

St Andrew the Apostle Greek Orthodox School



Ever to Excel



Dear Students/Parents/Carers,

By now I am sure you will have heard the Prime Minister's statement on Sunday evening where he announced a modest relaxation of the lockdown. You will have heard the Prime Minister indicating that the government believes it may be in a position to implement a phased re-

opening of schools from 1 June. This is part of the government's conditional plan which it says will remain under regular review. For secondary schools, it is still rather vague as to when we will be allowed to reopen; the Prime Minister mentioned that he hoped students taking exams next year, (current Year 10 and Year 12) might be able to have some time with their teachers before the summer holidays.

I want to be very clear, all of us want to get students back into school as soon as it is safe to do so. However, the first priority has to be the safety of everyone in the school community. Like many people, we were equally left feeling rather concerned about the lack of clarity, our number one priority is to ensure that when we reopen, it is safe to do so for both our students and staff and please rest assured that we will not do so until we have the scientific evidence to support us in this decision.

We are currently planning for the eventual reopening of school with the aim of ensuring that social distancing measures are in place to protect both staff and students. We will of course share those plans and arrangements with you as soon as we have completed them and the necessary risk assessments. For now however, we will go on learning remotely, using the VLE and Show My Homework to access lessons and resources. We would like nothing more than to have you our students back in the classroom, however we cannot place the safety of students and staff at risk. Whilst the benefits of direct teacher-student contact cannot be underestimated; there is no doubt that remote learning makes you – our students stronger in other ways, not least the ability to develop resilience and to become stronger independent learners which is a skill we have always sought to teach and develop.

With this in mind, I would also be very grateful if you could all complete a survey via the link attached below. There is one survey aimed at students and another one for parents. These surveys will allow us as a school to evaluate how effective we have been so far in the provision of work via remote access but also the quality of work being carried out and submitted by students. We obviously know this will vary from student to student as it would under normal circumstances, but it will be interesting to know what the current picture is given that school has been closed for almost eight weeks.

Parent Survey: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=-bw-rb2qKUSTK3Lbo5aTbScB0clKdPpLjr1dL7H2u1xUQUhGRk5EWjU1RTQ5RjQwM0ZUQldORDc2Uy4u>

Student Survey: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=-bw-rb2qKUSTK3Lbo5aTbScB0clKdPpLjr1dL7H2u1xUQ0VFUEgwNzUxOVY5Tjc2QzBaMEhJSjZENy4u>

Finally, please continue to remain safe, but also to follow the latest government guidance.

We know how challenging these times are for parents, carers and families, who have been forced into a very unusual set of circumstances.

These circumstances are unprecedented. They are teaching us all about our limitations but also about how strong we are when we work together.

Many thanks to you all for your ongoing support and patience.

God Bless!

Michael Vassiliou

(Headteacher – Acting)

For Parents / Carers:

We are sorry that some families have struggled with the Free School Meals National Voucher Scheme, we have also been having the same problems as reported in the national press and on social media. In response to numerous complaints, we have received the below communication from the Department for Education and Edenred:

Over the weekend there was a significant breakthrough in new All communications to enhancements and developments to the systems. The capacity for you regarding FSM more schools and parents/carers to be able to access and use the vouchers will be - from a system at any one time has been increased; as a result, queue times a company called Edenred are substantially shorter. and will come to you via email. We

- Queue times on the online ordering portal this week have been less than five minutes with many periods during the day not having any queues at all*
- The eCode redemption website has been averaging a queue time of three minutes*

This means the valuable support to parents is being delivered at a much faster rate.

have already ordered vouchers for the next three weeks and hope these will be emailed to you shortly. You will be able to redeem the voucher codes using the website and information in the email.

This parent FAQ document may also so be of use:

https://www.edenred.co.uk/Documents/DfE/DfE_FreeSchoolMeals_ParentCarerFAQs.pdf

If you are having issues or have any questions, please contact finance@standrewtheapostle.org.uk and we will try and assist you.

Unfortunately we have limited access to the Government run system but will do our best to help you.

St Andrew the Apostle – Thoughts for the Week



Bible Readings and Prayers for this time:

Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength,
 an ever-present help in trouble.
² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth
 give way and the mountains fall into the
 heart of the sea,
³ though its waters roar and foam and the
 mountains quake with their surging...
⁷ The LORD Almighty is with us;
 the God of Jacob is our fortress...
¹⁰ He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;
 I will be exalted among the nations,
 I will be exalted in the earth."
¹¹ The LORD Almighty is with us.

A Prayer

Be with me Lord.
 Be the patience when I am tired.
 Be the wisdom when I am uncertain.
 Be the inspiration when I'm out of ideas.
 Be the peace-maker when I feel hurt.
 Be the comforter when I feel overwhelmed.
 Be the energy when I am weary.
 Be the guide when I am confused.
 Be the forgiver when I get it wrong.
 Be with me Lord, today.

Theme for the week – Week beginning 11th May

Theme of the week	Key Dates/Events	Bible Quotation	Inspirational Quotation	Questions to consider
Respect: The value of contributing to others' success.	GCSE Exams begin	"Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others." – Philippians 2:4	"Thousands of candles can be lighted from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened. Happiness never decreases by being shared." – Buddha	What little things do you do to make life easier for others? What do you appreciate others doing for you? What else can you do to show this?

Free Audio Books

For as long as schools audible closed, are open. Right now, kids everywhere can instantly stream an incredible collection of stories, including titles across six different languages, that will help them continue dreaming, learning, and just being kids.



https://stories.audible.com/start-listen?pf_rd_p=9f8048ea-2406-4b85-9c7a-9b824e792bd1&pf_rd_r=C77XYC1YK64BMC20ZGNJ&ref=a_hp_c2_banner_img_0

Music of the Week

#ThankYouThursday

Giving thanks to the heroes to the NHS frontline. Stay home, protect the NHS, save lives.

Share this amongst family, friends to spread the love and enjoy music from all different genres, you can all sing along to.



<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/37i9dQZF1DWXF8Nf1uycDZ>

GCSE RevisionPod Podcast

Mr Forster and Mr Gallie bring you a dose of high energy revision to help you achieve the best possible marks in your English GCSE's. Each episode will look at a different question from your set texts and explore how we would analyse the language and contextual factors and how you can then use this knowledge to boost your essay writing. And watch each episode and you download your GCSE RevisionPod handout, complete with the question we are discussing, the quotations and vocabulary and some extra contextual information.



<https://open.spotify.com/show/44HEihs90Bo73mc9OQRbq5>

Offer to Cook Something for your Parents

It's going to be a difficult and stressful time for families over the next few months - aim to do something nice around the house once a day. Maybe offer to cook a meal once a week to reduce the stress on your family. Record this in your daily planner.

We'll have provided an easy to follow recipe card with each newsletter-take a photo of what you've created and email it to admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk and we will share what you've made.

Click on the link below to try make Tsoureki Muffins

<https://www.mygreekdish.com/recipe/tsoureki-muffins/>



Safeguarding

If you have are worried about your safety or wellbeing during the school closure, please ask your parents to email inclusion@standrewtheapostle.org.uk to see if the school can help. They should also contact the local authority (council) who will often be more able to help when school is closed.

Make your own Instant Ice-Cream

Ice cream is basically droplets of fat from milk suspended in millions of tiny crystals of ice, fluffed up with tiny pockets of air.

This activity shows you how to make the right mixture, then make it cold enough to create those ice crystals without the aid of a freezer. It also reveals how salt and ice make a chilling combination.



<https://learning.sciencemuseumgroup.org.uk/resources/instant-ice-cream/>

Science Museum Group – Play and Create your own Game

Our Launchball game lets you spring your way through 30 obstacle-filled levels and you can create your own levels to play and share with friends.

Challenge yourself and see how far you can go!



<https://learning.sciencemuseumgroup.org.uk/resources/launchball-game/>

The Coronavirus Newscast

Everyday BBC correspondents bring you the latest on the virus updates.

Every day, Adam Fleming, Laura Kuennsberg, Fergus Walsh and Chris Mason bring you the latest on the coronavirus pandemic.

Catch up with over 200+ episodes of virus news and updates, and as Scotland considers introducing social bubbles, the stars of the TikTok house tell us what it's like to live in one. Football legend, John Barnes and Radio 1 legend, Chris Stark discuss when the football season should return.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/series/p05299nl>



Your Mental Health is Important

It can be really difficult being isolated from friends, if you need someone to speak to for good advice, try our friends at www.kooth.com for someone to talk to in these anxious times.



NASA Kids' Club

The NASA Kids' Club teleports you to NASA's coolest and most interesting pictures and activities. Indulge in the images from out of space and *The Now in Space* slideshow introduces young explorers to the crew currently orbiting Earth on the International Space Station.

Whilst having space fun, it can support your educational needs with the national education standards in STEM - science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

<https://www.nasa.gov/kidsclub/index.html>



Gardening at Home



During the hot sunny weather we are having recently, why not try and grow some fruit and veg! In the links below, there will be a step by step guide on tips and ways to grow some plants at home. It's okay if you don't have an outdoor garden, you could create an indoor garden and use what you have grown to create some delicious and healthy dishes.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WDfe9fRvs04>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zAZH62XgAJo> – indoor gardening

Students Work

13 unlucky for some – but not for us!

Thirteen of our talented writers share their 100 word 'spine-chilling' short stories... read at your own risk. Well done to all year groups who has been participating in the 'spine chiller' creative writing stories!

THE NEW JOB

Standing outside something felt wrong, the dark eerie building sent shivers down my spine. As I entered, I noticed there was no one else there. The building smelt musty and old as if it had not been used for hundreds of years. I heard something scratching at the walls. I opened a door and entered there was a flash of lightning and I noticed a silhouette of a figure sitting in a tall chair. The lightning flashed again, and it was gone. Then I heard a voice calling from inside the room - “you’re not going to survive this job.”

Spine Chillers 2020 Creative Writing Competition

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I was at the counter, serving the last of the customers. The clock had just struck 10: nearly time to lock up.

I sensed a wave of terror around me. This lasted only for a few seconds. Then, a veiled man approached the counter, showing nothing more than his blood red eyes and a demonic grin. In a low, cold voice he said, “The last note, it’s over”.

I had arrived home and put a song on. What the man had said was bugging me. The last note faded away and then the truth hit me.

I turned around, “Arrggghh!”

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Harris's spine chiller DRAFT 1

In the sky above a dark eerie forest, there lived a bird. Gliding carelessly about in the sky, it saw a ominous glow in the distance and began to swoop towards it. It was just the moon reflected on the lake, so the bird was about to turn back, but when it saw a strange hooded figure. as the bird turned back so did the figure it had a long pointy nose and a face dotted with warts its skin was dry and peeling. Revealing its hood stood a abomination of a creature holding a blade covered in blood and lunged for the bird cackling.

Harris's spine chiller

Above a fog shrouded forest, there was a raven, gliding carelessly about in the silent sky. AARRGGHH!!! The silence was broken by a ear piercing scream. All birds in the area started going towards the sound. The bird now swooped over a hooded figure, kneeling over a motionless corpse bloody dagger by its side. As it took of its hood, the bird could see a abomination of a creature with a long pointy nose and a face dotted with warts. Suddenly heat filled every creature as they all burst in to flames everything was on fire except the hooded figure.

The Cupboard

"Mummy, I'm scared."

I covered Jane's mouth with my trembling hand. "Shhh, don't worry. We'll be safe in here."

I heard a bang from outside the cupboard door. Jane gasped. I tightened my grip over her mouth, silently begging her not to speak. If the men heard us, we'd end up like her father. I could hear footsteps getting closer. THUD. THUD. My heart skipped a beat.

Jane's eyes widened. I wished her daddy was with us, he'd know what to do.

The light through the cupboard crack disappeared as the men approached. The door slowly crept open...

Moonlight Murder

As I stepped into the blood red coloured mansion I instantly knew something was wrong: skulls hung on the walls like trophies with no honour, there were no signs of any thing remotely civilised, the only light source was some dimly lit candles and a sticky red substance dripping off the ceiling. I shivered at the thought of what that may be. As I walked silently upstairs there was a sudden noise behind me - I froze. I was not alone.

As I walked further into the demonic house a hand crept onto my shoulder. My face turned as pale as the moon as something whispered in my ear "Welcome to your death, Robin".

SHY

Charlie was awake. The silence of the night had been destroyed with what sounded like the harsh shattering of glass, followed by relentless shrieking. These sounds didn't trouble Charlie; his mother sometimes screamed when she got angry. Nevertheless, he decided to investigate. As he drew nearer, the sound of inhumane wailing became clearer to Charlie. A certain terror sunk deeply into him, as he crept into his parent's room. Upon entry, he was met with a foul odour. The crying shifted to a violent howl, growing ever more aggressive. Paralysed with fear, Charlie flipped the light switch...

"H-Hello?"

Heavy clouds bullied their way across the sky locking arms and casting the day into pure darkness. Cautiously, I looked up at the towering building glaring down at me. Cold began to steal my body making me feel frozen inside. Every single instinct was telling me leave this place, yet my feet were locked to the cold, hard ground. As I approached the tower, I heard heavy, deliberate footsteps approach me. Suddenly, a hand shot from the darkness and seized my neck, dragging me backwards. Desperately, I cried for help, but my whimpers were lost in the never-ending darknessâ€”(99 words)

It was extremely gloomy and dim. I slowly crept along the deserted, ancient, haunted mansion. The building was huge. It was as big as Wembley Stadium. The mansion was overflowing with rooms and a lot of dust everywhere. Junk was scattered on the floor. Little mice and rats rummaged through the filthy rubbish, trying to look for food. Glass from the windows had collapsed onto the floor, and now were dispersed on the crooked tiles. There was a dreadful odor coming from each room, each odor was different but all were horrific. It was awful. Terrible. Atrocious. Revolting. Disgusting. Sickening.

Strawberries and Bruises

“Holding you *exhilarates* me, doll.”

How could such simple words and a pet name picked specially for her, be enough to invite dainty droplets of saline down her soaked cheeks?

Shaky fingers continuously scratched the back of her hand - actions growing fearfully furious at each of the moon's quivering breath.

The silence killed her like a shrieking drum - exploding her ears with dread - until *it* came.

With prey's instincts, her heart ran and kicked against her chest - aggressive, as if its contents would burst and spill.

Bruised digits clasped her mouth shut, air devoid of her hyperventilated stutters.

“... Found you.”

He covers under the blankets knowing that...

BANG! BANG!

...two more will come

A few days ago when the banging first came he convinced himself that it was only a vivid dream. two days ago, he blamed the wind and spent the next day securing the windows on the north side of the house.

When he was a boy, his mom warned him.

“The third time it comes, don't be home.”

For two days he could have running away.

“It will come for blood” she said

He hears the doorknob click.

The lurking monster of doom.

The ravenous wolves howling, penetrating the silent and deadly forest. “John” I called. No response. It was getting dark by the minute and I started to lose my vision. I held grip on the first thing I could see. “John” I called again. This time there was a loud scream “Aaaah”. I heard glass shattering and just as I turned around, I saw it. It was big and hairy. It was just like a vicious lion, except it was double the size and way more scarier. “HEEELP” , a loud scream just as it was getting closer and closer.

The man in the Closet -

Icy-cold fingers gripped my neck. I struggled in pain as his fingernails dug into my skin. A face as pale as wax grinned in the darkness that surrounded me. He came into clear view. Holes. Everywhere. His face was covered in them. His eyes were gone and his mouth was painted with an evil grin. His other hand laid upon my chest. “12:03” he whispered. His hand ripped my chest open, my heart in his hands. He crushed it and I was gone...

I awoke. I was back in my bed, no sign of any blood.

The clock read 12:02...

And the closet door began to open...
