

22 November 2024

## Exciting News from Our Christmas Show!

Our Year 7 Brass and Woodwind Orchestra has been making incredible progress! Just a few weeks ago, many of these talented young musicians picked up their clarinets, trombones, and trumpets for the very first time. Now, they're preparing to debut their hard work and talent at our upcoming **Christmas Concert!** In addition, get ready for an electrifying performance as **Thirteen Teens**, our talented GCSE band, takes the stage at this year's **Christmas Show!**

 **Date:** Friday 6 December 2024

 **Time:** 6pm

 **Venue:** Building 4 Hall

Tickets are just **£5** and are available now on **ParentPay**. Don't miss this chance to support our young musicians and enjoy an evening of festive music that will fill you with holiday cheer.

  Secure your tickets today and join us in celebrating the incredible achievements of our orchestra. See you there!  



[Dive into Apostle News: Issue 7 - Click to Explore!](#)

# APOSTLE NEWS

This week, I had the pleasure of seeing and hearing our students take part in the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge, and I was truly impressed by their performances. The confidence displayed by our students was remarkable. They spoke passionately on topics close to their hearts, demonstrating maturity, eloquence, and a strong sense of social justice. Congratulations to all who participated—you made us incredibly proud.

In addition to this, I had the opportunity to visit the site of our new building this week. It was wonderful to see the progress being made on what will be a fantastic space for our students. All at STA are excited about what this will mean for our school community, and I look forward to welcoming students into the new environment in September 2025.

As we begin to enter the season of Advent, we are also reminded of the importance of giving and caring for those less fortunate. Last week, our School council launched a charity collection to support families in need within the Barnet community. We encourage everyone to contribute, whether through donations of non-perishable food items, or monetary support. It is a wonderful opportunity for our students to practise generosity and compassion, living out the values we hold dear in the Christian tradition.

Furthermore, I am excited to announce our annual Christmas card and prayer competition. This is a chance for students to showcase their creativity and reflect on the meaning of Christmas. We invite all Key Stage 3 students to participate by designing a Christmas card or writing a prayer that captures the spirit of this special season. Winners will be announced in the start of December. I look forward to seeing the beautiful artwork and heartfelt prayers that our talented students create. We will showcase these on our Instagram page [here](#).

Year 11 Mock exams continue apace. I am continually impressed by the dedication that all students are showing to this. Last week I noted the support our teachers provided our students. I'd also like to thank our team of invigilators including Ms Costa, also one of our parents, who has been so reassuring and kind to all our students, and, in particular to students who have needed more support. I was very pleased, when a student that I am mentoring came out of an exam, with a smile on their face and said "revision and hard work pays off".

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership. It is a blessing to work with such a caring community, and if at any time you do need to contact me, please do so via the staff contact form [here](#).

Christopher Martin | Deputy Headteacher



Year 8 Assembly

### Upcoming Key Dates and Information

- Thursday 28 November – Year 12 Parents Evening
- Thursday 5 December – INSET Day
- Friday 6 December – Christmas Concert
- Tuesday 10 December – Flu Vaccine
- Thursday 12 December – Trafalgar Square Choir Trip
- Tuesday 17 December – Christmas Fair
- Wednesday 18 December – Christmas Jumper Day
- Thursday 19 December – Certificate Evening
- Friday 20 December – Last Day of Term (Student dismissal 12.35pm)
- Click [here](#) to access Term Dates



We're thrilled to celebrate the dedication of our students as they receive a bronze star for achieving 50 or more achievement points! This reflects their moments of effort, growth, and success. Congratulations to all the students for their outstanding achievements—your hard work truly shines bright! Keep up the fantastic effort!

*Well done to: Anu, Augusta, Sesiliya, Lily, Avery, Kimia, Alex, Emi, Zoe, Iffah, Grace, Kodichimma, Jai-Amari, Alice, Dominic, Aurelia, Molly, Konstantin, Kiella and Denis.*

### Faith

In the Orthodox Christian tradition, the lives of our saints serve as profound examples of faith and virtue. One figure is St Plato the Studite, an abbot and defender of the faith who lived in the 8th and 9th centuries. Known for his unwavering commitment to truth and integrity, St Plato bravely stood against corruption and false teachings, exemplifying what it means to be trustworthy. His life reminds us of the importance of staying true to our values, even when it is difficult, and of having faith in God's guidance.

At our school, we strive to embody this same spirit of trustworthiness, one of our core values. Trustworthiness is not just about being honest; it is about being dependable, reliable, and maintaining integrity in everything we do. It is the foundation of strong relationships, whether between students, teachers, or within the wider community. We teach our students that trustworthiness is a key part of their character development and a reflection of their faith. To be trustworthy is to honour God, who calls us to be people of truth.

This week, we witnessed a demonstration of this value as our students participated in the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge. The competition was an opportunity for our students to express their thoughts, passions, and ideas confidently in front of their peers. It was inspiring to see the students embody trustworthiness by speaking with honesty, sharing their authentic experiences, and presenting their arguments with integrity. They demonstrated the courage to stand up and speak out, trusting in themselves and the values they have been taught.

The students' preparation for this event was a testament to their dedication. Many of them overcame nerves and self-doubt to deliver their speeches with poise. This process mirrors our journey of faith, where we often need to step outside our comfort zones, relying on God's strength and the values we hold dear. Just as our students trusted in their abilities and the support of their teachers and peers, so too are we called to trust in God's plan for our lives.

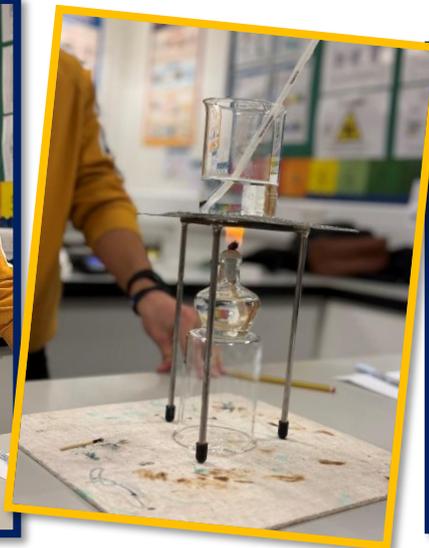
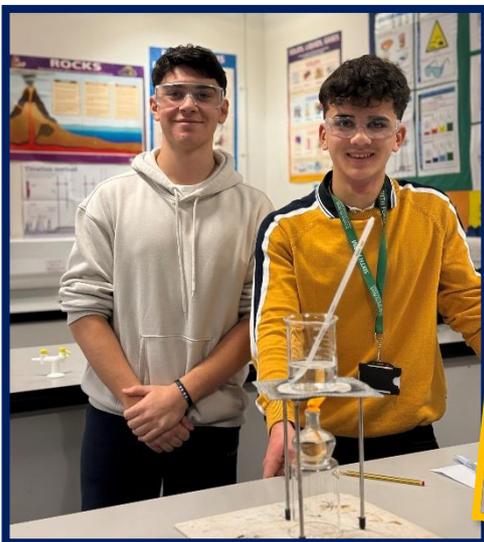
Faith is about believing in things unseen and trusting in the goodness of God, even when circumstances are challenging. It is the anchor that keeps us grounded and guides us through life's uncertainties. As parents, you play a vital role in nurturing this faith in your children. By teaching them about trustworthiness and encouraging them to live by this value, you are helping them build a strong moral foundation rooted in faith. When they see you act with integrity, keep your promises, and speak the truth, they learn what it means to be trustworthy themselves.

The Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge was a valuable experience for all who took part. It provided our students with the chance to practise trustworthiness, to stand up for their beliefs, and to communicate honestly. As we reflect on this event, we are reminded of the importance of creating opportunities where our young people can develop these essential skills and virtues.

### Year 12 Chemistry

Our Year 12 chemistry students recently engaged in a hands-on learning experience as they tested the enthalpy change of combustion through a calorimetry Practical Assessment Group (PAG). Each student had their own setup, allowing them to meticulously follow the method and demonstrate their practical skills. This exercise not only reinforced their theoretical knowledge but also played a crucial role in endorsing their practical competencies. Well done to all the budding chemists for their precision and dedication in the lab!

Miss Msrar | Head of Science





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This week all year 10 students took part in Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge, a whole day workshop run by the professional trainers of public speaking. Students were taught how to take themselves out of their comfort zone and present impromptu speeches on a vast range of topics. They were taught how to develop their confidence with Stride - Stand - Smile - Speak - Stay technique, how to structure a speech with an engaging opening, development of ideas and a clear message at the end.



The day was filled with activities which gradually built students confidence in speaking out in public and culminated with every student presenting a speech on their chosen topic in front of their peers and teachers involved.

Most importantly, students learnt how to conduct themselves in future 6th form/collage/university/job interviews and communicate effectively in the professional world. Both teachers and the workshop facilitators were impressed how our students embraced the challenge with courage and enthusiasm; we are truly proud of the progress they have made.

The best speeches have been shortlisted for our school Speak Out Challenge final, which will take place in December. These are: Ryan, Gabrielle, Pany, Dennis, Luca B, Alexandra, Oliwia, Anna-Maria D, Dimitris and Panagiotis. Many congratulations!

Additionally, equally impressive were the students who got the Highly Commended reward on the day for their excellent progress during the workshop; these are: Marko, Andrew, Hanifah, Christiana, Christina, Amelia, Carlo, Alexei, Stefan, Singh, Obiji and Eleni. Well done!

The school winner will follow the footsteps of our last year school winner Isha Gupta and will represent our school in the Barnet regional final on 14 January.

Ms Bassington | Head of English



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**STA** ST ANDREW  
THE APOSTLE

The Art Department invites you to take  
part in a

# CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

Your card must include:

- A religious themed design
- Colour
- A seasonal greeting on the front of the card
- Created by hand or using PC

Deadline

Friday **22** November

Please hand entries to a member of staff in  
the Art Department  
Prizes to be won!



**STA** ST ANDREW  
THE APOSTLE

The English Department invites you to  
take part in a

# CHRISTMAS PRAYER WRITING COMPETITION

Write a Christmas Prayer to be featured in our  
School's Christmas Card!

Your Prayer must include:

- 50-100 words long
- Christmas themed
- Reflective of our values as a Christian School

Deadline

Friday **29** November

Please hand entries to a member of staff in  
the English Department  
Prizes to be won!



## Maths and Reading Leaderboard



### Dr Frost – Top 10 users in School

Rank	Student	Total Mastery
1	Kavin Y11	19488
2	Sofia Y11	17754
3	Zara Y11	16094
4	Katina Y11	14467
5	Savan Y12	13695
6	Luca Y10	13654
7	Nicholas Y11	12848
8	Unyas Y11	12575
9	Gabriel Y11	12475
10	Yianni Y11	12060

Dr Frost Maths is an online learning platform designed to support students in mastering maths skills. It offers a range of interactive resources, including video tutorials, practice questions, and step-by-step solutions across all key stages. The platform is used for weekly homework, allowing students to practice and reinforce topics covered in lessons. It also provides personalised feedback to help track progress.

### Top 3 Students for each year group

Rank	Student	Total Mastery
Year 7		
1	Teshan	6972
2	Ayaz	2349
3	Dominic	2299
Year 8		
1	Tia	7902
2	Aurelia	7047
3	Alex	6623
Year 9		
1	Andreas	10890
2	Alaya	9827
3	Bowen	9338
Year 10		
1	Luca	13654
2	Hana	11305
3	Peter	9546
Year 11		
1	Kavin	19488
2	Sofia	17754
3	Zara	16094
Year 12		
1	Savan	13695
2	Christos	11148
3	Peter	10715
Year 13		
1	Gabriella	11877
2	Natalia	10832
3	Giorgio	8093

For revision, Dr Frost Maths is an excellent tool, with resources covering a wide variety of topics, past exam papers, and challenges to help students prepare effectively for assessments.

Parents can also monitor their child's progress, ensuring they are keeping up with the work and improving their understanding of maths.

This platform ensures students get the support they need to succeed in maths.

**Mr Dogan | Head of Maths & Business studies**

## Sparx Reader

### Sparx Reader – Top 10 Readers in School:

Rank	Student	Total SRP
1	Ella	18641
2	Teshan	13299
3	Dominic	12188
4	Alaya	6924
5	Mark	5879
6	Anu	5081
7	Zoe	4609
8	Bilal	4497
9	Anaya	3952
10	Wonder	3855

Sparx Reader is an online reading platform allowing students to regularly read books for pleasure. Everyday reading is not only a relaxing activity, but also allows students to expand their ideas, vocabulary and improve understanding of any text they will face in exams or as adults.

Sparx Reader offers students a choice of books at their reading level, as well as ensuring they read books with understanding by completing check-in questions along the way. The platform is used for KS3 English weekly homework; students need to achieve minimum 300 points each week (this equates to approximately 30 minute of careful reading).

We are very pleased that many of our students exceed this target every week, with some top scorers achieving well above a thousand points a week. Since the launch of Sparx Reader a month ago, our KS3 students have completed amazing 1,370 hours of careful reading and read altogether 470 books so far. Truly well done!

### Top 3 Students for each year group:

Rank	Student	Total SRP
Year 7		
1	Teshan	13299
2	Dominic	12188
3	Idrees	3855
Year 8		
1	Ella	18641
2	Mark	6297
3	Anu	5879
Year 9		
1	Alaya	6924
2	Zoe	5081
3	Michelle	3351

Please ask your child what they are currently reading, and perhaps you can enjoy listening to them reading out loud a section of their current Sparx book.

**Ms Bassington | Head of English**

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### Exciting Extra Curricular Music Club Opportunities!

We're thrilled to announce the fantastic music clubs currently running, offering our students wonderful ways to connect through music and develop their vocal skills. Here's what's happening:

- **Tuesday Break Time Choir:** A fun and energizing start to the day, open to all who enjoy singing and want to be part of a lively group.
- **Tuesday Lunchtime Choir:** For students looking to take their vocal abilities further, our lunchtime choir is an ideal place to practice and make friends.
- **Thursday Year 10 Intervention:** Specifically supporting our Year 10 students, this session provides focused guidance and extra support for those pursuing music in their studies.

**Mr Lasithiotakis | Lead Music Teacher**

[Click here to view all Extracurricular club's schedule](#)

### Christmas Gift Appeal

On behalf of school council, I am glad to launch St Andrew the Apostle School's Christmas gift appeal. Throughout this week we have gone into each year's assembly explaining how important this appeal is and how it links with our school values, especially kindness. This appeal brightens up Christmas for those who are less fortunate than us and is an opportunity of expressing our gratitude in being fortunate, by donating a gift or giving £1 to our form tutors.

Christmas is often a time of excitement where gifts are something people usually anticipate; however, this isn't the case for many children across the borough; it is why we need to come together as a community along with Young Barnet Gift Appeal and support these people, bringing a smile to their faces on Christmas day!

**Oliwia | Student 10J**



## Innovate IFG

### AWESOME THEME DAYS COMING UP

AUTUMN TERM	SPRING TERM
<b>SEPTEMBER</b> BACK TO SCHOOL, MAKE A MENU, BEST OF BRITISH	<b>JANUARY</b> GO PLANT POWERED, CHINESE NEW YEAR
<b>OCTOBER</b> Viva MEXICO	<b>FEBRUARY</b> Share the Love
<b>NOVEMBER</b> BANG GOES LUNCHTIME, BANG GOES LUNCHTIME	<b>MARCH</b> THE EPIC OF FANTASY, THE EPIC OF FANTASY
<b>DECEMBER</b> FANTASTIC FESTIVE FOOD	<b>APRIL</b> EASTER, EGG-STRANAGANZA

**Parents:** feeling too busy rushing around to find out what your son/daughter is learning at school? Check out the curriculum online on our website to find out more: [Curriculum](#)



## NHS England

The Flu vaccine will take place on Tuesday 10 December - to give consent for your child to have the flu vaccine, please click here: [Consent](#)

Even if you do not wish for your child to have the vaccine, please complete the online form so that we can record your wishes.

**Term 2 2024 – Mid Term Root Words Recap**  
Match the root word to its meaning.

1. MONO	a) bad / evil
2. MAL	b) carry / bring
3. PORT	c) one

**Task 2: Which ROOT WORDS from Term 2 so far are represented by these pictures?**

### Designated Safeguarding Leads

Click below for more information

Miss Walt

Mrs Viala

Mrs Poole

## Barnet Youth

FREE activities and ideas for ages 0-19

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10 Top Tips for Parents & Educators USING AND REVIEWING PARENTAL CONTROLS