

Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day

will be on Wednesday 19 December

There is a free workshop on Tuesday 17 December between 3.00pm – 4.00pm, in DT1 for any student who wishes to create their own Christmas Jumper.

We will provide materials but ask that your child brings in a spare jumper to decorate.

There will be a prize for the best decorated jumper!

Don't miss out! See you there.



Sixth Form Basketball Champion!

Good luck to 6th former Stelios, who is playing basketball in the European Basketball League this weekend in Estonia.

Stelios plays for the National League side, Brent Panthers, and they are hoping to advance to the second round of the European competition, which be played in February in Latvia!

We will keep you updated with his success!



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

APOSTLE NEWS

I want to begin by expressing how immensely proud I am of our students for their outstanding performances during last week’s Christmas show. Their dedication, skill, and sheer enthusiasm shone through, making it a wonderful community evening. Hearing the applause fill the room was a reminder of the incredible talent we have in our school community.

A heartfelt thank you goes to our wonderful staff, who worked hard to bring this event to life. Ms Walt, Ms Nelson, and Mr Lasithiotakis, in particular, deserve special recognition for their dedication preparing our students for the big night. Your hard work never goes unnoticed, and we are deeply grateful for everything you do. It was also a pleasure to welcome BEAT (Barnet Education Arts Trust) to support our school orchestra, marking their first-ever public performance. The collaboration added a special touch to the evening, and we’re excited to continue fostering our musical partnership with BEAT. It will be the last time our Christmas show will be held in this hall; however, the community spirit and dedication shown by staff and students will be taken into our new building. As a school that values music deeply, I’m delighted that our students had another chance to showcase their talents on Thursday where they sang Christmas Carols in Trafalgar Square to raise money for Noah’s Ark Children’s Hospice. This exciting opportunity highlights the incredible journey our young musicians are on, and I know they will make us all proud.

This week I was also so pleased to celebrate with those students who received the most reward points in their year group. We celebrated this with cake and hot chocolate in our Chapel, and I was lucky enough to hear the students speak about the school so warmly.

Our footballers won two of their games this week and played with sportsmanship and won with grace. This was the 53rd fixture of the school year, which demonstrated the number of sporting opportunities that we can offer students here.

On behalf of the entire school community, I’d like to thank our staff for their unwavering commitment and hard work this term. I know we are all looking forward to a well-deserved festive break, starting with our staff Christmas meal on Friday—a small but important way to celebrate and reflect on a term well-spent.

As we approach the final week of term, we have plenty more to look forward to. Our achievement assemblies will provide a chance to celebrate our students’ successes, while visits to church, Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day will bring festive cheer and a sense of togetherness. These moments remind us of the joy and spirit of this special time of year.

Thank you for your continued support, and I wish you all a peaceful and very Merry Christmas.

Upcoming Key Dates and Information

- Tuesday 17 December – **Christmas Fair** – now on ParentPay
- 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**

Faith

As we enter the season of Advent, our minds turn toward the celebration of Christmas—a time to reflect on the greatest gift of all, God’s love for us through the birth of Jesus Christ.

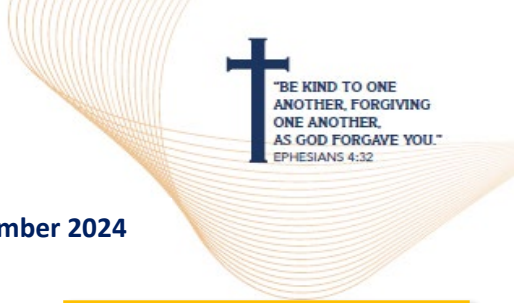
This time of year, is not only a joyful celebration but also an opportunity to live out our school value of *caring*, which has been at the heart of our activities this term.

Next week, we are eagerly looking forward to our Christmas church visits at St Katherine’s Church, where Father Damien will lead us in services to prepare us for Christmas. These visits are a highlight of the school year, offering students, staff, and families a chance to come together in worship, reflection, and gratitude. Father Damien’s thoughtful sermons and welcoming spirit create a meaningful experience for everyone, helping us focus on the true meaning of Christmas.

This term, our school has embraced the value of caring, and this has been beautifully demonstrated through our recent Christmas Card Prayer competition. This initiative invited students to design Christmas cards featuring a heartfelt prayer, and the results were truly inspiring. Many of the prayers reflected deep gratitude for the love and support of family, with students thanking God for the blessings of togetherness, health, and happiness. One prayer read: *"Dear Lord, thank you for the family who loves me and the friends who care for me. At Christmas, remind us all to share your love with others and to be kind to those who may feel alone. Help us to show your light to the world. Amen."*

Prayers like this remind us of the deep capacity for compassion and care in our students, as well as their understanding of the importance of relationships. They show that even from a young age, children recognise that caring isn’t just about kind words—it’s about showing support in everyday actions. This theme of caring has also extended into our wider school community. Over the past few weeks, students have been engaging in acts of kindness, from creating Christmas decorations for our school to preparing Christmas-themed shows and songs for our Christmas show. These small but meaningful gestures reflect the spirit of Christmas and remind us of our calling to care for others, especially during this special season.

As parents, you play a vital role in helping your children live out this value at home and beyond. Whether it’s through family traditions, acts of generosity, or simply spending time together, you model the importance of caring relationships. As we look ahead to our Christmas church visits, we encourage you to join us in reflecting on how we can all show more care to those around us, inspired by God’s love. May this Advent season bring peace and joy to your family. Let us continue to work together as a school and faith community, sharing the light of Christ and remembering the gift of His care in our lives. We look forward to celebrating with you next week at St Katherine’s Church!



13 December 2024

Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge finalists

On Tuesday, the school's Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge finalists competed in front of their Year 10 peers to win the title of the school champion. And what a contest we had!

Our finalists - Gabrielle, Panagiotis, Luca, Oliwia, Alexandra, Anna-Maria, Dimitris, Pany and Dennis - treated us to an array of topics, from the importance of men's mental health, necessity of being yourself, women's right to equal pay, to the greatness of music and martial arts. In their speeches we heard some controversial truths, melodic rhymes and inspirational quotes from Shakespeare, Oscar Wilde and even Bruce Lee. Most of all, we were blown away by the confidence, imagination and wittiness of their performances, which (it is important to note) do not always come naturally. The quality of our finalists is a result of hard work and effort put in over the last two weeks, perfecting and practicing their speeches; these students deserve recognition for their excellent work ethic and dedication, which they put at the time of final termly assessment and various festive commitments around the school. It echoes the Aristotelian truth we believe in: "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellent is not an act, but a habit."

This excellence was certainly demonstrated by Dennis who came second with his confident and entertaining speech entitled, 'On the spot' on reaching to the stars, as well as our school winner - Anna Maria - who wowed us with her witty and moving speech entitled 'Short and Tall' on "being short but standing tall"! Many congratulations to Anna-Maria, Dennis and all the finalists – you made yourselves and us very proud!

Anna-Maria will follow the footsteps of our last year school winner Isha and will represent our school in the Barnet regional final on 14 January 2025.

Mrs Bassington | Head of English





U14 Girls Football Team - Cup Success!

Another outstanding game from our U14 girls football team saw them progress through to semifinals round of the Borough Cup.

Our defenders were outstanding, keeping another clean sheet and ensuring that the opposition did not have a chance on goal; they were able to press high and free our midfield trio of Tiana, Myna, and Emily to support the attack. Emily had her match of the season so far and made several ley tackles and through balls.

The scoring opened with Melina netting a powerful shot into the bottom corner, and this meant that we headed into the break 1 - 0. The second half started well, and after a flurry of shots which the opposition keeper kept out, Layla May scored her first goal for the team. A well-deserved goal, and a brilliant achievement for Layla, who is in Y7 and consistently plays up in older age groups.

The scoring continued as Jessica also put her name on the scoresheet for the first time this season, and before the game was finished, Melina netted her second of the evening.

Tiana was awarded POTM for her dominance in midfield.

We end the first half of the season, with 26 goals scored and 0 goals conceded in what has been an outstanding display of girls' football. A huge well done to the girls, we cannot wait to see how they progress in 2025!

Miss Walt | Acting Assistant Head and PE Teacher





Year 7 Victory Over Bishop Douglas School

In an exciting home fixture, the Year 7 team produced a commanding 5-0 win against Bishop Douglas. Despite the scoreline, the game started off tightly contested, with the teams heading into halftime with a narrow 1-0 lead for the home side.

The breakthrough came thanks to excellent play from Miguel, who threaded a perfect pass to Fin, allowing him to calmly slot home the opener. Both teams battled hard in the first half, with chances few and far between, but the hosts managed to hold onto their slim advantage as the whistle blew for halftime.

The second half saw a renewed energy from the team, bolstered by the introduction of Lis, who made an immediate impact. Lis was instrumental in extending the lead, assisting two fantastic goals scored by Miguel, who doubled his tally with cool finishing. Lis also showcased his individual brilliance, capping off his performance with a stunning solo goal, leaving the Bishop Douglas defence trailing in his wake.

With the attacking unit clicking, the defence stood firm, led by Max, who was outstanding at the back. His disciplined and composed display earned him the well-deserved Player of the Match award, as he marshalled the defence with authority, keeping Bishop Douglas at bay throughout the game.

The team's clinical second-half performance sealed the 5-0 victory, marking a brilliant team effort. Looking ahead, Year 7 will face ARK Academy after the half-term break, full of confidence from this impressive result.

Mr Fowle | Teacher of PE

13 December 2024



Tea with the Headteacher

I would like to congratulate our students on receiving the highest number of achievement points in their year group for this term. It was lovely to spend some time with them during the tea with the headteacher reward, where we had insightful conversations over games, hot chocolate and some lovely treats. They showed themselves at the very best.

Mr Martin | Deputy Headteacher

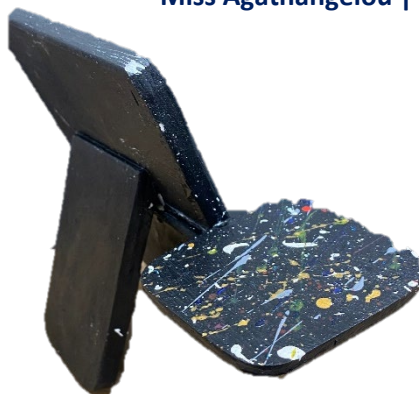


Design Technology

This term, Year 9 students dedicated themselves to designing and crafting a multifunctional stand. They created a stand capable of holding their phones and personal belongings, adding practical value to their everyday lives. This project encouraged creative thinking during the design stages and strengthened their skills on our specialist machinery. Looking ahead, we have exciting projects focusing on product design, incorporating a variety of equipment and techniques as a result, we have numerous enthusiastic Year 9 students who are keen to choose Design Technology as their GCSE option.

We couldn't be more thrilled to showcase the results of their hard work, here are just a few images of this year's multi-purpose stands.

Miss Agathangelou | Art & DT Technician





Trafalgar Square

Our talented school choir recently braved the cold and wet weather to perform a beautiful selection of Christmas carols at Trafalgar Square. Their heartfelt singing captivated passersby and brought a festive spirit to the heart of London. The students' efforts were all in aid of a wonderful cause, raising money for Noah's Ark Children's Hospice. We are incredibly proud of their dedication and the warmth they brought to a chilly winter's day!

Mrs Viala | Assistant Headteacher



Creative Writing Competition

Hello from the other side.

I feel like I may have been here before.

I would say I'm sorry, if I thought that it would change your mind.

On a warm summer's evening on a train bound for nowhere...

I want to set the world to rights, but you know, I don't know where to start.

You've stolen lives and broken dreams; no man can be a deity.

Look, if you had one shot or one opportunity, to seize everything you ever wanted in one moment, would you capture it or just let it slip?

Like a bat out of hell, I'll be gone when the morning comes.

Acknowledgements: Lyrics sourced from Adele, The Cure, Hurtsfall, Eminem, Incubus, Kenny Rodgers, Killswitch Engage and Meatloaf.

Songlines

Celebrate writing along with the other five schools in the Russell Education Trust. This challenge gives you some 'stolen' lyrics from songs. Choose one to inspire your own piece of writing and include the lyrics somewhere in your piece.

Two school winners will be selected from each category: Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4 and Sixth Form. All winning entries will be published in a book and the overall winner will gain a writer's visit for their school.

Your piece of writing cannot be longer than 1000 words it must be submitted electronically as a typed document submission.

Please make sure that you proofread your work carefully.

The deadline for entries is **Friday 31 of January 2025.**

If you have any questions as please speak to **Ms Bassington, Head of English**



RUSSELL EDUCATION TRUST



Maths and Reading Leaderboard



Dr Frost – Top 10 users in School

Rank	Student	Total Mastery
1	Kavin Y11	19563
2	Sofia Y11	18028
3	Zara Y11	16567
4	Katina Y11	14807
5	Savan Y12	14118
6	Luca Y10	13811
7	Nicholas Y11	13189
8	Unyas Y11	12691
9	Gabriel Y11	12475
10	Yianni Y11	12135

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 practise 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	8466
2	Ayaz	3677
3	Dominic	2656
Year 8		
1	Tia	7985
2	Aurelia	7296
3	Alex	6740
Year 9		
1	Andreas	11147
2	Alaya	9852
3	Bowen	9611
Year 10		
1	Luca	13811
2	Hana	11562
3	Anna Maria	10267
Year 11		
1	Kavin	19563
2	Sofia	18028
3	Zara	16567
Year 12		
1	Savan	14135
2	Christos	11430
3	Theo	10666
Year 13		
1	Gabriella	11861
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	Teshan	19917
2	Dominic	19782
3	Ella	10966
4	Alaya	7555
5	Anu	6404
6	Wealth	4756
7	Ilya	3685
8	Moyosoreoluwa	3478
9	Lusandro	3474
10	Niya	3119

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 2,275 hours of careful reading and read altogether 824 books so far. Truly well done!

Top 3 Students for each year group:

Rank	Student	Total SRP
Year 7		
1	Teshan	19917
2	Dominic	19782
3	Wealth	4756
Year 8		
1	Ella	10966
2	Anu	6404
3	Anaya	2399
Year 9		
1	Alaya	7555
2	Ilya	3685
3	Niya	3119

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

Let's escape into the world of books!

Sparx Readers' Trip

When? Friday 10th January

What? Pottery painting followed by choosing your reward book from the book shop (funded by the school)

How to get an invite? Be one of the top 14 School Sparx reader on Leaderboard on Tuesday 17th December at 3 p.m. Additional 6 places are reserved for teachers' nominations from KS3 classes.

Is your child protected from flu?

Flu cases are rising, particularly amongst school aged children.

[Please read this letter from Dr Janet Djomba](#)
Director of Public Health. London Borough of Barnet.

Book your child's vaccine at

<https://ncl.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2024/book>

Contact Vaccination UK: 0208 432 7075 or

barnet@v-uk.co.uk

For more information on the flu vaccine: [Secondary school](#)

STA ST ANDREW THE APOSTLE
Christmas FAIR
We look forward to seeing our students at the Sixth Form Christmas Fair
Tuesday 17 December
You can now book via ParentPay

Prefix of the week

Aud / Audi [from Latin] meaning "to hear / to listen"

Audition – a try out when one's performance is heard



Auditorium – a room where people hear and watch performances



Audit – a process of listening to accounts or records



BELS Advisory Team for Autistic Children and Young People



Language Enrichment Programme

Free training for parents / carers of children in early years and children in primary / secondary school

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](#)



FREE PARENT WEBINAR SERIES
REGISTER NOW



10 Top Tips for Parents

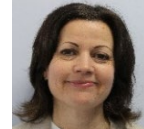
10 Top Tips for Parents & Educators
USING AND REVIEWING PARENTAL CONTROLS

SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

Designated Safeguarding Leads
Click below for more information
Safeguarding at STA



Miss Walt



Mrs Viala



Mrs Poole

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



Download the Studybugs app for reporting your child's absence.

A quick and secure way to report absence due to illness and send messages to school.



Studybugs

Studybugs is designed to support you in notifying the school quickly and simply if your child is unable to attend school due to illness or an appointment.

Studybugs seamlessly interacts with our attendance system in school and ensures that your child's absence is recorded on the register instantly and accurately.

You can register via the Studybugs website: [Studybugs – Parents](#) or download the Studybugs App.

Once you are registered, all you must do to record an absence is send us a free text. If you need any support with Studybugs, please email attendance@standretheweapostle.org.uk

Barnet Youth
FREE activities and ideas for ages 0-19
barnetyouth.uk