

December 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **A Highly Successful Term**

I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a restful Christmas break and hope that you enjoy your New Year celebrations.

I also want to thank pupils and parents/carers for the support you have shown for the events we have held since the start of this academic year. With the help of the Student Council we have raised money for Children in Need, Cancer Awareness (Wear it Pink and Prostate Cancer Awareness), and Save the Children (Christmas Jumper Day).

Our students have also taken part in many events inside and outside the academy such as Battle of the Bands which was hosted by Burnt Mill Academy this year. We want to congratulate all the students that took part in this with special congratulations going to Bryony Roberts who won lead guitarist and Tiago Loughran-Morais won lead vocalist.

We also raised Anti-bullying Awareness with our 'All Different, All Equal' pledge week, held a Cultural Carnival Event as part of Black History Month, had a live music performance from a visiting band to promote online safety, anti-discrimination and British Values, ran African Drumming workshops, held a Halloween Disco for our new year 7 students, launched our second year of our 'British Bake Off' Competition and saw the most wonderful drama, dance and music performances at our Christmas Concert at St Mary's and St Hugh's Church, Churchgate Street. Last but not least, 47 of our students went on a very successful trip to Krakow, Poland and they all had an amazing time and everyone was full of praise for them and for the staff who gave up their time to give them this powerful experience.

### **Twitter Feed @markhallacademy**

Please follow us on Twitter and you will keep up to date with a whole range of inspiring and enlightening events and activities, such as those mentioned above, that show a true flavour of what we are about as a community here at Mark Hall.

You can see all the feeds through our website or follow us directly through Twitter.

### **Our new Academy Building!**

I am pleased to announce that the feasibility stage has been undertaken successfully and we had a highly positive 'bidders' day' at the beginning of December to start the process of who will gain the contract to build our new school. We are on track to move into our brand new school building June 2020! Exciting times!

### **Pupil Awards:**

#### **ATT Pupil Awards - Birmingham, 7 December**

I am delighted to announce that Nayla Ali and Lukas Cermak in Year 11 have been recognised by Academy Transformation Trust across a range of categories. These students certainly 'Aspire, Endeavour and

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Achieve' and we are immensely proud of them and their talents. The students beat other nominees from across the country to achieve these awards and they were presented with them at a grand ceremony in Birmingham on 7<sup>th</sup> December.

### **Harlow Education Awards – 6<sup>th</sup> December**

I am delighted to announce that the following students were recognized and received Progress Awards: Timothy Chan, Teddy Reynolds, Natasha Cohen, Jamal Obeng and Abigail Horsnell. Congratulations! We are very proud of you.

### **Attendance and Punctuality**

I am pleased to inform you that we continue to make vital progress in meeting our targets for attendance and punctuality and have improved significantly from the same time last year. **If students are not in the Academy, they cannot learn and achieve. The absolute minimum attendance for a student is 97%. Even this percentage equates to over one school week a year being missed. We will seek to have penalty notices where fines may be issued if students are persistently absent.**

Punctuality is also vitally important. If a student arrives late to the Academy they will serve a lunchtime detention. We do allow for genuine lateness before we issue a consequence. If the lateness continues, there will be an escalation to extended detentions and the student being placed on report if they cannot get to the Academy on time. Please impress upon your child the importance of getting to the Academy on time. **It is a legal requirement of all parents/carers to ensure they get their child to school and on time.**

**Holidays during term time are not permitted. Fixed penalty notices will be issued to any parent who takes their child on holiday during term time.**

### **Uniform**

Now that winter is here, may I take this opportunity to remind you of some key uniform rules that must be adhered to:

- **Black v-neck jumper. No hoodies, cardigans, jumpers, sweatshirts, tracksuit tops, waistcoats, body warmers, denim jackets etc. are to be worn. Hoodies and other items listed above are NOT to be worn to and from the Academy. They must remain at home.**
- **Knee high boots of any description ARE NOT allowed.**
- Outdoor coats should be of a plain dark colour, with no logos. Hoodies, denim and other products of fashion are **not allowed (as above)**.
- **Scarves should be plain Academy sky blue or black; fashion-type, patterned scarves are not permitted and should remain at home.**
- **No extreme haircuts as outlined in the planner.**
- **No piercings as outlined in the planner.**

The full guide (Academy Uniform and Dress Code Expectations) can be found on the website at: <http://www.mha.attrust.org.uk/academy-life/uniform/>

### **Events in Spring Term**

#### **Random Acts of Kindness Day – 17 January**

We will be asking students to pledge to do a random act of kindness on 17 January 2017. The money raised from this will be going to two charities NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit) and Streets for Homes.

#### **Year 8 Parents' Evening – 11 January**

**Parent Council Meeting – 24 January, 5.15 pm**

All parents are welcome to attend this meeting. It is a great opportunity for parents and staff to share ideas and for parents to meet members of staff.

**Rainbow Day – 9 February**

**Holocaust Memorial Day – 26 January**

We will be holding assemblies to raise awareness for all our students' during the week beginning 22 January 2018.

**World Book Day – 1<sup>st</sup> March**

Students and staff are being asked to come into school as a character from a favourite book.

**Sports Relief Day – 23 March**

Further information on this event will be emailed out to parents nearer the time.

I am looking forward to the above and many more initiatives that I am sure will come from the students and staff at Mark Hall Academy and we will be keeping you up-to-date with these via emailed termly letters.

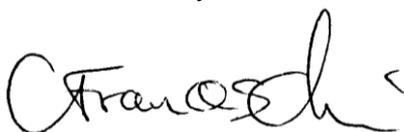
**Staff Leaving December 2017**

I would like to thank those staff leaving for all the help, support and care they have shown our pupils in their time at the Academy and wish them every success and good fortune for the future

**Dr Eddleston  
Mr Hennessy  
Miss Hunter  
Mrs Kazmi  
Ms Phipps  
Mr Velasco Rodrigo**

May I wish you and your family and friends a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and successful New Year.

Yours sincerely



Corinne Franceschi  
Principal