



James Marks Academy Trust

www.jmatherts.co.uk

Friday 6th March 2026

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

Forest House Education Centre Assistant Head's message

Welcome back, everyone. I hope pupils, parents and staff all enjoyed a well-earned rest as we begin what promises to be a short but very busy half term. This is a significant time of year across the Trust, with many pupils preparing for their forthcoming examinations while also finalising and completing any outstanding non-exam assessments.

Here at Forest House, our GCSE pupils are preparing to sit their second—and final—set of mock examinations. These will provide a valuable opportunity to practise working under the same conditions required in the summer exams. During this period, it is vital that pupils are not only well prepared, but also well rested, so they can give each paper they sit their very best effort.

This follows a highly successful Year 11 Parents' Evening, taking place at the end of last half-term, which was extremely well attended. I know I speak on behalf of all our teachers in saying what a pleasure it was to meet with parents face-to-face and discuss the progress being made by our pupils.

We are also pleased to see continued strong engagement from pupils in the Forest House Unit, some of whom are preparing for summer examinations as well.

With the Easter holidays approaching, I—like many of you—hope the weather continues to improve. After several grey and rainy weeks, some bright blue skies would be most welcome. It would certainly make our Year 11 pupils' weekly Friday lunchtime walks with Jane even more enjoyable.

Wishing you all the best of luck in these coming months,

Neil



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James Marks Academy Assistant Head's message

As we move through the term, I would like to acknowledge the effort shown by our year 10 pupils in their recent English Language mock exams. Mocks are an important step in understanding strengths and next steps, and we are pleased with the focus shown across the year group.

The recent spell of sunshine has also been welcome. It has been good to see pupils enjoying social times outside and enjoying the space that we have. The crocus bulbs that Sarah and our pupils planted have bloomed, and they look super!

Year 10's visit to Tesco Extra was well attended and enjoyed by staff and pupils. The trip offered a practical insight into the world of work and everyday applications of learning. Staff at the store commented on our pupils' behaviour and engagement, as well as the quality of the questions asked.

Yesterday was World Book Day. Both Faye and Georgine worked hard to organise an excellent day including superb costumes, and a quiz where pupils had to guess different staff members' favourite childhood books. A big thank you to the staff and pupils for their engagement and participation that made this day so memorable.

There is now only three weeks left until the Easter holidays, as it is an incredibly short half term. For pupils at JMA, our final Friday is a normal day, and we will finish at 3.30.

Kind regards,

Sophie



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Pupil successes at Roman Fields Academy



Stars of the week - 06/03/2026

GOLD - Lou

SILVER - Alex

BRONZE -Noah

100% ATTENDANCE FOR THE WEEK - Alfie

ROMAN FIELDS SPIRIT AWARD - Gabriel

World Book Day Costume Winner - Max

World Book Day short story Winner Timothy

The Masked Reader winner - Aiyla





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Pupil successes at James Marks Academy



Stars of the week - 27/02/2026

GOLD - Dylan

SILVER - Aimee

BRONZE - Amiyah

100% ATTENDANCE FOR THE WEEK - Joshua

JAMES MARKS SPIRIT AWARD - Mason R



Stars of the week - 06/03/2026

GOLD - Lewi

SILVER - Finley K

BRONZE - Lottie

100% ATTENDANCE FOR THE WEEK - Amiyah

JAMES MARKS SPIRIT AWARD - Jack



World Book Day Costume Winner - Teddy

World Book Day Costume Runner Up - Lottie

World Book Day Creative Writing Winner - Bella

World Book Day Creative Writing Runner up - Darcy



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Dates for the diary

Friday 20th March - Roman Fields Red Nose Day fun activities

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 - Year 11 English Literature Macbeth Theatre trip

Monday 4th May - BANK HOLIDAY

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

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



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



06/02/2026

Leo





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National Careers Week

This week is National Careers Week and the aim is to show pupils what the world of work might offer them by linking what is learnt at school (and outside of it) to jobs and careers.

As part of World Book Day, Liesa, Chris and David, English teachers at Roman Fields, shared a video with Years 10 and 11 about various jobs in publishing such as editor, illustrator and designer. Liesa shared some personal experience about her time at a book distribution company, Dorling Kindersley, and what the world of work looked like there. Some pupils also learnt about why using correct punctuation when writing is so important - and this applies for job applications too.

Please find below links to useful information, and some of the quizzes we have been doing in our classes across the trust. One of the quizzes is so pupils learn more about their thinking styles and job roles that may suit, as well as gaining an understanding that we are all different and offer diverse skills. Staff have posters displayed on their doors with information about previous jobs they have had, and what skills they have learnt, so that pupils can learn more about lots of different careers.

This week one of our pupils undertook a 3-day online work experience placement with a law firm and learnt lots, as well as developing his leadership skills by being proactive in the sessions.

<https://www.futuresforall.org/>





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Roman Fields - Premier Foods trip



It was Friday 13th, but nothing went awry when Roman Fields Year 11s enjoyed a trip to the inspiring head office at Premier Foods in St Albans and took part in an interactive workshop on a generic recruitment process and how to prepare for it.

They also learnt about the Seven Ps to Success (patience, purpose, perseverance, pain, planning, prep and positivity) and that success is built on determination, skills, passion, discipline and luck. These off-site trips to employers are key to next steps.

This was followed by the ever popular noodle cooking demonstration wrapped around chicken which the pupils tucked into afterwards!





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James Marks Academy - Science lessons

BREAKING NEWS: Scientists in Year 7 have created a strange material that acts like both a solid and a liquid. We need reporters immediately! Here are the two chosen articles from our budding reporters.

Today's headline: Particles break the laws of physics!

The oobleck mystery! By Bella

What is ooblek?

Ooblek is a non-newtonian fluid, which means It flows like a liquid when at rest, and acts Like a solid when under pressure!



Non-Newtonian fluids are substances that do not follow Newton's law of viscosity, meaning their viscosity changes in response to applied stress or strain, like a transformer (or slime) and is easy to clean up (just use water)!

Try it yourself!

Enough talking, now let's try making it!

It's simple, all you need is **1 cup cornflour** and **½ a cup water** (**you might not need all of it!**) all you do is mix the cornflour and water in a bowl, pour a small amount of water and mix in thoroughly until it is a chalky texture but still pours a little bit when you tip the bowl, and then you're done! enjoy!

Identity Crisis!

While most things in your fridge know what they are (milk is liquid, carrots are solid), Oobleck has serious commitment issues. Named after the sticky green mess in Dr Seuss's *Bartholomew and the Oobleck*, this concoction is a **Non-Newtonian Fluid**. In layman's terms: it's a total rebel!



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James Marks Academy - Science lessons part 2

The goo that defies physics!

Written by Will Burman

<p> What is Oobleck?</p> <p>Explain what Oobleck is</p> <p> a non-Newtonian fluid—a substance that acts as both a liquid and a solid—created by mixing cornstarch and water</p>	<p> Ingredients & Equipment List everything you used.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Water ✓ Cornflour ✓ Food colouring <p>Mix all the ingredients together in a bowl. Get your fingers in and start experimenting.</p>	<p> How Did We Make It?</p> <p>Write the method like a real scientist so someone else could follow it!</p> <p>First: grab a bowl Next: get cornflower Finally: and add water</p>	<p> Experiments We Tried</p> <p>What tests did you do on your Oobleck?</p> <p>What happened? I played with it, including punching it, making it into a ball and dripping it through our fingers.</p>	<p> Our Scientific Observations</p> <p>Describe how it looked and felt.</p> <p>It looked like: water It felt like: rubber The most surprising thing was: when I hit it it didn't go anywhere.</p>
<p> Would You Recommend This Experiment? Circle one: ye</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES — everyone should try it!</p> <p>Explain why: it's fun because you can make a mess, create shoes and best ever it is easy to make and clean up at the end!</p>	<p> Scientist Quote</p> <p>Write something you said or thought during the experiment.</p> <p>"This is the best science lesson"</p>	<p> Illustration Box</p> 	<p>To a scientist: Oobleck is a non-Newtonian liquid that acts as a solid.</p>	



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Roman Fields - Massive thank for all the DENS charity donations



Thank you so much for taking the time to buy some supplies for our local charity DENS. On Monday 2nd March Mason and Aline delivered the items in person to our local DENS in Hemel Hempstead.

DENS are so grateful to you all and for thinking of them. Thank you so much for all your support.



♥ 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!



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James Marks Academy - Textiles - Donations Request



We would be very grateful to receive donations of unwanted materials to support our textiles option lessons this term.

The types of materials we are looking for include the following:-

- Items of clothing in need of repair - for example missing buttons, hemming or minor fixes
- Clothing suitable of a 'Sewing Bee' style, revamp challenge
- Haberdashery items, such as spare buttons, fabric off-cuts, ribbons and trims

These materials will help to give our young people valuable hands-on experience and would be very much appreciated.

Thank you for your support



James Marks Academy Trust

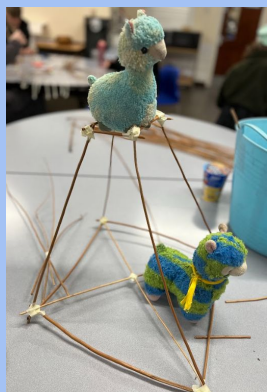
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Roman Fields - Lantern workshop

Pupils at Roman Fields made some wonderful bamboo lanterns with the team from Puddingstone Arts, and supported by Dacorum Borough Council. Some very talented creations, and a great way to end the half term.

Some of the lanterns will be part of the River of Light Parade on Saturday 14th March from 5pm to 7:30pm in Hemel Hempstead town centre. All are welcome to watch the parade.





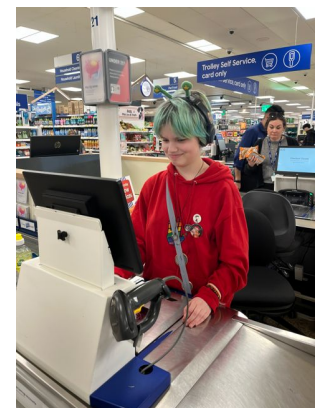
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JMA - World of Work trip

Teamwork and adaptability, two critical skills to be successful in the workplace, were the focus of pupils from Year 10 when they visited the large Tesco store in Hatfield earlier this week. They met our enterprise adviser, Tesco Paul, as well as the store manager and their community champion. There was a question and answer session where our pupils posed interesting questions and learnt lots about Tesco, what a wide range of roles it offers - in store and in head office functions - and they gained a basic understanding of the expectations of the world of work and business language such as margins, loss leaders and footfall. At the end of the visit, pupils were treated to a Meal Deal lunch by Paul but part of the understanding was that, where possible, they had to stand behind the till and scan the items as a cashier would and make small talk with 'customers' - aka other pupils!





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James Marks Academy - World Book Day - Thursday 5th March

A huge thank you for the generous donations to our library! Some of our year 7s learned about the role of librarians and became librarians themselves for the afternoon, organising the reference section, giving the fiction section a serious overhaul and sorting through all of the donations!



Well done to all of the pupils who completed the staff favourite childhood book hunt!





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James Marks Academy - World Book Day - Thursday 5th March

As you can see, pupils made a great effort with their costumes! There was one clear winner – William Shakespeare (also known as Teddy), with the runner up as Dr Who (Lottie)



We loved reading pupils' short story competition entries!

The winner was Bella and the runner-up was Darcy. Well done both.





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Roman Fields - World Book Day - Thursday 5th March



On Thursday 5th March, we celebrated World Book Day 2026 with a fantastic day full of creativity and imagination. Many pupils and staff came to school dressed as their favourite book characters, bringing stories and characters to life all around the school. It was impressive to see so many handmade costumes this year! Some also took part in a story writing competition, showcasing their wonderful ideas and use of ambitious punctuation.

At lunchtime, excitement filled the dining hall as pupils enjoyed our Masked Reader competition, trying to guess which staff members were hiding behind the mystery voices and masks. It was a brilliant day celebrating books, storytelling and the joy that reading brings to our school community.

The best dressed went to Max who came as Dennis the Menace.

The short story competition was won by Timothy.

The Masked Reader Competition was won by Aiyla.





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Roman Fields - World Book Day - Thursday 5th March

Trevor's Trip Troubles by Timothy

Trevor has been on holiday for approximately 2 months now, and there have been many theories about what he has been up to on his holiday. Ranging from him looking for hair to him fighting chickens. Now maybe in a parallel universe one of these theories is true. However, in this universe none of these theories were correct. The truth is he and his radiant head had been in Italy in a nice hotel. He was using a secret algorithm to import ice cream. He had gotten nostalgic at times, but he wasn't going to let anything ruin his holiday.

One day he went to go sightseeing but got lost on the way and ended up in an abandoned forest. Luckily, a few weeks before he had gone on holiday, it was observation week at school, so his senses were heightened and this might have saved him. Due to this, he was able to notice something in his peripheral vision: a tall creature covered in brown fur with a shriveled face and hideous feet was lurking in the shadows. This particular creature has had many names: Bigfoot, Yeti, Abominable Snowman, Sasquatch among others, but let's just call it Bigfoot. Once Trevor noticed Bigfoot, he stepped out of his car majestically with his ice cream and went to take a closer look. Unfortunately, he stepped on a twig and it snapped. Suddenly, Bigfoot sharply turned its head and started chasing Trevor. Now Trevor has regal authority, but unfortunately, that couldn't save him and he tripped. Trevor thought it was the end, but fortunately for him, the mighty Brutus teleported in. Growling at Bigfoot, the mighty Brutus pounced and bit Bigfoot's leg like it was a chew toy. This broke Bigfoot's leg and saved Trevor.



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Roman Fields - Red Nose Day - wear something red



Wear something red



On Friday 20th March come join in
the fun and wear something red.



All money raised will go towards Comic Relief.

Thank you for your support.





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Roman Fields - Red Nose Day - mystery cup game



Mystery cup game



£1 for 3
attempts

Roman Fields are taking part in the mystery cup game.
On Friday 20th March at lunch time outside 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.

Good luck to you all.

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



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Roman Fields - Red Nose Day -
Guess the number of sweets in a
jar.

GUESS THE NUMBER OF SWEETS IN THE JAR

**Please come to the office from Monday 16th March
before school or at lunch times if you would like to take
part.**



**To win the jar of sweets all you need to do is guess how
many is in it!**

£1 a guess

The winner will be announced on Friday 20th March.

All money raised goes to charity.

Thank you for all your support.



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Sally & Cara's big winter roam in aid of Cats Protection

Challenge completed!



It's been hard work this last week but we have finally made our target of 15 me-hours walking AND reached our target of £100 so thank you to everyone who donated! We finished off our challenge this weekend with a long walk around a very muddy Heartwood Forest. The paths were a bit slippery and squelchy in places and we were quite mucky and tired by the end of it, but we did it.

We have collected 5 whole bin bags of litter, including some odd things like a full jar of instant coffee, a lightbulb in its packaging, a screwdriver and a shoe. Along with lots of food wrappers, cans and bottles as you might expect. The nicest thing we collected was a thank you from a friendly dog walker.

The fundraising page is still up so if you would like to add to the donation total please feel free to drop a few pennies in the pot. We are grateful for every little contribution.

https://www.justgiving.com/page/sallyandcaracatprowl?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL&utm_campaign=020

Sally and Cara



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Potential kids - March activities

Please see leaflet attached for the March 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 and Parents/Carers

MARCH 2026 ACTIVITIES



Date	Sessions	Time	Venue
2nd,16th 30th	Mon Dungeons & Dragons 18-25 (contact for details)	12.30 3.00	The Zone@The Galleria
3rd	Tue Connect Primary age	4.30 6.00	The Zone@The Galleria
4th,11th 18th,25th	Fri Early Years Stay & Play	12.30 2.00	The Zone@The Galleria
5th,12th 19th,26th	Thu Bushcraft/Stem Home Ed Age 4+	10.30 12.00	Potential to Grow Garden
5th	Thur Teen Group 12 Plus	5.00 6.30	The Hub@The Galleria
6th,20th 27th	Fri Parent /Carer Wellbeing	12.30 2.00	The Zone@The Galleria
7th,21st 28th	Sat Family Football	4.00 5.00	Birchwood Leisure Centre
9th,23rd	Mon Dungeons & Dragons 12 + (contact for details)	12.30 3.00	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	Sat Basketball/Archery	4.00 5.00	Birchwood Leisure Centre
19th	Thur Connect Teens yr7 plus	5.00 6.30	The Zone@The Galleria
27th	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 further information email: info@potentialkids.org

SCAN FOR ALL OF OUR
IMPORTANT LINKS



the galleria
OUTLET SHOPPING





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Supporting links - funded Parent Courses



Supporting links are now taking bookings for our Summer Term Courses.

Parents can book by phoning 07512 709556

Or email bookings@supportinglinks.co.uk

Please include your phone number as they cannot book a place without speaking to you.

Courses

Courses: Phone 07512 709 556 to book

6-Weeks	Location	ID	Dates 2026	Day	Time
Talking Additional Needs	Online	831	14th Apr to 19th May	Tue	8.00-9.30pm
Talking Families	Online	832	6th May to 17th Jun	Wed	9.45-11.15am
Talking Families	Online	833	1st Jun to 6th Jul	Mon	8.00-9.30pm
Talking Teens	Online	834	14th Apr to 19th May	Tue	7.45-9.15pm
Talking Teens	Online	835	3rd Jun to 8th Jul	Wed	7.45-9.15pm
Talking Dads	Online	836	6th May to 17th Jun	Wed	7.45-9.15pm

Talking ASD & ADHD Workshops

ASD & ADHD Online Workshops: Book through Eventbrite

1.75hr single sessions	ID	Date	Day	Time
Tech Use	810	24-Mar-26	Tue	9.30-11.15am
Responding to Anger	837	02-Jun-26	Tue	9.30-11.15am
Anxiety & Stress	838	08-Jun-26	Mon	7.30-9.15pm
Tech Use	839	16-Jun-26	Tue	7.30-9.15pm
The Teenage Years	840	24-Jun-26	Wed	7.30-9.15pm