



# Headteacher's Update

29 January 2021

## Key Messages

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for all your continued support in what has been another busy and successful week. I am pleased to let you know that Year 11 students have now collected all of their books and additional resources prepared by their teachers. Now both the Year 11 and Year 13 students have all that they need to continue learning and making progress while we await further information from the DfE about how assessment will take place this summer for these year groups.

If there are any families who would like help to access resources which are necessary for learning, please let your child's Head of Year know. We would be pleased to help you in any way we can.

I was delighted to meet with Year 11 students and their families on MS Teams this week to discuss sixth form application, subject choices and our plans for our growing sixth form from September 2021. Parents, carers and students commented on the strength of our provision and the main reasons for their application to our school were: trust and belief that we know all of our students and would support them to excel; subject specialists who are experts in their field; favourable class sizes; a safe site where all students could study without interruption or distraction; excellent history of results with all of our students progressing to their next stage of education or employment successfully.

These 1:1 appointments with students, their parents or carers, the Head of Year and members of the Senior Leadership Team have been a great success and will conclude next week. We are looking forward to a full, thriving and happy sixth form. **Ms J Fourcade (Assistant Headteacher, Head of Sixth form)** will be sending offer letters out to our students who receive a priority place in the coming weeks.

This is the final week for us to collect data on the quality of student engagement in their remote lessons. We have a variety of strategies to support the small number of students who are not consistently meeting our expectations. The Pastoral team will contact home to inform students and their families of these additional supportive measures. We are proud that almost all of our students have attended every single lesson and consistently engaged to the best of their ability. We will be rewarding our students who follow the St Andrew the Apostle School way and do the right thing every day.

I wanted to remind you about the timings of the day as below. This is particularly important as our new procedures mean that students will be held in a 'waiting room' until they are admitted by their teacher. It is advisable that students are ready in advance of their lesson where possible so that there is no loss of valuable learning time.

### Reminder of the timings of the day

8:30-8:55am - Form Time
8:55-9:45am - Period 1
9:45-10:35am - Period 2
10:50-11:40am - Period 3
11:40-12:30pm - Period 4
1:20-2:10pm - Period 5
2:10-3:00pm - Period 6
3:10-3:50pm - Intervention (Year 11 & Year 13)

Please [click here](#) to see our new look website and [here](#) to access the curriculum for all year groups. I would be pleased to receive your feedback on the website and to hear suggestions about how we can further improve our communication with you.

**Mrs I Warwick (Headteacher)**



**STA Appeal**

Do you have any inexpensive icons that you could donate to our school? Please see below for an image of an iconostasis that we are making in school for each one of our classrooms.



All that remains is for us to add an icon. We have already received donations of 11 icons. If you can help, please email us at [admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk](mailto:admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk) and we will let you know how we will collect your donation in a COVID safe manner. Thank you for your help and support in this exciting initiative

**Thought for the day: Prayer from Fr John**

*O Lord my God, who love me so faithfully, bless each step I take this day.*

*May my mind be full of Your truth and my mouth boldly speak Your praises.*

*Enable me to stand as a light in my school.*

*Keep me from the temptation of peer pressure that would lead me in a direction contrary to Your will.*

*Allow me to live a godly life balanced with grace and compassion, both in front of my peers and when no-one is looking.*

*Help me to avoid fruitless arguments or any kind of dispute.*

*Direct me in all my dealings with peers and teachers to be honest, trustworthy and hardworking.*

*Keep me from any word or deed harmful to my soul and hurtful to others.*

*In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

*Amen.*

**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: Jana B (7P)** - for outstanding work and brilliant effort across all subjects, especially French, Classics and PE. Congratulations, Jana! **Dylan M (7E)** - for outstanding work in History, Classics and French. Well-done, Dylan!

**Year 8: Joe P (8S)** - has shown outstanding effort in Science with Mrs Begum! **Athena L (8A)** - has successfully reached 50 recognition points, despite working remotely! An incredible effort in Science particularly this week.

**Year 9: Gabriella B (9E)** - For producing exceptional work in Drama, Science and Classics. **Harry P (9O)** - For achieving 40 recognition points and producing outstanding work in all subjects.

**Year 10: Deniz H (10T)** and **Toni R (10A)** - outstanding contribution in form.

**Year 11: Samuel M (11O)** - was excellent in the participation/contribution in PSHE on topics covering mental wellbeing and mindfulness. **Se O (11S)** - Se is a top achiever this week.

**Year 12: Thomas F (12O)** and **Melody S (12O)** - these students have shown excellent preparation, knowledge and delivery of a presentation on stem cells in A level Biology.

**Year 13: Jason D (13O)** - for his interest and participation in daily articles and class debates. **Katerina D (13A)** - for her resilience and dedication to her UCAS application.

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

**LET'S EAT GRANDMA.  
LET'S EAT, GRANDMA.**  
COMMAS SAVE LIVES

Have a look at the Literacy fact about **BRACKETS** below and send in an example of a creative sentence showing that you understand how to use these rules correctly.

**BRACKETS**

Brackets, commas and dashes can all be used to separate extra pieces of information from the main body of the sentence. Brackets are used to bring something extra into a sentence. The extra something can be an explanation, an interruption, or something that occurred to the narrator as an afterthought. Sarah and Jodie (the twins) have just learnt ballet.

Send in your entries to

[admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk](mailto:admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk) by Monday 8 February 2021 and mark it for the attention of **Mr C Martin (Assistant Headteacher)**

**WEEKLY BRAIN WORKOUT**

A car has travelled 50 miles at a speed of 30mph. It started its journey with 8 gallons of fuel but its tank has been leaking throughout the journey and is now dry. The car completes 30 miles per gallon. How many gallons of fuel does it leak per hour?

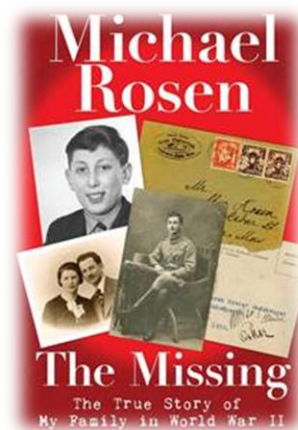
Send in your entries to

[admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk](mailto:admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk) by Monday 8 February 2021 and mark it for the attention of **Miss B Sirlan (Office Administrator)**

Please have a look at the attached KS3 recommended reads from the English department. As said by Harry S Truman ***"Not all readers become leaders but all leaders are readers!"***

**Children's Writing  
Competition in association  
with Michael Rosen and  
Walker Books UK**

This is a fantastic writing competition for children and teenagers in association with Michael Rosen and Walker Books UK.



'The Missing' by Michael Rosen is the true story of Michael's search for his relatives who 'went missing' during the Second World War. When Michael was growing up, stories often hung in the air about his great-uncles; one was a clock-mender and the other a dentist. "They were there before the war", his dad would say, "and weren't after".

For many years, Michael tried to find out exactly what happened; he interviewed family members, scoured the internet, pored over books and travelled to America and France. The story he uncovered was one of terrible persecution of his relatives in the Holocaust.

**The Competition**

Write a story in no more than 500 words about one of your family relatives/ancestors that you have discovered. Competition opens on Monday 1.2.21 and closes on Sunday 28 February 2021.

**Prize**

From our best 10 entries, Michael Rosen will select the winning 5. The 5 winners will each receive a copy of Michael's book, 'The Missing'.

Please [click here](#) for details of how to submit your entry and also for the competition rules.





Russell Education Trust (RET) Creative writing competition 2021

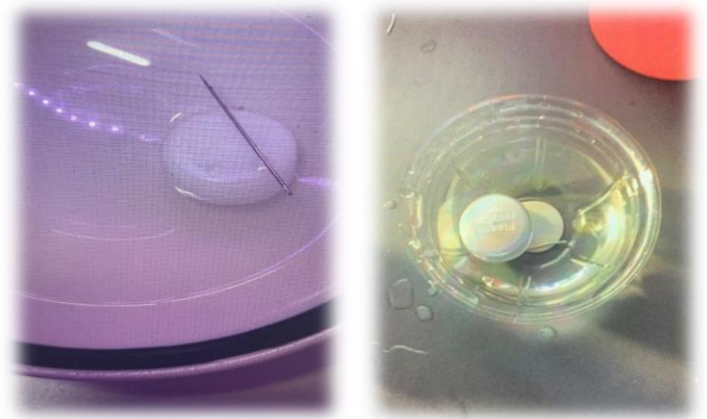
**RET** CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION 2021

Entries of prose or poetry on the theme of: **Change**

Celebrate your writing with the four other schools in the Trust.

The theme this year is **Change**  
Interpret that as you choose!

- Word limit: 1000 words
- Entries submitted to your teacher by 31<sup>st</sup> March.
- Two winners will be selected from each category: KS3, KS4 and Sixth Form.
- All winning entries will be published in a book.
- Win an author visit for your school!



This competition is only open to current students in St Andrew the Apostle School. Celebrate your writing with the four other schools in the Trust. Entries of prose or poetry on the theme of 'Change.' Word limit is 1000 words and entries must be submitted to your English teacher via [admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk](mailto:admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk) by **31 March 2021**. All winning entries will be published in a book and you may win an author visit to our school.

### Student Work Gallery: Science

Have a look at some examples of excellent work produced by students in **Ms R Begum's** Science class. They made compasses using materials they already have at home.



Ms Begum said "The students kept trying until they had mastered it." This is a wonderful example of our school motto in action 'Ever to Excel'.

### English Competition Entries

#### Crime still UNSOLVED. Who will be next?

I was in the crime scene alone. The room shuddered as if it were affected by the blistering cold. I looked around but no clues were present. The room was bare apart from a small pink and blue box, almost empty of the chocolates that it contained. The victim was...had been a wealthy man. Many had died over the last few months and all the murderer left was a box of chocolates. More and more noblemen died every week. I was beginning to suspect a gang. The question was, who was next? - **Spyridoula L 7E**

The woman sat in the bar, her hands resting on her lap. She averted her gaze from the figure staring from the opposite end of the room. He wore a trench coat and was draped in a cape which fell to his knees. Standing at a freakishly tall stature, he bent down to her height. Margaret's blood froze. Aghast, she took a step back. Her hands came together in incredulity, as she began to mumble desperate prayers. "It's been thirty years Margaret..." A horrendous laugh erupted from his stomach. "It's been a real long time, don't you think my dear?" - **Theo C 11E**

### Additional information about our competitions

Please click [here](#) to access last week's newsletters to see the exciting competitions we have on offer. There is still plenty of time to enter so be creative and send us your entry!

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!

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### 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](mailto:admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk) to tell us about your ambitions for your future career. Please mark your email for the attention of **Mrs I Warwick (Headteacher)**.



### Help for Parents and Carers

- [Article](#) from the Prince's Trust on mental health in young people
- [Kooth](#) - a good source of independent counselling for students
- Importance of sleep [Anna Freud](#) National Centre for Children and Families and [NHS](#) article on how to get to sleep
- [Click here](#) to access a directory of support for families in Barnet to cover this challenging winter 2020-2021

[Click here](#) to access information about how to apply for a Crisis Fund grant. Following the COVID-19 outbreak, a temporary change has been made to the qualifying criteria for Crisis Fund grants to support those most affected. Until 31 March 2021, you can now apply for a Crisis Fund payment if you are:

- a Barnet resident
- over the age of 16
- facing financial hardship.

Barnet's Crisis Fund can also help residents who are working but on a low income and people who have a pending Council Tax support or Housing benefit claim. Please Telephone: 020 8359 4242 for more information. Phone lines are open from 9am to 5pm

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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](#).

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### Resources for Parents/Carers

Please [click here](#) to find useful ways in which you can motivate your children to stay active throughout lockdown, as well as a new section on healthy eating. There will be updates each week with the latest resources released.

**Free Training: Using Zoom to Support Effective Remote Engagement with Parents/Carers:** This training is delivered by Health Education Partnership and supports the Healthy Schools and Healthy Early Years programmes in Barnet.

- Date: Thursday 4 February 2021
- Format: Online via Zoom at 3.45pm until 5pm

This 75 minute interactive course will take you through the various tools within Zoom using practical examples to help build your confidence.

The training will focus on:

- Introducing the main functions of Zoom
- Attendees will practice using the various tools
- Practical examples of how the platform can be used with parents and carers

[Click here](#) to book a place

## Headteacher Parent Surgery

### Meet the Head

If you would like a 1:1 meeting with the Headteacher or a Senior Deputy Headteacher at our new weekly Parent and Carer surgery, please email [admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk](mailto:admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk) with details of your child's full name, form class and a brief explanation on your reason for your meeting (unless confidential).

This will take place every **Friday from 5pm until 6pm**. 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 allocate an appointment and send you confirmation in good time. All appointments will take place via **Microsoft Teams** during current restrictions



### Parent Focus Group

Parent focus group meeting will commence on **Wednesday 3 February 2021 from 5pm until 6pm**, every week. If you would like to attend, please email us at [admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk](mailto: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.*

### Friends of St Andrew the Apostle School

Would you be interested in working with a small and dedicated group of interested parents and carers in our Friends of St Andrew group (FOSA) If so, we would love to hear from you. Please can you email [admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk](mailto:admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk) and mark your email for the attention of Mr M Vassiliou.

We will reply to you with a link to a preliminary meeting where we will discuss what is involved and outline some of the ways we may work together to help our school. Thank you in advance for your support and sending very best wishes to you and your families.

### Mr M Vassiliou (Senior Deputy Headteacher)

### Important dates for the calendar

To access important dates and events please [click here](#) for the St Andrew the Apostle School calendar.

### Covid-19 updates

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

[Barnet Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)

**Note:** Earliest school reopening date is **8 March 2021**.