



St Andrew the Apostle School Weekly Newsletter

Be kind to one another, forgiving one another, as God forgave you. Ephesians 4:32

29 Sept 2023

Message from Headteacher

Thursday 28 September 2023 was the feast day of St Neophytos of Cyprus.

Neophytos was born in the mountain village of Kato Drys near Pano Lefkara, Cyprus. Early in life he escaped an arranged marriage by fleeing to the Monastery of Saint John Chrysostomos in Koutsovendis, where he became a tonsured monk in 1152. During this time, he learned to read and write and was eventually appointed as assistant sacristan. Although Neophytos felt called to be a hermit, his abbot declined to let him go, saying he was too young.



In 1158, however, Neophytos was allowed to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. While he was there, he unsuccessfully sought out hermits who might sponsor him. He returned to Cyprus, but still wanted to pursue the hermitic life. He tried to escape to Mt. Latmos in Asia Minor but was arrested at Paphos upon his attempted embarkation. He was shortly released from prison, but the guards had stolen his travel funds, so, in June 1159, he went to the hilly area above Paphos, where he found a cave that had been used by a previous hermit. He enlarged the space, eventually creating three caves known today as the Cell, the Bema and the Naos. Neophytos's life as a hermit attracted the religious in the area who brought him food and gifts. His air of sanctity brought many to visit him, and in 1170 Vasilios Kinnamos, the Bishop of Paphos, ordained him as a priest and required him to take a disciple, which started the monastery which now bears his name.

Neophytos wrote a chronicle titled Περὶ τῶν κατὰ χώραν Κύπρον σκαιῶν (On the calamities against the country of Cyprus) dated to 1196, record the events of the Third Crusade in Cyprus and the pursuit of the Byzantine ruler of Cyprus, Isaakios Komninos, by the

English king Richard the Lionheart. Neophytos takes a judgmental stance against the crusaders and his chronicle is important as one of very few Greek primary sources from this time.

Neophytos' life is important as an example of a young person following a call from God, wherever it might lead them and never giving up on that call, regardless of setbacks and false-starts.

At first sight team sport seems very different from the isolation of the hermitic life but it has many similarities in that it requires resilience, character and faith to keep on trying in the face of adversity. I was reminded of this on Wednesday in Bethune Park as I watched our Year 9 footballers battle back, after being 2-0 down in the first ten minutes, to a 3-2 victory over Christ's College with just moments to go. The wind was against them as was the slope in the first half, but slowly they started passing the ball successfully and clearing their lines faster and they made it 2-1, 2-2 and finally 3-2. Although there were some sublime moments of individual



skill for two of the goals, it was the resilience and perseverance of the team as a whole that laid the foundation for the fightback, characterised especially well by the slight but determined figure of Sam on the left wing as time after time he tackled back and got a foot in to support his full back.

This week we have started the guided tours of the school every morning and it is these character-building qualities as well as our excellent academic progress and stunning new buildings that we have been highlighting to our prospective parents as we tour the school.

Dr Philip Hills (Headteacher)

Follow us

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Upcoming key Dates and Information 2023 - 2024

- Monday 2 October – School Photographers Year 7, 10, 11 and 12
- Monday 2 October – Open Morning 9am & 11am
- Tuesday 3 October – Open Morning 9am & 11am
- Wednesday 4 October – Open Morning 9am & 11am
- Thursday 5 October – Open Morning 9am & 11am
- Friday 6 October – Open Morning 9am & 11am
- Please [click here](#) to access term dates.
- Please [click here](#) to access school calendar.



Site Update – Drop-off and Pick-up



For up-to-date news on our new school building and site, please click on the following link: [St Andrew The Apostle Plans.](#)



You will have seen the exciting developments on the building of our new school. The pedestrian access for students via Brunswick Road is working well, where our construction company (B&K) has created a pathway from the Brunswick Road. Following a cautious pilot period, we are delighted to announce that the pathway may now be used by pupils journeying to and from



Building 4 as well. Details of access and drop off points can be found here: [Find us](#)

Extra – Curricular Sports Clubs

Monday

Activity: All Years Boys and Girls Football

Time: 3.00pm-4.30pm

Venue: Bethune Park

***Change in building 4 & 5 changing rooms.**

**Tuesday**

No clubs due to staff meetings

Wednesday

Activity: All Years Girls Dance

Time: 3.00pm-4.30pm

Venue: Building 5 Hall

***Change in building 5 changing rooms.**

Activity: All Years Boys and Girls Basketball

Time: 3.00pm-4.00pm

Venue: Building 5 Playground

***Change in building 5 changing rooms.**

Thursday

Activity: All Years Girls Netball

Time: 3.00pm-4.30pm

Venue: Building 5 Playground

***Change in building 5 changing rooms.**

Please note students do not wear PE kit to school on the day of clubs. If you do not have PE on the day of the club, but wish to attend, please bring PE kit to change into after-school. Full PE kit must be worn to after-school clubs. If you have PE lessons on the day of a chosen club, you will already be changed into full PE kit.

Mr Browell (Head of PE)

Science Department

This half term our Year 11 students are finishing their GCSE Biology curriculum with Topic 7 Ecology. This involves learning about ecosystems and the relationships between them like predator vs prey,



hot vs cold habitats and abundance vs. distribution.

Over the past week, we have focused on abundance and distribution using a simple yet powerful tool - the quadrat. A quadrat is a small, square frame used to measure the abundance and distribution of plant and animal species within a defined area.

In a world dominated by screens and technology, it is refreshing to see our students immerse themselves in nature. We ventured into the green spaces behind our school to gain some hands-on experience using quadrants in a familiar ecosystem. Their objective? To explore, record and analyse the abundance and distribution of plants within an ecosystem.

We needed an independent variable (something we are changing) so we used biotic (living) and abiotic (non-living) factors to compare results. We noticed that some areas were shaded compared to others in direct sunlight which served as our abiotic factor. Close to the path, the plants were more trampled than others further up the hill which gave us our biotic factor.

The students set up a transect across the variables and generated random coordinates to avoid bias when collecting results. These variables allowed us to compare the distribution and abundance of plants to determine the biodiversity of the ecosystem.



The students meticulously observed and recorded the plant species present, providing valuable data for scientific analysis. This experience extended beyond the classroom as students discovered

the importance of teamwork in data collection. These field investigations not only enriched their

understanding of ecology but also nurtured a deep appreciation for biodiversity.

As we celebrate their scientific achievements, we look forward to watching our students become educated advocates for the natural world as they learn about the threats and consequences of our actions on the environment.

Miss Msrar (Science Teacher)

PE Department



Netball: An outstanding start to the season for both of our Y7 netball teams! 1st and 2nd place in the 6-team tournament at CCF this evening. Girls of the game: Georgia and Tia.

Football: Unfortunately, our Year 7s faced two defeats against two strong sides in JCOSS and Ashmole Academy. The boys fought hard all the way to the end but just wasn't enough to get the wins. We look to come back stronger as we prepare for the season ahead of us. Well done to Ali, Matheos and Monroe on leading our team on the pitch. Our man of the match against Ashmole goes to Monroe, who battled all the way to the end, almost getting himself his first goal. Lastly, great performance from both goalkeepers, Alex and Jorge who played well in our opening games.



Mr De Jesus (PE Teacher)