

St Mark's C of E School

Stafford Road, Shirley, Southampton SO15 5TE

Tel: 023 8077 2968

Email: info@st-marks-southampton.org.uk

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Stephanie Bryant

Head of School Primary: Mrs Lorraine Hoad

Head of School Secondary: Mr Ben Godber



9th January 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

RE: Southampton Solent University - Choosing Your GCSE Options Campus Visit

Your child has been selected to attend the **Southampton Solent University - 'Choosing Your GCSE Options' Campus Visit** taking place on Wednesday 14th January 2026. The event will be held at the Solent University, East Park Terrace, Southampton SO14 0YN. It will begin at 9.30am and run until 12.30pm.

The University's Widening Participation team is running a series of events for students from backgrounds underrepresented in Higher Education, who are about to go through the process of choosing their GCSE options. The focus is on increasing learners' understanding of how the GCSE subject choices they make link to future education and careers pathways. Learners will also have the opportunity to hear from current students about their own journeys from Key Stage 4 to Higher Education alongside experiencing the university via a campus tour.

We will travel from school on a minibus and so we will leave at 8.45am to arrive in good time. We will then return to school after the event and will aim to be back by 1pm.

Please complete the consent form on SCOPay as soon as possible to confirm that your child has permission to attend the trip. Due to the tight time frame, the deadline to give permission is 4:30pm on Monday 12th January. If the trip is oversubscribed, places will be offered to students on the waiting list if permissions have not been given on SCOPay in time.

Yours sincerely,

Stephanie Bryant
Executive Headteacher