



Headteacher's Update

20 July 2021

Key Messages



Feast Day of Prophet Elias. Greek City Times.

Dear Parents and Carers,

This is the final newsletter of this academic year, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support of our school over the past three terms.

We have faced some challenges along the way and our students have shown in their day-to-day interactions that they are always:

Respectful to each other and respect our school environment. They know that the staff are here to care and look after them and trust the staff to make decisions which are fair, compassionate and in the best interest of our school community.

Responsible – Our students are honest and say sorry if they have done something wrong. In our school community, we understand that forgiveness underpins our Christian faith. We trust each other and rely on each other to uphold the mission of our school.

Resilient – Our school motto is 'Ever to Excel.' Our students are always **Ready** to try their best and never give up knowing that they will be nurtured and supported to achieve their ambitions.

Where there have been successes, we have celebrated together and where there has been sadness or disappointment, we have stood together to support and strengthen each other.

At St Andrew the Apostle School, we are truly blessed to have highly skilled and dedicated professionals working with such aspirational and diligent students. We are on a beautiful journey and I am so thankful to have this opportunity to lead our school on the road to great success.

I have written to all parents and carers with the detailed arrangements for the start of term. All students will return to school on Friday 3 September as summarised on the back page of this newsletter. Please do support your child to complete the summer transition tasks if they are in our new Year 7 or Year 12 cohort. All other students have been set summer work which may involve additional catch-up work for targeted students.

Please also look out for a letter from us to seek consent for ongoing testing for COVID using the LFD tests. We would ask that all of you complete the forms whether or not you have already given consent so that we may update our records for the new academic year.

You may have read in the media about schools and LFD testing on the school site. We are going to provide onsite asymptomatic testing for our new Year 7 students and any other new students joining us for the first time in September 2021. All new students will be contacted separately and invited to attend onsite testing on Thursday 2 September. All other students must continue with twice weekly testing at home.

As the school year closes, we are saying goodbye to colleagues who are moving on from our St Andrew the Apostle family. We wish them well on the next phase of their career and thank them for the work they have done for our community. Along with farewell messages from colleagues are profiles of teachers who will be joining us in September. We look forward to welcoming them to our school.

On the next page is another farewell in the form of an obituary for Matthew, a former St Andrew the Apostle School student, who passed away during this school year. Matthew left the school as a Year 11 student in July 2020 and we were shocked and saddened to hear of his passing. He will always remain a part of our family.

At this point, I would like to wish you, your family and friends a wonderful, well-deserved holiday. We look forward to returning in September to a brand-new academic year.

Best wishes,

Mrs I Warwick (Headteacher)



In memoriam: Matthew Theophanous- Obituary



Matthew Theophanous unexpectedly passed away on 28 April 2021 leaving behind his loving mother **Kasia**, father **Andreas** and his elder brother **Francis**.

Matthew was with us at STA from Year 7 to Year 11 and transferred to Barnet and Southgate College in September 2020 to study a practical course designed to prepare students for careers in the electrical installation and electrical engineering industries.

Matthew will remain a much-loved member of the STA community. We remember Matthew's quiet and thoughtful personality. His friends remember the many occasions where Matthew made time to help others – sometimes pausing his own work to support others. His generosity of spirit will never be forgotten.

Mr M Vassiliou said, *"Having taught Matthew for English, I will always remember him as a special young man who had an infectious smile. As a student, he always gave his best but it is his friendly, cheerful and kind spirit that I will always remember."*

Mr C Sweet said, *"Matthew was a well-loved, kind and gentle member of the year group. After his tragic death, the overwhelming love and kindness from the school community was testament to how dearly he was cherished. I was Matthew's Year Leader for four years and saw how friendly and polite he always was. His memory will be treasured by all who knew him."*

Mrs De Freitas was Matthew's Year Leader in Year 11 and said *"What words come to mind when I think of Matthew? Kindness, compassion, vulnerability. Matthew would never say or do anything to hurt others. Matthew was not a person of many words but his eyes were the mirror of his soul- sharing feelings of joy and enthusiasm. May he rest in peace."*

We have listened to students, staff, parents and carers to decide on how we will remember Matthew. This includes writing prayers which we will tie to our prayer tree; taking

part in a whole school walkathon (dependent on COVID restrictions) and by creating a quiet reflection space in the school grounds where students and staff can take pause from our busy lives.

We have lost a precious member of our school community but our lives are richer for the experiences we have shared together and we give thanks to God for bringing Matthew into our lives.

Because of our God's deep compassion, the dawn from heaven will break upon us, to give light to those who are sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide us on the path of peace. Luke 1:78-79

Faith - πίστις

Who Was Elijah and why is His Bible story still important today?



In the week which follows, we prepare to celebrate the holy feast day of the Prophet Elijah. This is marked every year on the 20 July.

The Orthodox Church reveres Prophet Elijah as a person full of strong and extreme enthusiasm for the name of God, for which reason God graced him with the Divine power so that he was able to work many miracles and perform signs, as recorded in the books of Kings in the Old Testament and in St. James Epistle in the New Testament.

Elijah's name means "Yahweh is God" or "The Lord Is My God". He is called Elias in the New Testament in the King James Version, based on the Greek version of his name. The message of his life matched his name. It still does today. Not only do we see evidence of this man threaded throughout

the Old Testament, but we also find mention of him sprinkled in the New Testament as well.

So, who was Elijah? What did he accomplish? As a person, what was he like? How did his faith intertwine with his everyday living? And how does he impact us? The prophet Elijah possesses many attributes of faith. These attributes continue to encourage us in our own faith today.

Elijah walked, talked, and encouraged others to believe that truly the Lord was God—just as his name purported. As a prophet he adamantly shared God’s message and warnings. Often, both came under fire. Sometimes, however, people turned from following false gods and found themselves deep in worship of the Holy One.

Elijah came near to all the people, and said, “How long will you waver between the two sides? If Yahweh is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him.” (Baal being a false idol/God worshipped in antiquity)

We see Elijah in communion with God many times throughout the Old Testament. He sets an example for us in our own walk of faith. He stands as a voice encouraging all to grab prayer and be a warrior, to know the LORD is God and follow him.

Elijah was a Man whose faith did not waver in the most challenging situations: on numerous occasions Elijah found himself in the midst of a seemingly hopeless situation. But he held firm in his belief and faith in God. When promised rain failed to appear due to drought, Elijah held belief, sending his servant to check the horizon seven times. And then just as God promised, it rained.

God’s promises remain true for us today. He said to his servant, **“Go up now, and look toward the sea.” He went up, and looked, and said, “There is nothing.” He said, “Go again” seven times.**

Elijah preached and was prepared to challenge those people worshipping false Gods and idols. The world today still has idolatry, though it is more subtle than that of Elijah’s day.

The shrines of pagan worship may not be as visible in a basically Christian-professing society, and there may be very few carved images that people actually worship, yet millions are following after the gods of this world. Today’s idols can be riches, fame, that preoccupy the hearts and minds of

many who are unwilling and disinterested in learning about God.

Elijah is considered one of the most important prophets of the Old Testament. He faithfully carried out God’s mission in the face of danger and hardship. His was a singular voice of “one crying in the wilderness” to rebuke sin in the land and to expose the false prophets and false religions of his day.

In iconography the Prophet Elijah is depicted ascending to Heaven in a fiery chariot, surrounded with flames, and harnessed to four winged horses. We pray to him for deliverance from drought, and to ask for seasonable weather.

Mr M Vassiliou (Senior Deputy Headteacher)

Faith dates for your calendar



Thursday 22 July St Mary Magdalene (Icon on the left)

Saturday 24 July St Christina (Icon on the right)

Please [click here](#) to find out more about the Saints and Feast days.

Saint Mary was from Magdala in Galilee on the Sea of Tiberias, and for this was named Magdalene. When the Lord Jesus cast out seven demons from her, from which she had been suffering, she became His faithful and inseparable disciple, following Him and ministering unto Him even to the time of His crucifixion and burial. Then, returning to Jerusalem together with the rest of the Myrrh-bearers, she prepared the fragrant spices for anointing the body of the Lord. And on the Lord's day they came very early to the tomb, even before the Angels appeared declaring the Resurrection of the Lord. Although it is sometimes said that Saint Mary Magdalene was the "sinful woman" of the Gospel, this is nowhere stated in the tradition of the Church, in the sacred hymnology, or in the Holy Gospels themselves, which say only that our Lord cast seven demons out of her, not that she was a fallen woman. "Madeleine" is a form of Magdalene.

Saint Christina was from Tyre in Syria, the daughter of a pagan named Urban. Enlightened in her heart to believe in Christ, she broke her father's idols, made of gold and silver, and distributed the pieces to the poor. When her father learned this, he punished her ruthlessly, then cast her into prison. Saint Christina retained her faith despite terrible suffering and retained her path of living as a Christian until the end of her life.

Sunday 25 July is the 5th Sunday of Matthew / Dormition of St Anne

Summary from a piece by [Fr Stephen Freeman](#)

Sunday 25 July is the patronal festival of the feast of the Dormition of Righteous Anna, mother of the Theotokos (Mary, mother of Jesus). The details we know about her life, and that of her priest-husband, Righteous Joachim, are from sources within the Tradition (though not within the Scriptures).



Sunday 25 July St Anne (Icon above)

The child, Mary, was chosen of God and appointed to be the mother of the Incarnate God. Fr Freeman said “You never really get to know a saint by reading their story. It’s only in calling on them in prayer, asking for their help, that you get to know them.”

Fr Freeman said, “I have come to know St Anne well, as a mother who cares for her spiritual children, and who is a great friend and intercessor for the needs of our spiritual family.”

Greek Orthodox Church services – watch online

Please [click here](#) to follow forthcoming Greek Orthodox services or to catch up on a service you have missed. The link will take you to services from the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Divine Wisdom (Hagia Sophia- St Sophia) which is a Greek Orthodox Church on Moscow Road in

Bayswater. This cathedral was consecrated in 1882 and is a Byzantine revival design.



Student success

Sports Interform Competitions

All students in Year 7, 8 & 9 have competed sports inter-form competitions over the last two weeks. Students participated in a rounders competition which involved each form group playing against each other in a mini-league. The winning form group were the form with the most points. All students were fantastic across all three competitions, behaving impeccably, working together as a team and immersing themselves in our school values.

Winning Forms

- Year 7: 7H
- Year 8: 8L
- Year 9: 9E



Student success- Well done to Ben Reid!



Our very own England Basketball player Ben Reid will be leaving our school this summer to pursue a professional career in basketball.

Ben will be attending Charnwood Basketball Academy which is based at **Loughborough University**.

Ben was inspired to attend the academy after a PE Gifted and Talented trip in July 2017 whilst in Year 7 at our school. In Year 8 Ben played a key part in winning the East Barnet League with the school basketball side; he also won the Middlesex Shot Put competition in the same year and holds the school record for this competition.

Ben has ever so kindly donated one of his basketball jerseys which will be framed and showcased in our new sports complex. We wish Ben every success in the future!

Mr R Browell (Head of PE)

Student success- Well done certificates

All of the Heads of Year at STA have been busy congratulating our exceptional students in end of year assemblies. Please see below for a selection of images of our happy and successful students. Each student who received a certificate will be added to our new STA Honours board in September!

Photographed on the next page are: Joshua F; Christina K; Andi P and Kreshnik K in Year 9.

Well done STA. We are very proud of you!

Mrs I Warwick (Headteacher)



Barnet Summer BACE Holidays- Reminder



BACE Holidays stands for Barnet. Active. Creative. Engaging. Holidays! The Summer Camps are free and for all children currently in receipt of free school meals.

Marcus Rashford MBE & Henry Dumbleby MBE have written a personal letter to all Parents / Guardians. To view, please [Click here](#).

Discover Barnet Presents



Please [click here](#) to view information about these community events. These events include:

24 - 25 July Lodge Lane Car Park North Finchley

Community Carnival Showcasing local talent, Barnet's free to attend Community Carnivals will feature local food and drink, a funfair for kids, workshops and activities for all ages, and more

20 - 22 August Edgware Boardwalk Car Park Edgware

Community Carnival Showcasing local talent, Barnet's free to attend Community Carnivals will feature local food and drink, a funfair for kids, workshops and activities for all ages, and more.

Headteacher Parent Surgery

If you would like to meet with the Headteacher or a Senior Deputy Headteacher at our new weekly Parent and Carer surgery, please email admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk

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.

Please note that we will recommence Parent surgery on Friday 10 September 2021.

Year 13 support

**Message for Year 13 students from Middlesex University:**

Are you anxious about your exam results and what they might mean for university offers?

You can join our [Get Ready For Clearing](#) live stream at 4pm to 5pm on Monday 2 August, where we'll offer expert advice and guidance on:

- What is Clearing, Clearing Plus and Adjustment
- How to search for courses and find the right one for you
- How to apply for student finance and accommodation quickly

Our students will also be sharing their experience in a live 'My Clearing Experience' panel. This is a fantastic opportunity to ask our students questions and find out more about going to university through Clearing. This live stream is designed to give Year 13+ students the confidence they need to navigate Clearing, but it's also a helpful session to attend as a teacher or parent.

Please click here for [booking form](#)

Mental health support- Reminder

[Barnet Local Offer: Home / Mental Health and Wellbeing Zone](#) has been designed for young people, their families and the professionals supporting them.

Please [click here](#) for information from North London Partnership about a mental health crisis line for secondary aged pupils. This is a newly developed crisis service and will be able to offer guidance and support and provide a same day appointment if required.

Clinics can also be contacted directly on **0208 702 4500** or **0208 702 3300** and the duty clinician on the day will also be able to help.

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

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.



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.

Well done to our staff! A selection of thank you messages from Parents and Carers

Message to Ms Galazoula: "I wanted to thank your school team for all that they have done for our children this challenging year. The quality of in-school and online provision has been second to none and I feel my daughter has really transitioned well into St Andrew."

"I just wanted to say thank you for teaching my children Classics. Thank you for the positive rapport you have built with both. Enjoy your much deserved break."

Message to Ms Pavlou: "This is an overdue message to say a genuine thank you for being such an amazing teacher. My child's love of History is a credit to the quality of teaching you provide. In her own words, "Miss breaks down the

information, she has a structure and models success for me."

She feels valued in your lessons and considers your department as a very strong one as she had Mr Walch in the past who she admires as well.

Thank you for building excellent rapport with my child."

Message to Mr Walch: "I just wanted to say a massive thank you for teaching both my children M in the past and R this academic year. I walked into a conversation they were both having about you and it was all praises and admiration and I thought I'd let you know.

You have built a strong and positive relationship with both and contributed massively to their love of your subject. They are both fond of you as a person and a professional. Thank you for your hard work."

Message to Mr Ahmed: "I just wanted to say thank you for teaching my son this academic year. In his own words you are a "kind, funny and all-round, a great teacher" Thank you for building a strong and positive relationship with my son. Enjoy your much deserved summer."

Message from Ms Pavlou (new Head of Year 7)

I am incredibly delighted to introduce myself as the new Head of Year 7 for the next academic year and I would like to welcome you once more to St Andrew The Apostle School.

I have been a History teacher at the school for the past three years and I am really looking forward to this additional role.

Over the coming academic year, I intend to take the time to get to know and work with you all. My key priorities are supporting you in settling into the school and ensuring you feel supported once you are with us, which will enable you to excel during your time at STA.

I have already had the opportunity to meet most of you during our successful transition day, where you were given a brief introduction to how the school works and told about the opportunities that the school has to offer.

Whilst the transition from year 6 to year 7 is an exciting time and a great opportunity to continue to grow academically but also as individuals, for some, this experience may also feel overwhelming.

Please rest assured that our school is a supportive and welcoming community, and we will ensure that you and your parents and carers have all the information required to facilitate a smooth transition.

Students now need to complete the student packs that have been provided to you.

If you were unable to collect these packs during the transition day, these will be posted to you. Do challenge yourselves to the exciting tasks that are available to download from the 'Year 6 Transition' page on the school website.

I have already seen fantastic work that some students have sent through. I look forward to seeing the outcomes of your summer tasks.

In the meantime, enjoy your summer holiday and please stay safe!

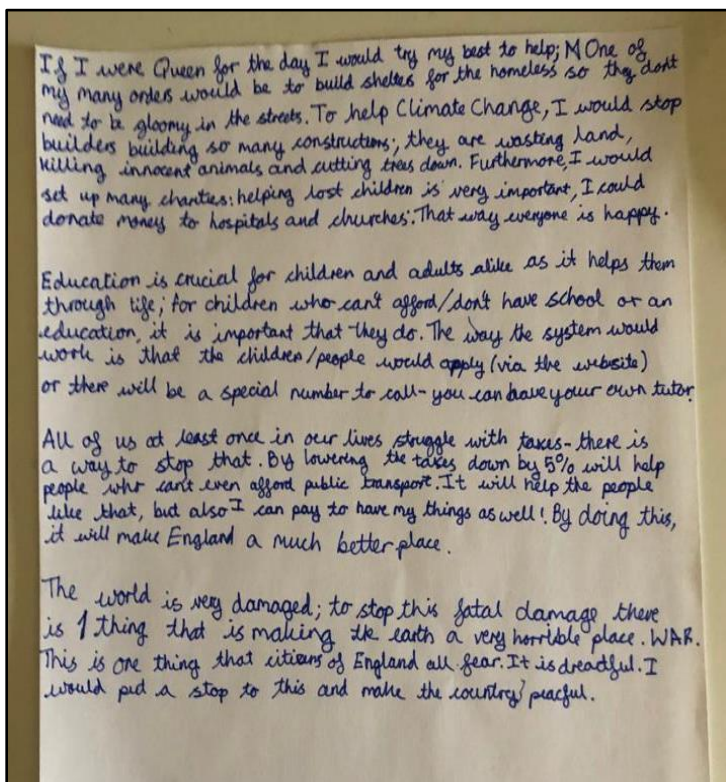
Please [click here](#) to hear a recorded message from Ms Pavlou.

Please find below Amalia's amazing work on "If I were a Queen for the day." Well done Amalia!



An excerpt from Amalia's work: *"If I were Queen for the day, I would try my best to help. One of my many orders would be to build shelters for the homeless...I would donate money to hospitals and churches...Education is crucial for children and adults alike as it helps them through life...The way the system would work is that people would apply via a website or a special number so you can call to book your own tutor."*

Well done Amalia. You may be Prime Minister one day and you would certainly get our vote!



Message from Ms Naidu (new Head of Year 8)

I would like to introduce myself as the new year Head of Year 8 (current year 7) for the academic year 2021-22.

I am currently a teacher of science at STA and I have been a Head of Year for the past five years taking the current year 11 cohort through from year 7.

I am looking forward to getting to know the current year 7s and supporting them on their journey in year 8, next academic year.

Wishing you all a lovely summer break.



Goodbye message from Mr Sweet

After seven very enjoyable years, I am sorry to say I am leaving STA. It has been the privilege of my life to work with the amazing young people, families and staff of our very unique school community. I have seen the school grow from a teaching staff of eight to its current capacity; amazing GCSE and A-Level results; brilliant productions, trips (remember them?), sporting fixtures and more. We've seen the school grow and grow, and I look forward to

visiting the new school building when it's complete. After working here, I will never underestimate the power of young minds to innovate and to articulate difficult concepts. The optimism and energy which I see every day in our students and staff is incredible to see, as is the consistency with which our entire community follows our school ethos, particularly through the last two trying years. As my family and I relocate, I will look back with immense fondness on my time here. I wish you all the best in the future - please do stay in touch. Ever to Excel!



Goodbye message from Mrs de Freitas

As we are approaching the end of an extraordinary year, I would like to announce that I will be leaving St Andrew the Apostle School at the end of this academic year. As you may already know, I joined St. Andrew the Apostle as one of its founding teachers in 2013. After 8 years, I feel it is now time to move on and I am looking forward to some resting time this summer in order to prepare for the next adventure.

Being the Head of Year 7 during the Coronavirus pandemic has been one of the most challenging and at the same time rewarding experiences in my teaching career. Each of your children have a special place in my heart and I look forward to hearing about their achievements in lessons and within the school community.

I would also like to personally thank you all for supporting me in what has been a challenging time for all of us. During the course of the year, your children have demonstrated an abundance of kindness, compassion and resilience. This is what St. Andrew the Apostle is all about. I wish them all the brightest of futures.



A warm welcome to our new STA staff!

Miss Valavanis- Religion and Philosophy

Hello, my name is **Miss Valavanis** and I am going to be joining STA in September as a Religion and Philosophy Teacher. As well as previously working in various North London schools, I also have a background in Journalism and my teaching specialism is in RE. I also love all things Disney!

I look forward to teaching some of you, getting to know you in and outside of the classroom and becoming a part of the St Andrew's family. I hope you all have a fantastic summer.



Ms Demetriou- Religion and Philosophy

Hello, my name is **Ms Demetriou** and I've been in teaching for over 4 years now. I'm also joining the Religion and Philosophy department, so I will be working with Ms Valavanis under Ms Joseph Brown's leadership as our Head of Department. I'm really looking forward to joining the St. Andrew's team in September and I'm excited to get to know you all.

I'm Greek Cypriot (as you can probably tell by my name!), I love to cook, spend time with friends and family and I do a lot of running.

We will share a photograph of Ms Demetriou in September.

Mr Dunnill- Science

Hello, my name is Mr Dunnill and I'll be teaching science at STA from September.

My background is in working with students with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties, including Autism. I'm keen to get involved in the school community and I'll be looking to help with after-school football and other sports. I'm very much looking forward to getting to know everybody and starting my new career!



Mr Marcou- Head of Science

Hello everyone, I am very pleased to be joining St Andrew the Apostle school in September as the Head of Science. I have worked in a number of schools in and around London over the last 24 years and STA will be my third as Head of Science.

I am very passionate about science and love sharing my love of the subject with all students. I am very much looking forward to inspiring your sons and daughters to share in my passion and inspire them to think and behave like scientists from Year 7 through to A Level.



Mrs Hammond- Assistant Headteacher

Hello, my name is Mrs Hammond and I am delighted to be joining St Andrew the Apostle in September as an Assistant Headteacher.

As a previous head of PE at a local Barnet school, I am extremely passionate about our students being physically active, working as a team and having high aspirations.

Mrs Hammond- Assistant Headteacher (continued)

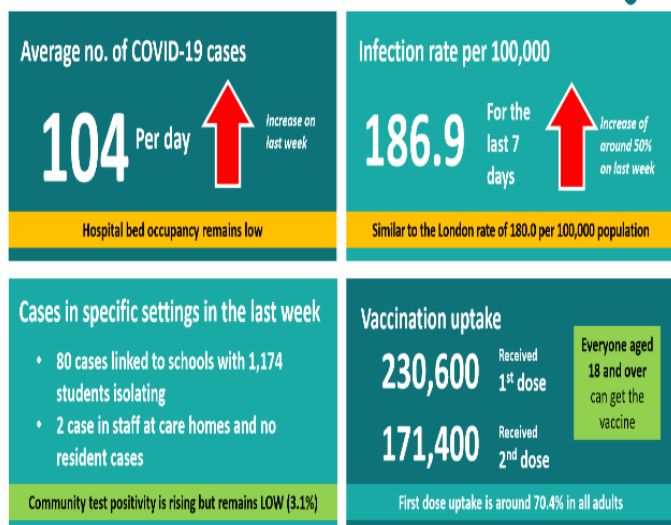
I am looking forward to getting to know you all individually in the new term.



COVID-19 update

Please [click here](#) to view data from the Barnet COVID-19 weekly round up.

27 June - 3 July 2021



Important dates for the Calendar

Please [click here](#) to access term dates for this and for next academic year. 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

Return to school arrangements

Friday 3 September 2021	Arrival Times	Building	Key instructions
Year 7	8:15am	5	Student should enter the building and they will be escorted to the school canteen.
Year 8	9:45am	5	Students should line up by the patio area outside of Reception.
Year 9	9:45am	4	Students should line up in single file by the glass doors leading into building 4, along the demarcated area.
Year 10	10:35am	5	Students should line up on the ball court/football pitch.
Year 11	10:35am	4	Students should line up in the upper school playground.
Year 12	10:35am	4	Students should enter the building and wait for their form tutors on the grass area in the inner courtyard of B4.
Year 13	10:35am	4	Students should enter the building and make their way to the sixth form area where they will be directed to their form rooms

