

St Andrew the Apostle Greek Orthodox School



Ever to Excel



Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your support for another really positive week at St Andrew the Apostle School. Our new systems are working well and students and staff are now well versed in our routines. We also appreciate your proactivity in ensuring that students have the correct uniform and correct equipment in school. A significant part of our control system is the need for self-sufficiency and

the avoidance of shared equipment, so your support here has been crucial.

We are pleased that the atmosphere at St Andrew the Apostle has continued to be so warm and positive, despite the current restrictions. Our current rates of attendance are improving and students report feeling safe and reassured whilst at school. This is of course vital to ensuring a school community focused on learning and achievement. However, I am aware that at the same time as ensuring that every child benefits from an excellent education, we are also fighting an invisible virus, and it is right that we remain alert and proactive in ensuring that all possible control measures are actioned as fully as possible.

Face Coverings in School and on Buses

I know that many staff, parents and students are concerned that the use of face coverings on I buses is at times inconsistent. From an informal study of buses arriving at / leaving our school, not all students are wearing face coverings.

Improving this position is a particular priority as our bubble system is proving to be effective and buses are the only enclosed spaces in which students from different bubbles are together. We do, however, encourage students to sit with others who are in their year group or with their siblings.

Once again, please can all parents continue to ensure that students using school transport have an appropriate face covering and wear this in the morning when boarding the bus but also ensure that as students enter school that they are wearing masks in communal areas of the school building.

All staff members on bus duty will also ask and encourage students to wear face coverings when boarding the bus. Our tone will of course be around friendly encouragement to do the right thing, and we will be mindful that some students will be exempt from wearing masks.

We would appreciate you discussing this with your son or daughter, as this is one of those situations in which, if every individual does the right thing, the risk for everyone reduces.

Collecting your Child after school

Another plea to all parents asking you avoid collecting students at the end of the school day on the site of the North London Business Park. It is very busy between 2:50pm and 3:20pm as students leave school and it is much easier if parents do not park in the immediate vicinity of the school to collect their children. Please park further away from the school site and encourage your children to walk a little distance to meet you, something we call 'stride and ride'

Attendance, Illness and Testing Capacity

Please find here a letter from the NHS with advice regarding Covid-19 symptoms and detailing when/when not to access a test. This is the same message that we have consistently given as a school throughout the crisis and I thank parents for having followed this guidance so carefully.

https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/UKDFE/2020/09/23/file_attachments/1553140/23rd%20September%20-%20PHE%20letter%20to%20parents%20and%20guardians.pdf

Testing availability remains limited both locally and nationally, and following the guidance above allows for those who need tests to access them promptly. As always, please do advise the school if a student is self-isolating and awaiting a test result, or if you are unable to book a test and a student does have coronavirus symptoms.

If a positive test result is received, please alert us as a school immediately. Please telephone the school, email the relevant head of year and copy me into the email: head@standrewtheapostle.org.uk

Please note, we will never reveal the identity of an individual who tests positive.

We would of course support our sixth form students who wish to use the app, to do so. It is probably also worth noting though, that the app is not just to provide users with information. If a student receives an instruction to self-isolate from the app, we understand that they would have to do so, even if they believe the alert could be erroneous. Of course this system does not replace our existing notification procedures and decision making.

Finally, as you can imagine, staff have been very busy settling students back into the new school year, but we are now uploading work to the VLE for students to access if they need to self-isolate at any time this academic year. Thank you for your patience as we have put in place a sustainable process for getting work to students in this situation.

Drinking Water in School

Thank you for your support in reducing the need for students to access additional drinking water in school, this situation has improved significantly in the last few days, possibly helped by the weather! Whilst all schools do have to provide drinking water on request, and of course we would always ensure that no child is left thirsty, the issue here is around reducing high frequency touch points around the school. In the meantime, we appreciate parents support in ensuring that students are as self-sufficient as possible and having a full bottle of water when they arrive at school

Careers Information

Students in the Sixth Form were able to participate in a wonderful careers guidance opportunity on the medical profession last week on Thursday 24th September. This involved a remote meeting with Dr Sarah Lynch, advising Year 12 and 13 students on how to prepare for a career/application to study medicine at university. Please do also see the detailed article written by one of our Year 12 students – Melody S - who participated in the lecture. Finally, this week will see us move out of September and we will begin to focus more intently on monitoring student progress and re-introducing formal assessments. More information to follow next week, but the purpose will be to ensure we identify any curricular gaps and improvement targets across the curriculum. Our aim, as it always has been is to ensure excellent academic outcomes for every student and despite the pandemic we will help every student achieve their potential across the curriculum.

The past few weeks have been busy in the life of our school. Please keep up to date with all the news about the school on our website: <https://www.standrewtheapostle.org.uk/>

Thank you, as always for your support and cooperation in these matters and of St Andrew the Apostle. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us via email on admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk

Yours sincerely,



Michael Vassiliou

Ofsted 2018:

Teaching in the sixth form is robust.

Leaders in the sixth form set high expectations for their students.

Students really enjoy their learning in the sixth form.

Personal Attention + Relationships = Progress

St Andrew The Apostle **SIXTH FORM**

We are pleased to inform our school community that a large proportion of our students from our 2019/20 Year 11 cohort opted to join our growing Sixth Form, which is testament to the quality of provision these students received during years 7 to 11. We look forward to continuing the growth of our Sixth Form. Students in Year 11 will soon receive information regarding our Sixth Form application process, as well as details of our Sixth Form virtual open evening.

In addition, we will be contacting Year 11 and Year 13 parents with details of the academic review meetings in preparation for the upcoming mock exams.

NHS Covid-19 App

On the 24th September the NHS track and trace app was launched and this is relevant to our sixth form students.

More information can be found here: <https://covid19.nhs.uk/pdf/introducing-the-app.pdf>

Some key information regarding use of the app in school settings:

- The app is designed to be available to everyone aged 16 and over.
- The app runs in the background on mobile phones using Bluetooth. There will be no need for students who are using the app to have their phones out in lessons, or during social times.
- The app will automate some track and trace functions following confirmed cases and alert users if they have been in close contact with a positive case.
- Alerts are always anonymous – users will not know who has tested positive.
- There is a caution regarding leaving phones in bags, lockers or away from one's person. This is because it is phone to phone contact which can trigger an alert – not actually person to person. Leaving phones in fixed locations, away from one's person will increase the likelihood of false close contact alerts.
- If users receive an alert to self-isolate – we will expect students and families to comply with this instruction.
- If a student receives an alert whilst at school, they should contact the nearest member of staff immediately and advise them of the alert.
- We will then make arrangements with parents/carers for collection and ensure that in school isolation procedures are followed.

A Career in Medicine by Melody S – Year 12



Last week, the school arranged for those of us interested in pursuing a career in medicine to have a virtual conference with Dr Sarah Lynch. The talk involved Dr Lynch providing us with information regarding the medicine application process.

The talk was split into 3 sections. Firstly Dr Lynch spoke about different extracurricular courses we could participate in which would aid us in applying for medicine. For example, extracurricular activities focusing on leadership roles and team building. Also, Dr Lynch spoke about the importance of work experience specifically in a medical field. For instance a hospital placement, voluntary work in a care home or working in a GP practice and even possibly thinking about participating in medical projects abroad.

The second part of the talk was focused on the interview process for medicine. Dr Lynch highlighted the importance of having mock interviews with friends, teachers or family members in order to be well prepared for our actual interview. She also recommended reading into some topics which interviewers tend to ask lots of questions about, such as: current medical affairs, the four pillars of medical ethics and more. During the interview there will be a scenario given to us in order to assess our communication skills and our ability to empathise. In addition, Dr Lynch emphasised the significance of us making sure to ask the interviewer a question during our interview.

The final section of the talk consisted of the importance of our university choice. Some universities have a traditional didactic learning experience such as Cambridge and Oxford University, whereas others have 'problem' based learning like the university of Manchester. Integrated courses are also available containing a mix of different learning styles. It's important to pick a university that works with your style of learning and one which has an environment where you feel comfortable. Dr Lynch recommended the website: [medicportal](https://www.medicportal.com), to help us with the decision of choosing the appropriate universities.

After participating in the lecture with Dr Lynch, I feel as though I have much more secure information regarding the application process and studying medicine at university. Before the talk I had many gaps in my knowledge about how the application process worked however, after talking to someone with experience, I feel as though I am in a stronger position to make a more informed decision about why I want to study medicine but also the variety of different medical courses available

St Andrew the Apostle – Thoughts for the Week

Bible Readings and Prayers for this time:



Psalm 4

¹ Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness:
thou hast enlarged me when I was in distress; have
mercy upon me, and hear my prayer.

² O ye sons of men, how long will ye turn my glory
into shame? how long will ye love vanity, and seek
after leasing? Selah.

³ But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is
godly for himself: the LORD will hear when I call
unto him.

⁴ Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your
own heart upon your bed, and be still. Selah.

⁵ Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put
your trust in the LORD.

⁶ There be many that say, Who will shew us any
good? LORD, lift thou up the light of thy
countenance upon us.

⁷ Thou hast put gladness in my heart, more than in
the time that their corn and their wine increased.

⁸ I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for
thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety.

A Prayer

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the
prayers
of your people who call upon you;
and grant that they may both perceive and
know
what things they ought to do,
and also may have grace and power faithfully
to fulfil them;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

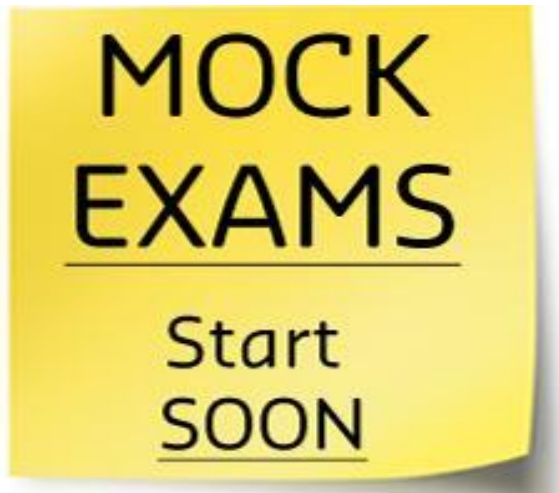
Theme for the week – Week beginning 5th October

Theme of the week	Key Dates/Events	Bible Quotation	Inspirational Quotation	Questions to consider
Respect: Black Lives Matter	Black History Month Space Week Dyslexia Awareness Week	We are all created in the “image” of God – Genesis 1:27	Race and racism is a reality that so many of us grow up learning to just deal with. But if we ever hope to move past it, it can’t just be on people of colour to deal with it. It’s up to all of us – Black, white, everyone – no matter how well-meaning we think we might be, to do the honest, uncomfortable work of rooting it out. It starts with self-examination and listening to those whose lives are different from our own. It ends with justice, compassion, and empathy that manifests in our lives and on our streets. – Michelle Obama	Why is it important to have a Black History Month? How much do you know about Black History Month? What is the goal of Black History Month?

Future Events for the Diary

<u>Week 6</u>	<u>Key Events</u>
Monday 5 th October	World Teachers Day World Habitat Day
Tuesday 6 th October	
Wednesday 7 th October	
Thursday 8 th October	
Friday 9 th October	

Mock Exams:



Year 13 Mock exams will run from Monday 2nd – Friday 6th November 2020.

Year 11 Mock exams will run from Thursday 19th – Friday 27th November 2020.

The schedules for these exams will be distributed during tutor time next week.



Staff have been working hard to ensure that our VLE is updated to support learning at home. It is important that your child is able to access the VLE, using their school network login credentials. This can be done by using the following link

<https://vle.standrewtheapostle.org.uk/login/index.php>

If your child is unable to login, please email vle@standrewtheapostle.org.uk to request a password reset.



Plans are underway to establish the platform for the delivery of virtual lessons via Microsoft Teams. Over the coming week, students will be given their login details and be shown how to login to their Teams account.

English students are engrossed in new and exciting books

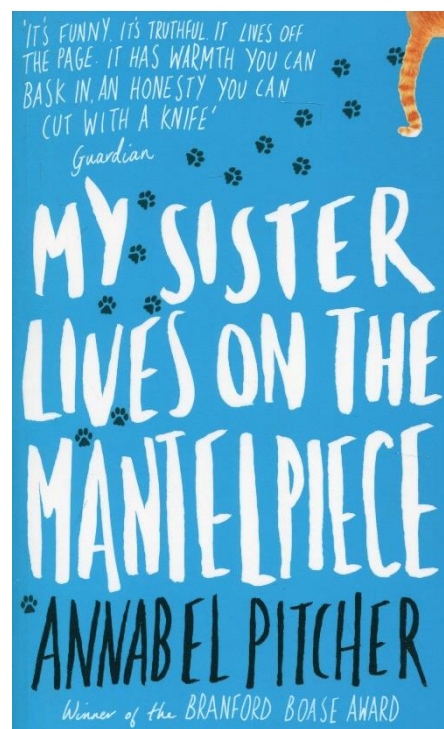
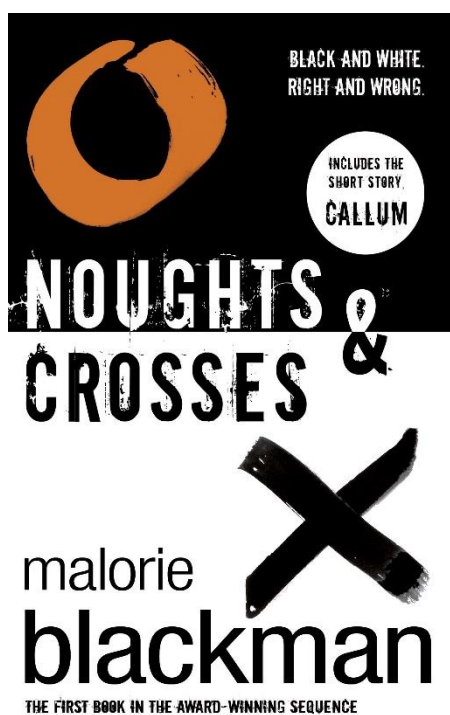
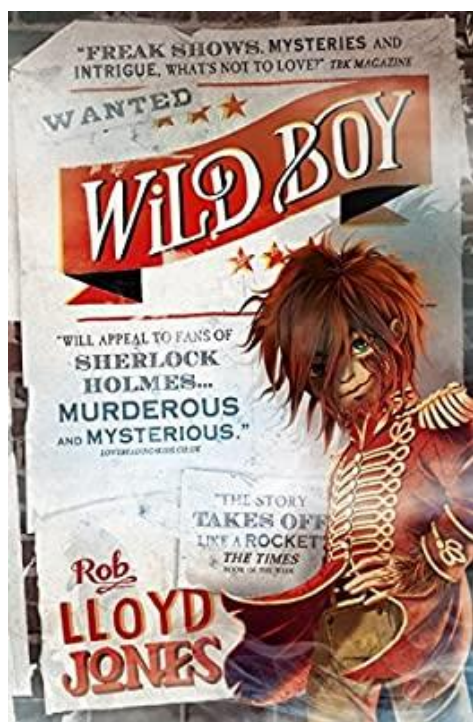
Our students have started the year with impressive force as they have quickly immersed themselves in new texts. They will be focusing on character and plot development; the importance of narrative structure; and the writers' use of vivid and descriptive language for effect. Happy reading to all our students!

Below is a brief summary of the texts they are studying this term.

Year 7 have started reading a Victorian adventure called '**Wild Boy**' by Rob Lloyd Jones. The story follows a boy covered in hair, raised as a monster, condemned to life in a travelling freak show. A boy with an extraordinary power of observation and detection. A boy accused of a crime, on the run and hungry for the truth. But can he prove his innocence?

Year 8 are absorbed in '**My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece**' by Annabel Pitcher which follows Jamie and his emotional rollercoaster. With surprising friendships and cunning plans, Jamie and Jas muddle through in the way that only children can. A book that perfectly captures the world and its confusing issues from a child's point of view.

Year 9 are exploring the exciting links between 'Romeo and Juliet' and the modern adaption 'Noughts and Crosses' which focuses on the controversial love story of Sephy and Callum. Set in a dystopian future they are front opposing worlds, but can their love overcome the prejudiced world they live in?



Congratulations to Kamran O – our published writer!



Kamran, Year 11, recently got shortlisted for an RET writing competition. The competition included four other schools and entries from every year group. It focused on the theme of 'Belonging' and encouraged writing for pleasure. It has recently been announced that his short story will be published and shared widely! We are very proud. Please have a read of the opening from his acclaimed story titled *Boy*.

"Boy!" shouted the director in a militant tone. Overwrought, I ran down the narrow hallways, passed the frayed walls, over the crinkled crisp packets and crushed cans; nervous yet slightly curious. I opened the director's door and I was confronted by a tall dark man in his mid-thirties and a young woman, who had a welcoming and warming smile on her face. Quickly, I brushed the cinder and ash from my hands as I seated myself down on one of the visitor chairs. Overwhelmed by a wave of excited emotions, I cheekily let out a smirk, along with a faint giggle like a Cheshire cat, however I judged from the directors' sombre look, he didn't like that, not one bit. His stern eyes commanded me to present myself in a respectful and honourable manner, like the gentlemen in black tuxedos and charming top hats that we see on our obsolete, black and white televisions on Sunday nights.

Our GCSE students – massive well done!

The English department have been so impressed with how Year 10 and Year 11 have started the GCSE course. The links below will be helpful in supporting students in their home learning:

An Inspector Calls - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zcxywxs/revision/1>
Romeo and Juliet - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zpkmbk7/revision/1>
Edexcel English Language - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zgvg6fr>

Anti-Bullying



Students can report bullying by telling any adult in the school, however we always recommend that in the first instance they aim to tell their Form Tutor or Head of Year. They can approach and speak with any adult in the school though. Parents can also report bullying and we encourage this to happen. Again, we would always recommend contacting your child's Form Tutor or Head of Year via the school's website. We can help parents with sorting out concerns.. Whenever a Form Teacher, Head of Year or indeed any adult is told about bullying in the school we work with both parties to ensure it does not happen again. Depending on the severity we make mediate between both parties or put in a consequence up to and including exclusion.

The Big Assembly

We, like all good schools, are aware that bullying can arise in some forms in our community and are always tenacious about stopping this quickly should it arise. In Form Time this week, all students took part in 'The Big Assembly' where they took part in a national anti-bullying campaign ran by The Diana Foundation. It was a though provoking and important assembly on the importance of kindness which is central to everything we do.

If you do have any issues with bullying or need to raise any concerns then in the first instance please speak with your child's form tutor who can help or pass these concerns on to the appropriate person.



Classcharts Survey

Many thanks to all our parents who completed our ClassCharts survey. We are heartened that so many parents appreciate the way in which we are communicating recognition points, behaviour concerns, homework, attendance and detentions through this method.

We are in the process of compiling a response but all of your comments have been very much appreciated.

Students and Sports Council



This year we are developing our student voice through our students and sports council. Many thanks to all students who wanted to take part with this. It is testament to the leadership we have in the school that so many young people put themselves forward.

We are very close to finalising our two parallel councils, when they do meet this half-term they will have some very important roles to play in school.

Role of the Student and Sports Council within the School Community

- To create a positive school atmosphere of mutual respect between staff and students
- Developing and maintaining the participation of students in the life of our school
- Helping students to develop important life skills such as project management, time management and leadership skills
- Represent the views of the students we represent to our school's Senior Leadership Team, governors and teachers
- Raising awareness among students of prevalent issues in society, including health, financial and environmental issues
- Establishing links with the local community through our fundraising projects

Meet the Tutor

It has been an incredibly exciting and busy start to the new academic year. We have been so excited to meet our new Year 7 students and welcoming them as part of our community. Although it's only been a few weeks we are proud of how they have started their secondary school careers and we are looking forward to working with all of them over the next seven years.



The last six months have been strange for everyone and typically we would have liked to induct students into school more formally, this year he held our Meet The Tutor evening virtually. Parents had the chance to hear their child's form tutor speak about our values and what was done in form. Where, sadly the technology failed us, we produced a short video so all families could Meet their child's Tutor

Litter Pickers

We are always so proud of our school and out school building and want to thank our many volunteers at lunch and break who support us keeping our site clean and litter free. A big thank you to these students!

