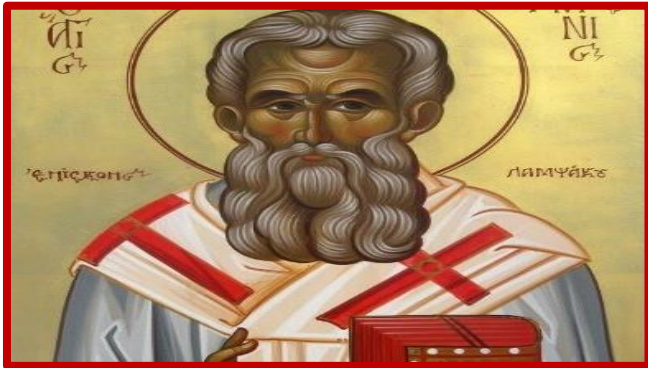




Headteacher's Update

7 February 2022



February 7, commemorates the [1003 martyrs of Nicomedia](#). It also commemorates Saints Parthenius, Bishop of Lampsacus, and Aprion, Bishop of Cyprus.

Key Messages

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are continuing to keep our control measures under review and will inform you of any updates as and when they are needed. Regular lateral flow testing remains the most effective way of identifying Covid 19 cases and preventing the virus from spreading. Please can we ask you to make sure that your child is testing at least twice weekly (Sundays and Wednesdays at a minimum) and that all test results (negative, positive or void) are reported to the school via www.testregister.co.uk as well as NHS test and trace. Please click here to see how to obtain free Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test kits. A reminder that LFDs should be used for asymptomatic testing only. If you have any symptoms of Covid 19 you should self-isolate immediately and seek a PCR test. Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding as we work together to keep the school community safe with student learning as our central focus.

We were pleased to welcome our Chair of Governors, Mrs Mary Karaolis OBE and school Governors Mrs Maria Frangeskides and Mrs Marina Pareas into school for planned visits. Our Governors met with staff and students to examine our provision in areas including Safeguarding, Inclusion and Behaviour and Attendance. We are very fortunate to have a highly qualified, knowledgeable and supportive Governing body. Please [click here](#) if you would like to find out more about our Governing body.

At the time of writing, there has been no announcement about arrangements for examinations in summer 2022. I will of course write to all parents and carers of students in Year 11 and Year 13 as soon as I receive further information.

Following on from our recent Oxbridge success, our next cohort of Year 12 Early Bird (students who are applying to Oxbridge or are applying for Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Science) will be visiting Christ Church, University of Oxford on 9 February. I would like to congratulate Pavlos K in Year 12 who secured a place on the very competitive Oxford Horizons programme.

We are delighted that all of our Year 13 students have successfully applied to university with some also making applications for Apprenticeships. Our students have applied for a wide range of courses which include Mathematics, Medicine, Aerospace Engineering, Criminology, Law, Computer Science, History and Politics, History and Politics of the Americas, Business Management and Law and Criminology. STA students have already started receiving offers from top Russell Group universities such as Imperial College; UCL and Warwick University.

We are very proud of Alexis N in Year 11 who will be representing our school in a highly prestigious online event celebrating the Greek language for International Greek Language Day, organised by the Presidential Commissioner for overseas Cypriots.

We are really looking forward to welcoming 97-year-old volunteer speaker, Mr Mervyn Kersh, a World War II veteran, to STA on Thursday 10 February. It is an honour to have an opportunity to see and hear the first-hand story of Mr Kersh's life and I am sure that all Year 10 students will remember this rare chance to experience living-history.

I would like to congratulate our student voice representatives at STA. They have been meeting with Mrs Hammond (Assistant Headteacher) and even attended Senior Leadership Team (SLT) meetings to tell us about their ideas about areas of interest and significance.

Most notable are a group of Year 9 students who have started working on a project with their Head of Year Ms Walt and with key members of the SLT. I am very keen for us at STA to recognise and value the part that Black British people have played in making a positive contribution to our country and society. Many students are tired of seeing negative stereotypes in the public domain. At STA, we want something new; something that celebrates success for all students and encourages all to be aspirational- thereby making success the norm rather than something that seems to be a 'fluke' and unrealistic for some members of our school community.

Our student delegation has already started working on a 'Black Excellence' display for both school sites. This is a title and project that our students have chosen. I will share photographs of the display in this Newsletter as soon as it is completed after half-term.

We have also made a link with Ms Evelyn Forde, Headteacher at Copthall School via Mrs Nicholas (STA Maths teacher) and we aim to send a delegation of our students accompanied by two members of the SLT to Copthall School to find out more about best-practice in a local Barnet school. We would like to follow up by having some student-voice online discussions on MS Teams across both schools. We also have another source of best practice at Sydney Russell School in Dagenham and we hope to include students and staff from both schools in our project.

The key questions that I have tasked our students and staff to consider are:

How can we adapt our curriculum to be more inclusive and representative of the diversity in modern day Britain?
How can we celebrate Black History Month (BHM) beyond a month and extend our recognition of the contribution of Black and minority ethnic people to Britain all-year round?

Student voice representatives in Year 10 have made a persuasive presentation to the SLT to ask for a non-uniform day for their year group. This event will be held on **Thursday 24 February** and is intended to recognise and support all young people to have positive mental health. Please look out for a letter with further details from Mrs Hammond (Assistant Headteacher). Please do wish anyone whose name is listed below a very happy name day and [click here](#) to send a free iconogram.

Saint being celebrated	Date in February
Parthenios	Monday 7
Zachariah/Zacharoula	Tuesday 8
Nikiforos, Pangratios	Wednesday 9
Haralambos, Harikleia, Harilaos	Thursday 10
Theodora	Friday 11
Meletios	Saturday 12
Priscilla	Sunday 13



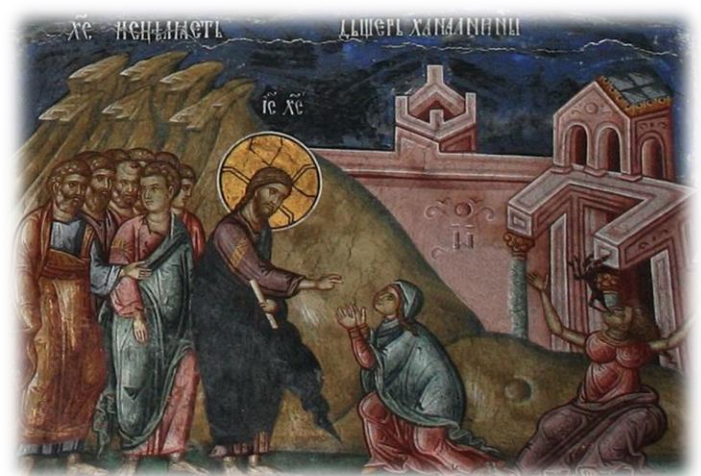
This is an extended edition Newsletter as we break up for half-term on Friday 11 February. I hope that you and your family have a lovely, happy and healthy half-term. I look forward to seeing all students back to school at the normal time, on Tuesday 22 February as Monday 21 February is a staff INSET day. My next Newsletter will be sent on Monday 28 February.



Best wishes,
Mrs I Warwick (Headteacher)

Faith - πίστις

THE SUNDAY OF THE CANAANITE WOMAN



Gospel According to St. Matthew 15: 21-18

We have all had the experience of being ignored, left out, and made to feel that we weren't included or recognized by others. Whether at school, among friends, at work or wherever, that can be painful, no matter what our age or life circumstances. No one likes to be rejected or overlooked. But sometimes, what seems to be rejection really isn't; sometimes it is testing and preparation for a deeper relationship in which we learn more about ourselves, our neighbours, and God.

Such was our Lord's conversation with the Canaanite woman. She is a Gentile with a demon-possessed daughter, and probably at the end of her rope. So she calls out to Christ, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David!" But He doesn't answer her and says to the disciples that He was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel, to the Jews. When the woman persists with her cries for help, He tells her that it is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs. In other words, God's blessings are for the chosen people of the Old Testament, the Jews, not for the Gentiles. The woman doesn't disagree with that answer but says that "even the dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters'

table.” Then Christ praises the woman’s faith, and her daughter is healed.

We may find it hard to understand this passage. Why doesn’t the Lord heal her daughter immediately? Why does He seem to exclude the Gentiles from His salvation?

This Gentile woman knows enough about Christ to call Him “Son of David,” a Jewish term for the Messiah, and that He is a healer. But when her conversation with the Lord begins, it’s not clear what kind of faith she has in Him. By the end of the conversation, however, it’s quite clear that she has a faith in Him. For she knows that in Jesus Christ God’s blessings extend to all people who believe in Him, and that metaphorically speaking there is enough spiritual nourishment to feed and bless the whole world.

The Lord’s apparent exclusion of the Gentiles from His ministry is a teaching tool to help her and the disciples see the truth about God’s salvation and blessing. She didn’t deny that, in the story of the Old Testament, the Jews are the Chosen People, the children of God. But she knew the message of the Scriptures, for God told Abraham that through him and his family all the nations of the world would be blessed; and Hebrew prophets envisioned the day when all the nations would come to the mountain of the Lord. And now in Jesus Christ, Jew and Gentile alike become beloved children who share fully in God’s blessings.

This Canaanite woman is a tremendous model for Christians, especially since we have a tendency to easily give up on the Lord and on ourselves. We are tempted to think that we are who we are, that there is no point in trying to change, and that even God can’t heal and transform us. It certainly would have been less stressful for this Gentile woman to have stayed home that day and not made a scene about Christ healing her daughter. But then her life and that of her daughter would have remained miserable and without the Lord’s blessing.

The lesson for us here is that we must refuse to be distracted by our fears and reject the temptation to take the easy way out by making excuses. Like the Canaanite woman, let us refuse to be conquered by fear and instead throw ourselves upon the mercy of Christ with courage, patience, and perseverance.

Mr M Vassiliou (STA Spiritual Director)

STA Spring Term Extra-Curricular Clubs- Reminder



EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



Monday:	3pm-5pm
GCSE PE Trampolining (Invite Only)	East Barnet School
Tuesday:	3pm-4pm
All Years Dodgeball Club	Building 5 Hall
Wednesday:	3pm-4pm
All Years Table Tennis Club	Building 4 Hall
Thursday:	3pm-4.30pm
All Years Dance Club	Building 5 Hall

For all clubs, students need to arrive at the changing rooms after-school. A reminder if students wish to attend a club on **a day they do not have PE**, then PE kit must be brought separately to school. Students will be given the opportunity to change at 3pm in the changing rooms.

Mr R Browell (Head of PE)

Students of the Week



Year 7: Sahana G - For making great contributions to form time this week. **Eliseo T** - For working exceptionally well across different subject areas

Year 8: Zac W - For demonstrating STA school values
Samantha S - For demonstrating care and helpfulness.

Year 9: Kiril V - For trying hard and making progress. **Ghazal AK** - For always being the first at lining up, following instructions and being a polite student. Also, gaining positive points for brilliant work in class.

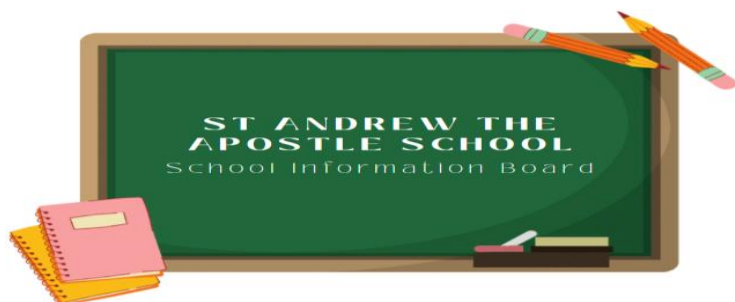
Year 10: Esigie O - For excellent punctuality and 100% attendance. **Christos M**- For excellent effort and perseverance in lessons.

Year 11: Elpiniki Z - For always working hard to improve her attainment. **Kerlel G** - For working hard to close the gap in her studies; for being well-prepared for studying independently and for always working diligently in form.

Year 12: Georgios C - For always being proactive to help during form time and for demonstrating regularly the school ethos and values. **Lilly SL** - For entering a poetry competition and showing enthusiasm for extra-curricular activities.

Year 13: Anthony J - For outstanding progress during the last set of mocks. **Lorenzo T** - For commitment to his intended course at university demonstrated via his extra-curricular activities and his passion for the subject (Graphic Design).

Upcoming Key Dates and Information



Upcoming Parents Evening

Year 7 Thursday 24 February 2022

Year 10 Thursday 16 June 2022

Upcoming Weekly Updates

Monday 7 Feb • GCSE Trampoline 3pm-5pm

Tuesday 8 Feb • Year 9 Netball vs Wren Academy (Away)
• Year 10 Netball vs Wren Academy (Away)

Wednesday 9 Feb • Y12 Oxford Trip
• Senior Football vs Ashmole (Away)

Thursday 10 Feb • WW2 Veteran Visiting Y10
• Mocks Begin

Friday 11 Feb • Year 9 Trip to Royal Albert Hall
• Term ends at 3pm

- Please [click here](#) to read about our new method of assessment at KS3. Please click on the following links to read about our curriculum. [KS3](#) refers to Years 7, 8 and

9. [KS4](#) refers to Years 10 and 11. [KS5](#) refers to Year 12 and 13

- Please [click here](#) to access previous editions of the Newsletter
- Please [click here](#) to access term dates
- Please [click here](#) to access vacancies
- Please [click here](#) for a reminder of our school uniform requirements and [click here](#) for 6th form dress code
- Please [click here](#) for a list of 'banned' items.

Important Community Notice- to all Barnet schools



- Never stop to talk to anyone on the way to school or going home from school.
- Ignore any drivers who might slow down to speak to you.
- Never accept a ride from anyone that is not expected to take you home.
- Always tell a trusted adult if something has happened that upsets you or makes you feel uncomfortable.

Message from Macmillan

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

To all the staff and pupils at St. Andrew The Apostle Greek Orthodox School,

A big thank you from Macmillan

Thank you for your very kind donation of £350.00 to Macmillan Cancer Support raised at your Christmas Concert. We really do appreciate you supporting us in this way, and we hope that you all enjoyed the concert. Your generosity and support will allow us to help everyone with cancer live life as fully as they can.

How you are helping

At Macmillan, we understand that cancer can impact a person's whole life - health, money, family, work; everything. We can help people with managing symptoms

and offer advice and benefits for things like keeping the cost of heating down during treatment. We can also provide training for employers to support people back to work. With your support, people get the energy and inspiration to feel more like themselves.

Thank you again for choosing to support Macmillan. Without people like you in our team, we simply couldn't do what we do.

Year 9 Royal Albert Hall Trip



On **Friday 11 February 2022** we delighted to be taking a group of year 9 students who have expressed an interest in studying either Music or Drama at GCSE, to see a 2.30pm matinee of the fabulous Cirque Du Soleil's "Luiza" at the Royal Albert Hall. We will share highlights of the performance in this Newsletter after half term.



Mr K Lasithiotakis (Head of Performing Arts)

International Womens Day Competition



International Day of Women and Girls in Science is fast approaching on **Friday 11 February** and the science department will be running a poster competition to commemorate the day. All students are invited to research, design and create a poster or presentation about the contribution women scientists have made to the science community.

Students should submit their entries to their science teachers by **Friday 25 February**. We look forward to seeing your designs. **Winner announced 4 March.**

Mr C Markou (Head of Science)

FOSA

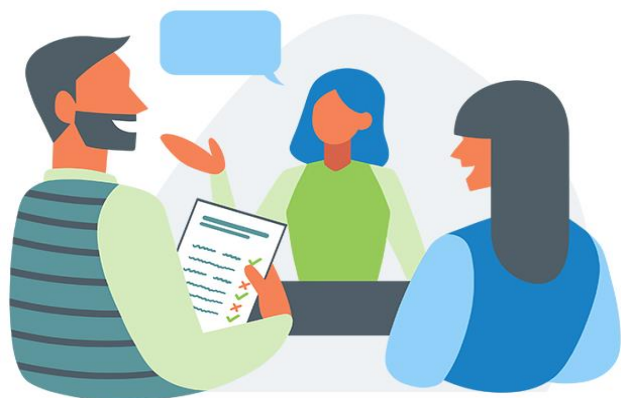


Friends of St Andrew

Please do get in touch if you would like to join our small group of dedicated parents and carers- by emailing us at admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk with FOSA in the title. Please 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 the Senior Deputy Headteacher at our weekly Parent and Carer surgery, please email admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk

This will take place on Fridays 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, there will be no Parent surgery on Friday 11 February. The next date for Parent surgery will be Friday 25 February.

National Apprenticeship Week



National Apprenticeship Week 2022 is the 15th annual week-long celebration of apprenticeships.

The week brings together businesses and apprentices across the country to shine a light on the positive impact that apprenticeships make to individuals, businesses and the wider economy.

[Click here](#) to browse apprenticeships.

[Click here](#) to browse apprenticeships on the gov.uk website.

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 them 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. You can call [116 123](tel:116123) (free from any phone)
- [SANEline](#). If you're experiencing a mental health problem or supporting someone else, you can call
- [National Suicide Prevention Helpline UK](#). Offers a supportive listening service to anyone with thoughts of suicide. You can call the on 0800 689 5652 (open 24/7).
- [CALM](#). You can call them 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 on 0800 068

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, Deputy Headteacher (DSL*)**
- **Mrs C Hammond, Assistant Headteacher (DDSL*)**
- **Mr S Hadjisava, Assistant Headteacher (DDSL*)**
- **Mrs I Warwick, Headteacher (DDSL*)**
- **Ms D Moustaka (Safeguarding & Inclusion Manager)**
- **Mr N Anemouri (Pastoral Support Officer)**
- **Ms M Henshaw-Devall (Safeguarding Officer)**
- **Mrs M Hirli (SEN Teaching Assistant)**

*DSL is the Designated Safeguarding lead.

*DDSL is the Deputy Designated Safeguarding lead

Care Sector Job Fair- message to parents and carers

JOB FAIR

CARE SECTOR RECRUITMENT EVENT

23 FEBRUARY 2022
1.00-3.00PM

Middlesex University,
The Quad, NW4 4AX

- £200 incentive for new starters before end of March
- Apply on the day
- Help with your CV and applications
- Advice on preparing for an interview
- Find out about and sign up for ESOL and accredited courses in care
- Find out about what it's like to work in care

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR WORK?

Come along to our COVID-safe job fair and meet local employers from care homes, supported living and home care providers, plus see what vacancies are available.

SIGN UP HERE

Get in touch with BOOST call: 020 8359 2442 or email: boost@barnet.gov.uk

SCAN ME



Are you looking for work? Could you care for the vulnerable in our community?

Come along to our COVID-safe job fair and meet local employers from care homes, supported living and home care providers, plus see what vacancies are available.

You may not have experience of care work; maybe you're studying or you have other skills to offer and just want to do your bit in this time of need. We will help you find the most suitable role and provide necessary training to get you started. This is an excellent opportunity for people who care and want to be involved in the community.

- £200 incentive for new starters before end of March
- Apply on the day
- Help with your CV and applications
- Advice on preparing for an interview
- Find out about and sign up for ESOL and accredited courses in care
- Find out about what it's like to work in care

Get in touch with BOOST call: 020 8359 2442 or email: boost@barnet.gov.uk and [sign up here](#).

Google Apprenticeships Parents' Insight Webinar



Is your child interested in technology and in Years 10-13? Want to find out how they could kickstart their career at one of the biggest technology companies in the world?

Join us on **Wednesday 9 March** at 6.30pm to find out about how Google apprenticeships could get your child's career off to a flying start!

[Register now](#)



Interactive Work Experience for Pre-Medical Students



Students are getting back into the swing of things this new year and should be starting to prepare their medical work experiences. We have developed courses to specifically help students develop, and demonstrate, skills that universities are looking for in potential medical students such as; communication skills, teamwork, problem solving and decision making, all while giving them an opportunity to speak to NHS Doctors.

Courses we offer:

[Our NEW A&E Live course takes students to our virtual A&E where they:](#)

- Take on the role of a Doctor

- Assess and diagnose A&E specific cases
- Determine management plans for patients
- Discuss patient investigations



[Ward Round Live - our most popular online work experience course](#)

- Interpret pre-ward round observations, notes and medical charts
- Run a daily review and summary with our ward patients
- Determine management and discharge plans for patients

Young Songwriters Competition 2022



In its 12th year [The Young Songwriter 2022](#) (SAYS22) competition is the world's leading songwriting competition for young aspiring songwriters to get their songs heard by leaders in the industry (including Tom Odell, Calum Scott, Tom Grennan, Jimmy Napes, Miranda Cooper, Pledes & Hannah V!) & connect to a talented tribe of young songwriters aged 8-18 across the world. Both aspiring young songwriters who already have some experience, and those writing their first song!

The Young Songwriter competition stands for the craft and art of song writing in its purest form, enabling young songwriters to aspire to the very best melody, lyric, structure, concept, harmony, mood and impact a song can have. It inspires young people to think about and speak up about things that are important to them personally, in their community and in the wider world and get their voices heard. It's a supportive community where young people feel brave and can express themselves, celebrate individuality and be themselves. The benefits from this unique community are far reaching, especially the positive boost to mental health.



It costs £10 to enter a song (to cover judging and admin costs). Have ready your song lyrics and an mp3 file of your song (file size under 10MB), then submit your entry form (via the button below). You can enter up to 5 songs. You can enter on your own or as part of a group/band. For solo entries you can have a friend sing the vocals. Ideally songs should be under 3.5 minutes, but they can be longer. You can record your song using your phone, a home studio setup or a studio. It doesn't matter how it's recorded/produced as we're looking at the craft of songwriting. There are many exclusive opportunities available for Young Songwriter 2022 entrants during the competition period.

BBC Young Reporter Competition



[The BBC Young Reporter Competition](#) is back looking for young people's original story ideas.

It is an opportunity for 11-18 year-olds to report on a story or issue that is important to their life or the world around them – it could be a personal story or related to the

experience of family, friends or community, or about an issue or experience particularly relevant to young people.

This is the fourth year of the competition, giving young people across the UK a unique chance to tell their story on TV, radio, online or on social media with the help of BBC journalists, producers and programme makers.

Story ideas should be submitted online [HERE](#) before the closing date, Sunday 27 March 2022.



Lets Get Sugar Smart-advice on healthy living



Kids are having over 2 times more sugar than is recommended, with half of it coming from snacks and sugary drinks. It can often be difficult to know what a healthier choice might be— but we're here with all the info, tips and advice you need to help your family be healthier and happier.



From our fun [10 Minute Shake Up games](#) to information about active hobbies and sports, here's everything you need to get your family moving! Or take a [3 question quiz](#) quick to discover fun ideas to get active.

Year 7/8 Channel 4 Junior Bake Off Competition



We are delighted to say that applications have recently opened for the 8th series of **Junior Bake Off**; a Channel 4 programme that celebrates the culinary talent and ambition of the younger generation in Britain.



Junior Bake Off are looking for young budding bakers between **9-12 years old**. Filming would take place from July 2022, but **applications close on Sunday 13 March 2022**. Interested bakers can apply and find out more online [here](#)



Software Engineer-message to Y13 students



We are MI5, MI6 and GCHQ. MI5 gathers intelligence from within the UK, MI6 gathers intelligence from overseas, and GCHQ brings intelligence and technology together. We help to protect the UK from a range of serious threats – everything from terrorism to organised crime, to cyber-crime and espionage.

The Role

Technology sits at the heart of everything we do at MI5, enabling us to disrupt serious threats to UK national security. We're currently looking for people who have the passion to learn and grow their skills, while working in a supportive environment. Over the course of the three years you'll enjoy exciting, hands-on work to help us build and maintain some of the world's most sophisticated electronic equipment, all the while working towards a BSc Honours Degree in Digital and Technology Solutions (Software development). You'll be a vital part of a team that ensures the UK Government can operate in cyber space with confidence and can stay ahead of the pace demanded by the evolving digital world.

About You

To join the apprenticeship, starting in Autumn 2022, you'll have an interest in programming and technology and you'll have (or are expecting to have by September 2022) 72 UCAS points, along with GCSE grade 4/C or above in English language and maths or equivalent functional skills (Level 2). If you have a passion for Technology and are keen to learn, then we would welcome an application from you.



Rewards and Benefits

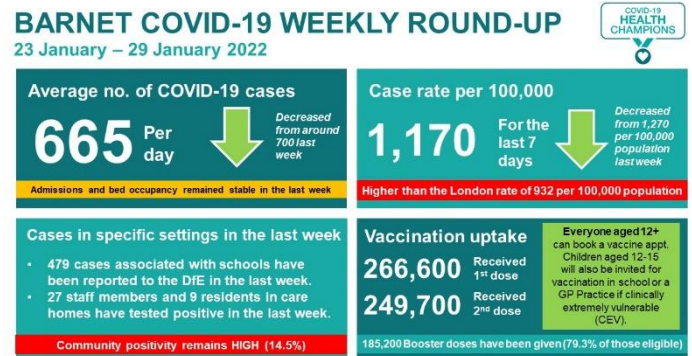
You'll receive a starting salary of £22,889 (Manchester) or £24,385 (London) plus other benefits including:

- 25 Days Annual Leave automatically rising to 30 days after 5 years' service, and an additional 10.5 days public and privilege holidays.
- Opportunities to be recognised through our employee performance scheme
- Personal Learning Budget

- Opportunities to work flexibly, subject to business needs
- Interest-free season ticket loan
- Excellent pension scheme
- Cycle to work scheme
- Secure parking
- Facilities such as a subsidised gym and restaurant, and (on some sites) on-site coffee bars
- Paid parental and adoption leave
- If successful, you'll gain a Level 6 BSc Honours Degree in Digital and Technology Solutions

COVID-19 updates

Young people aged 12 to 15 in England are now being offered a second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine at a minimum of 12 weeks from the first dose, following advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). Parents can book vaccinations for their child, if aged 12 or over, through the [NHS booking system](#).



Vaccination for this group will also continue to be carried out by the school age immunisation service (SAIS). I will write with further details as soon as we are contacted by SAIS. Please [click here](#) if you would like to view the Barnet COVID-19 weekly update



COVID-19 measures to follow

The government's Plan A sets out a range of measures to limit COVID-19 cases this year.

Continue to follow safety guidelines:

- Although no longer mandatory in most public places, COVID-19 rates are still high so please wear a face covering in public places. It is mandatory to wear a face covering on TFL.
- Let fresh air in, meet outdoors and wash hands regularly
- Rapid test before going anywhere crowded indoors or visiting vulnerable people
- Stay at home if unwell
- Everyone aged 16+ should get a 1st, 2nd and booster dose when eligible of the COVID-19 vaccine.
- 12-15 year olds should get their 1st and 2nd dose of the Pfizer vaccine.
- Find your nearest walk-in centre at: <https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-walk-in-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination-site>

Get tested and isolate if you have symptoms of COVID-19.

Make sure you get your flu jab. Free flu vaccination if available for primary and secondary school children, people aged 50 years and over, those with health conditions, and pregnant women.

For more info, visit www.gov.uk/coronavirus
 Date published 31 January 2022

Barnethealthchampions@groundwork.org.uk

