



# James Marks Academy Trust

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

Friday 7th March 2025

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

Dear all,

I am sure the nice spell of weather we are having at the moment is brightening all our moods. I was at RF for World Book Day yesterday and it was really nice to see all the youngsters and staff outside in the sunshine posing for photos in their outfits. We are on for a spectacular weekend, so I hope you all get to enjoy some family time.

I met a number of JMA parents on Monday, it was actually really nice to catch up with them all. I want to take the opportunity to add that I appreciated the feedback that you left. I have looked at it with both Scott and Mark and one of them will respond to all those present to outline the actions that will result from your suggestions.





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I know one of the comments was regarding having separate newsletters for all three provisions, so for obvious reasons, it seems timely that I answer this now. We did discuss this but I really want to ensure all stakeholders think of us as a 'Trust' rather than separate entities and the newsletter supports this. We have so much to gain from being a Trust. I therefore want to take every opportunity to ensure all three provisions share everything including teachers, training, resources etc. Simply because we have so much to learn from each other and the newsletter serves as a constant reminder that we are three provisions and ALL are equally important. As a concession to the parents who made the request though, I will talk to Clare and ask that we try to ensure it is clear what activities and events occurred, or are occurring at each school.

To end on a positive, we are fully staffed in all provisions for September 2025, as it stands. Things may change, we are a fairly large organisation now with many colleagues and people do move on to other roles, or simply retire. If this does happen however we should be able to recruit as we will be dealing with the odd post and not a plethora of vacancies, because we have recruited to cover our expansion early, and retention rate of staff across the Trust is always exceptionally strong.

The reason retention is so strong is down to ALL stakeholders. Trustees and parents who are hugely supportive, and colleagues and pupils who are an absolute pleasure to work alongside. Thanks to you all and enjoy the weekend, kind regards Trevor





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## Pupil successes at James Marks Academy

**Stars of the week -  
28/02/2025**



**GOLD** - Kayden

**SILVER** - Max

**BRONZE** - Skye

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

**JAMES MARKS SPIRIT AWARD** - Emily



## Pupil successes at Forest House Education centre

**Stars of the week -  
28/02/2025**



**FOREST HOUSE PUPIL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD** -  
Safwan

**FOREST HOUSE PUPIL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD** -  
Poppy





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## Pupil successes at James Marks Academy

Stars of the week -  
07/03/2025

**GOLD** - George

**SILVER** - Reece

**BRONZE** - Amiyah

**100% ATTENDANCE FOR THE**

**WEEK** - Kayden

**JAMES MARKS SPIRIT AWARD**

- Joshua A



## Pupil successes at Roman Fields Academy

Stars of the week -  
07/03/2025

**GOLD** - Oscar

**SILVER** - Chasia

**BRONZE** - Josie, Himi

**100% ATTENDANCE FOR THE**

**WEEK** - Leo

**ROMAN FIELDS SPIRIT**

**AWARD** - Leah



## Pupil successes at Forest House Education centre

Stars of the week -  
07/03/2025

**FOREST HOUSE PUPIL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD** -

Daisy

**FOREST HOUSE**

**ATTENDANCE AWARD** -

Abbie





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## Dates for the diary

Thursday 13th March - Year 13's Parents evening at James Marks Academy.

Monday 17th March to Friday 28th March - Year 10 & 11 mock exams at Roman Fields

Thursday 20th March - Red Nose Day fun at Roman Fields.

Friday 4th April - Break for Easter.

Tuesday 22nd April - INSET DAY.

Wednesday 23rd April - Pupils back to School.

Wednesday 23rd April - Roman Fields Parents evening - 4pm till 6pm

Monday 5th May - Bank Holiday -School closed.

Thursday 8th May - GCSE exams begin

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



**07/03/2025**

**Thomas**





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## James Marks Academy Year 8 artwork - Animals

After tutorials in colour pencil, watercolor and acrylic paints, students choose their favourite material to create a portrait of a favourite animal.





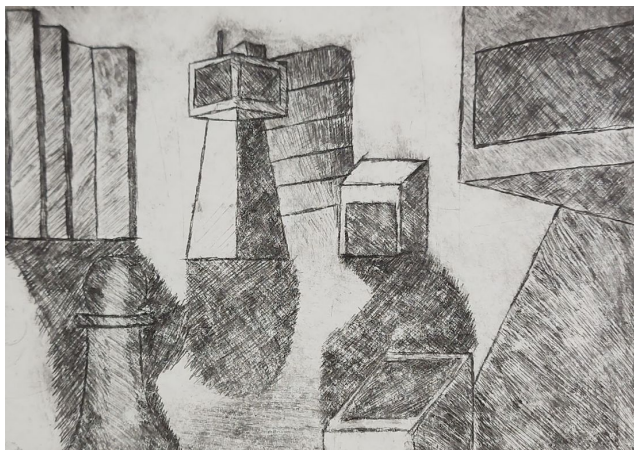
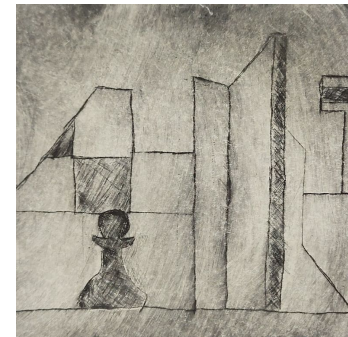
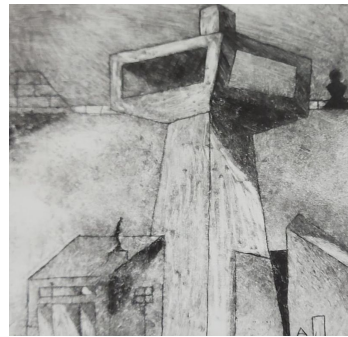
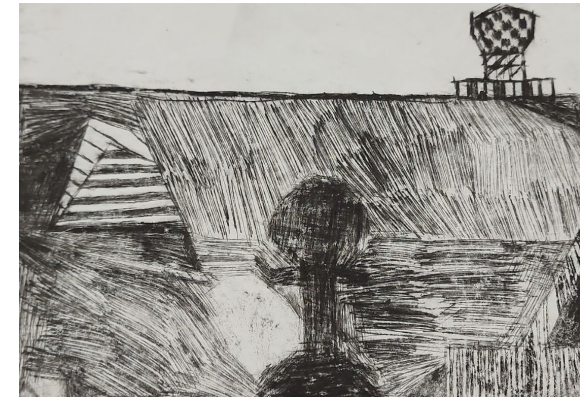
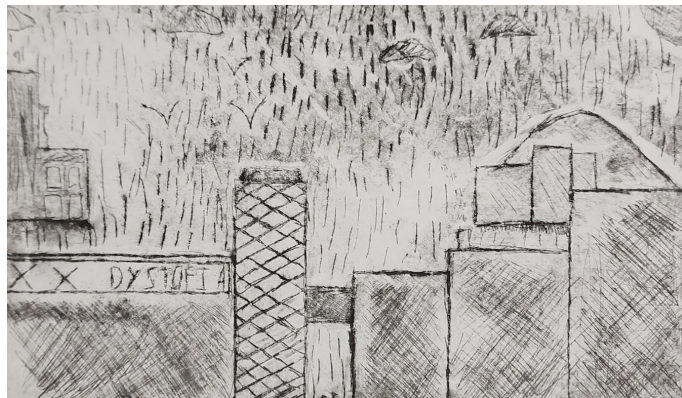
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## James Marks Academy Year 9 artwork - Scapes

Exploring perspective, Brutalist architecture and the work of De Chirico, students were introduced to drypoint intaglio printmaking with fantastic successes.





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## Transition groups at Roman Fields and Forest House

Debra, Jan and the pupils have been having a great time with the Friday transition group. Over the last few weeks they have been to many college settings and Tring Natural History Museum and Wendover Woods. Next up is Dunstable Downs for kite flying!

Can you spot Jake?



Pupils from Forest House have also been out enjoying walks but are less keen on having pictures taken!



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## Work experience

Two pupils from Roman Fields arranged their own work experience during half term at the Waitrose in St Albans. They impressed the staff with their confidence, enthusiasm and willingness to learn new tasks and it has been suggested to them that they apply for part-time summer jobs there. Well done Himi and Poppy!

We encourage all pupils to undertake some work experience (if they are able to) and are happy for parents to source private placements for the holidays, given the constraints of the timetable and the limited number of employers we work with who can offer regular work experience. Please let Debra or Jan know if you arrange a private placement for your child in any holiday. We suggest no more than 4 hours a day, for some 3 days a week.



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## Pancake day fun at Roman Fields - Tuesday 4th March

The Pupils and staff had a brilliant day tasting some yummy pancakes and flipping them.

Jake.W.B manage to flip 40 pancakes in 30 seconds, WOW, well done Jake.





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## World book day activities at Roman Fields - Thursday 6th March

Such great fun the pupils and teachers had dressed up in their fabulous costumes, they all looked fabulous including Brutus.

There were 3 waterstone vouchers available for the prizes.

The best dressed book character went to Natan.

The pupil who guessed most of the teachers favourite book was Mason.



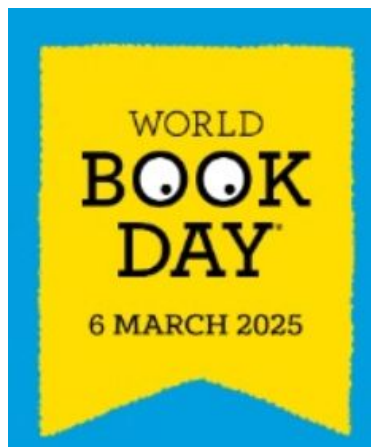


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## World book day activities at Roman Fields - Thursday 6th March





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## World Book Day short story winner at Roman Fields

Well done Josie for your beautiful story. Well done to all the winners.

### Short story competition - by Josie

One bright and sunny day, the sun was shining and *dazzling* onto the grounds of Roman Fields School, flecks of light grazing the gravelled pavement where all students and teachers were in a hurry for a surprise prank on the one and mighty *Trevor*. Little known to Trevor, he thought everyone was setting up for the annual summer barbecue, in which he held his pride in hosting each year; wearing his professional apron, dishing out hot dogs and burgers to students with their parents and even the teachers! His bare, smooth, *slick* and *contoured* head shone like a disco ball in the cheerful weather, getting ready to get this 'party' started. Everyone was secretly laughing in corners of the different classroom blocks as they sneakily watched him at his current innocence, for they were planning something evily funny, all run by Brutus himself!!! Snuffling and laughing under his pig-like noises, Brutus was walking Josie, Holly, and Chloe (his voluntary partners in crime) walking in *harmony* to the art room to be met by Monika's lovely, *vibrant* smile and her honey blonde curls framing it like a masterpiece. Brutus nudged Holly on the leg, as if to tell her - "Ask her!" Holly let out a sigh and ran a hand through her hair before asking "Could you help us prank Trevor?" to which Minika agreed with a nod. What could this prank be?!



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## Red Nose Day fun at Roman Fields - Thursday 20th March

# RED NOSE DAY

**On Thursday 20th March**

Trevor will be in the stocks at Roman Fields school  
from lunch time outside the dinner hall.



£1 for 3 throws



All money raised will be going towards Comic Relief.  
Thank you for all your support.



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## Red Nose Day fun at Roman Fields - Thursday 20th March



### Mystery cup game



Roman Fields are taking part in the mystery cup game.  
On Thursday 20th March at lunch time in the dinner hall.

You will get 3 goes to try and bounce a ping pong ball into a cup, if you are successful you will win the contents in that cup which might be nice or nasty.

Good luck to you all.

All money raised will be going to charity, thank you so much for your support.



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## Red Nose Day fun at Roman Fields - Thursday 20th March

Come join in the fun and have a photo or two taken with your friends.

All photos will be printed for you to keep.

WHERE – At lunch time in the dinner hall  
WHEN – Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March  
PRICE - £1 a photo including print

All money raised will be going to red nose day, thank you so much for your support.



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## Happy Birthday Brutus

Brutus turned 3 on Wednesday 26th February. He had so much fun playing with his new toy from his mum. He only had it 5 minutes and it had to be sent for repair to Jo's textile room. Well done to Jo for doing a fantastic job.

Happy birthday from us all.





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## National Careers week 3rd - 8th March

Here are some links you may wish to explore with your young people this week for national careers week (we have been doing some of these in school).

1. National careers website - skills assessment (some of you have done this before with YP)

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/discover-your-skills-and-careers>

2. Explore the Herts Opp Portal website and look at some of the virtual employer encounters:

<https://www.hopinto.co.uk/virtual-employer-encounters/virtual-employer-encounters/>

3. Explore personality types (the 16 personalities) or use the Belbin model as both these offer pointers towards behaviours and therefore careers (the current Year 13 have already done this)

<://www.16personalities.com/enfj-personality>

If you have any questions then please don't hesitate in contacting Debra or Jan.





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## **Post 18 Step2Skills Watford Inclusive Job fair - Wednesday 12th March 2025**

On behalf of the Step2Skills Team they would like to invite you to their **post-18** Inclusive Job Fair. The event is scheduled on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025 10:00 to 15:00 at Watford Leisure Centre, Peace Prospect, Watford WD17 3HA.

They are hosting the event for residents in the Watford area who experience barriers to work including those with learning and physical disabilities, sensory needs, neurodiversity and mental health conditions to meet with potential employers, find out what jobs are available and meet the Step2Skills Team.

For more details and booking, please click on the link attached : [Watford Inclusive Job Fair- Book Here](#)

If you have any questions about the event please contact Katie Leithboro.

Senior Employment Adviser | Step2Skills, part of Hertfordshire Futures| Growth & Environment | Hertfordshire County Council

Apsley, Brindley Way, Hemel Hempstead, HP3 9BF

Postal Point: APS 2005

T: 01442 454464 E: [katie.leithboro@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:katie.leithboro@hertfordshire.gov.uk)



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## Dacorum Cycling and Walking Local Infrastructure Plan

For further information or if you would wish to take part in the survey then please visit -

[www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/DacorumLCWIP](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/DacorumLCWIP)

**Hertfordshire**



**Have your say to make cycling and walking in Dacorum better for all...**

A consultation on the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan is now open until 11.59pm on Sunday 23 March 2025.

To take part in the consultation online, and for more information, please go to:  
[www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/DacorumLCWIP](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/DacorumLCWIP)



SCAN ME



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## Potential kids activities

Please see leaflet attached for the March Potential activities.

If you would like further details 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](#)

## MARCH 2025 ACTIVITIES

Sessions for Neurodivergent children/young people and Siblings  
BOOKINGS [potentialkids.org.uk/events](http://potentialkids.org.uk/events)

Date	Sessions	Time
1st Sat	<b>FREE Family Football - Drop In</b>	16.00-17.00
6th Thu	Bushcraft/Stem Home Ed 4+	10.30-12.00
7th Fri	Welcome Space Community Drop-In	10.00-12.30
7th Fri	Therapeutic Gardening Home Ed Group 8 + yrs	12.30-14.00
8th Sat	<b>Soft Archery 7+</b>	16.00-17.00
13th Thu	Bushcraft/Stem Home Ed 4+	10.30-12.00
13th Thu	<b>Trampolining 5+</b>	17.20-18.30
14th Fri	Welcome Space Community Drop-In	10.00-12.30
14th Fri	Therapeutic Gardening Home Ed Group 8 + yrs	12.30-14.00
14th Fri	<b>Youth Group 16+</b>	18.30-20.30
15th Sat	<b>Basketball 7 + yrs</b>	16.00-17.00
18th Tue	<b>Roller Skating 8+ yrs</b>	18.00 - 19.30
20th Thu	Bushcraft/Stem Home Ed 4+	10.30-12.00
21st Fri	Welcome Space Community Drop-In	10.00-12.30
21st Fri	Therapeutic Gardening Home Ed Group 8 + yrs	12.30-14.00
21st Fri	<b>Youth Group Games and Crafts 10-14yrs</b>	18.00-19.30
22nd Sat	<b>FREE Family Football - Drop In</b>	16.00-17.00
27th Thu	Bushcraft/Stem Home Ed 4+	10.30-12.00
27th Thu	<b>Trampolining 5 + yrs</b>	17.20-18.30
28th Fri	Welcome Space Community Drop-In	10.00-12.00
28th Fri	Therapeutic Gardening Home Ed Group 8 + yrs	12.30-14.00
29th sat	<b>FREE Family Football - Drop In</b>	16.00-17.00

POTENTIAL KIDS

CCN Accredited Training Provider of SEN London Qualifications

PK Hub & Garden



TUTORING



Danecroft Stables



Pony Days



Communication, Learning & Social Support for everyone through our inclusive programmes



Therapeutic Gardening 1:1 & Group Sessions. Volunteers Needed



Contact us for details of our PK offer:

Tutoring  
Teaching  
Mentoring  
Therapies  
1:1 & Group Work  
Alternative provision  
EOTAS  
DoE

For further information on any of our Activities or Educational Services please email us at [info@potentialkids.org](mailto:info@potentialkids.org)

the galleria

COMMUNITY FUND

The King's Award for Voluntary Service

Hertfordshire