



Headteacher's Update

4 October 2021



Key Messages

We have had a great week with our wonderful staff teaching and supporting great lessons and our students taking every valuable opportunity to make progress in their learning. The Senior Leadership Team (SLT), Heads of Year and Heads of Department have completed the latest round of monitoring form time lessons and we have begun the cycle of lesson observations and review of samples of books and folders. We have found that:

- Students consistently responded to feedback with green pen to correct their work or to add detail to their responses.
- Books were well presented with students taking great care with their work. Our students really value their education.
- Teachers and support staff use a range of materials to support our students. This helps our students to know what they need to do next in order to improve their work and these materials support teachers with workload.

I am pleased to report that the standard of teaching and learning and behaviour and attitudes to learning at STA are very high. My school development plan outlines the strategic priorities for STA for this academic year so that we continue to make improvements on our *Ever to Excel* journey.

I have asked all form tutors to contact home so that we have checked in on every single child and their parents or carers. We will stagger these appointments, with the Year 7 Pastoral team completing their calls this week. Also this week, Year 10, 11 and 12 parent and carers will be making appointments using the Parents evening system we introduced in the last academic year. The purpose of our contact home is to check in with you to see how well you feel your child has settled in at the start of term. We would be happy to answer any questions you may have and we will take the opportunity to explain our in-school support offer. All Parents and Carers of students in Year 10, 11

and 12 should have received the letter from Mr Michael (Senior Deputy Headteacher) with reminder instructions on how to make an appointment on the Parent evening system. Access is via

<https://standrewtheapostle.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

The SLT and I have now conducted over 90 tours during the school day for families who are keen to apply for a place at our school and all our visitors were delighted to have an opportunity to see us in action during the school day. The success of these tours highlighted the need for us to offer a similar opportunity to parents and carers of students in Year 7 and Year 8 as COVID restrictions prevented many families from visiting us during the transition from Year 6. Mr Michael will contact Year 7 and Year 8 parents and carers with instructions on how to book a tour during the school day. A member of SLT will lead the tour which will conclude with an opportunity for informal Q&A with light refreshments.

Mr Michael and I had a very productive meeting with the Friends of St Andrew the Apostle School (FOSA) last Thursday. Our small and dedicated group of friendly parents and carers generated several ideas about how we can socialise and meet each other in a friendly environment with the ultimate aim of fundraising for our school. All are welcome, so if you would like to join us, do contact us at

admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk and mark your email for the attention for **Mrs Warwick (Headteacher)**

1 October was Cyprus Independence Day

On 1 October, our new caterers *Innovate* baked shortbread cookies decorated in the colours of the Cyprus flag to mark Cyprus Independence Day. We will share the interesting facts below with students in form time this week.

What does the flag of Cyprus represent?





Cyprus is one of the few countries to have its official flag displaying its land area. The background of the flag is white, which represents peace. In the middle of the flag, there is a map of the island. The island is coloured copper to represent the historical attachment of Cyprus to this metal. Under the island's map, there are olive tree branches. The branches of the olive tree are also a symbol of peace.



The Flag of Cyprus was designed by Turkish Cypriot Ismet Vehit Güney. He was a Cypriot artist, teacher and painter but he is best known as the designer of the modern flag of the Republic of Cyprus. In 1960, Güney saw an advertisement in his local

newspaper calling for artists to submit their designs of a new flag for the Republic of Cyprus (following the island's recently acquired independence). The competition rules stipulated that the flag should NOT include red or blue colours (the colours of the flags of Turkey and Greece), nor should the design portray a cross or a crescent. Güney decided to enter the competition.

Out of the five hundred entries submitted, Güney's flag design was selected as the winner by the President of the Republic of Cyprus, Archbishop Makarios III and the Vice-President Fazil Küçük. Apparently Makarios had asked Güney to explain his design featuring the map of Cyprus and two olive branches. Güney explained that the colour of the map represented the copper that was found on the island and gave Cyprus its name. The two olive branches represented the Turkish and Greek Cypriot communities living together in peace. The white background of the flag was also supposed to represent the cleansing of all problems between Greek and Turkish people with the formation of the Republic.

This month is Black History Month (BHM)

Inspired by Black Lives Matter, Black History Month UK is launching a new campaign for Black History Month 2021 called 'Proud to Be'. The campaign will encourage Black and Brown people including celebrities to share what they are proud to be – as part of a month-long celebration of the incredible richness and diversity of Black and Brown heritage in the UK.

Veronica Ryan with her marble and bronze sculptures in Hackney from an article in [The Guardian](#).

BHM this year carries a lot of meaning for me. This year, I have tried to imagine how my father must have felt when he



arrived at Liverpool Docks on a cold Spring morning at the age of 16. He had never before left his hometown of Georgetown in British Guyana and he faced the long voyage to the UK by himself. He was accustomed to the warmth of the Caribbean climate, to the sights and sounds of the West Indies- how different this place must have seemed. Could my Dad have known that he would travel around the world as a Doctor? Could he have imagined that my son, his grandson would be standing staring at the same dock over 60 years later as he now embarks on a journey to study Medicine at Liverpool University? I am lucky to have both my parents with me, so my children and I are able to interrogate them for facts and enjoy listening to the glorious stories of their lives in Russia and Guyana.

Do you have a story to tell about family or friends whose story we can celebrate in this newsletter as a part of Black History Month? Please send in your story to admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk and mark for the attention of Mrs Warwick (Headteacher). You may also wish to submit your story via [this link](#) to BHM.

Reminder: Please [click here](#) to follow the link to the Planning consultation so that you may make a comment of support about our school's section of the application.



Mrs I Warwick (Headteacher)

Faith - πίστη

**Holy feast day of Thomas the Apostle of the 12 – October 6th**

This Wednesday, we prepare to mark the feast day of Thomas the Apostle of the 12. The Apostle Thomas, for the most part, lives in the background of the four Gospels. St. John tells us in his Gospel that Thomas was also called "Didymus," or "the Twin," but we really do not know anything about the origin

of this nickname. Perhaps he had a twin brother or sister? The name "Thomas" seems to be derived from a Hebrew word which means "twin,".

We know him colloquially as "Doubting Thomas," which is true up to a point, but still a rather unfortunate way to remember him! St. Thomas did at first doubt the Lord's resurrection, but only because he was not with the other disciples when the Lord first paid them a visit. When he met the Risen Lord, he believed!

Three times in St. John's Gospel St. Thomas rises to the forefront, and we can learn a great deal about him and about our own faith from these instances. Thomas first speaks up on Lazarus Saturday. The Lord announces to the Twelve: "Lazarus is dead. And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, that you may believe. Nevertheless, let us go to him." St. Thomas, who knows the great risk this will entail, responds to the other disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with Him" (John 11:14-16). Thomas realizes they put their lives at risk, traveling so close to Jerusalem. But at the same time, if that is where the Master wishes to go, His followers must go with Him. We must stick with Jesus and obey His teachings, no matter what the risk to our fame, our fortune, or our lives.

We again hear from Thomas three chapters later at the Last Supper. We hear this reading each year on Holy Thursday, during our Service of the Twelve Passion Gospels: Jesus announces to the disciples that He is going to His Father's house to prepare a place for all of them. **"Where I go, you know; and the way you know" (John 14:4)**. Thomas asks: "Lord, we do not know where you are going, and how can we know the way?" (14:5). And the Lord responds with one of His most famous teachings in all of the New Testament: **"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (14:6)**. St. Thomas here teaches us that it is okay to ask questions if we do not understand something. Often, we hear or read the Bible, or a prayer or a hymn in Church, and we really have no idea

what it's all about. There is nothing wrong with asking! St. Thomas gives us permission to ask if we do not understand.

And finally, we hear again from Thomas after the Lord's resurrection. When Jesus first appears to the disciples, only ten of them are present. (Judas of course is no longer one of them, and Thomas is absent for some unknown reason.) They are scared; they are cowering behind closed doors. Jesus appears to them, "show[s] them His hands and His side," and the disciples rejoice that He is still alive. Thomas, unfortunately, misses the whole event, and declares afterwards: "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe" (John 20:25).

After eight days, Jesus appears to them again, and this time Thomas is a bit more fortunate. "Then He said to Thomas, 'Reach your finger here, and look at my hands; and reach your hand here and put it into my side.'" Thomas responds with one of the greatest exclamations of faith in the entire Bible: "My Lord and my God!"

What takes St. Thomas from "I will not believe" to "my Lord and my God"? The Lord gives them (and us) two things: His peace ("Peace be with you," 20:19 and 20:26), and the gift of the Holy Spirit ("He breathed on them, and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit,'" 20:22).

It's with the peace of Jesus in our hearts, and the forgiveness that comes from the gift of the Holy Spirit, that we find our voice as Christians. The disciples go from cowering behind closed doors, afraid of what the authorities will do to them, to public prayer, healing and preaching. When the peace and love of Jesus enters our hearts, we don't worry about what others may think. "For God did not give us a spirit of timidity but a spirit of power and love and self-control" (2 Tim. 1:7).

Following in St. Thomas' footsteps, let us receive from Jesus His peace, and let us give to others His peace. Let us live in His love, so that we may follow in the footsteps of St. Thomas and the other Apostles in their faith and their witness to Him.

Mr M Vassiliou (STA Spiritual Advisor)

Final Reminder- Parent Governer Vacancy



All parents and carers have received a letter from me, inviting applications for the voluntary position of Parent Governor. I look forward to receiving your applications. The timeline is as follows:

Thursday 7 October: Ballot paper sent to parents.

Thursday 21 October: Date of count of ballot papers.

Mrs Warwick (Headteacher)

Students of the Week



All stars of the week will be awarded 10 recognition points by their form tutor.

Year 7: Brenton M- for producing exceptional work in History this week and consistently modelling STA's values.

Leo W- for working exceptionally well in Drama and Art.

Year 8: Maya G - for resilience and excellent St Andrews code of conduct followed. **Rebecca K** - on of our top achievement points and excellent effort in all lesson so far.

Year 9: Olivia L for outstanding work within DT, Science and PE this week. **Arina Z** for excellent efforts in PE, Science, Art and History.

Year 10: Holly Y - Outstanding work in all subjects. **Zeno B** - For displaying a mature attitude towards his subjects.

Year 11: Stella A - for producing exceptional work in her classes this week and consistently modelling STA's values.

Aitor EV - for working exceptionally well this week in all lessons.



#AskAboutAsthmaWeek



Does your child have asthma?
Your child will need:

-  **an asthma management plan**
-  **the correct inhaler technique**
-  **an annual asthma review**

What you can do:

- 1** Ask your GP or school nurse for an asthma management plan
- 2** Ask your pharmacist, GP or nurse how to use their inhaler correctly
- 3** Ask your GP, asthma nurse or consultant for an annual asthma review for your child



These **three important steps** can prevent an emergency admission to hospital and even save a life.

Thanks to Healthy London Partnership for the poster idea

#AskAboutAsthma week took place from 20- 26 September. For more information [click here](#)



BHM Competition



Who is being commemorated in this statue? What is her story and why is it important to all of us?

Please submit your entries to admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk and mark for the attention of Mrs Warwick (Headteacher).

Click on [Visit London](#) to view a variety of activities and places to visit during BHM.

[Click here](#) if you would like to find out more about Black History month.

Raspberry Pi Competition 2022



The annual PA Raspberry Pi Competition - now in its tenth year - promotes STEM education by challenging schoolchildren to invent systems that could benefit society using their engineering and coding skills.

Using a credit card-sized Raspberry Pi computer, hundreds of school-aged children work in diverse teams to create innovative solutions to real-world challenges.

As the UN shares a bleak outlook on climate change, the need to act quickly on sustainability has never been more apparent. So, for the 2022 PA Raspberry Pi Competition, the challenge is for 8- to 18-year-olds to design technology that will help make the world a more sustainable place.

[Register for the competition >](#)

**Who can enter and what does it cost?**

As always, the Competition is free to enter, and we can enter as many teams as we wish. Each team must have at least 2 and up to 7 student members. The four age categories are:

- Primary school - Academic years 4 to 6
- Lower secondary school – Academic years 7 to 9
- Upper secondary school – Academic years 10 and 11
- Sixth form and college – Academic years 12 and 13

What can the teams win?

Four finalists from each age category will be invited to an inspiring awards day filled with STEM-based activities in April 2022. The day also gives the students a chance to demonstrate their inventions to leading innovators, who will then choose one winner from each category.

The winner of each category will receive a £1,000 prize for their school.

How to enter the competition?

Register your interest into this year's competition [here](#). You will then receive your entry pack with an entry form and guidance on how to go about innovating to save the planet. You can find out about last year's competition on the [Raspberry Pi competition website](#).

Book Review

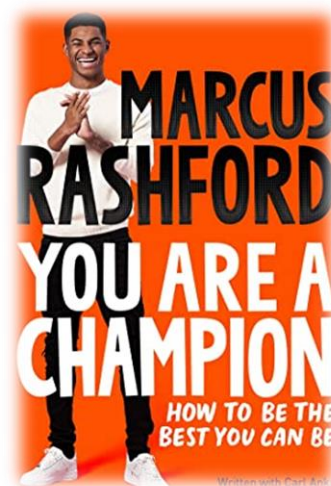
Name of reviewer: Mr Michael (Senior Deputy Headteacher)

Title: You are a champion-how to be the best you can be.

Author: Marcus Rashford

Genre: Biography

A brief synopsis: I was fortunate to be sent a complimentary copy of the



new book 'You are a Champion' endorsed by footballer Marcus Rashford. As a devoted football fan, I was intrigued to learn more about this young man who has risen to be one of the England's greatest young talents and who has done so much for many disadvantaged children across the country.

The book, written with journalist Carl Anka sets out how you can achieve your dreams. It did not disappoint.

No matter who you are and no matter where you come from, every single person in the world has the potential to be a champion. In 'You Are a Champion', Marcus outlines the tools you need to reach your full potential, showing you how to be the very best version of yourself you can be. I could draw many parallels of the challenges our young people face and tried and tested methods of how they overcame them to achieve their potential.

The book is full of stories from Marcus' own life with brilliant advice and top tips from performance psychologist Katie Warriner. It is a great tool for students who need to hear that they already are champions (like our students at STA) – they just might not know it yet!

To summarise my findings of the book, the key messages were:

- Practise like a champion – good things take hard work and time
- Get out of your comfort zone and learn from your mistakes
- Dream big
- Navigate adversity in a positive way
- Use your voice and stand up for others
- Never stop learning
- Be comfortable with who you are – you can't be a champion until you're happy being you!
-

My rating for the book is 5/5!



Coming Soon - Message to STA students

The STA English team have put together a list of suggested books to read as a celebration of BHM and I will share this list next week. Do share any of your own suggestions with your English teacher. You never know, your recommended read may appear on the final list!

Oxbridge Opportunities at STA



A group of Year 13 Early Bird students will have a special personalised visit to our link Cambridge College Gonville & Caius on **Thursday 7 October**. Gonville & Caius will then visit us and deliver personalised workshops for our most able students in Year 13, Year 12 and Year 11 on **Thursday 18 November**. We will end the day with a special workshop delivered by the team from Gonville & Caius to Year 5 and Year 6 students from our local primary schools.



Our link Oxford College, Christ Church will be visiting STA on **Thursday 14 October** and they will deliver a personalised programme to our most able students in Year 13, Year 12, Year 11 and our local Primary schools.

We are enormously grateful to the outreach teams from both colleges for the excellent, high quality and thoughtful support we receive.

Mrs Warwick (Headteacher)

Barnet Apprenticeship and Training Fair for Sixth Form

eventbrite

This event will be held on Wednesday 13 October at Oakleigh Community Church, 168-170 Oakleigh Road North, London N20 OUG from 10am until 14:30pm.. Please [click here](#) to sign up.

Barnet SEND Transition Fair

We would like to invite you to join us to a Post 16 Transitions Fair on Wednesday 13 October 2021



SEND Transitions Fair

Location: (please report to reception for directions)
Barnet and Southgate College, Southgate Campus,
High Street, Southgate. N14 6BS
Wednesday 13 October 2021 (4-6pm)

Aimed at young people preparing to leave school and are wanting to explore Post 16 options. This free event will be an opportunity to meet a range of Post 16 Education providers and other teams who support young people aged 16-25 with SEND who want to remain in education.

If you wish to attend this event please register your interest at Events@barnetsouthgate.ac.uk

Mask wearing for those who are able is encouraged. A testing centre for members of the public is also available on site for those who wish to make use of this facility.



Friends of STA (FOSA)

Our small group of dedicated parents and carers will meet on **Wednesday 13 October at 6pm** on Teams to discuss ideas and to implement plans to fundraise and to generally support our school community.

If you are interested in finding out more, please email admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk and mark your email for the attention of **Mrs H Marcou (Headteacher's PA)**

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.

Mental Health



It's OK to get help

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

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

Please [click here](#) to access helpful advice and support from the **NHS for teenagers and young adults** who need support with their mental health and are coping with bereavement. **Reminder:** During school, students needing emotional support can talk to their Form Tutors and their Head of Year. The following members of staff are also available: **Mr C Martin (DSL*)**; **Mrs C Hammond (DDSL*)**; **Mrs I Warwick (DDSL*)**; **Ms M Henshaw-Devall**; **Mr N Anemori** and **Ms M Hirli**.

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

Reminder COVID safety

BARNET COVID-19 WEEKLY ROUND-UP

19 September - 25 September 2021



Average no. of COVID-19 cases

142 Per day  Increased from around 129 last week

Hospital bed occupancy has decreased in the last week

Infection rate per 100,000

255 For the last 7 days  Increased from 235 per 100,000 population last week

Higher than the London rate of 202 per 100,000 population

Cases in specific settings in the last week

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

Community positivity has increased but remains LOW (3.7%)

Vaccination uptake

247,764 Received 1st dose
230,054 Received 2nd dose

First dose uptake is around 73.6% in all adults



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

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

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



Important dates for the calendar

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

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

Sixth form Open Evening for September 2022 application is on **Wednesday 17 November 2021**.
Please check our website <https://www.standrewtheapostle.org.uk/> for further details.