



# Mark Rutherford School

Motivated • Respectful • Successful

# Welcome To Mark Rutherford School



**As a school community, we are  
Motivated, Respectful and Successful.**

**We hope your child will thrive and enjoy  
the Mark Rutherford School experience.**

As the Headteacher I am proud of all we have to offer as a school, from our broad and balanced curriculum to the wide range of personal development activities students can choose to engage in.

We recognise that every child is unique and therefore support our students by providing them with the opportunities and experiences to develop as individuals within a safe and inclusive school community.

We have high expectations of all students and are committed to ensuring everyone succeeds and are able to progress onto their chosen pathways at the end of each key stage of their educational journey. We want students to leave our school prepared for their chosen career path whilst also being responsible citizens within the community in which they live and work.

It is important we develop positive and supportive relationships with our parents/carers. We will work with you and your child with the aim of forming an effective partnership and a shared vision for their future.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information or to have your questions answered.

I am confident that by choosing Mark Rutherford School our partnership will be a long and rewarding one and you will be delighted that you chose our school.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K Foster', written in a cursive style.

**Mrs K Foster**  
Headteacher



# The Mark Rutherford School Vision

We believe that every child is unique. Our aim is to set high expectations and provide a broad and balanced curriculum. Our students will have personalised learning experiences that will enable them to be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make positive contributions and to achieve economic well-being. We provide students with opportunities and experiences to succeed both socially and academically. Education is seen in its broadest sense and as a lifelong experience.



## High Standards and Achievement

At Mark Rutherford we want to be the best we can be and we pursue excellence in everything we do. We see education in its widest sense as a lifelong experience that gives equal importance to positive values, attitudes and beliefs, as well as to the acquisition of knowledge, skills and ideas.

## Strong Relationships and Positivity

Education thrives in an atmosphere of positive encouragement where school, home and community work together to support learning. Teachers use their skills and knowledge to engage students as partners in learning, acting quickly to adjust their teaching in response to students' learning.

**"I will always speak highly of Mark Rutherford School and will recommend it to anyone who asks me and assure them that their child will receive a first-class education and support from your school."**

*Parent*

## Transparent Communication

Effective communication is at the heart of all successful interactions and strong relationships. We strive to ensure that communication between all involved in a student's education is as timely and transparent as possible.

## Calm and Purposeful

This is how visitors always describe our school when they have had a tour. Our calm and purposeful atmosphere creates a focused climate for learning, with students demonstrating positive and effective behaviours.

## Respectful

This is an important part of our core values. The school aims to support students so they become responsible human beings with a sense of personal worth, and so that they value and respect the rights of others.



**"Pupils enjoy school. They feel safe, well supported and cared for."**

*Ofsted*



## Resilient Students and Staff

It is very important that both students and staff develop resilience, so that they are able to overcome obstacles and meet the challenges which may arise as they move through change and develop outside of their comfort zones.

## Room to Grow

Developing a growth mind-set, at any age, opens up opportunities to achieve things that at first may have seemed impossible. We support both students and staff to enable them to develop the determination to succeed at every level.

## Celebration of Success

This is central to our ethos and we take every opportunity to celebrate the successes and reward all members of our community in line with our Behaviour Policy. Students are regularly rewarded for their achievements.

## Expectations

All students are expected to behave in a way which is courteous and respectful as their behaviour is a reflection on them, their parents/carers and their school.

The school's core values are designed to reflect this and to maintain a positive atmosphere conducive to learning.

Students are expected to take responsibility for their actions and can expect to be rewarded for good effort and achievement, but must also accept the consequences of failing to comply with the school's Behaviour Policy.

## Looking After Your Child

We are a caring school. The pastoral system at Mark Rutherford School underpins the academic work of the school and is a strong, supportive and well-developed feature.

All students who come to Mark Rutherford School are invited to take part in our supportive transition activities. The majority of our students arrive in Year 7 and there are meetings with feeder schools, parents/carers and students to ensure that the process is as smooth as possible. We have close links with many of our local primary schools and departments liaise regularly throughout the year to discuss schemes of work, assessment and progression.

Students have the opportunity to experience a 'taster day' and to meet their new tutor in the summer term to begin to familiarise themselves with the school.

We have a horizontal tutoring system. This enables us to develop a strong community ethos encouraging positive relationships within a year group.

Students will have daily contact with their tutor who oversees both their personal and academic progress.

We have a range of in-school services for our students in order to support their learning, their emotional well-being and to ensure that they are focused and happy. Please see the Useful Information booklet for further information.



## Parental Engagement

Communication between parents/carers and the school is crucial in ensuring that each student performs to their best, and is happy and motivated at school. Formal communication takes place on a regular basis on progress reports, Academic Mentoring days and Parents' Evenings. Less formal communication is through the InTouch texting and email service and also through the school website, [www.markrutherford.beds.sch.uk](http://www.markrutherford.beds.sch.uk), which is updated on a regular basis.

We also have our Facebook page (Mark Rutherford School) and Twitter account, @mark\_rutherford, both of which you can follow to stay up to date with information, events and successes. You can find further information on contacting the school in our Useful Information booklet.

**“Pupils become confident and independent young people. They thrive on the wide range of interesting sports, arts and technology clubs.”**

*Ofsted*



# The Mark Rutherford School Journey

The Mark Rutherford School journey is made up of many activities: timetabled lessons form the majority of the school's work, but field trips, enrichment activities, international visits and work experience all contribute to a varied, broad and balanced curriculum.

We ensure we deliver the National Curriculum, while maintaining variety, balance, flexibility and personalisation for our students. The school is a major centre for GCSE and A Level work as well as technical and applied qualifications such as BTECs or CTECs.

## Key Stage 3 – Years 7 to 9

All students follow a broad-ranging curriculum which provides a firm foundation for their chosen Key Stage 4 options. As with all year groups, students in Years 7 to 9 are continually assessed throughout the Key Stage.

Areas of study currently include Art, Computer Science, Dance, Design & Technology, Drama, English, Geography, History, Mathematics, Modern Languages (French, Italian, Spanish), Music, Physical Education, Religious Studies, Science, and a programme of Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE).

Students also have the opportunity to take part in alternative and extra-curricular activities throughout the year.



**“The whole of the teaching staff at Mark Rutherford are determined to provide excellent education for all, and work hard to develop students to ensure they achieve their full potential by providing a balanced and relevant curriculum and extra-curricular opportunities.”**

*Chair of Governors*

# Key Stage 4 – Years 10 and 11

Students in Key Stage 4 will continue to study subjects in the National Curriculum. The 'core' subjects are: English Language and Literature, Mathematics, Science (combined or triple), ICT, Philosophy & Ethics and Physical Education. In addition to the core subjects, students are guided to choose from a range of subjects to create a personalised curriculum which meets both their individual needs and aspirations. These include:

- Art
- Computer Science
- Dance
- Design & Technology
- Drama
- Food Studies
- French
- Geography
- Health and Social Care
- History
- BTEC IT
- Media Studies
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Studies
- Spanish
- CTEC Sport

Alternatively, some students may be directed to join our Alternative Provision curriculum and work experience in a variety of sectors. This pathway is designed to improve students' self-confidence and personal development and can be delivered either in school or in conjunction with external providers.

## Sixth Form – Years 12 and 13

The Sixth Form at Mark Rutherford School is big enough to provide choice, yet small enough to care. A high percentage of students opt to stay on into the Sixth Form after Year 11, while other students join us from local schools.

We offer a wide range of courses and subjects which allow students to choose programmes of study to suit their preferred learning style and to assist them in achieving their personal goals.

Students have a designated Sixth Form tutor and access to experienced, specialised subject teachers. We encourage the students to undertake extra-curricular activities and to be a part of our enrichment programme.

We provide our students with breadth to their studies through sport, drama and music activities, visiting speakers, trips and subject conferences all being organised.



**"The Sixth Form is a strength of the school and students achieve well."**

*Ofsted*

# Personal Development Opportunities

This is a vibrant, dynamic and exciting part of school life. There are many opportunities for students to develop new skills, to engage with staff and their peers and to spend some time with other people who are as passionate about these areas as they are.

## PE and Sport

The PE Department offers a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities run by a strong teaching team and specialist external sports coaches.

These opportunities include:

- Netball
- Football
- Gymnastics
- Hockey
- Table Tennis
- Rugby
- Volleyball
- Badminton
- Cross Country
- Sports Leadership
- Athletics
- Fitness
- Tennis
- Rounders
- Cricket
- Trampolining
- Dodgeball



## Arts

Our extensive extra-curricular provision allows students to engage with and to enjoy a broad range of different disciplines, and also to develop resilience, problem-solving skills and lateral thought:

- Dance: Marked Movement Dance Company, dance clubs for each key stage, Street Dance, Boy's Dance Group and competition performance entries
- Music: Jazz Ensemble, Flute Group, Vocal Group, Rock Bands, String Group with concerts and competitions throughout the year
- Drama: Performance opportunities for whole school and specific year groups
- Art & Photography: We offer Art Clubs for all year groups, enter Art and Photography competitions and events such as The Big Draw, display work in exhibitions, have visiting practitioners

All of these subjects also come together to produce fantastic whole school musical productions creating opportunities for students to: design and build sets and lighting, create soundtracks, choreograph movement, perform and crucially, become a very efficient stage crew team.

Our timetable can be seen on our website [here](#).

## Sixth Form Enrichment

Enrichment is an exciting aspect of our Sixth Form provision.

The aims are to provide students with:

- An opportunity to develop pertinent life and employability skills
- The chance to work with others both inside and out of the school community
- Evidence to include in employment and educational applications (UCAS points)
- Useful qualifications and experience
- Personal Development Activities
- A sense of achievement, reward and enjoyment.

Some examples are:

- STEM activities including mentoring of younger students, research projects in conjunction with Universities and collaboration with primary schools.
- Sports coaching of younger students
- Mentoring through our Business Mentors
- Access to Business Mentors
- Speakers Assemblies – talks from external companies, organisations and individuals, delivering specific engaging talks relevant to the students
- Sports teams and fitness coaching
- National Citizenship Service
- Educational visits overseas
- Personal, Social and Health Education
- The Brilliant Club which provides access to conferences and various opportunities for gifted and talented students relating to and run by leading Universities.
- Volunteering work in school, including guiding, peer mentoring and assisting in classes
- Students as leaders
- Collaborative learning opportunities with Harpur Trust Schools
- Webinars with Universities to enhance A Level studies or learn about Uni life
- Arts performance opportunities, including national competitions, musical theatre performances and charity events

We encourage our students to take increasing responsibility across the school during their time with us. We also have an elected committee which not only provides a forum for student voice but also organises events, helps to manage the Sixth Form areas and allows Year 12 and 13 students to have a positive influence on the experiences of all Sixth Form students.

## Other Extra-Curricular Opportunities

Our curriculum is further enhanced throughout the year by a wide range of day trips, residential trips, theatre visits, workshops, competitions, STEM activities and more:

- STEM (Science Technology Engineering Maths) clubs
- War Hammer Club
- The Space 4 Learning also provides a wealth of activities for students to extend and occupy themselves with, including Creating Comics, Chess and Careers Clubs, with a dedicated Careers Advisor
- Chess Club

## University and Careers

In addition, guidance is provided on University and career entry. Every year the vast majority of our students choose to apply to continue their studies in either Further or Higher Education.

We pride ourselves on the support we give to help individuals achieve their aims. Consequently you will find former students studying at a range of universities and working in a variety of careers.



**“I enjoy my subjects and look forward to lessons and feel ready to learn and participate. I am given the required support and help for me to succeed in what I do.”**

*Student*

# STEM

## Arkwright Engineering Scholarships

Arkwright Engineering Scholarships identify and inspire future leaders in engineering. They do this by awarding prestigious scholarships to high-potential students who apply during Year 11. The scholarships support students through their A Level studies and encourage students to pursue engineering at university or through an apprenticeship.

### Benefits

- Arkwright Engineering Scholarships are widely respected by universities and industries, and help to enhance scholars' CVs
- £600 financial award to the scholar – this can go towards the cost of materials, equipment, and activities to optimise studies
- Possible further opportunities, such as taking part in work experience placements or a personal mentor

### Dendrite

Each year, Year 7 students at Mark Rutherford School take part in the Dendrite 'Race for the Line' model rocket car competition. To help the Year 7 students, Sixth Form STEM students will be offered the opportunity to sit in on Year 7 lessons and help to design and build their rocket cars.



### Planetarium

Mark Rutherford School is the only school in the UK to own a portable planetarium, purchased using a generous grant from the Harpur Trust. It is fully in use as a teaching opportunity for students here and in local primary and secondary schools. Following training, we are offering Sixth Form STEM students the opportunity to run sessions in the planetarium for younger year groups. This could be during science lessons, after school and even at public events such as our Engineering Evening.

### Primary Science Event

Every year to celebrate British Science Week, we invite three local primary schools to come and take part in a fun, science-filled event run by Sixth Form STEM students. One such event had a theme of 'forensic science'; the young students put their detective hats on and completed a variety of tasks on rotation to solve the mystery of 'Who Killed Mr Bunsen?'. Activities included testing chemical samples, extracting and analysing DNA from a banana, analysis on fingerprints, shoeprints and cloth fibres, and cracking codes using ultraviolet pens and light.

### CREST Awards

CREST is Britain's largest national award scheme for project work in the STEM subjects. It gives 11 to 19 year olds opportunities to explore real world projects in a dynamic way. CREST projects can vary from off-the-shelf, one-hour long challenges through to large-scale, student-led projects of over 70 hours work or more.

### STEM Clubs

We also offer students the opportunity to run after school clubs for younger students. Previous STEM scholars ran nine clubs to include 'Smarties' for Year 7 and 8 students.



# School Routines

## Assemblies

Assemblies give students and staff in the school an opportunity to gather together. We have whole school and year group assemblies on a regular basis and the content has been developed to support the delivery of our PSHE programme.

Assemblies also enable us to help students to consider and engage with social and moral themes. At other times they also focus on key national and international issues; and of course assemblies are a great forum for celebrating the various successes of both our students and staff.

## Rewards

Celebrating success is very important at Mark Rutherford School and we take every opportunity to reward students through assemblies, postcards home, certificates and also through our online reward system called Class Charts. Students and parents/carers are able to download an app to check on their personal points on their own page. Points are awarded centrally for attendance and staff are able to award points when students demonstrate motivation, resilience and success. Attendance at extra-curricular activities is also recognised.

We also hold termly awards assemblies where recognition of success is shared. Annually, we celebrate success at our Awards and Sports Awards Evenings when parents/carers and other stakeholders are invited to join us to share in the success of our students.

## Homework

Homework is an essential part of developing students' skills. It can support the learning that takes place in a lesson and also enable students to be prepared for future learning.

All students are expected to complete homework tasks, although the amount set will vary from subject to subject and according to the age of the student.

Homework will be published via Class Charts for students and their parents/carers to see. Students also have their own planner.

Homework can involve reading, research, revision activities as well as written tasks.

Our Space 4 Learning is open from 8.30am to 4.00pm Monday to Thursday, and 8.15am to 3.30pm on Friday to provide access to research material, computers, and a base for homework and independent study lessons.

Homework support is also available for students with additional needs in the Learning Support Centre (LSC) after school.

## Careers Education and Guidance

Careers education and guidance is an important element of the education offered to all years at Mark Rutherford.

There is a careers programme monitored/guided by the Gatsby Benchmarks arranged for all years; combining lessons as part of the PSHE programme; as well as a range of events for both students and parents throughout the year. We also have a thriving Business Mentoring programme which supports us in a variety of ways including mentoring, workshops and business breakfast, work experience and other events.

## Student Leadership

Students have a wide range of student leadership opportunities to include:

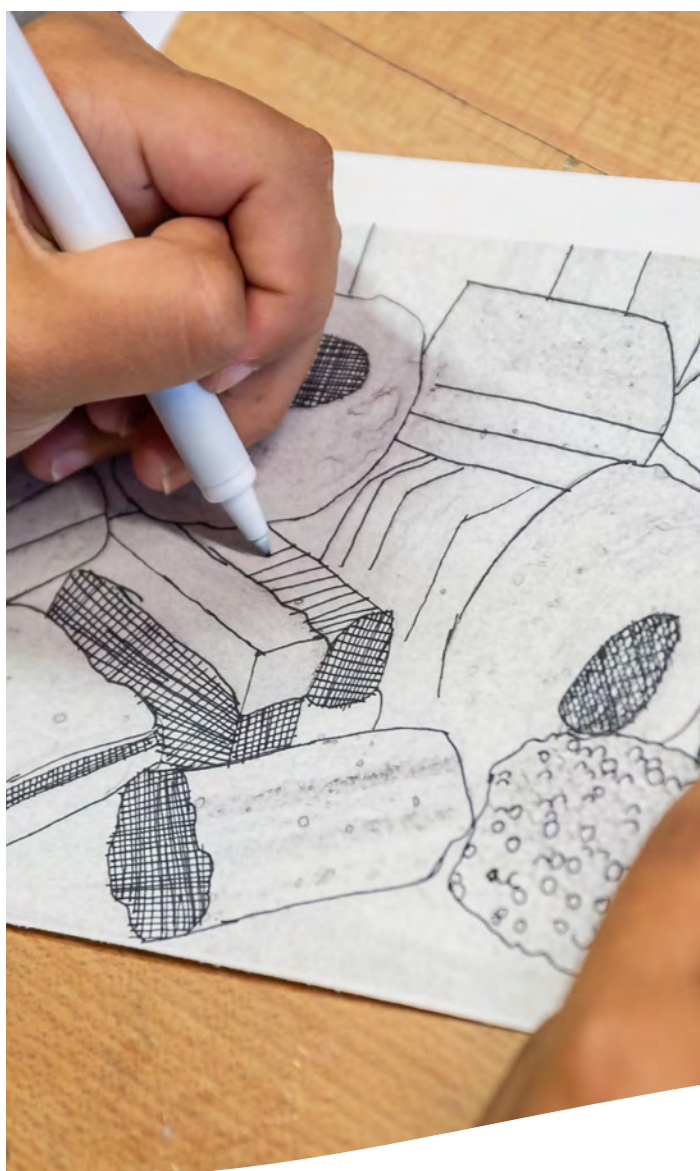
- Subject ambassadors
- Head and Deputy students (at Key Stage 4)
- Student reps by tutor group (at Key Stage 3)
- Anti-bullying
- Culture
- Environment
- Careers
- Wellbeing

Over 200 students are involved in our leadership opportunities.

**“Mark Rutherford is a great school that really focuses on everyone achieving their best, whatever area that’s in. The new facility in the STEM building will really move this forward.”**

*Parent*





**“The school has been organising an effective partnership between the school and local businesses for a number of years. This partnership provides opportunities for students to receive careers advice from people working in the sector who act as Business Mentors.”**


*Business Partner*

[www.markrutherford.beds.sch.uk](http://www.markrutherford.beds.sch.uk)

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