

Headteacher's Update

13 December 2021

Saint LUCY

13 December is the feast day of St Lucy

Key messages

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your very generous donations to our Christmas charities chosen by our students- Noah's Ark Children's Hospice and Macmillan Cancer Care. We have received £662.00 in donations. Your kindness will make a huge difference to families who are dealing with cancer at this time.

Our sold-out Christmas concert on Friday 10 December was an absolute triumph! Our Friends of St Andrew volunteers (FOSA) raised over £200 on the evening and this will be used to support future parent/carer events in school.

I could not be more proud of our wonderful students and dedicated team of talented staff. This was the best school concert I have ever seen! I'm really looking forward to seeing our Easter concert and talent show in 2022.



The whole cast

Head of Performing Arts, Mr Lasithiotakis said, "It is so wonderful to be able to give our talented array of dancers, singers and musicians a chance to perform on stage again after two long years where COVID restrictions prevented us from doing so."



Iasmina I's Piano Solo 'Touch'

St Andrew the Apostle School was a hive of activity on Friday 10 December when 70 talented performers took to the stage to entertain and enthral an enchanted audience!

Please turn to the back page of this Newsletter to view the programme for the Christmas concert which lists all the performances and names of the cast.



Sixth form band singing 'Are you bored yet?'



The ever performance by our Byzantine choir- with girls and boys from every year group from Year 7 to Year 13



Amelia L singing 'Can't Help Falling in Love'



Georgia C and Thomas F in rehearsal



Year 7 Drama Group performing 'Oh What a Lovely War'







STA dance group



STA orchestra



Mrs Warwick speaking to Year 5 students with Mrs Hammond

Mrs Hammond, Assistant Headteacher in charge of Primary liaison invited an audience of Year 5 students from Brunswick Park Primary School, all of whom thoroughly enjoyed watching the dazzling matinee performance.

This event was followed by our evening performance in front of a spellbound audience of families and friends of the school.

Mr Michael, Senior Deputy Headteacher got the evening off to a great start with a Raffle. The school is very grateful to Y&S Mini Market, Brunswick Garage, Hazelwood Sports Club, LHM Fitness, Harry's Bar & Kitchen at Horwood House, Nicholas Printers and Alexander Chrysaphiades for their generosity and support providing us with these amazing prizes.

Mrs Karaolis OBE, Chair of Governors said, "We enjoyed an excellent Christmas concert this evening. The many talents of our wonderful students provided a welcoming feel-good uplift for us all. Obviously, the event was made possible by the dedication and hard work of a great team of staff. Congratulations to all concerned. "

Mrs Lynch, Chair and Founder of the Russell Education **Trust (RET)** who sponsor our school, visited us two weeks ago and said, "I saw nothing but excellent behaviour and attitudes to learning in classrooms. I was able to sense real purpose throughout the school. Well-ordered corridors with good display; polite, well-behaved students and a real sense of St Andrew as a Church school, encouraged me enormously. May all the staff, students and their families enjoy a blessed Christmas."

COVID update

Thank you for your support as we continue to follow our COVID-safe risk assessment in school. This is proving very effective in keeping our school community safe and well as we enter the last week of term.

I would like to alert you to an important update about the new rules for daily testing.

From Tuesday 14 December, people who are fully vaccinated and identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 whether Omicron or not – should take an NHS rapid lateral flow test every day for 7 days to help slow the spread of COVID-19. This aims to reduce pressures on people's everyday lives by replacing the requirement for Omicron contacts to isolate for 10 days, while protecting the public by identifying asymptomatic cases and stopping the chains of transmission.

A reminder that:

- Those who test positive or develop symptoms will need to self-isolate.
- Unvaccinated adults must continue to self-isolate for 10 days if they are a contact of someone with COVID-19.
- It follows a significant rise in Omicron cases in the UK with the new variant expected to become the dominant strain by mid-December.

Please <u>click here</u> to read the rules in full.

COMMUNITY LET OPPORTUNITY

COMING SOON: If there are any community groups who would like to express an interest in hiring our school facilities from September 2022, please send an email with your details to the Headteacher's PA, Mrs Helen Marcou at Head@standrewtheapostle.org.uk

Christmas School Lunch- price reduction!

On Wednesday 15 December, we are offering our students the chance to enjoy a traditional Christmas lunch with a delicious vegetarian option also available.

In order to ensure that as many of our students are able to enjoy a Christmas meal, we have reduced the price of the meal to the standard price of £2.50. I do hope that all students will wish to join in.

As we will have a restricted lunch service on Wednesday 15 December, any students who do not wish to have a Christmas lunch and are not on free school meals are required to bring in a packed lunch.

If you would like to know more about our Caterers *Innovate* and our delicious weekly menus, please click here.

Christmas jumper day- Wednesday 15 December

We are going to have a non-uniform Christmas jumper day on Wednesday 15 December as this will coincide with the Christmas lunch celebration. Students may wear clothing of a bright colour if they prefer to do so. We are asking parents and carers to pay £2.00 per child via ParentPay and all of this money will go to buying our students playground equipment for both Building 4 and Building 5 playgrounds.

May I ask you read the message in this newsletter from Mrs Hammond (Assistant Headteacher) and to ensure that your child follows the rules about what is and is not acceptable dress on the day.

End of term

We have made a professional recording of the Christmas concert performance and we will share this with you soon. Further details may be obtained in the next Newsletter.

Please note that school will finish at 12.30pm on Thursday 16 December.

Term begins again for students from Wednesday 5 January

2022 as there is a Teacher training day for staff on Tuesday 4 January.

I will confirm arrangements for the start of term and the plan to conduct on-site LFD testing before students return to school in my next Newsletter.



Best wishes,

Mrs Warwick (Headteacher)

Upcoming Key Dates

Date		Event
13/12/21	•	Year 7 and Year 8 visit to St Katherine's Greek Orthodox Church for a Christmas service.
14/12/21	•	Year 9 visit to St Katherine's Greek Orthodox Church for a Christmas service. Mock results day for Year 11 students.
15/12/21	•	Year 10 visit to St Katherine's Greek Orthodox Church for a Christmas service. Christmas Jumper Day (TBC) Christmas Lunch
16/12/21	•	Year 11 and Sixth form visit to St Katherine's Greek Orthodox Church for a Christmas service. School finishes at 12.30pm for all students.
04/01/22	•	Inset day
05/01/22	•	Spring Term Starts



Please click here to access term dates.

Faith - πίστη

The Time of Advent

Beginning in November, Orthodox Christians around the world begin to prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas. This time of preparation and fasting is 40 days long and leads right to the Feast of the Nativity. (It is the same length as Great Lent, which leads to Holy Week and Pascha; but there are different restrictions in each fast.)



This season of the Church year is called "Advent" by many Christians, as they focus on the coming of Lord. In "The Year of Grace of the Lord,"* the author, a monk of the Eastern Church, writes, "One might perhaps feel that this term 'coming' is purely symbolic, for in fact Christ comes to us at all times, and even lives in us. Nevertheless, this approach and this presence of Christ, both of which are eternal, take on a special character at Advent-tide... A special grace of the 'coming' of the Lord is offered us. The Lord Jesus is already present to us; but the grace of Advent allows us a more vivid, and quite new, awareness of this presence." (p45)

The monk continues the chapter on Advent by summarizing our prayers during this season with one word. The word that we pray during Advent-tide is "Come!" When we pray the word sincerely, this one-word plea fills us with hope, and we anticipate the Lord's coming with greater fervour. As the weeks of Advent-tide pass, God willing, each day that we pray, we pray more purely. The author continues, "Our prayer at Advent, 'Come', could... be interpreted thus: 'Oh, let me be aware of Thy presence in me --- May the whole world feel Thy presence." (p46)

Our focus during Advent is on the light which will be shining forth. Just as the days begin to lengthen after Christmas, the darkness in our hearts will be enlightened by the Son which Christmas brings into the world. After all, He is the Light of the World!

This year, during the Nativity fast, may we continually pray, "Come!" and prepare our hearts - and the hearts of our students - to receive the light that shines forth in Christ!

Make ready, O Bethlehem: let the manger be prepared, let the cave show its welcome. The truth has come, the shadow has passed away; born of a Virgin, God has appeared to men, formed as we are and making godlike the garment He has put on. Therefore Adam is renewed with Eve, and they call out: 'Thy good pleasure has appeared on earth to save our kind.'

Amen.

*"The Year of Grace of the Lord," by a monk of the Eastern Church. (Author:

A Monk of the Eastern Church, ISBN: 978-0-913-83668-2)

A very happy name day to you if your name is included in the table below!

Saint being celebrated	Date
Aris, Efstratios, Lucy	Monday 13 th
Arianos, Lefki	Tuesday 14th
Anthia, Eleftheria, Eleftherios Sylvia	Wednesday 15 th
Modestos, Theophano	Thursday 16 th
DANIEL (Daniel, Danielle) DIONISIS (Dionysius)	Friday 17 th
Sebastianos, Sebastiani	Saturday 18 th
Aglaia	Sunday 19 th

Mr M Vassiliou (STA Spiritual Director)

Student Recognition



Year 7: Katerina N and Natalie S - for taking time to support a student to find her blazer.

Year 8: Angel GM and Oliver A - for being consistently respectful to staff and peers.

Year 9: Luchy H and Dominika S - for improved punctuality to school.

Year 10: Lucaino S and Angela D - for excellent commitment shown in form time.

Year 11: Adrianno N - for showing good behaviour and attitude around school. Gabriella K - for continuing to be a hard-working and enthusiastic student in school.

Year 12: Luis MB - for an outstanding presentation during form time on inspirational role models -Formula 1. Christina V - for consistently submitting high quality pieces of homework and classwork in Politics.

Year 13: Kapil S and Mario P - for demonstrating continuous improvement in lessons.

Student Achievements – Well done STA!

Fabulous news that one of our A Level English Literature students, Thea P in Y12 won a creative writing competition! She will be having a masterclass with the author Sue Cheung on Monday 13 December. An amazing achievement.





Gold medal achievement for Alex I in 11P Alex been training Brazilian Jujitsu full time since he was 6 years old under Roger Gracie Mill Hill Jujitsu club. He started entering into competitions at the age of 8. In his first competition, Alex got a bronze medal and in his second competition, gold. Alex was the number one ranked in the UK BJJA as a yellow belt, orange belt and green and now he's a blue belt and ready to climb the ranks. Blue belt is given at the age of 16 but Alex received his at the age of 15

through his wide range of achievements. Alex now trains at Jujitsu Gym: Equilibrium Brazilian's Jujitsu Club in Wood Green. He also teaches the kids classes in the club.

Alex has won the British championship multiple times, Naga, American grappling federation, multiple junior European and world championships.

Alex also trains in Judo where he's won the Southend international competition and also the school's competition. Alex is also on the Reds team in Judo.

Alex is an athlete who trains every day. He last competed on the 27 and 28 November where he represented Equilibrium BJJ academy at the Grappling Industries competition where he won gold on Saturday and double gold on Sunday.

Family Based Solutions (FBS) – Miracle Day



After last year's cover of 'Power of Love', this year the FBS team decided to up their game and create an original sound track, and 'Miracle Day' was created. This year FBS Kids had great joy in joining their parents to create a special song with an inspiring message to the community. Please click here to find out more about FBS and click here to view the Christmas single featuring Christianna P in Year 8.

Christmas card competition 2021 winners!

KS3 winner is Christiana C in 7S KS3 Runner up is Katerina N in 7P KS4 winner is Zafirah I in 11S

The winners will receive a pack of their professionally printed Christmas cards to send to friends and family. The runner up will receive a STA branded mug.

Thank you to all entrants for your amazing work!

Christmas Jumper Day



Wednesday 15 December is a whole school Christmas jumper/ non-school uniform day. This event will coincide with our school Christmas lunch. The event will take place to celebrate how well the students have done this term and to raise money for playground equipment. We are asking for a donation of £2 which can be paid via ParentPay.

Please ensure that your child makes sensible choices with their clothing and please check that what they wear is suitable for a working school environment. Items not allowed include: baseball caps, ripped jeans, cropped tops, any top exposing bare shoulders, football shirts or clothes with offensive slogans. We will send students home to change if they arrive at school wearing unacceptable items of clothing.

Thank you for your support,

Mrs Hammond (Assistant Headteacher)

STA Ancient Greek Club starting in January



χαίρετε ὧ μαθηταί

ANCIENT GREEK CLUB

Learn to read and write one of the oldest languages of Europe, in which many great works of literature and history were written.

If you enjoy Latin, you will enjoy this approximately twice as much! Further details:

Open to all Year 7 students.

Beginners' level.

30 minutes/week.

Speak to Ms. Galazoula to sign up.

This will take place every Wednesday from January 2022.

Message from FOSA - STA Christmas 2021



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 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.

The next Parent surgery will take place on Friday 7 January 2022.



Dean Beadle has toured the UK for over fourteen years sharing his experiences of being autistic. He has also delivered keynotes in Ireland, Denmark, Belgium and Germany as well as undertaking four seminar tours of Australia and New Zealand. Through his humorous and insightful speeches, Dean outlines his positive outlook on being autistic, and challenges negative public attitudes. In 2011 Dean's work was brought to a wider audience, as a clip of one of his speeches was viewed globally on YouTube.

Ella received a late autism diagnosis after two of her children were diagnosed with autism. She also has a diagnosis of ADHD. Since her diagnosis she's been learning about autism, and the best ways to live for her neurology. She has a popular YouTube channel, TikTok and Instagram where she makes content for autistic people and the people who love and care for them, with the aim of encouraging neurodivergent people to live confident and happy lives.

Autism Anxiety and Autism Joy

10 January, 10am to 11.30am **Speaker - Dean Beadle**

Autism Social and Emotional Needs

17 January, 6.30pm to 8.30pm **Speaker - Dean Beadle**

Autism Lived Experience and the Journey to Living a **Confident Happy Live**

7 February, 10am to 11am Speaker - Purple Ella

My Say Matters- message to Parents and Carers



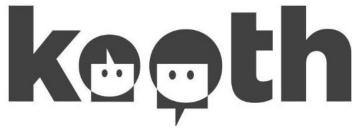
The "My Say Matters" strategy gives young people and their families the power to shape services across Barnet. If you're a parent of a child or young person in Barnet, have your say on "My Say Matters."

They want to involve as many parents, carers, children and young people as possible, so if you have have a child aged 14+ living in Barnet, please get them to read our draft strategy, complete our online questionnaire and/or join one of our virtual focus groups in December. Please share this with the families you work with too.

Find out more here: My Say Matters: Barnet's Child Participation and Family Involvement Strategy (2022 -2025) | Engage Barnet

Consultation closing date is 20 December 2021.

Kooth webinar- message for Parents / Carers and Young people



Join our Kooth Webinar on Monday 20 December, from 4pm-5pm, for Parents/Carers and YP accompanied by their Carers:

Reserve a FREE space and Read our webinar rundown



Kooth Resources

- Kooth and Qwell Holiday Period Chat Availability
- What's On Kooth This Month posters December
- **Kooth's Parent and Carers Support Pack**
- Kooth in the Capital Report
- Qwell's Opening Up Campaign Spotlight Page

Mental Healh 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 vou're feeling.



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

SANEline. If you're experiencing a mental health problem or supporting someone else, you can call **SANEline**

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

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

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

Please click here to access helpful advice and support from the NHS for teenagers and young adults who need support with their mental health and are coping with bereavement.



Reminder: During school, students needing emotional support can talk to their Form Tutors and their Head of Year.

The following members of staff are also available: Mr C Martin, Deputy Headteacher (DSL*); Mrs C Hammond, Assistant Headteacher (DDSL*); Mrs I Warwick, Headteacher (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.

COVID safety- Reminder



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.

BARNET COVID-19 WEEKLY ROUND-UP

28 November - 4 December 2021



Cases in specific settings in the last week

- 153 cases associated with schools have been reported in the last week.
- 2 staff members and 3 residents in care homes have tested positive in the last week.

Community positivity remains MEDIUM (5.8%)



Everyone aged 12+ Vaccination uptake can book a vaccine appt. Children aged 12-15 261,600 will also be invited for vaccination in school or a 239,600 GP Practice if clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV). First dose uptake is around 73.2% for all ages (12 & over)

Please click here if you would like to view the Barnet COVID-19 weekly update.

Face coverings: Face coverings should be worn in communal areas in all settings by staff, visitors and pupils or students in year 7 and above, unless they are exempt. Pupils or students (in year 7 or above) should continue to wear face coverings on public and dedicated school transport, unless they are exempt.

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

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

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

To book a vaccination, please visit: Book or manage a coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination - NHS (www.nhs.uk).

Travel restriction update: Changes to pre-departure testing from 4am, Tuesday 7 December 2021

From 4am, Tuesday 7 December all people aged 12 years and over must take a PCR or LFD COVID-19 test before they travel to England from abroad.

You must take the test within the 2 days before you travel to England.

This will apply whether you qualify as fully vaccinated or not. Some people, including children aged 11 and under are exempt from taking the test.

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-to-england-fromanother-country-during-coronavirus-covid-19

Red list countries and territories

There are different rules if you have been in a red list country or territory in the 10 days before you arrive in England. If you need to follow red list rules, you must do so if you are fully vaccinated or not.

Check which countries and territories are on the red list and read the red list rules.

Applications for our Sixth Form - Reminder

Ofsted 2018 "The school's work to promote pupils' personal development and welfare is outstanding. Leaders in the sixth form set **high expectations** for their students. Students really enjoy their learning in the sixth form."

Please <u>click here</u> to apply for our sixth form. Early applications stand a better chance of being successful in obtaining a place to study the course of choice in our sixth form.

Personal attention + Positive relationships= Excellent **Progress**

We are the first Greek Othodox Secondary School in the country. St Andrew the Apostle School- a community led school where every child is known.

Ever to Excel



The Performing Arts Department

Presents

Christmas Concert 2021

We would like to welcome you all to St Andrew the Apostle's Christmas Concert 2021!

We hope that you have a fantastic time

with our talented students, whilst enjoying some

of our very finest mince pies!

Merry Christmas &

Happy New Year!

Message from Mr Lasithiotakis (Head of Performing Arts)

We would like to thank a number of people who made this Christmas concert possible:

6^t Form and all the volunteers for organising the refreshments.

Fr Joseph Paliouras for leading the Byzantine choir.

Mrs Nelson for leading the drama groups.

Miss Walt and Ms Laabaied for leading the dance groups.

Mr Michael Vassiliou and Mrs Joseph-Brown for organizing the liturgical readings.

In addition, Headteacher Mrs Warwick, Senior Deputy Headteacher Mr Michael the Governors and our colleagues for their support tonight and throughout the preparation period.

And finally, all of you for your endless support.



Tonight's performance will be one act. Please ensure you buy your mince pies and refreshments ready to join our compere on a journey of festive reflection and entertainment with our wonderful community.

Christmas Dance Performance

Bible Reading: Matthew 1: 18-24

Piano Solo: "Touch"

Bible Reading: Luke 2: 8-20

Vocal Solo: "Mary did you know"

Bible Reading: Matthew 2: 1-9

Vocal; Solo: "Can't Help Falling in Love"

Byzantine Choir: Epiphany Carol

St Andrew the Apostle Orchestra and Vocal Group: "Silent Night"

Year 7 Drama Group: "Oh What a Lovely War"

Byzantine Choir: Kontakion

Year 10 Band 3: "When I was Your Man"

Year 10 Band 2: "Davaiza Naz"

Sixth Form Band: "Are You Bored Yet?"

Year 10 Band 1: Last Christmas / War is Over / Fairytale of New York

Mrs. Warwick Close of Event

OUR TALENTED STA PERFORMERS-

WE ARE VERY PROUD OF YOU!

Byzantine Choir

Theodore C

Stellios C

Christiana C

Harry L

Gabriella H

Hailey C

Amalia S

Christianna P

Marialena Ak

Yianni A

Evangelos L

Spyridoula L

Lillia BFA

Soloists

lasmina I

Theodore C

Amelia L

Yr. 10 Band 1

Gabriella B

Lydia F

Myriam M

Luciano S

Rost Z

Evangelos L

Yr. 10 Band 2

Christina K

Phoebe W

Rost Z

Yr. 10 Band 3

Angela M

Imane R

Holly Y

6th Form Band

Thomas F

Kapil S

Matthew A

Georgia C

Demetri T

Comperes

Amalia SRD

Barsam K

Alexandra M

Props & Costume

Dacie L

Reneta K

Orchestra & Vocal Group

Tyra O

Izabel R

Zofia S

Spyridoula L

Evangelos L

Mimi S

Maya G

lasmina I

Christianna P

Pierce H

Grant H

Samantha S

Aliyat O

Gabriella B

Lydia F

Myriam M

Luciano S

Angela M Imane R

Drama Cast

Charitini G

Isabella PT

Anna-Maria D

Parmis S

Tobi B

Rasharn C

Michael M

Leonidas Y

Dance Group

Natalia E

Lydia F

Sofia AP

Soriyah C

Maria C Jana B

Isabella G

Crina B

Anamaria S

Anamana

Alexia N

Christianna P Irena - Maria S

Raz O

Dacie L

Jaladhi N

Jaiaurii i

Celeste F