



James Marks Academy Trust

www.jmatherts.co.uk

Friday 16th January 2026

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

Roman Fields Head's message



Happy New Year! I hope you all enjoyed a calm and restful break. Our pupils have come back full of energy and ready to learn, which is so lovely to see. Year 10 and 11 have returned to some very positive mock exam results and subject teachers are currently working with them to plan next steps, as we move closer to the final exams. Our new pupils continue to settle in well, and more established pupils have been so welcoming to them; it really is such a supportive pupil community here! We will be holding a parents' support group meeting later this term; please look out for details in the next few weeks - these meetings provide an excellent opportunity for parents to meet with each other and share in experiences and discussions in a non-formal setting; I really hope to see all of you there.

Wishing you a positive start to the year, Emma :-)





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James Marks Head's message



Welcome back and I hope that you managed to have a relaxing and enjoyable break. Firstly, I would like to pass on the thanks of all of the staff, to those of you who contributed to the gift we received in the awards celebration in December, looking at the amount of milk we are consuming they are clearly making the most of the variety of options they have for a hot drink!

Based on feedback from parents we are currently finalising the next parent support group session. We are going to trial two sessions, one in person and one online, the content of both will be the same. The session in person will be during the school day and the online session will be in the early evening. Hopefully this will enable as many parents as possible to participate.

This will be a busy half-term with the start of the mock exams. Parents and pupils will receive a copy of the timetable.

Wishing you all the best for 2026.





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Pupil successes at James Marks Academy



Stars of the week - 09/01/2026

GOLD - Phoebe

SILVER - Jasper

BRONZE - Evangeline

100% ATTENDANCE FOR THE WEEK - Kayden

JAMES MARKS SPIRIT AWARD - Lewi



Stars of the week - 16/01/2026

GOLD - Caley

SILVER - Kayden

BRONZE - Fin. K

100% ATTENDANCE FOR THE WEEK - Harrison

JAMES MARKS SPIRIT AWARD - Isabella





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Pupil successes at Forest House Education Centre



Stars of the week - 09/01/2026

FOREST HOUSE PUPIL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - Amina - For a great start to the term.

FOREST HOUSE ATTENDANCE AWARD - Henry - For consistent attendance and engagement.

Stars of the week - 16/01/2026



FOREST HOUSE PUPIL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - Amisha - For a positive attitude in lessons.

FOREST HOUSE ATTENDANCE AWARD - Isabella - For good attendance and engagement.

Trophy winners - December 2025

English	Ashleigh
Maths	Isabella
Science	Elise
Progress	Sienna



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Dates for the diary

Monday 16th February till Friday 20th February - Half term

Friday 27th March - Last day of school before we break for Easter holidays

Monday 30th March till Friday 10th April - Easter break

Monday 13th April - INSET DAY (staff only)

Tuesday 14th April - Pupils back to school

Monday 4th May - BANK HOLIDAY

Monday 25th May till Friday 29th May - Half term

Thursday 23rd July - Last day before breaking for summer holidays



We would like to wish you all a Happy New Year. Thank you for all your support.

From all at James Marks Academy Trust.





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Roman Fields - Christmas celebrations



Thank you for all your support over the Christmas period and for all the kind gifts.

Thank you for all the Christmas raffle sales and Christmas purchases.

We made an magnificent total of £200.

Congratulation to Joe T, Max and Timothy on winning the 3 Christmas hampers, hope you all enjoy the wonderful treats.

Aline and the pupils have decided they would like to donate the money to DENS, they help support vulnerable single homeless people and others in crisis, to transform their lives.

Thank you again for all your support over the year on all the charities we try to help, we couldn't do it without you all.

Trophy winners - December 2025

Art	Flo
Cookery	Tom
Creative Arts	Jenna
Drama & Media	Timothy
English	Rosemin
History/Geography	Ash
ICT/Business	Gabriel
Life Skills	Mason
Maths	Olivia
PSHEE	Lailie
Science	Joe.T
Sport	Jake
Technology	Natan
Work Experience	Lewis
Contribution to School Life	Flo
Positivity	Olivia
James Marks Award	Timothy



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Roman Fields -Christmas celebrations

So lovely to see you all at the end of term celebrations, Tony enjoyed helping Santa for the day. It was sad saying goodbye to Monika and Ashley, but we know will do amazingly well in their new jobs, we will definitely keep in touch.



Hope you all got a well deserved rest and enjoyed the Christmas period with your family and friends, Happy New year to you all.





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James Marks Academy - Christmas celebrations

It was wonderful to be part of such a well-attended celebration, and we are indebted to the warmth and kindness that parents and pupils brought to the occasion. Staff are particularly delighted with the coffee machine that was brought to the occasion. Trophies were given out to the people whose names were actually engraved on them, representing a marked improvement from previous years. We will never have sufficient time to properly recognise the endeavour and commitment that all the members of our community bring so all that's left is to give a hearty thanks to everyone involved!



Trophy winners - December 2025

Art	Ellie
Cookery	Harry
English	Jasper
Geography	Teddy
History	Jacob
Horticulture	Xavier
ICT	Ollie
Maths	Lily
Physical Activity	Finley
PSHEE	Max.L
Science	Kayden
Contribution to School Life	Vi
Positivity	Louie
School Award	Isabella





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James Marks Academy - Geography lessons - 9D Earthquake drills



9D Taking earthquake preparedness seriously.

Geographers have been busy learning about the processes and effects of earthquakes. As they are comparing the 2010 Christchurch and 2010 Haiti earthquake sequence we used the emergency word 'Kiwi' for students to dive under their desks for duck, cover, hold drills. We also learnt some Kung Fu Panda dance moves for earthquake boundaries but thankfully from the students perspective I was not quick enough to get photographic evidence of that!



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James Marks Academy - James Marks to Paris gym challenge

Charlie, an enthusiastic gym user, has created a gym challenge for his peers to try and achieve. Each year group that uses the gym is challenged to walk or run as far as they can during their gym sessions in the hope that they eventually walk or run the distance to Paris, Evangeline has already walked an amazing 6km, Blaize 3.7km and Charlie has helped his year group with an additional six kilometres.

Please encourage your children to take part, it is certainly going to take some time to walk the 370km to Paris!

Good luck everyone.





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Roman Fields - Careers and transition

Friday planned transition activities

23rd January - Oaklands St Albans visit

30th January - Tesco Head office visit - tbc or otherwise Wendover Woods

6th February - Oaklands WGC visit

13th February - Premier Foods employer visit (all Year 11s)

27th February - Ashridge walk

6th March - WHC Hemel campus tour

13th March - WHC Watford campus tour

20th March - activity tbc (Tring museum?)

27th March - end of term - activity tbc

Please note the plan above is subject to all being well with staffing at the colleges (sometimes tours get cancelled at the last minute due to sickness) - and if the weather is terrible and we are planning on being outside, we may have to switch activities..

We have had a request to visit Herts Regional College, so please let us know if your child would also like to join this trip (likely to be a Wednesday).



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James Marks Academy - Art news

Last term there was a hive of activity in the art department. Year 13 are nearing the end of their coursework unit, Year 10 GCSE began their coursework unit, Year 7 were learning about drawing and began their mask project, Year 8 had been exploring different media and creating an animal portrait, and Year 9 had been exploring the theme of perspective and creating drypoint etchings. Some pupils opted to do Textiles, and we had fun making felt/fabric creations. Busy times!

Some of our current year 10 pupils had made ceramic mugs in the Summer term of Year 9. A friend of Tiff's, Helen, agreed to fire them in her kiln. The pupils then had to glaze the bisque fired pieces and then Helen gave them their final firing. The results are excellent. Well done to all students who participated. Thank you to Helen Johnson for donating the use of her kiln and electricity.

<https://www.facebook.com/helenjohnston/>





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HOP Into Apprenticeships & T Levels: The Hertfordshire Virtual Careers Fair for parents and carers

We're pleased to invite you to the ***HOP Into Apprenticeships & T Levels – Hertfordshire Virtual Careers Fair***, a free online event designed to help you, and your child explore future career pathways and training opportunities. **Please register by Monday 19th January, 2026** [for your free ticket by clicking here.](#) [HOP into Apprenticeships and T Levels](#)

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.

Why Attend?

This event offers many benefits, including:

- Free of charge to attend (fully funded by Hertfordshire Careers Hub)
- Find out more about apprenticeships and T Level programmes with local training providers and colleges
- Hear directly from Hertfordshire employers about opportunities and the recruitment process
- Discover more about the skills and training provision being offered within Hertfordshire
- Select which breakout room you would like to hear from
- Ask questions and gather information from the comfort of your own home

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.

Book Your Place Today [HOP into Apprenticeships and T Levels](#)

Spaces are limited, so we encourage you to book early to avoid missing out. Take this opportunity to discover inspiring career pathways and learn more about how to support your child's next steps.

Read the attendee guidance ahead of the event to help you prepare.

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

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



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Winter Water Safety Advice

Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue are sharing important winter water safety guidance.

During periods of snow and ice, they unfortunately see an increased risk of accidents around frozen ponds, lakes, rivers, reservoirs, and canals. While these areas may appear solid, ice can be extremely thin and unpredictable. Children and young people are especially vulnerable due to natural curiosity and the temptation to explore frozen surfaces.

To help promote safe behaviour during this colder spell, we have attached a fact sheet on the Dangers of Frozen Water.

THE DANGERS OF FROZEN WATER

Every year children are at risk when they are tempted to play on the ice formed on open waters and adults find themselves at risk as they attempt to save them. Over 50% of ice related drowning involved an attempted rescue of another person or a dog.

Areas with frozen waters can be beautiful to look at but they are also extremely dangerous. Here are some useful tips to help you enjoy these areas safely.

TOP TIPS TO STAY SAFE

NEVER GO ON THE ICE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES

This includes attempting to rescue another person or animal who may have fallen through the ice.

ONLY USE WELL LIT AREAS

Try to take walks in the daylight but if you must walk in the evening, only use well lit areas and avoid anywhere with water.

KEEP AWAY FROM THE EDGE OF THE WATER

Never go close to the edge or lean over to touch the ice. You may overbalance or trip and fall in.

ALWAYS WALK WITH AN ADULT OR A GROUP OF FRIENDS

Look out for each other and if someone does fall through the ice there will be others around to raise the alarm and get help

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FALL THROUGH THE ICE

Keep calm and shout 'help'

Spread your arms across the surface of the ice in front of you

Try to kick your legs and pull yourself out of the water and on to the ice

Lie flat, spreading your weight across the surface and pull yourself to the bank, you may find it easier to roll.

If you cannot climb out, wait for help and keep as still as possible. Keep your head above the water, press your arms by your side and keep your legs together

Once you are safe, it is important that you go to hospital immediately for a check up



WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE SOMEONE FALL THROUGH THE ICE

Shout for '**HELP**' and dial **999** or **112** if you can

DO NOT walk on to the ice to attempt a rescue

Shout to the person to '**KEEP STILL**' and offer reassurance.

If they are close enough, **LIE DOWN TO AVOID OVERBALANCING** and falling onto the ice, and try to reach them with a tree branch clothing tied together or anything else which can extend your reach.

If you cannot reach them, **SLIDE SOMETHING** which floats across the ice, such as a plastic bottle or a football, so that they can hold on to it to stay afloat whilst help is on the way.

If they are too far away, **WAIT FOR THE EMERGENCY SERVICES** and reassure the casualty from the safety of the bank.



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Family Lives Spring 2026 free parenting online group programme

Family Lives are delivering 5 online parenting groups, funded by Herts County Council, in the Spring term for parents/carers who live in Hertfordshire.

Please see details on flyer attached.

If you are interested to book a place please click here [Referral Form for Family Lives Herts Parenting Groups and Workshops](#) for there online referral form or scan the QR code on the attached flyer

You can also email services@familylives.org.uk or call 0020 4522 8701 / 204 522 8700 for more information.

Family Lives Online Programme Spring 2026



Bringing Up Confident ADHD/ASD Children
(6 weeks)

Friday 23rd January to 6th March, 9.45am to 11.45am

If your child has ADHD/ASD, or you think they might, join our online group where you will receive support from other parents and gain an understanding of ADHD/ASD and learn strategies to improve life at home and at school.



Tuesday 20th January to 3rd March, 7.00pm to 9.00pm
or
Monday 9th February to 23rd March, 9.30am to 11.30am

Do you feel you are constantly nagging or shouting at your child to get what you need? Learn how you can change the way you communicate with your child, respond better, and feel more in control.

Less Shouting, More Cooperation
(6 weeks)

Dads Together
(6 weeks)

Wednesday 4th February to 18th March, 7pm to 9pm

Calling all Dads - join our free online group, come along and receive support from other dads and learn how to change the way you communicate with your child, respond better and feel more in control.



Tuesday 3rd February to 17th March, 7.00pm to 9.00pm

Is your teen feeling anxious or isolated? Are you concerned about their mental health and struggling to get help? You may have an FFA, CIN, or CP in place and need more support. Learn how parents can best emotionally support their teen and feel confident and prepared for whatever challenges might arise.

Getting on with Your Pre-teen or Teenager
(6 weeks)

For more information, call **0204 522 8700/8701**, email services@familylives.org.uk or scan the **QR code** for our online form.



We build better family lives together

www.familylives.org.uk

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Funded by
Hertfordshire
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Glow performing Arts - Warners End community centre- Hemel Hempstead



If you would like more information then please go to -

<https://www.glowperformingarts.co.uk/>

Or If you are interested in booking a trial then please contact Becky on

becky@glowperformingarts.co.uk

Class	Description	Age	Time	Day	Price per term
SEN Classes 	Singing, dancing, drama and sensory activities for children with additional needs and disabilities	4-11	4-5pm	Tuesday	£204* <small>*Enhanced Support and Staffing</small>
		11-18	5-6pm		
Glow Worms 	Mini musical theatre class, including singing, dancing, acting and lots of fun and games!	3-6	4-5pm	Friday	£144
Musical Theatre 	A fun filled class including singing, dancing and acting - groups are divided by age with tailored activities	7-18	4:30-6pm	Friday	£198
Youth Theatre 	A focus on acting with opportunities to write, direct and explore backstage and technical roles	10-18	6-7:30pm	Friday	£198

Warners End Community Centre (HP1 3QG)

15% sibling discount

BOOK NOW



becky@glowperformingarts.co.uk
www.glowperformingarts.co.uk
[@glowperformingarts](https://www.instagram.com/glowperformingarts)





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Supporting Link - Talking teens sessions



Supporting links is running 6 weekly sessions from Wednesday 4th February, Wednesday 11th February, Wednesday 25th February, Wednesday 4th March, Wednesday 11th March, Wednesday 18th March 2026.

6, weekly sessions for parents of children aged 12-19, covering:

- **The Teen Brain, the physical and emotional changes and why their behaviour changes.**
- **The link between behaviour and difficult feelings.**
- **Maintaining your relationship with good communication.**
- **Understanding risk-taking behaviour around drugs, alcohol and gang culture.**
- **How to communicate during a conflict situation.**

Booking is essential, if you are interested and would like to book a place, please contact Supporting Links on 07512 709 556 or bookings@supportinglinks.co.uk

Please include your phone number as they cannot book a place without speaking to you, please also include the course ID: 802.