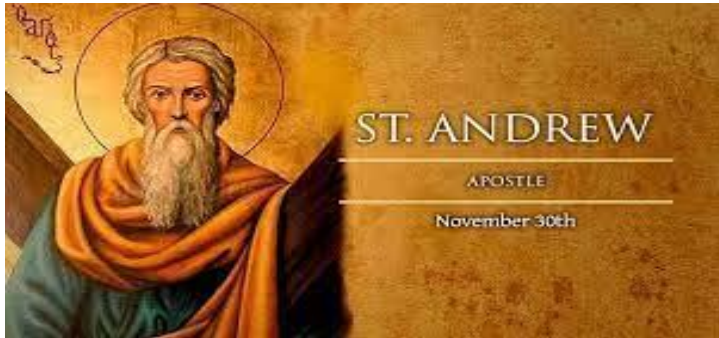




Headteacher's Update

29 November 2021



Key Messages

Dear Parents and Carers,

PLEASE SEE IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT BELOW:

I would like to inform you that all students are required to wear a face covering in communal areas from today onwards unless they are exempt. I will also inform staff and students today that we are returning to this previous and well-established protocol.

May I ask all parents and carers to read the following announcement sent to Headteachers on Saturday 27 November from the DfE:

Information for all education and childcare settings on new measures in response to the identification of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in the UK

On Saturday 27 November, the Prime Minister announced new temporary measures following the emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in the UK.

The new measures will be introduced as a precaution to slow down the spread of the variant while we gather more information. We will continue to keep this under review as the situation develops.

Face coverings: Face coverings should be worn in communal areas in all settings by staff, visitors and pupils or students in year 7 and above, unless they are exempt.

Pupils or students (in year 7 or above) should continue to wear face coverings on public and dedicated school transport, unless they are exempt.

Testing: All educational and childcare settings should continue to encourage staff and students to test twice weekly using lateral flow device (LFD) tests.

Contact tracing and isolation: The current guidance on contact tracing and isolation remains in place. In addition to these, any suspected or confirmed close contacts of the Omicron variant will be asked to isolate for 10 days regardless of vaccination status or age. You will be contacted directly and told to isolate.

Vaccination: All eligible staff and students aged 12 and over are encouraged to take up the offer of the vaccine, including boosters. Vaccines are our best defence against COVID-19. They help protect young people and adults, and benefit those around them. Vaccination makes people less likely to catch the virus and less likely to pass it on.

To book a vaccination, please visit: [Book or manage a coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination – NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk).

Changes to the red list for international travel to England

Individuals arriving in England from red list countries must follow the red list rules.

South Africa, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia and Zimbabwe moved onto the red list at 12pm Friday 26 November. Angola, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia were added to the red list 4am Sunday 28 November.

I would like to thank parents and carers for working with us to keep our school community safe by testing at least twice weekly and by ensuring that children who are unwell are not sent into school and are tested on the same day.

At STA, we have maintained a one-way flow around school and teachers have been teaching in a demarcated box which is separate from the children. We also continued with an enhanced cleaning regime; staff ensure that classrooms are ventilated and that desks are wiped down before

lessons commence. It is thanks to this protocol that we have had very few COVID cases in school and we anticipate this to remain to be the case in the coming weeks.

I will of course monitor the situation and revise the arrangements for the events below accordingly and in line with Government guidance.

Update on school life

We have had an excellent week where our Year 11 students have successfully completed their Mock exams and demonstrated our **4 Rs** in practice every day. Our Year 11 students have been:

Ready with the correct equipment for each exam and their revision completed to a high standard.

Respectful to each other and staff by strictly observing the rules of the examination venue.

Responsible by ensuring that they arrive at each venue in plenty of time.

Resilient by never giving up and persevering even when there have been difficult questions.

Our Year 13 students commence their Mock exams this week and we know that they, like our Year 11 students will do their best and position themselves well for the summer 2022 assessments.

We are commencing a series of 'Deep Dives' into each department in order to give me, my senior leaders, our Governors and our sponsors the Russell Education Trust (RET) a deeper understanding of our school's curriculum. This will enable us to make an accurate judgement about the overall quality of education delivered by our school. It will also give our Heads of Department a valuable insight into the learning in their subject area. We will complete our Deep Dives of Maths, English and Science in December with other departments scheduled in the New Year.

We have a number of events coming up as we enter the final school month of the year. This is a good time for us to reflect on the reasons for [many Christians to celebrate Christmas on 25 December](#).

In the first century the Church did not celebrate the birth of Christ. In the very first few years of the Church, the only feast days being celebrated were those to do with the death and resurrection of Christ: that is, Pascha. After a few decades the Church desired to also celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord on 6 January. This meant celebrating the fact that God took on human form and visited us: ***God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us!***

What is the difference between the Julian and the Gregorian calendar?

Julius Caesar introduced a calendar ([the Julian calendar](#)) in 46BC based on the advice of Egyptian astronomer Sosigene, who had calculated the lunar year. But his measurements were wrong by about 11 minutes, and over the centuries the dates of major Christian holidays had drifted so much it became an issue. To fix this, the Gregorian calendar was introduced by Pope Gregory in 1582, and this is the one we still use today.

In May 1923, a group of Orthodox leaders met to reach an overall agreement about which calendar to follow. States including Greece, Cyprus, and Romania agreed to move to the new calendar, but other Orthodox churches, like those of Russia and Egypt, refused. Conversely, the Armenian Apostolic Church celebrates Christmas on 6 January, as the country was not influenced by the Roman Empire or the Julian or Gregorian calendars.

Why 25 December?

One theory for the 25 December to be chosen is because it is exactly nine months from the Annunciation by Archangel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary that she would give birth to Christ. 25 March had already been chosen by the Church and it was only natural to put Christmas nine months later.

Events in December (all subject to revision in line with Government guidance)

Monday 29 December: Year 13 Mock exams commence

Tuesday 30 November: Visit to St Katherine's Greek Orthodox Church with STA student ambassador representatives from each year group to celebrate the feast day of St Andrew the Apostle.

Thursday 2 December: STA Byzantine choir visit to St Sophia's Greek Orthodox Cathedral to attend the evening Concert of Christmas joy.

Friday 10 December: STA Christmas concert. Local Primary schools will attend the matinee performance. Evening performance for parents/ carers and the school community commences at 6pm with doors open at 5.30pm. Please see the back page of this Newsletter for further details.

Monday 13 December: Year 7 and Year 8 visit to St Katherine's Greek Orthodox Church for a Christmas service.

Tuesday 14 December: Year 9 visit to St Katherine's Greek Orthodox Church for a Christmas service. Mock results day for Year 11 students.

Wednesday 15 December: Year 10 visit to St Katherine's Greek Orthodox Church for a Christmas service. Also, Christmas lunch will be served in the canteen of both Building 4 and Building 5.

Thursday 16 December: Year 11 and Sixth form visit to St Katherine's Greek Orthodox Church for a Christmas service. School finishes at 12.30 for all students.

We are praying that we will have the opportunity to celebrate these joyful events together as a school community. In order for these events to take place safely, we will require all of our school community and our visitors to follow our COVID-safe protocol.

In light of an update from the Department for Education (DfE) on 26 November, I would like to let you know that we have been asked to prepare to test all students once on-site on our return to school in January.

Best wishes,

Mrs I Warwick (Headteacher)



Faith - πίστις

[Feast Day of St. Andrew the First-Called Apostle](#)

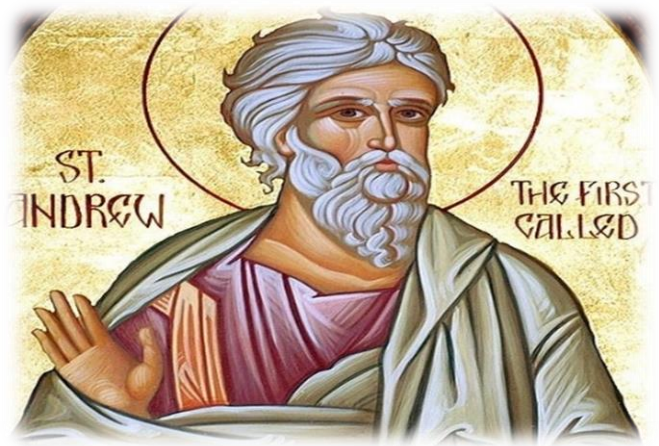
This week, we prepare to celebrate the feast day of our school's patron saint, Saint Andrew, the First Called Apostle on Tuesday 30 November. Few saints are as prominent in the Eastern Orthodox tradition as St Andrew the Apostle. Various early testimonies recount his missionary travels throughout Eastern Europe in what is now Greece, the Black Sea regions of Asia Minor (now Turkey), Romania, Ukraine, and Russia.

St Andrew is dear to the hearts and minds of many Orthodox Christians worldwide.

Before he became the patron saint of some of the most prominent Orthodox nations who was he?

He appears in all four Gospels as one of the Twelve Disciples of the Lord Jesus. The Gospel of St John informs us that he was the first of the Lord's disciples, hence St Andrew's title in Greek, "**Protokletos**" (First-Called).

He is not as prominent a personality in the Gospels as some of the others, particularly his more assertive brother Simon-



Peter. But St Andrew is always there, just below the surface.

By observing the few times, he rises to the surface of the Gospels, we can discern something about his personality, his close relationship with his Master/teacher Jesus, and his role as a guide and intercessor for the Holy Church today.

The most important thing to note about St Andrew is that the few times he does appear in the Gospels, he is always leading others to Jesus Christ. St Andrew is not outspoken, and he does not come across as one who craves the spotlight, but his gentle, caring personality comes forth and invites others to "come and see" the Master.

First, we meet St Andrew as a spiritual seeker in the first chapter of St John's Gospel (1:35-42). Originally a disciple of St John the Baptist, St Andrew is there when John prophesies of the Lord Jesus, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" (John 1:36). St Andrew and another disciple leave their first master to go and follow someone far more important! Jesus invites St Andrew and his friend to "come and see" (1:39), and the two of them spend the rest of the day with this mysterious new Master, learning from Him and observing His manner of life.

After spending the day with this Rabbi (teacher) Jesus, the first thing St Andrew does is go and tell his brother Peter: "We have found the Messiah!" The Gospel simply tells us, "And he brought him to Jesus" (1:42). St Andrew was on his own humble quest for the truth, and when the Truth came before him, St Andrew recognised Him and never looked back.

The second time we meet St Andrew in the Gospels is at the feeding of the 5,000 by the Sea of Galilee (John 6:4-14). "A great multitude" is now following Jesus, and they are starting to get hungry. The Lord tests one of his other apostles, Philip: "Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" (6:5). Philip has no faith, and no ideas. "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every

one of them may have a little!" But St Andrew is the one who responds by saying: "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?" (6:9). St Andrew appears a little short on faith, but he has an inkling that Jesus can provide sustenance for this great multitude of people. Jesus takes the fish and loaves from the little boy, and we all know the rest of the story. It says a great deal about St Andrew's character that he would have taken the time to get to know this young boy and introduce him to Jesus at the right time.

Third, and also in the Gospel of John, we again encounter the **Protokletos** leading others to Jesus, this time a group of Greeks who were in Jerusalem to worship the one true God of the Jews on the feast of Passover (12:20-22). The Gospel simply says, "there were certain Greeks among those who came up to worship at the feast. St Andrew, brings them to Jesus: "Philip came and told Andrew, and in turn Andrew and Philip told Jesus" (12:22). Even among the Apostles, it was apparently recognised that St Andrew had a special connection with the Master, and that he was particularly gifted in leading others to Him. Even apart from St Andrew's later missionary travels, it's no wonder Greek Christians to this day venerate St Andrew as their patron saint, the one who leads prayers on their behalf before the Holy Trinity.

In each of these examples, St Andrew is not trying to do anything exceptional. He comes across to us as simple, faithful, humble, kind, and friendly, with an openness toward others.

After Pentecost/the resurrection, St Andrew's missionary travels would take him through modern day Greece, Romania, Ukraine, and Russia. He was finally nailed to an X-shaped cross in the Greek city of Patras, where he gave his life as a martyr for the sake of His Master.

One version of St Andrew's martyrdom puts these beautiful words to the Holy Cross on his lips: "**O good Cross, made beautiful by the body of my Lord! So long desired, so anxiously loved, so unceasingly sought after, and now at last ready for my soul to enjoy! Take me from amidst men, and restore me to my Master, that by thee he may receive me, who by thee redeemed me.**"

Troparion to St. Andrew (Tone 4):

Since thou wast first called among the Apostles, and a brother of the head, implore, O Andrew, the Master of all to grant the inhabited world safety and our souls the great mercy. Amen.

Mr M Vassiliou (STA Spiritual Director)

Student Recognition



Year 7: Michael M - for fantastic contributions in form time when discussing the meaning of arch angels and guardian angels. **Raz O** and **Dimitris G** - for being always proactive and helpful during form time.

Year 8: Hendrik S - for impeccable presentation of STA uniform. **Antonia B** - for being so resilient in her studies and achieving several achievements points in History.

Year 11: Olivia M - for working hard towards her exams. **Melisa S-B** - for her being very well organised and working hard towards mock exams.

Year 12: Eriola K, Elianna G, Marcos A - for outstanding presentation on 'Australia's resolve for COP26', which was thoroughly researched and presented during form time.

Year 13: Matthew A and Nicola G - for excellent participation in the COP26 debates.

Special mention to the students below for being chosen to be STA ambassadors for our visit to St Katherine's Greek Orthodox Church on **Tuesday 30 November**.

Year 7	Anna Maria D
	Panayiotis B
Year 8	Hendrik S
	Linditi P
Year 9	Joe P
	Maya D
Year 10	Harry P
	Alexia V
Year 11	Emily G
	Panny X
Year 12	Chrystall D
	Panny X

Message from FOSA – STA Christmas 2021



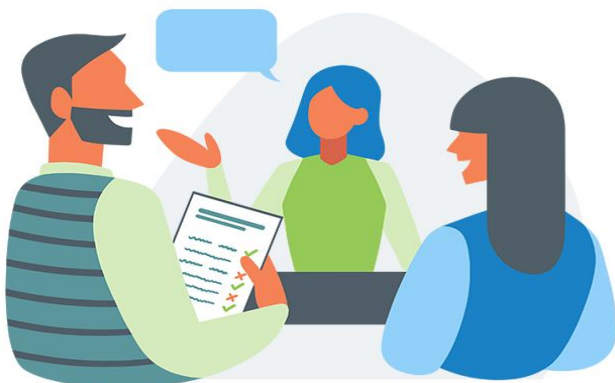
Friends of St Andrew

Reminder: If you (or a company you know) is able to donate a prize for our Christmas raffle, we would be very grateful. Please do get in touch by emailing us at admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk with FOSA in the title and mark your email for the attention of Mr Michael.



Mr Michael (Senior Deputy Headteacher)

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.

STA student charity event- coming soon



Our sixth form student leadership team will be selling cakes in order to raise money for the charities below. More details will follow in next week's Newsletter.

Parents and carers may donate to these charities via ParentPay. Please do log in and donate if you can. Your contribution will make a huge difference to people living with a cancer diagnosis.



Mrs C. Hammond (Assistant Headteacher)

Success Beyond School – Notice to Parents and Carers



We are thrilled to announce the last in our [Success Beyond School](#) series for 2021; free-of-charge, live online evening seminars designed to help parents supercharge their children's career potential. Parents can register now for:

[Wednesday 1st Dec: Building a Future in Finance](#)

How your child can break into the finance industry

[Wednesday 8th Dec: Level up with Law](#)

Support your child on their journey to becoming a top lawyer

These events are for parents of students aged 12-18 and free to attend.



For a limited time only students can get 15% off using code SUMMER15. Shadow doctors in a hospital, argue a human rights case in the Supreme Court, explore a supercar engine with F1 engineers and much more.

Mental Health Crisis Helpline- Reminder



If you're in crisis and need to talk right now, there are many helplines staffed by trained people ready to listen. They won't judge you and could help you make sense of what you're feeling.

Samaritans. To talk about anything that is upsetting you, you can contact [Samaritans](#) 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. You can call [116 123](#) (free from any phone)

SANeline. If you're experiencing a mental health problem or supporting someone else, you can call [SANeline](#)

National Suicide Prevention Helpline UK. Offers a supportive listening service to anyone with thoughts of suicide. You can call the [National Suicide Prevention Helpline UK](#) on 0800 689 5652 (open 24/7).

Campaign Against Living Miserably (CALM). You can call the [CALM](#) on 0800 58 58 58 (5pm–midnight every day) if you are struggling and need to talk. Or if you prefer not to speak on the phone, you could try the [CALM webchat service](#).

Papyrus HOPELINEUK. If you're struggling with suicidal feelings, or concerned about a young person who might be struggling, you can call [Papyrus HOPELINEUK](#) on 0800 068 4141 (weekdays 10am-10pm, weekends 2pm-10pm and bank holidays 2pm–10pm)

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

14 November – 20 November 2021



Average no. of COVID-19 cases

200 Per day



Increased from around 179 last week

Admissions & bed occupancy have increased in the last week

Infection rate per 100,000

360 For the last 7 days



Increased from 351 per 100,000 population last week

Higher than the London rate of 310 per 100,000 population

Cases in specific settings in the last week

- 264 cases associated with schools have been reported in the last week.
- 5 staff members and no residents in care homes have tested positive in the last week.

Community positivity has increased to MEDIUM (5.4%)

Vaccination uptake

260,100 Received 1st dose

237,300 Received 2nd dose

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)

First dose uptake is around 72.9% for all ages (12 & over)



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.

Applications for our Sixth Form - Reminder



Chrystalla: *“The school has a very friendly feel. Our school has a different community feel compared to other schools as we are so close. This includes the students and teachers as well.”*



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.”*



Ms Fourcade, Head of Sixth form: *“100% of our Year 13 students achieved a place at the University of their choice, thanks to the excellent results they gained at the end of Year 13. Students join STA for the personal relationships they will develop and the success they know they will achieve at the end of their studies.”*

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.

Personal attention + Positive relationships

= Excellent Progress

Barnet BACE Winter 2021

Holiday Camps for Young People in Barnet who currently receive Free School Meals

Find us on Insta!  @BarnetYouth_

BACE HOLIDAYS

WINTER 2021

Monday 20th December - Thursday 23rd December

Contact us via:
www.barnetyouth.uk/BACE-Holidays
BACEHolidays@barnet.gov.uk
 0208 359 3100

 **BARNET** LONDON BOROUGH

BACE Holidays stands for Barnet- Active- Creative- Engaging Holidays. A project delivered in partnership by [Barnet Council](#) and [Young Barnet Foundation](#) and funded by the Department for Education to offer children and young people who currently receive free school meals to access enriching activities and a healthy lunch over the holiday periods.

School holidays can be pressure points for some families due to increased costs and reduced incomes. BACE Holidays is an inclusive programme for children and young people in Barnet to experience engaging and healthy activities with an emphasis on physical, emotional, and nutritional wellbeing during the school holidays.

Children and young people will be given the opportunity take part in an activity face to face at one of our Winter BACE Camps and receive a nutritionally balanced lunch. Activities may include; football, cricket, arts and crafts, performing arts and lots more.

[BACE Winter Delivery 2021](#)
 Winter BACE Booklet - SOON LIVE

Dates: Monday 20th - Thursday 24th December 2021

Ages: 5-16years

Location: Venues across the Borough of Barnet

Times: 10:00 - 15:00

Cost: FREE

Who is the Programme for? All children and young people in Barnet who are currently in receipt of Free School Meals.

Christmas Show Information- tickets released today!

Our Christmas show will take place in Building 4 Hall at 6pm on **Friday 10 December** with refreshments served by FOSA (Friends of St Andrew the Apostle School).

Our Performing Arts team have collaborated with staff from Religion and Philosophy and with the PE team to create a wonderful programme including two performances by our Byzantine choir; a drama piece on 'Christmas in the trenches', a dance performance, Bible readings and Christmas carols in different languages.

We also look forward to welcoming students from a local Primary School who will attend our matinee performance.

We are not charging for tickets but we hope that you will instead donate to a charity chosen by our students via Parentpay.



St Andrew the Apostle School

Christmas

Concert

An Evening of celebration

Building 4 Main Hall
 Reserve your tickets now via **ParentPay**

Friday
10th December
 Doors Open at 17:30
 Show begins at 18:00



Refreshments and raffle tickets will be available to purchase at the event