



# James Marks Academy Trust

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

Friday 10th October 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 Parents and carers,



I hope this email finds you well. I spoke with my colleagues today and said “What should I write in the newsletter? September is a funny month, and the Head Teachers have already mentioned how well the pupils have settled in, and the incredible exam outcomes of 2025”.

The response I got was “please can you thank and welcome the parents of the pupils who have just joined, they have all been so lovely and supportive”. So here goes:

Welcome from us all, you all are official stakeholders in our small Trust full of amazing pupils, great parents and committed enthusiastic staff and Trustees. It will all pass so incredibly fast so enjoy the ride. I am about to start my 12<sup>th</sup> year here and I genuinely continue to love it, it is an absolute privilege.

Debra (our transition and careers lead) also requested a 'shout out' to all the pupils who have joined her and Jan this year as they either look to leave us, or approach A levels. This term they have worked with the sixth formers at the JMA, the new starters (the fast track one year GCSE pupils of FHEC) and the pupils in year 11 at RF. Their verdict is 'they have been an absolute pleasure to work with'. Long may this continue!

Take care and enjoy the weekend. Trevor



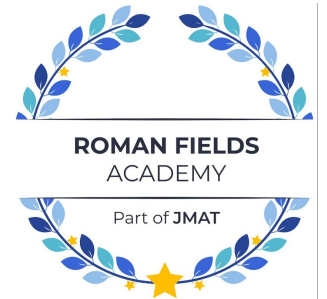


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## Pupil successes at Roman Fields Academy



### Stars of the week - 03/10/2025

**GOLD** - Timothy

**SILVER** - Jenna

**BRONZE** - Mason, Lailie

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

**ROMAN FIELDS SPIRIT AWARD** - Jaison



### Stars of the week - 10/10/2025

**GOLD** - Freddie

**SILVER** - Jaison

**BRONZE** - Brody, Alfie

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

**ROMAN FIELDS SPIRIT AWARD** - Alex





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## Pupil successes at James Marks Academy



### Stars of the week - 03/10/2025

**GOLD** - Kayden

**SILVER** - Mason R

**BRONZE** - Jack

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

**JAMES MARKS SPIRIT AWARD** - Dominic



### Stars of the week - 10/10/2025

**GOLD** - Fin K

**SILVER** - Amiyah

**BRONZE** - Reece

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

**JAMES MARKS SPIRIT AWARD** - Mia





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## Pupil successes at Forest House Education Centre



### Stars of the week - 03/10/2025

**FOREST HOUSE PUPIL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD** - Elise - for excellent efforts in all lessons and being really receptive to feedback

**FOREST HOUSE PUPIL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD** - Evie - for commitment to develop knowledge of Macbeth in preparation for summer exams/returning to school.





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## Dates for the diary

Thursday 23rd October - Roman Fields  
Halloween fancy dress

Friday 24th October - INSET DAY  
(staff only)

Monday 27th October till Friday 31st  
October - Half term

Thursday 13th November - Roman  
Fields parents evening (details to  
follow)

Friday 28th November - Occasional  
day (school closed)

Friday 19th December - last day of  
school before we break for Christmas

Monday 22nd December till Friday  
2nd January 2026 - Christmas break

Monday 5th January - INSET DAY  
(staff only)



## Become a Star Reader!



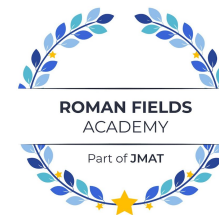
Here at Roman Fields, we understand and value the importance of reading. Reading - in whatever form you choose to engage in - fills you with knowledge. It improves your comprehension and analytical abilities. Furthermore, it stimulates the memory and broadens your imagination.

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 at Roman Fields Academy



03/10/2025

Leo

10/10/2025

Natan



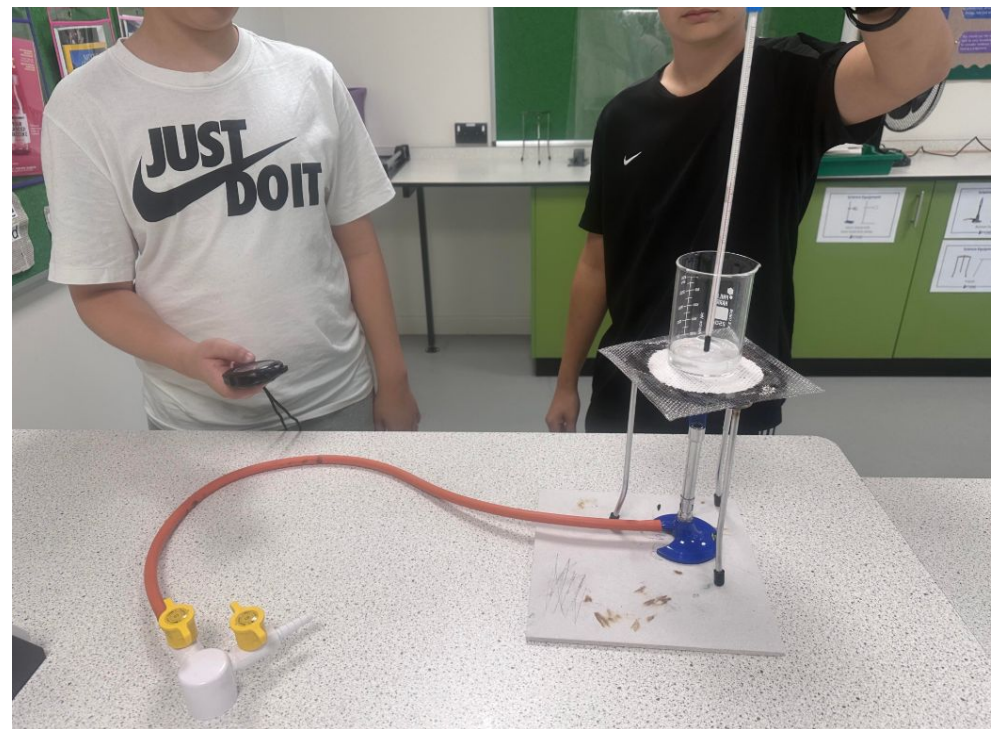
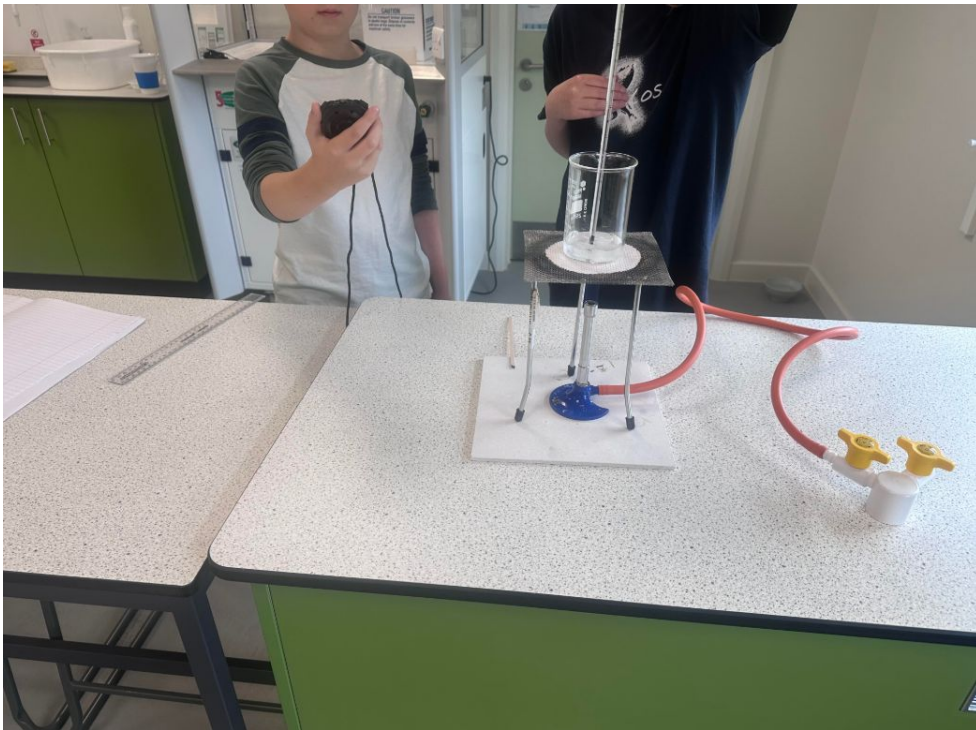


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## James Marks Academy - Year 7 Science lessons



Year 7 have made a great start to science lessons here at JMA. One group has started to use scientific equipment including Bunsen burners and thermometers. They were working to take accurate measurements and record this data in a table. They also made sure that they were working safely and followed the lab rules well.



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## Roman Fields - Horticulture lessons

Steve and the pupils have been working so hard to maintain our garden. We have had a very abundant tomato crop this summer which has been a nice treat for staff.

The pupils have worked very hard in helping produce nutritious soil and with a little help from our newly installed wormery. We also grew garlic, beetroot, potatoes and carrots.

We are all really excited about using the new polytunnel this academic year and it will provide us with the scope to grow more diverse and exotic fruit and veg and in larger quantities hopefully.





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## James Marks Academy - Year 9 English lessons

Period 5  
Sep 15th 25

### The Petrarchan Lover

An oxymoron is a figure of speech containing words that seem to contradict each other.  
Violence, danger, hatred, bawling, fighting

"Brawling love!"

Brawl: to quarrel or fight noisily

Love: an intense feeling of deep affection

Happiness, contentment, contented, dedication, attachment, care

"Bright Smoke"

Brightness is something that describes something light in appearance. It is associated with happiness and joy and the sun and divinity, or whatever else. Smoke, alternatively, is dark and black and associated with misery.

Romeo subverts traditional ideas because he is infatuated with someone he's never met just because she's pretty. Also, he is emotional and locking himself in his room crying or in the woods - not even making any effort to hide it. Additionally, he is upset by violence and is absent during the fighting (again, crying in his room).

In Elizabethan times, it was expected that men were strong both physically and emotionally, but also not very intelligent or curious. Romeo, by crying in his room and being opposed to violence, subverts this idea.

Shakespeare uses oxymorons to show that Romeo thinks love is a conflicting thing - happy and content, but with misery and longing too.

Romeo is a Petrarchan lover, meaning he is infatuated with someone but he can't get to her. We know this because he's 'very sad kitten' about Rosaline.

Period 5  
Sep 8th 25

### Romeo and Juliet

A prologue is a short text or video that gives the audience an idea of the plot before the actual story. They often contain information or context about where or when the story is set and about the world it's set in.

Some examples of books with prologues are: *Star Wars*, *Moana*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *The Way of Kings*.

Two households, both alike in **dignity**,  
In fair Verona, where we lay our scene,  
From ancient **grudge** break to new **mutiny**,  
Where **civil** blood makes civil hands unclean.  
From forth the fatal **loins** of these two foes  
A pair of star-cross'd lovers take their life;  
Whose misadventured **piteous** overthrows  
Do with their death bury their parents' **strife**.  
The fearful passage of their death-mark'd love,  
And the continuance of their parents' rage,  
Which, but their children's end, **nought** could remove,  
Is now the two hours' traffic of our stage;  
The which if you with patient ears attend,  
What here shall miss, our **toil** shall strive to mend.

We learn that:

- There are two families in Verona.
- They are rich and respected.
- There is conflict between the families.
- Two lovers are stuck between this.
- Civilians get killed?
- The lovers take their lives because of 'this war', this ends the conflict.
- The situation is so serious that the lovers have to literally kill themselves to end it.

this is jim respecting or etc.

Period 5  
Sep 15th 25

### Masculinity

Masculinity is... (stereotypically):

- Strength (physical & emotional)
- Dignity
- Violence
- Confidence
- Short hair & masculine features & masculine features
- Honorable & Protective

### The Petrarchan Lover

A Petrarchan Lover is a type of man portrayed by artists in the 1300s-1400s, who will view a woman as a goddess, obsessing over her to the point where they he would die that she doesn't love him back. It is often portrayed as a chase - with the man pursuing the woman, and her fleeing.

- Where Romeo had gone
- Benvolio and Lord Montague say that Romeo had been sobbing - going off into the woods to sulk, locking himself in his room in the dark. This would suggest that he is my grandfather would put it, a 'very sad kitten'.
- He is in love with Rosaline and she has sworn herself a virgin. (and does not like him.)
- Romeo says this unrequited love has caused him grief.
- When Romeo says "this is not Romeo, he's some other where", I think this means he's not his usual self and metaphorically 'somewhere else'.
- We learn that Romeo only loves Rosaline because she is pretty and he doesn't actually know anything about her.

Year 9 have been fantastically engaged in their learning about Romeo and Juliet. They have been applying and building on knowledge acquired last year, through our study of The Tempest, exploring more complex ideas about gender roles in the Elizabethan era.



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## James Marks Academy - ICT lessons

In Electronics pupils have been looking at different types of inputs and outputs for an Electronic System together with some physical examples. They have also constructed a light sensitive alarm and tested it as a method to protect a valuable snack kept inside a drawer. When the draw opens, light is detected and the alarm sounds.





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## James Marks Academy - Halloween short story competition



James Marks Academy English department are running a short story competition.

- The story can't be longer than 2x A4 pages, the story can be handwritten or typed.
- The story must start with "*I knew it was a bad idea*" or, "*She screamed as she saw the reflection in the mirror. It wasn't her own*" or "*They woke up to the sound of scratching behind his door*".
- Use of AI is forbidden! ;)

If your child would like to take part then please hand in the story to reception by Tuesday 21st October.

The winner will be announced at lunch time on Thursday 23rd October.

Good luck with your stories.





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## Careers and transition - Careers fair at Shendish Manor

Year 11 pupils found the world of work brought to life when they attended the annual Dacorum careers' fair at the end of September. Represented were local companies and colleges and the pupils were briefed in advance about what to expect so that they could interact with the exhibitors. The pupils were outstanding in their efforts to find out more about what functions certain industries offer, what skill employers look for in employees and what job areas/ roles they might consider into the future.





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## Alumni update from the end of term

On the last day of term, at RFA we were joined by some of our past pupils (alumni) and they shared what they are up to now with both staff and some pupils. This is really important as it shows our current young people (and parents) that our pupils can leave here and be successful afterwards.

When they left here these pupils attended/ still attend various Hertfordshire colleges: West Herts, Oaklands, Capel Manor, one did A Levels and one completed an apprenticeship.

One is now landscaping and gardening full time, one is working with his dad's building company, one is setting up his own IT business selling broadband, one is doing a degree accredited by the Royal Agricultural University, one offers specialised childcare and clubs for autistic girls, one is doing an apprenticeship together with a night-time course in sport, one is looking for a driving job but needs to convert his licence from automatic to manual first, one is enjoying a gap year, and one is pregnant with her baby due early next year but still working in an admin role for a sports centre!

We have an alumni board at Roman Fields with lots of information on where people went next when they left, please take a look in the games room at it.

Pictured right is Mel who left in 2018 - and has just completed a master's degree in Equine Metabolic Syndrome - like type 2 diabetes and coronary heart disease in horses! She is also working part-time too at a livery yard. It was great to see her back here last month. We hope to get some of the 6th formers who left JMA in summer back later this term to talk to the current Year 13s at JMA about their university experiences.





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## Roman Fields - Halloween sale



Aline, Jo and the pupils as always have done a brilliant job at making Halloween goodies to go on sale.

All items are on display in the dinner hall and can be purchased up to Thursday 23rd October.

Prices start from £3.

If the pupils are interested in purchasing something then please come to reception in the mornings, lunch time or after school.

All money raised will go towards a local charity chosen by the enterprise team.  
Thank you so much for all your support.

## HALLOWEEN SALE



**If you are interested in purchasing any of our Halloween goodies, then please come to reception in the morning, lunch time or after school, prices from £3.**



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## HALLOWEEN STORY COMPETITION



**Stories must be handed to the office by  
Tuesday the 21st of October**

### Guidelines:

- The story can't be longer than 2x A4 pages, the story can be hand written or typed.
- The story must start with *"I knew it was a bad idea"* or, *"She screamed as she saw the reflection in the mirror. It wasn't her own"* or *"They woke up to the sound of scratching behind his door"*.
- Use of AI is forbidden! ;)
- The best story will be picked by our literacy expert Tony!

 Prize for the best story

## **Roman Fields - Halloween short story competition**



Roman Fields are running a short story competition.

If your child would like to take part then please hand in the story to reception by Tuesday 21st October.

The winner will be announced at lunch time on Thursday 23rd October.

Good luck with your stories.





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## Roman Fields - Halloween fancy dress



On Thursday 23rd October pupils are welcome to come to school in fancy dress for Halloween.

There will be a prize for the best dressed.

The winner will be announced at lunch time on Thursday 23rd October.



Happy halloween to you all.



# HALLOWEEN DRESS UP DAY



## Thursday 23rd of October

 **Feel free to dress up in your  
Halloween costume!** 

Prize for the best costume! Be creative!



**Please don't buy anything, try to upcycle as much as possible. Ask  
Aline or Jo for support if needed!**



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## Careers and transitions dates / college open dates

Saturday 11th October - Oaklands WGC open day

Friday 17th October - Britvic visit (Year 11s RFA)

Saturday 18th October - Oaklands St Albans open day

Monday 10th November - Sky Up visit (Year 11s RFA and FHEC) - more details to follow

Tuesday 11th November North Herts College Hitchin open day

Wednesday 12th November - North Herts College electrical and engineering campus plus Hitchin and Stevenage

Saturday 15th November - West Herts College Hemel open day

Saturday 22nd November - West Herts College Watford open day

Tuesday 2nd December - Herts Regional College - Ware and Broxbourne campuses open day

Thursday 4th December - JMA statutory apprenticeship talks



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## **Local college open days - for the attention of all Year 10 and 11 parents**

The 4 Hertfordshire colleges are listed below as well as Capel Manor. Please click on the links below for further details and **note that one is this Saturday (Oaklands WGC campus).**

### **Westherts College - Hemel Hempstead and Watford campuses**

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

### **Oaklands College - Welwyn Garden city and St Albans campuses**

[https://campaign.oaklands.ac.uk/open-days?utm\\_term=&utm\\_campaign=October+Open+Events+-+October+2025&utm\\_source=adwords&utm\\_medium=ppc&hsa\\_acc=3149808880&hsa\\_cam=22965451176&hsa\\_grp=&hsa\\_ad=&hsa\\_src=x&hsa\\_tgt=&hsa\\_kw=&hsa\\_mt=&hsa\\_net=adwords&hsa\\_ver=3&qad\\_source=1&qad\\_campaignid=22975810504&gbraid=0AAAAAD8P\\_dFWhrAlqTOuhiC4KMpvCQPuv&qclid=EAlalQobChMIjCgIjqOPkAMVw7CDBx3tzjETEAYASAAEgJS8vD\\_BwE](https://campaign.oaklands.ac.uk/open-days?utm_term=&utm_campaign=October+Open+Events+-+October+2025&utm_source=adwords&utm_medium=ppc&hsa_acc=3149808880&hsa_cam=22965451176&hsa_grp=&hsa_ad=&hsa_src=x&hsa_tgt=&hsa_kw=&hsa_mt=&hsa_net=adwords&hsa_ver=3&qad_source=1&qad_campaignid=22975810504&gbraid=0AAAAAD8P_dFWhrAlqTOuhiC4KMpvCQPuv&qclid=EAlalQobChMIjCgIjqOPkAMVw7CDBx3tzjETEAYASAAEgJS8vD_BwE)

### **North Hertfordshire College - Stevenage and Hitchin campuses**

[https://www.nhc.ac.uk/openevents/?qad\\_source=1&qad\\_campaignid=23081838651&gbraid=0AAAAADe-ygrCxdLmKcm4AJk60r\\_gYeVEc&qclid=EAlalQobChMI\\_a\\_gxKOPkAMV5JhQBh14DCAsEAAYASAAEgI9pPD\\_BwE](https://www.nhc.ac.uk/openevents/?qad_source=1&qad_campaignid=23081838651&gbraid=0AAAAADe-ygrCxdLmKcm4AJk60r_gYeVEc&qclid=EAlalQobChMI_a_gxKOPkAMV5JhQBh14DCAsEAAYASAAEgI9pPD_BwE)

[https://www.nhc.ac.uk/openevents/?qad\\_source=1&qad\\_campaignid=23081838651&gbraid=0AAAAADe-ygrCxdLmKcm4AJk60r\\_gYeVEc&qclid=EAlalQobChMIxuHTnKSPkAMVYJdQBh3eRBK1EAAYASAAEgIWSvD\\_BwE](https://www.nhc.ac.uk/openevents/?qad_source=1&qad_campaignid=23081838651&gbraid=0AAAAADe-ygrCxdLmKcm4AJk60r_gYeVEc&qclid=EAlalQobChMIxuHTnKSPkAMVYJdQBh3eRBK1EAAYASAAEgIWSvD_BwE)

### **Herts Regional College - Ware and Broxbourne campuses**

<https://hrc.ac.uk/events/>

### **Capel Manor College**

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



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## **Hertfordshire Careers Hub - Virtual Careers Fair - Wednesday 21st January 2026**

Hertfordshire Careers hub are pleased to invite you to the ***HOP Into Apprenticeships & T Levels – Hertfordshire Virtual Careers Fair on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026 from 5.30pm-7pm***, a free online event designed to help you, and your child explore future career pathways and training opportunities.

### **What is the Virtual Careers Fair?**

This **free to attend event** is for parents, carers, and students to explore apprenticeships and T Levels. Visit different exhibitor rooms on a 10-minute rotation to learn about the programmes and opportunities available from local employers, colleges, and training providers.

### **Who Should Attend?**

This event is open to all parents and carers but will be particularly useful for those supporting children in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13. Students in these year groups are also welcome to attend.

Further information please click here: [The Hertfordshire Virtual Careers Fair for parents and carers](#)

**Please register by Monday 19th January 2026** [for your free ticket by clicking here.](#) [HOP into Apprenticeships and T Levels](#)



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## MHST - Free workshops



The Mental health support team are offering free online workshops.

If you would like further information then please contact -

*Sandridge Gate Business Centre, Ronsons Way, St Albans. AL4 9XR*

Mon-Fri 9:00am-5:00pm

Tel: **01727 732031**

Email: [hct.mhst@nhs.net](mailto:hct.mhst@nhs.net)

Website: [SEND MHST](#)

## Free Workshops



Please see below for information and links to sign up to virtual workshops for parents. These are all run by the SEND mental health support team (MHST), which is linked to your child's school.

**2025**

**TUES 4<sup>TH</sup>  
NOV, 5.30-  
6.30PM**

Understanding neurodivergence and difference

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/understanding-neurodivergence-and-difference-tickets-1714689565649?aff=oddtcreator>

**THURS 13<sup>TH</sup>  
NOV,  
12-1PM**

Helping your child cope with exam stress

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/coping-with-exam-stress-tickets-1715100905979?aff=oddtcreator>

**WEDS 26<sup>TH</sup>  
NOV, 12.30-  
1.30PM**

Helping your child communicate emotions

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/communicating-emotions-tickets-1715210694359?aff=oddtcreator>

**2026**

**FRI 30<sup>TH</sup>  
JAN,  
12-1PM**

Parent mental health

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/parent-mental-health-workshop-tickets-1715375888459?aff=oddtcreator>

**WEDS 4<sup>TH</sup>  
FEB, 12.30-  
1.30PM**

Helping your child with confidence, self-esteem, and positive self-talk

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/confidence-self-esteem-and-positive-self-talk-tickets-1715760950189?aff=oddtcreator>

If you have any questions, please contact your school or email [hct.mhst@nhs.net](mailto:hct.mhst@nhs.net)



# James Marks Academy Trust

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

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)

## Family Lives - Co-parenting with care programme for parents with children with SEN.

Family lives are delivering **Co-parenting with care for parents with children with SEN** programme during the Autumn term, funded by Herts County Council for parents/carers who live in Hertfordshire or who have a child attending a Hertfordshire school.

If you would like further information please email [services@familylives.org.uk](mailto:services@familylives.org.uk) or call us on 0204 522 8700 or 0204 522 8701.



### Co-parenting with Care programme for parents with children with SEN.

This 6-week online programme offers a structured approach to help you navigate your unique challenges, improve your relationship, and create a more supportive environment for your SEN child/ren .

#### The programme covers themes including:

- Understanding SEN and its impact on children and family dynamics
- Effective Communication Skills
- Managing Emotions & Stress
- Collaborative Problem Solving
- Building a Supportive Network
- Creating a Unified Parenting Approach

These 2 courses will be delivered via MS Teams, over 6 sessions on the following dates/times:

**Date:** Wednesday 15, 22 October and 5, 12, 19 & 26 November

**Time:** 9.30am to 11.30am

**Date:** Thursday 16, 23 October and 6, 13, 20 & 27 November

**Time:** 7.00pm to 9.00pm

For more information or to make a referral, scan the QR code, email [services@familylives.org.uk](mailto:services@familylives.org.uk) or call 0204 522 8700 or 0204 522 8699

**We build better family lives together**

[www.familylives.org.uk](http://www.familylives.org.uk)

 @FamilyLivesHertsandBeds



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