



James Marks Academy Trust

www.jmatherts.co.uk

Friday 31st January 2025

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

Executive Head's message

Dear Parents,

It is nice to feel we are approaching February and we seem to have escaped the really inclement weather that often comes in January and can be so disruptive. With the half term break on the horizon, and the summer months ahead, there are many reasons to feel optimistic.

With this in mind we are already preparing for the summer exams. We have looked carefully at the exams schedule and feel we can manage all the Science, Maths and English Literature exams at both RF and FHEC without adapting the timetable, although these exams are very tight for invigilation. This is great, as we do all we can do to minimise change, and the impact it has on our families, as we know many parents work and most of our pupils are autistic.

Unfortunately, there is one exception - which is the English Language exam at Roman Fields, where we have 23 candidates. A significant number of pupils have scribes, readers and extra time. This has a huge impact, as we need invigilators to support our pupils at this critical time and, as you know, our pupils like to be supported by colleagues they know. Even though we will be asking part time staff to work (for extra pay or time off in lieu) we can't make it work unless the RF pupils not sitting the exam arrive with us at 11.30 am on these days.

This will be for Friday 23rd May and Friday 6th June.



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Executive Head's message

All I can do is apologise, believe me if there was an alternative I would take it. If for some reason your child MUST attend at the usual time, please let me know on an individual basis and I will ensure bespoke arrangements are made.

Please note things are also exceptionally tight during the GCSE Maths, Science and English Literature exams and we may need to adapt what we are planning at a fairly late stage, if we are struggling for invigilators.

We are planning usual lessons for those not sitting the exams but if a change is required, rest assured that we will give parents and pupils as much notice as possible.

We have needed to do this in the past and we have given pupils the option to go off site in a larger group (but properly supervised of course) for a walk to a local cafe. In the past every single pupil has opted to join the walking group, so I envisage things will be similar this time.

Many thanks for your continued support.

kind regards,

Trevor





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James Marks Deputy Head's message



As daylight starts to get longer and the weather improves, it has been great to see the pupils dealing with some of the more inclement conditions we have seen. Although, Monday's thunderstorm did cause a brief degree of distraction in lessons, as watching the lightning was more interesting than some of the content.

We are looking forward to JMA Parents' Evening and to welcoming Y7-12 parents on Monday 3rd February and Y13 parents on Thursday 13th March. We know that you will hear how well your child is doing in lessons and about the progress they are making in school.

Our Y13 pupils will be preparing for their final A-levels by sitting their mock exams from the 10 – 28 February. This will mean that we are asking other pupils to move around the school quietly and that some of the rooms will be unavailable as they will be used by these pupils.

Finally, the next JMA Parent Support Group meeting is Monday 3rd March from 9:30 – 10:30am. Following the previous meeting, we will be providing a space for parents to meet to discuss any strategies they have for supporting their child. This is a more informal meeting for parents to meet other parents and have a chat and cup of tea. Please let the school office know if you are able to attend.

Scott Martin



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Pupil successes at James Marks Academy

**Stars of the week -
24/01/2025**

GOLD - Ava

SILVER - Lottie

BRONZE - Jake

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

**JAMES MARKS SPIRIT AWARD
- Max L**



Pupil successes at Roman Fields Academy

**Stars of the week -
24/01/2025**

GOLD - Joel

SILVER - George

BRONZE - Brody, Lailie

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

**ROMAN FIELDS SPIRIT
AWARD - Olivia**



Pupil successes at Forest House Education centre

**Stars of the week -
24/01/2025**

**FOREST HOUSE PUPIL
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD -
Ciara**





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Pupil successes at James Marks Academy

**Stars of the week -
31/01/2025**



GOLD - Caley. F

SILVER - Dylan. B

BRONZE - Mason. R

100% ATTENDANCE FOR THE WEEK - Skye. R

JAMES MARKS SPIRIT AWARD - Niffler. W



Pupil successes at Roman Fields Academy

**Stars of the week -
31/01/2025**



GOLD - Emilia

SILVER - Lewis

BRONZE - Jenna, Ash

100% ATTENDANCE FOR THE WEEK - Jake.A.F

ROMAN FIELDS SPIRIT AWARD - Josie





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Dates for the diary

Monday 3rd February - JMA Parents evening.

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

Tuesday 4th March - Pancake day at Roman Fields.

Thursday 6th March - World book day at Roman Fields.

Friday 4th April - Break for Easter.

Tuesday 22nd April - INSET DAY.

Wednesday 23rd April - Pupils back to School.

Monday 5th May - Bank Holiday -School closed.

Friday 23rd May - Break for 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



31/01/2025

Holly





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Burns night - Roman Fields

To celebrate the life and work of the poet Robert Burns who was born on 25th January 1759, Paul at Roman Fields made prepared a traditional Scottish meal for pupils to sample over lunchtime.

Some (not all!) of the pupils tucked in to haggis, neeps and tatties.



Thanks to Paul for all his hard work





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Pancake day fun at Roman Fields - Tuesday 4th March



Pancake day

Tuesday 4th March



Come join in the pancake fun at Roman Fields. This will be at lunch time in the dinner hall where you can sample some yummy pancakes and take part in who can flip the most pancakes in 30 seconds.





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Holocaust Memorial Day - Monday 27th January

Staff and pupils at Roman Fields gathered on Monday lunchtime to remember Holocaust Memorial Day.

This year marked the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

We learned about the importance of remembering the Holocaust, and the lessons for the future. One of the teachers shared their family story, and two pupils read very moving poems.



**We're marking
Holocaust Memorial Day**



**HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY 27/1**



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Culinary Skills

Culinary skills is a new option at JMA. The pupils have been brilliant, demonstrating their technical skills, creativity and taking themselves outside their comfort zone. We have made chicken wrapped in bacon, Mille Feuille and apple swans.





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Generation Welwyn Hatfield - twilight session

On Friday 7th February, there is a careers fair in Hatfield for young people who live around the area. Forest House pupils will be attending during a quiet period over lunch.

Parents of all pupils across the Trust who have children in Years 10-13 are invited to go along for the twilight sessions running from 3.30-5pm

The event is at the Fielder Centre, Hatfield Avenue, Hatfield AL10 9TP.

There will be over 50 employers there. This is similar to the careers fair held at Shendish Manor last term. Pupils will be able to ask questions of employers and what jobs roles they offer.

Please click on the link for further information or to book your free place (parents and carers) -

<https://www.hopinto.co.uk/events/generation-welwyn-hatfield-2025/>





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The Telegraph Media Group's Work Experience: Media Literacy Programme **March 2025**

The Telegraph Media Group are doing a Media Literacy Programme which begins in March 2025.

The programme aims to break down the barriers to careers in journalism and provide school pupils with the tools and skills to think critically about the media landscape. It provides an insight into what it's like to be a journalist at an award-winning multimedia news brand. It is open to all 16-18-year-olds across the UK.

The online sessions will be with a range of journalists from departments across the business including news, sports, beauty, music, and social media, with students having the opportunity to learn skills such as headline writing, interviewing and travel writing, and win prizes.

The programme will run for four weeks, beginning on Tuesday 4th March 2025. Sessions will run from 4 - 5 pm every Tuesday. At the end of the programme, each student will receive a Telegraph Media Literacy Journalism Certificate.

For the students to submit their applications, they will need to go to

<https://careers.telegraph.co.uk/jobs/job-details/The-Telegraph-Media-Literacy-Programme-2025-London>.

They will need to complete a cover letter for their application explaining why they would like to participate.