

20 December 2024



Church Visits

On Monday and Tuesday our students visited St Katherine's Church for a beautiful Christmas service led by Father Daimian. It was a heartwarming event filled with festive spirit, carols, and a message of hope and love.



Christmas Jumper Workshop



A big thank you to everyone who joined us for a fun and creative Christmas jumper workshop! From glitter to pom-poms, the unique designs everyone came up with were truly amazing. 🎄 ✨



As we approach the end of term, I want to take a moment to reflect on what a wonderfully busy and festive week it has been here at St Andrew. Our school community has embraced the Christmas spirit, and it has been a joy to see everyone coming together to celebrate this special season while lessons have remained purposeful. At they always are, students have been a joy to work with.

The week began with our visit to St Katherine's Church, where students and staff participated in a beautiful service to mark the start of the Christmas festivities. It was a reflective and uplifting experience, and we are so grateful to the church and Father Daimian for hosting us.

On Tuesday, our Christmas Fair brought a buzz of excitement to the school. Thank you to everyone who attended, donated, or volunteered their time to make the event such a success. It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces.

Wednesday was another highlight, with our Christmas Jumper Day bringing a splash of colour and fun to the school. The day was made even more special by our Christmas dinner, where students and staff shared a delicious meal together. Breaking bread with each other at this time was so meaningful. A heartfelt thank you goes out to our kitchen staff and everyone who helped to make it such a memorable occasion.

We are ending the week with our achievement assemblies, celebrating the incredible hard work and accomplishments of our students this term. These moments of recognition are a testament to the dedication and resilience our students have shown.

On Thursday we welcomed back our GCSE and A-Leavers to celebrate their wonderful work. I have not seen so many GCSE leavers at an event like this before and this is testament to the community within the school. Congratulations to Savan for winning the Headteacher's Award and Philippos for winning the Yiannis Pareas Award for their contribution to the school life in their time at STA and their academic achievements in Years 11 and 13.

A special mention must also go to our music department and our talented young musicians. We are immensely proud that they will be performed in Trafalgar Square last Thursday. What a fantastic opportunity to showcase their talent and represent our school on such a prominent stage!

None of these wonderful events would be possible without the unwavering dedication of our staff. Their hard work behind the scenes ensures that every child has the opportunity to thrive and enjoy a rich school experience. I am deeply grateful for all that they do, as I know you are too.

Finally, as we break for the holidays, a reminder that school will reopen on Tuesday 7 January 2025 at our normal time for all students. On behalf of everyone at St Andrew, I wish you a restful and peaceful Christmas break. May this season bring joy, love, and togetherness to all.

Christopher Martin | Deputy Headteacher

Upcoming Key Dates and Information

- **Monday 6 January – INSET Day**
- **Tuesday 7 January – Students first day back**
- Click [here](#) to access **Term Dates**

Faith in Focus: Celebrating Advent and Christmas Joy

As we journey through this special season of Advent, our school community has been blessed with opportunities to reflect, celebrate, and prepare our hearts for the joyous arrival of Christmas. This week, we were delighted to visit St Katherine's Church for our Christmas services, led by Father Damien. These gatherings provided a chance for students, staff, and families to come together in prayer and thanksgiving, embracing the true spirit of this sacred season.

The Advent season is a time of hope, reflection, and anticipation. As Christians, we use this period to prepare spiritually for the celebration of Christ's birth. It is also a time to focus on the values of peace, love, and joy—values that we encourage in our school every day. During the services at St Katherine's, Father Damien shared a beautiful message about the meaning of Advent, reminding us that even in the busyness of life, we must pause to remember the light of Christ that shines in the darkness.

The students participated with enthusiasm, singing carols that filled the church with a sense of warmth and community. Their voices, filled with joy and reverence, reflected the importance of coming together in faith during this time of year. We are grateful to Father Damien for hosting us and for his inspiring words that reminded us of the importance of kindness and generosity as we prepare for Christmas.

Looking ahead, next week also marks the name day of St. Kosmas the Aetolian. St Kosmas, a tireless teacher and preacher, dedicated his life to spreading the word of Christ. Known as the "Apostle of the Poor," he worked to establish schools and support communities, embodying the values of compassion and service that are central to our faith. His example is a timely reminder during Advent of the impact we can make when we use our gifts to serve others.

As we approach the final days of term, we encourage all families to reflect on the lessons of Advent. How can we bring peace and light to those around us? How can we slow down and truly embrace the joy of this holy season? Whether through acts of kindness, moments of prayer, or simply spending time with loved ones, there are countless ways to live out the Advent spirit.

Finally, as we prepare to celebrate Christmas, we wish all of our families a restful and peaceful holiday period. May your homes be filled with joy, love, and the blessings of the season. Whether you are traveling, hosting loved ones, or enjoying quiet moments at home, we hope you find time to reflect on the gift of Christ's birth and the hope it brings to the world.

Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership in fostering a school community rooted in faith and values. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the New Year, ready to embrace new opportunities for growth and learning. Until then, may the light of Advent guide you and your family toward a joyous Christmas and a blessed New Year.

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Spreading Festive Cheer at Trafalgar Square

We are delighted to share that St Andrew the Apostle School Choir has once again brought the magic of Christmas to life through their beautiful carol performance at Trafalgar Square on 12 December 2024. Now in our ninth year of supporting Noah’s Ark Children’s Hospice, this cherished tradition remains a truly memorable and unforgettable experience for all involved.

The choir, made up of 30 talented members, performed in front of large and enthusiastic crowds at such an iconic location. It is an incredible opportunity for our students to showcase their talents, spread the festive spirit, and connect with the wider community. Despite the winter weather, the students delivered a heartfelt and joyous performance that was met with admiration and appreciation from everyone who stopped to listen.

We are thrilled to announce that the choir raised an impressive £151.65 for Noah’s Ark Children’s Hospice. This contribution will support the hospice’s invaluable work with children who have life-limiting illnesses and their families.

Rebecca Reeve, the Community Engagement Officer for Noah’s Ark, extended her heartfelt thanks to our school, saying, *“The students did a fabulous job of spreading Christmas cheer, and it was definitely enjoyed by those watching. On behalf of all of us at Noah’s Ark, we are incredibly grateful for the continued support of St Andrew the Apostle.”*

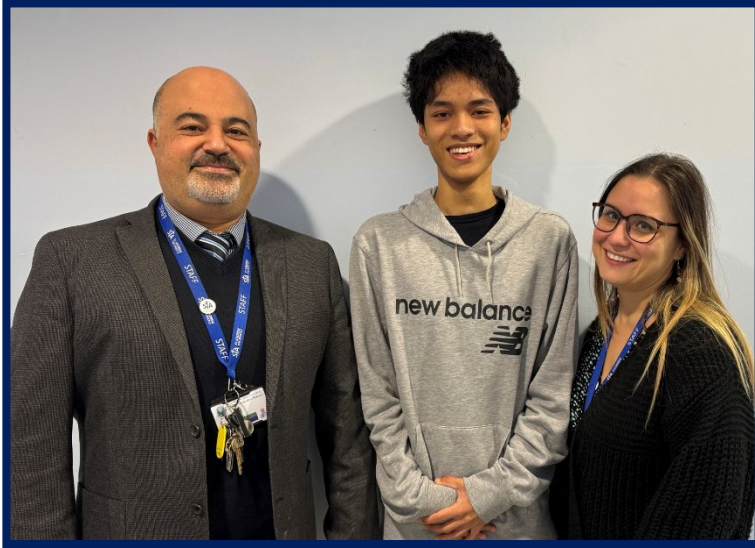
We are incredibly proud of our students for their dedication and passion, and we thank our wider school community for their ongoing support of this special event. We look forward to continuing this tradition for many more years to come!

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

Mr Lasithiotakis | Lead Teacher of Music



Celebrating Sidney's Mathematical Triumph



At St Andrew the Apostle School, we are thrilled to celebrate the extraordinary achievement of Sidney, a Year 13 student studying A-level Mathematics. Sidney has excelled in the prestigious British Mathematical Olympiad (BMO) Round 1, earning a gold medal and securing a place in the elite Round 2 of the competition. This outstanding accomplishment places Sidney among the top 13 performing students nationwide—a remarkable distinction.

Sidney's success is a testament to his unwavering dedication and passion for mathematics. The BMO, one of the UK's most challenging national mathematics competitions, builds on the Senior Mathematical Challenge (SMC). Sidney was selected to compete in BMO Round 1, a rigorous 3.5-hour exam requiring full written solutions to six complex problems. His exceptional performance placed him among the top 100 students invited to advance to BMO Round 2.

We would like to extend a special thank you to Sidney's maths teacher, Miss Anna Sorgente, for her invaluable role in nurturing Sidney's mathematical talent. We are also deeply grateful to Mrs Teresa McKee, the RET A-level Maths Consultant, for providing Sidney with one-to-one sessions to prepare for these demanding competitions. Their guidance and support have been instrumental in Sidney's success, and we are proud to have such dedicated educators in our community.

As Sidney prepares for BMO Round 2, the UK's hardest national mathematics competition, which challenges participants with four rigorous problems over 3.5 hours, we wish him every success. Sidney's achievement is an inspiration to his peers and a shining example of the rewards of dedication and perseverance.

Congratulations, Sidney—you make St Andrew the Apostle School proud! We look forward to celebrating your future accomplishments.

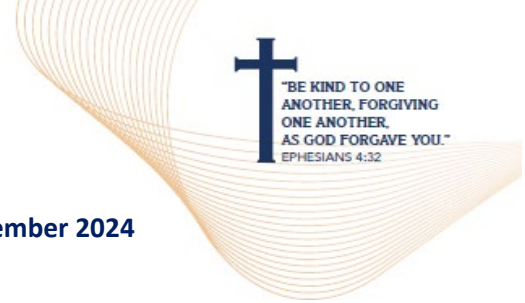
Mr Umit Dogan | HoD Maths & Business Studies

England Selection

A huge congratulations to Year 11 J student Jana who has been selected for the England Senior Rhythmic Gymnastic squad. Jana will represent the England Senior squad at forthcoming international competitions. Since starting her GCSEs Jana has been balancing busy school days with four hours of training each evening Monday-Friday alongside weekend training and competitions across the UK and abroad. The sport of Rhythmic Gymnastics is extremely challenging requiring dedication, practice and individual skill. All staff and students wish Jana luck in the forthcoming international events.

Mr Browell | Head of PE & Year 11





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Sixth Form Christmas Fair

The 6th Form Christmas Fair was a festive success, filled with a variety of activities that brought holiday cheer to everyone involved. The event featured gingerbread decorating, Christmas card making, and exciting games like the basketball challenge and guess the number of jelly beans. However, the highlight of the fair was undoubtedly the Karaoke, which drew the largest crowd and brought out the singing stars in many St Andrew students. Their enthusiasm and amazing performances added a lively atmosphere to the event, making it an unforgettable experience for all. Well done to the students for bringing such joy to the festivities!



Mrs Bicarregui | Head of Sixth Form



Christmas Lunch

A huge thank you to our catering team. We couldn't have asked for a better way to celebrate this special time of year. From the beautifully set tables to the lovely lunch, everything was perfect. Your efforts made our Christmas lunch an unforgettable experience. Thank you for going above and beyond!

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Design and Technology

We are incredibly proud of our Year 7 students, who have now completed their first term in our DT Workshop. They've been introduced to the world of woodworking, with a strong emphasis on safety and confidence building. Our young learners have completed their very first project, demonstrating impressive creativity and craftsmanship. They have had a fantastic time with this terms Robot project, diving enthusiastically into the design and making process. Their passion shines through in every step of the project.

In Year 9, students multipurpose stands are finishing, and we have some wonderful, functional, high-quality products! Well done!

Art & DT Department



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Year 7 Interform Competition

Year 7 students have made an impressive start to PE and Sport in STA, with so many of them representing the school teams and dance squads.

To end the term, students took part in their first inter-form competition. Students demonstrated their skills, friendship, teamwork and resilience as they took part in a year group dodgeball tournament.

A huge well done to the team captains who organised their forms and their teams throughout the afternoon, but a special mention to Tejan who led 7 James to victory!

Miss Walt | Assistant Head & PE Teacher

Homework Workshop

Huge congratulations to Tacila in Year 7 for winning the Term 2 Homework Workshop incentive! Your hard work and dedication have truly paid off. Keep up the amazing work!

You're an inspiration to all your peers.

Ms Bamber | Assistant Head - SENCO



Swimming Competition

Huge congratulations to our talented student Elin, who won the bronze medal in her swimming competition! Your hard work and dedication have paid off, and we couldn't be prouder of your accomplishment. Keep making waves and inspiring us all!

Miss Lisle | Teacher of English & Art

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Achievement Assemblies

A huge well done to all of our year ten students who were nominated for awards in their achievement assembly. It has been a joyous afternoon, and we have had so many students recognised for their achievement and progress.

A special mention Head of Year Award winners Alexandra and Josh, and to our SLT award winner Jaladhi. These awards are given to students who embody our school values everyday.



We have celebrated Christmas with our festivities and we have celebrated more wonderful accomplishments of our students in their first full term of 2024/25. The Y7 assembly saw so many of our cohort awarded for their achievement, progress, attitude and/or attendance and we want to take this opportunity to say a huge well done to each and every one of them.

They have had an incredible start to the year, and in total have achieved 4471 achievement points since September! This is a testament to their character as a year group.



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A special mention must go to the SLT Award winner, Moneli who has 71 achievement points, 99% attendance and has represented the school in the Christmas concert in both dance and choir. Moneli was also the winner of this years prayer writing competition.

Miss Walt | Assistant Head Teacher

Year 12 Chemistry Lessons

Year 12 Chemists becoming pros at titration practical and calculations! Watching those colour changes and getting precise results is such a satisfying experience. Keep up the great work, Year 12 Chemists!



Creative Writing Competition

Hello from the other side.

I feel like I may have been here before.

I would say I'm sorry, if I thought that it would
change your mind.

On a warm summer's evening on a train bound for
nowhere...

I want to set the world to rights, but you know, I
don't know where to start.

You've stolen lives and broken dreams;
no man can be a deity.

Look, if you had one shot or one opportunity, to
seize everything you ever wanted in one
moment, would you capture it or just let it
slip?

Like a bat out of hell,
I'll be gone when the morning
comes.

Acknowledgements: Lyrics sourced from Adele, The Cure, Hurtsfall, Eminem, Incubus, Kenny Rodgers, Killswitch Engage and Meatloaf.

Songlines

Celebrate writing along with the other five schools in the Russell Education Trust. This challenge gives you some 'stolen' lyrics from songs. Choose one to inspire your own piece of writing and include the lyrics somewhere in your piece.

Two school winners will be selected from each category: Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4 and Sixth Form. All winning entries will be published in a book and the overall winner will gain a writer's visit for their school.

Your piece of writing cannot be longer than 1000 words it must be submitted electronically as a typed document submission.

Please make sure that you proofread your work carefully.

The deadline for entries is
Friday 31 of January 2025.

If you have any questions as please speak to **Ms Bassington,**
Head of English

RET

RUSSELL EDUCATION TRUST



Maths and Reading Leaderboard



Dr Frost – Top 10 users in School

Rank	Student	Total Mastery
1	Kavin Y11	19563
2	Sofia Y11	18028
3	Zara Y11	16567
4	Katina Y11	14807
5	Savan Y12	14118
6	Luca Y10	13811
7	Nicholas Y11	13189
8	Unyas Y11	12691
9	Gabriel Y11	12475
10	Yianni Y11	12135

Dr Frost Maths is an online learning platform designed to support students in mastering maths skills. It offers a range of interactive resources, including video tutorials, practice questions, and step-by-step solutions across all key stages. The platform is used for weekly homework, allowing students to practise and reinforce topics covered in lessons. It also provides personalised feedback to help track progress.

Top 3 Students for each year group

Rank	Student	Total Mastery
Year 7		
1	Teshan	8466
2	Ayaz	3677
3	Dominic	2656
Year 8		
1	Tia	7985
2	Aurelia	7296
3	Alex	6740
Year 9		
1	Andreas	11147
2	Alaya	9852
3	Bowen	9611
Year 10		
1	Luca	13811
2	Hana	11562
3	Anna Maria	10267
Year 11		
1	Kavin	19563
2	Sofia	18028
3	Zara	16567
Year 12		
1	Savan	14135
2	Christos	11430
3	Theo	10666
Year 13		
1	Gabriella	11861
2	Natalia	10832
3	Giorgio	8093

For revision, Dr Frost Maths is an excellent tool, with resources covering a wide variety of topics, past exam papers, and challenges to help students prepare effectively for assessments.

Parents can also monitor their child's progress, ensuring they are keeping up with the work and improving their understanding of maths.

This platform ensures students get the support they need to succeed in maths.

Mr Dogan | Head of Maths & Business studies

Sparx Reader

Winners of Sparx Reader Reward Trip

We are pleased to announce the list of students who won a place in Sparx Reader Reward Trip “Let’s Escape to the World of Literature”.

Here is the list of the top 14 readers of the Autumn Term:

1. Teshan B Y7
2. Dominic TY7
3. Anu O Y8
4. Alaya A Y9
5. Lusandro H Y7
6. Mark M Y8
7. Anaya A Y8
8. Moyosoreluwa S Y7
9. Chimaranma O Y7
10. Olivia M Y8
11. Idrees A Y7
12. Lucia C Y7
13. Wonder O Y8
14. Njivwa S Y9

Additionally, the following students were nominated by the teachers for their outstanding progress in independent reading since the beginning of the year:

- Wealth O Y7
- Oliver B Y7
- Aurelia H Y8
- Kodichimma U Y8
- Chika U Y9
- Ali O Y9

Congratulations

Mrs Bassington | Head of English

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

The holiday season, marked by Christmas and New Year, brings joy and togetherness but also presents unique safety challenges for children, families and educators. From busy holiday shopping, travelling and family gatherings to managing digital activity during school breaks, staying safe during this period requires heightened awareness. This guide offers practical tips to help families and educators maintain a more secure and fulfilling festive period.

- MONITOR DIGITAL ACTIVITY**
Children spend more time online during school holidays, increasing exposure to potential dangers such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content and online predators. Balancing screen time, avoiding harmful websites and ensuring children engage positively online can be difficult without proper monitoring tools. Set clear boundaries, encourage open discussions about online safety and use parental controls to manage content exposure and screen time effectively. Regular check-ins and positive reinforcement around digital habits encourage safe online behaviour.
- PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOLS**
The incidence of house fires increases during Christmas due to greater use of candles, cookers and electrical decorations. Open flames, electrical overloads and the need for quick response plans can make fire safety challenging. Ensure smoke detectors are operational, keep fire extinguishers on hand and teach children how to respond in case of a fire emergency. Avoid leaving cooking unattended and use fire-safe candles to prevent mishaps.
- CREATE TRAVEL SAFETY PLANS**
More families tend to travel during the holidays, resulting in busier roads, increased traffic accidents and weather-related hazards. Weather conditions, road rage, fatigue and busy airports can all compromise travel safety. Pack emergency kits and adhere to seatbelt laws. Plan routes in advance and allow extra travel time to avoid rushing and mitigate risks on busy roads.
- BEWARE OF ALLERGIES**
Holiday meals often involve many foods that may contain allergens. Cross contamination, unclear labelling and lack of allergy-friendly options can lead to severe reactions. Communicate any allergy needs to hosts, provide safe food alternatives and carry necessary medications like antihistamines or epinephrine. Teaching children how to advocate for themselves and recognise dangerous foods also contributes to safer celebrations.
- PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS**
Cold weather and seasonal socialising can increase the spread of viruses like flu and COVID-19. Crowded gatherings, schools out of session and frequent travel can lead to higher infection risks. Emphasise hygiene, encourage vaccination, disinfect surfaces and isolate symptomatic individuals. Communication with children about proper hygiene practices is essential to reduce the spread of illness.
- STAY VIGILANT ON THE ROAD**
Increased holiday traffic heightens the risk of accidents for both drivers and pedestrians. Distracted driving, pedestrian safety and inclement weather can complicate road safety. Encourage pedestrian safety practices, avoid distracted driving and never drive under the influence.
- MAINTAIN SAFE DECORATIONS**
Festive decorations such as Christmas lights and candles can pose electrical, fire and choking hazards if mishandled. Frayed wires, toppling Christmas trees, small ornaments and open flames can be difficult to control, especially in busy households with children. Inspect and maintain decorations, secure Christmas trees, place fragile or small items out of reach and ensure candles are never left unattended. Testing smoke alarms and using flame-retardant decorations can significantly reduce risks.
- SET BOUNDARIES FOR GIFTS**
Some toys and gadgets can present choking, sharp-edge or safety risks, particularly for young children. Ensuring that gifts meet safety standards and are age appropriate can be complex with so many options available. Inspect all toys carefully and ensure any tech devices have parental controls. Setting expectations around safe gift use and discarding packaging that poses a risk also helps to prevent accidents.
- ADDRESS STRESS & FATIGUE**
Holiday pressures can lead to burnout, which affects both physical and mental health. Overpacked schedules and a lack of downtime can cause stress and fatigue, leading to accidents or poor decision making. Incorporate rest, maintain regular routines and seek support to reduce stress. Encourage activities that promote relaxation to create a healthier, happier holiday experience for everyone.
- DRINK RESPONSIBLY**
Alcohol is commonly present at holiday events, raising concerns about safety and supervision. Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to accidents, impaired judgment and lack of supervision for children. Designate responsible adults, limit consumption and provide transportation alternatives for guests. Teaching moderation and modelling responsible behaviour in front of children ensures that celebrations remain positive and secure.

Meet Our Expert
James Whelan is a chartered health and safety consultant with 10 years of experience in promoting family and community safety, specialising in risk assessment and prevention strategies. He has worked with educational institutions, public health agencies and community groups to deliver safety education and training.

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/safety-over-the-festive-season>

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Download the Studybugs app for reporting your child's absence.

A quick and secure way to report absence due to illness and send messages to school.

GET IT ON Google Play
Download on the App Store

Studybugs

Studybugs is designed to support you in notifying the school quickly and simply if your child is unable to attend school due to illness or an appointment.

Studybugs seamlessly interacts with our attendance system in school and ensures that your child's absence is recorded on the register instantly and accurately.

You can register via the Studybugs website: [Studybugs – Parents](#) or download the Studybugs App.

Once you are registered, all you must do to record an absence is send us a free text. If you need any support with Studybugs, please email attendance@standrewtheapostle.org.uk

Language Enrichment Programme

Free training for parents / carers of children in early years and children in primary / secondary school

Parents: feeling too busy rushing around to find out what your son/daughter is learning at school? Check out the curriculum online on our website to find out more: [Curriculum](#)

[Click here to view all Extracurricular club's schedule](#)

BELS Advisory Team for Autistic Children and Young People

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10 Top Tips for Parents & Educators
USING AND REVIEWING PARENTAL CONTROLS

SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

Barnet Youth

FREE activities and ideas for ages 0-19
barnetyouth.uk

Designated Safeguarding Leads

Click below for more information
Safeguarding at STA

Miss Walt Mrs Viala Mrs Poole