



Headteacher's Update

28 May 2021



[ON THE SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN](#)

Key messages from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your support and kind messages as we move into the Whitsun half term break.

[Whitsun](#) is the English name for the Church festival otherwise called Pentecost, held on the seventh Sunday after Easter as the commemoration of the descent of the Holy Spirit and the inspiration of the Apostles.

It seems particularly apt that we were able to say goodbye to our Year 11 and Year 13 students on Friday 28 May in two inspirational assemblies held just for our staff and students at St Katherine's Greek Orthodox Church which is walking distance from our school.

Father Damian delivered an inclusive and educational service where we learned many things including finding out about the long local history of the Church, the significance of St Katherine as a noted scholar and the importance of specific icons in a Greek Orthodox Church. Father Damian is a great teacher and we were able to interact and respond appropriately in the service by saying "Lord have mercy" and "Kyrie, eléison" as a whole school community. Above all, Father Damian's message to all of us was to take

time to reflect and pray; to take refuge from our busy lives in a place of worship; to remember that we are all God's children and that we are valuable and loved. This message applies to all of us regardless of our faith or where we worship. We are so blessed and give thanks for the support we receive from Father Damian at St Katherine's and Father John at St Demetrius Church.

After half term, Year 11 and Year 13 students will take part in a bridging programme in preparation for their next steps. Please refer to the letter from Ms Fourcade for further details.

As parents and carers will know, Year 13 results day will be on Tuesday 10 August and Year 11 results day will be on Thursday 12 August. I will write to you with further details nearer the time, once we know more about COVID-guidelines at the end of the summer term.

I would like to wish all of you a happy and restful half-term break. We look forward to seeing students at 8.30am on **Tuesday 8 June** as we have a staff training day on Monday 7 June.



Mr A Papas; Mrs I Warwick and Father Damian

Best wishes,

Mrs I Warwick

(Headteacher)

Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

On Sunday 30 May, the fifth Sunday following Easter, we celebrate the feast of the Samaritan Woman.

The Samaritan woman, also known as the holy, glorious Great-martyr Photini—met Jesus at midday at Jacob’s Well, which was located in the city of Sychar in the region of Judea of Biblical Palestine. Being tired from travel and the heat, Jesus sat at Jacob’s Well to rest. A little after, the Samaritan woman came to draw water, and had a long conversation with Him (it is the longest recorded conversation between Christ and a human in the entire Bible, aside from those conversations with His disciples). Photini did not want to talk to Jesus, because the Samaritans did not have any dealings with Jewish people; Jewish people considered her people heretics, in other words Jewish people who had not kept to the strict laws of the Judaic faith. However, the Lord talked with her anyway, read her heart, revealed her secrets, and gave her the “Living Water”—the grace of the Holy Spirit that leads to eternal life and flows to all humanity—to drink. Photini immediately ran throughout the city to proclaim Christ. Through her, many other Samaritans believed in Jesus.

The woman at the well had her sins “washed away” by Jesus. The story shows that Jesus offers divine mercy in the living water of grace, which washes away sins and cleanses souls.

What this story depicts is Jesus' mercy and love for us. Desperate for a satisfying life and unending grace, the woman at the well is forever changed by Jesus' love for her. She uses her story to tell others about the living water found in Jesus.

By the intercessions of Thy Martyr, Photini, O Christ God, have mercy on us.

Amen.

Mr M Vassiliou (Senior Deputy Headteacher)

Student of the Week

Well done!

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

Year 7: Isha G (7P) and Ray M (7E) for brilliant effort in class.

Year 8: Brendan L (8M) and Bellayia S (8A) for consistent hard work and effort in class.

Year 9: Aleksandra V (9H) and Arjun A (9O) for outstanding effort and work in class.

Year 10: Shayna T (10I) and Michael E(10N) for brilliant effort in class.

Sixth Former of the Week

Year 12: Harry L (12A) for excellent work as a prefect and a role model to others.

“Do the best you can until you know better. Then, when you know better, do better.” Dr Maya Angelou

Poetry of Science



iF Oxford's poetry competition for young people returns for its 5th year!

Enter the iF Oxford 2021 Poetry of Science Competition for a chance to win some fantastic prizes!

What sort of poem can I write? Your poem can be in any poetry style you like – (how about a limerick, haiku, acrostic poem, rap or sonnet?). Your poem doesn't have to rhyme and should have something to do with science. It could be about a scientific idea or discovery; a science lesson or an experiment; a scientific issue that is important to you; a famous scientist, or just why you love science! Your poem should be a maximum of 150 words.



To submit an individual entry, simply [click here](#) to open the online entry form and submit by the deadline of Friday 11 June 2021.



Students interested in **Computer Science** are invited to attempt a few coding challenges for those who would like to learn Python: [Python Challenges page | Christ Church, Oxford University](#). As for preparation for applying to Computer Science at Oxford more specifically, students should prepare for the Maths Admissions Test, which is an important criterion for interview shortlisting: [MAT \(Mathematics Admissions Test\) | University of Oxford](#). Finally, the Oxford Online Maths club (details below) is also highly recommended.

After half term, Ms J Fourcade will inform students of the details of a bespoke webinar specifically for our Year 12 students called 'Oxford explained' with ample opportunities for our students to ask questions on any topic including on how to prepare for admission tests and interviews for Oxbridge.

STA students are very welcome to contact Dr Ana Hastoy (Admissions and Access Manager) with any questions at access@chch.ox.ac.uk or they can ask questions to a current student here: www.chch.ox.ac.uk/admissions/chat.

Post-16 Events- For Year 12 students
Oxford Mathematics Online Open Days
Follow this link to find out more: <https://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/open-days>

Oxford Online Maths Club
The Oxford Online Maths Club is back this term for Season 2, with one hour of maths problems, puzzles,

and mini-lectures broadcast live every **Thursday at 17:00**. If you're thinking of applying to university for Maths, then you can find our livestream and lots of super-curricular maths over at <http://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/r/club> including all our Season 1 livestreams, which covered maths from topology to primes, and from probability to pigeons. It's all free, and there are lots of links to other free resources so that you can read more; you might just find your new favourite maths topic!

Balliol College Virtual Taster Days: English and Medicine

Balliol College is hosting **Virtual Taster Days** for

English: Tuesday 1 June ([apply here](#))

Medicine: Wednesday 16 June ([apply here](#))

Do check back on their website as they will also be holding a Biology Taster Day on Thursday 3 June (details available shortly) and a Physics and Philosophy Taster Day (date to be confirmed).

Oriel College Virtual Study Days (English, Medicine, PPE)

Oriel College is offering Virtual Study Days in selected subjects for **Year 12s from UK state schools**. These virtual events will give a taste of studying each subject at a top university and offer advice and guidance on applying for them at Oxford, including dedicated sessions on interviews and admissions testing. There will be opportunities to interact with academics and current undergraduate students, and content will be available in live and pre-recorded formats (including recordings available for a period of time post-event) to enable participants to access the events in a way which best suits them.

Applications are currently open for **English & English Joint Schools** (1 June), **Medicine & Biomedical Sciences** (3 June), and **PPE** (4 June). Further information, including selection criteria and an application form, can be found here: <https://www.oriel.ox.ac.uk/virtual-study-days>. Any questions should be directed to outreach@oriel.ox.ac.uk.

Pre-16 Events- For students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 -Oxplore Virtual Book Club

The [Oxplore Book Club](#) is aimed at 11-14 year olds and is designed to encourage critical thinking and debate

around texts students might not have studied at school. The Club runs between March - July 2021. Each month they'll provide students with a brand-new text recommendation, some of which will be freely available to access online.* At the same time, they'll publish new resources to enhance the reading experience including articles, quizzes and videos on the writers, wider contexts and themes.

The purpose of Oxplore Book Club is to introduce students to stories and poems that they might not have come across in school and encourage critical thinking and debate around each text. [More information can be found here.](#)



Christ Church

Support for Parents and Carers

Barnet Early Help- Reminder

Young people will be able to take part in ONLINE activities for young people aged 4-18 and up to 25 with Disabilities and/or Autism. Activities and Courses start from as little as £3 per session. If you would like to request for a free place and you meet the criteria your child can receive a free place - these are limited.

Just [click here](#) to access the link and see what activities are available to book your place. Please note there are limited places on each activity / course and take place from 20 July – 14 August 2021

CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service)

Barnet: [CAMHS](#) in Schools is part of Barnet's Early Help offer that provides services and interventions for children 0 – 19 and their families. Barnet has three localities – East/Central, West and South. Each locality has a 0 – 19 Children and Families Early Help hub. The hub staff provide a range of help and support in many different venues across the locality. These services include Early Help Assessments (CAF), Family Resilience – direct interventions with children and parents, Targeted Youth Support, Early Years and Children's Centres and Child Wellbeing services. The hubs include a wide range of partners providing other services for children and families in order to have an integrated whole family way of working.



supporting the emotional wellbeing and
mental health of children and young people



Mental health support for young people

On Tuesday 25 May, we were fortunate to be supported in school by qualified and accredited therapists from Barnet Integrated Clinical Services (BICS). We were able to offer our students and staff a drop-in service to help those coping with grief.

Please [click here](#) to access helpful advice and support from YoungMinds.

Please [click here](#) to access helpful advice and support from the NHS for teenagers and young adults who need support with their mental health and are coping with bereavement.

Reminder: During school, students needing emotional support can talk to their Form Tutors and their Head of Year. The following members of staff are also available: **Mr C Sweet (DSL*); Mr M Vassiliou (DDSL*); Mr C Martin (DDSL*); Ms M Henshaw-Devall (Millie); Mr N Anemori and Ms M Hirli (Melisa)**

*DDSL is the Deputy Designated Safeguarding lead

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COVID-19 news

BARNET COVID-19 WEEKLY ROUND-UP

16 May - 22 May 2021



Average no. of COVID-19 cases

10 Per day *Similar to last week*

Cases increasing in those aged 20-29

Infection rate per 100,000

12 For the last 7 days *Decrease on last week*

Lower than the London rate of 22.8 per 100,000 population

Community test positivity approx.

0.2% *Similar to last week*

LOW

Vaccination uptake

190,500 Received 1st dose

127,600 Received 2nd dose

Uptake is around 78% in first 10 priority groups

Everyone aged 32 and over can get the vaccine

Thank you to parents and carers for following the COVID-safe guidelines and for taking part in the vaccination programme. These measures have kept our school community safe and healthy since our return in March. I will write to you after half-term to update you on any changes to our operational procedures. Until then, we will continue with our COVID-safe protocol.

Please [click here](#) to view the Barnet weekly COVID-19 dashboard.

Half-Term Activities for Students



- See plants in a new light by learning all about their interesting secrets in Secret World of Plants, an immersive festival at [Kew Gardens](#) **1 May-19 Sep**
- Explore how the natural world inspired mythical and legendary icons in [Fantastic Beasts the Wonder of Nature](#), at the Natural History Museum. **17 May-3 Jan**
- Have you ever made a board game? Take the chance to get crafty with [half-term activities](#) at the **London Transport Museum TFL Depot**. **29 May-6 Jun**
- Find out what it takes to become a knight with Knight School: The Show at the [Tower of London](#). **29 May-6 Jun**
- Be surrounded by the Dutch post-impressionist painter's masterpieces in a breath taking immersive exhibition, featuring more than 3,000 images as part of [Van Gogh Alive](#) at Kensington Gardens. **4 Jun-26 Sep**
- Dive into the world of small but mighty invertebrates at the new Tiny Giants installation at [ZSL London Zoo](#), or spend a day exploring the miniature world of [The Very Hungry Caterpillar](#). **29 May-16 Jul**
- Catch up at the [Horrible Histories Live](#) on Stage. **29 May-5 Jun**

Kids Outdoor Activities

Climb into royal towers and hunt for mythical creatures in [Hampton Court Palace](#)'s Magic Garden.

- Spot life-size dinosaurs hiding between the trees of [Crystal Palace Park](#).
- Embark on a tree-top adventure at [Go Ape Battersea](#) or [Go Ape Alexandra Park](#) this half-term in London.
- Hire a pedalo or rowing boat in [Hyde Park](#) or [Regent's Park](#).
- Buzz around the [Horniman Museum](#)'s nature trails exploring bees and pond life this half-term week.
- Make the most of sunny days with [more things to do outdoors in London](#).



Know your Air Jordans from your Air Force 1s? In Sneakers unboxed: Studio to street at Design Museum you'll discover how trainers have become cultural symbols of our time. Journey through the design process, delve into the lucrative resale market and uncover the icons and collaborations which have shaped the sneaker scene. 18 May – 24 October 2021. £12 adult, £6.50 child (6-15), FREE under 6s.



Free Thank You Cards for School Staff

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.

Headteacher Parent Surgery

If you would like to speak with the Headteacher or a Senior Deputy Headteacher, please email admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk Meetings 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.

Friends of STA (FOSA)

Thank you to parents and carers who have met for the second time since our return to school two months ago. The time at the last meeting was used productively to firm up some exciting plans for the summer term.

Please see opposite a message from FOSA asking for a donation of new and nearly new school uniform. We will use your donations to give free uniform to families in need. We will let you know when we will open a uniform stall for families where we will sell items of uniform in good condition at a fraction of the cost if you were buying from new.

Community event: Mr Vassiliou will be writing to you to gauge interest in a whole school walkathon followed by a picnic on a Sunday afternoon before the end of term (COVID regulations permitting). We would love you, your children and family to join in this event.

Ideas for the use of any proceeds from the event include the purchase of a bench with a plaque in memory of our ex-student who sadly passed away. We are also considering commissioning a bespoke Artwork for the Chapel in our new school in celebration of our Greek Orthodox faith and ethos.

There is still time to join our small group if you would like to do so.

Please email admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk and mark your email for the attention of **Mr M Vassiliou (Senior Deputy Headteacher)**.

Term dates

Please [click here](#) to access term dates. Please note that these dates are subject to change, so please do keep checking in on a regular basis. If you have any queries about a specific date, please email us at admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk

Uniform Donations Welcome

Do you have any items of school uniform you no longer need?

Please donate items in a clean and good condition to the School Reception.

While another child gets to benefit from your donations, you are also helping to reduce the amount of old uniform going to landfill sites.

Thank you for your support.

FOSA (Friends of St Andrew)



New school plans

Please [click here](#) to view the exciting plans for our new school. Only 18 months to go!



**We are Ready, Respectful, Responsible and Resilient
Ever to Excel**