

Headteacher's Update

25 October 2021



26 October is the Feast Day of Agios Dimitrios

Key Messages

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your support as we close this busy and productive half term and look forward to the next half term which will close with the Christian festival of Christmas.

With Christmas in mind, do look out for an invitation to attend our Christmas show 2021. Our Performing Arts team are collaborating with the Religion and Philosophy department to prepare a wonderful performance combining Drama, Music and Religion which we hope to present as a live event in Building 4- pending COVID-19 restrictions. Mr Lasithiotakis (Head of Performing Arts) is also working closely with Father Joseph Paliouras from the Twelve Apostles Greek Orthodox Church to set up our STA Byzantine choir and we are hoping to have our first performance in St Sophia's Greek Orthodox Cathedral on Thursday 2 December. I will write with further details in due course.

To finish our busy half term, our staff training day on Friday 22 October involved us making the final subject preparations for our new KS3 assessment system and sharing good practice in the classroom led by our own outstanding practitioners from STA.

During this half term, it has been wonderful to see the school back in full flow after last year spend in COVID regulations. We have had wonderfully successful sporting events, our open events have been very well attended and feedback from visitors/prospective students and parents was that our inclusive and welcoming school ethos was palpable. Colleagues from our Trust who have visited this half term said the same thing. Once again, the highlight of

this half term was the visit of His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas and The Worshipful The Mayor of Barnet.

I would like to commend our Year 11 and Year 13 students who have shown such a positive and determined attitude to their preparation for their mock exams.

Looking ahead to next half term, the Year 11 mocks commence in the week beginning 15 November and Year 13 mocks commence in the week beginning 29 November.

Subject teachers of Year 8 are looking forward to meeting parents and carers on Thursday 4 November. Appointments will be available from 3:30pm-6:30pm and will be held virtually via the Parents Evening System. A reminder to book your appointments as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Feedback from parents was extremely positive about the call home made by form tutors to all parents. Part of this feedback has shown there are some students and families who need support with Bromcom. Mr Michael, Senior Deputy Headteacher, has reissued log in details for all students accessible via form tutors or the Head of Year. After half-term, we will set up 1:1 support sessions after school in the computer room for any students who continue to need help and I would like to invite all parents/ carers who need support with Bromcom to send in a request via admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk marked for the attention of Mr Michael. We will write to confirm a date for you to attend a workshop led by STA staff after school in the week beginning 8 November.

The facilities team have been working hard on planned improvement work over half term and we are looking forward to much improved outdoor facilities in Building 5 and indoor facilities in Building 4 for the sixth form.

All parents and carers have received a letter asking you to let us know by 1 November whether you wish your child age 12-15 to receive an in-school COVID-19 vaccination. This is an entirely voluntary process which is organised and administered by healthcare staff and follows the usual approach to school-based immunisation. Staff are appropriately qualified, trained (including in safeguarding) and experienced in vaccinating children and young people. Staff administering the vaccine will be wearing appropriate personal protective equipment. Please click here if you

would like to read more information about COVID-19 vaccinations for under 18s.

Thank you to all Parents and Carers for voting in the recent Parent Governor elections. I am pleased to announce that Eleni Stathi is our new Parent Governor and I would like to congratulate and welcome her in this role which is so vital to the functioning of our school.

I hope that you and your families have a wonderful half-term break and look forward to seeing all students on Monday 1 November at the normal time.

Best wishes.

Mrs I Warwick (Headteacher)

Faith - πίστη



October 26 is the Feast Day of Agios Dimitrios, who was born in the northern Greek city of Thessaloniki, in 270 AD. He came from a wealthy family and because he was athletic in appearance, he became a highranking officer in the Roman Army at a very young age. (This is also why he is depicted in

Byzantine icons in military dress, either standing or riding a horse.) He considered himself a soldier of Christ first, and a military soldier second. He spent most of his time as a devout missionary, preaching the Gospel at secret meetings and converting pagans/idol worshippers to the Christian faith.

At one of these meetings, he was captured and placed in front of Emperor Maximilian, who wanted to learn the truth about the conversions. Agios Dimitrios proclaimed his faith by saying: "...only in Christ do I believe." With that proclamation, Maximilian ordered that Saint Demetrios be sent to prison and subjected to various tortures.

Even though Agios Dimitrios was imprisoned, he did not stop preaching the gospel to those who came to see him. In jail, he was visited by his follower, Nestoras.

Nestoras was a man of small stature and had come to ask for his beloved teacher's blessing to fight in the upcoming gladiator games. The emperor had decided to use the games

as a duel between Christianity and paganism by challenging any Christian to a fight against the athletic giant, Leo.

With the blessing of Agios Dimitrios, Nestoras fought and killed Leo. Enraged at the loss of his favourite gladiator, the Emperor commanded that Nestoras be beheaded on the spot. Recognising that Agios Dimitrios was the inspiring power behind Nestoras, the Emperor ordered that Agios Dimitrios be executed by spear on October 26, 306 AD.

Christians buried the body of Agios Dimitrios at the place of his execution and because of the beautiful scent that emanated from his tomb, he was named 'Mirovlitis' or "The Myrrh Giver".

The most ancient icons of Agios Dimitrios may be found in the cathedral built and dedicated to him in Thessaloniki. He is also the patron saint of Thessaloniki which is Greece's second largest city. This is not just because he was born and died there, but because the people believe it was his intervention that saved the city during many attacks by neighbouring states and others.

Happy Name Day to anyone who shares a name with Saint Demetrios - Dimitrios, Dimitra and to all those celebrating on 26 October.

Mr M Vassiliou (STA Spiritual Director)

Students of the Week



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

Year 7: Sophia K - For working exceptionally well in History and producing high quality class work and homework. Luca B - For doing very well in his recent assessment in Classics and for consistently submitting outstanding pieces of homework in Classics. Jaladhi N and Serena A - For leading the 7 Simon's group project and producing an exceptional presentation on STA's core value of trust.

Year 8: Maya G - For achieving a distinction in Grade 4 violin. Chloe P - For keeping positive and always smiling. Tyra O -For outstanding contributions in form discussions and

debates in the recent 'The Day' activities. **Zofia S** - For being a kind and supportive friend and alerting staff to a student who needed help.

Year 9: Jayden O - For making an excellent start to his career at STA. **Nicholas K** - For consistently giving shout-outs to his peers and being very encouraging. **Zoe P** — For achieving recognition points and her good attitude to learning. **Grezgorz B** — For achieving recognition points and demonstrating resilience

Year 10: Alex A, Usayd J and **Alexandra V** – For consistently demonstrating an excellent attitude to learning.

Year 11: Christina L, Ellie MD and Eleni G - For being resourceful and diligent in their preparation for mock exams.

Year 12

Alexia P: For entering the essay competition set by the London School of Economics (LSE) on Politics and the Environment. Also for an excellent presentation in A level Politics on Pressure Groups, Think Tanks and Lobbyists.

Ali V: For great engagement in discussions during form time and for approaching each topic with sensitivity, depth and an enquiring mind.

Year 13

Orestes D: For great improvement in his studies and consistency in the quality of his work.

Kapil S: For excellent progress, clearly visible in his homework tasks.

Stas A, Victoria D, Thomas F; Saihan M, Melody S, Tia TE and Roksolana W: Well done on submitting your Early Bird applications to read Mathematics, Computer Science, History and Politics, Law and Medicine at the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge and the University of Liverpool School of Medicine.



STA Football Match- STA 8 goal win!

Year 8 and 9 Football Match- STA vs Latymer Grammar School



The opening match of the season started successfully with an incredible 8 – 4 win from the Year 8 and Year 9 squad. Within the first 5 minutes of the game, Jerome S scored two goals to give us the lead. As the game progressed, the boys were hungry for more goals which led to Petar B scoring another two for STA. Despite having conceded 4 goals our solid defenders, Phoenix D, Joe P and Andy L kept their strikers at bay. Our goalkeeper Nicholas K had an amazing performance making crucial saves to keep us in the game, eventually giving us the win.

Mr De Jesus

A Football Match- Year 7 Boys football



The first game of the season for our year 7s started in the first round of the Cup against difficult opponents in Wren Academy. The game started well for STA with us defending in numbers with Brenton M and Slobodan V anchoring our back four. Panny P started in goal making some great saves to keep the score 0-0. Wren Academy starting to take control after the initial part of the game by taking an early 2-0 lead.

UHT milk

Both Jaydon D and Kaine K were battling extremely hard in midfield but could not stop the strength Wren had going forward. This led to Wren starting to pile on the pressure while scoring again to take a 3-0 lead going into half time.

Making some changes to players and formation, we went into the second half with much more purpose, however, we could not stop an early counter attacking goal from Wren. Rafael H, Jaidon A and Cameron G-J working as a front three now gave us more of an attacking threat which showed when a great through pass from Jaidon A, saw Cameron G-J one on one with the goalkeeper, taking a lovely touch around him and finishing coolly to make it 4-1. We started to play some nice football but could not break down a solid Wren defence. Panny P in goal made some great saves and some fantastic last-ditch challenges from our back four, could not stop Wren from grabbing two late goals to finish the game 6-1. Unfortunately, we are out of the Cup but the team took some great experience playing their first game together in secondary school. We look forward to our next game where we are confident we will go from strength to strength.

Report from Mr Fowlie (SEND Teaching Assistant) and Sammy S (Year 10)

Y13 Student Leadership Food Drive

Food Drive for Charity- Your help is needed!

In Mrs Warwick's vision and values statement, she said that at St Andrew the Apostle School, we:

Foster a spirit of kindness, tolerance and responsibility which will allow each student to grow in character as an individual and as a community member.



This week at St Andrew the Apostle, we have been thinking about ways we can help those who are less fortunate than ourselves. We have been inspired by the charity work of Marcus Rashford and would like to contribute to our local food bank.

In support of our community, the school will be hosting a food drive in the first week back after half term. We are

asking students to bring in a minimum of one item of nonperishable goods to donate to the Trussel Trust Food Bank. This can be brought in at any point during the week and will be collected during form time.

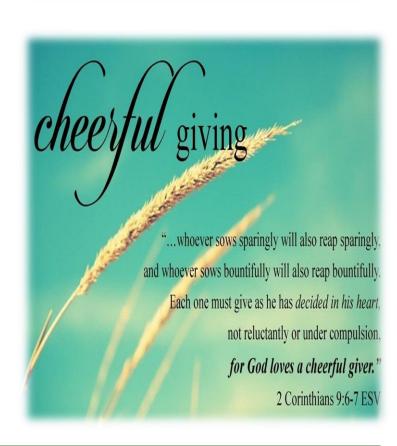
Acceptable items include:

Cereal Soup Pasta Rice

Tinned tomatoes Pasta sauce Lentils Beans and pulses Tinned meat Tinned vegetables Tea/coffee Tinned fruit

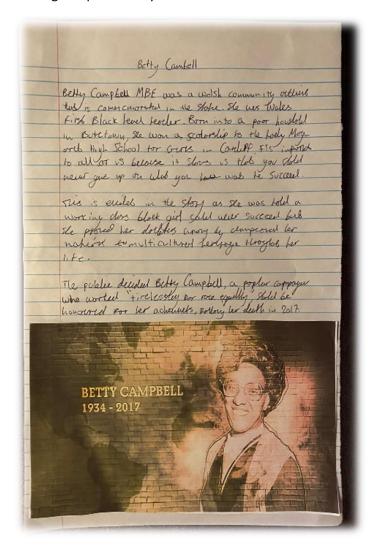
Biscuits Fruit juice





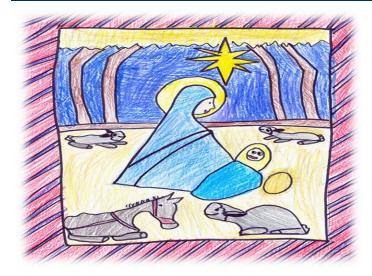
BHM Competition October 2021

Well done to our competition winner? Ioannis T for his terrific entry on **Betty Campbell MBE**, for the BHM competition. Especially moving were loannis's words "It is important to all of us because it shows us that you should never give up on what you want to succeed."





Christmas Card Competition



Christmas card competition STA competition to design a Christmas card to celebrate Christmas 2021.

The winner will have their design printed and sent out to hundreds of people from the STA community! The winner will also receive a complimentary pack of Christmas cards featuring their very own design for their family and friends.

Competition rules:

- Artwork must have a religious theme.
- Artwork must use colour and must be done on a single side of plain A4 paper
- Artwork must be original and must not have any popup parts
- Any materials and techniques using colour are permissible e.g. use of colouring pencils, pastels, oil or water colour paint, collage etc. You can be as creative as you wish.

Please hand in your design, clearly labelled on the back with your full name, year group and form group to Ms Constantinides by 3pm on Friday 5 November.



FOSA- Friends of St Andrew the Apostle School



We intend to arrange a Christmas raffle with all proceeds going to the school. Heads of Department have created a wish list of resources ranging from more footballs for break and lunchtime to purchasing form-time reading books for every child in year 7. If you (or a business you know) are able to donate a prize, do get in touch with us as soon as possible via admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk.

Our next meeting will be held via Teams on Thursday 4 November 2021 at 6.30pm. We be hosting a coffee afternoon on Thursday 11 November 2021 from 3.30pm. Please email admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk and mark for the attention of Mr M Michael, if you would like to join the meeting and if you would like to attend the coffee afternoon. All visits to school must be booked in advance due to safety measures.

So, get in touch and join our small and dedicated group. All are very welcome!

Mr M. Michael (Senior Deputy Headteacher)

London Job Show



The London Job Show is coming up on the 29 and 30 October.

The London Job Show is the UK's most attended recruitment event, and this year they are back BIGGER and BETTER than ever!

There are over 75 exhibitors going this year, including Apple, British Transport Police, British Army, and the RAF. Plenty of different great companies to speak to.

Click here to access the website and to found out more.



Oxbridge Opportunities at STA- Reminder



A reminder to all that sign-ups REMAIN OPEN for our Interview Preparation Day, Friday 29 October, run jointly by Gonville and Caius with Clare College.

A reminder, too, of the outline for the day. The event is virtual, using a mixture of Zoom and Whereby videoconferencing platforms. The event will start with a talk from Admissions Tutors at 11am and continue until roughly 3:30pm.

- A talk from Admissions Tutors about interviews, with Q&A;
- Demonstration interviews from University academics;
- Sample small-group-teaching sessions with Cambridge graduate students;
- The chance to chat with Caius and Clare undergraduate students about their own interview experience and life at the College.

We'd love to welcome possible: as many as https://tinyurl.com/caiusIPD

Gonville & Caius will visit us at STA 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.





Here is some very useful information from the Dr Hastoy from the University of Oxford. Students- please sign up to these events. There is nothing to lose and so much to gain!

Year 13: Oxford interview workshops



- Online workshops after school, week of 8 November and week of 15 November from 4.30-5.15 and 5.15-6pm
- Practise thinking about interview-like questions in subject groups and ask any questions you have about Oxford interviews!

Book a place here by noon on Monday 1 November; questions please contact ana.hastoy@chch.ox.ac.uk

History Admissions Test workshop

- This workshop aims to demystify the History Aptitude Test (HAT) and build students' confidence and ability to analyse primary sources in depth.
- Students will explore the different kinds of sources that Historians use in their research and have a chance to put their analysis skills into practice as we work through a past HAT paper.
- Online workshops on 21, 26, 27 October, and 2 November
- Book a place on the HAT workshop or on other History skills workshops here: Online History Skills Workshops | Faculty of History (ox.ac.uk)

Oxford MAT Livestream

- Weekly on Thursdays at 17:00 UK time: https://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/r/matlive
- Are you thinking of applying to study Mathematics at university? We're running a weekly livestream this summer, talking about maths problems and discussing problem-solving strategies, with a particular focus on Oxford's Mathematics Admissions Test (MAT). The sessions are free and available for everyone; anyone is welcome to join us live at 17:00 on Thursdays, and the sessions will be recorded and available to watch back at any time afterwards.

Year 12: Christ Church Horizons Programme

- The programme aims to support students in exploring beyond the curriculum and in developing key skills required to make competitive applications to university and to Oxford.
- 6 after-school workshops running from January to May in host schools in Barnet. In every session you'll be able to engage in discussions with Oxford academics and also develop your skills and find out more about university. At the end of the programme the students will be invited to a graduation day in Christ Church. Find out more here: Christ Church Horizons | Christ Church, Oxford University
- Apply here by noon on Friday 19 November; for any questions please contact ana.hastoy@chch.ox.ac.uk

Oxford Women in Computer Science (OxWoCS) Challenge Club For female students at STA in Year 12 (16-17).

Dates: Nov 2021 - May 2022.

- The Oxford Women in Computer Science (OxWoCS) Challenge club is a new initiative created by the Oxford Women in Computer Science society alongside the Oxford Department of Computer Science. It aims to create a community of young women with a passion for mathematics and its applications. The club consists of monthly mathematical and Computer Science related problem sheets which will be sent out for students to solve. These problems are designed to stretch and challenge students. At the end of each month, students will take part in an online discussion lead by an Oxford Computer Science student, to discuss the problems including solutions and techniques. Students who are successful in gaining a place on the programme commit to attending each of the six live sessions. We anticipate that the problem sheet to take about 6-8 hours of work, each month, in your free time, before the live session. Sessions designed to support you in applying to your chosen universities will also form part of the programme.
- Applications are open and close on 29 October 2021.

Further information: www.cs.ox.ac.uk/ChallengeClub Please get in touch via challengeclub@cs.ox.ac.uk if you have any

questions. History Skills Workshops A series of workshops run by Oxford's History Faculty in October and November with three aims:

- To inspire curiosity about the past and enthusiasm for studying history.
- To help students to develop the analytical, critical, and imaginative skills that Russell Group universities look for in applicants for humanities degrees.
- To inform and encourage students to consider applying to read history at university, including at the University of Oxford.

Book a place here:

https://www.history.ox.ac.uk/onlinehistory-skillsworkshops

All Year groups - Classics podcasts

The Outreach team at Oxford University's Faculty of Classics is delighted to share a new podcast series -Regional Classics – which highlights the voices and perspectives of Classicists from different regions of the UK and explores their experiences of studying the ancient world. The podcast aims to create

thought-provoking conversations, engage new audiences, and highlight initiatives which widen access to the study of Classics.

The first three episodes of the series, bringing together Oxford students and staff from Northern Ireland, Scotland and South West England, are now live and available to listen to at Oxford Podcasts (http://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/series/regional-classics), **Apple Podcasts** (https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/id1584329 875) and our Faculty Website (https://clasoutreach.web.ox.ac.uk/regionalclassicspodcast-northern-ireland). Follow the podcast to be notified of new releases. We hope you enjoy listening!



Christ Church student chat platform

Do you have questions about student life at Oxford? Chat to our students www.chch.ox.ac.uk/admissions/chat



Message to students interested in studying Medicine



On Wednesday, the 27 October 2021, we will be hosting our first webinar for aspiring medical students of this academic year.

In this webinar, we will explain everything students need to know about medical work experience; why is it important, what they need to learn from it, how to get it and how to reflect on their work experience. Work experience is an essential part of Medicine applications so it's crucial prospective Medical students understand every aspect of it.

Topic: Medical Work Experience - All you need to know

Date: Wednesday, October 27 Time: 07:00 PM (London time)

Registration Link: https://educationprojects.co.uk/medical-

work-experience-all-you-need-to-know/

Admission: Free

If students cannot make this time, the webinar will be available to watch on-demand on YouTube on the following day: https://www.youtube.com/medicalprojectsofficial

Student National Science Essay Competition 2021



Students aspiring to study medicine are invited to enter a prestigious annual competition held by the Global Clinical Network for a chance to win an award and £500.



Students have 600 words to address the question:

How will doctors practice medicine in 2031?

Why enter the competition?

For students applying to study medicine in 2022 or 2023, the competition offers an opportunity to:

- Win a prestigious national award to add weight to medical school applications.
- Develop a talking point for medicine admissions interviews.
- Investigate a topic that will add to overall knowledge of medicine. Competition deadline: 12 December 2021.
- For more details, go to www.medicineadmissions.co.uk/competition2021



Arts Depot – Dance Umbrella Festival – Dance Story



Check out all of the amazing workshops and opportunities at the arts depot in North Finchley this half term.

Click here to view.



Arts Depot - The Hotel Experience



The Hotel Experience community cast is an opportunity for you to perform on artsdepot's Pentland Theatre stage alongside Lîla Dance's professional cast when The Hotel Experience comes to artsdepot on Tuesday 9 November 2021.

You'll join Lîla Dance's performers for an uplifting hotel party scene where all the best moves from across the decades come together with a contemporary twist.

Dance experience is not essential for this project, only the openness to work intensively and creatively with others.

Interested? Here's what you need to know:

- This project is for young people aged 13 21
- You'll work with a member of Lila Dance to learn set movement sequences and with other members of the group to create your own dance moves
- You need to be able to attend rehearsals on Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 November, 1.45pm to 5.45pm at artsdepot
- You need to be able to attend the dress rehearsal on Tuesday 9 November from 4pm. The performance will be at 7.30pm on the same day, finishing at approximately 8.45pm
- Participation in this project is free
- You'll receive a special offer code so your friends and family can purchase discounted tickets to see you in the show!

To sign up:

Email Participation@artsdepot.co.uk

Find out more about The Hotel Experience / Watch the

trailer

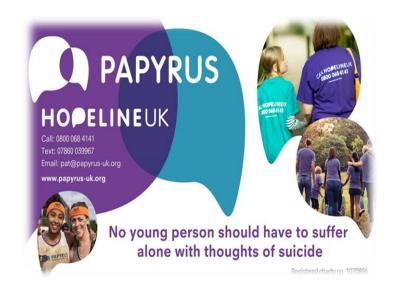
Headteacher Parent Surgery



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 help support for young people



Remember there is always help available if you need it. No young person should suffer alone with the thoughts of suicide.

PAPYRUS aims to create suicide safer communities and one of the ways they do this is through their helpline, HOPELINEUK.

If you or anyone you know is struggling with thoughts of suicide or needs to debrief after a conversation around suicide, please contact HOPELINEUK for free and confidential support and guidance. Call 0800 068 4141 Text 07860 039961 Email pat@papryrus-uk.org



Click here to read the Hopeline Papyrus leaflet.





Please click here to access helpful advice and support from Young Minds.

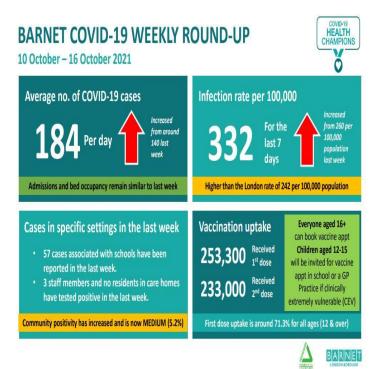
Please click here to access support and advice from Kooth

Please <u>click here</u> 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

Please click here if you would like to view the Barnet COVID19 weekly update. 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.



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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.

Please <u>click here</u> to apply to our sixth form and <u>click here</u> to read about our wonderful sixth form provision. If you are an external student and you would like to visit our school during the working day to view live lessons with your parent or carer, please email admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk and mark for the attention of Ms J. Fourcade (Assistant Headteacher and Head of Sixth form). We will write back to you to confirm a date and time for your visit.



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)

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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 for further details.