



Synaxis of the Taxiarchs and Archangels Michael and Gabriel.
Greekcitytimes.com

Key Messages

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a great start back to school with our students really enjoying the additional space we have gained in Building 5 playground after extensive work in the half-term break. We are working through a strategic plan to continue to improve our existing accommodation before our move into our new purpose-built accommodation.

Thank you to all parents and carers who attended the Year 8 parents evening. 90% of all parents and carers were seen and the feedback from staff is that the information about student attainment and targets for students to further improve was very well received. I have asked staff to reschedule appointments where parents and carers were unavailable on the evening. Our target at STA is always 100%! Please do complete the Year 8 parent survey about the parents evening process which will be sent to you this week by Mr Michael. Feedback on this process and the virtual evening is important to us. Initial reports are that the virtual system works very well.

In recent months, I have been meeting with parents and carers who have asked for advice about how to moderate their child's access to social media and their sometimes extensive use of their mobile phone. My five recommendations are based on advice shared with me by STA parents and carers:

- Set a watershed at which time your child is no longer able to access social media. Many parents and carers set this time at 9pm and that time is agreed across all friendship groups so that no

young person is left worrying about missing out on social conversations.

- Ask your child to leave their phone and other digital devices overnight in a place where you can monitor their access. This will enable your child to have a restful night's sleep and they will be able to better concentrate on their lessons on the following day.
- Ask your child to do their homework in a place where you can monitor their activity. Young people find it hard to manage constant interruption from social media and tasks that should take a short time to complete often take many hours- leaving young people stressed and tired.
- Ask your child to show you what they are looking at on their phones. Taking an interest in this aspect of your child's life provides a good talking point and means that you can advise your child if they have any problems and need your help. If your child shows a level of anxiety or is unwilling to discuss the contents of their mobile phone with you, I would urge you to probe to see why. Often a child is relieved when a parent or carer intervenes in an area that is causing them anxiety or an area that they are unable to manage by themselves. Do let your child's Form Tutor or the Head of Year know and we will also support in school.
- Consider buying your child a 'brick' phone and ask them to leave their smart phone at home. Brick phones are very reasonably priced and this will enable your child to use their phone to text or phone you if they need to contact you. There is absolutely no need for your child to have a smart phone in school.

Please [click here](#) to access guidance for parents and carers on our website to keep our children safe online. You will find support to help you to talk to your child about a range of online safety issues, set up home filtering in a child-friendly way and set up age-appropriate parental controls on digital devices.

We have a very busy few weeks leading us into the Christmas period. Year 11 and Year 13 students have been preparing for their Mock exams and the feedback that our students will receive will be invaluable in helping students to secure the best possible grades in summer 2022. I will write to all

parents and carers of children in examination groups as soon as we receive information from the Department for Education about the final arrangements for the exam series in summer 2022.

The sixth form have spent last week engaging with discussions and debates linked to COP26. Do encourage your child to take part in the competitions advertised in this newsletter.

We are looking forward to a wonderful afternoon of activities on Wednesday 17 November. The outline of the programme is as follows:

Year 7: Team building games and activities.

Year 8: Internet awareness and safety.

Year 9: Team building and doing the right thing.

Year 10: Working with the Tottenham Hotspur Foundation on team building activities.

Year 11: Careers afternoon and post-16 choices. All Year 11 students will be learning about a menu of subjects they are able to study at level 3 (A level and BTEC subjects). This event has replaced the traditional sixth form open evening. School will be open to parents and carers of current Year 11 students from 3.15pm until 4.15pm. External students may visit during the school day by prior appointment, dressed in their school uniform and accompanied by a parent or carer. Please refer to our website for further information.

Sixth form: Community service.

I am pleased to let you know that we have finalised the arrangements for our new system of assessment for Years 7, 8 and 9 (Key Stage 3). I will be writing to parents and carers about these arrangements in the next couple of weeks and I will also record a presentation explaining the process further. This will be on the school website and I will direct parents and carers to this in my letter.

We are going to be visiting departments over the course of this academic year in a series of planned 'Deep Dives.' The purpose of this is to quality assure our processes to ensure that we are providing an outstanding education to all of our learners. Heads of Department have designed subject specific questionnaires and your child will be invited to give their feedback about their learning in each subject. Do encourage your child to give us this feedback as the student perspective is very important to us.

Please have a look at the last page of this newsletter for a message from Mr Michael about Bromcom. Please do let us know if you need further help and support and we will invite you into school for a 1:1 support session.

We are STA are truly blessed to have a community of hard-working and aspirational students, exceptional staff and dedicated parents/ carers.



Finally, on behalf of all of us at STA, I would like to wish all families who celebrated the wonderful festival of lights last Thursday, a very happy Diwali.



Mrs I Warwick (Headteacher)

Faith - πίστη



Today, on the 8 of November, the Orthodox Church celebrates the Feast of Synaxis of the Archangels Michael and Gabriel and the rest of the archangels.

Today is also the name day of Michael, Michaela, Gabriela, Aggelos, Aggeliki, Panormitis, Panormita, Taxiarihs, Taxiaria. If this is your name, we wish you a happy name day or ΧΡΟΝΙΑ ΠΟΛΛΑ in Greek- pronounced Xronia Polla!

The word synaxis means the gathering of believers to celebrate a feast, or to make a remembrance of a saint. This feast also has a special meaning; it is the gathering of the humans with the angels, "their union, their gathering and standing in fear in front of the Creator." Because of the fall

of the devil and his angels, this feast is the celebration of the **“sobriety and unity”** of the rest of the angelic powers who stayed loyal to God. “We celebrate also the contribution of the angels and archangels and their help and support in the war against the dark powers and the devil.”

Archangels are messengers of great and wondrous tidings. They reveal prophecies and the mysteries of the faith. They enlighten people to know and understand the will of God, they spread faith in God among the people, illuminating their minds with the light of the Holy Gospel.

The Lord appointed the Holy Archangel Michael (his name in Hebrew means “who is like unto God”), the faithful servitor of God, as Chief Commander. He cast down from Heaven the arrogantly proud Lucifer and the other fallen spirits when they rebelled against God. Michael summoned the ranks of angels and cried out, “Let us attend! Let us stand aright before our Creator and do not consider doing what is displeasing unto God!”

We celebrate this feast of unity between angels and humans, and this unity is not in the “life to come” at the end of times — it starts in this world: the angels direct and guard the sons of God who are struggling in this world; they are glad with every sinner returning to God; they convey prayers to God’s throne. Hence, there is a common liturgical work between angels and humans. The angels offer a non-stop continuous doxology and mental worship with humans to God. They offer to the Holy Trinity the **Trisagion**: **“With these holy powers, we sinners say the trisagion, ‘Holy, Holy, Holy Lord of Sabbath, the heavens and earth are filled with Thy glory, hosanna in the highest, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, hosanna in the highest.’”** They gather around the holy altar with the priest to serve with him the Liturgy. So, there is only one celebration, one feast common between humans and angels:

“Angels with humans celebrate together, earthly with heavenly speak. Through Thy Cross Christ our God, the angels, and humans become one church, heaven and earth are united, O Lord Glory to Thee.”

Amen

Mr M Vassiliou (STA Spiritual Advisor)

STA Homework Club- message to students

**after-school
homework CLUB**
When you need a quiet place to study, read and learn!

After school homework club is starting this week and will take place every Wednesday with Mr Francis in ICT1 in Building 5. Feel free to pop in and get the extra support and time you need to finish your schoolwork.

Stars of the Week



Year 7: Jaladhi N and Serena A – for leading the 7 Simon's group project and producing an exceptional presentation on STA's core value of trust.

Year 8: Zofia S - for supporting another Year 8 student who was upset during lunchtime and working with staff to help her. **Tyra O** - outstanding contributions in form discussions and debates in the recent 'The Day' activities.

Year 9: Nicholos K - for consistently being very encouraging of his peers. **Gregorz B** – for gaining a high number of recognition points and for demonstrating resilience.

Year 10: Emily G and Antal M – for demonstrating a dedicated and focused attitude toward revision.

Year 11: Isabella O – for always being prepared for independent study time. She is conscientious and committed in all that she does. **Adrianno N** – for being very organised and working very hard toward his mock exams.

Year 12: George M and Pedros O – For carrying out independent research on five influential black men and women (as part of Black History Month) and for presenting their presentations during form time.



Special mention- Christopher S in 10 Matthew

Well done to Christopher S in 10 Matthew who took part in the Siam Camp Interclub Muay Thai event held in Manchester on 30 October. Christopher begun Muay Thai training in the summer and has already achieved a high level of technical skill and discipline meaning that he is already sparring with world champions in his weight category!

Well done!



STA students, local primary school students and their teachers will be able to see segments of the live performance during the school day.

As mentioned in my last newsletter, Mr Lasithiotakis (Head of Performing Arts) is working closely with Father Joseph Paliouras from the Twelve Apostles Greek Orthodox Church to set up our STA Byzantine choir. Rehearsals will be led by Father Paliouras and Mr Lasithiotakis and they will be taking place in Building 4, Music room, every Tuesday from 3-4pm, starting this **Tuesday 9 November**. We will have our first live performance during our Easter show. Our Byzantine choir will attend the concert at St Sophia's on 2 December as this will give our new choir inspiration!

Year 13 Student Leadership Food Drive for charity

Thank you for your kind donations of non-perishable food which we will donate to our local food bank. We will continue to collect food until Friday 12 November- so please do continue to give generously.

Your kindness will always be remembered by local families in need.

STA Christmas Show 2021



The date for our Christmas show is on the evening of **Friday 10 December**. Please look out for further details on how you may secure tickets for this exciting performance showcasing the wonderful talent of our students in celebration of the religious festival of Christmas.



APRIL 2020 - MARCH 2021

2.5 MILLION

EMERGENCY FOOD PARCELS WERE GIVEN TO PEOPLE IN CRISIS BY FOOD BANKS IN THE TRUSSELL TRUST NETWORK

Don't forget to **DO GOOD** and to share with those **IN NEED.**
 Hebrews 13:16
THEY ORD FOR THE DAY



We will be hosting a virtual meeting for the Friends of St Andrew (FOSA) on Thursday 11 November at 6.00pm. This is to highlight and discuss plans for events we are looking to run for our school community where your vital support would be greatly appreciated.

If you would like to attend this virtual meeting, please email admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk with an expression of interest for the attention of Mr Michael.

Raffle Prizes

We are planning to have a Christmas raffle that will allow us to generate funds to help support in the coordination of extra-curricular projects. Historically our school community has been very generous in donating prizes and we hope that this can continue. If you (or a company you know) is able to donate a prize, we would very grateful. Please do get in touch on the above email.



Friends of St Andrew

Mr Michael (Senior Deputy Headteacher)



Can you become a climate hero?

Three Pledges

Choose your Power, Plastic and Plants Pledges.

Two Weeks

Keep doing the pledges for two weeks.

One Green Badge

Tell us all about your three pledges and apply for your prestigious Blue Peter Green Badge!

Please [click here](#) to find out more information.

When you have completed your three Power, Plastic and Plants Pledges for at least **two weeks**, you can [click here to apply for your Blue Peter Green Badge](#). Tell us what you've done and upload your photos and artwork to show how much you care about nature, the environment and your planet.

To apply for a green badge, you must:

- Be age 15 years old or below.
- Ask your parent or guardian for permission and ask them to read the [Privacy Notice](#).

Competition- STA COP 26 age 15 or above

Speak to your friends, your Form Tutor and Head of Year to consider what you can contribute to make STA a more eco-friendly environment. Click [here](#) to download and print an oak leaf onto which you will neatly write your pledges. Submit these oak leaves to your form tutor by Monday 22 November.

The student leadership team will view all of the leaves, make a display of an STA tree of promises and attend a meeting with the Senior Leadership team of the school on Monday 6 December to put forward the 5 best ideas.

Mrs Warwick (Headteacher)



University College London (UCL) Exhibition: Inspiring Action on the Climate Emergency



The [26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties \(COP26\)](#), hosted in Glasgow in November 2021, is the first opportunity since the signing of the Paris Agreement for countries to set out more ambitious plans for tackling climate change. With the UK government as host, our academic community is mobilising its collective expertise to help drive ambition.

This exhibition gives a snapshot of how UCL research is creating catalysts for positive change globally, locally and here at UCL. It aims to inspire you to contribute to change with 26 calls to action. From eco-efficient artificial intelligence to coffee logs that heat our home, learn about how UCL staff and students are making change every day.

This exhibition is accompanied by a series of public events that explore climate justice through workshops, talks and discussions. [Visit the UCL Climate Hub for full events listings.](#)

When: October 2021–15 November 2021, 9.00 am–5.00 pm

Open to: All

Availability: Yes

Organiser: UCL Culture / ticketing@ucl.ac.uk

Location: North and South Cloisters, Wilkins Building, UCL Gower St, LONDON, WC1E 6BT, United Kingdom

For: Year 10 students from Imperial College, London



Please [click here](#) to apply for a place at the prestigious STEM potential course run by Imperial College, University of London.

STEM Potential supports you through years 10 and 12 with insightful lectures, subject-specific workshops and a non-residential summer school.

Year 12 applications are now closed and will reopen in September 2022.

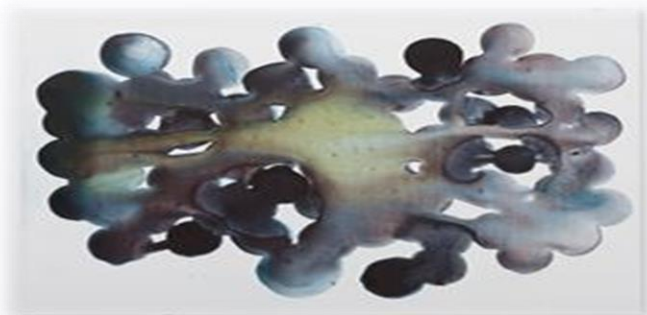


Imperial College London

Imperial College Exhibition: Supernova

[Supernova](#) is a multimedia exhibition featuring the work of five British contemporary artists working in two and three dimensions. Curated by guest artist Sarah Kogan, the

exhibition will be shown at Blyth Gallery, Imperial College London, in November 2021.



The title of the exhibition, *Supernova*, alludes to the moment that a star implodes, shooting materials into the cosmos and creating the raw ingredients of life. This metaphor of material process, resulting in new life being formed, is pertinent to the content of the exhibition: whilst the work of each selected artist explores the importance of materiality in the process of making, there concurrently exist, throughout the exhibition as a whole, subtle manifestations of expressive meaning.

Event information

3 November 2021 - 16 December 2021

Time: 9.00 - 17.00

Location: Blyth Gallery, level 5, Sherfield Building, South Kensington Campus

Cost: Free

Message to students from King's College, London

Building on the success of our Winter School in 2021, we are delighted to announce that Winter School will be returning in February 2022.

Designed primarily for students aged 15-17, who will be soon making decisions around university, this one-week online programme is an intensive introduction to undergraduate level study.

The course allows students to explore different subjects within a wider academic discipline and make informed choices about their options beyond compulsory education. The programme offers five streams, spanning teaching from most of King's faculties and schools. Choose one of the following courses for the duration of the programme:

- Business & Economics
- Health & Science
- Law, Politics & Social Science
- Media, Art & Culture (NEW for 2022)
- Psychology & Neuroscience (NEW for 2022)

The Winter School enables students to sample various subjects within their chosen discipline, gain insight into how it's taught at undergraduate level, start to develop skills and competencies needed for success at university, and build confidence ahead of further study.

Students who successfully complete the programme will receive a Participant Record of Achievement.

Applications are open on 15 November for both the winter and summer school programmes- so get ready to apply! Please [click here](#) to apply for the pre-university winter school. Winter school dates are Monday 14- Friday 18 February 2022.

Please [click here](#) to read more about the pre-university summer school. Summer school dates run from 4- 29 July depending on the course you choose.

Reminder: University of Cambridge: Gonville & Caius



Gonville & Caius will visit us and deliver personalised workshops for our most able students in Year 13, Year 12 and Year 11 on **Thursday 18 November**. We will end the day with a special workshop delivered by the team from Gonville & Caius to Year 5 and Year 6 students from our local primary schools.

University of Oxford Podcasts

**Suitable for all Year groups - Classics podcasts**

The Outreach team at Oxford University's Faculty of Classics is delighted to share a new podcast series – Regional Classics – which highlights the voices and perspectives of Classicists from different regions of the UK and explores their experiences of studying the ancient world. The podcast aims to create thought-provoking conversations, engage new audiences, and highlight initiatives which widen access to the study of Classics.

The first three episodes of the series, bringing together Oxford students and staff from Northern Ireland, Scotland and South West England, are now live and available to listen to at Oxford Podcasts

(<http://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/series/regional-classics>)

Apple Podcasts

(<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/id1584329875>)

Faculty Website

(<https://clasoutreach.web.ox.ac.uk/regionalclassics-podcast-northern-ireland>). Follow the podcast to be notified of new releases. We hope you enjoy listening!

Christ Church student chat platform

Do you have questions about student life at Oxford? Chat to our students here: www.chch.ox.ac.uk/admissions/chat

Mrs Warwick (Headteacher)

Autism Advisory Team: Parent Virtual Seminar



**Autism Advisory Team:
Parent Virtual Seminar -
Guest Speaker, Purple
Ella**

Barnet Autism Advisory Team are very pleased to welcome Purple Ella as a guest speaker to their [Parent Virtual Seminar](#).

Ella received a late autism diagnosis after two of her children were diagnosed with autism. She also has a diagnosis of ADHD. Since her diagnosis she's been learning about autism, and the best ways to live for her neurology.



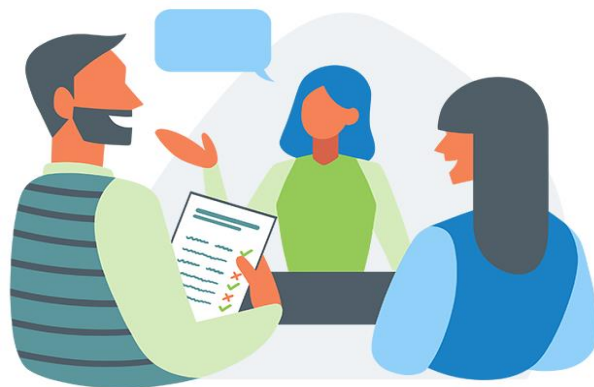
She has a popular YouTube channel, TikTok and Instagram where she makes content for autistic people and the people who love and care for them, with the aim of encouraging neurodivergent people to live confident and happy lives. Parent/ Carers and Professionals welcome. Priority for questions will be given to Parents/ Carers.

You can find out more about Ella here: [Home - Purple Ella](#)

- Where: Online
- When: Wednesday 17 November, 6pm to 7pm

The course is free, but it is essential that parents/carers register. [Please use this link to register.](#)

Headteacher Parent Surgery



If you would like to meet with the Headteacher or a Senior Deputy Headteacher at our 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.

New Mental Health & Wellbeing Resource



As part of the [Co-RAY project](#), a short animation has been developed by the University of Oxford's Experimental Psychology and Psychiatry Department. It is aimed at young people aged 11-16 years, to address any barriers they may have in seeking mental health support.



This resource is available via [BBC Bitesize](#) and I would recommend that all young people, their parents and carers have a look at the valuable information that has been shared here.

Mrs Warwick (Headteacher)

Suicide Prevention Support

PAPYRUS
PREVENTION OF YOUNG SUICIDE

HOPELINEUK 0800 068 4141
Text: 07860 039 967 Email: pat@papyrus-uk.org

If you are a young person having thoughts of suicide or are concerned for a young person who might be you can contact HOPELINEUK for confidential support and practical advice.

Opening hours: 9am - 10pm weekdays, 2pm-10pm weekdays & bank holidays.

PAPYRUS aims to create suicide safer communities and one of the ways they do this is through their helpline, HOPELINEUK.

If you or anyone you know is struggling with thoughts of suicide or needs to debrief after a conversation around suicide, please contact HOPELINEUK for free and confidential

support and guidance. Call 0800 068 4141 Text 07860 039961 Email pat@papyrus-uk.org

PAPYRUS
PREVENTION OF YOUNG SUICIDE

No young person should have to suffer alone with thoughts of suicide

If you are having thoughts of suicide or are concerned for a young person who might be, you can contact **HOPELINEUK** for confidential support and practical advice.

Call: 0800 068 4141
Text: 07860 039 967
Email: pat@papyrus-uk.org

Open every day 9am - midnight

www.papyrus-uk.org

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

Mental Health

**STUDENT
MENTAL HEALTH
& ANXIETY**

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

Please [click here](#) to access support and advice from Kooth

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 Martin (DSL*); Mrs C Hammond (DDSL*); Mrs I Warwick (DDSL*); Ms M Henshaw-Devall; Mr N Anemori and Ms M Hirli.** *DDSL is the Deputy Designated Safeguarding lead *DSL is the Designated Safeguarding lead.

Reminder COVID safety

BARNET COVID-19 WEEKLY ROUND-UP

24 October – 30 October 2021



Average no. of COVID-19 cases

203 Per day

Decreased from around 286 last week

Bed occupancy has increased in the last week

Infection rate per 100,000

360 For the last 7 days

Decreased from 431 per 100,000 population last week

Higher than the London rate of 261 per 100,000 population

Cases in specific settings in the last week

- 94 cases associated with schools have been reported in the last week.
- 9 staff members and 1 resident in care homes have tested positive in the last week.

Community positivity has decreased and is MEDIUM (6.4%)

Vaccination uptake

257,100 Received 1st dose

234,800 Received 2nd dose

First dose uptake is around 72.2% for all ages (12 & over)

Everyone aged 12+ can book a vaccine appt

Children aged 12-15 will also be invited for vaccination in school or a GP Practice if clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV)



Students should be testing themselves at home twice weekly (Wednesdays and Sundays) using lateral flow tests and results should be reported to the school using our online reporting system.

Please note: Students experiencing any symptoms of COVID must not come into school and must go immediately for a PCR test.

Please [click here](#) if you would like to view the Barnet COVID-19 weekly update.

Important dates for the calendar

Please [click here](#) to access term dates. Please note, these dates may be subject to change.

Applications for our sixth form

Please [click here](#) to apply for our sixth form. Early applications stand a better chance of being successful in obtaining a place to study the course of choice in our sixth form.

Ofsted 2018 *“The school’s work to promote pupils’ personal development and welfare is **outstanding**. Leaders in the sixth*

form set **high expectations** for their students. Students really enjoy their learning in the sixth form.”

Personal attention + Positive relationships = Excellent Progress

Bromcom update



Our focus over the next week is to ensure all parents are able to successfully redeem their invitation code and be able to access their My Child At School (MCAS) account. Over the last week all Parents who have yet to redeem their invitation code have been sent reminders to the registered email they have with school. Students have also been given paper copies during form time.

We were informed by Bromcom that there was an issue with their server last week, but this has been resolved.

It is really important that you are able to activate your account as this is the platform where all academic reports will be placed, but also allows you to view your child’s homework, attendance and behaviour live through this platform.

Please read the [user guide](#) which is available on our website on how to redeem your invitation code and use the platform. Please follow the steps in the user guide to activate your account. If you still experience issues, please email admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk.

All the platforms that are used by the school community can be accessed via our website

<https://standrewtheapostle.org.uk/school-platforms>

Mr Michael (Senior Deputy Headteacher)