



James Marks Academy Trust

www.jmatherts.co.uk

Friday 4th October 2024

Email Admin@romanfields.herts.sch.uk admin@jamesmarks.herts.sch.uk admin@foresthous.herts.sch.uk

Executive Head's message

Dear Parents,



You have already heard a fair bit from me with regard to the building works that are taking place on both the major sites: the JMA and RFA. Whilst the work at the JMA is 'snagging' related (with the exception of a heating issue that I will get resolved before summer 2025) work at RF is more extensive. We have contractors booked into renew windows and doors, we're re-fitting Paul's kitchen and a new roof will be installed on the gym during the October half term.

Taxis are provided by the LA and in my experience the drivers are usually very kind people who really do have the best interests of our pupils at heart. The vast majority of parents recognise this all the time but a few forget some of the time which leads to 'adversarial' situations that I am keen to avoid. In the past, we have had pupils that the LA and taxis companies refuse to transport. This has never been because they have given up on a pupil, far from it. Instead, relationships can become fractious with parents then leading to parents transporting their child to school. This should never happen. Life is so much easier for us all if we role model to our pupils and others our 'respect for all' culture. Thanks in advance for your support with this.

Attendance is critically important if we want to ensure your children are successful in both the short and long term. I have included a picture of Harrison (with his kind permission) because he fell down some stairs in the morning, his mum then took him to A & E, the boot (seen in the photo) was fitted and he then asked his mum if he could return to school for his Science lesson! This is where I took the photo. This is the very best 'attendance' story that I have had after 11 years within the organisation, so it definitely deserves inclusion in the news letter. Well done Harrison !



I am still genuinely delighted with all the new colleagues who have joined the Trust recently. We really have recruited some superstars and your children are very lucky. That's all for now.

Kind Regards,
Trevor Orchard



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Roman Fields Head's message

I would like to welcome you all to a new school year at Roman Fields. I am very much looking forward to being back onsite in Hemel and getting to know all of our parents and carers as I begin to work with pupils and staff. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is anything that you would like to discuss.

Best wishes,
Emma Davis



James Marks Deputy Head's message

The JMA is now fully open on the brand-new site in Welwyn Garden City and has welcomed both new and existing pupils since the start of September. Staff and pupils alike are settling in well and the frequency with which people are looking for their Geography classroom has reduced significantly. This could be attributed to the fact that Geography is now on the curriculum for all pupils.

During the first four weeks what has been really evident is the calm and welcoming environment around the school. Pupils have settled well and are clearly enjoying their lessons and the variety of learning opportunities available to them. Pupils could go from learning how to divide fractions to cooking chicken goujons to a guided walk of the nature reserve and this is all part of their daily experience. That they now do this as a matter of course is a testament to the resilience and willingness that they have shown. This is something we were happy to share with you at parents' evening and we were delighted that so many attended.

Parents' evening also produced a lot of questions to be answered so we are in the process of updating our [FAQ](#) (Frequently Asked Questions) page on the school's website for the common queries we receive. However please be assured that we are always on hand to deal with any queries, suggestions, or feedback you may have.

Best wishes,
Scott Martin





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Pupil successes at James Marks Academy

**Stars of the week -
13/09/2024**

GOLD - Jakob.B

SILVER - Kayden

BRONZE - Alfie

100% ATTENDANCE FOR THE WEEK - Emily.T

JAMES MARKS SPIRIT AWARD - Vi



Pupil successes at Roman Fields Academy

**Stars of the week -
13/09/2024**

GOLD - Freddie

SILVER - George

BRONZE - Nelly, Jake.W.B

100% ATTENDANCE FOR THE WEEK - George

ROMAN FIELDS SPIRIT AWARD - Poppy





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Pupil successes at James Marks Academy

Stars of the week -
20/09/2024

GOLD - Harry

SILVER - Mason

BRONZE - Amiyah

100% ATTENDANCE FOR THE WEEK - Ben.M

JAMES MARKS SPIRIT AWARD - Jacob.W



Pupil successes at Roman Fields Academy

Stars of the week -
20/09/2024

GOLD - Ollie

SILVER - Brody

BRONZE - Dylan

100% ATTENDANCE FOR THE WEEK - Willow

ROMAN FIELDS SPIRIT AWARD - Natan



Pupil successes at Forest House Education centre

Stars of the week -
20/09/2024

FOREST HOUSE

ATTENDANCE AWARD - Ellie,
Imani





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Pupil successes at James Marks Academy

**Stars of the week -
27/09/2024**

GOLD - Teddy

SILVER - Niffler

BRONZE - Josh.G

100% ATTENDANCE FOR THE WEEK - Xavier

JAMES MARKS SPIRIT AWARD - Lewi



Pupil successes at Roman Fields Academy

**Stars of the week -
27/09/2024**

GOLD - Brody

SILVER - Alana

BRONZE - Natan

100% ATTENDANCE FOR THE WEEK - Poppy

ROMAN FIELDS SPIRIT AWARD - Oscar





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Dates for the diary

Friday 25th October - Inset day.

Monday 28th October till Friday 1st November - Half term.

Friday 29th November - Occasional day (school closed).

Friday 20th December - Last day of term.

Monday 23rd December 2024 till Friday 3rd January 2025.

Monday 6th January - Inset day.

Tuesday 7th January - Pupils return.

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



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



20/09/2024

Thomas

27/09/2024

Freddie





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Welcoming our new Teachers at Roman Fields and James Marks academy



Kim Bates - Integrations Manager

Kim Bates joined James Marks Academy in February 2024, initially working alongside the Forest House Education Centre team, before moving to her permanent position at James Marks Academy. Prior to joining Forest House, Kim worked within an outreach team as a Family Support Worker supporting students and their families within Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield.

Kim has many years of experience working within schools. She has focussed on helping pupils that have struggled with their attendance within mainstream schools.



Tiffany Brown - Art Teacher

Tiff has worked in secondary education for over 27 years, teaching art and photography to both GCSE and A Level. She has been a head of department, a lead practitioner as well as working as a creative agent for the Royal Opera House, schools Creative Partnerships scheme. Tiff has also taught Art in primary schools to both children and staff. Besides this, Tiff has been an art moderator for AQA. She enjoys all aspects of art, citing she is a 'Jack of all trades', and is really excited about teaching her new students everything she knows and continues to learn.

Back in Summer 2023, Tiff had a piece of her artwork accepted into the Royal Academy's Summer Exhibition, which she is very proud of and still can't quite believe it! In her spare time, she loves spending time with her family and friends, as well as trying to stay fit in the gym and practicing yoga. She also attends pottery classes, where she is trying to master throwing, but it's going to be a long journey!



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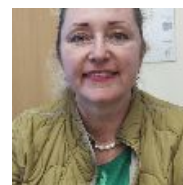
Rory Cullen - Caretaker



Rory joined the JMA in early 2024 as premises manager.

He is a qualified bricklayer and has over 10 years of experience in the construction industry, as well as having previously worked as a site manager at a mainstream primary school in Hertfordshire.

Outside of work he likes to spend his free time with his wife and children and when he wants to relax he competes in Brazilian jiu jitsu.



Svetlana Emelianova - Science Teacher

Svetlana joined the James Marks Academy Trust in September 2024 as a Science and Maths teacher. She has over 20 years of teaching experience with subject specialism in Biology taught to KS5 level.

Svetlana has extensive teaching experience gained in a number of secondary state and private schools in Hertfordshire and Essex. She feels very passionate about learning and building pupils' confidence in her subjects. She loves gardening, animals and travelling.





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Annika Etches - HLTA

Annika Etches started at James Marks Academy in September 2024 as a Higher Level Teaching Assistant. Formerly a Hotel and Restaurant General Manager, she is passionate about training and development. She is excited about transferring her skills to teaching children and has experience with SEN and SEMH children personally. Annika has keen subject interests in Art, Design and Humanities and is looking forward to working with our children and families.

Natalie Henderson - TA



Natalie joined James Marks Academy in September 2024 as a Teaching Assistant.

Prior to this, she ran a small art business from home. Although new to working in a school environment, Natalie is excited about the experience and is eager to make a positive impact. She loves inspiring creativity in children and young adults. Her energy and fresh ideas make learning fun and enriching across many subjects.

In her spare time, Natalie enjoys reading, painting and watching films





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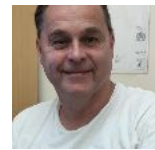
Sarah Jay-Voller - Horticulture Tutor



Sarah has worked in education for over 20 years. She has a keen interest in conservation and studied Environmental Science at university.

She worked in both the Horticulture and Animal Care industries before training to become a teacher. After working in mainstream Secondary Education, she moved to a land-based college teaching Animal Care, Horticulture and Countryside.

In her spare time she enjoys exploring nature, and she loves to share these passions with young people.



Ed Jones - Maths Teacher

Ed is a dedicated mathematics teacher with over 30 years of experience in schools across Spain and the UK. His passion for teaching has allowed him to work with students at all levels, and he feels privileged to support them on their academic journeys. Throughout his career, Ed has developed a strong understanding of the diverse needs of students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), both in and out of the classroom. He is excited to bring his expertise to the professional team at Roman Fields.

In addition to teaching, Ed serves as a mathematics examiner for two prominent examination boards, providing him with comprehensive insights into the standards students must meet to reach their full potential in mathematics.

Outside the classroom, Ed enjoys spending time with his two young children, who always keep him on his toes, and pursuing his passion for beekeeping.



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Chris McCarthy - ICT Teacher

Chris was previously the computing lead at a St Albans secondary school, teaching computer science up to and including A Level. He came into teaching following a 20-year-long career in the IT sector, providing technical services and support to enterprise customers around the globe.

He has since returned to the classroom to share his experience and curiosity for all things technical, which began with many long hours spent on home computers in his youth.



Melissa Mileham - Sports Tutor

Melissa is new to James Marks Academy and primarily works as a Sports Tutor in the gym. Melissa has a degree in Sport and Fitness Science as well as extensive experience of working as a gym instructor, class instructor and personal trainer. Since leaving the leisure industry Melissa has spent a lot of time re-training. Having spent a couple of years training to be a counsellor and completing a certificate in Art Therapy, Melissa studied further and qualified to be a life coach. Melissa works as a SEMH teacher as well as a life coach at a different secondary school and is keen to combine her skills within her role in the gym at James Marks Academy.

In her spare time Melissa enjoys keeping fit in general, particularly going to the gym!!





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Faye Moulton - English Lead

Faye has taught English from Key Stage 2 to A level in a number of schools in both Surrey and Hertfordshire. Faye is passionate about literacy development, including reading, and strives to support those that need support in this area. She knows how to get the most out of her students and will stretch those that are ready for greater challenge. An experienced teacher who prides herself on continued professional development, Faye has undertaken a wealth of courses, works as an exam board marker in exam season and has tutored many students outside of school, specialising in working with those with additional needs.

Faye likes to indulge in her A level specialism - literature - and reads a range of fiction and non-fiction, including material about religious beliefs across civilisations and societies, dystopian and speculative fiction, and beyond. She also enjoys walks in the countryside with her family, weight lifting and cooking.



Liz Poynton - Food Tutor

Liz has taught Food and Nutrition in a variety of education settings in a career spanning over 20 years. Food is an essential part of her life, enhancing and developing recipes and her own cooking skills, to bring out the fun and enjoyment both for school and her friends and family.

Liz is also passionate about swimming, whether she is swimming in the pool, open water or teaching others to swimming, passing on her love for the sport.





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Stephen Robins - PHSE Teacher

Steve began his career teaching PE and History. He became a Head of Year and then an Assistant Head for 15 years, undertaking a variety of roles including running the 6th form and whole school pastoral matters.

Outside of school, Steve maintains his passion for sport and recently ran the London Marathon for the third time. He is also a rugby fanatic and still coaches the sport.



Kate Schlesinger - Science Teacher

Kate has joined Roman Fields as a science teacher after many years teaching in secondary schools in London and Hertfordshire. Kate studied Zoology at UCL and then stayed on at the Institute of Education to do her teacher training. She is an experienced A level biology teacher and examiner.

An advocate of outdoor education, especially to boost health, wellbeing and confidence in young people, Kate has helped lead many Duke of Edinburgh expeditions to locations including the Lake District and Snowdonia.

Ask her about playing the saxophone, Parkrun or baking!





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Jonny Sanday - Counsellor

Jonny has worked with Children and young people in educational environments for the past 20 years, starting at 18 where he became a sports coach and an outdoor activity instructor.

Finding a passion for working with young people in pastoral settings, Jonny's next career move was becoming a House Master, and later Acting Head of Boarding at a SEN Boarding School in East Sussex. This provided a lot of challenges and opportunities for Jonny and inspired his decision to become a counsellor.

After moving to Hertfordshire to take up an opportunity to work in a state school as part of the pastoral team, Jonny began his counselling training, specialising in working with children and young people.

Outside of counselling Jonny is a singer in a band, and enjoys acting in amateur dramatics. Jonny enjoys walking his dogs and although his playing days are behind him, Jonny still loves watching sports.





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Careers and Transition - Friday transition group planned dates at Roman Fields

Here are some dates planned for our Friday transition group.

Friday 4th October - St Albans Park

Friday 11th October - TBC

Friday 8th November - Oaklands College (St Albans)

Friday 15th November - Oaklands College (WGC)

Friday 22nd November - West Herts College (Watford)

Friday 6th December - West Herts College (Hemel)

Please note parents, you are still strongly encouraged to take your own children to visit independently on the dates given. Please see links attached for the College open days.

<https://www.westherts.ac.uk/open-days>

<https://www.oaklands.ac.uk/news-events/events-archive/open-events/>

<https://www.nhc.ac.uk/openevents/>

<https://hrc.ac.uk/events/> (not the uni event day)



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Careers and Transition - Tuesday transition group planned dates at Forest House Education Center

Here are some dates planned for our Tuesday transition group.

Tuesday 8th October - workplace visit The Range

Tuesday 22nd October - personal guidance with Nicole Chater, SfYP

Tuesday 5th November - Oaklands College (St Albans)

Tuesday 12th November - Oaklands College (WGC)

Tuesday 19th November - West Herts College (Watford)

Tuesday 26th November - West Herts College (Hemel)

Tuesday 3rd December - personal guidance with Nicole Chater, SfYP

Tuesday 17th December - apprenticeship and technical training talk





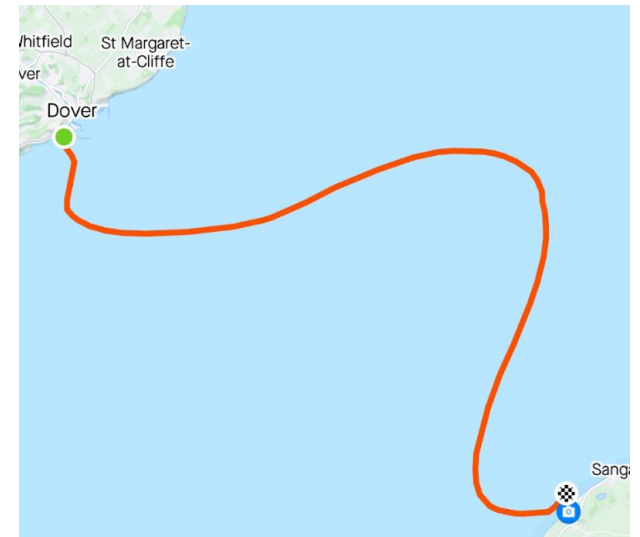
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Teacher news

A massive congratulations to Dom who successfully swam the channel from Dover to near Sangatte on the coast of France. He did it in 13 hours 59 minutes and as the only solo swimmer out that day actually beat a relay team. Dom raised £6,700 for Cancer Research UK and British Heart foundation. Well done Dom





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**Parent & Carer Support
Autumn Term 2024**



Supporting Links is taking bookings for the courses that begin after half term. They still have places on our two in-person courses:

Talking Additional needs at Marshalswick Community Centre, St Albans - **Wednesdays 9.30am to 11.30am (6th November to 11th December (6 weeks)**

Talking Families (for parents of children under 12):-**Tuesdays 7pm to 9pm 5th November to 10th December (6 weeks)**

They also a few places left on two online courses so please share these details as well:

Talking Dads: **Wednesdays 7.45pm to 9.15pm 6th November to 11th December (6 weeks)**

Talking Teens: **Wednesdays 7.45pm to 9.15pm 6th November to 11th December (6 weeks)**

online **Talking Anxiety in Families** course, for parents of children up to age 11, has a couple of places available. **Tuesdays 9.45am to 11.15am 5th November to 10th December (6 weeks)**

Alongside the Parenting Courses, Supporting Links are pleased to be offering the workshops this coming **Autumn Term**. These are open to parents and carers of children with diagnosed or undiagnosed ASD and/or ADHD across Hertfordshire, funded by the Herts County Council.

Talking ASD/ADHD: Emotional Based School Avoidance - 23rd October 2024

Talking ASD/ADHD: Responding to Anger - 4th November 2024

Talking ASD/ADHD: Tech Use – 21st November 2024

Talking ASD/ADHD: The Teenage Years – 25th November 2024

Booking is essential, to check eligibility and book a place, please contact Supporting Links on: 07512 709556 or bookings@supportinglinks.co.uk



James Marks Academy Trust



- Free confidential helpline on **0808 800 2222**
- Email us for support at askus@familylives.org.uk
- Talk to us online via our **Live Chat** service
- Online advice, peer support and information on all aspects of family life

at www.familylives.org.uk

- Face to face support groups and workshops
- Find us on social media @FamilyLives @BullyingUK

Family Lives Autumn 2024 Programme

Family Lives are funded by Herts County Council for parents/carers who live in Hertfordshire or who have a child attending a Hertfordshire school.

All our programmes provide support, information and resources to parents/carers and adult family members so they can help their child reach their full potential.

Please visit www.familylives.org.uk for more information.