

St Andrew the Apostle School Weekly Newsletter



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

23 February 2024

Christ Church College at the University of Oxford



At the end of last term, a group of Y12 students visited Christ Church College at the University of Oxford, as part of the Outreach Programme. During their visit, the students gained valuable insights into the application process and the student life at Oxford, and they had the opportunity to ask an array of questions about their hopes and aspirations.

After enjoying their lunch in the impressive dining hall of the College, the students were taken on a guided tour of Christ Church College, during which, *inter alia*, they admired the leather-bound, early printed books of the library and some manuscripts on display. (cont. page 2)

Ms A Koveri | Deputy Head of Sixth Form



Message from the Headteacher

It has been wonderful to hear the responses of our Year 12 students to their trip to Oxford University, led by Ms Koveri and ably assisted by Mr Lasithiotakis. Their destination was Christ Church, with the renaissance magnificence of its Great Hall, and it was a delight for them to experience the opportunities on offer and imagine themselves having lunch there in couple of years' time. They can see that Christ Church Meadow is no longer the preserve of Sebastian Flyte and his teddy bear, and that there is now a well-established path from St Andrew to the top universities and courses.

Although I am not a 'Gooner', I have watched in awe as our recent alumna, Vivienne Lia, has gone from strength to strength, recently being named in a first team Arsenal squad for the first time. Having already trained with the England U19s, hopefully she will not have to wait too long for her full Lionesses call-up! Girls' football is going from strength to strength here and as we go to press we have just recorded a memorable win over local rivals Ashmole in a U15 ESFA Cup clash, which you can read about below. After a short sojourn in Essex, another recent leaver, Mauro Bandeira, has returned to the Arsenal First Team Squad at the tender age of 20. The last player to go from my team, Colchester United, to the Arsenal first team was of course the ginger-haired legend that is Perry Groves – hopefully Mauro will make an equally memorable impression on the Arsenal faithful in the years to come!

Please see below for the changes we are making to detentions, starting soon. All the Senior Leadership Team will be supporting this new development week commencing 4 March 2024.

Our Greek and Latin language teacher, Ms Ntaountaki, put on a wonderful celebration of the history of the γλώσσα ελληνική just before half-term, celebrated below. As some of you know, I am more familiar with Classical Greek and the Greek of the liturgy of St John Chrysostom, but I hugely enjoyed my visit to the Manor Hill Greek Language School recently, where I met several familiar faces. I will be at their annual dinner at the weekend, and I look forward to chatting with some of you there in English and (very) broken Greek!

Philip Hills

Upcoming Dates and Information 2024

- Please click [here](#) to access term dates.
- Please click [here](#) to access school calendar.

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Faith - Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee (25 February)

The Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee begins the Lenten Triodion, the liturgical book used in the services of Great Lent. It is the Sunday after the Sunday of Zacchaeus and Sunday before Sunday of the Prodigal Son. This is the pre-Lenten start of the Easter cycle of worship in the Orthodox Church. The focus this Sunday is on the Gospel of Luke 18:10-14, in which two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, an externally decent and righteous man of religion, and the other was a publican, a sinful tax-collector who was cheating the people. Though the Pharisee was genuinely righteous under the Law, he boasted before God and was condemned. The publican, although he was truly sinful, begged for mercy, received it and was justified by God.



On this Sunday in the preparation for Great Lent, Orthodox Christians are to see that they have not the religious piety of the Pharisee, but the repentance of the publican. They are called to think about themselves, in the light of Christ's teaching, as they really are and to beg for mercy. 'For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and everyone who humbles himself will be exalted.' (Luke 18:14).

Hymn

*Let us flee from the pride of the Pharisee!
And learn humility from the Publican's tears!
Let us cry to our Saviour,
Have mercy on us,
Only merciful One!*



Christ Church College at the University of Oxford Continued

Most notably, the students were delighted when they met a former student of our school, who is pursuing undergraduate studies in the university.

The Y12 students also met some undergraduate students, who shared their educational journeys and their experiences from the university life with them. The details about the academic excellence offered in the university, the variety and abundance of **societies and clubs** and the overall student experience in Oxford left them inspired.

At the end of the trip, the students visited the Oxford University Museum of Natural History, where they took part in a workshop regarding some interesting exhibits. The students found the trip 'eye-opening', and they expressed their thoughts as follows:

Ms A Koveri | Deputy Head of Sixth Form

Oxford University's facilities, learning and overall atmosphere provided me with significantly more confidence in my degree choices. The architecture and historic libraries were breathtaking. As well as this, talking directly to students really helped me to grasp an understanding about the university and its potential within my own future.

Gabriella B.



It was certainly an eye-opening experience to see a top university and get a feel for what it is like. It was also interesting to see how the surrounding city of Oxford helps the university itself, as well as how the colleges accommodate the students so that they are able to succeed in their studies. It gave me a great understanding of what life would be like at a university like Oxford.

Giorgio C.



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Sporting Alumni Success



The half term capped a remarkable week of success for the STA alumni. Firstly, last Wednesday 14 February Vivienne Lia made her professional debut for Arsenal Ladies against London City Lionesses in a 4-0 win for Arsenal. On Saturday 17 February Vivienne and was named in the squad for a match against Manchester Utd in front of 60,160 fans at the Emirates Stadium. Vivienne has also been named in the Lionesses U19 squad for the summer. A fantastic achievement by Vivienne who only left Year 11 last summer.

Mauro Bandeira has been on selected in the last two Arsenal matchday squads for wins against West Ham (6-0) and Burnley (5-0). We hope to see more of Mauro in Arsenal's hunt for the Premier League title throughout remainder of the season. Best of luck from all staff and students from STA.

Mr Browell | Head of Year 10 and PE



U15 Girls success in ESFA Competition

The U15 girls secured a win in the second round of the ESFA cup, which is a national competition. They played local rivals Ashmole, winning 4-3, despite the torrential downpour of rain!

The girls were determined and driven to succeed with incredible saves made by Sofia D, who was named as POTM for the third consecutive game!

Goals scored by Tiana K, Melina D, Imani CA and Lindita P.

Miss Walt | Head of Y11 and PE Teacher



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International Greek Language Day – February 9

«Τη γλώσσα μου έδωσαν ελληνική
Το σπίτι φτωχικό στις αμμουδιές του Ομήρου...
Μονάχη έγνοια η γλώσσα μου στις αμμουδιές του Ομήρου...»
(Οδυσσέας Ελύτης, Άξιον Εστί)
The Language given to me was Greek
The house poor on the sandy beaches of Homer...
My only concern is my tongue on the sandy beaches of Homer..."
(Odysseus Elytis, Axion Esti)

FEBRUARY 9
INTERNATIONAL
GREEK LANGUAGE DAY

THERE ARE INFINITE REASONS
TO LEARN GREEK

WHICH ONE
WILL BE YOURS?

February 9, commemoration day of the Greek national poet, Dionysios Solomos (April 8, 1798 – February 9, 1857), was established after a ministerial decision as International Greek Language Day, with the aim of highlighting the fundamental role of the Greek language in European and world culture. The value of the Greek language is reflected in its historicity and timelessness. As Linguistics Professor G Babiniotis emphasizes, the Greek language is a language "that has been spoken continuously for 40 centuries. While for 28 centuries it has been written with the same script and the same Greek alphabet and for 24 centuries it has been written with the same spelling". This continuity of the Greek language is what connects us with the speech of Plato and Aristotle, with the language of the texts of Homer and Aeschylus, with the language of Thucydides, Herodotus and Plutarch, with the language of Hippocrates, even with the language of the New and Old Testament, the language of Chrysostom, Gregory and Basil, to dwell only on these.

The Greek language is witnessed, to a large extent, sometimes orally and sometimes in writing, unbroken to this day, having undergone many changes. Having been cut off from the Indo-European language family and its early forms, the Greek language went through many stages, most famously the dominance of the Attic dialect and the emergence of many other dialects, the spread of the Hellenistic common and its use in Greek literature, the medieval – Byzantine, which combined the Attic dialect and several elements of modern Greek and finally modern Greek, as we know it today.

On this celebration, a series of actions were carried out in our school according to the age and abilities of our students in order to inform and raise awareness about the importance of the Greek language.

All classes watched a presentation about the reasons why people worldwide are learning the Greek language today looking for their own reason to learn Greek. In the Greek lesson, references were made to the ideograms or pictographs of Linear B or Mycenaean writing, the Phoenician alphabet, which was introduced by the Phoenicians to Greece and then significantly changed by the Greeks creating the Greek alphabet. A very interesting application of the Museum of Thebes in Greece <http://games.mthv.gr/mth-names/> was used via the internet which enabled some students to see how their name was spelled in antiquity from the Mycenaean Era to Byzantium.

Opinions of foreign important men of letters on the timeless value of the Greek language were read and curiosities of the Greek language were pointed out, such as the longest Greek word in literature by Aristophanes in his comedy Ecclesiazouses in verses 1169 – 1175.

Finally, after watching a tribute to the history and contribution of the Greek language to global linguistic culture, they played a creative game in their class.

They were given flashcards of Greek words that have entered the English language as well as their English equivalents to note the differences and realize that they know as many Greek words as they do English!
For example, astronomy → astonomia, mathematics → mathimatica etc.



Miss Ntaountaki | Greek Teacher



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Changes to detentions procedures

I'd like to inform the school community of a change to our school's detention procedure, which we believe is necessary to maintain discipline and ensure the well-being of all students. This change will only affect a minority of students, 84% of our students did not receive a single detention in the first three terms of 2023/24.

From the week beginning the 4 March, we will be implementing changes to our detention procedure.



Should a student miss this 60-minute detention, they will be assigned a two-hour senior leader detention on a Friday, and should this detention be missed, this will result in students spending a day in the Referral Room the next day and sit a detention after school on that day. Parents will be informed on Friday morning via text message. You can also access detention information via the MCAS app.

This change aims to emphasise the importance of attending detentions promptly and to deter repeated infractions. Previously, missing a 60-minute detention would result in students spending two periods in the Referral Room and sitting the missed 60-minute detention the next day. Our aim with this change in procedure is to ensure that students spend more time learning in the classroom.

It is important to note that our intention behind this adjustment is not to penalise students unfairly but rather to instil a sense of responsibility and accountability for their actions. By reinforcing the consequences of missing detentions, we can continue to promote a culture promoting of respect, readiness, and responsibility, the school's code of conduct, within our school community.

We understand that these changes may raise questions or concerns, and we are more than happy to address any inquiries you may have. Please feel free to contact myself using the staff contact form on our website for further clarification or assistance if required. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation in ensuring the smooth operation of our school's disciplinary procedures. Together, we can create a positive learning environment where every student can thrive and succeed.

Mr Martin | Deputy Headteacher and DSL

Safeguarding

At St Andrew we have a team of colleagues ready to remove or reduce any barriers to students learning or wellbeing. If you have any concerns about your, or any other child in school please contact us. This should include:

- Their physical safety, such as their travel to and from school or the environment they are in outside of school.
- Their mental wellbeing, such as any concerns about anxiety, loneliness, bereavement or other mental health concerns.
- Their social development, such as concerning friendship groups or worries over gang involvement.
- Any other concerns such as obsession over gaming or being on the internet too much.



Extra Curricular Clubs Timetable - Term 3

	Lunchtime	After school
Monday		All Years Boys and Girls Table Tennis (3 - 4pm) B4 Hall KS3 (Y7 - Y9) STEM Club - 3C4 (3.05 - 3.45pm) Homework Club - ICT1 (3 - 3.50pm)
Tuesday	Y7 and Y8 Drama Club - DR1 (12.50 - 1.20pm) Strategy Club: Chess, Connect 4, Backgammon, Card Games - MA3 (12.35 - 1.10pm)	Homework Club - ICT1 (3 - 3.50pm)
Wednesday	Y9 Drama Club - DR1 (12.50 - 1.20pm) Strategy Club: Chess, Connect 4, Backgammon, Card Games - MA3 (12.35 - 1.10pm)	Dance - B5 Changing Rooms (3 - 4.30pm) Art Club - Art1 Sign Up Only (3 - 4pm) Homework Club - ICT1 (3 - 3.50pm)
Thursday		All Years Boys and Girls Basketball - (3 - 4pm) B5 Changing Rooms GCSE PE Trampoline (INVITE ONLY) (3 - 5pm) East Barnet School All Years Girls Dance - (3 - 4pm) B5 Changing Hall Choir - MU1 (3 - 3.50pm) Homework Club - ICT1 (3 - 3.50pm)
Friday	Guitar Club - MU1 (12.35 - 1.20pm) MFL Speaking Club - CR11 (12.35 - 1pm) A Level Film Club - EN6 (12.35 - 1.15pm) Apostle News Writing Group (12.35 - 1.15pm)	Homework Club - ICT1 (3 - 3.50pm)

APOSTLE NEWS

Don't forget to have a read of our latest student edition of Apostle News [APOSTLE NEWS Issue 3!](#)