



# Headteacher's Update

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

04 November 2022

## Key Message from Executive Headteacher

It was a windy welcome back this week for all of us at St Andrew the Apostle School, but despite wind (and rain), we all got back into the swing of things as if there was no time to waste, which, of course, there isn't!

Year 11 have been wonderfully focused, now that there are on a matter of a few weeks until mocks. Their mock timetable will be published soon, and we look forward to seeing Year 11 students and their parents next Wednesday for an information evening about this final GCSE year.

Year 13s mocks will follow on soon after, something for them to look forward to (!) and build towards.

Again, despite the weather sports fixtures continued and work on the clearing of our new school site also ploughed on, which continues to be extremely exciting.

The last of the families of Year 6 children visited on Monday, the last day to hand in the secondary transfer form, to see our school in action and to rubber stamp their choice of secondary school.

One of the highlights of my week was 'tea with the headteacher' for those students who had achieved wonderful attitude to learning grades last half term. It was a lovely event although the name was a little misleading as there appeared to be a lot more hot chocolate than cups of tea. I was joined by colleagues from Finance, the Office and our Pastoral team, and it was wonderful to spend time talking about how students achieve well, what is in store for the rest of the school year for each of the year groups and to hear their ideas for how our school can be improved. More about this next week!



*A Easton*

**Anthony Easton (Executive Headteacher)**

## Upcoming key Dates and Information

- Please [click here](#) to access term dates.
- Please [click here](#) to access school calendar for upcoming Term.
- Please [click here](#) to access previous editions of the Newsletters.
- Monday 7 November - Safe Drive Stay Alive Y12 and Y13 Trip.
- Wednesday 9 November – Year 11 information and pre-mock examination evening.
- Thursday 10 November – Year 8 Parents Evening.
- Thursday 8 December – Sixth Form Open Evening

## Faith- πίστις

### Synaxis of the Taxiarchs and Archangels Michael and Gabriel



On the 8th of November the Greek Orthodox Church celebrates the Feast day of the Synaxis of the Taxiarchs and Archangels Michael and Gabriel, along with Raphael, and all other Archangels and Angels.

The word synaxis means the gathering of believers to celebrate a feast or to make a remembrance of a saint. This feast also has a special meaning; it is the gathering of the humans with the angels, their union, their gathering, and standing in fear in front of the Creator. Because of the fall of the devil and his angels, this feast is the celebration of the "sobriety and unity of the rest of the angelic powers who stayed loyal to God. We celebrate also the contribution of the angels and archangels and their help and support in the war against the dark powers and the devil.

The Synaxis was established at the beginning of the fourth century at the Council of Laodicea, which met several years before the First Ecumenical Council. The 35th Canon of the Council of Laodicea condemned and denounced as heretical the worship of angels as gods

and rulers of the world, but affirmed their proper veneration.

A Feast day was established in November, the ninth month after March (with which the year began in ancient times) since there are Nine Ranks of Angels. The eighth day of the month was chosen for the Synaxis of all the Bodiless Powers of Heaven since the Day of the Dread Last Judgment is called the Eighth Day by the holy Fathers.

Archangels are messengers of great and wondrous tidings. They reveal prophecies and the mysteries of the faith. They enlighten people to know and understand the will of God, they spread faith in God among the people, illuminating their minds with the light of the Holy Gospel.



The Lord appointed the Holy Archangel Michael (his name in Hebrew means "who is like unto God"), the faithful servitor of God, as Chief Commander. He cast down from Heaven the arrogantly proud Lucifer and the other fallen spirits when they

rebelled against God. Michael summoned the ranks of angels and cried out, "Let us attend! Let us stand aright before our Creator and do not consider doing what is displeasing unto God!"

November 8<sup>th</sup> is also the name day of Michael, Michaela, Gabriel, Gabriela, Angelos, Angellike, Panormitis, Panormita, Taxiarchis, Taxiarcha.

Xronia Polla!/Many Happy Returns.

HAPPY NAMEDAY!!! / ΧΡΟΝΙΑ ΠΟΛΛΑ!!!

8 November / 8 Νοεμβρίου

**Mr M Vassiliou (STA Spiritual Director)**

## New Staff



I am pleased to introduce myself to those of you I've not spoken to or met yet – I am one of the new Deputy Heads who joined in September, and I lead on Teaching and Learning. I began my teaching career fifteen years ago and have

since worked in four very different schools, each with its own exciting challenges and opportunities.

I studied modern languages at Durham University before beginning my working life at Esso. Although I enjoyed the language side of this role, fuels weren't for me and, having loved working as a language's assistant on my year abroad, I trained to become a teacher at the University of Manchester, completing my NQT year in a Catholic school in the North-West.

I led two MFL departments to achieve the best results in both their schools and in the top 5% nationally, and then worked as an associate member of SLT and as an Assistant Headteacher, developing teachers, middle leaders and improving outcomes for students. I have a passion for improving students' life chances in the way that education opened doors for me, and I love training teachers as much as I love teaching.

I want to say a huge thank you to students and staff at St Andrew for their warm welcome – I am really enjoying working here!

**Mrs L Cooke (Deputy Head, Teaching and Learning)**

## Attendance

**School attendance: what parents need to know**



### Why is good attendance important?

Good attendance and punctuality are vital for success at school, and to establish positive life habits that are necessary for future success.

Through regular attendance, pupils can:

Build friendships and develop social groups.

Develop life skills.

Engage in essential learning and other school social events.

Achieve to their full potential.

Minimise the risk of engaging in anti-social behaviour and becoming victims or perpetrators of crime.

**All parents should promote good attendance and work in partnership with their child's school to provide a cohesive approach.**



### What does the law say?

All children of compulsory school age – between 5-16 – must receive a suitable full-time education. As a parent, you are responsible for ensuring that this happens, either by registering your child at a school or by making appropriate alternative arrangements.

Legal action can involve a penalty notice or being taken to court.

Parents also face the risk of imprisonment and parenting orders. Parenting orders involve attending a counselling and guidance programme, usually a parenting class.

A penalty notice of **£60** per adult per child may be issued as an alternative to prosecution, but this will rise to **£120** if it is not paid within 21 days. Failure to pay a penalty notice will usually lead to **prosecution**.



### Can my child ever be absent?

When a pupil is absent from school, this will be classified as either 'authorised' or 'unauthorised'.

The governing board and headteacher decide which absences are granted as authorised. Authorised absences are only permitted for valid reasons, e.g.:

- Illness
- Medical or dental appointments
- Religious observances
- Family bereavement

Wherever possible, parents should always try to arrange medical and dental appointments during school holidays or after school hours.

### What are unauthorised absences?

Unauthorised absences are those which the school does not consider essential or reasonable.

Unauthorised absences can include:

- Forgetting school term dates
- Oversleeping
- Absences which have not been explained
- Arriving at school after the register has closed
- Leaving school for no reason during the day
- Truancy before or during the school day
- Keeping pupils off school unnecessarily or without explanation
- Day trips or family outings
- Problems with uniform/clothing
- Birthdays and holidays

### Holidays during term time



- The school **cannot** authorise an absence for a holiday during term time.
- Taking holidays during term time means that pupils miss important school time – both educationally and for other school activities. It will be difficult for pupils to catch up on work when they return to school. Only in **exceptional circumstances** may a holiday be authorised during term time – this will be decided by the headteacher.
- **Exceptional circumstances do not involve cheaper costs, family availability or weather conditions.**
- You **will** be fined if you take your child on holiday during term time without permission from the headteacher.



### Requesting absences

Authorisation of absences are at the discretion of the headteacher.

All absences, including for holidays, must be requested as far in advance as possible – the minimum notice period is **20 days**. If you think your child needs to be taken out of school, you should discuss the reasons with the headteacher as soon as possible.

If the headteacher is satisfied with the evidence and the notice period, they will authorise the absence.

The headteacher will decide the amount of time a pupil can be away from school, taking into account their attendance record.

Requests **will not** be granted in the following circumstances:

- Immediately before or during assessment periods
- When a pupil's attendance record shows any unauthorised absence for any reason
- Where a pupil's authorised absence record is already above **10** percent, for any reason

## Lateness and truancy

Good attendance doesn't just involve being present in school – it also involves punctuality. You also have a responsibility to ensure that your child arrives to school on time and stays in school during the day.



Class registers will be taken at **8:30am**. Children arriving between **8:30am** and **8:55am** will be marked late. Children arriving after **8:55am** will be marked **U**. This is an unauthorized absence.

How can I help?

You can help in many ways:

- Encourage good attendance by making sure your child goes to school regularly.
- Take an interest in your child's school work.
- Make sure your child understands that you do not approve of absence from school.
- If you are unsure then please send your child into school and we can decide if students should be sent home.
- We see that students who eat or drink something feel better after period 1.
- Support our school in our efforts to control inappropriate behaviour
- Inform us on the first day of your child's absence and keep us updated throughout the absence period.
- Cooperate with our school to make sure your child overcomes any attendance problems.
- Apply for leave in advance.
- Only take your child out of school during term time where the absence has been authorised.

Attendance matters!

Don't underestimate the importance of **100 percent attendance**. Even one day missed can have an effect on learning:

- **98 percent attendance means four school days missed**
- **95 percent attendance means 10 school days missed**
- **90 percent attendance means 19 school days missed**
- **80 percent attendance means 38 school days missed**
- **Five minutes late each day means three school days missed**

Please help us promote good attendance throughout our school – you really do play an important role.

If you have any queries regarding your child's attendance, please contact your child's head of year or email [attendance@standrewtheapostle.org.uk](mailto:attendance@standrewtheapostle.org.uk)

## Behaviour in Lessons

During our recent Year 9 Settling in evening a parent commented how helpful it was to understand what happens in a classroom when it comes to behaviour.

We know that students thrive when they are in lessons and we know that every second counts in a lesson, consequently our fundamental aim is to ensure students remain in lessons and provide them with the opportunity to correct any poor behaviour while celebrating students who show good behaviour.

Each lesson students will see two sections on the board labelled 'A' and 'B': one for 'Achievements' and one for 'Behaviour'

When students show behaviour which is particularly good their name will be written on the board and a tick will go next to it. If they do something else that show excellent behaviour, they will be given a second tick. Each tick results in an achievement point you can see on your child's Bromcom page.

For example, below, Jamie has received one achievement point while Maria has received two.

However, if students don't get it right in a classroom, by not following our code of conduct (which you can see below) a similar process takes place. Their name is written on the board and a 'tick' is against their name.

For example, below Danielle has her name written on the board and has been given a 'caution'. At this point we would expect her to correct her behaviour and continue to take part in the lesson.



Jermaine however has received two 'ticks', this is his 'final warning' and again, we would expect him to correct his behaviour.

However, when students receive a third tick, as Jen has done, they are removed from that lesson, or 'timed out', and asked to work in a different classroom. When this happens students will also receive a 30-minute detention at the end of the day.

Often, parents do tell us that they are confused that students would receive a detention for minor instances of poor behaviour, however, students are given two chances to correct their behaviour before they are given

a detention. We feel this is a good balance of allowing students to correct their behaviour quickly and ensuring that all students work in an environment which is disruption free.

When your child does receive a detention for being timed out then please do ask them what has happened and please ask them what they have done each time they received a 'tick'. Although all students don't always get it right, most our students are reflective and understand what they could have done differently when they are given the opportunity.

### Our Code of Conduct

This is the Code of Conduct always defining the minimum expectations of students. All expectations come under three broad headings. They are supported by Character education and our values, *Respect, Responsibility, Caring, Fairness, Forgiveness, Honesty and Trustworthiness.*

#### RESPECTFUL

- Do as you are asked by all members of staff, first time without question.
- Listen to others, do not call out, and use appropriate language and tone.
- Be kind to each other and take care of the building, displays and equipment.

#### RESPONSIBLE

- Follow rules for health and safety, including walking on the left.
- Keep hands, feet, objects and personal comments to yourself.
- Be in the right place at the right time, and not unsupervised areas.
- Leave valuables at home; the school is not responsible for them.

#### READY

- Be punctual.
- Be in full school uniform, worn properly.
- Be silent when entering a classroom.
- All necessary equipment out on desk, and everything else away.
- Bags on the floor, coats on the chair.
- All headphones, phones and other electronic equipment off and out of sight – otherwise will be confiscated.
- No gum or food, or fluid other than water.
- 

### Safeguarding

We understand, as you will also, how difficult it can be for young people to navigate the online world and social media. For all its benefits there are also dangers for teenagers as they encounter other people online.

During PSHE lessons and in form time we discuss and explore how students can stay safe while being online, however we know that parents also have a need and a desire to be aware of new online dangers and current trends which may not be immediately obvious as harmful.

Consequently, we are working with a company called Smoothwall to provide regular online safety updates to parents over the course of this academic year. The first of these events will take place at 5.00pm on 2 November. [This will take place on Microsoft Teams and you can join this by following this link.](#)

The theme of this event will be how parents can support children to limit the screen time they have and will include practical tips on how to do this. We will also be inviting parents from our feeder primary schools to do this.

This event will last approximately half an hour and there will be the chance to ask our colleagues at Smoothwall questions about how you can support the safety of your child online.

I do hope you will join us for this evening.

### Netball

#### Year 8 Netball vs. Christ College Finchley



It is wonderful to have so many keen, talented sports people at STA and the Y8 girl's netball team did not disappoint. We are lucky enough to have two teams in Y8, so it was a privilege to take both to CCF to play a fixture on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November. The girls played with determination, drive and excellent teamwork and won their match 5 – 1, with goals scored by Elena B and Natalie S. Excellent debuts for Hana Z, Zsofia G, Isabella T and Christina N. **Girl of the Game: Elena B**



The second match ended with a 5 – 5 draw. There were outstanding goals from Reneta and Stella, and a standout performance from Amelia J. Due to illness we were down a player, and this meant the girls had to work even harder to

secure the draw!

**Girl of the Game: Poppy E**

### **Individual Sporting Success: Iordanis I (Year 10)**



A huge congratulations to Year 10 student Iordanis for his recent success in the Cypriot Cycling Championship Eliminator, which took place on 30 October 2022. Iordanis placed 1<sup>st</sup> and we are incredibly proud of him for his determination

and dedication to the sport. We will continue to support him and wish him luck with all future races!

**Ms D Walt (Head of Year 9 & 10)**

### **Extra-Curricular Sports Clubs**

PE extra-curricular clubs re-commence on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

#### **Monday**

Activity: All Years Dodgeball

Time: 3.00pm-4.00pm

Venue: Building 5 Hall

**\*Changing building 5 changing rooms.**

#### **Tuesday**

No clubs due to basketball and netball matches

#### **Wednesday**

Activity: All Years Girls Netball

Time: 3.00pm-4.00pm

Venue: Building 5 Playground

**\*Change in building 5 changing rooms.**

#### **Thursday**

Activity: All Years Basketball

Time: 3.00pm-4.00pm

Venue: Building 4 and 5 Playground

**\*Change in building 5 changing rooms.**

Activity: All Years Dance

Time: 3.00pm-4.30pm

Venue: Building 5 Hall

**\*Change in building 5 changing rooms.**

Please note students do not wear PE kit to school on the day of clubs. If you do not have PE on the day of the club, but wish to attend, please bring PE kit to change into after-school. Full PE kit must be worn to after-school clubs. If you have PE lessons on the day of a chosen club, you will already be changed into full PE kit.

**Mr Rob Browell (Head of PE)**

### **Dr Frost**

This year in school the maths department has been supporting students with homework using a website called Dr Frost and our students have been fantastic at using this.

Below we have celebrated which students have the highest number of Dr Frost points in each year group.

In the last month alone students have used this platform to answer 89,890 questions at home, an average of 421 questions per student in the school. We have seen that students who have used this more often have achieved much higher results in their end of term assessments.

In addition, for it being useful to complete homework, Dr Frost can be used to:

- Revise for end of term tests whatever the year group students are in.
- Complete GCSE and A-Level past papers
- Revise students' times tables for practice.
- To allow students to review what they have not done so well on and want to catch up.
- Watch videos explaining questions they are unsure of.
- Check to see the leader boards in their year group and class so they know how much work they have completed in comparison to others.

I do know that parents want to support students as well, we have made a short video below so you are aware of the features and what students can do to revise well at home.

<https://vimeo.com/763347983/2a88d3ef84>

**Dr Frost Leader Board Whole School Points**

1. Gabriel M Y9 (12937)
2. Rehan B Y10 (12936)
3. Natalia E Y11 (12508)

**Dr Frost Leader Board Whole School Mastery**

1. Olivia M Y7 (4317)
2. Ryan T Y11 (4142)
3. Kohul K Y10 (3162)

**Dr Frost Leader Board Year 11 Points**

1. Natalia E (12508)
2. Irem I (9897)
3. Luciano S (9653)

**Dr Frost Leader Board Year 11 Mastery**

1. Ryan T (4142)
2. Luca R (3014)
3. Irem I (2913)

**Dr Frost Leader Board Year 10 Points**

1. Rehan D (12936)
2. Kohul K (6803)
3. Kristofar D (5384)

**Dr Frost Leader Board Year 10 Mastery**

1. Kohul K (3162)
2. Harris C (3096)
3. Liana J (2756)

**Dr Frost Leader Board Year 9 Points**

1. Katina G (3547)
2. Mariaelena A (1735)
3. Marco S (2870)

**Dr Frost Leader Board Year 9 Mastery**

1. Yianni A (3005)
2. Mariaelena A (1735)
3. Katina G (930)

**Dr Frost Leader Board Year 8 Points**

1. Hana Z (6551)
2. Alexandros M (3786)
3. Luca B (2699)

**Dr Frost Leader Board Year 8 Mastery**

1. Hana Z (1868)
2. Jaladhi N (1602)
3. Anna-Maria D (1228)

**Dr Frost Leader Board Year 7 Points**

1. Sanuthi W (6128)
2. Olivia M (4009)
3. Osasogie O (3191)

**Dr Frost Leader Board Year 7 Mastery**

1. Olivia M (4317)

2. Sanuthi W (1686)
3. Sofia L (1554)

**Mr Martin (Deputy Headteacher)  
and Mr Dogan (Head of Maths)**

**STA School Fund**

Dear Parents/Carers,

In line with a number of other schools locally and across our Trust, we are running a school fund where members of our school community can donate to support the school and enhance our students' educational experiences.

**Purpose of the fund**

Donations will be used to supplement resources for those in need and to improve our learning environment. Funds will never be spent on core running costs (such as energy bills or salaries). Your donations will only ever be used to extend and improve the education and support we offer to our young people.

Donations will be used for the following:

**ICT Equipment:**

We would like to increase our ICT resources by providing high quality equipment in buildings 4 and 5.

**Books for Library:**

We are building up our library resources and would be pleased to receive either donations to purchase books or you may purchase a named book for our school from [our Amazon wish list](#). Please go to our school website under 'Support us' for further details.

**Playground Equipment:**

We would like to increase our provision of playground equipment for our students to use during break and lunchtime. This includes outdoor seating and furniture such as picnic tables.

**Financial contributions**

There is no pressure to contribute to the school financially. We are simply making the option available for those who wish to do so. A single donation of £5 is suggested but all donations regardless of size will be greatly appreciated and will make a difference. Please ensure that you tick the 'Gift Aid' box if you are eligible. Please be assured also that any regular donations are completely under your control and can be cancelled at

**Anthony Easton (Executive Headteacher)**

## Upcoming live broadcasts - free from Speakers for Schools: Black History Month

- **Wednesday 9 November 10-10.45am**

Oliver McCourty, CEO, opportunity for KS4-5/S4-6.

Does the idea of public speaking make you nervous? Do you want to hear from an expert? Tune in to our broadcast with Oliver McCourty, CEO of OpportunityM who believes everyone should understand the value of speaking meaningfully and truthfully.

Click [here](#) to register.

- **Monday 14 November 10-10.45am**

World Cup of Careers: Matt Dickinson, Senior Sportswriter, The Time for KS3-5/S1-6.

We are excited to host Matt Dickinson, Senior Sportswriter, The Times, for a broadcast as part of our World Cup of Careers. In this broadcast, Matt will discuss how he got into sports journalism, what it takes to be a good sports journalist and how to specialise in football journalism. Matt will be happy to answer your questions in the Q+A and give his expert advice to all budding sports journalists.

Click [here](#) to register

- **Wednesday 16 November 10-10.45am**

World Cup of Careers: Sandra Garlick MBE, Head of HR, Legal & Compliance & Safeguarding, COVID Appointed Officer, Coventry City Football Club for KS3-5/S1-6.

Click [here](#) to register.

## Flu vaccination campaign for years 7, 8 and 9



The NHS has written to schools to update them on changes to the national flu vaccination programme. Please see the contents of their letter below:

We have recently been informed that the flu programme will now include the school years 7, 8 and 9 from September this year.

Early information from the flu season in Australia, shows flu has been circulating earlier than expected and has been affecting younger age groups, therefore DHSC has taken steps to include these age groups in the 2022/23 vaccination campaign. Sessions for flu vaccination have already been planned and confirmed for primary schools so providers will be working with you to arrange additional dates to ensure vaccination can be offered to your students. It is likely that this will be from November onward once additional vaccine supply is available.

We would be very grateful if you could remind parents that their children are entitled to free flu vaccination on

the NHS. This vaccine will be provided by a school aged vaccination team that visits the school and is given as a nasal spray. This form of the vaccine is very easy to administer and is especially well suited to preventing onward spread of infection.

The vaccine protects the child against the four main strains of influenza predicted to be in circulation this winter. Young children catch influenza very easily.

Children can spread the infection for up to 7 days, which is longer than in adults, therefore vaccinating children reduces the risk of influenza for family members, teaching staff and other children.

In school, children will be mixing with large numbers of other children in a confined environment, which increases the risk of germs (virus and bacteria alike) spreading. Vaccination builds children's immunity to protect against illnesses.

Vaccines stop influenza germs being spread, thus protecting the very vulnerable children and those in the wider community who may not have, or may not be able to develop, immunity.

Public Health and Primary Care Commissioning NHS England (London Region)

## Access Ashurst Programme

Applications are now open for our **Access Ashurst** programme – a paid work experience and skill development programme, aimed at increasing access to law, for Year 12 state school students.

### Who is Ashurst?

[Ashurst](#) is a leading global law firm with a history spanning almost 200 years. Our London office is based near Liverpool Street Station in Spitalfields.

### What's on offer?

A paid two-week legal placement from 24 July 2023 to 4 August 2023 and a mentoring and skill development programme throughout Year 13.

### Who are we looking for?

Year 12 students interested in career in law.

Students must meet the criteria outlined by [Prime](#) (see attached).

### Apply now!

Visit Ashurst's website to learn more about this opportunity and to apply:

<https://www.ashurst.com/en/careers/students-and-graduates/uk/work-experience/access-ashurst>

**Deadline for applications is 16 January 2023 at midday.**



## Free Parents Career Guide

## Careers advisors and teachers



## New 2022/23 FREE Parents Careers Guides - DOWNLOAD TODAY

We are delighted to announce that our brand new 2022/23 Parents guides to University, Apprenticeships and STEM are now available.

**What can you expect from our parents' guides?** This year's Parents University and Apprenticeship Guides will be our third edition and have been designed to help parents support their children in making informed decisions about their future and developing skills to help them succeed.

**Apprenticeships Guide**  
Parents will benefit from content on topics including:

- Introduction to apprenticeships and sectors
- How to find the right apprenticeship
- Pathways into work, including T-levels, apprenticeships, and university
- How you can support your child in deciding if an apprenticeship is right for them
- Apprenticeships vs. university
- Degree apprenticeships
- Opportunities available across 15 different sectors

PLUS, interviews and guest content from a diverse range of organisations including National Audit Office, Bristows LLP, Royal Horticultural Society, Morgan Stanley, British Horseracing Authority

**University Guide**

- How to apply to university and a guide to UCAS
- Personal statements and how to stand out from the crowd
- Student finance
- Alternatives to going to university
- Placement years at university

Pros and cons of going to university

- PLUS interviews and guest content from universities including Reading University,

Liverpool University, Bournemouth University, South Wales University and Exeter University.

**Bonus STEM Guide**

This year's guide explores 10 different STEM subjects to help young people to understand more about careers in the field along with profiles on how each subject can help tackle an environmental challenge. This comprehensive guide has been designed to showcase just how creative, exciting and rewarding a career in STEM can be.

*Best regards,*

Success at School

124 Chatsworth Road

London, NW2 5QU

**Homework Club**

Homework club is open for all students in years 7 – 11

- On: **Monday - Thursday**
- From: **3.10 - 3.55pm**
- In the **ICT room, in Building 5**

BROOK is the UK's leading sexual health charity - commissioned to offer a variety of services to support young people and professionals in Barnet.

**The Gresham Competition****The Gresham Competition: an oracy competition for Year 12 - entries by 15 November**

Gresham College is launching a competition for Year 12 students in September 2022, to promote the art of communicating complex information in a clear, concise and compelling way. This year's theme is the environment and sustainability.

Sign up here to hear about the competition (and for other Gresham updates for schools): [gres.hm/schools](https://gres.hm/schools).  
Read more here: [gres.hm/competition](https://gres.hm/competition).

**The Competition will:**

- support the development of oracy skills.
- help students with UCAS applications and job interviews.
- promote a deeper understanding of the environment.
- introduce students to the inspiring research of world-class academics.

- be an opportunity to present in front of academics and professionals.

## How to Enter

**Choose one of the following topics and please make a reasoned argument:**

1. Who should be responsible for creating a better future environment for the next generation? How and why?
2. What should the UK government do about the environment that will benefit your generation?
3. Who should be most responsible for getting to Net Zero and why?
4. What's the greatest positive environmental change you expect to see in your lifetime?
5. What responsibilities should young people take on to address environmental/climate issues today and why?

Students will submit a five-minute, recorded presentation – the main focus should be the student speaking but can use images, graphs, or other visual props that help explain your points. Shortlisted candidates will then be invited to present again in person in London, and there will be three awards (including prizes for student and the school).

You can enter the competition here [gres.hm/entryform](https://gres.hm/entryform) and upload the video here [gres.hm/dropbox](https://gres.hm/dropbox).

Guidance and resources will also be provided to help students explain complex issues in a clear, concise, logical and engaging way.

## Why Enter?

### Benefits for Students:

1. Participating in the Gresham Competition will help students develop oracy and presentation skills useful for interviews and public speaking opportunities; it will also enhance CVs and UCAS applications.
2. The entry process is quick and easy, with entries filmed and submitted within 5 minutes. We are not judging the video quality – any camera phone will do.
3. Finalists will meet a panel of prestigious judges including Professor Myles Allen, the physicist behind Net Zero, and climate change expert Dr Jessica Omukuti.
4. Winners will receive cash prizes and medals: £250 gold, £200 silver and £150 bronze.
5. Since 2022 is a pilot year we expect fewer entries.

### Benefits for Schools:

The schools of winners will also benefit with priority access to lectures, visits from Professors or senior leaders, and a certificate.

## Key Dates

15 September 2022: Competition opens

15 November 2022: Competition closes

30 November 2022: Entrants notified

24 January 2023: In-person presentation at Gresham College (we will cover travel expenses).

Each finalist will have five minutes to present and five minutes for Q&A with the panel.

Three Gresham medals will be awarded (Bronze, Silver and Gold), along with finalist certificates.

## Get in Touch

Please do get in touch with our team with any questions via [schools@gresham.ac.uk](mailto:schools@gresham.ac.uk).

With very best wishes,

### Dr Wendy Piatt

Chief Executive Officer  
Gresham College

## 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 the 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 L Cooke, Deputy 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 [access@chch.ox.ac.uk](mailto:access@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.

### Solutions 4 Health New Free Apps



**BREAKING NEWS:** 2 x NEW FREE APPS Available from Solutions 4 Health

- Camp Island (5 – 10 years)
- Become Your Best Self (11 – 17 years)

Interactive and engaging apps supporting healthy and positive lifestyle choices.

The apps are free to access in Barnet as long as the user allows the location permission that pops up.

Please share far and wide..... And enjoy playing

### Bromcom Student Portal Issue



There is a known national issue with the Student Portal website and the Bromcom service team are working on this. The Student Portal app remains unaffected and accessible for homework assignments.

The Student Portal app can be downloaded on all Smart Devices through the App Store or Google Play Store.