

"BE KIND TO ONE ANOTHER, FORGIVING ONE ANOTHER, AS GOD FORGAVE YOU."

The Feast of the Three Hierarch Service by Father Gregory



On Tuesday 28 January, we welcomed to our school Father Gregory, who delivered a service on the Feast of the Three Hierarchs to our Year 10 and Year 7 students. He also cut the traditional vasilopita to mark the beginning of the new year in our school.

Father Gregory explained to our students that the Three Hierarchs, St Basil the Great, St Gregory the Theologian and St John Chrysostom, are celebrated on 30 January as 'Great Fathers and Saints' and 'Ecumenical Teachers'. Their feast was established in the 11th century by the Byzantine Emperor Alexios Komninos.

The Three Hierarchs were renowned for their theological brilliance, excellent education, their charitable activities and for explaining to the people the Christian Faith. Father Gregory further mentioned that they are commemorated as the patron saints of students and teachers, and they are also associated with the celebration of the Greek language that preserved for the world the wisdom and the intellectual beauty of the classical texts. He shared with the students some words of wisdom of the Holy Fathers that also embody the meaning of the word 'filanthropos' – philanthropist.

We reflected on the different strengths, challenges and talents of the Three Hierarchs, but also that they had one ethos. A reflected that embodied our own inclusive community.

The service culminated in the symbolic cutting of two Vasilopites - cakes in memory of St Basil, who is celebrated on 1 January. Father Gregory explained to the students the symbolism of the coin that was hidden in each one of the vasilopites and the origins of this tradition and he wished to all the students and the members of staff of St Andrew the Apostle School a Happy New Year.

We would to extend our appreciation to Ms Yiallorou for baking the Vasilopites for this event. It was highly appreciated and brought together the service perfectly.







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Dear Parents, Guardians, and All Members of our School Community,

What a wonderful week it has been here at St Andrew! Our school has been bustling with activity, and, as always, we are pleased to share some of the highlights with you.

The most special moment of the week was welcoming Father Gregory into school, who led a service for the Feast of the Three Hierarchs. His thoughtful words during the service reminded us of the importance of wisdom, faith, and unity. Following the service, Father Gregory performed the traditional cutting of the Vasilopita, a tradition that we share as a school community. We extend our congratulations to Father Gregory as he prepares for his ordination this coming Friday. We wish him every blessing and success on this sacred journey. Ms Koveri, Ms Nicholas and I are looking forward to celebrating this with him on Saturday.

Another highlight of the week was the visit from the Cypriot Education Minister. It was an honour to host such a guest, who took time to observe Classics lessons and spoke with our students studying Greek. The Minister commended our students' dedication to learning a language rich in culture and history. It was inspiring to see our students share their enthusiasm for Greek and showcase the work that they do.

This week also marked the beginning of our Revision Focus Fortnight. This helps all students develop effective revision strategies in preparation for any upcoming exams and times when they want to revise independently. Across all year groups, lessons have been tailored to include discussions on how to plan, organise, and approach revision effectively. This is a particularly crucial time for our Year 11 and Year 13 students, as they prepare for their Mock 2 exams starting in just two weeks. We encourage all students to make the most of this period by utilising the resources and support available to them, both in school and at home, and I know you will be supportive of your child doing this.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support in making our school such a thriving place to learn.

Exciting times ahead: 211 days until we move into our new building, 97 days until the first GCSE exam!

Christopher Martin | Deputy Headteacher

Upcoming Key Dates and Information

- Thursday 6 February Year 9 Options Evening
- Wednesday 12 February Oxford Christ Church College Outreach Programme
- Click <u>here</u> to access **Term Dates**

Faith

As we journey through this term, we continue to reflect on our school values, with a particular focus on *respect* and *trustworthiness*. These virtues lie at the heart of our community, inspiring us to treat one another with dignity and to act with integrity in all that we do.

This week, we have been excited to celebrate the Feast of the Three Holy Hierarchs, a day that honours the lives and teachings of St Basil the Great, St Gregory the Theologian, and St John Chrysostom. These three saints are revered not only for their theological contributions but also for their unwavering commitment to faith, learning, and service. They remind us of the importance of living a life grounded in respect—for God, for knowledge, and for each other—and their example encourages us to embody trustworthiness in our actions and relationships.

We are deeply grateful to Father Gregory, who will be joining us to deliver a special service for our students in honour of this feast day. During this service, we will also partake in the beloved tradition of cutting the *vasilopita*, symbolising blessings and hope for the year ahead. We extend our best wishes to Father Gregory for his upcoming ordination and thank him for the guidance and care he shares with our school community.

Our school motto, *"Ever to Excel,"* resonates deeply with the legacy of the Three Holy Hierarchs. Through their dedication to faith, wisdom, and service, they exemplify the pursuit of excellence in both spiritual and intellectual endeavours. May their example inspire our students to strive for greatness while upholding the values of respect and trustworthiness in their daily lives.





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Visit of the Minister of Education



The minister of education paid a visit to St Andrew earlier today, touring the school and classrooms, observing lessons and engaging in discussions with students and staff. During the tour, the Minister observed various lessons from several departments. The minister was impressed by the student's enthusiasm and dedication whilst also commending the teachers for their hard work.

The visit was well received, leaving the students and staff feeling valued and motivated.







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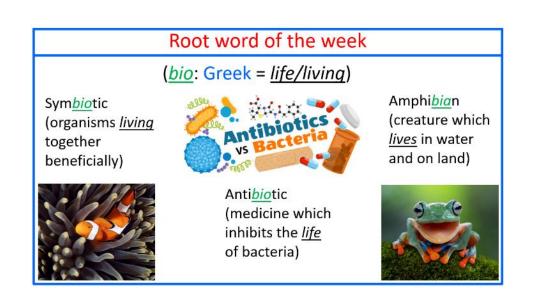
31 January 2025



Year 9 Options Evening, Thursday 6 February 2025

Following on from our successful Year 9 options workshop we are looking forward to welcoming Year 9 parents to our options evening on Thursday 6th February. The event will be in Building 4, starting at 4.00pm. Parents will be informed of the GCSE options process and will have the opportunity to meet Heads of Department to find out more about the different subjects on offer. Mr Williams, our Careers Adviser, will also be available to give advice on future pathways. Please check the email sent out to Year 9 parents this week for full letter and the <u>Year 9 Options Handbook</u>.

Mrs Viala | Assistant Head Teacher





Jonathan Haidt - Podcast

Jonathan Haidt is a renowned social psychologist, bestselling author, and professor, widely known for his groundbreaking work on morality, culture, and human flourishing. His insights into how society shapes us and how we, in turn, shape society, make him a leading voice in discussions about our rapidly evolving world.

In this episode, Jonathan chats about the profound effects of social media on the younger generation. He dives into the alarming rise in depression and anxiety among teenagers, explaining how the presence of mobile phones and platforms like TikTok reshaping childhood and distorting attention spans are. Drawing from his book The Anxious Generation, Jonathan unpacks what's happening to kids growing up online, from the dangers of fragmented focus to the way social media alters how they perceive the world. He also discusses why it's critical for parents and society to confront these challenges and work towards solutions.

This conversation is a wake-up call and a guide for anyone seeking to understand and navigate the digital age's impact on young people.



Enfield's diversity celebrated at London New Year's Day Parade

"BE KIND TO ONE ANOTHER, FORGIVING ONE ANOTHER, AS GOD FORGAVE YOU."

It was so lovely to see one of our students, Stefan in Year 10 featured on the front page of Enfield Dispatch. It's always nice to recognise this achievement that £2,000 was raised for the charity FBS. We are happy and proud to see families of STA bringing the community together in such a positive way. Click here to read more on this successful event



Year 10 Basketball

The Year 10 basketball team made the long journey to play Saracens on Thursday 23 January. STA were highly unfortunate to lose 28-24 in a close contest, which could have seen either school win the match right until the last few moments. The side was captained by Panagiotis who lead the strategy of 2-1-2 zonal defending and aiming to shoot threes off the dribble. Leonidas played some excellent basketball in the second and fourth quarter and was voted MVP by the team. The side play Hendon School in the next match.

Mr Browell | Head of PE & Year 11



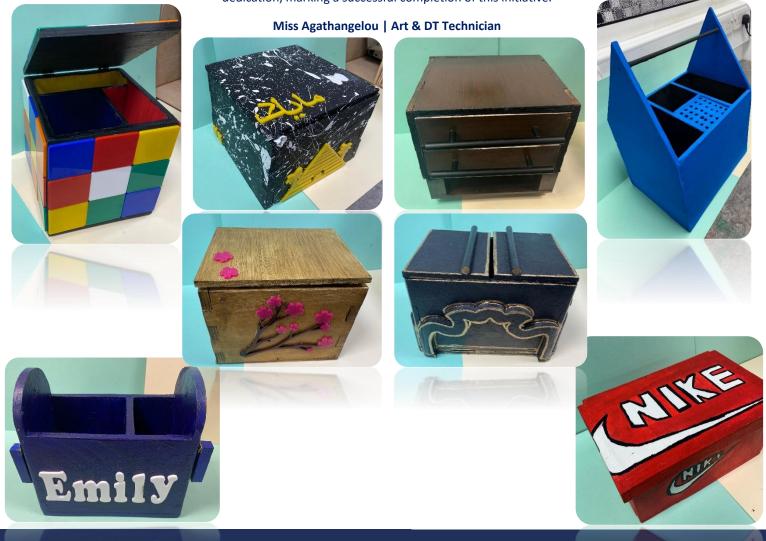
"BE KIND TO ONE ANOTHER, FORGIVING ONE ANOTHER, AS GOD FORGAVE YOU." EPHESIANS 4:32

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Year 10 Design and Technology

Year 10 have successfully completed their storage box projects. This range of storage boxes demonstrate the students' ability to think creatively and execute their ideas with precision and care. Each design was unique, reflecting individual character and attention to detail, whilst highlighting the skilful craftsmanship that the students have developed. It's inspiring to see such a high level of innovation and dedication, marking a successful completion of this initiative.





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Year 9 Biology

Year 9 Biologists have been learning about different organ systems in the body and most recently, the circulatory system. They had a great time dissecting a lamb's heart and getting to see the chambers and vessels they had labelled in diagrams. The students were quick to point out the difference in thickness of the left and right ventricle and we practiced relating their description to an explanation about the function of the left side of the heart.



Year 12 Biology

Year 12 Biologists were tasked with creating presentations on any topic related to STEM that they were interested in. They did a fantastic job and kept us engaged with their range of topics and fun quizzes and it was great to see their confidence while presenting.



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STA ST ANDREW THE APOSTLE

31 January 2025

Meet the St Andrew the Apostle School staff!

Hello, I am Mrs Bamber, I am Assistant Headteacher and SENCo at St Andrew the Apostle School. I like supporting students, parents and staff regarding SEND matters. My top three favourite things about STA are the school culture, the Christian values and our will to always improve. Outside school, I enjoy sports, music, art and travelling.

The top three celebrities that I would invite to dinner are:

- Jesus Christ because what a great guest to have and an inspiration to us all.

- Joseph (Genesis) to talk about his experience of being rejected by his family and how he rose above it.

- Daniel The Prophet - to talk about his experience when he was thrown into a hot furnace. Him and his friends saw Jesus walking towards them. What a valuable lesson about the nature of miracles.



BE KIND TO ONE ANOTHER, FORGIVING ONE ANOTHER, AS GOD FORGAVE YOU



Hello, my name is Mr Christou, and I am the Exams and Data Manager at St Andrew the Apostle School since December 2018. From the first day I joined I have really enjoyed my time; the school is very welcoming, supportive and all colleagues work extremely hard to support students in achieving great results every year. Students are polite and well behaved and there is a real community feel about the school.

In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with my family, travelling, weightlifting and playing football, I feel that your body reflects your mind and its important keep both strong and active. If I was hosting a dinner party the three celebrities, I would invite would be Jurgen Klopp, Michael Jordan and Jeff Bezos; there would some interesting conversations and they could share their secrets to success.

I am passionate about helping students succeed and are very proud when I see lots of happy faces on results day. Looking forward to moving to the new building as the school will continue to thrive and go from strength to strength.

Hi, I'm Roz Christoforou, the Admissions Officer at STA. I've been part of this amazing community since January 2017, and it's such a joy to work here.

Before joining STA, I worked in fashion and for the NHS, but nothing has been more rewarding than working in education and being part of a school that makes such a positive impact.

I studied English Linguistics at university, and when I'm not busy running after my two young daughters, I love diving into interior design projects, exploring new places, and discovering great restaurants. And yes, I genuinely enjoy cleaning—it's oddly therapeutic!

If I could host a dream dinner party, my guest list would include Princess Diana, David Attenborough, and Abigail Ahern. What a fascinating evening that would be!





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31 January 2025

An Exciting Opportunity for Our Talented Students: Perform at the Royal Albert Hall!

Do you dream of performing on one of the most iconic stages in the world? This could be your chance! The Barnet Education Arts Trust (BEAT) is looking for three outstanding soloists to perform at their *All Under One Sky* gala concert at the prestigious Royal Albert Hall on **Tuesday 1 April 2025**.

What's the Opportunity?

The chosen soloists will have the honour of opening the concert by performing the first song of the evening, accompanied by BEAT's incredible orchestras, bands, and a massed choir of over 1,000 voices!

If you're a student with a passion for singing, this is your opportunity to shine on a world-famous stage.

Audition Details

• When? Tuesday 4 February, OR Thursday 6 February, from 5:00 to 6:30 PM (you'll be given a specific time slot).

• Where? Dollis Primary School, Pursley Road, NW7 2BU.

Who Can Audition?

This opportunity is open to all students attending our school.

What Will You Sing?

Auditionees will perform the opening solo from Another Day of Sun, a vibrant and inspiring piece from the film La La Land. To help you prepare, BEAT will provide an audition pack with audio and lyrics.

How to Apply

To book your audition or ask any questions, please contact **Sophie Boden** at <u>sophie.boden@beatrust.org.uk</u>.

This is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to showcase your talent and be part of an unforgettable musical experience. Don't miss your moment to make your mark at the Royal Albert Hall!

Mr Lasithiotakis | Lead teacher of Music







Maths and Reading Leaderboard

dffm drfrostmaths.com

Dr Frost - Top 10 users in School

Rank	Student	Total Mastery
1	Kavin Y11	21331
2	Sofia Y11	18235
3	Zara Y11	17272
4	Katina Y11	15579
5	Yianni Y11	15496
6	Luca Y10	14791
7	Savan Y11	14674
8	Nicholas Y11	13753
9	Unays Y11	13438
10	Gabriel Y11	12940

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-bystep 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	11520
2	Ayaz	5876
3	Dominic	4963
	Year 8	
1	Tia	8640
2	Aurelia	8483
3	Zoe	7412
	Year 9	
1	Andreas	11437
2	Alaya	10234
3	Bowen	10002
	Year 10	
1	Luca	14791
2	Hana	12442
3	Anna Maria	11612
	Year 11	
1	Kavin	21331
2	Sofia	18235
3	Zara	17272
	Year 12	
1	Savan	14674
2	Christos	12077
3	Theo	11205
	Year 13	
1	Gabriella	12384
2	Natalia	11703
3	Giorgio	8674

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

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Sparx Reader – Top 10 Readers in School:

Rank	Student	Total SRP
1	Teshan	29458
2	Dominic	28982
3	Ella	10966
4	Anu	10534
5	Wealth	8935
6	Alaya	8444
7	Moyosoreoluwa	7893
8	Chika	6669
9	Michelle	5704
10	Anaya	5407

Sparx Reader is an online reading platform allowing students to regularly read books for pleasure. Everyday reading is not only a relaxing activity, but also allows students to expand their ideas, vocabulary and improve understanding of any text they will face in exams or as adults.

Sparx Reader offers students a choice of books at their reading level, as well as ensuring they read books with understanding by completing check-in questions along the way. The platform is used for KS3 English weekly homework; students need to achieve minimum 300 points each week (this equates to approximately 30 min of careful reading).

We are very pleased that many of our students exceed this target every week, with some top scorers achieving well above a thousand points a week. Since the launch of Sparx Reader a month ago, our KS3 students have completed amazing 2902 hours of careful reading and read altogether 1067 books so far. Truly well done!

Top 3 Students for each year group:

Rank	Student	Total SRP			
	Year 7				
1	Teshan	29458			
2	Dominic	28982			
3	Wealth	8935			
	Year 8				
1	Ella	10966			
2	Anu	10534			
3	Anaya	5407			
	Year 9				
1	Alaya	8444			
2	llya	6669			
3	Niya	5704			

Mrs Bassington | Head of English

Please ask your chid what they are currently reading, and perhaps you can enjoy listening to them reading tout loud a section of their current Sparx book.

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For Information

A&Es across Barnet and our neighbouring boroughs are under significant pressure, with a high number of flu cases, particularly among children and young people. Please follow this advice to all parents and carers on keeping yourself and your children well.

- Flu cases are currently very high in Barnet. If you think you or your child may have flu, find out what steps to take: <u>flu symptoms in</u> <u>children</u> and young people and <u>flu advice for adults</u>
- It's not too late to get vaccinated. If you are <u>eligible for a flu jab</u>, contact your GP or <u>book an appointment at your local community</u> <u>pharmacy</u>. Has your child missed their flu vaccination at school? <u>Find catch-up clinics in Barnet</u>.
- Your GP practice is here to help. We have made additional evening and weekend GP appointments available throughout winter for adults and children across Barnet. <u>Find out how to book</u>
- Your local pharmacist can provide expert advice and medicines for minor health conditions and you don't need an appointment. Find out about the services pharmacies offer: <u>Think Pharmacy First</u>
- NHS urgent treatment centres or walk-in centres can help with urgent, but non-life threatening, injuries or illnesses.

Vaccination UK

working on NHS

behalf of England

• This might be sprains and strains, suspected broken bones, injuries, cuts and bruises, stomach pain, vomiting and diarrhoea, skin infections and rashes, or high temperatures. Find details of local centres

Find out more about how to get the care you need from Your Local Health Team.

Td/IPV and Meningitis ACWY vaccination for pupils in Year 9

Your child is now due for their Td/IPV booster and Meningitis ACWY vaccination.

To give consent for your child to have these vaccines, please click here:

https://ncl.schoolvaccination.uk/dtp/2024/barnet

If you do not complete a consent form, your child may be able to give self-consent. You may also be contacted by the vaccination team on the day by phone.

Please only complete ONE FORM per child.

The consent form needs to be signed by a person with parental responsibility. See FAQs below for more details.

Young people under the age of 16 can give or refuse consent themselves if considered competent to do so by nursing staff.

If your child has had this immunisation elsewhere <u>after</u> you have submitted the consent form, you MUST inform Vaccination UK, or your child's school.

We try to come to your child's school twice. Children who are absent on these days will need to attend one of our community-based clinics – these can be found on our website. BARNET IMMUNISATION TEAM I

<u>barnet@v-uk.co.uk</u> 0208 432 7075

For more information, please go to our website, where you can find a list of FAQs or visit our <u>YouTube</u> page. We also have some FAQs below.

TD/IPV VACCINE Prevents tetanus, diphtheria and polio

Is routinely offered on the NHS to pupils in Year 9

MENINGITIS ACWY VACCINE • Protects against meningitis A,C, W and Y

 Meningitis is dangerous swelling of the lining around the brain and spinal cord. It can be very serious, even fatal. Please see our FAQs for more information, or head

to our website www.schoolvaccination.uk

Has your child had two doses of MMR (Measles/Mumps/Rubella)?

All children should receive two doses of MMR, at age 1 and then again at 3 years, 4 months. If your child has not had two doses, they may not be fully protected. We can offer an MMR booster at the same time as the Td/IPV and MenACWY. If you answer 'no' to the question 'has your child had two doses of MMR vaccine', one of our Nurses will be in touch to offer this.

PRIVACY POLICY Our 2023/24 policy can be viewed here: <u>www.schoolvaccination.uk/privacy-policy</u> For data protection queries, please contact: <u>dpo@vaccinationuk.co.uk</u>



Dear Parents/Carers

Blue Dot Meal Deal Changes

As part of a continuous menu review, and with feedback from schools, pupils and parents, the Blue Dot range will be refined to chilled products, so that confusion is removed when choosing products. We want all students to maximise their spending power and we found students were getting confused and missing out on the deal.

All Blue Dot items from February 2025 will be positioned in our chillers, with a selection of cold deli items (filled rolls), a variety of flavoured drinks, home bakes, as well as fresh fruit pots and yoghurts.

Our "hot" Blue dot range will be delisted, and we will focus on promoting our new and improved value range of Power Bites. This will allow pupils a clearer choice of hot offers daily at affordable prices and ease in understanding where offers are connected and displayed, to remove confusion at pay points. <u>Click here</u> to see menu and <u>pricing</u>.

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Kind regards,

Stuart Brown Regional Operational Director

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Planning for Adulthood Conference

Barnet Education and Learning Service (BELS) is hosting an event for parents and carers of young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Speakers will focus on topics to support young people on their journey into adulthood. An overview of some of the topics are outlined below.





Download the

Studybugs app

for reporting your

child's absence.

Studybugs 👽

Designated Safeguarding Leads

Click for more information



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

Key Stage 4 and 5 Students: National **Apprenticeship Week Commencing Monday 3 February**

All students have a login to Unifrog, our online careers platform and I have shared with them the link for the Apprenticeships Fair which takes place on Wednesday 12 February from 4pm. This event will give students the opportunities to speak to a range of employers about apprenticeship opportunities, with presentations from the NHS, BBC, and Cooper Parry.

unifrog

APPRENTICESHIP FAIR Wednesday 12th February, 4–6:30pm **Get involved in National Apprenticeship Week!** Join our virtual fair to find out more and meet 40 employers with apprenticeships for you! NHS B B C TESCO COOME PLANT EY plus many more scan here to sign up or visit: https://unifrog.ivent-pro.com/events/apprenticeshipfair



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Mrs Poole

Mrs Viala Miss Walt

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