



# Headteacher's Update

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

15 July

2022

## Key Messages

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you are all well and looking forward to an exciting and relaxing summer break as we approach an end of another fulfilling school year.

This week has been a busy one in school with the conclusion of our assessments for key stage 3 student. Teachers are now assessing how well students have performed not only in these assessments but also across the year. Reports will be sent out at the end of the school year.

Please see articles in the newsletter below for the celebrations we have been holding to mark particular year groups as they leave the school or prepare themselves for post-16 education. The Year 11 and Year 13 proms were wonderful events, and it was great to see how mature our students were as they celebrated together. Both year groups have come a long way from year 7! It was also lovely to see our new Year 7 students on site on transition day on Thursday 7 July.

As many of you may know, I joined St Andrew the Apostle School as a founding member of the school's leadership team in 2013 and have been involved its growth and prosperity.

As Deputy Headteacher, I have devoted my work life in ensuring the school developed from the vision of the Governing Body and the Trust, supporting the current and previous Headteachers in securing the many successes we have achieved. I have had the pleasure of working with some amazing staff and ensured students in my care achieved their potential.

However, as the saying goes, all good things must come to an end, and for me an opportunity has arisen which I could not turn down. I will be moving on to a new challenge at the end of this academic year. I have had the pleasure of meeting and speaking with many of you during our time at St Andrew the Apostle and can look back at many fond memories from events that your child has been involved in. I would like to

thank the amazing staff of the school who have supported me and have gone above and beyond their role in establishing the school. They are a real credit to this school.

Whilst the decision to leave has not been an easy one, I can take much satisfaction that all my arduous work, energy and work ethic over the last nine years has built a legacy which has been embedded into the foundations of the school and will provide a solid platform for years to come. As some of you may know, I am actively involved in the local Greek Orthodox community, being a member of the committee of St Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church and Greek School, so I am certain that I will see many of our community at community events as I would love to hear how your child is progressing at St Andrew the Apostle School.

Whilst looking for inspiration to write this newsletter article, I found the following quote "Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community better than you found it." I can safely say I have achieved this in my nine years at St Andrew the Apostle School.

Thank you all for your support,

Mr Mike Michael  
Head of School

## Staff Notice: Presentation for Mr Mike Michael



### Danny Lynch and Mr Mike Michael, (Head of School, Founding Member of St Andrew the Apostle Greek Orthodox School)

The icon from Danny Lynch, one of our founding governors. It was presented to Mr Michael by the governing body to recognise Mr Michael's service to the school in the nine years he has worked at the school. The icon was sourced by Deacon George, who is also on our governing body. The silver icon depicts Mary holding Jesus. We all wish Mr Michael well as he moves on to the next stage in his career.

### Mr Mike Michael (Head of School)

### New Buildings News!



### News buildings news!

We have had wonderful news this week on our new building, which has been shared with governors and staff; we wanted to share it with you too. Essentially our updated site designs have been approved, which is wonderful news.

The Strategic Planning Committee of the London Borough of Barnet unanimously approved the amended planning application for St Andrew the Apostle Greek Orthodox Secondary School at their **12th July** meeting. Barnet Planning Officers supported the application, Stelios Stylianou from the Department for Education and Charles Mills from Daniel Watney Planning Agents spoke in support of the application and there were no speakers against. All 9 Barnet Committee Councillors, from all political parties, voted in favour of the application, which was approved unanimously. These revised plans, produced by the DfE and their chosen builder, Bowmer & Kirkland, will provide the students in September 2024 with a new well designed, purpose-built secondary school, which is what they deserve to be educated in.

The school, which opened in 2013 currently uses converted office buildings. The students are receiving an excellent education and its first- and second-year intake students are now studying at a number of universities. The current 6th form students are hoping to start at various universities this

Autumn including Oxford, Cambridge and Leicester Medical School.

### Mr Anthony Easton (Executive Headteacher)

### Hot Weather

Parents will have received an email relating to the concerns about extreme weather on Monday and Tuesday next week. Please see below for the details from this email:

We are closely watching the news from the Met Office and checking Department for Education Guidance. At present we are at an amber warning although we will continue to monitor the situation.

Temperatures from the hot weather are predicted to peak on Monday and Tuesday. Because of this, students will be allowed to wear either their PE Kit or their school uniform but without a blazer, tie or jumper.

In the heat, we are benefitting from our current school buildings within the North London Business Park because they have air conditioning, which provides respite from the high temperatures outside.

On the days when temperatures are at their highest, please ensure that your child brings plenty of water in a refillable bottle, has sun-cream and if they are going to be outside for more than 30 minutes, they may also wear floppy hats with wide brims to shield them from the sun.

### Mr Anthony Easton (Executive Headteacher)

### Staff Notice: New Biology Teacher



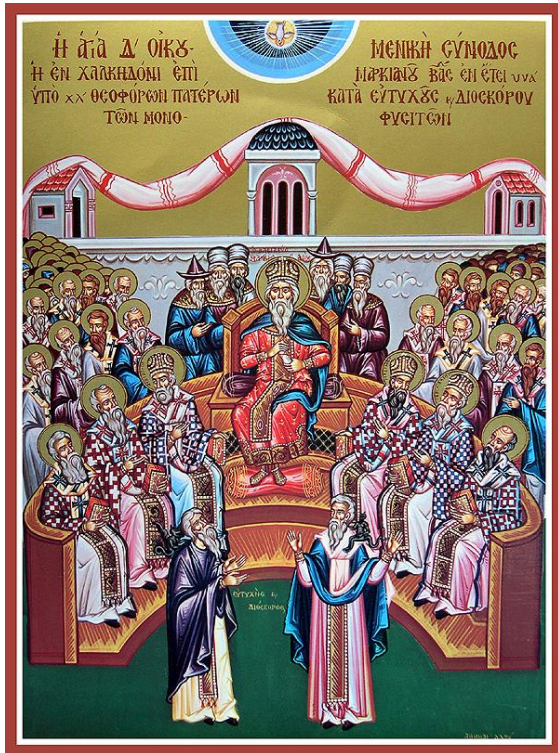
I am so excited to be joining STA as a Science teacher specialising in Biology. Since Year 12 I have volunteered in KS3 lessons during free periods, delivered science outreach sessions to primary schools and assisted with the science fair projects.

Throughout university I continued to volunteer in 3 primary schools which made me realise my passion for teaching. I completed my PGCE at UCL, the Institute of Education and throughout my placement at STA I felt so welcomed and supported by everyone which makes it the perfect place for me to begin as an ECT! I am looking forward to continuing in September and learning from everyone at STA!

### Ms K Msrar (Biology Teacher)

## Faith- πίστη

## Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the 4th Ecumenical Council



## Icon depicting the gathering of the Holy Fathers at Chalcedon for the 4th Ecumenical Council

This Sunday, we remember the Council of Chalcedon. This was the fourth ecumenical council. In 451 AD, leaders from all of Christendom gathered to define the incarnation of Christ once and for all on the eastern side of Constantinople (Chalcedon).

Within the lifetime of the apostles, some Christians were already having a hard time reconciling Jesus' divinity with his humanity (2 John 1:7). Was he only partially divine, or only partially human? Was Jesus even human at all?

The implications of these questions were huge: the answers could affect whether Jesus had the power to forgive sins and offer eternal life. Without a real human body, could he really die? If he didn't die, the wages of sin remained unpaid (Romans 6:23) and their faith was in vain (1 Corinthians 15:17).

At the First Council of Nicaea (325 AD), more than a century before the Council of Chalcedon, the church declared that God the Father and Jesus the Son were "consubstantial" (of the same substance), clarifying that Jesus was in fact divine in the same way that God is divine.

At the Council of Chalcedon, the church explicitly defined the relationship between Jesus' divine nature and his human nature, and how they manifested in his being. They

determined he was "truly God and truly man," and that he is "like us in all things, sin apart."

The council's complete statement is known as the Chalcedonian Definition or the Chalcedonian Creed. This stated:

"Following, then, the holy Fathers, we all unanimously teach that our Lord Jesus Christ is to us One and the same Son, the Self-same Perfect in Godhead, the Self-same Perfect in Manhood; truly God and truly Man; the Self-same of a rational soul and body; co-essential with the Father according to the Godhead, the Self-same co-essential with us according to the Manhood; like us in all things, sin apart; before the ages begotten of the Father as to the Godhead, but in the last days, the Self-same, for us and for our salvation (born) of Mary the Virgin Theotokos as to the Manhood; One and the Same Christ, Son, Lord, Only-begotten; acknowledged in Two Natures unconfusedly, unchangeably, indivisibly, inseparably; the difference of the Natures being in no way removed because of the Union, but rather the properties of each Nature being preserved, and (both) concurring into One Person and One Hypostasis; not as though He were parted or divided into Two Persons, but One and the Self-same Son and Only-begotten God, Word, Lord, Jesus Christ; even as from the beginning the prophets have taught concerning Him, and as the Lord Jesus Christ Himself hath taught us, and as the Symbol of the Fathers hath handed down to us."

## Jesus is truly God, truly man

Today, Christians readily accept that Jesus is fully God and fully man—that there is a mystical union between his divine and human natures. Without the Council of Chalcedon's decisive creed, the church may have continued working with disparate definitions and struggled to maintain orthodoxy.

As the church ruled out conflicting ideas of who Jesus was, the Chalcedonian Definition was inevitable. But it was also essential, and without it, Jesus' sacrifice on the cross would be ambiguous. Knowing that Christ is fully God and fully man, we can fully trust in the salvation he offers through his death and resurrection.

## Mr M Vassiliou (STA Spiritual Director)

## Attendance

Our Education Welfare Officer from Barnet came to review our attendance. Both the school and the EWO recognised that attendance for the school can be improved.

There are a few children who have attendance below 90%. This figure is significantly below the national average and is considered as **persistent** non-attendance. 96% attendance

is expected by the school and the Education Welfare Team for children to achieve their educational potential. Children who are unwell (e.g., sickness, vomiting or high temperature) should not come to school but children who are slightly under the weather should attend. Please be assured, that if we feel your child is ill, we will send them home.

When your child is absent for more than three days, we would expect all parents to substantiate with medical evidence. This would be a stamped doctor's appointment card, information about the medication your child has been prescribed (a photo can be emailed to the office or brought in on return to school). As you know, we can administer medication on site (if it is prescribed by the doctor).

The Education Welfare Team from the London Borough of Barnet regularly monitor our attendance. They may contact you if your child's attendance is significantly low (below 90%). This may be a letter or a phone call. Absences before and after school holidays will be monitored. If there is not a sufficient reason to substantiate the absence, the Education Welfare Team will issue a fixed penalty notice.

If you are experiencing difficulties with your child's attendance, please make an appointment to speak to me as soon as possible.

I would like to thank you for your continued support with regards to attendance.

**Mr Chris Martin (Deputy Headteacher)**

### Upcoming Key Dates and Information



- Please [click here](#) to access previous editions of the Newsletter.
- Please [click here](#) to access term dates.
- Please [click here](#) to access school calendar for upcoming Term.

### Upcoming Events

- **Plastic Free July**
- **Talent Show tonight at 6PM**
- **21st July last day of term finishing at 12:35**

### Reminder – last day of term/celebration assemblies

The last day of term is **Thursday 21 July 2022**.

In line with our normal procedure, students will be dismissed from **12.35pm** by their Year Leaders. A packed lunch will be available for students who are entitled to free school meals, and these will be available for collection from the canteen in Building 5.

Several exciting activities have been planned for year groups on this day to celebrate the successful year and it is important that your child attends on this day. These assemblies will recognise students and tutor groups from attendance to progress and other ways in which they have contributed to the life of the school.

An end of term letter will be sent out next week by Mr Easton, our Executive Headteacher, with important information about the start of the next academic year.

**Mr Mike Michael, (Head of School)**

### Summer Term Sports Clubs

#### Tuesday

Activity: Years 7-10 Softball & Rounders

Time: 3.00pm-4.30pm

Location: Bethune Park

Meet: Building 5 Changing Rooms

#### Wednesday

Activity: Years 7-10 Futsal (Brazilian 5-side Football)

Time: 3.00pm-4.00pm

Location: Upper Playground

Meet: Building 5 Changing Rooms

*PLEASE NOTE ATTENDANCE TO ATHLETIC COMPETITIONS IS BY INVITATION ONLY.*

**Mr R Browell (Head of Physical Education)**

### Students of the Week

#### Year Group Recognitions



On Thursday 11 July 2022 we had the wonderful opportunity to meet our new year 7s. They took part in several sessions, including team building tasks, getting to know me activity booklet and most importantly meet the rest of their form and Mrs Nelson the Head of Year. We look forward to you being part of the St Andrew the Apostle community when we officially welcome you on 7 September.

All students will receive 10 recognition points for their hard work and contributions.

**Year 9: Helin K** – For being continuous in her revision when preparing for end of year exams.

**Adrianna S** – For facing challenges with enthusiasm and resilience within school.

**Arina Z** – For a huge effort made in preparation for her end of year exams and an improved attitude to punctuality and attendance.

**Andreas V** – For challenging himself in all lessons, embracing STA core values of kindness and caring to all students in school.

**Year 10: Arjun A** – For demonstrating a caring and protective nature.

**Christianna K** - For maintaining a high standard of work throughout Year 10

### Sixth form

**Year 12: All Year 12** – For conducting themselves in a professional manner during their work experience placement in our school, for being very supportive and for demonstrating actively the school ethos.



St Andrew the Apostle Enrichment Day 13 July 2022 – Our Environment and our role as Custodians

### Year 6 Transition Day



**Year 7 students learning about environmental, economic, and social 'sustainability' in the classroom**

Students and staff had a great day last week when the school came together for a series of activities all based around the theme of 'Our Environment and our role as custodians/stewards.' The aim was to expand the knowledge and experience of St Andrew the Apostle's students and to introduce them to other aspects of global environmentalism that they may not be aware of day to day.

Live lessons were suspended for the whole day so that students could spend time on a range of engaging activities with each year group working upon a specific sub-theme to do with the environment. Staff delivered a series of brilliant workshops with students working on such varied ideas such as:



**Year 7 students putting their learning into practice while conducting an 'environmental air quality survey' in the playground.**

Year 7 investigating what is sustainability and how we can live in a more sustainable way. This was approached through identifying the main environmental issues the world faces, what causes them and what more we can do to help prevent further damage.

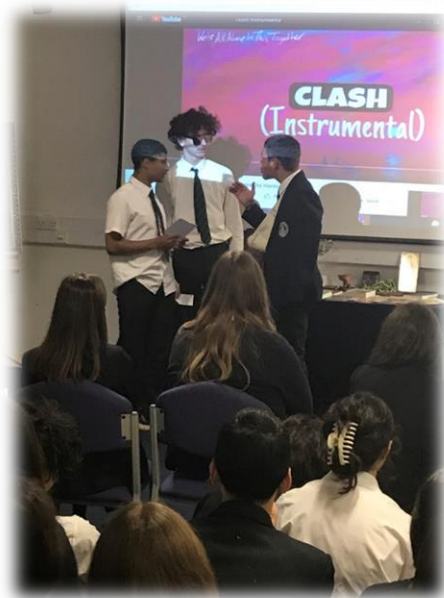
Year 9 participated in workshops investigating how plastic is damaging our environment and what we can do about it but also how we can reduce our carbon footprint.

Year 8 examined the extent to which the environment is changing but also reflected on whether we ought to be worried.

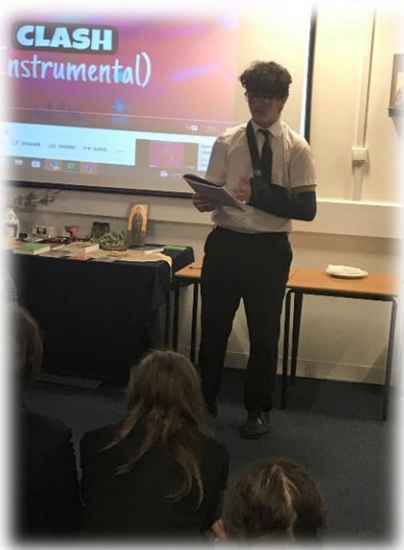


**Poet in residence for the day Peter Johnson performing his own poetry to Year 10 students on how poetry can bring about change for the better.**

Year 10 looked at the power of protest as a way of bringing about change; they were inspired by our artist/poet in residence Peter Johnson who showed students how poetry can bring about change and how the poetic form can itself be used a form of activism. The highlight of the day was listening to students performing live their own protest poems.



**Yr.10 students Sammy S, Vangelis L and Mario G performing their joint poem on the destruction of our eco system.**



**Yr10 student Chris S performing his own poem on the environment**

This was a wonderful opportunity for the entire staff and student body coming together to share and investigate a highly topical issue but also to spread even greater awareness about our own role and sense of responsibility as custodians of the environment.

**St Andrew The Apostle School – Art Competition**

**St Andrew the Apostle School Art Competition – Adorn the new site hoardings!**



Very soon you will see boards going up around the grounds for the new build so that work can be done to level the ground and make it ready. We have been asked to find a budding designer by the building company. The winning entry will contain or be a combination of the following themes and ideas:

- St Andrew the Apostle School wording or logo
- New Beginnings
- School subjects e.g., maths, English, science
- Extra-curricular activities e.g., drama, sport, music
- Faith, worship, and our values

The winner will have their entry blown up and posted on the hoardings surrounding the new build area. If you are interested in taking part, please

- Design your entry on a plain A4 sheet of drawing or printing paper. Make sure lines and colours are clear and could be seen from a distance.
- Do not fold your entry.

- Make sure your artwork leaves at least a centimetre of white space around the edges.
  - Any medium (paint, pencils) is acceptable.
- Either post your entry in an A4 envelope to ‘Art Competition, St Andrew the Apostle School, building 5, North London Business Park, N11 1BF’ or hand your entry in to Building 5 reception. **Make sure your full name and tutor group or primary school is written clearly on the back of your entry.** This competition is open to all students of St Andrew the Apostle School and incoming Year 6 into 7 September 2022 students.

**Deadline** for receipt of entries is **Wednesday 20 July 2022**. The winner will be celebrated in **September 2022**.

**STA - Our mission to become enthusiastic readers!**

**TEN AMAZING BENEFITS OF READING BOOKS**

- Strengthens your writing skills
- Improves your memory and focus
- Enhances your imagination
- Increases your vocabulary
- Expands your knowledge
- Stimulates your brain
- Boosts your mood
- Deepens empathy
- Helps you relax
- Lowers stress

Given the undeniable benefits of reading, it is crucial that we offer our children as many opportunities to read for their own pleasure.

Next year’s mission is to encourage our students to read even more. Students will be regularly asked to share what they are currently reading and recommend books for other students. We are also aiming to build a range of book boxes to expand our library; providing students with the opportunity to be able to borrow books from school.

If you have any books that you wish to donate, your child may bring them into form time, or you may wish to drop these off at reception.

**Ms A Athanasiou (English Department)**

## 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 them 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 C Hammond, Assistant Headteacher (DDSL\*)**
- **Ms D Moustaka (Safeguarding & Inclusion Manager)**

- **Mr N Anemouri (Pastoral Support Officer)**
- **Ms M Henshaw-Devall (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 [aaccess@chch.ox.ac.uk](mailto:aaccess@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.

### Start Well

Share your views on opportunities for improvement in NHS children and young people's services in north central London including maternity and neonatal.



Health and care organisations in north central London (NCL) are working together on Start Well: a long-term programme.

To share your views on the online survey, [click here](#)

You can request a printed version using the details below

**Write to FREEPOST NCL NHS (no need for a stamp or postcode)**

### Barnet Options and Careers Evening- Barnet Education & Learning Services

The BELS Post-16 team are delighted to offer all Barnet students between Year 9 and Year 13 the opportunity to attend our Barnet Options and Careers Evening.

**Date: Wednesday 19 October**

**Time: 4.30pm to 7.00pm.**

**Location: Middlesex University, NW4 4BT**

As well as range of employers, training providers, apprenticeship providers and colleges there will be a GCSE Options talk and Post 16 Options Panel Presentation. Both of the talks will include a question and answer session as well as book in for a one to one personal careers guidance interview with one of our BELS-Inspire careers advisors.

Students can register for their place at the start of the autumn term.

If you do have any questions which you would like to ask, please email: [Tracy.parrott@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:Tracy.parrott@barnet.gov.uk) (Senior Curriculum Adviser)

### Middlesex University - Helping Students to Navigate Clearing



Are your students anxious about their results? We're here to help prepare your students ahead of results day.

They can join our Get Ready for Results Day & Clearing live stream **from 4.00pm to 5.00pm on Wednesday 10 August**, where we'll offer expert advice and guidance on:

We'll also have a panel of MDX students who went through Clearing themselves. This is a fantastic opportunity to ask our students questions and find out more about going to university through Clearing.

This live stream is designed to give Year 13+ students the confidence they need to navigate Clearing at MDX.

For more information about the event and clearing [click here](#)

To sign up to clearing [click here](#)

### Uniform Donations

As plans continue for the new academic year, we appreciate that some families are facing financial challenges. In light of this, if you have any school uniform or PE kit that is in good condition which you would be willing to donate to the school, this would be greatly appreciated. If you can donate any items, these can be dropped off at the main reception in building during office hours.

### Barnet Education and Learning Service – School Safety Message for Parents

As the weather is warm and we are fast approaching the summer holiday, our children and young people could possibly be spending time outside unsupervised.

- Don't walk to and from school alone, stay in a group and go straight home
- Keep to main roads as much as possible
- Do not use alley ways – always plan a safe route
- Tell a trusted adult if they feel unsafe
- Go into a shop/ cafe if not at home and feel unsafe
- Establish safe play areas
- Never speak to strangers
- Never wander off alone
- Be aware of surroundings
- Never except gifts or lifts from strangers
- Always let your parents know where you are
- Stay in groups as far as possible
- Do not wear headphones, be aware of your environment

Newsletter – final version of the year.

As it is a short week next week, there will be a shorter newsletter to convey end of term events and news. There will be a letter to all parents regarding the start of the new school year.