



# Headteacher's Update

08 February 2021

## Key Messages

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your continued support of our school and for ensuring that your children are working so well while learning from home. This high level of engagement means that our students are in a good position with their learning and this will certainly ease their transition when we welcome them back to school for a full return. I will let you know as soon as the Department for Education inform us of the exact date but we know that it will be no sooner than Monday 8 March 2021.

We are all aware that now schools have been closed for five weeks the pressures of lockdown are getting harder to manage. Our students miss those human connections and opportunities to see their friends and teachers. In order to better reach our students, we have enabled cameras to be turned on. We ask students to follow the rules for the dress code; to ensure that their background is suitable and to continue to immediately follow instructions from their teachers during lessons. We want to get the balance right so that excellent learning is always the priority. All students will have an assembly next week on safeguarding and a reminder about our rules and expectations concerning remote learning.

It has been a great pleasure meeting with families in the small group Parent and Carer focus group every Wednesday from 5-6pm and with individual Parents and Carers in the Friday surgery from 5-6pm. As I mentioned last week, I have also spoken with students and their families in the individual '*Year 11 into sixth form*' appointments.

Thank you for letting me know that you are much happier with the learning provision for this period of

remote learning and for your very positive feedback about the online Parents evening system. Please do complete the survey sent to you by Mr M Vassiliou by the deadline of Friday 12 February.

Following our meetings, I am pleased to let you know that we will be contacting you shortly to invite your child to collect their books and other learning materials from school in a COVID secure manner over the coming weeks. We have successfully managed this with Year 11 so we will simply repeat the process with Year 7, Year 8, Year 9 and Year 10. Any sixth form students needing to collect additional resources should contact Ms J Fourcade (Head of Sixth form and Assistant Headteacher) so that we may make the necessary arrangements.

I will also ask teachers to ensure that homework is always signposted on ClassCharts as I know that this will assist you in checking that your child has completed their homework on time.

We will have a staff training day on **Monday 22 February** and there will be no lessons for students on that day. Our focus as a staff will be to share good practice so that we continue to improve our remote learning provision. We will also consider ways that we can reduce the amount of screen time for students; we will organise 5-minute pre-recorded training sessions on our website on topics such as 'How to use Teams'; 'How to use the online Parents evening system' and implement other improvements to help you and your children over the coming weeks.

**Mrs I Warwick**  
**(Headteacher)**



**STA Appeal update**

Thank you for your very generous donations of Icons for our classrooms. We really appreciate it! We are over halfway to reaching our target, so 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: Mr M Vassiliou****Never Lose Hope**

It is worth remembering during our darkest moments of despair that we should have hope for a brighter day. As painful as it seems, we will survive and thrive. Always believe that the rest of your life can be the best of your life. Our greatest hope is that of an eternal heaven with our Lord Jesus Christ.

Gracious God,  
Be gentle with us when we grieve  
protect us from despair,  
and give us grace to persevere  
and face the future with hope  
in Jesus Christ our risen Lord.  
Amen.

**Friends of STA (FOSA)**

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.

**Mr M Vassiliou (Senior Deputy Headteacher)**

**Messages from the Heads of Year**

*Well done!*

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

**Year 7: Tony Y (7O)** for demonstrating excellent levels of engagement across all subject areas; especially in Science. **Katina G (7E)** to recognise her dedication and positive attitude to learning in all subjects, particularly in Humanities, French and Drama.

**Year 8: Christos P (8M)** for excellent effort across the board in remote learning. Outstanding work produced in Science, French and Classics. **Andriana S (8L)** for excellent effort in Science, Art and Drama this week.

**Year 9: Angela M (9H)** for producing outstanding work in her English assessment. **Koni I (9O)** for achieving 40 recognition points and producing excellent work in PE and Classics.

**Year 10: Max S (10A)** and **Isabella O (10A)** for great work and outstanding contributions to all their lessons.

**Year 11: Christina A (11E)** for being a top achiever this week. **Nicholas L (11L)** for excellent effort in PE.

**Year 12: Thomas F (12O)** and **Nicola G (12A)** for their unfailing work ethic and effort in all lessons.

**Year 13: Paul V (13A)** for his outstanding work on anarchism in Politics. **Andria F (13O)** for being a role model and supporting the ethos of the school.

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 Winners

# Congratulations

Congratulations to **Antonio C (8P)** for winning the **Maths Competition!** He will receive a certificate and 10 recognition points. The correct solution was:

126, 162, 216, 261, 612, 621, 134, 143, 314, 341, 413, 431, 223, 232 and 322.

Well done **Isabella (7H)** and **Daniel G (7H)** for winning the **History competition** on your amazing rendition of a castle! They will receive a certificate and 10 recognition points each.



Well done to **Ioannis T (9O)** for winning the **Classics Greek Gods wordsearch competition.** He will receive a certificate and 10 recognition points.



*We are so proud of you*

## Competition Zone

## Royal Academy of Arts: Art competition

You can submit up to three artworks of any type and there is no theme. Your artwork will be seen by the panel of judges and the selected pieces will be shown in an online exhibition. Some of the artworks will also be shown at the Royal Academy of Arts.

Click on [this link](#) to find out more and how to submit your amazing artwork. Please send a copy of your entry to [admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk](mailto:admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk) and mark for the attention of your Art teacher.

## Submission closes

26 April 2021

## Judging

May 2021

## Online and onsite exhibitions opens

11 July 2021



## Reminder: RET English Writing Competition – 1000 WORDS

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!

**Change** - If we look around us, we are surrounded by a whirlpool of rapid change. Whether that be politically around the world, personally, or socially.

The very way that we communicate, learn and function, have all changed and therefore gives us lots of ideas for our new writing challenge.

The English Department are calling all young writers and poets. Your talents are requested for this year's exciting RET writing competition! The competition is designed to promote a love of writing and does not form part of the assessment structure in English. We encourage creative pieces and specify creative prose or poetry. Entry is open to all students, even those in KS5 who no longer study English. There will be two winners from each Key Stage across the Trust. We know we have an array of talented writers at St Andrew the Apostle so we do hope you share your creative flair and enter as soon as you can. We look forward to reading your great works of creative writing. Get writing NOW our budding writers! **Deadline: 31 March.** 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 your English teacher.

Winning entries will provide a good response to one of the 5 themes, and judges will be asking is it original? Is it well-crafted? And (most importantly!) is it excellent RE? You can enter individually, in pairs or groups. All entries must be received before **31 July 2021.**

Hundreds of UK schools get involved every year, and entries come from as far afield as Hong Kong, Australia, Thailand and Bahrain.

Can we become **world champions STA?**

[Download the full Spirited Arts 2021 themes and competition details.](#)

If you have any questions, you may contact [competition@natre.org.uk](mailto:competition@natre.org.uk)

Please send a copy of your entry to [admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk](mailto:admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk) and mark for the attention of your RE teacher.

### Spirited Arts: RE competition



**All students:** Let's get involved in the 2021 competition to celebrate RE! We will join hundreds of schools from around the world taking part in this year's Spirited Arts competition. You can enter using: Art; Poetry; Photography; Dance; Music; Drama; or Sculpture.

### Richard Koch Breakthrough Prize: Economics competition

The Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) was delighted to announce the fourth **Richard Koch Breakthrough Prize.**



The topic of each year's essay question is formulated in conjunction with a prominent British MP, who identifies a policy area which they passionately believe is in need of new ideas. The 2020/21 question was developed in collaboration with Dehenna Davison, Member of Parliament for Bishop Auckland in County Durham, who will also be on the judging panel. First prize is £50,000! **Deadline is 2 March 2021.** [Click here](#) to find out more information about this amazing competition opportunity. Please send a copy of your entry to [admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk](mailto:admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk) and mark for the attention of Mr A Papas.

## Previous 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!

## Student Work Gallery

### Aphrodite

snow piece  
built by  
George and  
Solomon M

[Click here](#) to read an article in the Greek press about how STA students built this sculpture during the last snowfall.



**Ms R Begum's Science project: Electromagnets**  
Martin D (8L)



**Amazing Drama set design work** Feeling very proud of our students! **Ms N Kurland (Lead teacher of Drama)**

My Star Wars Set design: I used the alphabet picture idea to create the Star Wars set of Tatooine. I drew Luke Skywalker's house, another building which could be used as the set for Mos Eisley and lots of yellow and orange waves to show it is a desert. I also made a space scene in the background with the Death Star on it and Tatooine's two moons.

For the characters I have drawn an X- Wing which is dangling from a string and the Millennium Falcon and used my Star Wars figures as the characters of the play.

I found it difficult to get the drawings and waves to stay upright and had to use a lot of cello tape. The set can be changed into a space battle scene or interior of the Death Star by removing the orange scenery and buildings. **Zac W (7E): Evaluation piece**

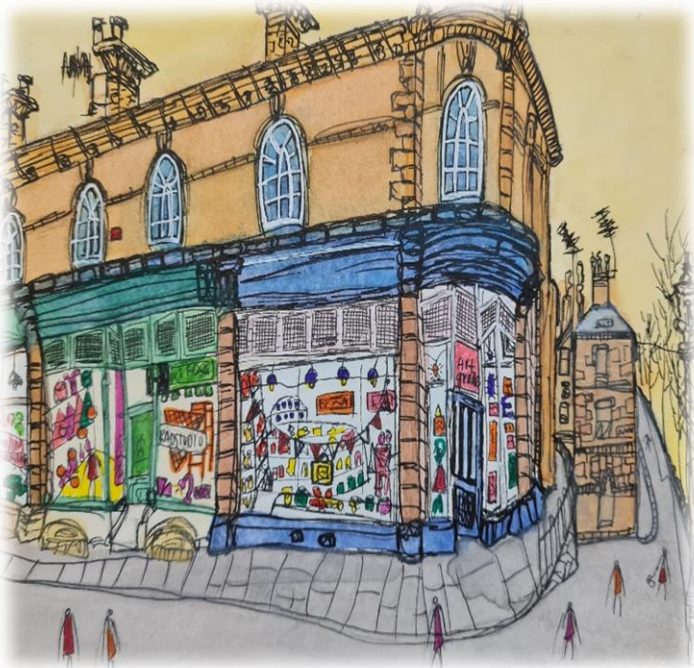


Christos P (8M)

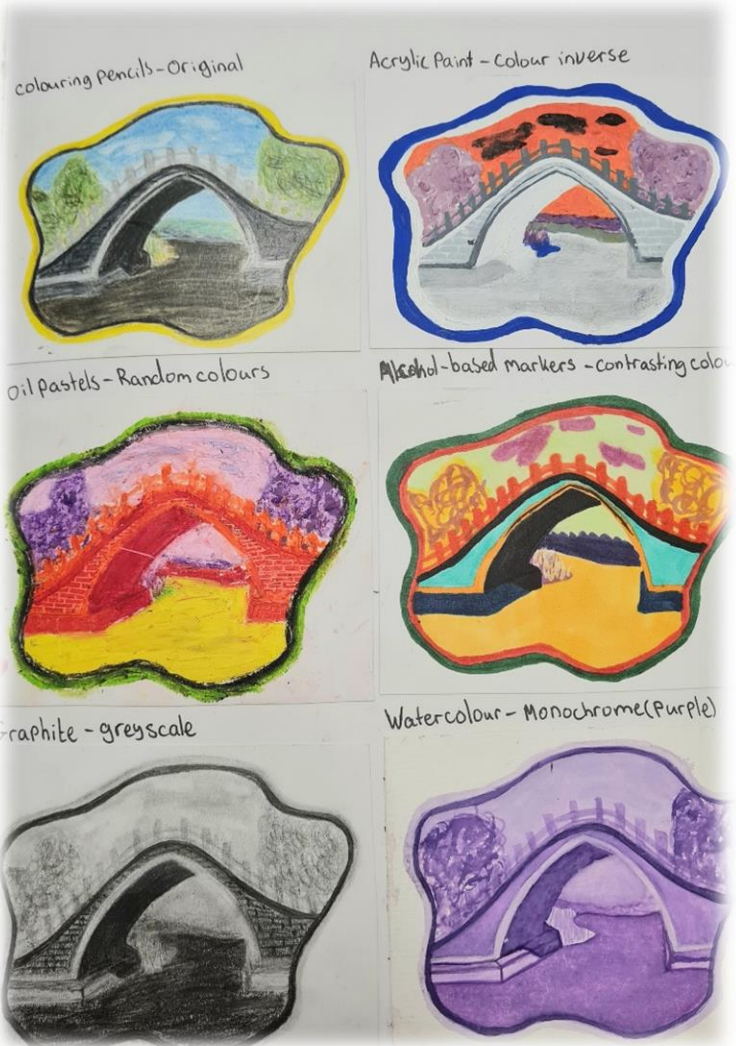


Charles H (7E)

Stunning work from our Year 11 Art students



Eriola K (110)



Lara T (110)



Twyla N (11S)



Lulu K (11S)

## Help for Parents and Carers

Please click [here](#) to send a free 'Thank you' to a member of staff postcard.



Please [click here](#) to view the latest resources from the Oak National Academy which are free of charge and can be used to support your child with remote learning. Year 7, 8 and 9 are known as Key Stage 3. Year 10 and 11 are known as Key Stage 4.

## Information about Apprenticeships



### Virtual Apprenticeship Roadshow

Students in the age group 14-19 are invited to join a Virtual Apprenticeship Roadshow on Wednesday 3 March 2021, 1.30 to 3.30pm. [Please find attached a copy of the Flyer](#). The virtual roadshow will help students learn about a range of apprenticeships in different industries, including engineering, construction, policing, finance and more. There is also a fantastic opportunity for students to ask the experts their questions! Each session will be live and there will be talks from Sophie Alexis from Middlesex University.

If you would like your child to join the roadshow, please contact [sharon.glover@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:sharon.glover@barnet.gov.uk) on 07500 224 909 or [zoreena.daniels@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:zoreena.daniels@barnet.gov.uk) 020 83595213 Or get more information from the website which will be live from 8th February 2021. Please [click here](#) to access.

## Headteacher Parent Surgery

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.

## Headteacher Parent Focus Group

The focus group meeting for parents and carers will continue every **Wednesday 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.*

## Important dates for the calendar

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

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

## Covid-19 updates

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

[Barnet Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)

## Pastoral News

### Safer Internet Day

On Tuesday 9 February we will be marking Safer Internet Day in school. Students will receive an assembly where they will consider both the benefits and the pitfalls of using the internet and the effect this may have on their physical and mental health. On this day students will be asked to reflect on how they can make the internet a safer and kinder place for others.

This is of particular importance now, while young people are spending so much time online. We know just how much parents and carers want to keep their children safe from harm at all times. Please [click here](#) to access 8 tips from the NSPCC on how to keep your child safe during lockdown.

- **Coming soon:** We will be updating our e-safety page on our website and we will be providing advice and guidance to parents and carers on how to keep children and young people safe while they're online. The page will be full of practical advice on how you can monitor, support and converse with young people about their online life.
- **Safeguarding alert:** Please do not allow your child to use an app called Omegle. It allows users to chat randomly with other users via text, audio or video and presents a substantial risk to children. To find out more about this dangerous app please [click here](#).

### Learning about Equality

St Andrew the Apostle School prides itself on being a welcoming place for all people; whatever their background or identity. Last week we explored LGBT themes and our own responsibility in ensuring we live in a community free from discrimination.

Last Tuesday in form time, students listened to the experiences of Stephen Doughty MP, Shadow Africa Minister. Stephen explained the role of an MP in the community and discussed his experience as an openly gay politician and his view that anyone, from any background, should they work hard enough, is able to achieve whatever it is they set their mind to.

### PC Browne

PC Browne is St Andrew the Apostle's Safer School Officer and has started delivering age-appropriate assemblies to students in order to provide them with the information they need to remain safe. PC Browne has delivered assemblies on cyber bullying and the dangers of drugs. Next week he will be speaking with our students of the potential ramifications of sexting and both sending and receiving inappropriate messages.

These are important messages for young people to hear and we thank PC Browne for all the work he does for us.

### Online Attendance and Remote learning

The best and quickest way to track online attendance is through our ClassCharts App. We also ask parents to pay particular attention to this app if students are on report as a way of checking not only their attendance but also to track engagement.

If you need a reminder of the parent code to access ClassCharts, then please do contact your child's form tutor [using our staff contact form](#) and we would be pleased to help you.

**Mr C Martin (Assistant Headteacher)**

