



First Impressions

Year 7 September 2015 share their first impressions of St Mark's, having completed 3 weeks in the school

At the end of the summer holiday I was crying and crying because all my friends were going to Passmores except me! I thought everyone at St Mark's was going to be horrible to me and I was going to have no friends at all. Me and my friends would cry together on Skype and tell each other that we would miss not being able to walk to school together. On the first morning of St Mark's I pretended to be sick so I wouldn't have to go. At first my parents believed me but then their brains clicked. So, I had to go. Then throughout the morning I gradually began to like it at St Mark's as I found out how friendly the staff and students were. When you were walking by, people gave you high-fives and started to talk to you. I felt different about St Mark's there and then and I actually felt happy to be here. On the way home I smiled as I thought of how many friends I had made. I thought I was going to burst with glee; I was the happiest person in the world. My favourite subject is English because I find the stories we read are touching. I love Music because my teacher, Miss Copplestone – Crowe, believes in me. I would say to Year 6's you will always have a friend to confide in at St Mark's. (RG William Martin)

Before the first day I got my uniform ready and I stuffed my bag with my equipment. On the first morning I shot out of bed, put on my uniform and waited for my dad to get ready. I knew this day was going to be great! At the end of the first day I couldn't wait to go back. I kept telling my mum what a fantastic day I'd had. As the night passed I dreamed of going back to St Mark's. My favourite subjects so far are Art, Music and Technology. I love St Mark's because no one gets bullied and everyone helps one another. (EC Water Lane Academy)

On the first day I was welcomed at the gate. I held my tears as I walked inside to hand in my phone. I couldn't believe it, I had never felt more welcomed and safe. What I liked best about the first day was that everything was slowed down and the calm carried on throughout the day and everybody was so kind. Everywhere you walked was happy and cheerful. I had never had so many doors held open by school pupils in my life! By the end of the first day I was so excited to go back to learn and have my lessons. (LM Jerounds)

I felt nervous towards the end of the holidays because I was starting a new school where I only knew a few people. I was worried about getting lost around the school. Today, I feel safe in school and I know my way round, I also know all of my Form group and have other friends around the school. Year 6's I can guarantee that you will enjoy St Mark's and have lots of fun. (JT Pear Tree Mead)

I feel like I belong here now, and I am glad I came here. My favourite subject is sports. Year 6, if you come here listen carefully and take pride in all your work. (HL Longwood Academy)

On the first morning I felt a bit scared but excited. As I came out of the house in my brand new uniform my hands were really shaking. That day I liked getting to know my form tutor, Mr Goudkoff, because I can now talk to him without hesitating. I also like getting to meet new people and making new friends. At the end of the first day I didn't feel scared anymore. (MA The Henry Moore School)

At the end of the first day, as I made my way home, I felt pride and joy because of the way the buddies treated us with respect. Not just that, everything else was good as well. My favourite subject so far is Design Technology because you get to cook and do woodwork and make your own jitterbug. I also like the delicious food sold at the canteen. (JB St Alban's Academy)

On the first morning, at first I felt really excited but then as soon as my uniform went on my tummy rumbled and I had butterflies. But, I did like the first day because it was fun and exciting. On my way home I felt really happy that I had come to St Mark's because it is such a great school. I just wanted to go back again. (KM Holy Cross Academy)

Towards the end of the summer holidays I felt a little bit worried because I thought I was going to get lost because the school seemed big. On my way to St Mark's I had butterflies, it was the worst feeling ever. At the end of the day when I was walking home I felt relieved because I thought it was going to be a difficult day but it had been unexpectedly easy. The best thing about St Mark's would be the staff because they are very helpful. Even though they can be strict they are still part of my family. (H Milwards)

On the morning when I started school I started getting a bit more nervous. I got my uniform on and my dad took me to McDonalds for breakfast, which cheered me up. I loved the first day because everyone was so friendly and helpful. When it was the end of the day I told all my family about it and couldn't wait to go back the next day! My favourite subject so far is PE because I love playing netball. I love St Mark's so much because everyone is so nice to each other and there is so much to do. (SD Epping Upland)

I was a bit scared on the first day but joyful because I wanted a new challenge. On the first day I liked walking through the school gates and all the teachers greeting me. When I was walking home I was relieved of the pressure of trying to make a good first impression. My favourite subjects are Art, Music and PE. I like all the pupils because they are very nice and kind. (TW Harlowbury)

My favourite subjects so far are PE, Music, Tech, History and Geography. I know that's a lot but it proves how great the teaching is at St Mark's. (P St Alban's Academy)

At the end of the first day I couldn't wait to go back tomorrow. I most like Maths because it is fun and challenging. I really liked making new friends. My advice to Year 6 is at first you will say you want to go back to primary school but, after a week or so you, will be used to it and you will say you love it here.
(M Freshwaters)

In the holidays I was so excited to be starting a new school but also sad because I'd lost lots of amazing friends, now I have made loads here. On the first day everybody was so nice and polite and no one was mean. It was a whole lot different to my primary school but I've got used to it now. At the end of the day I was really annoyed the day was ended and I couldn't wait to go back the next day. I would say to Year 6 – COME HERE YOU'LL LOVE IT. IT'S WAY BETTER THAN PRIMARY. (EA Hare Street)

It was a big step up for me, joining secondary school. I felt both excited and worried, but was willing to make the most of my time here. On the first day I felt awesome and much older. Getting into my new uniform felt much different than when I went to primary school. On the first day I loved how everyone was so welcoming and made you feel special and grown up. The lessons were easy to understand. I felt great, and mature. (NO Katherines)

On the first day of term I was quite worried but happy at the same time. I felt like I was really small because there were so many big children and I didn't know who anyone was. At the end of the day I felt tired because I had lots of books to carry but I felt happy that school was a good place. The best thing about St Mark's is that the teachers are nice. My advice to Year 6 is don't be scared and not to worry about being bullied because there are no bullies here, as I know. (M William Martin)

On the first day in St Mark's I liked all the teachers, the subjects and the food! Everyone was so welcoming and friendly. At the end of the day I couldn't wait to tell my parents about it. My favourite subjects are Art and PE because Art cools the brain down and PE is just fun to take part in. The best thing about St Mark's is that you get to move around and not just stay in one seat for the whole day. (NE Little Parndon)

I felt really energetic on the first day when I was getting ready for school. I woke up super early. On my first day I enjoyed making new friends and I felt much more mature by the end of the day. I love St Mark's because everyone is so friendly and nice. (JDC St Luke's)

I feel happy at St Mark's and feel like I've been here for a long time. I am also happy to have made new friends. (CM Freshwaters)

I like being able to use the equipment in Science and doing more challenging stuff in PE than in primary school. (DM Holy Cross Academy)

On the first morning I was a bit anxious and euphoric at the same time. When I was ready my family kept taking pictures of me! Finally, when I was walking to school I had butterflies in my stomach. The first day was really calm, we just did interactive work to help us make friends.

My favourite thing about St Mark's is that it's like one, big, enormous family. Everyone welcomes everybody and makes them feel welcomed.

My favourite subjects are Music and Drama because I love singing and performing. I also like Geography and History because they are so detailed and interesting.
(LB William Martin)

Towards the end of the summer holidays I felt excited because we were going to do rugby and I play for Harlow. By the end of the first day I was so excited for the next day. The adrenalin was pumping through my body like lightning. I get so much help from the teachers here, they are very kind if you treat them with respect. You get to do PE twice a week and on Monday and Wednesday you can go to rugby after school and also on Thursday you can go to basketball.
(KD Holy Cross Academy)

By the end of my first day at St Mark's I felt confident because I had a feel of what life at St Mark's was going to be like. Now I feel like I have been here for 2 years. I enjoy hanging about with my new friends. I would say to Year 6's, there's nothing to be worried about. Give it a week and you will start to ease in to the school really easily. (MF The Henry Moore school)

Before I came to St Mark's I was worried about getting bullied because in primary school we were the oldest but now we were going to be the youngest. I was looking forward to walking to school by myself. Now I feel happy that I made the right choice to come to St Mark's. I feel like I haven't actually changed schools because I talk to everyone. Don't be scared Year 6's, you will enjoy it.
(AC William Martin)

At the end of my first day, when I was on my way home, I thought to myself that St Mark's is such an amazing school and that even though it was my first day I felt that I have been here for a long time. The lessons are very fun and the teachers always make sure that you understand the work before they carry on. My favourite subjects are Maths, Tech, PE and Science. (NR Church Langley)

On the first day I liked how we got to learn how everything works, like the uniform and merit cards. At the end of the day when I was going home I was happy and I had so much to tell my mum and dad. What I like best about St Mark's is that everyone is so friendly. (TF St Alban's Academy)