



# Headteacher's Update

8 March 2021

## Key Messages



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are really looking forward to welcoming Year 12 and 13 back to school on Monday 8 March followed by Year 11 on Tuesday 9 March. A reminder that all lessons for Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 will take place in Building 5 in the week beginning Monday 8 March. All remaining year groups will rejoin us on Monday 15 March at which point we will revert to using both Building 4 and Building 5.

You will be able to access our updated cross-Trust Risk Assessment for the return to school on our website shortly. Our agreed Risk Assessment procedures remain very similar to the procedures from the Autumn term. The key difference being that we are LFD testing students with the relevant consents three times onsite and all staff will be self-testing twice a week at home. Following on from the onsite testing, all students who have the relevant consents will need to test from home. Please [click here](#) for information on how to order LFD test kits to be sent to your home.

Some parents/ carers have asked what our position is on face coverings. In line with Government guidance, we are recommending that staff and students wear a face covering where it is not possible to maintain a 2m social distance with the exception of outdoor activity; indoor PE or when eating in the canteen. This guidance

will be reviewed after the Easter break. Of course, you may indicate that you do not wish for your child to wear a face covering and we will respect your wishes. It may be helpful for you to voluntarily download and print an exemption card for your child/ children to show when staff remind students to wear their face covering. Please [click here](#) to view.

### Message to parents/ carers of Year 11 and Year 13 students:

I have made a brief video explaining how we will assess Year 11 and Year 13 students in order to generate a grade that reflects the ability of our students for summer 2021. You will receive a link to this video by email on Tuesday 9 March. Last week, all Heads of Department across our family of five schools met with Russell Education Trust (RET) subject advisers to agree a cross-Trust approach to assessment. Teachers will spend the next two weeks explaining the procedure that we will adopt in each subject to their students. I will then host a meeting on MS Teams with parents/ carers to answer any further questions you may have about assessment in the week beginning Monday 22 March. In the interim, if you have any pressing worries or concerns, please feel free to make an appointment to meet with me or one of the Senior Deputy Headteachers at my weekly Parent/ Carer surgery which takes place every Friday afternoon from 5pm until 6pm.

Finally, for a really helpful summary about back-to-school arrangements and support mechanisms, please [click here](#) to view an informative brief video.



With very best wishes

**Mrs I Warwick (Headteacher)**

## Thought for the day

**APOKRIES: What does this mean? 'Apokries'** means abstention from meat (apo kreas) because, after that, the period of Easter Lent begins, where there is no meat is consumed for 40 days, this is during the period of Lent.

For those of our school community preparing to mark Lent which involves not only abstention from meat, but also includes all dairy products, we wish them all good strength and courage in the weeks ahead.

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

## Friends of STA (FOSA)

**COMING SOON:** Our first meeting of FOSA. If you would like to join our small group of parents and carers, 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: Ana H (7P)** For the creativity demonstrated in her Geography project, building a model of the earth's layer using household items! **Theo C (7P)** For embracing the school's values, offering to help in the transition process for the new Year 7 cohort. Thanks a lot, Theo!

**Year 8: Hugo P (8L)** For outstanding efforts in English and History this week. **Emily I (8M)** For excellent work produced in History and Geography.

**Year 9: Jack S (9E)** For excellent work and participation in lessons. **Thetoulla A (9S)** For achieving 30 recognition Points.

**Year 10: Elpiniki Z (10T)** and **Chanel C (10T)** For their outstanding contribution to lessons!

**Year 11: Pavlos K (11P)** Pavlos has completed **925 skills, 12717 questions**, each at **100%** on the Hegartymaths website. **Lulu K (11S)** For her contribution to lessons relating to Animal sustainability and welfare during PSHE.

**Year 12: Kolovuma K (12A)** For displaying an excellent attitude to remote learning. Kolovuma has consistently met deadlines and is engaging extremely well with a challenging text in English. **Annie M (12A)** For her engagement and participation in remote lessons. Your teachers are really pleased with your understanding of a very challenging text and your independent learning.

**Year 13: Anastasis A (13A)** For his resilience, and for consistently producing outstanding pieces of work in Politics - a true ambassador for Politics. **Christos T (13A)** For his commitment to his studies and outstanding contributions in Biology.

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

## Workshops for Parents/ Carers

## Children and Young People's Wellbeing Spring Workshops 2021

Barnet Integrated Clinical Services (BICS) is organising a series of free workshops for young people and parents in Barnet.



With a choice of different groups within the workshop, take a look at some options:

- Resilience Building Workshop: Stronger Mind, Stronger

- Feeling Better about going back to school online video
- Managing Exam Stress online video
- Step Up and Stand Out
- Lifeworx group
- MIND and MOOD group – separate for child and parents
- Building Confidence
- Podcasts – Staying Well in Barnet:

Please [click here](#) for more information about BICS and interest in the groups please visit:

### Better Health – Your Mind Plan



[Click here](#) to answer just 5 simple questions in this interactive quiz to get top tips and advice for you. Giving you advice on certain aspects in your life, the mind plan will provide support and guidance, mentally and physically, and is now also tailored for the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

### Competitions

#### The young writer's award



The BBC Young Writers' Award with Cambridge University is now open for submissions - with broadcaster Katie Thistleton chairing the judging panel. Now in its seventh year, the BBC Young Writers' Award with Cambridge University invites all young people in the UK aged between 14-18 years to submit stories of up to 1,000 words. Submissions will be open from 9am on Monday 22 March 2021. [Click here](#) to find out more details and how to apply:

### The Big Bang competition

Big Bang  
Young  
Scientists  
and  
Engineers  
competition



**The Big Bang competition** recognises young people's achievements in STEM and builds confidence in project-based work. The science stream focuses on investigation, discovery and use of scientific methods. Students can enter any project work they have completed at school, home or in a STEM club. Please [click here](#) to find out more information. You can start to submit online entries right away!

### Raspberry Pi Foundation competition

Inspire your teen to create with technology! The Raspberry Pi Foundation is hosting an exciting, global technology showcase for young people, called Coolest Projects.

It's online, free to take part in, and open to young people up to 18 who like coding and making things with tech. Young people can take part with a Scratch project, a website, a game, an app, a robot, or anything else. After they register their tech creation for Coolest Projects, it will be showcased in the Coolest Projects online gallery, for people all over the world to see. All ideas and experience levels are encouraged and celebrated!

Visit the [Coolest Projects website](#) to get started right away!

One example that may grab our scientists at STA is 'The Unsung heroes of Science' competition.

[Click here](#) to submit an entry.



### University of Cambridge competition

[Click here](#) to view details of how to enter the R.A. Butler Prize, 2021 Department of Politics & International Studies, Cambridge University Trinity College Cambridge. Students are encouraged to use an array of contemporary, historical, or literary examples in supporting arguments on a given set of questions.



### Young Money Challenge competition

[Click here](#) to view details of the Young Money challenge competition 2021. This is a free, fun and creative challenge which explores the connection between money management and health and wellbeing. The Young Money challenge is open to Year 7 to Year 13 students. The closing date is **31 March**.



### University of Oxford competition



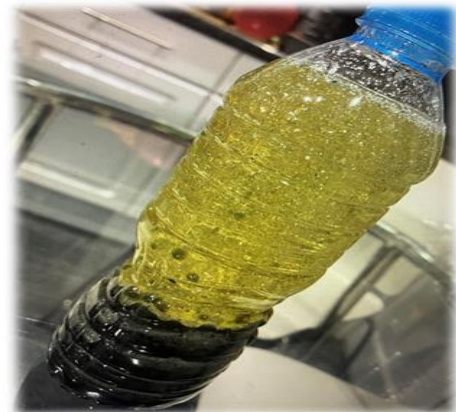
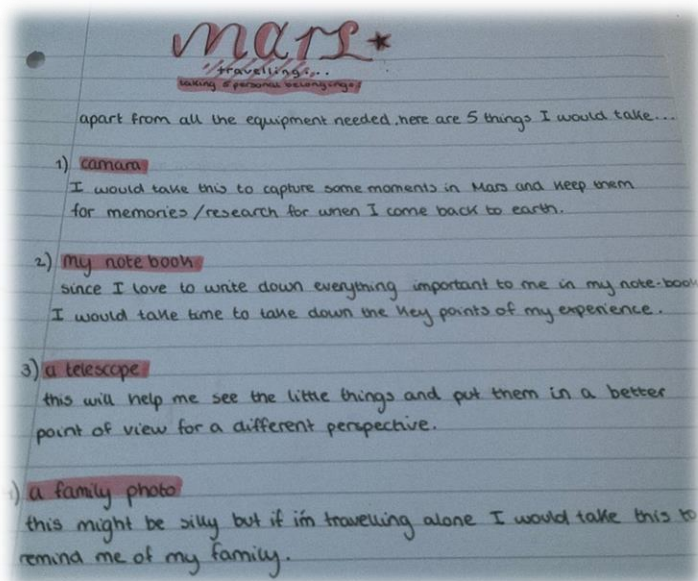
[Click here](#) to see a range of exciting competitions from the University of Oxford. Entering one of these competitions is a great way to demonstrate independent thinking and shows that you are not limited by the confines of your subject specification. Why not submit an entry?

Student Work: Travelling to Mars

Students in 8A created a poster and imagine that they are travelling to Mars and they had to choose five personal possessions to take with them.



Student Work



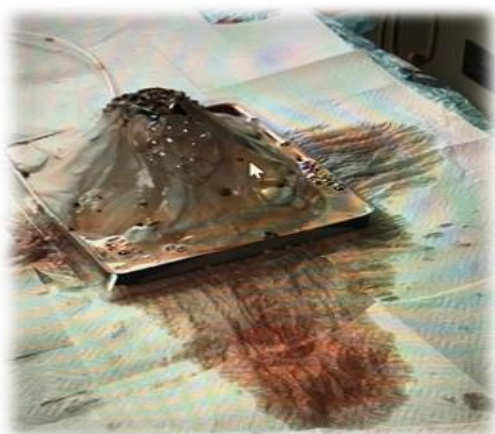
Ms C Galazoula (Lead Teacher of Greek & Latin)

Student Work: Lava lamps and Volcanoes

Year 7 and 8 were given the task to produce lava lamps and erupting volcanoes, we have some amazing work to celebrate and future scientists in the making at STA.

Mrs R Begum (Science Teacher)





## Pastoral News

### Uniform and Equipment

Many parents and families will be considering replacing some items of school uniform as we return to school. Our full school uniform with the details of our stockist Stevensons, who are delivering uniform and taking online orders at the moment, is on our [website](#).

In particular, as we return, we ask families to consider appropriate shoes that our students should be wearing.

Boys should wear traditional flat, black sensible shoes – lace up shoes must have black laces. No trainers or boots, no white or coloured laces. Lace up shoes are preferable to Velcro. No sandals. Please [click here](#) to view appropriate school shoes. If shoes have a distinct heel, they will typically be acceptable. Girls should wear traditional flat, black sensible shoes – lace up

shoes must have black laces, no trainers or boots. Lace up shoes are preferable to Velcro. No kitten heels, sandals, platform shoes, ballet pumps, white or coloured laces. Please [click here](#) to see appropriate school shoes.

We do understand that for some families obtaining new shoes or uniform may be difficult. We always aim to work with families to make sure we provide the very best support for our students. If there are any issues, or any reasonable adjustments we can make to help, then please contact your child's form tutor and we do our very best to support you. We also like to remind families now in preparation for our return that discreet foundation is permitted as long as it is not visible. No nail varnish, lip stick, eye shadow or heavy black lines. One small silver or gold sleeper or stud may be worn in the lobe of each ear. No other jewellery or body piercing is acceptable including nose or face studs or rings.

### Equipment

We can see that the more organised a student is the more progress they make in class. Please support your child by making sure they bring the following to school each day:

- Black pens to work with.
- A Green pen to self-mark their work.
- A Pencil.
- A Ruler.
- Colouring pencils.
- A maths set with a calculator.
- The planner we gave students in September.
- We would also encourage students to have their own water bottle.

### Attendance

If your child is not able to attend school, then you should contact the Attendance Officer by using [this link to Studybugs](#). This is the easiest and quickest way to let the school know your child cannot attend school. Please register now if you have not done so as yet. If your child is not in school for a medical reason, then

medical evidence must always be produced. As always, we are here to support you with your child's attendance to school-if you need help then please contact your child's form tutor and we will support.

### ClassCharts App

We all value good communication between home and school and we are always looking to improve this in a way that is most efficient and useful for parents and carers.



Since September we have been using our ClassCharts app with our families and this has proven to be hugely popular in supporting good communication between school and home. [Click here](#) to look at a quick start guide about this app.

If you are unsure of your parent code then please contact your child's form tutor who will be able to give this to you.

By using this app you will be able to see: Your child's timetable for the next day so you can support them with the correct equipment; Your Child's Homework- we use a variety of subject specific platforms to set homework, however this is the one location where all homework is collected for you to see what should be done and when the work is due; Attendance and Punctuality to school and lessons; Recognition Points gained in School; Any instances of Poor behaviour; Updates if your child is on report; Any detentions which have been set.

If you do need help accessing this app then again, please contact your child's form tutor who will be able to support.

### Back to School

It's been a challenging year for children and young people which is why it's so important that we do what we can to help support their mental health and wellbeing as they return to the classroom.

Barnet Council have a wide range of useful resources for parents, carers, children and young people on their [Back to School page](#). Some of these include links to the latest government guidance, tips on how to get back into a routine, important information on potential changes to the school setting and advice on dealing with anxiety.

Finally, please remind your child/ children that at St Andrew the Apostle School, we follow our code of conduct at all times:



**Be Respectful**  
**Be Responsibility**  
**Be Ready**

### Important Dates for the Calendar

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

### 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](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. Appointments will take place via **Microsoft Teams** during current restrictions.