



# St Andrew The Apostle School Newsletter 12.09.25





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***Dear Parents and Carers,***

*It is with great pride that I write to you from our brand-new building! After months of careful planning and hard work by so many people, we are finally here — and what a start it has been! As one of our Year 10 students put it, quite perfectly: “I can't lie... this is amazing.” The atmosphere throughout the school this week has been one of purpose mixed with gratitude.*

*Our students have used our new All Weather pitch with great excitement for the first time this week and the ability to provide this opportunity to students is fantastic. Next week, our 300-seat auditorium will be used as we mark The Exaltation of the Holy Cross, and Father Gregory will be leading this service for students in school. Following this, he will be sanctifying the school, and we thank him for offering our students the opportunity to participate in this event.*

*Looking ahead, we are thrilled to welcome our Year 7 parents to the new building next Thursday for their Settling In Evening. This will be a wonderful opportunity for families to see where their children have begun their secondary journey and to meet the staff guiding them along the way.*

*I am equally pleased that our Key Stage 4 and Year 12 parents will soon have their own Settling In Evenings later this term, ensuring that all parents know how to support their*

*child best at home and what they will need to do to maximise the chances of success in public exams this year.*

*Shortly, we will invite all families to a tour of the new school building, guided by your own child. We know how proud they will be to show you around — and we very much look forward to welcoming you in.*

*As we settle into this exciting new chapter, we remain grounded in the values of our faith. It is fitting, then, that we take a moment to send our warmest wishes to His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas as he celebrates his Name Day this coming Monday. We pray for his continued health, wisdom and leadership, which mean so much to us all.*

*I want to thank parents and students for working with the school on the new mobile phone procedure, which has been working exceptionally well. I have noticed that students are leaving the gate at the end of the day and are speaking to and laughing with their friends more. It's joyful when we see students enjoying their childhood.*

*Thank you, as always, for your continued support and trust in our school. We look forward to sharing many more milestones in the year ahead.*

**Christopher Martin | Headteacher**

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## **Faith**

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*As we settle into our beautiful new school building, it is the perfect time to reflect on our core Christian value of **responsibility**. With the gift of a new environment comes the responsibility to care for it, respect it, and use it wisely — not only for ourselves but for those who will come after us. Our students are being reminded daily that how they treat this space is a reflection of their character and their faith. In our Orthodox tradition, responsibility is not just about rules; it's about love in action. When we take care of the blessings given to us — whether a person, a place, or an opportunity — we honour God and live out the calling to be good stewards of His creation. This building is more than bricks and mortar. It is a sacred space for learning, for prayer, and for community. Each of us, staff and students alike, has a role to play in maintaining that spirit. This week also offers us a chance to celebrate a very special occasion: the Name Day of His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas. The name Nikitas comes from the Greek word nikē (νίκη), meaning “victory.” Saint Nikitas was a courageous Christian martyr who stood firm in his faith, showing strength, integrity, and deep commitment to Christ — values we hope to inspire in our students every day. As we wish His Eminence many*

*years and offer our prayers for his continued ministry, we are reminded that bearing responsibility with grace and faithfulness is itself a kind of victory — one we can all strive for as we begin this exciting new chapter together.*

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## STA students settling into their brand-new home



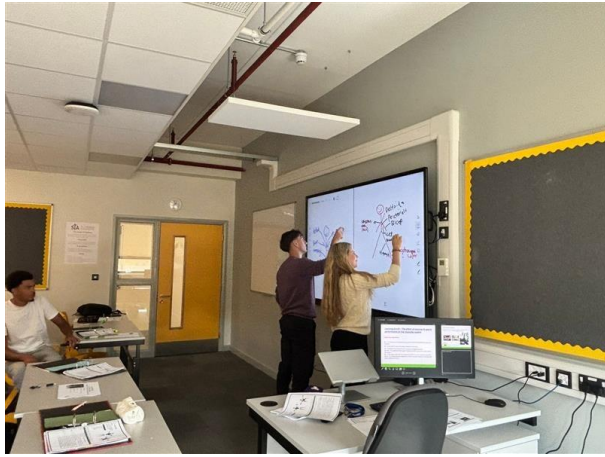
*The students are settling in incredibly well and have quickly embraced the new building with enthusiasm and curiosity. From the moment they walked through the doors, there's been a*

*noticeable uplift in energy and engagement. The bright, spacious classrooms and thoughtfully designed communal areas have created an environment that feels both inspiring and welcoming. Many students have expressed how much they enjoy the modern facilities, with some saying it's already made a positive difference to their learning experience. Whether it's gathering in the social spaces, exploring new resources, or simply appreciating the fresh surroundings, it's clear that the building is fostering a strong sense of pride and belonging.*

*Staff have also noted how smoothly the transition has gone, with students adapting confidently and making the most of everything the new space has to offer.*

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**Exciting New Chapter Begins with State-of-the-Art Facilities!**



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*The PE team are thrilled to announce that we've officially moved into our brand-new, purpose-built facilities—marking a bold step forward in our commitment to excellence across sport. The new build features a brand-new Sports Hall, a roof-top MUGA, dance studio and, most excitingly, our All-Weather Pitch, which promises to be a game-changer for sports at every level.*

*To celebrate the opening, leaders of our sports teams—past and present—gathered to cut the ribbon and unveil the pitch. Their pride and enthusiasm were palpable, as they reflected on the legacy of teamwork and achievement that has shaped our school's sporting spirit.*

*Among them was Eve, our inspirational girls' football captain, who led her team to victory in the Borough Cup during the 2024/25 season. Eve shared her excitement with our new Year 7 students, encouraging them to embrace the opportunities ahead and make the most of the incredible new facilities. Her words were a powerful reminder of how far we've come—and how much further we can go.*

*As we settle into this new chapter, we remain hopeful that our recent successes will continue to grow. With the energy of our students, we're confident that the future holds even greater achievements.*

*A quick reminder to all students: football training for all year groups kicks off this Monday at 3.00pm. Whether you're a seasoned player or just starting out, we can't wait to see you on the pitch.*

*Here's to new beginnings, continued success, and a school community that keeps flourishing—on and off the field.*

**Mr Browell | ELT & Head of PE**

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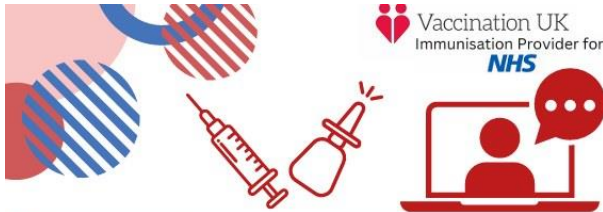



# TERM 1 EXTRA-CURRICULAR SPORTS CLUBS SCHEDULE 2025

<i>MONDAY</i>	<b>ALL YEARS BOYS AND GIRLS FOOTBALL</b> VENUE: ALL WEATHER PITCH/PLAYGROUND/SPORTS HALL <small>*PLEASE BRING FOOTBALL BOOTS AND TRAINERS</small>	3.00PM TO 4.00PM
<i>WEDNESDAY</i>	<b>ALL YEARS NETBALL</b> VENUE: PLAYGROUND/SPORTS HALL	3.00PM TO 4.00PM
<i>THURSDAY</i>	<b>ALL YEARS BOYS AND GIRLS BASKETBALL</b> VENUE: PLAYGROUND/SPORTS HALL	3.00PM TO 4.00PM

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. IF UNABLE TO SIGN-UP USING THE STUDENT PORTAL APP, PLEASE SPEAK WITH A MEMBER OF THE PE STAFF.

## Resources and Information














### FREE PARENT WEBINAR: THE FLU VACCINE IN CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Join us for a presentation discussing the flu vaccine in children and young people.

Topics covered:

- ✓ Why does my child need the vaccine
- 💡 Side-effects and safety
- 👃 Nasal vs injection (pork gelatine content)
- 📊 Flu data from previous years
- 🗣️ Q&A session



 <b>Wednesday 17th Sept</b>	 <b>Thursday 18th Sept</b>
 8:00 - 9:00pm	 6:00 - 7:00pm
 <a href="#">Click here to join</a>	 <a href="#">Click here to join</a>
 363 003 291 454	 310 543 675 2095
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1 - [Join conversation](#)



2 - <https://www.resourcesforautism.org.uk/barnet-cf-autism-hub/>



## SEND Basketball Sessions

### For Information

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*The Basketball Bulldog Club is providing a number of inclusive SEND basketball sessions. Please see the poster and the below link for participants to register.*

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- <https://barnetyouth.uk/event/Special-Educational-Needs-and-Disabilities-Basketball-Session/6548>
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*The sessions take place every Thursday, 5.00pm to 6.00pm at Copthall Leisure Centre.*

*Please share this with your families and pupils.*

***Annalisa Cellini***

***Fit & Active Barnet Development Officer Greenspaces & Leisure***

*Communities, Adults and Health*

*London Borough of Barnet*

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**NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!**

**BARNET BULLDOGS BASKETBALL CLUB**

EVERY TUESDAY  
5PM - 6PM

AGES 11-19

BARNET COPTHALL  
LEISURE CENTRE,  
NW4 1PX

# SEND BASKETBALL SESSION

Join us for our inclusive  
SEND Basketball Sessions

**FREE**

For more information, contact us at:  
[info@bulldogsbasketball.club](mailto:info@bulldogsbasketball.club)

**SPORT ENGLAND**



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

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*BACPAC: Barnet Autism Course for Parents And Carers. An Online Parent/Carer Training Course Autumn Term 2025*

*A comprehensive training and support programme for parents/carers of children aged 6-19, with a diagnosis of Autism. This course is available free of charge to families living in Barnet.*

*A 6-session online training course, covering topics including:*

- *An overview of what it means for your child to be Autistic.*
- *Communication.*
- *Sensory needs.*
- *Understanding emotional regulation/'behaviour'.*

*This course also gives parents/carers an opportunity to learn together and share experiences online. Please only sign up for one of these courses and please do not sign up if you have already attended this course, or the Cygnets Course.*

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**BACPAC: Barnet Autism Course for Parents and Carers.  
Autumn Term 2025 One, A 6-session morning course.**

**Dates and times:**  
Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 10-11.30am  
Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September 10-11.30am  
Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 10-11.30am  
Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September 10-11.30am  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October 10-11.30am  
Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October 10-11.30am  
Sign up here: [BACPAC Autumn 2025 One](#)

3 - [BACPAC: Barnet Autism Course for Parents And Carers, Sept. & Oct. 2025. Sign-up form.](#)

**BACPAC: Barnet Autism Course for Parents and Carers.  
Autumn Term 2025 Two, A 6-session evening course.**

**Dates and times:**  
Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 6-7.30pm  
Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November 6-7.30pm  
Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November 6-7.30pm  
Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November 6-7.30pm  
Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December 6-7.30pm  
Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December 6-7.30pm  
Sign up here: [BACPAC Autumn 2025 Two](#)

4 - [BACPAC: Barnet Autism Course for Parents And Carers, Nov. & Dec. 2025. Sign-up form.](#)

Save the Date – Barnet SENDIASS Information Session

**Barnet SENDIASS Virtual Information Session - The EHCP  
Annual Review Process**

**For Information**

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*We are pleased to announce, Barnet SENDIASS will be holding a virtual information session for Barnet resident parents/carers of children and young people with special educational needs or disability:*

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- *Date: Wednesday 05 November 2025*
  - *Time: 10.00am to 12.00pm*
  - *Location: Online via MS Teams*
  - *Theme: The EHCP Annual Review Process*
  - *Presenters: Barnet Sendiass*
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*Registration details will be available soon.*

*Please share with families you work with that you feel would benefit.*

*If you have any questions, please contact: [sendiass@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:sendiass@barnet.gov.uk)*

***Ablavi Dagbo***

***Manager, Barnet SEND Information Advice & Support Service Caseworker***

***Family Services***

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## **Safeguarding at STA**

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*At St Andrew the Apostle School we take safeguarding and child protection issues very seriously.*

*We believe that all those who come into contact with children and families in their everyday work have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.*

*Prior to employment all staff (paid or voluntary) are checked.*

*The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) for Child Protection is Ms Walt.*

*The deputy designated safeguarding lead's (DDSLs) for Child Protection are Mr Martin and Ms Bicarregui.*

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