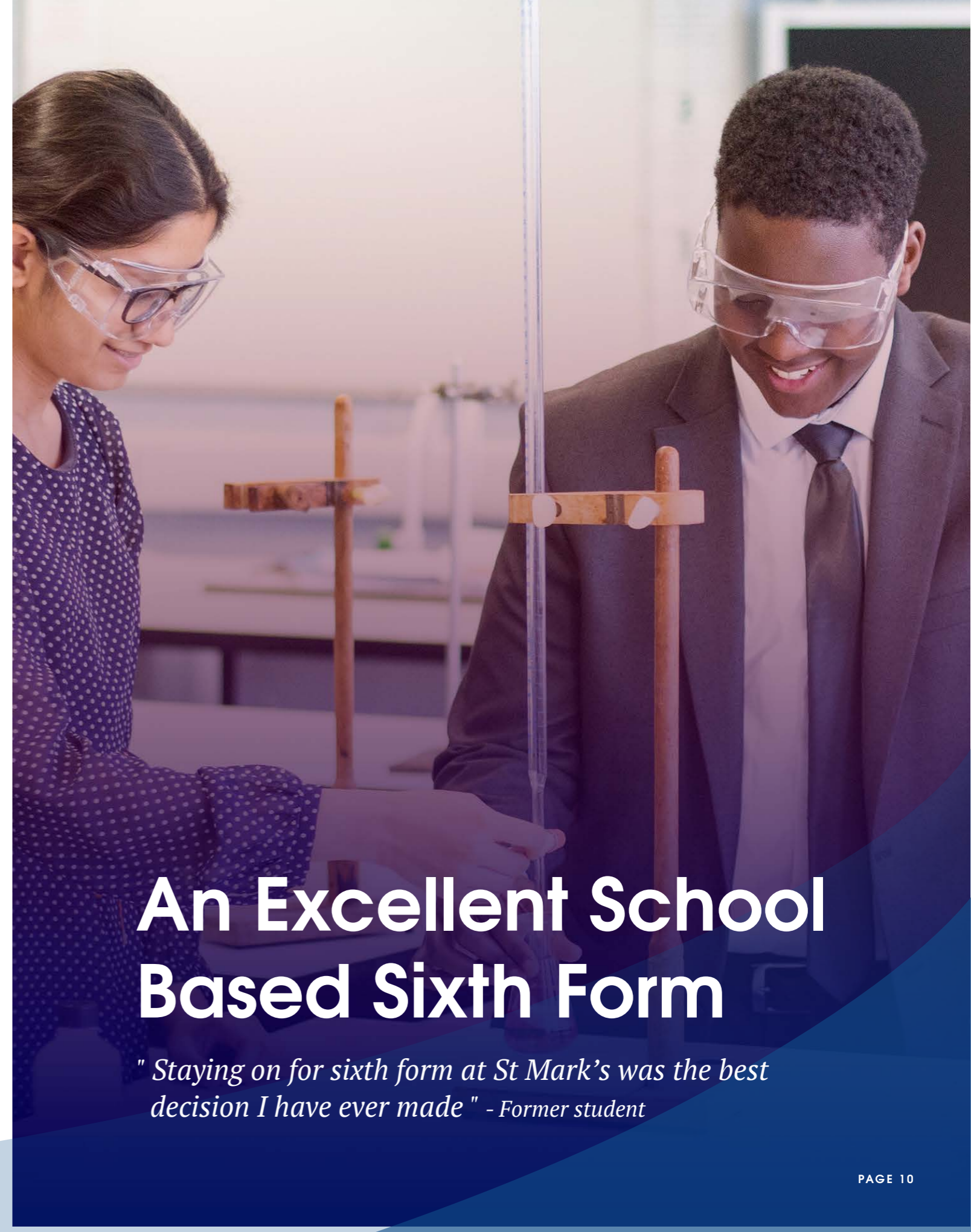
Preparing for Success in the Future

At St Mark's, our mission is to provide an outstanding education for every young adult that learns with us. As a school based Sixth Form, students who attend can enjoy the extra freedoms and responsibilities, yet still remain part of a nurturing and challenging community founded on Love, Hope and Trust.

At the sixth form we have a proud track record of providing a sixth form education that will help every student flourish academically, socially and personally. Having already nurtured outstanding relationships with the students, our teachers are able to build on the knowledge of every student as an individual, who are all committed to excellence. Each day students experience high quality, creative teaching and learning, delivered by staff who have a unique understanding of pupils' strengths and areas of development. This will inspire a thirst for learning. Our team of expert practitioners are keen and dedicated to prepare all students for their next stage of their education, whether their ambition is to attend a Russell Group University, undergo an Apprenticeship, or gain credible qualifications recognised by universities leading directly into employment and training, we have the pathway that will facilitate this.

If you are one of our many students aiming to attend a top university, we offer a unique programme dedicated to supporting your application through our Russell Group. This programme is led by a coach who has themselves been to a top University, and who will arrange a programme of extra classes, work experience and enrichment opportunities such as; visiting Universities for lectures, leading book clubs in primary schools, supporting lessons in the lower schools or leading assemblies to parents.

Our Higher Education Programme combines academic experiences and cultural visits to provide an all-encompassing preparation for university life. A large proportion of our students go onto higher education. Recent leavers have left us to study Chemistry at the University of Warwick, Aerospace Engineering at the University of Leicester, Mathematics at the University of Glasgow and Biomedicines at the University of Exeter.



An Excellent School Based Sixth Form

" Staying on for sixth form at St Mark's was the best decision I have ever made " - Former student



Student Leadership

“ Being able to represent the Academy as a prefect has been a wonderful experience and one that has helped me to grow in confidence and develop my ability lead ” – Year 11 student

An Environment and Ethos to Enable Students to Lead

The academy champions student voice and leadership opportunities, enabling students from all years to be successful leaders and learners.

Our young people develop key skills across the curriculum in and outside the classroom, which they can use in later life, such as working in teams, public speaking, project management, overcoming challenges and mentoring.

Every year we continue to 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 and Student Ambassadors

The way we have selected our prefect team this year has changed significantly from previous year. We have slimmed down the team and assigned roles that truly reflect the demands of a modern school. As a result, we now have prefects focusing on the areas of: well-being, enrichment, charity and fund-raising and sustainability. To oversee that we have also recruited three 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.

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 meet and greet visitors, representing the public face of the academy. Students take this role very seriously endeavouring to be internal and external ambassadors and acting as role models. Students have the opportunity to represent the academy at Open Days and Parents’ Evenings, and even delivering presentations to parents, students and governors.

We look forward to collaborating with them on new exciting projects and helping prepare and develop our future leaders.

Enrichment Opportunities

As well as striving for academic excellence we encourage all of our students to become resourceful, resilient, reflective, responsible and collaborative learners. We aim to develop and nurture the whole child and enable them to not only to make tangible connections between their subjects but by raising their aspirations through high quality cultural experiences. This is consciously encouraged through lessons but also through the learning opportunities beyond the classroom. Our extensive and dynamic enrichment programme takes place in a variety of cross-curricular ventures over a number of different platforms. We work with the mind-set that we will enable every child to access to 'The Big 5.' This includes; trips, raising aspirations, university readiness, team work and curriculum development. This is achieved through our six enrichment days each year. These days see the timetable collapsed, and the students having excursions 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.

We also offer a vast range of extracurricular clubs and opportunities that run before and after school that every child is encouraged to participate in.

“I feel lucky to have been given all these opportunities. I really look forward to enrichment days as I am never quite sure what to expect” – Year 8 student

The sporting success of our teams is down to the high quality sporting offer that we have here at St. Mark's. This includes basketball, table tennis, football, boxing, BMX, tennis, rounders, lacrosse and netball. We also participate in and collaborate with the National theatre connections, The Shakespeare for Schools festival, Step into Dance, The Rambert dance company, the BRIT school of performing arts, Wimbledon Bookfest and of course our own in-house whole school performances. Students can be part of the school choir, learn an instrument or become a chapel prefect to help lead collective worship. Students are also able to participate in the Jack Petchey speak out challenge, spelling bees and poetry slams. Whilst the learning and resource centre is open throughout the day for students to play chess and use the high quality ICT facilities. We are also very proud to offer international trips to support our modern foreign languages seeing our students visiting France and Spain each year and some students having the opportunity to recently visit China and Korea.

All staff are expected to lead an extracurricular enrichment session, and this is how we are able to offer such a highly innovative and broad range of enrichment activities that raises the cultural capital of every student and ensures they develop their interests whilst also nurturing their God given talents.



Providing Diverse and Exciting Experiences



“I really feel like we’re a partnership. Being able to join in with the extended leadership meetings helps me to feel that I am really able to support the school and my daughter” - Parent

Working Together Towards Common Goals

When schools and families work together, children have a far better chance of not only being successful in school but being successful in life as well.

At St. Mark’s we start forging these relationships right from Transition. Parents are invited to come and meet the principal and our staff and are shown around the academy by the student ambassadors. Parents have an opportunity to engage with us through a range of one to one meetings, information evenings and at extended leadership forums. 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 most efficient way to communicate with you.

We also have a parents section on our website that gives a more detailed guide for parents, and is a go to for any information that you may need to access about the Academy.

New parents will also be issued with a parent handbook, which will give clear guidance as to how parents can best support their child by working closely with us. We have an extensive programme of Parents’ Evenings throughout the year. These are vital to the success of all learners by offering an opportunity for parents to meet with staff to discuss the progress of their child, with them also receiving a written report documenting their learning journey.

Parents can be involved in many ways to support the work we do here at St. Mark’s including; joining our Parent forums, group surgeries, and taking our parent surveys. Parents are actively encouraged to join us in our strategic planning sessions held throughout the year, as we see parents as key stakeholders in the success of their child.

We seek to build strong relationships with many community partners including our feeder primary schools, local churches, businesses and residents. This enables us to work with these stakeholders in order that we utilise every opportunity for our students and also to give back to the local community.

Partners in Success

St Mark’s is a school which educates for knowledge, wisdom skills, hope and aspiration enabling students to attain scholastic excellence as well as shaping character. St Mark’s has a demonstrable culture of aspiring to be the best you can be and our students flourish academically, morally, spiritually, culturally and socially because each one of them is treated as a precious individual who is valued for the unique skills and aptitudes they bring.

St Mark’s is a community underpinned by the values of love, hope and trust which shape every aspect of provision and our values are lived visibly every day enabling our students to become the person they want to be and accomplish their goals and dreams.

The curriculum at St Mark’s is inspiring and innovative and takes our students on exciting intellectual adventures that enable them to develop thoughtful perspectives of the world and make the best possible progress. We also support the character and moral development of our students inspiring them to be courageous advocates for change and social justice.

I am privileged and proud to be the Chair of Governors at St. Mark’s as having worked in education for the last 25 years, I understand what a powerful and empowering force it can be. St Mark’s is an excellent school that offers life changing opportunities for its students please visit us anytime and see this for yourself.

Rachael Norman

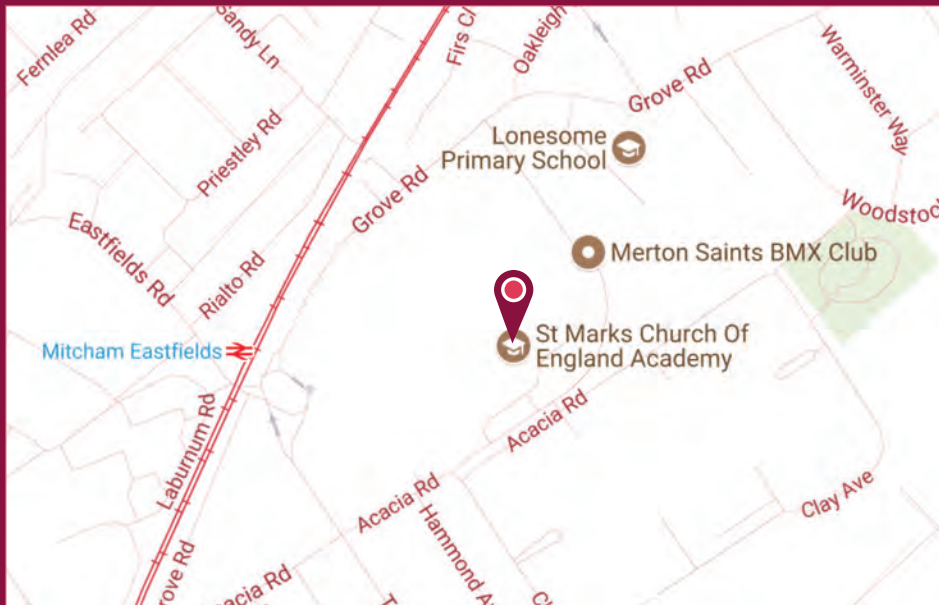
Chair of Governors at St Mark’s C of E Academy

Anthem Schools Trust is a family of 16 schools across the Thames Valley and East Midlands. Every school is different and Trust staff work closely together to help ensure that every school is the best that it can be. As a Trust, our ambition is to create outstanding schools for all our students, and we are determined to secure the highest possible standards in all aspects of school life and ensure that no young person is left behind. High-quality teaching that enables students to excel academically, and opportunities for them to develop character and confidence are at the heart of what makes a great school. St Mark’s is one of the Trust’s most high-profile success stories, having been transformed almost beyond recognition from the days of its predecessor school. It is becoming one of the very best secondary academies in London and we are proud to be in partnership with the school on this exciting journey.

Andy Yarrow

Chief Executive, Anthem Schools Trust





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