



St Andrew the Apostle School

Weekly Newsletter

Be kind to one another, forgiving one another, as God forgave you. Ephesians 4:32

25 November 2022

Key Message from Executive Headteacher

The cyclical nature of school years is wonderful, with peaks and valleys through the year and many events included in our school calendar; the background planning for events in our school calendar is immense, with staff members carefully coordinating. We are very much looking forward to the events in our last few weeks of this autumn term, which for a Christian school is such an important time. We will be visiting St Katherine's Church with each year group for Christmas church services. We will also celebrate the festive season with a Christmas Dinner, which will run alongside Christmas Jumper Day. Friday 9 December 2022 is our Christmas Show and this is always a wonderful event.

On the 8 December, all students will be involved in an Enrichment Day in school when normal lessons are suspended. The focus for this day will be careers and students will focus on different aspects of careers that are relevant to their year group.

Connected to that and on that day will be our Sixth Form Open Event where we will be working with Year 11 students to make choices for the next stage of their education at St Andrew the Apostle School. Many students choose our sixth form for the same reasons they, along with and their parents, chose St Andrew the Apostle School in the transition from primary to secondary school, the reason being we are a school where every child is known and cared for. This is the great strength of our small sixth form, which even though it is small retains a wide offer and different pathways.

On the 7 December we will be inviting students from our previous Year 11 and Year 13 into school to receive their GCSE and Post-16 certificates and we are looking forward to seeing them.

I would like to thank staff members for all of their efforts in putting together such a rich extra-curricular and enrichment programme for the students here at St Andrew.

Sometimes outside events encroach on normal school days, and it was great to see and feel the excitement of football fans within our student body at the start of the World Cup this week, not least with the England win in their first match!

I cannot fail to mention the students in our community, who, this week, have been extremely focused in lessons as senior and middle leaders have visited lessons on learning walks.

As Year 11 are thinking about the end of their mock 1 exam, Year 13 are preparing for theirs. Year 11 will go into French and Greek Speaking exams next week and our artists will have their art mock exam.

We also had some great sporting successes this week with a Year 10 win in a cup fixture for the boys and one of our Year 11 students being selected to represent Arsenal Ladies Under 21s.

Please remember that next Friday 2 December 2022 is an INSET and school will be closed for staff training. Part of this day will be dedicated to moderation and analysing the Year 11 and Year 13 mock exam papers as we want to give really honed feedback to students about what they have done well and what steps they need to take to improve. This will be valuable time for staff and will directly impact positively on learning.

And lastly, on 30 November 2022, we will be celebrating St Andrew, our patron saint.

Anthony Easton (Executive Headteacher)

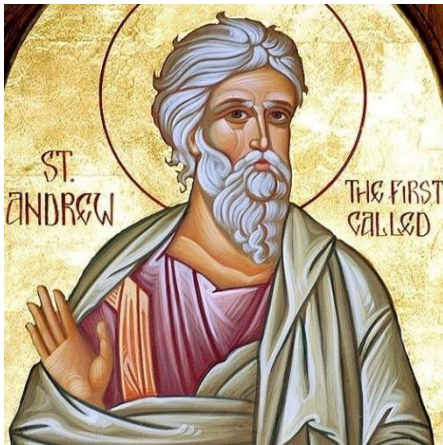
Upcoming key Dates and Information

- Monday 28 November – Y13 Mocks Start
- Wednesday 30 November – St Andrew's Day
- Thursday 8 December – Sixth Form Open Event
- Thursday 8 December – Enrichment Day
- Friday 9 December – Christmas Dinner and Show
- Friday 9 December – Christmas jumper day
- Please [click here](#) to access term dates.
- Please [click here](#) to access school calendar for upcoming Term.
- Please [click here](#) to access previous editions of the Newsletters.

Faith- πίστη

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 and 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, Andrew is there when John prophesies of the Lord Jesus, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" (John 1:36). Andrew and another disciple leave their first master to go and follow Someone far more important! Jesus invites 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 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). Andrew was on his own humble quest for the truth, and when the Truth came before him, Andrew recognized 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 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). 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 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. 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 recognized that Andrew had a special connection with the Master, and that he was particularly gifted in leading others to Him. Even apart from 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.**"

Saint Andrew's relics rested in Patras until the mid-fourth century, when the emperor moved them to the Church of the Holy Apostles in Constantinople. During the sack of Constantinople in the thirteenth century, the Crusaders took the bones and cross of St. Andrew back to Italy. In 1964, as a gesture of good will, Pope Paul VI presented St Andrew's skull back to the Greek Orthodox Church, and then in 1980, the X-shaped cross.

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)

St Andrew's Day – 30 November

30 November is St Andrew's Day and we will be marking this event in school. Our Spiritual Director, Mr Vassiliou, will be producing an assembly on the life St Andrew in our weekly religious assembly. Our Deputy Headteacher will be delivering in person assemblies on St Andrew and our Code of Conduct (Respectful, Responsible, Ready) which are underpinned by the values of our school (Respect, Responsibility, Caring, Forgiveness, Honest and Trustworthiness and Fairness). While on Wednesday we will hand our badges to our school community, the design of which is below, to mark the day and our canteen will be decorated for the day.

As we mark St Andrew's day it's important our students, and live, know our Bible Verse: "Be kind to one another, forgiving one another as God forgave you." Ephesians 4:32



St Andrew's day is a day for celebration in our community so please do with your child and your family a happy St Andrew's day.

Mr Martin (Deputy Headteacher)

Sixth Form Open Event – Thursday 8 December 2022

Sixth Form Open Event
Thursday 8 December 2022 – 4.00pm to 6.30pm

Ofsted: "The school's work to promote pupils' personal development and welfare is outstanding. Pupils are self-confident and very articulate. They like their school and they want to do well. Pupils said that there is a 'family atmosphere' in the school and there is a warmth in the relationships between pupils." (2018)

Entry Requirements: 5 GCSEs at grade 4+ with specific requirements for each course.
Some courses and combinations of courses will require a minimum grade 5 in English and mathematics.

Ofsted "Leaders in the sixth form set high expectations for their students. They know their students well and track their progress carefully. Students really enjoy their learning in the sixth form." (2018)

Building 4
North London Business Park
Oakleigh Road South
N11 1BF
Tel: 0203 195 5444

St Andrew The Apostle
SIXTH FORM
Ever to Excel!

Find us online:
www.standrewtheapostle.org.uk
admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk

Applications for September 2023 are now open via our website:
<https://standrewtheapostle.org.uk/6thformwelcome>

We are delighted to welcome students of Y11 and their parents/carers for our Sixth Form Open Event on Thursday 8 December from 4.00pm, in Building 4. Our teachers are looking forward to introducing their subjects to prospective Sixth Formers and to answer questions they might have about their course. Head of Sixth Form speech will be at 5.00pm.

Please RSVP via [this form](#) to confirm your attendance to the event.

As part of building up to our Sixth Form Open Event, one subject that is very popular on the Key Stage 5 curriculum is Psychology. Links to what students will study are here:

<https://www.standrewtheapostle.org.uk/curriculum?year=12&subject=33>

<https://www.standrewtheapostle.org.uk/curriculum?year=13&subject=33>

It is a fascinating subject and one which inspires our learners. Toni R in Year 12 has been looking forward to studying this subject throughout her school career here at St Andrew the Apostle School, and her interest and knowledge in it was initially gained from independent research prior to starting our sixth form. This research led her to win a psychology essay competition organised by Gonville & Caius College, University of Cambridge while she was still in Year 11(!) although the College thought she was in Year 13. Needless to say, she is doing wonderfully well in her first year of A Level study. Please click on the link below to read her winning essay entitled: ***To what extent does the interaction between***

dogs and humans improve human health and well-being?

[Caius Explore.pdf \(standrewtheapostle.org.uk\)](#)

Independent research by students is always wonderful to see, especially when you can see the passion for a subject. A student who may be following in Toni R's footsteps is Oliwia C in Year 8. Please click on the link to her essay on Synesthesia here:

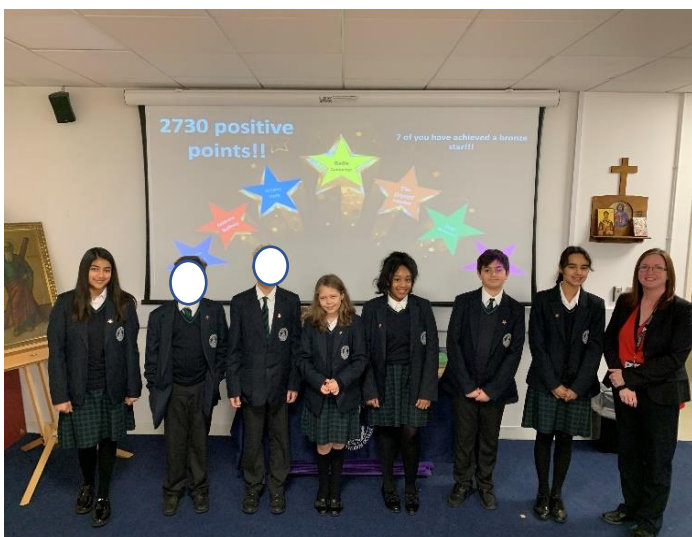
[Synesthesia - Oliwia C.pdf \(standrewtheapostle.org.uk\)](#)

Ms Fourcade (Head of sixth form)

Rewards

We were delighted in assembly this week to award the first Bronze Stars of the year! Bronze, silver and gold stars are awarded to students when they achieve 50, 100 & 150 achievement points respectively. As a year group, we awarded 7 stars today!

These went to, Tanisha A, Andrew B, Artem V, Bella C, Tia M, Leo K and Athena K - a HUGE well done to you all, to receive 50+ achievement points in only 10 weeks is an outstanding achievement. I am also delighted to report that there are a further 14 year 7 who have between 40-49 achievement points so far!! Watch this space to see who will be next to receive their Bronze Star.



Mrs Nelson (Head of Year 7 and 8)

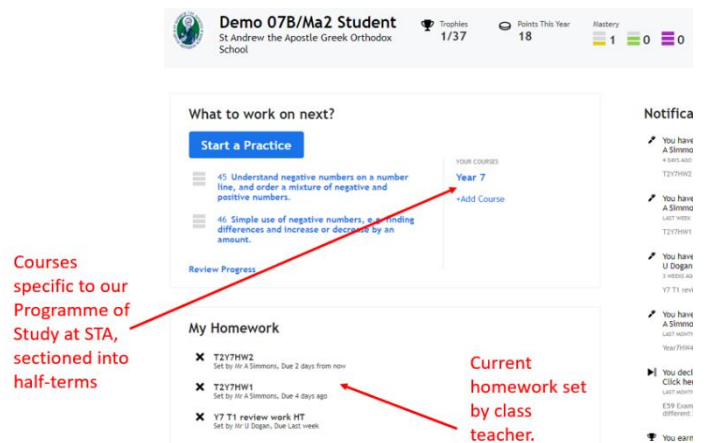
Dr Frost

In the maths department we are so pleased and so proud of our students. We have achieved an important milestone in reaching a **million points** using Dr Frost Maths platform for homework and independent study in maths. This is because of the great effort and teamwork our students and teachers have shown.

This is testament to our student's commitment and enthusiasm to excel in maths. As a school we are very proud of our students' achievements. On average our students are completing 20,000 questions on Dr Frost weekly. This has placed us firmly in the top 20% of schools nationally.

Dr Frost Maths platform is not only an excellent homework platform but is also used extensively to fill in gaps in learning identified from assessments and lessons. One of the most useful functions in Dr Frost Maths website, is the ability for our maths curriculum to be directly accessed term by term through the courses section. Many of our students have commented that this functionality has been extremely useful in developing their independent study skills to revise and practice maths regularly.

If students are absent from school or need to revise of the next term's test, we strongly advise this is the best



way for students to access support.

Below is a screen shot of what students see when they log onto Dr Frost Maths and shows how you can help students.

We congratulate our students in their achievements and look forward to seeing them further succeed in their mathematics.

Mr Dogan (Head of Maths)

Enrichment Day – 8 December

Our first of three enrichment days for the academic year 2022-23 will take place on Thursday 8 December, during normal school hours. As part of STAs careers day we are planning a session introducing our year 8s to STEM careers.



We wish to give students an insight into the opportunities available and equip them with knowledge and information about the various pathways toward a career in STEM.

The aim is to support students in thinking about how jobs are likely to change over the next 5-10 years and the outlook it has for STEM jobs particularly. We think this is a pivotal year in their school life as they start to make decisions about their subject choices next year.

If you are a parent working in STEM and would like to volunteer your time to give a talk or share your experience, please contact the school office for further information.

Please note: for this day only, Year 8 will be in Building 5 instead of 4, and Year 9 will be in Building 4 instead of 5.

Mr P Iberi (Head of RS, PSHE & Careers Lead)

St Andrew The Apostle Christmas Charity Campaign Christmas Lunch and Other Christmas Festivities at St Andrew the Apostle School – 9 December 2022

We are pleased to inform you that the school Christmas Lunch is on Friday 9 December 2022. This is always a lovely event with the vast majority of our students choosing to take part. Please see menu below:

The price for the Christmas Lunch is £2.55. Please ensure that you have enough funds in your Parent Pay Account. Normal arrangements will apply to students receiving Free School Meals.

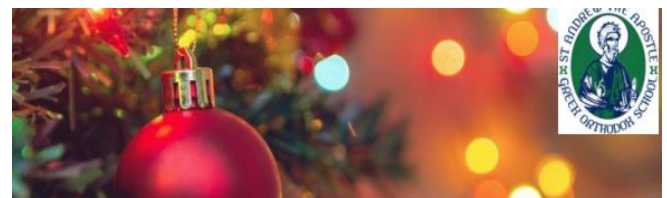
Due to the level of preparation, the lunch menu for the day will be limited to the Christmas Lunch. There will be no service at break time and there will be no cold lunch offer available. Students who do not wish to have Christmas lunch must bring a packed lunch on that day.

Please complete the survey below to inform us whether your child will be opting for a Christmas Lunch or a packed lunch, the submission deadline is Monday 28 November at 4pm.

[St Andrew the Apostle Christmas Lunch - 9 December 2022 \(office.com\)](https://www.office.com)



To add to the festive spirit, 9 December will also be Christmas Jumper Day. In addition to this, in the evening, we will host our annual Christmas Show and concert.



CHRISTMAS SHOW

PERFORMING ARTS

9 DECEMBER 2022

It's the most wonderful time of the year!

The Performing Arts department has been working very hard to prepare another opportunity to demonstrate our school's wonderful talent, wrapped up in a Christmas bowl!

The choir, musicians, actors, actresses, dancers and readers will be ready to welcome you and share the Christmas spirit with you.

Our Christmas show will take place on Friday 9 December 2022, at 6pm (doors open at 5:30) in building 4. The tickets are now available to be purchased online via ParentPay, for £3.

By buying a ticket you are helping us to continue to grow and provide even more opportunities for all children to access specialist provision, showcase their talents and raise their confidence and self-esteem.

The festive season is nearly upon us and here at St Andrews!

“We can't thank you enough for all your support! We wish the most wonderful Christmas.”

CHRISTMAS SHOW 2022

WHEN?

9 December 2022, 6pm
Doors open at 5:30pm

Where?

St Andrew the Apostle,
Building 4

WE ARE REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ON THE 9 DECEMBER 2022!

MR LASITHIOTAKIS (MUSIC), MRS NELSON (DRAMA), MISS WALT & MISS LAABAIED (DANCE)

St Andrew The Apostle Christmas Charity Campaign

This year, our student council representatives are working with their tutor groups to support the **Young Barnet Foundation Christmas Gift Campaign**. This supports our school ethos of kindness towards others: *Be kind to one another, forgiving one another, as God forgave you (Ephesians 4:32)*.

[CHRISTMAS CAMPAIGN | youngbarnet](https://youngbarnet.org.uk)
[\(youngbarnetfoundation.org.uk\)](https://youngbarnetfoundation.org.uk)

Since it launched in 2018, Young Barnet Foundation's Christmas Gift appeal has wrapped a staggering **7,000** gifts that have been distributed to disadvantaged children and young people living in Barnet via local charities, social enterprises, community, and faith groups.

Young Barnet Foundation is asking people to donate gifts and toys, which will then be distributed via their network of over 200 members in December.

We are encouraging our young people to donate a gift worth between £5 and £15 for a child between the ages of 1 and 16. They should bring this gift to form time and give it to their student council rep. Gifts should be brought to school by Friday 9 December 2022.

Student councillors will be delivering the gifts to the Young Barnet Foundation in the final week of school before Christmas.

Thank you for your support with this campaign.



YOUNG BARNET FOUNDATION
Charity for All

Christmas Gift Campaign

- ✓ Buy a gift or make a donation towards a gift
- ✓ Share the campaign with friends and family
- ✓ Start a collection at work, school or in your street

youngbarnetfoundation.org.uk/christmascampaign

Ms Linden Cooke (Deputy Headteacher)

Year 7 and Year 8 Netball

Our Year 7 and 8 netball teams played Wren Academy this week and were unfortunate in the final results. They faced a very difficult opponent and despite Wren taking the lead in the first quarter for both games, the girls demonstrated resilience, teamwork, and determination throughout!

We are very proud of how they imbed the school values into their game play each week!



Girl of the Game: Eve B



Girl of the Game: Hana Z

Ms Danielle Walt (Head of Year 9 & 10)

Amazing Games Guide for Parents

As we head towards the Christmas holidays children will be asking for new games, but this can be a confusing minefield for parents. Internet Matters have put a lovely guide together which will help parents make decisions,



including age-specific games in which families can play together. You can find the guide [HERE](#).

Mr Martin (Deputy Headteacher)

Period Poverty Information

'Period poverty' refers to having a lack of access to sanitary products due to financial constraints. Having access to sanitary products is something that many of us probably take for granted. Period poverty is a very

real challenge facing many girls in the UK and around the world. For too many girls, dealing with their period each month is proving a tough challenge reality– and in 21st century Britain, this should not be the case.

‘Period stigma’ is a broad term for discrimination faced by people that menstruate, from physical problems such as lack of access to sanitation supplies to the verbal shaming of menstruating people as "dirty" or "unclean". Period stigma results in a lower quality of life for those who are faced with it. Stigma is defined as the shame and disgrace society attaches unfairly to something associated with a particular circumstance, quality, or person. Period stigma creates a sense of shame, embarrassment, or hesitation to talk about periods.

In Barnet, we want to support every young person to have access to sanitary products regardless of financial constraints. Also, we want to challenge ‘period stigma’ and encourage young people to feel comfortable being on their period and all young people regardless of their gender, to have a healthy perception of periods and be able to talk about periods without a sense of embarrassment or shame. We have developed a questionnaire to gain insight into the views and experiences of young people about period poverty and stigma. We would appreciate your support in distributing the questionnaire link to young people by sharing and providing time for completion. The closing date for the questionnaire is Friday 9 December. Please can you circulate the following link for young people to complete the questionnaire: [Survey link](#)

Michelle Leon (Health Improvement Officer & Public Health Directorate)

Additional May Bank Holiday – 8 May 2023

As you may be aware, the government has confirmed that there will be an additional bank holiday next year to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III. The school will be honouring this bank holiday in line with other schools in the Trust and the local area, and therefore students will not be expected in on this date.

We recognise that the date of this bank holiday may be disruptive for Year 11 and Year 13 students who will be beginning their GCSEs and Post-16 exams later in May. Please be reassured that we will try to minimise any disruption to our GCSE students as a result of this additional holiday.

Anthony Easton (Executive Headteacher)

Attendance



School attendance: what parents need to know

Why is good attendance important?

Good attendance and punctuality are vital for success at school, and to establish positive life habits that are necessary for future success.

Through regular attendance, pupils can:

Build friendships and develop social groups.

Develop life skills.

Engage in essential learning and other school social events.

Achieve to their full potential.

Minimise the risk of engaging in anti-social behaviour and becoming victims or perpetrators of crime.

All parents should promote good attendance and work in partnership with their child’s school to provide a cohesive approach.

What does the law say?



All children of compulsory school age – between 5-16 – must receive a suitable full-time education. As a parent, you are responsible for ensuring that this happens, either by registering your child at a school or by making appropriate alternative arrangements.

Legal action can involve a penalty notice or being taken to court.

Parents also face the risk of imprisonment and parenting orders. Parenting orders involve attending a counselling and guidance programme, usually a parenting class.

A penalty notice of **£60** per adult per child may be issued as an alternative to prosecution, but this will rise to **£120** if it is not paid within 21 days. Failure to pay a penalty notice will usually lead to **prosecution**.



Can my child ever be absent?

When a pupil is absent from school, this will be classified as either ‘authorised’ or ‘unauthorised’.



The governing board and headteacher decide which absences are granted as authorised.

Authorised absences are only permitted for valid reasons, e.g.:

- Illness
- Medical or dental appointments
- Religious observances
- Family bereavement

Wherever possible, parents should always try to arrange medical and dental appointments during school holidays or after school hours.

Holidays during term time

- The school **cannot** authorise an absence for a holiday during term time.
- Taking holidays during term time means that pupils miss important school time – both educationally and for other school activities. It will be difficult for pupils to catch up on work when they return to school. Only in **exceptional circumstances** may a holiday be authorised during term time – this will be decided by the headteacher.
- **Exceptional circumstances do not involve cheaper costs, family availability or weather conditions.**
- You will be fined if you take your child on holiday during term time without permission from the headteacher.



Requesting absences



All absences, including for holidays, must be requested as far in advance as possible – the minimum notice period is **20 days**. If you think your child needs to be taken out of school, you should discuss the reasons with the headteacher as soon as possible.

If the headteacher is satisfied with the evidence and the notice period, they will authorise the absence.

The headteacher will decide the amount of time a pupil can be away from school, taking into account their attendance record.

Requests **will not** be granted in the following circumstances:

- Immediately before or during assessment periods
- When a pupil's attendance record shows any unauthorised absence for any reason
- Where a pupil's authorised absence record is already above **10** percent, for any reason

Lateness and truancy

Class registers will be taken at **8.30am**. Children arriving between **8.30am** and **8.55am** will be marked late. Children arriving after **8.55am** will be marked **U**. This is an unauthorised absence.



Attendance matters!

Don't underestimate the **importance of 100 percent attendance**. **Even one day missed can have an effect on learning:**

- **98 percent attendance means four school days missed**
- **95 percent attendance means 10 school days missed**
- **90 percent attendance means 19 school days missed**
- **80 percent attendance means 38 school days missed**
- **Five minutes late each day means three school days missed**

If you have any queries regarding your child's attendance, please contact your child's head of year or email attendance@standrewtheapostle.org.uk

Our Code of Conduct

This is the Code of Conduct always defining the minimum expectations of students. All expectations come under three broad headings. They are supported by Character education and our values, *Respect, Responsibility, Caring, Fairness, Forgiveness, Honesty and Trustworthiness*.

RESPECTFUL

- Do as you are asked by all members of staff, first time without question.
- Listen to others, do not call out, and use appropriate language and tone.
- Be kind to each other and take care of the building, displays and equipment.

RESPONSIBLE

- Follow rules for health and safety, including walking on the left.
- Keep hands, feet, objects and personal comments to yourself.
- Be in the right place at the right time, and not unsupervised areas.
- Leave valuables at home; the school is not responsible for them.

READY

- Be punctual.
- Be in full school uniform, worn properly.
- Be silent when entering a classroom.
- All necessary equipment out on desk, and everything else away.
- Bags on the floor, coats on the chair.
- All headphones, phones and other electronic equipment off and out of sight – otherwise will be confiscated.
- No gum or food, or fluid other than water.

Safeguarding



TikTok has now raised its Livestreaming Age Requirement to 18 (BBC News)

TikTok has frequently been called out for its glaring failures to protect under 18s which use its service. With its flashy images, easily digestible content and 'childlike' feel it has always been popular among school aged children. A fact which has made its safeguarding failures all the more worrying. The platform's attempt to ban under 18s seems to be unfeasible however, and so it is as important as ever to be aware of its usage in the classroom. In particular, its gift function can easily be manipulated in order to commit criminal acts against children. As such wariness around the app should not be lowered as a result. To find out more about what motivated their decision, and its potential outcomes head over to the page linked below:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-63262102>



Many students use WhatsApp despite there being a minimum age rating of 16. There are some inherent dangers to students using this including:

- Bullying, particularly in group chats
- Seeing content of a sexual nature, or showing violence and hatred
- Settings that allow messages to disappear after 24 hours or 7 days. This could make it harder to track bullying, and your child might share things they wouldn't otherwise because it'll disappear
- Sharing their live location, particularly with people they don't know in person
- Spam or hoax messages
- Being exposed to strangers through group chats

Keep your child safe on WhatsApp

What are the risks?

- Bullying, particularly in group chats
 - Seeing content of a sexual nature, or showing violence and hatred
 - Settings that allow messages to disappear after 24 hours or 7 days. This could make it harder to track bullying, and your child might share things they wouldn't otherwise because it'll disappear
 - Sharing their live location, particularly with people they don't know in person
 - Spam or hoax messages
 - Being exposed to strangers through group chats
- WhatsApp says the **minimum age** to use it is **16**, but younger children can still use it easily.

6 steps to help your child use WhatsApp safely

1. Keep their personal information and location private

By default, WhatsApp shows profile photos, status and when you last used it to all users.

Encourage your child to only share this information with their contacts and be careful about who they talk to on the app, as anyone could pretend to be a child online.

To check and change these settings:

- On an **iPhone**, open settings in WhatsApp (the cog icon), then Account > Privacy. Tap the setting you want to change, then choose who it should be visible to
- On **Android**, tap the 3 dots in the top-right of the home screen, then > Settings > Account > Privacy. Tap the setting you want to change, then choose who it should be visible to

WhatsApp also has a feature that you can use to share your 'live location' with others. Tell your child to keep this turned off, or to only share their location with people they trust.

To check this:

- On an **iPhone**, go to phone Settings (the cog icon) > WhatsApp > Location, and tap to change if you need to
- On **Android**, go to privacy settings as above, then scroll down to 'Live location', and tap to change if you need to

2. Remind your child to be careful about what they share

It's easy to forward messages, photos and videos to others on WhatsApp. Even if your child sets a

message to automatically disappear or deletes it after sharing it, the person they send it to could still screenshot it, forward it to someone else, or save it.

So before they share anything, tell them to ask themselves: "Would I want others to see what I'm about to send?"

3. Remind your child they can leave group chats

If they see something they're not comfortable with in a group chat or are in a chat with someone they don't know and are uncomfortable with, they should leave the group. To do this:

- On an **iPhone**, go into the group chat, tap the group subject, then > Exit group > Exit group
- On **Android**, go into the group chat, tap the group subject, then > Exit group > Exit

4. Make sure your child knows how to report and block people

When they first receive a message from an unknown number, they'll have the option to report it.

If someone in your child's contacts is upsetting them or making them uncomfortable, they can report or block them at any point (WhatsApp won't tell the user they've been blocked/reported).

To do this:

- On an **iPhone**, open settings in WhatsApp, go to Account > Privacy > Blocked > Add New..., then find the contact they want to block, and tap the contact
- On **Android**, tap the 3 dots icon, then Settings, then tap Account > Privacy > Blocked contacts, tap the icon in the top right showing a person and a plus sign, search for the contact they want to block, then tap the contact to block them

To report issues like offensive or abusive content or spam:

- On an **iPhone**, open the chat with the user you want to report, tap the contact then then tap Report Contact > Report And Block
- On **Android**, open the chat with the user you want to report, then tap the 3 dots icon, then > More > Report

5. Encourage your child to watch out for spam and hoax messages

These can appear to come from contacts, as well as people they don't know. Tell your child to watch out for messages that:

- Ask them to tap on a link, or specifically to click on a link to activate a new feature

- Ask them to share personal information like bank account details, date of birth or passwords
- Ask them to forward the message
- Say they have to pay to use WhatsApp
- Have spelling or grammar errors

6. Tell our school about any bullying they experience

Look for signs they your child may be being bullied, like being afraid or reluctant to go to school, feeling nervous, losing confidence or becoming distressed and withdrawn, or losing sleep.

Sources used in this factsheet

- [Bullying and cyberbullying, NSPCC](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/bullying-and-cyberbullying/)
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/bullying-and-cyberbullying/>
- [Help Centre, WhatsApp](https://faq.whatsapp.com/?locale=en_US)
https://faq.whatsapp.com/?locale=en_US

This factsheet was produced by [The Key Safeguarding](https://thekey.org.uk/): [thekeysupport.com/safeguarding](https://thekey.org.uk/)

Extra-Curricular Sports Clubs

PE extra-curricular clubs re-commence on Monday 7 November 2022.

Monday

Activity: All Years Dodgeball

Time: 3.00pm-4.00pm

Venue: Building 5 Hall

***Changing building 5 changing rooms.**

Tuesday

No clubs due to basketball and netball matches

Wednesday

Activity: All Years Girls Netball

Time: 3.00pm-4.00pm

Venue: Building 5 Playground

***Change in building 5 changing rooms.**

Thursday

Activity: All Years Basketball

Time: 3.00pm-4.00pm

Venue: Building 4 and 5 Playground

***Change in building 5 changing rooms.**

Activity: All Years Dance

Time: 3.00pm-4.30pm

Venue: Building 5 Hall

***Change in building 5 changing rooms.**

Please note students do not wear PE kit to school on the day of clubs. If you do not have PE on the day of the club, but wish to attend, please bring PE kit to change into after-school. Full PE kit must be worn to after-school

clubs. If you have PE lessons on the day of a chosen club, you will already be changed into full PE kit.

Mr Rob Browell (Head of PE)

STA School Fund

Dear Parents/Carers,

In line with a number of other schools locally and across our Trust, we are running a school fund where members of our school community can donate to support the school and enhance our students' educational experiences.

Purpose of the fund

Donations will be used to supplement resources for those in need and to improve our learning environment. Funds will never be spent on core running costs (such as energy bills or salaries). Your donations will only ever be used to extend and improve the education and support we offer to our young people.

Donations will be used for the following:

ICT Equipment:

We would like to increase our ICT resources by providing high quality equipment in buildings 4 and 5.

Books for Library:

We are building up our library resources and would be pleased to receive either donations to purchase books or you may purchase a named book for our school from [our Amazon wish list](#). Please go to our school website under 'Support us' for further details.

Playground Equipment:

We would like to increase our provision of playground equipment for our students to use during break and lunchtime. This includes outdoor seating and furniture such as picnic tables.

Financial contributions

There is no pressure to contribute to the school financially. We are simply making the option available for those who wish to do so. A single donation of £5 is suggested but all donations regardless of size will be greatly appreciated and will make a difference. Please ensure that you tick the 'Gift Aid' box if you are eligible. Please be assured also that any regular donations are completely under your control and can be cancelled at

Anthony Easton (Executive Headteacher)

Flu vaccination campaign for years 7, 8 and 9



The NHS has written to schools to update them on changes to the national flu vaccination programme. Please see the contents of their letter below:

We have recently been informed that the flu programme will now include the school years 7, 8 and 9 from September this year.

Early information from the flu season in Australia, shows flu has been circulating earlier than expected and has been affecting younger age groups, therefore DHSC has taken steps to include these age groups in the 2022/23 vaccination campaign. Sessions for flu vaccination have already been planned and confirmed for primary schools so providers will be working with you to arrange additional dates to ensure vaccination can be offered to your students. It is likely that this will be from November onward once additional vaccine supply is available.

We would be very grateful if you could remind parents that their children are entitled to free flu vaccination on the NHS. This vaccine will be provided by a school aged vaccination team that visits the school and is given as a nasal spray. This form of the vaccine is very easy to administer and is especially well suited to preventing onward spread of infection.

The vaccine protects the child against the four main strains of influenza predicted to be in circulation this winter. Young children catch influenza very easily.

Children can spread the infection for up to 7 days, which is longer than in adults, therefore vaccinating children reduces the risk of influenza for family members, teaching staff and other children.

In school, children will be mixing with large numbers of other children in a confined environment, which increases the risk of germs (virus and bacteria alike) spreading. Vaccination builds children's immunity to protect against illnesses.

Vaccines stop influenza germs being spread, thus protecting the very vulnerable children and those in the wider community who may not have, or may not be able to develop, immunity.

Public Health and Primary Care Commissioning NHS England (London Region)

Access Ashurst Programme

Applications are now open for our **Access Ashurst** programme – a paid work experience and skill development programme, aimed at increasing access to law, for Year 12 state school students.

Who is Ashurst?

[Ashurst](#) is a leading global law firm with a history spanning almost 200 years. Our London office is based near Liverpool Street Station in Spitalfields.

What's on offer?

A paid two-week legal placement from 24 July 2023 to 4 August 2023 and a mentoring and skill development programme throughout Year 13.

Who are we looking for?

Year 12 students interested in career in law.

Students must meet the criteria outlined by [Prime](#) (see attached).

Apply now!

Visit Ashurst's website to learn more about this opportunity and to apply:

<https://www.ashurst.com/en/careers/students-and-graduates/uk/work-experience/access-ashurs>

Deadline for applications is 16 January 2023 at midday.

Free Parents Career Guide

Careers advisors and teachers New 2022/23 FREE Parents Careers Guides



We are delighted to announce that our brand new 2022/23 Parents guides to University, Apprenticeships and STEM are now available.

What can you expect from our parents' guides? This year's Parents University and Apprenticeship Guides will be our third edition and have been designed to help parents support their children in making informed decisions about their future and developing skills to help them succeed.

Apprenticeships Guide

Parents will benefit from content on topics including:

- Introduction to apprenticeships and sectors
- How to find the right apprenticeship
- Pathways into work, including T-levels, apprenticeships, and university
- How you can support your child in deciding if an apprenticeship is right for them
- Apprenticeships vs. university
- Degree apprenticeships
- Opportunities available across 15 different sectors

PLUS, interviews and guest content from a diverse range of organisations including National Audit Office,

Bristows LLP, Royal Horticultural Society, Morgan Stanley, British Horseracing Authority

University Guide

- How to apply to university and a guide to UCAS
- Personal statements and how to stand out from the crowd
- Student finance
- Alternatives to going to university
- Placement years at university

Pros and cons of going to university

- PLUS interviews and guest content from universities including Reading University, Liverpool University, Bournemouth University, South Wales University and Exeter University.

Bonus STEM Guide

This year's guide explores 10 different STEM subjects to help young people to understand more about careers in the field along with profiles on how each subject can help tackle an environmental challenge. This comprehensive guide has been designed to showcase just how creative, exciting and rewarding a career in STEM can be.

Best regards,

Success at School

124 Chatsworth Road

London, NW2 5QU

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.

[Shout 85258](#)- a free, confidential, 24/7 text-messaging support service for young people.

Support for Parents and Carers- advice and support for you if you're worried about a child or young person.

[Young Mind's Parent Helpline and Webchat](#)

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 L Cooke, Deputy Headteacher (DDSL*)**
- **Ms D Moustaka (Safeguarding & Inclusion Manager)**
- **Mr N Anemouri (Pastoral Support Officer)**
- **Ms Linden Cooke (Deputy Headteacher and Safeguarding Officer)**

***DSL is the Designated Safeguarding lead.**

***DDSL is the Deputy Designated Safeguarding lead**

These open days provide a fantastic opportunity for prospective applicants to visit departments, colleges, meet current students, as well as tutors.

For more information about [admissions](#) and [open days](#). For any students for whom the cost of travelling to Oxford for the Open Days would be a barrier, please contact access@chch.ox.ac.uk to get support.

[Childline](#) – a free, private, and confidential service available for all young people. This can be found on ParentPay as we are a cashless school.

Please note that students should wear their normal school uniform, but are permitted to wear an additional colourful accessory; for example, colourful socks, hair accessories etc.

If you have any questions or would like to offer additional support, please contact Mrs Hammond, Assistant Head or myself, Ms Moustaka, Safeguarding and Inclusion Case Manager.

Solutions 4 Health New Free Apps

BREAKING NEWS: 2 x NEW FREE APPS Available from Solutions 4 Health

- Camp Island (5 – 10 years)
- Become Your Best Self (11 – 17 years)

Interactive and engaging apps supporting healthy and positive lifestyle choices.

The apps are free to access in Barnet as long as the user allows the location permission that pops up.

Please share far and wide..... And enjoy playing



Bromcom Student Portal Issue



There is a known national issue with the Student Portal website and the Bromcom service team are working on this. The Student Portal app remains unaffected and accessible for homework assignments.

The Student Portal app can be downloaded on all Smart Devices through the App Store or Google Play Store.