

Dear Parents and Carers,

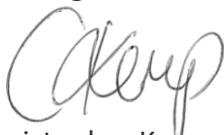
I hope this letter finds you well. The Autumn term has been a busy one; a particular highlight was the visit of Harlow MP Robert Halfon, who was interviewed by our own Student Parliament, as well as the visit of Clare Nunn from Essex County Council, providing our pupils with the opportunity to join the Harlow Youth Council.

We have seen so many of our pupils taking part in our extra-curricular activities and the impact can be seen within lessons. A particular highlight has been the introduction of a Year 7 Science club, started and run by a Year 8 pupil, with supervision from the science department. This conduct typifies our year group and our motto of 'Aspire, Endeavour, Achieve'. More and more of our pupils are looking to add to our ethos and develop the culture here at Mark Hall Academy. I look forward to helping and watching this grow. Please do encourage your child to engage and participate with all of the opportunities and activities we provide here at Mark Hall, both within and outside of the classroom.

The Department for Education conducted research into the link between absence and attainment, finding that pupils with no absence are 1.3 times more likely to achieve level 4 or above, and 3.1 times more likely to achieve level 5 or above, than pupils that missed 10-15 per cent of all sessions. With this in mind and January and February ahead, we thank you for your continued support and efforts in ensuring our pupils have the highest attendance possible.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a restful break and a Merry Christmas.

Kind regards,



Christopher Kemp
Key Stage 3 Co-ordinator

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