

## Spring Term Extra-Curricular Sports Clubs

PE extra-curricular clubs will re-start on Monday 13 January 2025. Clubs are free of charge to attend.

**New feature this academic year – students are required to sign-up to extra-curricular clubs using student portal app. Students click on extra-curricular clubs and select enrol for the relevant club.**

### Monday

Activity: All Years Boys and Girls Table Tennis  
Time: 3.00pm-4.00pm  
Venue: Building 4 Hall  
\*Change in building 4 changing rooms

### Tuesday

No clubs due to staff meetings

### Wednesday

Basketball Fixtures

### Thursday

Activity: All Years Boys and Girls Dance  
Time: 3.00pm-5.30pm  
Venue: Building 5 Canteen/Chapel  
\*Change in building 5 changing rooms

### Friday

Activity: GCSE Trampolining (Invite Only)  
Time: 3.00pm-5.00pm  
Venue: East Barnet School



*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.*



Happy New Year! As we step into 2025, I want to take a moment to reflect on the wonderful final week of last term and share our excitement for the term ahead.

The closing days of 2024 at school were filled with festive joy and community spirit. Our achievement assemblies celebrated the accomplishments of our students across academics, sports, and extracurricular activities. Visits to St Katherine's Church provided a moment of reflection and connection, complementing the season's themes of gratitude and togetherness. Christmas Jumper Day brought smiles and vibrant colours across the school, while our Christmas dinner was an opportunity to come together as one school community. For those who missed these moments, highlights can be found on our Instagram page [here](#).

As we turn our attention to the new term, it's already shaping up to be a busy and exciting time. Year 11 parents' evening has already set the tone for supporting students through this critical stage of their education, and Year 9 parents' evening is scheduled for Tuesday, 30th January, followed by the options evening the week after. These events are vital opportunities for families to understand the options open to them, ensuring each student is on their path to success.

We're also gearing up for Geography field trips that will enrich our students' experiences, as well as 17 sporting fixtures this term that promise to bring energy and team spirit to our community. The talent show preparations are also kicking off, and we can't wait to see the creativity and skills our students will bring to the stage.

A special highlight this term will be welcoming Father Gregory to school at the end of January to lead us in the cutting of the Vasilopita—a tradition that reminds us of the importance of blessings, unity, and hope as we move forward together.

Finally, we want to express our deep appreciation for the continued support of parents, particularly those of Year 11 and 13 students, as our learners work assiduously toward their exams. With the Mock 2 exams on the horizon, your encouragement and partnership are invaluable in helping your child achieve their very best. It was great to see so many parents at the Year 11 parents evening on Thursday evening.

Thank you for all you do to support our school community. Here's to a successful and fulfilling 2025 for us all!

#### Upcoming Key Dates and Information

- Friday 17 January – Year 11 Geography Trip
- Click [here](#) to access **Term Dates**



## Faith

As we begin a new year, we reflect on the joy and blessings of the Christmas season, which brought our school community together in celebration of Christ's birth. In the final week of 2024, we had the privilege of attending beautiful Christmas services at St Katherine's Church, led by Father Damien. These visits were a wonderful opportunity for our students, staff, and families to unite in worship and gratitude during this sacred time of year.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Father Damien for his guidance and unwavering support throughout the year. His wisdom and dedication to nurturing the faith of our school community have been a tremendous blessing. From the inspiring homilies to his kind words of encouragement, Father Damien's presence reminds us of the strength and beauty of our Orthodox faith.

As we return to school this week, we transition from the celebrations of Christmas to the feast of Epiphany—a significant event in the Orthodox calendar. Epiphany, or Theophany, commemorates the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan and the revelation of the Holy Trinity. This profound moment in Christ's life reminds us of the cleansing power of forgiveness, the grace of renewal, and the importance of embracing God's love in our lives.

As a staff, we began the week with a special reflection to mark Epiphany. Together, we prayed and meditated on the significance of this Holy Day, reaffirming our commitment to living out the Christian values we teach and model for our students. We encourage families to take time this week to reflect on the meaning of Epiphany and its call to live with humility, compassion, and forgiveness.

This week also holds special significance as we celebrate the name day of St Gregory of Nyssa, one of the great Cappadocian Fathers of the Church. St Gregory was a theologian, philosopher, and bishop known for his deep commitment to the Christian faith and his profound writings on the nature of God and the spiritual life. His legacy reminds us of the importance of seeking knowledge, wisdom, and understanding as we grow in our faith.

In line with our school's Christian value of *forgiveness*, St Gregory's teachings remind us to embrace the spirit of reconciliation and love in all that we do. Forgiveness is not only a virtue to be practiced but a gift to be shared, allowing us to heal and strengthen our relationships with one another. Whether in the classroom, on the playground, or in our wider community, we are committed to fostering a culture of kindness and understanding.

As we step into the new term, we encourage our families to join us in living out the value of forgiveness in daily life. Let us strive to emulate the example of Christ, who forgave even in the face of adversity, and St Gregory, who taught us to seek spiritual growth through love and grace.

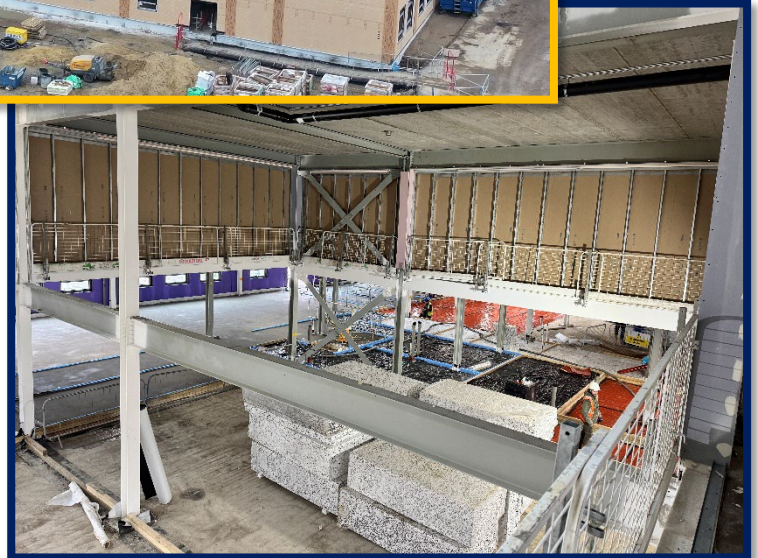
May the light of the Epiphany guide us, and the intercession of St Gregory inspire us as we work together to nurture a faithful and compassionate community.

10 January 2025

## New Building Progress Pictures



We are thrilled to see our new buildings coming to life, transforming the landscape with their modern design and vibrant presence. Watching the construction progress day by day fills us with anticipation for the opportunities and experiences they will bring. As each floor is completed and details are added, we can already envision the bustling activity and energy that will soon fill these spaces. It's a milestone for us, reflecting growth and a bright future ahead.



10 January 2025

## Get to know our St Andrew the Apostle School staff!

Hello, I'm Mrs Ayres, the Head of DT and Art at St Andrew the Apostle School, where I've been working and thoroughly enjoying my time since April 2017.

I pursued Interior Architecture at university with the goal of completing a PGCE to become a DT teacher. My hard work paid off when I earned my degree from Hertfordshire University, securing a spot in the PGCE DT program at Roehampton University. I thoroughly enjoyed my teacher training, gaining experience in wonderful schools in Harrow and Buckinghamshire. I began my teaching career in North Essex, eventually becoming second in the department before relocating to North London. I cannot imagine doing anything other than teaching, as every day brings something new.

In my spare time, I love taking my children on adventures in London and visiting my family in Suffolk, where I grew up and attended school. I enjoy embroidery, If I could host a dinner party with three celebrities, I'd choose Kirsty Allsop, Biggles, and Harry Styles!



Hello, I'm Miss Lilse. Since starting at St Andrew the Apostle School in July I have been welcomed warmly into the school's community. My colleagues, whilst being extremely kind and friendly, have presented themselves as experts in their teaching practice and an asset to St Andrews. The students have conducted themselves with an eagerness to learn and compassion for other students, which is not always seen at other schools. The students carry these virtues outside of school during extracurricular clubs and school trips, which I am grateful to have been a part of. The most significant attribute I have seen across students is their strive to challenge themselves. Whether that be in sporting features, prayer or art competitions and in the classroom, there is an overwhelming sense of persistence and achievement at St Andrews.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first term here and I look forward to another term of challenges and success in Spring.

When I'm not in the classroom, I find myself completely immersed in books. It's my go-to escape when I need to unwind. I also love cooking for others- there is something special about making and sharing a meal with your friends. If I were to host a celebrity dinner party, I'd invite Lana Del Rey, Donna Tartt, and Jim Morrison. Between Lana's beautiful melodies to serenade us, Donna's brilliant storytelling and Jim's electric energy, I think it would be an interesting night.



10 January 2025

## Additional Extra Curricular clubs and Enrichment



### Art & DT

Art and DT club run every Wednesday from 3 to 4 pm, providing a creative space for students to explore various artistic techniques and innovative design projects. It's a perfect opportunity to collaborate with peers, enhance your artistic skills, and express your creativity in a supportive environment.



### Homework Workshop

The homework workshop is available for students every day from 3 to 4pm in the library, offering a quiet and supportive environment to complete. It's a great way to stay on top of schoolwork and seek help when needed.



### Drama Club

The drama club meets will run every Tuesday lunchtime in room DR1, offering a vibrant space for students to explore their theatrical talents. It's an excellent opportunity for students to collaborate, share ideas, and prepare for upcoming performances while enjoying a break from their usual routine.

### Strategy Club

The strategy club runs every Tuesday lunchtime. Students delve into games and activities that challenge their critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Whether engaging in chess matches, board games, or strategic discussions, members enjoy sharpening their minds and learning new tactics. It's a perfect setting for those who love to think ahead and plan meticulously.

## 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 January 2025.**

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

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RUSSELL EDUCATION TRUST



10 January 2025

## 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	29458
2	Dominic	28982
3	Ella	10966
4	Anu	10534
5	Wealth	8935
6	Alaya	8444
7	Moyosoreoluwa	7893
8	Chika	6669
9	Michelle	5704
10	Anaya	5407

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 min 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 2719 hours of careful reading and read altogether 1008 books so far. Truly well done!

### Top 3 Students for each year group:

Rank	Student	Total SRP
Year 7		
1	Teshan	29458
2	Dominic	28982
3	Wealth	8935
Year 8		
1	Ella	10966
2	Anu	10534
3	Anaya	5407
Year 9		
1	Alaya	8444
2	Ilya	6669
3	Niya	5704

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.

**Mrs Bassington | Head of English**

**Prefix of the week**

Arch Greek = ruler / leader



**Monarch**  
(a single ruler)

**Architect**  
(A chief/master builder)



**Archbishop**  
(A leader of the Christian church)

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.



GET IT ON Google Play

Download on the App Store

**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@standrewtheapostle.org.uk](mailto:attendance@standrewtheapostle.org.uk)

**Wake Up Wednesday**

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about **JUSTALK KIDS**

**Barnet Youth**

FREE activities and ideas for ages 0-19

[barnetyouth.uk](http://barnetyouth.uk)

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](#)

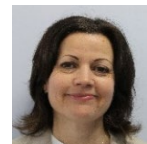


**BELS Advisory Team**  
for Autistic Children and Young People

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