

St Andrew the Apostle School Weekly Newsletter



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

24 April 2024

Music at St Andrew the Apostle



This week our year 7 students have had their first violin lesson with Mr Richard Vidler from Barnet Music Service, who are loaning us string instruments for every child in year 7 who wants one. We have had amazing feedback from parents in emails to Mr Lasithiotakis informing us of how inspired the students are!

'Just to inform you that my son, in 7J, wanted to start Violin. I think you have inspired him! My other son, is doing very well and happy with his Clarinet and is looking forward to his GCSE next year.' **Year 7 Parent**

Message from the Headteacher

It's been an interesting week to say the least! As you will have seen from our email on Monday, we have been inspected by OFSTED. I would like to say an enormous thank you to staff, pupils and parents for their efforts over the past few days. Your comments on surveys and our pupils' behaviour and comments in person to the inspectors on Tuesday and Wednesday genuinely reflected the pride that we all have in our school community and the lived authenticity of our Christian values. It is too early to report the outcome, which will be moderated before being published, but the high standards of our teaching and learning, our knowledge rich curriculum, our caring environment and the professionalism of the inspection team give us every confidence that it will reflect the school that you know as it is today.

Next week is Orthodox Holy Week, so the school will be closed next Friday for Orthodox Good Friday, reopening on the Tuesday after Bank Holiday Monday. We have been busy delivering stickers for candles with the Easter message in Greek and English to most of the Orthodox Churches in North London. There is a delightful collage of the candles in the different churches below. Do look out for them when you are in Church for Pascha!

Philip Hills

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Faith - Palm Sunday

On the Sunday before the Feast of Great and Holy Pascha and at the beginning of Holy Week, the Orthodox Church celebrates one of its most joyous feasts of the year. Palm Sunday is the commemoration of the Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem following His glorious miracle of raising Lazarus from the dead. Having anticipated His arrival and having heard of the miracle, the people went out to meet the Lord and welcomed Him with displays of honour and shouts of praise. On this day, we receive and worship Christ in this same manner, acknowledging Him as our King and Lord.



The biblical story of Palm Sunday is recorded in all four of the Gospels (Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-10; Luke 19:28-38; and John 12:12-18). Five days before the Passover, Jesus came from Bethany to Jerusalem. Having sent two of His disciples to bring Him a colt of a donkey, Jesus sat upon it and entered the city.

People had gathered in Jerusalem for the Passover and were looking for Jesus, both because of His great works and teaching and because they had heard of the miracle of the resurrection of Lazarus. When they heard that Christ was entering the city, they went out to meet Him with palm branches, laying their garments on the ground before Him, and shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he that comes in the Name of the Lord, the King of Israel!"



Orthodox Easter Project

Orthodox Easter is one of the most important celebrations as it commemorates the crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. As you may already know, seven colleagues from STA (Ms Nicolas, Ms Koveri, Ms Pallas, Miss Agathangelou, Miss Ntaountaki, Dr Bamford and Mr Simmons) have visited 11 churches to disseminate over 2000 Easter blessings stickers to be affixed to the Greek candle jars which are taken home by families (one per family usually) at Easter mass.

This light is the actual light that is emitted from the tomb of Jesus Christ that takes place every Easter in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

It is customary that this light is taken home, and the candle jars are able to hold this light, so we are more than excited that our school name can be present on these! Along with these, STA flyers and leaflets will be available in church.

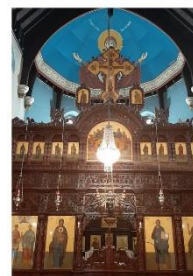
We are grateful for the support the 11 churches below have afforded to us.

We have always known of the support we have received from the Greek Orthodox church and would like to use this Easter project to continue to make closer contacts as we move into this next stage of our journey as an important community school in New Southgate.

(11 Churches in the project: St Andrew, St Mary, St Barnabas, St Katherine, Holy Cross and St Michael, St Andrew, St Anargyroi, All Saints Cathedral, Ss Raphael, Nicholas and Irene, Twelve Apostles, St Anthony & St John the Baptist).

Ms Nicolas | Teacher of Maths &

Ms Koveri | History, Classics, Politics and Deputy Head of Sixth Form



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I would like to introduce myself as the new Head of Year 8 at St. Andrews the Apostle Greek Orthodox School. I am looking forward to leading and supporting your children in their academic and personal development. I am privileged to lead the Year 8 group until at least the end of the academic year. The Head of Year structure may be amended in September. I will still be in school to support your child should they ever need this.

Having been part of the school for the past five years, coupled with a decade-long journey in high-level sport, I've come to understand the vital importance of respect, responsibility, and readiness in achieving success. As the new Head of Year, I aim to instil these values within the year group.

I have a passion for education and a strong commitment to supporting the academic and personal growth for all students. I believe that every student has the potential to succeed, and I am dedicated to creating a supportive and inclusive environment where all students feel valued and empowered to achieve their goals.

In my first assembly with your child I spoke about the value that I place on attendance and punctuality to ensure they achieve their goals. I told them a maxim I firmly believe in that 'early is on time, on time is late and being late is unacceptable'. I hope this will foster the school values of responsibility in the year group.

To support your child, and also me help your child, I would ask that you ensure you regularly check the My Child At School App to ask your child about their school day and that you are aware of any homework that is upcoming, aware of all the positive achievement points they have received and that you look at their Attitude to Learning Grades which we update each half term. [You can do this by using the following link.](#)

This regular school to home communication is so important to ensure your child reaches their full potential.

I am here to support both you and your children every step of the way, and I welcome and questions, concerns, or ideas you may have. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me via [the staff contact form, again, on our school website.](#)

Thank you for entrusting us with the education and well-being of your children. I am looking forward to a rewarding and successful year ahead filled with growth, learning, and memorable experiences.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr. De Jesus

Head of Year 8

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Year 11 Exam Preparations and Key Information

Everything at school stays the same for as long as possible. Students must attend every day and at the usual times.

We believe routine is important and that time spent in school is invaluable for students. We know students do better when they are in front of subject specialists. **Students will not be allowed to study at home and are expected in everyday, for the whole day up to Friday 24 May.** This includes when exams start. We will keep a normal timetable running but will also adapt it so that students can have a targeted revision session on the day before or the morning before an exam. Students will receive a timetable for this next week. From our experience, this is the best pattern for year 11s.

Uniform stays the same.

Students are expected to always wear their full uniform when on site, this includes when taking exams. Whenever a student attends for an exam they must be wearing their full school uniform to gain access to the exam hall.

Other key information:

Thursday 2 May – Year 11 celebration

This is the last day on the week before exams start (Thursday 9). We are not in school on Friday 3rd May as this is Orthodox Holy Friday. On this day there will be a special service, an assembly run by the Head of year and form tutors, as well as the opportunity to sign shirts and celebrate their achievements over their 5 year journey.

Plan for the Year 11 celebration, Thursday 2 May

- Arrive in school for 8:30am as usual in school uniform.
- Normal periods 1 and 2 and morning break.
- NO SHIRT SIGNING UNTIL MORNING BREAK (students will be sent home to get changed if they do not adhere to this). Consider what is drawn/written – nothing prejudiced, or offensive is allowed.
- 11.00am – Leavers' Assembly in Building 4 Hall
- 12.00pm – Leavers' celebration in Building 4 Hall with shirt signing and photos.
- **Students will be dismissed from school at 12.35pm on Thursday 2 May for a long weekend of revision.**

The following Tuesday 7 May (Monday is a bank holiday) is a normal school day and students should be in full school uniform and attend at the usual time.

Exam regulations

Students will be briefed and will be given a copy of the regulations for the exams. A digital copy of these can be found here:

[IFC-Written Examinations 2324 Revision One FINAL.pdf \(jcg.org.uk\)](#).

I would recommend reading through these and making sure your son or daughter has also.

Government guidance that explains the general exam process from entry to results and

appeals can be found here: [Ofqual Student Guide 2024 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Year 11 GCSE Timetable

The below timetable is now available on the school website:

[Exam Schedule Website.pdf \(standrewtheapostle.org.uk\)](#)

YOUTH CLUB - ΣΥΝΑΞΗ ΝΕΩΝ
Paschal Celebration
Tuesday 7th May @ 18:30
In the Hall of St Mary's Greek Orthodox Cathedral
Activities-Discussion-Bufferet-Socialising-Games

Root word of the week

Abdicare (go away from a position of responsibility)

Absorbent (capable of taking liquid away)

Ablutions (the process of washing away)

scan the QR code with your phone's camera for Parent Guides on how to help keep your children safe online

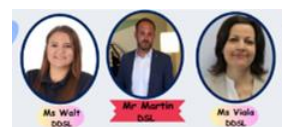


Talking Teens Parent Group
Information for parents and carers



APOSTLE NEWS

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