

17 July 2025



# APOSTLE+NEWS

Inspiring Journeys: News from Our Students



17 July 2025

## Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of another busy school year, there is much to reflect on and celebrate. notably, we are moving into our brand-new school building – an exciting milestone that marks a new chapter in our journey.

We cannot wait to welcome students and staff into the new space in September and watch it come to life with the energy that defines our community.

A fuller letter with all the details about the move, the start of term arrangements, and other important information has been sent to all parents. Please take a moment to read through it carefully [here](#).

A reminder that students in Year 7 and Year 12 will return to school on Thursday, 4 September, to allow for a smooth start to their new phases of learning. All other students will return on Friday 5 September.

We want to extend our thanks to the entire staff for the effort they have put into preparing for the move. Packing up a whole school is no small task, and it has been done with efficiency, humour and teamwork.

This term also saw a fantastic Culture Day organised by our students. It was a joyful celebration of the many backgrounds that make up our community, all united through the clear expression of our Christian value of Respect. Thank you to all the students who planned, participated, and supported this event. It was another highlight of the term.

We also want to express our gratitude to Father Damian for leading our end-of-term church services and to all the students who read so clearly and confidently. The service was a meaningful way to end the year, offering us all a moment to reflect and give thanks.

As we close the doors on this term, we look ahead with excitement to the new opportunities awaiting us in September. But first, we hope that all students, staff, and families enjoy a restful and refreshing summer break. You have earned it.

Thank you once again to everyone who has contributed to making this year a success. We look forward to welcoming you back in the autumn and starting the next chapter in our wonderful new home.

**Christopher Martin | Headteacher**



## Faith

In our **Greek Orthodox** school, faith and values are at the heart of everything we do—and this term offers inspiring examples of both.

Our new school building, soon to be our daily spiritual and educational home, reminds us of our **responsibility**: to care for the spaces in which we learn and worship, and to honour them with our conduct, learning, and compassion.

On the subject of names and tradition, the name **Marina** holds a beautiful significance. As noted in the Wikipedia entry, *Marina* is a feminine given name from Latin, linked to *marinus*, meaning “of the sea”; it also has associations with early Christian saints, including Saint Marina ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org)). In our community, names drawn from Greek and early Christian heritage reinforce our spiritual roots. Whether or not we have students or staff named Marina, the name evokes the sea’s depth and steadfastness—and it suggests constancy, as does our calling to live faithfully.

That calling is reflected in our value of **Responsibility**. As we prepare to inhabit our new building, let us embrace our responsibility in tangible ways: keeping worship areas reverent, classrooms cared for, and every corner reflecting the dignity of our school. Responsibility also speaks to how we care for one another—through kindness, consideration, and service.

Let us pray that this fresh chapter in our new building will deepen our spiritual life, foster strong bonds, and encourage us to carry our faith into all our actions. Just as the sea (marina) is constant, may our commitment to faith and responsibility remain unwavering.

## Upcoming Key Dates and Information

- Monday 1 September – INSET Day
- Tuesday 2 September – INSET Day
- Wednesday 3 September – INSET Day
- Thursday 4 September – Year 7 at 8.20am to 1.20pm  
Year 12 at 9.00am to 11.30am
- Friday 5 September – All year groups staggered start (Please refer to end of year letter.)
- Click [here](#) to access **Term Dates**

## COUNTDOWN

DAYS

45

COMING

SOON

OUR NEW HOME



17 July 2025



## STA staff bid farewell to their home

After 12 memorable years, the staff of St Andrew the Apostle bid a heartfelt farewell to the place they've called home. As they pack up their classrooms and offices, they carry with them countless cherished memories and a deep sense of gratitude. With excitement and anticipation, they now look ahead to a new chapter—filled with fresh opportunities, growth, and continued dedication to their students.









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## Year 9 & 10 Culture Day 2025: A Celebration of Unity and Diversity

On Tuesday 15 July 2025, our Year 9 and Year 10 students came together to celebrate Culture Day—a special event dedicated to honouring the rich tapestry of cultures that make up our school community.

Throughout the day, students explored traditions from around the world. They learned about different countries, sampled traditional dishes, and showcased cultural dress. One of the highlights was learning basic words and phrases in a variety of community languages, helping us appreciate the beauty and diversity of communication across cultures. Another highlight was watching students learn and perform cultural dances, taught by our Year 11 alumni students Mary, Ermis and Mryonas.

The day was more than just fun and food—it was a meaningful opportunity to reflect on the values that define our school: respect, caring, honesty, forgiveness, fairness and responsibility. By learning about each other’s backgrounds and traditions, we strengthened our sense of community and deepened our understanding of both our differences and our shared humanity.

As part of the celebration, we revisited a heartfelt prayer written by students in 2024, which continues to resonate with the aim of Culture Day:

### Culture Day Prayer

*Dear Lord,*

*We come before you, seeking unity and harmony within our school. In a world too often divided, we pray that our school may be a place where diversity is celebrated, and differences are bridged with understanding and compassion.*

*Guide our teachers, our students, and our community in fostering an environment of love, acceptance, and mutual respect founded on our understanding that we are all made in Your image.*

*Glory to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit both now and forever until the ages of ages,  
Amen*

Culture Day 2025 was a powerful reminder that when we come together with open hearts and minds, we create a school environment where everyone feels seen, valued, and respected.

**Ms Walt | Assistant Headteacher**





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We would like to say a massive well done to our school band for participating in the Barnet Schools Music Festival and a heartfelt thank you to Mr Lasithiotakis for all his dedication and hard work for this amazing event. Please read letter below received from the director of Learning and Participation of BEAT.



Dear Mr Martin

I am writing to congratulate you on your school's contribution to the Barnet Schools Music Festivals 2025, and to thank you for your support.

This year's festivals at artsdepot involved nearly 1,500 students and over 50 schools from all over Barnet. This is testament to school leadership teams and their vision and commitment to the arts. Thank you for being willing to work in collaboration with us; we would not be able to do what we do without so many supportive partners across the borough. It is important to us to include secondary performers in these events. The majority of students taking part are in Years 5 and 6; it is really very inspiring for them and their families to see older performers and where their musical journey has taken them. At the same time, we want to give a great performing opportunity to secondary school soloists and groups.

The artsdepot is a professional venue, and there is no audience quite as appreciative as 200+ cheering primary children!

Your band, comprising all of your Year 10 students studying for Music GCSE, did a terrific job on the day. They were a credit to you in both their rehearsal and performance, and their rendition of *Don't Stop Believin'* was a real crowd pleaser. Please convey my thanks and congratulations to Kostas Lasithiotakis and to any other colleagues who prepared the students and took the time to manage the numerous practical considerations which go along with making a performance like this happen.

It was a great pleasure for me to work with your delightful students. I do hope that they had a good experience at the festival and I look forward to your involvement in future BEAT events.

With thanks and best wishes,

**Ros Savournin**

**Director of Learning and Participation, Barnet Education Arts Trust**

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## Year 9 Trip to Whipsnade Zoo

As the academic year drew to a close, our Year 9 students enjoyed an enriching day at Whipsnade Zoo for their end-of-year trip. The visit offered an opportunity to explore one of the UK's leading conservation parks, where students observed a wide range of endangered species and learned about global biodiversity efforts.

## Miss Msrar | Head of Science



## Alice is the London Champion!

Alice took the London Championship by storm, bringing home 4 gold medals and the title of London Champion!

Her dedication, talent, and unstoppable drive made this an unforgettable performance.

This remarkable achievement marks a major milestone in her journey and sets the stage for even greater successes ahead. Congratulations, Alice!

## Summer work for students

As we conclude another school year, we would like to wish you all a summer holiday full of peace and renewal. We hope the warmth of the season will bring joy to your hearts and homes and we wish you and your families a restful and blessed holiday.

We are also aware that six weeks out of school is a long time, and there is lots of opportunity to continue learning. We have set summer work on Bromcom for our students to complete during the holiday. For years 9,10 and 12 we encourage students to complete as much as possible, in preparation for the challenges of GCSE and A-level. For y7 and y8 this work is optional, however it can make a big difference, especially for children who are not yet on track to achieve their target stage in one or more subjects. We encourage all students to read for pleasure and to complete their Sparx reader homework, as reading and literacy are truly the bedrock of all of our learning in school, and we this is something we can all, always improve.

## Curriculum 2025-6

For those who are wondering what they will be learning next year, please remember that our curriculum is planned and ready for you to survey on our school website. The summer holiday is a great time to get ready, perhaps by visiting museums and cultural events which relate to future learning. This can be a fun way to prepare while enjoying family time together.

## Reports

We have shared with you regular updates about your child's progress in on track reviews, written reports and end of year assessment reports. Please use the survey link in the letter which accompanies the reports to let us know what you think. We are always interested in your feedback.



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## Free Creative Media Sessions at Sky Up Academy Studios Elstree for Young People – Book Now for School Holidays

We’re excited to share a brilliant opportunity for the young people you support to take part in Sky Up Academy Studios Elstree – a free, immersive media experience available during the school holidays. This hands-on session is designed to raise aspirations, build key skills, and introduce young people aged 10–19 to exciting careers in the creative industries. Through teamwork and storytelling, participants take on real-world media roles in a state-of-the-art XR studio to create their very own film pitch.

During their visit, young people will:

- Take on the roles of director, producer, and editor to create a short film pitch
  - Use industry-standard technology in a cutting-edge XR studio
- Tour the iconic Sky Studios Elstree and see behind the scenes of film and TV production
- Build confidence, communication, and digital skills in a creative, supportive environment

We’re especially passionate about diversifying the media industry and believe all young people should have the opportunity to see themselves reflected within it. This experience aims to inspire those who might not usually consider careers in media – and show them what’s possible.

We know every group is different, so we’re happy to adapt session timings and content to meet the needs of your young people. Whether that means adjusting the start time, tailoring the focus of the session, or accommodating specific access needs – just let us know, and we’ll make it work.

Sessions are available Monday–Friday, with standard time slots at 09:30–12:30 and 13:30–16:30, for groups of up to 36 young people.

🔗 Learn more: [www.skyup.sky/academy-studios/elstree](http://www.skyup.sky/academy-studios/elstree)

✉ To enquire or book, contact: [skyupacademystudioselstree@sky.uk](mailto:skyupacademystudioselstree@sky.uk)

**We’d love to welcome your group and help inspire the next generation of creative talent.**

## Join the BEAT Youth Orchestra This Summer!

We’re excited to share an incredible opportunity for our young musicians here at St Andrew the Apostle School. BEAT (Barnet Education Arts Trust) is offering a **FREE 3-day Youth Orchestra course** from **Tuesday 26 to Thursday 28 August 2025**, held at the artsdepot in North Finchley.

This immersive musical experience is **open to students in Year 7 and above** who are working at **Grade 5 or higher** on their instrument.

The course is packed with exciting features including:

- A strong focus on **ensemble skills**
- Exposure to a **diverse repertoire**
- Expert coaching** from experienced musicians
- Full orchestra (**tutti**) and sectional rehearsals
- A **professional-level performance** to showcase your work

While the course itself is free, there is a **£20 registration fee** to secure your place.

📍 **Location:** Arts depot, Nether Street, London N12 0GA

🕒 **Dates:** Tuesday 26th – Thursday 28th August 2025

If you're interested, simply scan the QR code on the flyer or visit [www.beattrust.org.uk](http://www.beattrust.org.uk) for more information and to sign up.

Let’s get involved and represent St Andrew the Apostle School with musical pride!

**Mr Lasithiotakis | Lead teacher of Music**

**BEAT** Live Music Make Music

### YOUTH ORCHESTRA 3-DAY COURSE 2025

Free Course!  
£20 Registration fee

- Ensemble skill focused
- Diverse Repertoire
- Expert coaching
- Tutti & Sectionals
- Professional Performance

**SIGN UP HERE!**

**Tuesday 26th - Thursday 28th August 2025**

**artsdepot, Nether Street, London N12 0GA**

**Year 7+ Grade 5+**

**£20 Registration fee**

**www.beattrust.org.uk**



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**Barnet Youth**  
Spring 2025

Free Spring Camps and Activities

Free trips to Laser Quest, Trip Out and Theatre

Fun Days  
Science Shows, Magic Shows and Nerf battles

Volunteering  
Could you be a Holiday Activity Volunteer?

barnetyouth.uk

Caring for people, our places and the planet

**OMONIA YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB**  
1994  
10th YEAR ANNIVERSARY 1994-2024

**PLAYERS WANTED**

Omonia Youth FC are looking for players to join their various teams for the 2025/2026 season

*(Note: Age groups stated below are for this season)*

Development Team: U6 & U7      Pan-Disability: U12

Boys Teams: U8, U9, U11, U14(+GK)      Girls Teams: U10, U14, U18

Contact: queries@omoniayouthfc.com

omoniayouthfc.com @omoniayouthfc @omoniayouth1994

**OPEN EVENING**  
TUESDAY 7 OCTOBER 2025  
5.30PM TO 7.30PM

**STA**  
ST ANDREW THE APOSTLE

REGISTER NOW

www.standrewtheapostle.org.uk

resources for autism

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

Studybugs

## Free SEND Independent Travel Training session

Tuesday 19 August 2025 10.15am – 11.50am OR 12.15pm – 1.50pm

Parents and carers, we would love to welcome you and your child(ren) to our fun and friendly summer travel training session taking place in Edgware on a private travelling bus!



Able to Travel



## Work Experience with the NHS

Following a high demand for the previous NHS work experience, there is now an online platform where students can gain further insight into the careers in healthcare.

If you're a student and you want to know how the NHS works why not join our free online programme to learn about clinical and nonclinical roles as well as clinical topics. [Click here for more info](#)

Get exclusive access to e-learning modules about how the NHS works and the different roles. You can complete it in your own time and receive a certificate!

[Sign up here](#)

Miss Walt | Assistant Headteacher

Suitable for anyone with SEND, or those who may be particularly vulnerable or anxious whilst travelling on public transport, are independent or working towards independent travel and are aged 10 – 100.

Please contact [road.safety@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:road.safety@barnet.gov.uk) for more information and a booking form.

**BARNET EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY CONFERENCE**

Key Note Speaker  
Carrie Grant

Featuring a host of workshops delivered by our brilliant EPs, a Q&A panel with Carrie Grant and Education and Mental Health colleagues within Barnet

BELS

**GROW Summer Holiday Club**

FREE at the GROW Farm!

For free school meal & looked-after children:

28th - 31st July: 8-10 year olds  
4th - 7th August: 11-13 year olds

10am-2:30pm Daily

Farm activities & Games  
Harvesting & Cooking  
Chicken care  
GROW Licenses  
Arts & Crafts  
And more!

CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP

www.westogrow.org / @westogrow  
The GROW Farm, The Tutorship Academy, Barnet Lane, N20 8AZ

## Designated Safeguarding Leads

Click for more information



Miss Walt



Mrs Viala



Mrs Poole

**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](#)



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