



James Marks Academy Trust

www.jmatherts.co.uk

Friday 30th January 2026

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

Roman Fields Deputy Head's message

We've reached the end of the long month of January and the days are getting longer. At this time of the year, the green-fingered folk at Roman Fields start to think about the growing season ahead. Michael is putting the finishing touches to the polytunnel that he installed last summer, and Steve and Jane - our Horticulture tutors - are making plans to stock the planters and tend to the borders. Our pupils work hard in the Horticulture sessions to create a pleasant environment around the site, and they have plenty of success growing vegetables. Last year the bumper crop of tomatoes led to dozens of jars of chutney made by Will Allen and we're hoping for a similarly productive harvest this summer. Steve and Jane are always happy to receive seeds or seedlings, so if you have any spare at home they would be pleased to put them to good use.

This week, we celebrated Burns Night with the customary addressing of the haggis. This year, Robert Burns' ode was read by Thomas. He did a fine job and perfectly accompanied the Scottish tones of Paul, our Food tutor, who prepared a meal of haggis, swede and potatoes for all to enjoy. These small events are important for our pupils to enjoy a sense of occasion and belonging, and the next event on the horizon is Pancake Day. The day always brings out the competitive edge in our pupils as they compete to gain the highest number of pancake flips in one minute.

This is a short term (certainly when compared to the autumn term) and we break for the Spring half term on Friday, February 13th. I'm sure the next two weeks will be productive in and outside of the classroom, and we look forward to those lighter mornings and evenings.

Kind regards,

David Morgan





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James Marks Academy Deputy Head's message

Across the last couple of weeks pupils have been learning about the equation of a straight line, volcanoes, witchcraft, the correct way to make apple pie, how to make inferences about a text based on the author's background, alleles, the difference between banter and bullying, and the role of dormancy in the life cycle of plants. When you ask them about any of this they will say that school was 'fine'. This should be of comfort to all because it is a universal fact of education that pupils should never betray that they suspect it may be of some value.

We have also been blessed with a state of weather that has allowed many of us to be thankful for the fact we chose an indoor occupation and Scott to gleefully bandy about well-worn cliches about the character building qualities of playing football in the rain. At time of writing our parent support group has yet to meet, but by the time you read this it will have done, hopefully very successfully (as a brief insight into this hallowed communication process there are *many* people who check my missives before they're sent out to you because I rightly cannot be trusted with firing off newsletters *sans* supervision. I have a tendency to go rogue. And use italics).

A further parent support group session will be available online on the 12th of February and by the time it rolls around Scott will be authoring this message so there's much to look forward to.

Kind Regards

Mark Reynolds





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Pupil successes at Roman Fields Academy



Stars of the week - 16/01/2026



GOLD - Katherine

100% ATTENDANCE FOR THE WEEK - Rosemin

ROMAN FIELDS SPIRIT AWARD - Joe O'M



Stars of the week - 30/01/2026

GOLD - Thomas

SILVER - Timothy

BRONZE - Ash, Natan

100% ATTENDANCE FOR THE WEEK - Thomas

ROMAN FIELDS SPIRIT AWARD - Freddie





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Pupil successes at James Marks Academy



Stars of the week - 23/01/2026

GOLD - Ben. R

SILVER - James

BRONZE - Zara

100% ATTENDANCE FOR THE WEEK - Max. L

JAMES MARKS SPIRIT AWARD - Fin. K



Stars of the week - 30/01/2026

GOLD - Jakob

SILVER - Logan

BRONZE - Nathan

100% ATTENDANCE FOR THE WEEK - Luca

JAMES MARKS SPIRIT AWARD - Max. S





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Pupil successes at Forest House Education Centre



Stars of the week - 23/01/2026



FOREST HOUSE PUPIL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - Caitlan for great resilience and excellent work in English

FOREST HOUSE PUPIL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - Elise for consistency and engagement in all learning.



Stars of the week - 30/01/2026

FOREST HOUSE PUPIL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - Ruby for positive engagement in Maths lesson

FOREST HOUSE PUPIL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - Ashleigh for consistency and engagement in all learning.





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Dates for the diary

Tuesday 10th February - Roman Fields
Parent Support Group 4pm - 5pm

Thursday 12th February - James Marks
Academy Parent Support Group

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 20th April - Roman Fields Year
11 Macbeth Theatre trip

Monday 4th May - BANK HOLIDAY



Become a Star Reader!



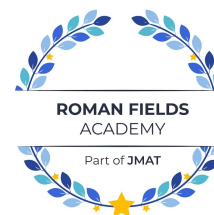
Here at Roman Fields, we understand and value the importance of reading. Reading - in whatever form you choose to engage in - fills you with knowledge. It improves your comprehension and analytical abilities. Furthermore, it stimulates the memory and broadens your imagination.

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



30/01/2026

Olivia, Thomas





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Burns Night

We celebrated Burns Night on 26th January, with a traditional meal of haggis, neeps and tatties.

Thomas and Paul did a wonderful job of reading out Burns' poem "Address to the Haggis" and thanks to Rafi for camera work.

Thanks to Paul for the cooking - many pupils tried haggis for the first time!





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♥ Valentine's Day ♥ SPREAD THE LOVE!

From the 2nd of February to the 13th of February

To celebrate Valentine's Day, we will be donating food/hygiene items to our local Dens Charity. If you can, please bring your item to reception between the 2nd and the 13th of Feb. The list below tells you what you can bring:

- Tinned Fruit
- Cooking sauces
- Long Life Juice/Squash
- Jams and spreads
- Tinned Vegetables
- Tinned Sweetcorn
- Tinned Fish
- Tinned Ham
- Biscuits
- Laundry Liquid or powder (Small Packs)
- Nuts
- Rice Pudding
- Sponge Puddings
- Roasting Tray
- Deodorants
- 2-In-1 Shampoo
- Custard
- Corned Beef

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Roman Fields - DENS charity donations



Mason and Aline have been working very hard to help support the charity DENS.

Alongside the wonderful £200 we have already donated to them, DENS are always in need of supplies.

We would be very grateful if you have anything you could spare, if you can then please can you bring it to the office from Monday 2nd February to Friday 13th February.

Thank you for all your support.



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Roman Fields - Pancake fun - Tuesday 10th February



Tuesday 10th February



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 a pancake the most in 30 seconds.





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Careers and Transition - JMA Year 10 pupils

Parents have been sent an email and here are the dates for diaries:

Friday 6th February - offsite trip to a careers fair at the Fielder Centre (see opposite)

Variable dates - virtual and in-person work experience (now onwards into Year 11)

Monday 2nd March - offsite trip to Tesco Hatfield store

Monday 29th June and Monday 6th July - Jobcentre Plus for Schools onsite at JMA

Sky Up visit to their studios at Elstree - likely to be later this term or in next term

For all parents across the trust

Generation Welwyn Hatfield - careers fair on Friday 6th February - twilight session for all JMA, FHEC and RFA pupils and parents in Years 10-13

<https://www.hopinto.co.uk/events/generation-welwyn-hatfield-2026/>

Click on the link for the list of exhibitors and to register

GENERATION WELWYN HATFIELD CAREERS FAIR
Friday 6th February 2026

Are you aged 14 - 21?
Come and discover the amazing career opportunities available in Welwyn Hatfield

Register Here
@ The Fielder Centre
Hatfield Business Park Hatfield Avenue, Hatfield AL10 9TP
3.30-5PM

Exhibitors include
TESCO **CRANE STAPLES**

Sponsors
H2P **WELWYN HATFIELD** Hertfordshire CAREERS HUB T-CAREERS & ENTERPRISE COMPANY HERTFORDSHIRE FUTURES Affinity Water



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Free February half term activities at Hudnall Park for young people with SEND



Join Hudnall Park and let the adventure begin!

Hudnall Park is Services for Young People's outdoor activity centre set in 85 acres of beautiful parkland, private woodland and meadows, five miles from Hemel Hempstead in the west of Hertfordshire.

They offer tailor-made programmes of activities designed to develop young people's social, emotional and physical skills in a safe and supportive environment.

During the February 2026 half term holidays they are offering free adventurous outdoor activities to young people aged 13-19 with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), including those with social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs.

All sessions are for a maximum of 12 people. You can book as many activities as you wish. Young people taking part in both morning and afternoon activities on the same day are welcome to stay for lunch – please provide them with a packed lunch.

For more information please contact

<https://www.servicesforyoungpeople.org/hudnall-park/free-february-half-term-activities-for-young-people-with-send/free-february-half-term-activities-for-young-people-with-send-1/>



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Careers and Transition - forthcoming open days - for all parents across the trust

Herts Regional College - Tuesday 3rd February - 5.30-8pm

Broxbourne and Ware campuses

For more details or to book online please go to -

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

Oaklands College St Albans Campus - Thursday 5th February - 5pm - 7:30pm.

Oaklands College Welwyn Garden City Campus - Tuesday 3rd February - 5pm - 7:30pm.

For more details or to book online please go to -

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

Springboard Watford - Thursday 12th February - 3-5pm

For details please see attached link -

<https://www.nhc.ac.uk/study/16-18-learners/springboard/>

Please note that if you wish to visit Springboard you are encouraged to do so on an open day as otherwise a referral needs to be completed by school and an EHCP sent over to check needs can be met prior to an invitation to visit

West Herts College Hemel Hempstead - Saturday 28th February - 9:30 am – 12:30 pm.

West Herts College Watford - Saturday 7th March - 9:30 am – 1:00 pm.

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

North Herts College - Wednesday 4th March - 4.30-7.30pm

Engineering and Construction, Stevenage and Hitchin campuses

For more details or to book online please go to -

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



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Help my child to sleep

Does your child struggle to sleep?

You are not alone, if you are looking for some help then Caroline is the person for you.



Caroline is a certified paediatric sleep consultant with over 30 years' experience working with babies, children and families. She has worked as a nanny, qualified early years teacher, speech and language specialist and maternity nurse – so she understands children's needs from every angle. Caroline prides herself on being a respectful infant educator.

Today, as a Level 6 Holistic Sleep Coach, Caroline combines evidence-based knowledge with a calm, empathetic approach that honours both the child's emotional development and the parent's wellbeing. Her focus is always on creating secure, connected sleep foundations for children aged 6 months to 12 years, without methods that compromise trust or attachment.

Caroline's goal is simple: to help you feel supported, confident, and understood and to help your child sleep in a way that feels right for your family.

If you would like any more information then please contact Caroline on-

07514 211 106

Email : helpmychildtosleep@gmail.com

Website : www.helpmychildtosleep.com





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

Potential kids - February activities

Please see leaflet attached for the February activities taking place with Potential kids.

If you would like further details then please contact Emma Boulton -

Email: emma@potentialkids.org

Address: [Potential Kids, The Galleria Outlet Centre, Comet Way, Hatfield, Herts, AL10 0XR](#)

POTENTIAL KIDS

For Neurodivergent Children, Young People
Their Siblings, Parents & Carers

FEBRUARY 2026 ACTIVITIES

The King's Award
for Voluntary Service

Date		Sessions	Time	Venue
2nd,9th, 23rd	Mon	Dungeons & Dragons (Full)	12.30-3.30	The Zone@The Galleria
3rd	Tue	Connect Primary age	4.30-6.00	The Zone@The Galleria
5th,12th 26th	Thu	Bushcraft/Stem Home Ed Age 4+	10.30-12.00	The Zone @ The Galleria
5th	Thur	Teens Group@The Hub	5.00-6.30	The Hub@The Galleria
6th,13th 27th	Fri	Parent /Carer Wellbeing	12.30-2.00	The Zone@The Galleria
7th	Sat	Basketball/Archery	4.00-5.00	Birchwood Leisure Centre
11th,25th	Wed	Early Years Stay & Play	12.30-2.00	The Zone@The Galleria
12th,26th	Thur	Trampolining Age 5+	5.30-6.30	Gosling Sports Centre
13th	Fri	Youth Group 16 Plus	6.30-8.00	The Hub@The Galleria
14th,21st	Sat	Family Football	4.00-5.00	Birchwood Leisure Centre
17th	Tue	Roller Skating	6.00-7.30	Roller City WGC
18th	Wed	Connect under12s	10.30-12.30	The Zone@The Galleria
18th	Wed	Connect 12 Plus	1.00-3.00	The Zone@The Galleria
19th	Thur	Soft Play	6.30-8.00	Birchwood Leisure Centre
TBC	Fri	Skateboarding Age 9+	5.30-6.30	Pioneer Club St Albans
28th	Sat	Potential Tracks Train Club 10+	12.00-2.00	The Hub@The Galleria

To book visit : potentialkids.org.uk/events

For futher information email: info@potentialkids.org

SCAN FOR ALL OF OUR IMPORTANT LINKS



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Free Inclusive Tennis Open Afternoon at Batchwood Sport Centre

Batchwood Sports Centre in St Albans, Hertfordshire would love for you to join them for an inclusive tennis open afternoon.

This free event is on Thursday 19th February from 2pm – 3pm for Juniors (Ages 5 to 18) and 3pm – 4pm for Adults (Ages 18+)

Batchwood Golf & Sport Centre,
Batchwood Drive, St Albans, AL3 5XA

Please see poster attached for details or if you would like to sign up here if you are interested : [Batchwood Sports Centre Inclusive Tennis Open Afternoon – Fill in form](#)

Batchwood Sport Centre Inclusive Tennis Open Afternoon

Thursday 19 February, 2-4pm

everyone
ACTIVE

 Batchwood Golf & Sport Centre, Batchwood Dr,
AL3 5XA, St Albans


HERTS TENNIS



A fun-filled session of inclusive tennis activities with expert inclusive tennis coaches—open to disabled, d/Deaf, and/or neurodivergent children and young people. Friends & family are welcome to join in the fun! All equipment provided.

Session Timings:

2 pm – 3 pm Juniors (Ages 5 to 18)

3 pm – 4 pm Adults (Ages 18+)

Free
event!



Sign up using this QR Code or link: <https://forms.office.com/e/yvt1yV40ue>

If you have any questions please email

Disability.Inclusion@AccessSport.Org.Uk

 **Acez**
Tennis by Access Sport



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



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

This 6-week online programme funded by Hertfordshire County Council, 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 4, 11, 25 February & 4, 11, 18 March 2026

Time: 9.30am to 11.30am

Date: Thursday 5, 12, 26 February & 5, 12, 19 March 2026

Time: 7.00pm to 9.00pm

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

SCAN ME



We build better family lives together

www.familylives.org.uk

@FamilyLivesHertsandBeds

Funded by Hertfordshire County Council



Family Lives is registered as a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales No. 3817762. Registered charity No.1077722. Registered address: The Annex York House, Salisbury Square, Hatfield, Hertfordshire, AL9 5AD

Family lives - Co-Parenting with Care for parents with children with SEN free online group for Hertfordshire parents

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

Please see flyer attached with the upcoming courses via MS teams.

If you would like more information then please email services@familylives.org.uk or call them on 0204 522 8700 or 0204 522 8701.