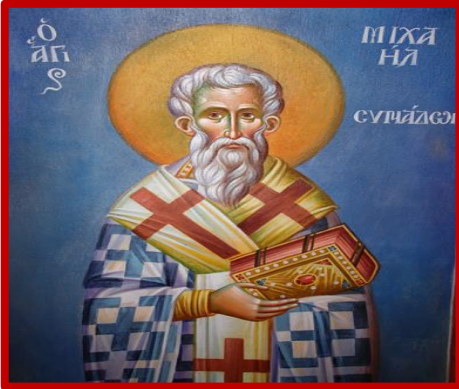


Headteacher's Update

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

30 May 2022



[Saint Michael the Confessor](#) Bishop of Synnada, is commemorated on 23 May. Saint Michael bravely defended Orthodoxy, saying "I venerate the holy icons of my Savior Jesus Christ and the All-Pure Virgin, His Mother, and all the saints, and it is to them I bow down. I shall not obey your decrees to remove icons from churches."

Key Messages

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the half term concludes, I would like to start by thanking all students and staff at St Andrew the Apostle School.

Our school is a vibrant place and with public examinations returning this year, this had added focus and purpose. Students in Year 11 and Year 13 have been determined and resilient and have felt well prepared and cared for in the lead-in for these examinations by our staff and Trust Advisers. They have made a very positive start to them in these last weeks of May and I am sure this will continue after June.

You will have seen the recent letter to parents from our Chair of Governors, Mary Karaolis, and Trust CEO, Colin Mackinlay, regarding the change in leadership at the school. Having been the Lead Adviser for the school for the past four years and worked in school for two days every week alongside Mr Ahearn, Mr Vassiliou and Mrs Warwick as well as with the leadership team and whole staff body. I know the school, students and staff well and it is a privilege to be supporting the school community in this new capacity. I have always received a warm welcome at the school during my twice weekly visits. My passion for education and the drive to support learners has seen me work and lead in schools mainly in South London and also on the south coast as well as in the United States and Kenya. The Trust and I are committed to supporting St Andrew the Apostle until a substantive headteacher is appointed.

This term I will, of course, be ably supported by Mr Michael and Mr Martin as Heads of School and the wider leadership team and staff body. The school will also have support from other advisers from the Trust and our CEO. We continue to be blessed with the support of our governing body, who also visit the school regularly; members have been visiting this week as we recruit staff for the new academic year and they also perform regular visits to the school to monitor aspects of school life, for which we are very thankful.

Recruiting staff is a key focus for any school at this point in the academic year. Without fail, candidates for teaching posts mentioned how welcoming, friendly and focused our school is. Furthermore, they have been struck by the way that our Christian ethos is a thread that runs through all we do.

I wish you a restful half term, and I look forward to meeting more of you over the next half term.

Mr Easton (Executive Headteacher)

Faith- πίστις

Jesus Heals the Blind Man



It is said that to know and appreciate the real value of light, close your eyes. Christianity says: If you want to know the grace of God, open your eyes to see that God is incarnate, and became a man for the salvation of mankind.

The sixth Sunday of Holy Pascha/Easter is observed by the Orthodox Church as the Sunday of the Blind Man. The day commemorates the miracle of Christ healing the man who was blind since birth. The biblical story of this event is found in the Gospel of Saint John 9:1-41.

As with all of His miracles, there is great significance to Jesus Christ healing the blind man. It is the only time we hear of a person receiving his sight having been blind from birth.

In those days, there was a strange belief that sickness was a direct result of sin. Therefore, the Lord is questioned whether the sin of the man or his parents is the root cause of his blindness. Jesus Christ discredits the notion that it was the personal sin of either this man or his parents that led to his condition.

This is what the Apostles thought when they saw the blind man, and they asked the Saviour: "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents that he was born blind?" (John 9:2). They heard the unexpected reply from his lips: "neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him" (John 9:3).

The blind man's lack of sight serves a greater purpose—to glorify God. Although few of us need to be healed of physical blindness, all of us need to be cured of our spiritual blindness—the sin that keeps us from living a life in Christ.

At first glance this is hard to understand: why should an innocent man be afflicted with such a misfortune? We are used to seeing God's glory and mercy in blessings that he sends us, not in misfortunes, sorrow, and afflictions; we thank the Lord when we receive His blessings and generosity, not when He sends us afflictions. When we meet with even the slightest problem we cry out: "O Lord, why have you punished me!"

But then a joyful day came for the blind men, for the sun rose in the heavens for him, and he saw the sky and earth. What a great joy for him, who so thirsted to see God's world! "For since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind" (John 9:32), the blind man said after he was healed.

Have you ever noticed how people who have always enjoyed good health and are outwardly very successful, people who have little cause to suffer in life, are often insensitive, cruel, and blind to the sufferings of others? But if a misfortune befalls them, they cease to be proud and arrogant, and become kind - hearted, tender, and attentive to their brothers and sisters. Is it the case that illness or unhappiness makes us better, and opens our minds to many things that we did not see before?

The Fathers of the church say that God sends afflictions to those whom he loves (Proverbs 3:12). He who is successful in everything and has no need of anything is forgotten by God. And indeed, all the righteous suffered, but the Glory of God is shown even more brightly in them.

"Blessed is the man whom you chastise, O Lord" (Psalm 94:12). If the clay the Saviour made to heal the blind man and his command to the blind man to wash his eyes in the pool of Siloam accomplished this great miracle, then the spiritual healing power of the Word of God, will act even more beneficially on us. In asking for God's mercy, let us say to the Lord in the words of the hymn: **"I come to You, O Christ, blind from birth in my spiritual eyes, and call to You in repentance: You are the most radiant Light of those in darkness!"**

Mr M Vassiliou (STA Spiritual Director)

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.

Summer Term Sports Clubs

Monday

Activity: Years 7-10 Athletics
 Time: 3.00pm-4.30pm
 Location: Bethune Park
 Meet: Building 5 Changing Rooms

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-aside Football)
 Time: 3.00pm-4.00pm
 Location: Upper Playground
 Meet: Building 5 Changing Rooms

Thursday

Activity: Years 7-10 Dance
 Time: 3.00pm-4.30pm
 Location: Building 5
 Meet: Building 5 Changing Rooms
 Barnet Borough Athletics League Meetings
 Venue: Stone X Stadium

PLEASE NOTE ATTENDANCE TO ATHLETIC COMPETITIONS IS BY INVITATION ONLY.

Mr R Browell (Head of Physical Education)

Sports Day Notice

Sports Day will take place **on Wednesday 22 June 2022** at Lee Valley Athletics Stadium.

Students will represent their form group whilst participating in a range of athletic events across the course of the day. Students finishing in first, second and third in each event will receive either gold, silver or bronze medals for all events.

To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee students from each year finishing in first place in the mixed relay will receive a platinum medal. The track events on the day include: 60M, 100M, 200M, 400M, 800M, girls relay, boys relay and mixed relay. The field events include long jump, high jump, shot put and discus. All these events have been taught and delivered in PE lessons since the start of the summer term. The winning form group in each year will be announced at the end of Sports Day.

On Sports Day students are required to be at Lee Valley Athletics Stadium for 9.00am, if required staff will be at Lee Valley from 8.00am for an earlier drop off. Sports Day will finish at approximately 2.00pm. A letter will be sent out after half term detailing the full arrangements and parental consent for the day.

Mr R Browell (Head of Physical Education)

Students of the Week

Year Group Recognitions



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

Year 7: Kush – For his consistent achievements in school and always illustrating our school values in and around the school.

Year 8: Daisy H -For resilience and reflective values.

Dylan M - For resilience and consistently placing effort in his assessment.

Year 9: Ethan W – For always demonstrating the school values in lessons and unstructured times.

Jason A- For being an outstanding member of the school body and representing the year group with pride when taking part in wider school events.

Shakira R- For an outstanding half term with much improved behaviour, attitude, and punctuality.

Jerome S- A much improved attitude to learning and a greater care taken in schoolwork and homework.

Ellie S- For showing resilience when faced with challenges and being passionate about promoting positive change within the wider school.

Year 10: Giorgio C - For helping the PE Department to prepare for Sports Day.

Lydia F -For helping the PE Department to prepare for Sports Day.

Year 11: Michael E - showing dedication to his GCSEs and hard working in class.

Emily G - Showing commitment and dedication towards her GCSEs.

Sixth form

Year 12: Michaela G. – For consistently working hard both in her subjects and in her super-curricular activities.

Christina V – Commendable work ethic in all her subjects and excellent revision notes in politics.

Year 13: Mashal S – For commendable work ethic and for good revision notes in English.

Peter T - For commendable work ethic and for good revision notes.

Year 7 Barnet Schools Athletics

A huge well done to our Year 7 students who attended their second Barnet Athletics meet on 25th May 2022. Our students competed with determination and resilience, with some exceptional performances from the following students:

Imani A -C

3rd in 100m

Hailey C- M

3rd in 800m



Kaine K

1st in Hurdles / 3rd in 200m



Maxim M

2nd in 200m



We are very proud of the teamwork demonstrated on the track during both the girls and boys relay races.

4th in Boys Relay

Jack ,Maxim ,Kaine ,Luca



2nd in Girls Relay

Imani, Hailey, Stella, Poppy



- [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

FOSA

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.



Friends of St Andrew

Mr Michael (Senior Deputy Headteacher)

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

Mental Health Facts:

20% of kids ages 13-18 live with a mental health condition

50% of all mental health conditions begin by age 14 and 75% by age 24

1 in 4 parents find it difficult to get their child mental health services

The average delay between onset of symptoms and intervention is 8-10 years

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 to get support.

Outdoors Club



Outdoors club is a six-week activity scheme for children in care aged 6-17, delivered by outdoor learning charity GROW at Totteridge Academy.

Its aim is to get kids outside doing different things, connecting with nature, learning new skills, and taking risks.

Where: Totteridge Academy, Barnet Lane, London, N20 8AZ

When: Every Saturday June 11 until Saturday July 16, 2022.

Who: 11-17 years (max 10 children) 1pm – 3.30pm

standrewtheapostle.org.uk

St Andrew the Apostle School

Do make sure your child(ren) is/are dressed in suitable outdoor clothing they don't mind getting muddy, with water, sunblock, and a hat. Mobile phones must be put away in coats and bags.

please contact Sue Cocker to book at Live Unlimited Sue.cocker@liveunlimited.org.uk / 07907 694 674

For more information [Click here](#)

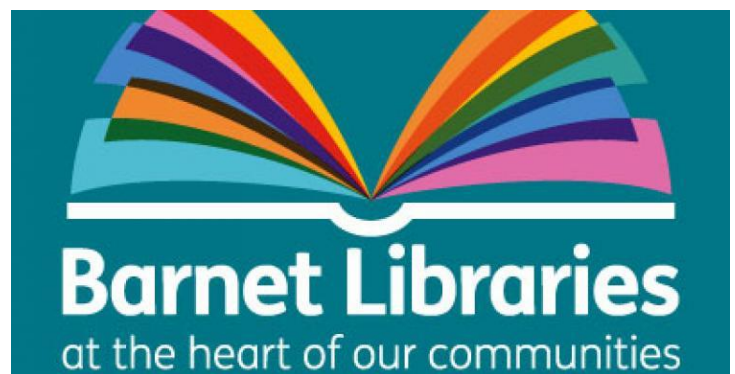
Platinum Jubilee Art and Poetry Competition for Young People in Barnet



To celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty The Queen and highlight the creativity of young people in the London Borough of Barnet, the Barnet Together Alliance is inviting all young people between the ages of 5-16 inclusive who are living or studying in Barnet to enter a portrait of themselves, their family or The Queen, a card for The Queen or a poem about The Queen into a borough-wide competition.

An awards presentation and exhibition of a selection of entries will take place in the reception area of the council's Colindale office. Deadline for entries is 4pm on June 24, 2022. For more information [click here](#) or contact jubilee@youngbarnetfoundation.org.uk.

Libraries Events Programme for May Half-Term



Libraries have a full programme of events lined up for May half term. We're celebrating the Platinum Jubilee with a

series of events making crowns and bunting. Other activities include a giant patchwork Elmer craft, a performance of 'The Chocolate Thief' in which children will help solve the mystery and the return of our popular Mr Men and Little Miss Storytime. Kev F Sutherland, writer and artist from the Beano is hosting a comic-making workshop. For early years we're having fun with Mark Making.

All events are free. For full list of events [click here](#)

Libraries are open as usual, except for the bank holidays, for families to visit, read and choose books and for free computer use for members too. [Check library opening times.](#)