



# James Marks Academy Trust

[www.jmatherts.co.uk](http://www.jmatherts.co.uk)

Friday 13th December 2024

Email [Admin@romanfields.herts.sch.uk](mailto:Admin@romanfields.herts.sch.uk) [admin@jamesmarks.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@jamesmarks.herts.sch.uk) [admin@foresthous.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@foresthous.herts.sch.uk)

## **Executive Head's message**

I would like to thank you sincerely for the support my colleagues and I have enjoyed throughout the first term of the academic year. This has helped us significantly as we have had the time (for the most part) to tackle this period of inevitable and significant change. We have seen new leaders, teachers, tutors and a plethora of support colleagues either join the organisation for the first time or take on enhanced roles. I can say without fear of contradiction all those that fall into these categories have greatly impressed. I expected some challenges purely because we had 20 new colleagues join to support the expansion in September, but they have all exceeded my expectations, putting me in an incredibly fortunate position. Whilst my own role has changed significantly, I still get up each day and look forward to coming to work, simply because of all the stakeholders I have the privilege to work with. I know from speaking to many Heads regularly this puts me in a unique position.

I would like to thank you as parents, for listening to what I wrote in an earlier 'parents' message' with regards to abstaining from promoting one or more of our provisions heavily on social media. I am starting to feel the impact of this plea as we have moved from an unsustainable number of 'parental preference' consultations to a more manageable number, leaving me with more time to focus on the many tribunals. Tribunals and consultations inevitably impact significantly on my and others' time. We can therefore dedicate the time saved to the day job which ensures we are both more effective and happier. So thank you - I genuinely appreciate this on behalf of all colleagues.

We have some amazing raffle prizes in the main foyer of Roman Fields thanks to the generosity of parents. What we need to do now is secure raffle ticket sales to try to raise as much as we can for charity! I will ensure tickets are available to buy at both the JMA and FHEC until Thursday of next week, prior to the draw at RFA on Friday 20th. Rest assured these tickets will all go into the same draw to ensure it is entirely fair.

It only remains for me to state that I am looking forward to seeing all the JMA pupils and parents for their awards and lunch on Thursday 19th December, prior to repeating this with RFA's cohort on Friday 20th. I will visit FHEC during the week to wish everyone a merry Xmas. On that note, I hope you all have a memorable Christmas with your family and friends. We look forward to seeing you and the pupils early in the New Year.

Kind regards,  
Trevor





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## Pupil successes at James Marks Academy

**Stars of the week -  
22/11/2024**

**GOLD - Vi**

**SILVER - Jack**

**BRONZE - Caley**

**100% ATTENDANCE FOR THE**

**WEEK - Kayden**

**JAMES MARKS SPIRIT AWARD**

**- Finley**



## Pupil successes at Roman Fields Academy

**Stars of the week -  
22/11/2024**

**GOLD - Joe**

**SILVER - Jake.W.B**

**BRONZE - Chasia**

**100% ATTENDANCE FOR THE**

**WEEK - Poppy**

**ROMAN FIELDS SPIRIT**

**AWARD - Alana**



## Pupil successes at Forest House Education centre

**Stars of the week -  
22/11/2024**

**FOREST HOUSE**

**ATTENDANCE AWARD -**

**Charlie**

**FOREST HOUSE SPIRIT**

**AWARD - Jonah**





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## Pupil successes at James Marks Academy

**Stars of the week -  
28/11/2024**

**GOLD** - Josh. G

**SILVER** - Teddy

**BRONZE** - Logan

**100% ATTENDANCE FOR THE WEEK** - Josh. M

**JAMES MARKS SPIRIT AWARD** - Jack



## Pupil successes at Roman Fields Academy

**Stars of the week -  
28/11/2024**

**GOLD** - Ollie

**SILVER** - Robbie

**BRONZE** - Olivia

**100% ATTENDANCE FOR THE WEEK** - Natan

**ROMAN FIELDS SPIRIT AWARD** - Lili





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## Pupil successes at James Marks Academy

**Stars of the week -**  
**06/12/2024**

**GOLD** - Aimee

**SILVER** - George.W

**BRONZE** - Niffler

**100% ATTENDANCE FOR THE WEEK** - Emily.T

**JAMES MARKS SPIRIT AWARD** - Joshua.A



## Pupil successes at Roman Fields Academy

**Stars of the week -**  
**06/12/2024**

**GOLD** - Freddie

**SILVER** - Gabriel

**BRONZE** - Harrison, Sophia

**100% ATTENDANCE FOR THE WEEK** - Jake.W.B

**ROMAN FIELDS SPIRIT AWARD** - Joel





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## Dates for the diary

Friday 20th December - Last day of term

Monday 23rd December 2024 till Friday 3rd January 2025 - Christmas holiday

Monday 6th January - Inset Day

Tuesday 7th January - Pupils return

Monday 17th February till Friday 21st February - Half term

Friday 4th April - Last day of term

Monday 7th April till Monday 21st April - Easter break

Tuesday 22nd April - INSET DAY

Wednesday 23rd April - Pupils return

Monday 5th May - Bank holiday -School closed



## Become a Star Reader!



Here at Roman Fields, we understand and value the importance of reading. Reading - in whatever form you choose to engage in - fills you with knowledge. It improves your comprehension and analytical abilities. Furthermore, it stimulates the memory and broadens your imagination.

Therefore, each week, Roman Fields will be championing a *Star Reader*. You can be rewarded for your reading in any lesson, but you will also have the opportunity to demonstrate it in a specific session on your timetable. In these lessons, your teacher will be looking opportunities to award you points for your engagement in reading

Each week, the pupil with the most points awarded will receive a Star Reader certificate and a voucher.



## Star reader of the week for Roman Fields Academy



22/11/2024

Natan

28/11/2024

Holly

06/12/2024

Ollie





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**Merry Christmas and a Happy New year**

**from all the staff and Trustees at James Marks Academy Trust.**



*Thank  
you*

Thank you so much for all your support, kind donations and voluntary contributions to all our charities we support.

We hope you all have a relaxing break with your family and friends.

See you on Tuesday 7th January 2025.



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## **Bees at Roman Fields! We are seeking parents views.**

In my spare time, I have been passionate about beekeeping for many years and even set up an apiary at my previous school. This experience was highly engaging for many pupils, some of whom became actively involved, while others enjoyed simply observing the process. At Roman Fields, we are considering introducing a similar initiative by placing a beehive on the school grounds in the coming months. The hive will be located in a quiet, safe area at the bottom of one of the house gardens, far away from classrooms, ensuring that the vast majority of pupils remain unaware of its presence.

We hope that some of our pupils will choose to get involved, helping to set up and manage the hive, harvesting honey, and preparing the colony for winter. For others, observing from a safe distance will also offer valuable learning experiences. We believe this project has the potential to provide significant therapeutic benefits for those who choose to participate, whether actively or passively.

Ensuring pupil safety is always our top priority. Those involved in or observing the beekeeping process will be provided with full beekeeping suits, closely monitored by staff, and participation will only occur with prior parental consent.

For most parents confirmation that this has been tried and tested successfully at my previous school will be enough, but there may be parents whose child may have either anxiety relating to bees or an allergy, which may lead us to re-think before investing fairly significantly. I would obviously love to embark on this, but we are an organisation that prioritises our pupils hence the consultation- some parents may just need reassurance that these wonderful creatures will be an asset to our environment.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this initiative, please feel free to contact me at [edwin.jones@romanfields.herts.sch.uk](mailto:edwin.jones@romanfields.herts.sch.uk).

Ed Jones





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## Year 12 Berkhamsted Castle trip

The JMA year 12 historians visited Berkhamsted Castle as part of their studies on the Norman Conquest. They went for tea and cake afterwards!





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## Roman Fields Christmas jumper day - Friday 13th December

All the staff and pupils looked fabulous and festive in their Christmas jumpers.

Thank you so much to Roman Fields, James Marks and Forest House for all the money raised for Save the Children.





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## Christmas Charity Hamper

Aline and the pupils at Roman Fields have done an outstanding job putting the Christmas hampers together. We had so many beautiful donations that they have done 2 hampers to be won on the last day of term.

Tickets are still on sale for 50p each.

Tickets will continue to go on sale until Thursday 19th December at James Marks and Forest House.

Tickets will be on sale until Friday 20th December at Roman Fields and the winners will be drawn at the Christmas awards at Roman Fields.

All money raised will go to a charity picked by the pupils.

Thank you so much for all your support.





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## Christmas Charity sale

Roman Fields has some amazing Christmas gifts for sale in the office. All are hand made by Aline and the enterprise team.

All money raised will go towards the charity picked by the pupils. Items are on sale from now till Friday 20th December, cash only please.

Here is a list of prices -

- Large nutcracker £20
- Small nutcracker £10
- Pair of paper stars £3
- Trio of paper stars £4
- Light up wooden advent calendar £20
- Bug hotel £10 - very kindly donated by one of our Pupils
- Large handmade stocking £5
- Small handmade stocking £4
- Crochet Christmas reefs £1.50
- Crochet tinsel baubles £2
- Black light up star £10





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## **Tuesday Transition group at Forest House and Friday Transition group at Roman Fields**

For parents with children in Year 11 at both Roman Fields and Forest House.

This is a reminder that you should please help your young people to apply for college courses/ look for apprenticeships (whatever pathway they have chosen). For all applications, please ensure you tick the EHCP box, as necessary. Please make a couple of applications if your young person is not 100% sure what subject they want to study at college. Pupils can hold multiple conditional offers then decide on results day which course to choose.

For those considering looking for an apprenticeship please search/register on the government website and bear in mind there are not many/ a big variety at Post 16 - there are more at Post 18. Anyone looking for an apprenticeship should make a Plan B (usually a college application).

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

Please can you confirm (if you have not already done so) to Debra what the status is on applications/ offers as colleges get back to you etc.

Please note that the Friday group from Roman Fields this term will cease, and the remainder of the Year 11s will start as part of a new group next term. There are also some changes to the FHEC Tuesday transition timetable - please check with both offices as necessary.

Thank you! xx



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## Children in Need

A massive thank you for all your support raising money for Children in Need,

Here is all the money raised -

Guess the sweets in a jar - £8.80

Pyjama contributions £8.50

Money from sponsored walk £50.00

Voluntary contributions - £50.00

**Grand total raised £117.30.**





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## Goodbye and good luck to Tom our Guitar Teacher

Tom Hunt joined Roman Fields in 2014

He has taught so many amazing pupils how to play the guitar. Tom is moving with his family to Suffolk where he will be continuing with his love of playing the guitar, and offering tuition locally.

We wish Tom and his family all the best for the future and we will be keeping in contact with him.





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## The Bridge Group

Please see flyer from our Support Families (early help) service who are running a new support group for parents/carers and young people (school years 7,8 & 9) who are finding attending school challenging and are not attending at all or are on a very reduced timetable.

If you have any questions then please contact [Alison.cowie@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Alison.cowie@hertfordshire.gov.uk)  
Or [Ruth.coleman@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Ruth.coleman@hertfordshire.gov.uk)

**THE BRIDGE**

**WHAT IS IT?**  
A support group for parents/carers and young people (school years 7,8 & 9) who are finding attending school challenging and are not attending at all or are on a very reduced timetable.

**people (school years 7,8 & 9) who are finding attending school challenging and are not attending at all, or are on a very reduced timetable**

**WHAT IS IT FOR?**  
To create a safe and supportive group focusing on building confidence and increasing resilience.

**WHAT WILL THE SESSIONS COVER?**  
Topics will include:  
- Worries & Anxiety  
- Friends  
- School & Learning  
- Health & Wellbeing  
- Neurodiversity

**We want to hear your voice and will also tailor sessions to meet your needs.**

**WHO IS RUNNING THE GROUP?**  
The main facilitators are Ruth and Alison from the Intensive Family Support Team. Sessions will also be supported by a range of specialist professionals providing expert insights and support.

**THE IMPORTANT STUFF:**  
When is it:  
Starting Wednesday 15th January 1pm-2.30pm and then every Wednesday for 11 weeks (term time only)  
Where is it:  
Hatfield Hyde Cricket Club, Beehive Lane, WGC, AL7 4BP

**I have some questions, who do I speak to:**  
Please speak to your family intervention worker if you have one and/or contact Alison at [alison.cowie@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:alison.cowie@hertfordshire.gov.uk) OR Ruth at [ruth.coleman@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:ruth.coleman@hertfordshire.gov.uk)



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## Potential Kids Christmas Party for neurodiverse children and their siblings

Merry Christmas

Please find attached details of Christmas parties for neurodiverse children and their siblings.

If you are interested in the Christmas party then please contact Emma Boulton.

**Email:** [emma@potentialkids.org](mailto:emma@potentialkids.org)

**Address:** [Potential Kids, The Galleria Outlet Centre, Comet Way, Hatfield, Herts, AL10 0XR](#)

**the galleria**  
OUTLET SHOPPING

**POTENTIAL**  
KIDS

FOR NEURODIVERGENT YOUNG PEOPLE & SIBLINGS

## CHRISTMAS PARTY

DEC | 20TH | 4-11YRS @4.15-5.45  
12+ YRS@ 6.00-7.30

*Potential Kids Hub*

GINGER BREAD DECORATING, CRAFTS, SCAVENGER HUNT, GAMES AND A GIFT FOR EACH CHID!

£6 PER CHILD 

POTENTIALKIDS.ORG/EVENTS  
THE GALLERIA  
HATFIELD AL10 0XR