



Headteacher's Update

12 February 2021

Key Messages

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for all your support during this extraordinary start to the Spring term. I have really enjoyed meeting with families during the weekly focus group sessions and during the Friday surgery. Details of how to book a session to meet with me can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

I have started meeting with some of the Year 12 'Early Bird' students. These students are just phenomenal and are applying as follows: Law, at the University of Warwick; Law at University of Cambridge; Computer Science at University of Cambridge; Medicine at Imperial College, University of London; Dentistry at QMUL, University of London.

Could you let us know if you are able to assist our students in securing a work experience placement in the areas above before September 2021. I appreciate that this is so much more difficult during lockdown and that this may be only possible to do virtually.

We will be contacting you before Easter to ask you to complete a survey about your profession. This information will enable us to quickly source a possible work experience placement for a greater number of students.

Please have a look at our careers newsletter on the schools website.

Thank you very much to everyone who filled in the survey about their son or daughter's experiences of remote learning. If you or your child have been unable to give your feedback but would still like to do so, please follow the instructions below. I will extend the deadline to **Tuesday 16 February** before closing off the survey.

[Click here](#) to complete the student survey.

[Click here](#) to complete the parent/carer survey.

Overall, the feedback has been very positive and supportive in terms of helping us to identify how we may continue to improve our provision and support for all of our students.

I will be discussing the responses with the staff on our INSET day on Monday 22 February and I will share a summary report with you in the following week's newsletter. I will of course also share the very kind messages of gratitude from you to our hardworking and dedicated teaching and support staff.

A reminder that there will be no lessons for students on **Monday 22 February** and that school will be closed to all students on that day.

To contact STA out of hours, please email admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk or use the [Staff Contact Form](#) and directly email the corresponding member of staff.

I am pleased to report that today, Year 8 and Year 10 students have successfully collected their books and resources from school. It was lovely seeing them! Year 7 and Year 9 have been invited in to collect their books after half term. The books have been kept in quarantine for the required 72 hours so that they are COVID safe.

There continues to be some uncertainty regarding the exact date for students to return to school and around the arrangements regarding how grades will be calculated and awarded this summer. We expect to hear more information about grading in the week beginning 22 February and we have been told that we will get two weeks' notice before any wider re-opening of schools.

I would advise that we treat the 8 March date for return as tentative rather than definitive at this point. All of the staff are longing for our wonderful students to return to

us safe and sound. Whatever the arrangements, we are ready, prepared and confident. Of course, as soon as I know more, I will write to you in detail.

All that remains is for me to wish you and all the members of your family a very happy and restful half term.

With very best wishes



Mrs I Warwick (Headteacher)



Thought for the day



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 and mark your email for the attention of Mr M Vassiliou.

Mr M Vassiliou (Senior Deputy Headteacher)

STA Appeal: Icons

Iconostasis in each classroom

Thank you for your generous donations of Icons. We almost have enough for every classroom. Please contact us at admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk and we will let you know how we will collect your donation in a COVID safe manner. It was real pleasure seeing our students currently in school doing some Art & Craft as part of our drive to furnish each classroom with a portable/miniature version of an 'Iconostasis' which is commonly found in many Orthodox Christian homes and always to be found at the front of any Orthodox Church. The 'Iconostasis' acts as a focal point for one's private prayers and reflections and generally always features an image of Christ or the Holy Virgin Mary. In addition, an Iconostasis will also hold two or three other icons of saints revered by individual families.

By the time our students return to school, it is our intention to have an iconostasis at the front of every classroom which will also act as a focal point during times of collective worship or other times of quiet reflection.

Stefan S (8M) holds an Iconostasis after he completed the varnishing process. Spyridoulla L (7E) busily varnishing an Iconostasis which will soon adorn each classroom.





Year 10: Nicola M and James R (10S) Outstanding contribution to form time

Year 11: Samuel M (11O) and Sara B (11L) for achieving over 30 Recognition Points in School' this week.

Year 12: Maxim V and Saihan M (12A) For outstanding contribution in Biology lessons

Year 13: Oliver S (13O) for an insightful presentation on 'Anarcho-capitalism' during form time. **Jason D (13O)** for a well-researched presentation on 'What will a Biden administration mean for USA's foreign policy' during form time.

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

Messages from the Heads of Year

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



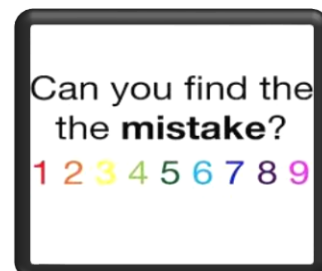
Year 7: Spyridoula L (7E) for her enthusiasm, dedication and positive attitude to learning. Spyridoula has been producing outstanding work across all subject areas. Congratulations, Spyridoula! **Angelo D-P(7H)** for character education. For helping others, demonstrating kindness and caring nature. Angelo has worked very hard this week and this has been recognised by his class teachers. Well-done, Angelo!

Year 8: Martin D (8L) and Vinisha S (8P) for outstanding work and efforts during Science with Mrs Begum!

Year 9: Luciano S (9E) for producing outstanding work in History and Classics. Luciano also received 40 Recognition Points. **Daisy O (9H)** for her excellent contributions to form time discussions and producing high quality work in all subjects.

Competition Zone

BRAINTEASERS



The following quantities of jeans are sold in the colours stated. How many are sold in yellow?

BLACK- 150; BISCUIT- 102; VIOLET- 56; FUCHSIA- 101; YELLOW-?

Wall Ball Challenge

Challenge Description:

How many times can you bounce a ball off a wall using alternate hands in 60 seconds?



Adapt for Space and Equipment: If you don't have a ball try using a pair of rolled up socks, a toilet roll or some

scrunched up paper. If you want to create a target, you could stick a piece of paper to the wall or mark a target with chalk.

Adapt for Ability and Inclusivity: This challenge can be done standing up or sitting down. You can use both hands to throw and catch the ball. You can increase or decrease the size of the ball or try moving closer or further away from the wall.

Coaching Tips: Keep your eyes on the ball and take your time when throwing so you don't lose any accuracy.

Benefits of the Challenge: This challenge will help improve your ball control and hand-eye coordination.

Crossover Basketball Challenge

Challenge

Description: How many crossover dribbles can you do in 60 seconds? A crossover dribble is where you bounce the ball from one hand to the other.



Adapt for Space and Equipment: If you don't have a basketball you can use any other type of ball that bounces.

Adapt for Ability and Inclusivity: You can do this challenge sitting down or standing up. If you are unable to bounce the ball, you can try rolling or passing it from one hand to the other.

Coaching Tips: Keep your hands above the ball. Bounce the ball with the tips of your fingers rather than the palms of your hands and try to keep the ball low.

Benefits of the Challenge: This challenge will help improve your hand-eye coordination and ball control.

Remember to submit your scores by emailing r.browell@standrewtheapostle.org.uk. Prizes and

rewards on offer for the top 3 placed boys and girls in each year group.

Captain Sir Tom Moore (1920 -2021)

**A true inspiration.
Our thoughts are with
his family.**



The STA 100 Club

Inspired by Captain Sir Tom Moore



In April 2020 and in time for his 100th birthday Captain Tom raised £32 million for the NHS by walking the length of his garden 100 times.

In honour of Captain Sir Tom, we invite our school community to join the STA 100 Club!

Some ideas of how to get involved:
5 x 20 minute walks / runs throughout the week
100 laps of your garden or the local park
100 keep – ups with a football
100 press ups or 100 sit ups

Attending school? 100 laps of the football pitch, or 100 times up and down the stairs.

Any activity of your choice, just make sure its 100 repetitions or its for 100 seconds / 100 minutes.

Email submissions or any photos to:
r.browell@standrewtheapostle.org.uk



Competition Entries

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!

Activities for the whole family



Big-Pedal event: Improve your level of fitness and protect the environment by taking part in the Big-pedal event. When we return to school, we will be considering how we can reduce our carbon emissions by using public transport; walking; cycling or car sharing and then using a 'ride and stride' approach to reduce levels of pollution in and around our school. Sustrans Big Pedal, the UK's largest inter-school cycling, walking, wheeling and scooting challenge is back for 2021. This year it takes place **from 19 to 30 April**. Please [click here](#) to find out more details.



Positive Activities February Half Term free online activities are now LIVE and open to book! Try one of our

activities to make new friends, learn something new and have fun over the February Half Term. From Lego, Jazz Dance to How to become a Journalist and Business Battle and lots more. There is lots on offer for young people who live or school in the Borough of Barnet.

[Safe Image Sharing Workshop](#) for 14yrs+

Great opportunities: Highly recommended

Online events for students and parents organised by the University of Cambridge

[Click here](#) to register your interest in a 'Subject matters' event if your child is in Year 10 or Year 11.

[Click here](#) to register your interest in a subject masterclass if you are in Year 12.

Note: These events are virtual during the period of lockdown.



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

IEA Economics

Online Economics 101 course The Institute of Economic Affairs is proud to announce the launch of their online Economics 101 course, available for free on the IEA's YouTube page. The first in a two-part series, the short explainer videos cover everything from basic economic theory to important historical case studies. In a time where thousands of students are not receiving face-to-face instruction, it's important for them to receive unlimited access to educational resources.

The Institute of Economic Affairs

<https://iea.org.uk/events/iea-sixth-form-conferences/>

Improve motivation: Free Webinar



The team at GCSEPod are once again thrilled to be collaborating with Cameron Parker, a renowned motivational speaker for schools and colleges. Through this collaboration we are recommending his free webinars to your students to support them with the issues they face during this latest lockdown. Including practical tips on how to use GCSEPod that Cameron will be incorporating into his sessions. Students can register for the webinars via the links below:

Student Webinar: [Stress to Success – GCSEPod – Tuesday 23 February, 6.00pm to 7.00pm](#)

Student Webinar: [Student Event – GCSEPod – Wednesday 3 March, 5.00pm to 6.00pm](#)

Students can remain anonymous and parents can watch with them as Cameron makes goal setting, coping strategies and building confidence seem easily attainable.

GCSE Pod have worked with Cam Parker to create some fantastic videos which will encapsulate his advice in short bursts! Watch here:

- [Introduction to GCSEPod](#)
- [Motivation](#)
- [Action over Anxiety](#)

Student Work Gallery

Moving on to a new topic in science, students were given a task to be creative with their ideas. Here is a picture celebrating their engagement and enthusiasm in their lesson. Students took time away from their screens and we have some amazing results to celebrate. Some students baked showing how their cookery skills complement their scientific knowledge; Helin K created a piano piece on the Periodic table song and Kieron, Antonio, Luchy, and Vinisha all sang the Periodic table song so beautifully and with great confidence. Well done everyone!

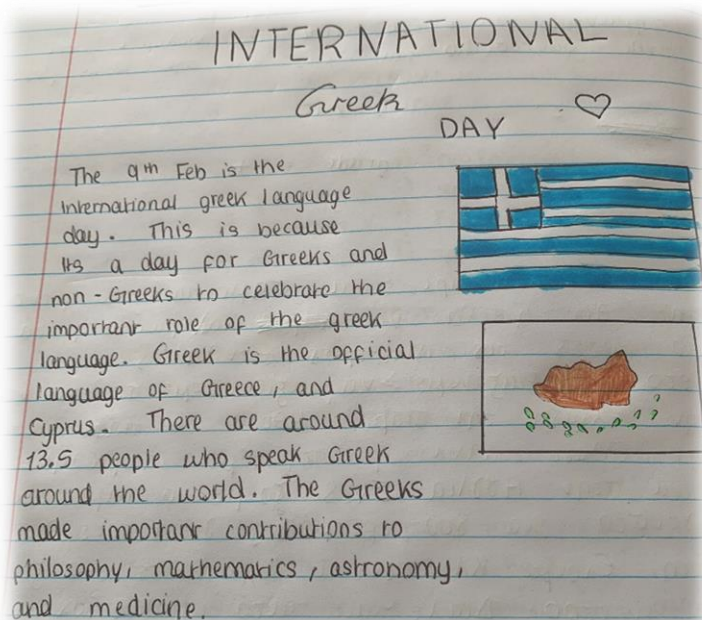
**Ms R Begum (Science teacher)**

This is a calm jar created by Samuel for his PSHE assignment relating to topic on mindfulness. The jar represent our mind when still its clam and when shaken it represents as the emotions such as stress anxiety and depression can have on our mind-set. However the jar will also go back to being calm. This is great analogy.

Ms S Naidu (Head of Year 11)

Some Year 9 students have worked really hard and they have produced amazing posters for the International Day of Greek Language Day. Well done students for your amazing pieces of work!

Ms Galazoula (Teacher of Greek)



International Greek Language day



- It's the language in which many of the foundational texts in literature, philosophy, science, mathematics, astronomy and logic were written. On the 9th February we celebrate the wealth and contribution of the Greek language to the world!
- With the epics of Homer, ancient Greek literature includes many works of lasting importance in the European canon. Greek is also the language in which

many of the foundational texts in science and philosophy are composed.

- Greek is officially spoken in Cyprus and Greece. However, it is spoken almost by the entire population

Cavafy:



Cavafy is widely considered the most distinguished Greek poet of the 20th century. He was born in Alexandria, Egypt, where his Greek parents had settled in the mid-1850s. Cavafy's father was an importer-exporter whose business responsibilities frequently led him to the port city of Liverpool, England.

The most famous poem about Ithaca has been written by the renowned Greek poet Constantine Cavafy and is entitled "Ithaca". There he makes an allusion of the legendary journey of Ulysses to the journey of every man through life and suggests that each person is looking for his own Ithaca, his personal supreme goal.

Greek Language day - 9th February

Greek language day is a day in which we celebrate the importance of the Greek language in our lives and how it shaped our future. This is an initiative to help spread Greek language and culture worldwide. Countless Greek words enrich other languages and can attribute to the international medical terminology in which about 80% of the scientific terms have Greek root e.g. logy (which means the study of...). There have also been estimated that 150,000 words of English are derived from Greek words. That's about 85% of the English Language!

Κιόλας έντεκα εκατομμύρια άνθρωποι μιλούν αυτή τη γλώσσα κάθε μέρα!

Alex A

Headteacher Award

These students will receive a certificate in the post and will receive a special award in the annual St Andrew the Apostle School prize-giving event.

Antonia B: **RESPONSIBILITY**



Our school motto is 'Ever to Excel.' Year 7 student Antonia B took part in Global Radio's 'Make Some Noise Emergency Funding Campaign' and helped to raise a million pounds for small charities across the capital who are supporting vulnerable people at this time.

RESILIENCE

Our school motto is 'Ever to Excel.' Year 11 student Sé T has demonstrated resilience and dedicated a huge level of commitment to rehearsals enabling him to win several world class championships in Irish dancing competitions.



Thank a Teacher

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 a 1:1 meeting with the Headteacher or a Senior Deputy Headteacher at our weekly Parent and Carer surgery, please email 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

Parent focus group meeting will take place every Wednesday **from 5pm until 6pm**, every week. If you would like to attend, 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.*

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**.

Pastoral News

Safer Internet Day

9th February 2021, was [Safer Internet Day](#). This was a good opportunity to remind our students and parents the importance of acting safely and sensibly on the internet, whether on social media, during online 'remote learning', or when using the internet for any other purpose. As ever, key messages are as follows:

- Don't share personal information online.
- Use the internet and social media for positive reasons only. It can be a crime to send abusive messages.
- Never meet someone in person you have only met online.
- Everything is permanent on the internet – your digital 'footprint' lasts forever

With this in mind, we have relaunched our safer internet advice pages on our website. Please [click here](#) to take a look. These pages have a wealth of information surrounding keeping your children safe online.

Uniform

Although we currently are still unsure where we will be returning to school, many families will want to start planning ahead and ensuring students have the correct uniform. You can purchase all these items at Stevensons who are delivering uniform at the moment. If you look on our webpage you will see which shoes are appropriate and acceptable for school.

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.

Cameras

In order to support the engagement at home while we deliver remote learning we have the expectation that students are taught with their cameras on. This allows teachers to check on the quality of engagement in the lessons and for students to make better progress.

We expect students to:

- Join with their cameras turned off and turn them on when instructed to by their teacher.
- Be dressed appropriately, as they might for a non-uniform day.
- Make sure that they turn on the 'blurred background' feature.



Follow our code of conduct at all times:

Be Respectful
Be Responsibility
Be Ready