



Headteacher's Update

22 January 2021

Key Messages

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for all your kind messages of support for our school and for all that you are doing at home to ensure that your children are ready and engaging with their remote learning. I have asked Teachers to begin collecting data on the quality of student engagement with their remote lessons and I will write to you next week to let you know how we will share this information with you.

As an example of the huge difference one person can make, I wanted to return to our inspirational Year 7 student Antonia B. Please click [here](#) to see and celebrate in the continued happiness Antonia brings to her family and all those around her. Antonia's story has been also been reported on page 14 of the [Greek Press](#).

As Albert Schweitzer said, ***'Happiness is the only thing that multiplies when you share it.'***

A reminder that this is the last week of our Big Give appeal where we are fundraising to ensure that all of our children have their own reading book. I have attached a St Andrew the Apostle Greek Orthodox School reading list for KS3, KS4 and KS5 for recommended reads. Please click [here](#) to donate to our Big Give appeal so that all of our children may enjoy the privilege of reading.

Many parents and carers of Year 11 and Year 13 students are anxiously awaiting further news about how grades will be awarded this summer. I will write to you as soon as we have more information. In the interim, the Department for Education have launched a consultation that is open to all stakeholders. I would actively encourage you to [click here](#) to access and complete the feedback form after reading [the consultation document](#).

I am pleased to announce that the National Free School meal voucher system has been launched. Ten retailers have signed up to the Edenred scheme: Aldi, Sainsbury's, Tesco, Asda, Morrison's, Iceland, the Company Shop Group, Waitrose, McColls and M&S. Please click [here](#) to find out more about the scheme to add £5 per week for each £15 lunch voucher redeemed at M&S.

May I ask you to let us know if your home address, email address or mobile number has changed. Also, please ensure that we have at least two emergency contact numbers. We will always flag an event as a safeguarding concern in the rare event that we are repeatedly unable to get through to parents/carers by phone. Thank you for continuing to let us know if your child is unwell or has a medical appointment and is therefore unable to attend online remote lessons.

Coming soon: I will be writing to you to a request a donation of an inexpensive icon in good condition so that when our students return to school, they will see an icon in every single classroom on display on a specially made iconostasis created by our Art and DT technician Mr S Myles. This is one way that we will celebrate our unique ethos and provide a spiritual and reflective space for all students.

In last week's newsletter we congratulated our valued and dedicated Governor His Eminence Bishop Athanasios on being elected Metropolitan of Colonia. Please [click here](#) if you would like to read more about this in the Greek Press. Please [click here](#) to read about this great honour in English on page 23.



At St Andrew the Apostle Greek Orthodox School, we are inclusive and respectful toward each other whether we are of Greek Orthodox faith; have a different faith or do not have a faith background at all. Our ethos of kindness and our school motto of 'Ever to Excel' binds us and holds us as a strong and successful community.



Mrs I Warwick (Headteacher)

Thought for the day

Reflecting on our school value and theme for this week – Fairness and the value of every person no matter who are they are; - it struck me that we have come a long way toward religious tolerance internationally, and we have a good example in this country. We are truly blessed that here in the UK we have the freedom of all religions.

"Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven." (Luke 6:37)

Mr M Vassiliou (Senior Deputy Headteacher)

Messages from the Heads of Year

All students mentioned in the weekly Newsletter will receive 10 recognition points awarded by their form tutor.

Year 7: Arisha S (7O) Arisha has shown dedication, maturity, and excellent attitude to learning. Well - done, Arisha! **Stavros S (7P)** Stavros has been working very hard since the start of the new term. His effort and dedication have been recognised by his teachers in all aspects, particularly in French. Well - done, Stavros!

Year 8: Luchy H (8S) Luchy has shown outstanding participation in all online lessons. **Marko M (8M)** Marko has done excellent work in Geography during remote learning.

Year 9: Sherry B (9H) Sherry has shown thoughtful and intelligent contribution during form time. **Luca I (9O)** Luca has displayed exceptional effort in science since remote teaching began.

Year 10: Alegra L (10A) and Scott L (10I) These students have made an outstanding contribution in English.

Year 11: Nicholas G (Y11 History) Nicholas has made a commendable effort in both classwork and has submitted outstanding pieces of homework. **Alicea W (11L)** Alicea is a top achiever in all lessons.

Year 12: Mashal S (12O) Mashal has demonstrated consistently high engagement in English lessons. She has participated fully in remote lessons and shown excellent independent learning skills. **Hani R (12A)** Hani has an excellent attitude to remote learning. He is prepared and ready for each lesson making valuable contributions to class discussion and analysis of the text.

Year 13: Andreas G (13O) and Nico S (13O) These students have prepared and presented a really informative PowerPoint on Martin Luther King, Jr.

Please do let us know of any accolades your child has achieved by emailing their Head of Year so we may celebrate them in future newsletters.



Competition Zone

History Competition:

Construct your very own model **monastery** or **castle**! Both buildings were brought to England by William the Conqueror in 1066 and many are still standing today. Please use cardboard, wood, paper and paints (or any other material you can find) to construct your monastery/castle. The size of your model does not matter, but please be mindful that the bigger the model, the less sturdy the structure will be. [Click here](#) for inspiration on castle models and [Click here](#) for model monastery inspiration.

Please obtain your Parent/ Carers permission to send us a picture of you standing next to your castle/monastery so we can judge the best one.

Classics Competition:

Make your own **Roman mosaic**! Mosaics were beautiful images constructed on the floors and walls of the homes of rich Romans, including many that lived in Britain. These images were made up of lots of tiny stones put together. As the focus is Ancient Rome, produce a picture that relates to that civilisation. Some examples would be: a mosaic of Roman god, a temple or mythical creature. Please use cardboard, paints, wood or anything else you can find to help you make your mosaic. Follow the links to see some examples: [Click here](#) for mosaic inspiration and [Click here](#) for roman mosaic gods inspiration.

Please obtain your Parent/ Carers permission to send us a picture of you standing next to your mosaic so we can judge the best one!

Entries for the History and Classics competitions must be emailed to admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk and marked for the attention of Mr O Walch. Entries must be received by Monday 8 February 2021.

PE Competition:

Challenge Description: You must run 1 mile as fast as possible. The PE department will keep a record of individual times.

Adapt for Space and Equipment: You can run outdoors in a suitable public space or run around your living room or garden. You can use a running app or watch to track your time and distance.

Adapt for Ability and Inclusivity: Go at whatever pace suits you. You can run, walk, jog or stroll. If you are unable to complete 1 mile you can shorten the distance or complete 1 mile in several attempts throughout the week.

Coaching Tips: Warm up before you start running. Make sure you're wearing comfortable shoes and suitable clothing. Plot your route before you begin. Keep a steady pace. Follow social distancing guidelines if running in public.

Benefits of the Challenge: This is a great boost for your mental health, improves your cardio and builds endurance. You can have as many attempts as you like.

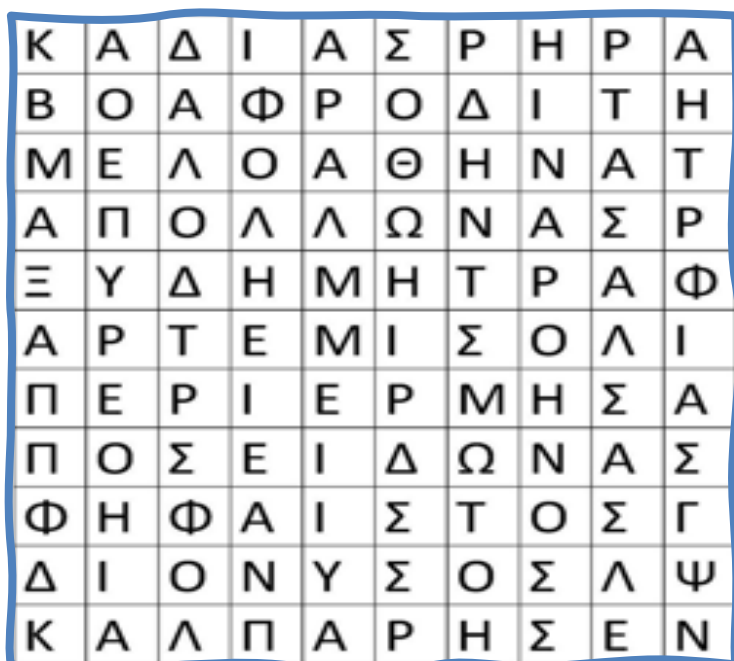
Entries for the PE competition must be emailed to admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk and marked for the attention of Mr R. Browell. Entries must be received by Monday 8 February 2021.

Prizes and rewards on offer for the quickest 3 placed boys and girls in each year group and for those who have shown great effort and determination.

Greek Competition:

Do you know any of the Ancient Greek Gods? Read the names of the Ancient Greek Gods in Greek and attempt the wordsearch! Entries for the Greek competition must be emailed to admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk and marked for the attention of Ms C Galazoula. Entries must be received by Monday 8 February 2021!

ANCIENT GREEK GODS



Speakers for Schools

Click [here](#) to view free inspirational broadcasts from a wide variety of speakers from the world of work. There has never been a more important time to think widely about possible careers in our ever-changing world. Write to us at admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk to tell us about your ambition for your future career. Please mark this for the attention of Mrs I. Warwick (Headteacher)

Additional information

Please click [here](#) to access last week's newsletter to see the exciting competitions we have on offer. The deadline has passed for the English competition but you may still enter the maths and science competitions as long as we receive these by **Monday 1 February**.

Please remember to include your full name, year group, form, school and contact details for your Parents or Carers.

Year 5 and Year 6 winners will be entered into a prize-draw competition and winning students will receive a certificate and a great prize!

Help for Parents and Carers

I am looking forward to holding a **'Meet with the Head'** Parent focus group meeting commencing in the week beginning on **Wednesday 3 February 2021** from 5pm until 6pm.

Please email us at admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk and we will send you an invitation to join this group on MS Teams.

Items for discussion this term are: *Help with remote learning; Student and Parent wellbeing; Overuse of mobile phones; Healthy living during lockdown; Exercising at home with our children, Fundraising through Parent events e.g. Quiz night.*

Please click [here](#) to send a free **'Thank you'** to a member of staff postcard. Anyone can send a card all year round. The *Thank a Teacher* campaign recognises ALL staff working in UK schools and colleges; school leaders, teachers, teaching assistants, and all support staff such as office staff, technicians, lunchtime supervisors and caretakers.

For up-to-date information from the Department for Education, please [click here](#).

Headteacher Parent Surgery

If you would like to meet with the Headteacher or a Senior Deputy Headteacher at our new weekly Parent and Carer surgery, please email admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk

This will take place every Friday from 5pm until 6pm and has already started. The time allocated for appointments will be 15 minutes in the first instance. Please send your request for an appointment in by 10am every Wednesday so that we may send you confirmation in good time. All appointments will take place via Microsoft Teams during current restrictions.

Lateral flow testing in schools update

Public Health England and NHS Test and Trace released a [joint position statement](#). This sets out their recommendation that the rollout of daily contact testing in schools should be paused, other than for schools involved in further evaluation. The statement encourages schools, however, to continue to test staff regularly (twice weekly where possible, in line with recommendations for other workforces that need to leave the home to work) and to test pupils twice on return to school.

Covid-19 Education & Skills Support to Parents

[BPSI support pages for schools and parents for home learning](#)

[Barnet Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)

Discover your Library



Resources to Support Home Learning

Important message from Barnet Library information

Books to support learning from home can be ordered using the [Select and Collect](#) Service.

Families who are unable to collect resources from a library may be eligible for delivery from the [Home Library Service](#). Please call 0208 359 3901 to speak to staff at the Home Library service.

You can access [online encyclopaedias](#) and other homework resources and if you need help with homework you can also contact our [Library Information Enquiries Service](#)

Large collections of children's eBooks are available on our [Overdrive eBook](#) platform and eAudiobooks from [BorrowBox](#).

Comics including publications by Disney and Marvel are also available from [RB Digital](#)

Our [online events programme](#) on YouTube includes rhyme times and storytimes, children's craft activities, games and puzzles.

Children can learn basic coding skills at our first STEM Club activity for children aged 8+, [Micro:bit Coding and Emotions Badge Activity](#). Children can borrow a micro:bit via our Select and Collect service or create an emotions badge on a computer or device at home.

For families researching family history our [Ancestry Online](#) service can be extremely helpful.

If you aren't already a library member, you can [join online](#). This will enable you to use all [Barnet library](#) services.

Don't forget to check out the [Oak Academy](#) resources. They are great!

Attendance to school during remote learning

In what has been a challenging time for families in our community, we at St Andrew the Apostle Greek Orthodox School have been continually proud of the resilience our young people have shown and their tenacity to keep on learning whatever the situation may be. This has been particularly reflected in our student's attendance to remote learning. Over 95% of our students have attended all online lessons and the levels of focus and engagement are very pleasing. We are working closely to support all students and their families to ensure that 100% of our school community are learning and thriving together.

This is due in no small part to the support that parents have provided their children and in turn our school. Thank you for this.

The easiest way that parents and carers can track and monitor their child's attendance to online lessons is through the parent [ClassCharts app](#) where you can see not only your child's attendance to each lesson, but also monitor the homework they are set and the number of recognition points your child receives. If you do not know your log in code, please contact your child's form tutor via admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk. Please remember to state your child's full name, their year group and form so that we may assist you as quickly as possible.

We also appreciate that students may not be able to attend remote lessons for a variety of reasons, such as illness or a medical appointment. If this is the case, then you could contact the Attendance Officer by calling the school directly or report the absence by using our link to [Study bugs](#). If your child is unable to attend school for a medical reason, then medical evidence must be emailed to attendance@standrewtheapostle.org.uk

Mr C Martin (Assistant Headteacher)

Important dates for the calendar**Thursday 28th January 2021**

Deadline for Year 9 Option choices

Thursday 4th February 2021

Year 8 Parent/Carer Evening (Virtual)

Thursday 25th February 2021

Year 10 Parent/Carer Evening (Virtual)

Thursday 11th March 2021

Year 7 Parent/Carer Evening (Virtual)