

10/07/2020

Student Newsletter No 15

St Andrew the Apostle Greek Orthodox School



Ever to Excel



Dear Students/Parents/Carers,

It has been very good to welcome small numbers of Key Stage 3 students into school this week and last week as part of our academic review meetings, in addition to Year 10 and Year 12 students who continue to come into school for their scheduled lessons. As has been widely announced the Government has issued guidance that all students will return to school at the start of the school year in September. We will be publishing detailed information for parents/carers and students before the end of term on how we will be looking to facilitate this, whilst continuing to ensure the school remains a safe working environment for all.

Nonetheless, it was good news and the guidance released by the government we feel is workable. Given the improved position, the balance of risk is now overwhelmingly in favour of students returning to school. The return to classrooms will be based on separating groups of students into “bubbles” and minimising contacts between them, rather than social distancing. We have immediately started planning on how the guidance might be implemented effectively at St Andrew the Apostle. Our aim is to return to normal educational routines within the confines of this guidance. We have 3 clear priorities:

- Safety
- Reassurance
- A guarantee that students can catch-up.

There is much to think about, and many different approaches to consider as to how we might best deliver education at our school from September. We are determined to put the right package together and a great deal of thought, consultation and hard work has already begun as we set our intentions on welcoming all our children back to a Covid secure school site at the end of the summer break.

I appreciate that you are keen to know what school is going to look like and what arrangements we will be putting in place. But there are lots of logistical implications and these will take a bit of time for us to get our heads around. I will be sure to keep you informed and I will write to you with the full specifics before the end of term. What I can say at this stage is that although things will be slightly different, our aim is for your children to continue to experience a rich, broad and balanced curriculum. The school will not deviate from its core values and we will continue to ensure that we offer high quality teaching and do the very best for each and every student.

There remain some unknowns, most significantly around the format of next year’s GCSEs. However, we have had full assurance from the Department for Education that exams and assessments will be fair and no student will be disadvantaged by the school closures. The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual) are consulting on proposals to modify the assessment requirements for some GCSEs. I will of course keep you fully informed as I hear more.

A reminder to our parents/carers of Year 6 students starting St Andrew the Apostle School in September can find lots of information on the Transition page on our school website.

Finally, could I also ask both students and parents if you have not already done so to complete our student and parent survey based on how you and your child are doing during this period of disruption.

To complete the survey, please click here:

Parent Survey: <https://edurio.com/poll/GahS7p>

Pupil Survey: <https://edurio.com/poll/9UhVkj>

Surveys are completely anonymous and confidential, though the responses will be aggregated for the purpose of analysis. The survey will be available until July 24th.

I do look forward to your feedback!

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Best Wishes.

Michael Vassiliou - Headteacher – Acting

St Andrew the Apostle – Thoughts for the Week



Bible Readings and Prayers for this time:

Psalm 139

Where can I go from your Spirit?

Where can I flee from your presence?

If I go up to the heavens, you are there;

if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

If I rise on the wings of the dawn,

if I settle on the far side of the sea,

even there your hand will guide me,
your right hand will hold me fast.

If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me
and the light become night around me,"

even the darkness will not be dark to you;
the night will shine like the day,
for darkness is as light to you.

A prayer

Lord Christ, you came into the world as one of us,
and suffered as we do.

As we go through the trials of life, help us to realise
that you are with us at all times and in all things;

that we have no secrets from you;

and that your loving grace enfolds us for eternity.

In the security of your embrace I pray.

Amen.

Theme for the week – Week beginning 6th July

Theme of the week	Key Dates/Events	Bible Quotation	Inspirational Quotation	Questions to consider
<p>Forgiveness:</p> <p>The value of reconciliation.</p>		<p>"Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." – Colossians 3:13</p>	<p>"The practice of peace and reconciliation is one of the most vital and artistic of human actions." - <u>Thich Nhat Hanh</u></p>	<p>As you look back, how has this year gone? Is there anyone with whom you would like to reconcile? Why is reconciliation so important?</p>

Advice to Parents and Carers on Keeping Children Safe

The government has produced a useful webpage listing sources of advice and support for keeping their children safe. The guide includes information about:

- Protect children from domestic abuse
- Teenage relationship abuse
- Child sexual abuse and exploitation
- Sexual assault referral centres
- Crime, Criminal Exploitation and County Lines, violence and gangs
- Protect children from radicalisation
- Prevent
- Online child safety
- Mental health

You can find the information here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-from-abuse-and-harm/advice-to-parents-and-carers-on-keeping-children-safe-from-abuse-and-harm>

Guidance for Parents and Carers of Children Attending Out-of-School Settings

The government has also issued guidance for parents about any out-of-school settings they use for their children. This will become particularly important as the summer holidays begin. The guidance includes a section about choosing a suitable provider and provides some examples of positive signs to look out for when choosing an out-of-school setting for your child. In addition to covid-19 related issues, the guidance covers safeguarding matters too, including finding out whether staff members and volunteers have relevant child protection training, and relevant checks have been made.

You can find the guidance here

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

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 eight different languages, that will help them continue dreaming, learning, and just being kids.

All stories are free to stream on your desktop, laptop, phone or tablet 📱

<https://stories.audible.com/start-listen>

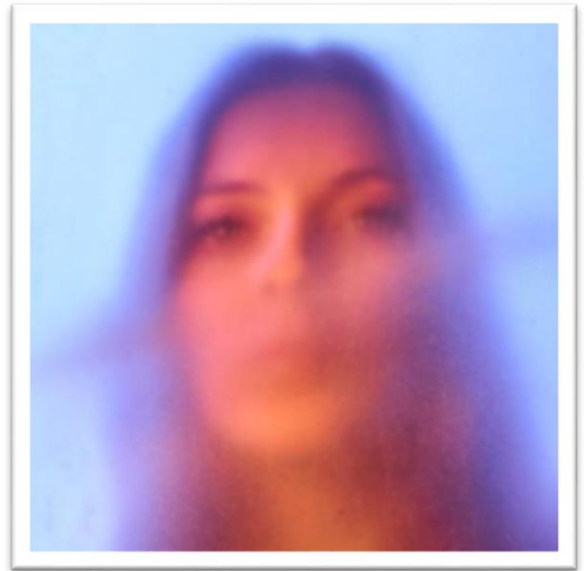


Music of the Week

Jade Elizabeth Bird is an English singer, songwriter and musician. Rolling Stone described her vocals as "raw and robust" with Tony Visconti stating "she sings so adroitly, she's very intelligent as a singer and there's nothing she can't do.

With her Americana indie folk, rock themes genre, indulge in her recent album Jade Bird!

<https://open.spotify.com/album/34RleuzZA8ySXCbsEd62jG>



Young People Survey – COVID-19



Barnet Council are seeking the views of how COVID-19 has affected your wellbeing during lockdown. Your responses from the survey will be valuable in giving the Council a better understanding of your feelings, will assist with ideas to support you going forward as well as developing priorities for the future. You can access the Survey here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/YoungPersonsCOVID-19-Survey>

Make your own Kaleidoscope

Be inspired by Olafur Elisson and make your own colourful kaleidoscope.

Can you imagine being under this sculpture and being covered in a spectrum of colour? It only takes 20 minutes and you can make it your very own!

<https://www.tate.org.uk/kids/make/cut-paste/make-kaleidoscope>



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.

St Andrews will provide an easy to follow recipe 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.

If you're looking for quick, easy and healthy family meal inspiration, check out this healthy kid's 3 ingredient Nutella brownie muffins!

You can always change it the way you like and make it your own!

<https://www.kidspot.com.au/kitchen/recipes/3-ingredient-nutella-brownies-recipes/hl1hxfuz?r=collection/3ingredientrecipes&c=j608fxxl/3%20ingredient%20recipes>



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.

Would you recognise the different signs of child abuse?
If you think it, report it. You can call your local council or the [NSPCC](https://www.nspcc.org.uk) or the police.

Visit tacklechildabuse.campaign.gov.uk/ so we can **#tackleabusetogether**



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.



Students Work

We are excited to see that some of our new students who will be joining our community are already working hard. We have produced some transition work for students to complete over the summer and Mariaelena and Yianni who will be starting in Year 7 have already started building a castle for their history project. Already we are so proud of the work our students are doing. A great start to life at St Andrew!

