



St Andrew The Apostle School
Newsletter 05.12.25





Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of the School,

Following on from our recent Special Edition Newsletter celebrating the Grand Opening of our new school building, we are delighted to share more highlights from what has been another busy week at St Andrew the Apostle School.

Our students have shown tremendous resilience and enthusiasm in the five sporting fixtures we have taken part in this week. Despite the cold and wet weather, they have braved the elements with determination and represented the school with pride. Their commitment to sport reflects the values we hold dear, and we are so pleased with the way they continue to challenge themselves and support one another.

Alongside sporting success, this week also marked the completion of Mock 1 examinations for our Year 11 and Year 13 students. The final assessments concluded with the French speaking exams on Tuesday, bringing to a close an important period of preparation. We are grateful to our teachers, who are now working hard to mark and moderate papers to ensure that students receive accurate and constructive feedback.

This feedback will be shared before the Christmas holidays, giving students the opportunity to revise effectively and build confidence ahead of the spring term. Results will be released on 11 December, providing feedback for both students and parents as we look ahead to the

Year 11 Parents' Evening on 8 January 2026. We ask families to continue supporting students as they work diligently over the break, balancing rest with revision.

As we move into December, the festive spirit is already alive in school. The Christmas tree in reception looks wonderful and has brought a cheerful atmosphere to the building. We are looking forward to a series of seasonal events that will bring our community together. On 8 December 2025, students will enjoy a trip to see A Christmas Carol, a perfect way to connect literature with the joy of the season.

On 12 December 2025, our Christmas Show will showcase the talents of our students in music, drama, and performance, promising to be a highlight of the term. I want to thank Friends of St Andrew (FOSA) for being part of this event. They will be raising money for the school at the service by selling tea, coffee and refreshments.

In the final week, we will gather for our Christmas Service, a moment of reflection and celebration, accompanied by our ever-popular Christmas Jumper Day, which always raises smiles and spreads festive cheer.

Our school is proud to support the St Demetrios Food Bank with a collection of dry goods from Wednesday 3 December to Friday 12 December 2025. Donations of non-perishable items such as pasta, rice, cereals, tinned goods, biscuits, tea and coffee can be handed to our main office. If you are attending the Christmas service on 12 December 2025, please bring a donation.

Led by the Sixth Form and Student Council, this initiative reflects our commitment to community service and offers students the chance to make a real difference to families in need this winter. Thank you for your generosity in helping us care for our local community.

This term has been one of milestones and achievements, from the Grand Opening of our new home to the dedication shown in exams and fixtures.

As we look forward to the Christmas holidays, we are proud of the way our students embody the school's ethos of ambition, caring, and respect.

As we approach Christmas, I would like to share with families my Christmas reading list, which you will find further down in the newsletter. I'm delighted to share a selection of books that I have read this year that I have found either gripping, thoughtful or both. If you're unsure of any stocking fillers for family or friends, I would recommend these.

Thank you to all parents and families for your continued support.

Faith in Action

In the second week of December, our faith reminds us of the importance of living our school motto, Ever to Excel, by striving not only for academic success but also for spiritual growth and kindness.

During this week, the Greek Orthodox tradition celebrates several important name days, which are occasions of joy and reflection for many families. Among them are the feast days of St Spyridon (12 December), a beloved saint known for his humility and miracles, and St Eleutherios (15 December), remembered for his courage and steadfastness in faith. These commemorations are not just cultural markers; they are opportunities to pause and consider the values these saints embodied — humility, service, and perseverance.

For our school community, these values resonate deeply. St Spyridon's life reminds us that true excellence is not measured by wealth or status, but by compassion and faithfulness. St Eleutherios's courage encourages us to stand firm in our beliefs and to support one another, even when challenges arise. In both examples, we see how faith calls us to excel in character as much as in achievement.

As we approach Christmas, the season of hope and renewal, we are invited to reflect on how we can live out Ever to Excel in our daily lives. Whether through acts of kindness, dedication to study, or service to others, we are reminded that excellence is a journey of both heart and mind. Just as name days in Greece bring families together in celebration, our shared faith and school community unite us in purpose.

May this second week of December inspire us all to embrace the spirit of excellence, guided by faith, and to continue building a school culture where kindness and ambition flourish side by side.



Debate Club

Our Debate Club continues to go from strength to strength this year, offering students a vibrant and intellectually stimulating space to explore challenging ideas, sharpen their critical thinking, and develop confident public-speaking skills. Meeting every Wednesday lunchtime, the club has become a highlight of the week for many pupils who enjoy testing their arguments and broadening their understanding of the world.

*This week's motion was "This House believes that inheritance tax is bad for Britain." It proved to be one of our most engaging discussions yet. **Carlo (Year 11)** proposed the motion, arguing that inheritance tax discourages hard work, places an unfair burden on families, and fails to raise revenue effectively. Opposing him, **Njivwa (Year 10)** delivered a thoughtful and well-structured argument, emphasising the importance of fairness, wealth redistribution, and the role inheritance tax can play in reducing long-term inequality. Both speakers rose to the occasion, demonstrating impressive preparation, confidence and analytical skill. The debate prompted enthusiastic contributions from the wider group, reflecting the club's supportive but intellectually robust atmosphere.*

*This term, students have tackled a wide range of demanding and socially relevant topics, including **the death penalty, socialism vs capitalism, and the benefits and problems of modern technology**. These debates have encouraged pupils to consider different perspectives, build persuasive arguments, and respond carefully to opposing viewpoints — all essential skills not just for academic success, but for thoughtful citizenship beyond school.*

The Debate Club is proud to be an enriching part of our school community. All students from Year 10-13 are welcome and are warmly encouraged to attend, whether they wish to speak, support their friends, or simply listen and absorb ideas. We also value the work that Dr Beadle is doing with the Key Stage 3 debate club, ensuring we will create a legacy of talented debaters. We look forward to many more lively and thought-provoking debates in the weeks ahead!





Music: Learn an Instrument or Join a Band – Sign Up Now

We are delighted to share that instrumental tuition and our Music Academy opportunities are open for applications through BEAT (Barnet Education Arts Trust). Learning an instrument or joining a band is a fantastic way for students to build confidence, creativity, and teamwork skills, while enjoying the fun of making music together.

For new parents:

You can register for lessons via the BEAT website: <https://beatrust.org.uk/learn-to-play/school-based-tuition/>. Once registered, students will be placed on a waiting list, and places will be offered as vacancies arise, usually at the start of each term.

For existing parents:

You do not need to re-enrol. BEAT will contact you directly with payment details for the new term.

Spaces are limited and allocated on a first-come basis, so we encourage parents to register early to avoid disappointment.

Music at our school continues to thrive, and we look forward to welcoming even more young musicians into lessons and ensembles this year.

A reminder for all students:

Choir takes place every Monday lunchtime. Year 9 bands rehearse on Wednesday and Thursday lunchtimes, and the Year 11 band rehearses on Thursday lunchtime. Any student can sign up and I am so happy that so many students have been attending.

Mr Lasithiotakis | Lead Teacher of Music

BEAT BRITAIN'S EDUCATION TRUST Live Music
Make Music

GUITAR ENSEMBLE CHOIRS TRAINING STRINGS ACADEMY BAND ROCK & POP

AGES 3 TO 21 YRS OLD!



BEAT MUSIC ACADEMIES

"Excellent teaching that is affordable, accessible, and supportive. I appreciate the encouragement and relaxed approach. The kids love coming here" - Parent Survey 2024

Previous Performances:

- ▶ Royal Albert Hall
- ▶ St John's Smith Square
- ▶ artsdepot
- ▶ European Tours
- ▶ Duke's Hall
- ▶ StoneX Stadium

Scan here to find out more:



FOUNDATION STAGES JAZZ ENSEMBLE MUSIC THEORY RECORDER GROUPS

Supported using public funding by CHARITY NO. 1150174 COMPANY NO. 8310735 MORE INFORMATION:

  **ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND** WWW.BEATRUST.ORG.UK

BEAT BRITAIN'S EDUCATION TRUST Live Music
Make Music

GUITAR ENSEMBLE CHOIRS TRAINING STRINGS ACADEMY BAND ROCK & POP

AVAILABLE SESSIONS

- Foundation Stages
- Training Bands/Strings
- Rock & Pop
- Training Choirs
- Academy Bands/Strings
- Music Theory
- Recorder Groups
- Academy Choirs
- Tabla Classes
- Starter Bands
- Guitar Ensembles
- Jazz Ensemble

BARNET YOUTH STRING ORCHESTRA

ONE VOICE CHOIRS


BARNET YOUTH WIND ENSEMBLE


BARNET YOUTH BRASS BAND

BEAT MUSIC ACADEMY EAST

Saturday Mornings

East Barnet School, 5 Chestnut Grove, East Barnet
EN4 8PU



 **BEAT MUSIC ACADEMY CENTRAL**


Wednesdays & Thursdays After-School

Dollis Primary School, Pursley Rd, London NW7 2BU

BEAT MUSIC ACADEMY WEST



Saturday Mornings

St Mary's and St John's School, Sunningfield Road, Hendon,
NW4 4QR



FOUNDATION STAGES JAZZ ENSEMBLE MUSIC THEORY RECORDER GROUPS

Supported using public funding by CHARITY NO. 1150174 COMPANY NO. 8310735 MORE INFORMATION:

  **ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND** WWW.BEATRUST.ORG.UK

BEAT Live Music Make Music

Voice Trumpet Horn Cello Viola Piano Clarinet Double Bass Oboe

INSTRUMENTAL & VOCAL LESSONS

AGES 7 TO 21 YRS OLD!

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!

- Lessons available in schools
- All teachers DBS checked
- All levels welcome from beginner to advanced
- Almost every instrument available
- Individual or small group tuition
- Lessons after-school & on weekends at BEAT Music Academies

Scan here to find out more:

Trombone Tuba Bassoon Violin Guitar Flute Drums Saxophone

Supported using public funding by CHARITY NO. 1150174 COMPANY NO. 8310735 FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO ENROL: WWW.BEATRUST.ORG.UK

Department for Education ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Food Bank Collection – Supporting St Demetrios Food Bank

We are proud to announce that our school will be supporting the St Demetrios Food Bank through a dedicated collection running from Wednesday 3 December to Friday 12 December 2025. This initiative reflects our commitment to community service and provides students with the opportunity to make a meaningful difference to families in need during the winter season.

We are asking for donations of dry goods, which are essential for food banks to provide long-lasting and versatile support. Examples include pasta, rice, cereals, tinned goods, biscuits, tea, coffee, and other non-perishable items. Every contribution, no matter how small, will help ensure that local families have access to nutritious meals.

To make the process simple and inclusive, donations should be handed directly to our Sixth Form students in the Sixth Form area. Our Sixth Formers and Student Council members are leading this initiative with enthusiasm and responsibility, acting as ambassadors for kindness and community spirit. They will collect, organise, and prepare the donations for delivery to Saint Demetrios Food Bank.

We encourage all families to participate in this important cause. Thank you in advance for your generosity and for helping us extend care and support to those who need it most.

Mr Browell | Extended Leadership Team

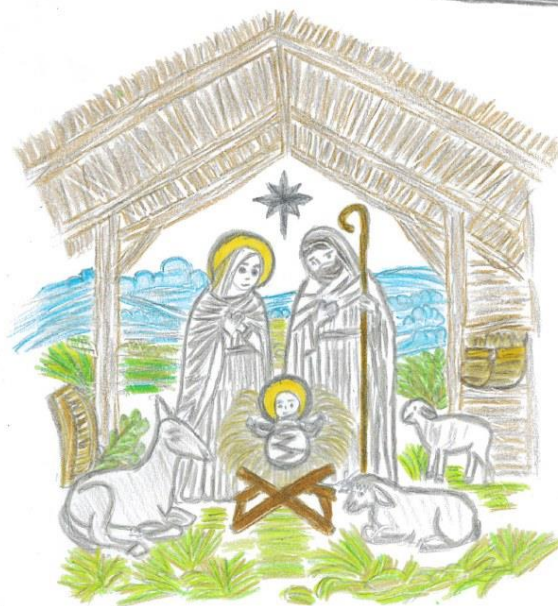
Christmas Card Competition Winners



1 - 1st Place Winner



2 - 2nd Place Winner



3 - 3rd Place Winner

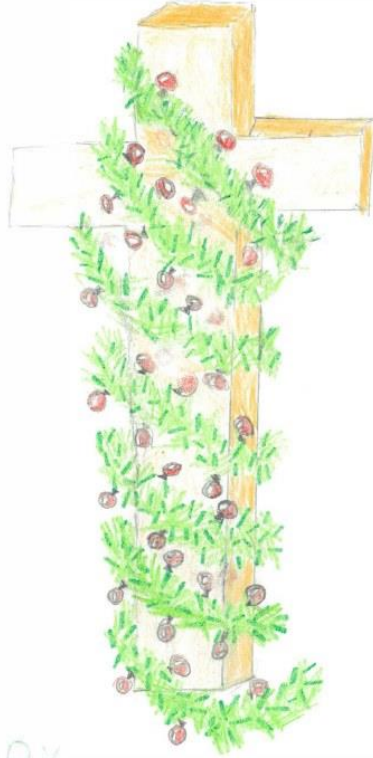
Other amazing card entries:

STA

ST ANDREW
THE APOSTLE



St Andrew
the Apostle



MERRY
CHRISTMAS!





RESPECT CARING RESPONSIBILITY UNITY



FORGIVENESS FAIRNESS TRUSTWORTHINESS



STA

ST ANDREW
THE APOSTLE



Celebrate Christmas with us.



STA ST ANDREW
THE APOSTLE

Christmas Show

“Peace is for life, not just for Christmas”

A night of Faith, Prayers, Music and
Drama.

Friday 12 December at 6.00pm

St Andrew the Apostle School,
Brunswick Park Road, Barnet, N11 1EH

Sign up details to follow.

The poster features a dark blue background with a white silhouette of the Nativity scene at the bottom. The scene includes an angel on the left, Mary and Joseph with the infant Jesus in a manger, a shepherd with a staff and sheep, and a bright star in the sky. The text is centered and uses a mix of white and gold colors.

Christmas show 2025

Christmas Show



Friends of St Andrew the Apostle will be present at the **Christmas Show** on the **12th December**.

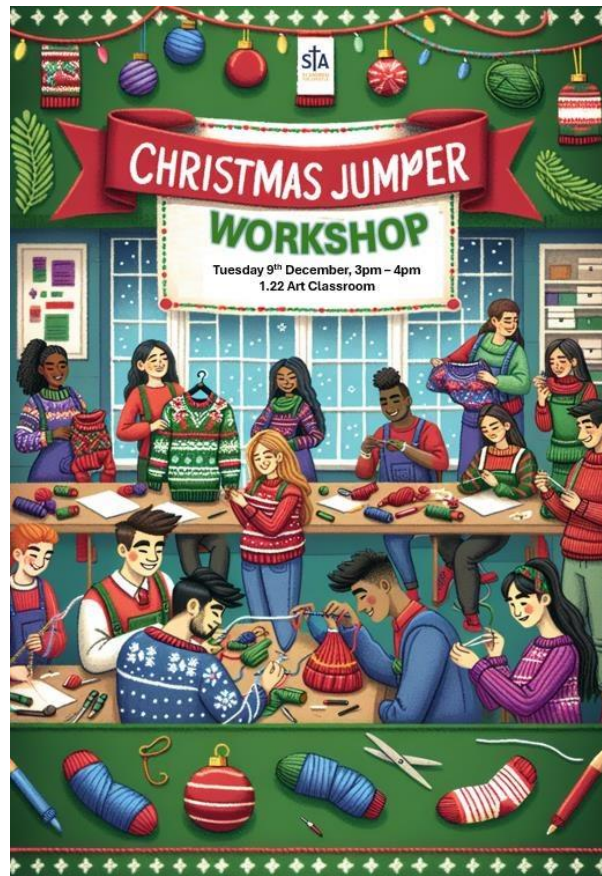
On the evening we will be selling a range of **hot and cold drinks, snacks and seasonal fare** to help raise money for the school. We are not able to take card payments at present, **Please bring cash and plenty of change.**

This year, we are encouraging **donations** of **home-baked goods** to be sold on the night of the Christmas show. If you would like to contribute, please bring your items to the FoSA members at the refreshments stall **before the show begins.**

If you would like to be involved with FoSA please come and speak to us at the Christmas Show.



🎄 Get Ready for a Festive Celebration! 🎄



*This year, we're celebrating Christmas in STA with Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day on **Wednesday 17 December**.*

*🎁 Want to create a show-stopping jumper? Join our **FREE** Christmas Jumper Workshop on Tuesday 9 December, from 3:00–4:00 PM in the Art Classroom (1.22). We'll provide all the materials – all you need to bring is a spare jumper and your creativity!*

🎁 There will be a prize for the best decorated jumper!

Deaf Awareness Assembly: Promoting Inclusivity and Respect



This week, our students took part in a powerful Deaf Awareness assembly, reinforcing our school values of caring, respect, and fairness. We were delighted to welcome Anita Baswas, Lead Advisory Teacher for Deaf Children and Young People from BELS, who shared valuable insights into the challenges faced by those with hearing loss.



Students learned how small actions can make a big difference in creating an inclusive environment. They explored basic British Sign Language (BSL) signs such as hello, please, thank you, and even God bless you. The session also introduced BSL finger spelling, allowing pupils to spell their own names—a skill they embraced with enthusiasm!

One student commented, “It was amazing to learn how to communicate in a different way. I want to learn more signs!” Another said, “It made me think about how important it is to include everyone.”

This assembly was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate diversity and remind us all of the importance of empathy and understanding.

Ms Walt | Assistant Headteacher

Design Technology

Our Year 7 students have had a wonderful time creating their wooden robots. Throughout this project, they have developed key skills that they will carry with them into future projects, using both hand tools and machinery. Starting with a simple piece of pine, each student designed and built a unique robot that reflects their own personal interests.







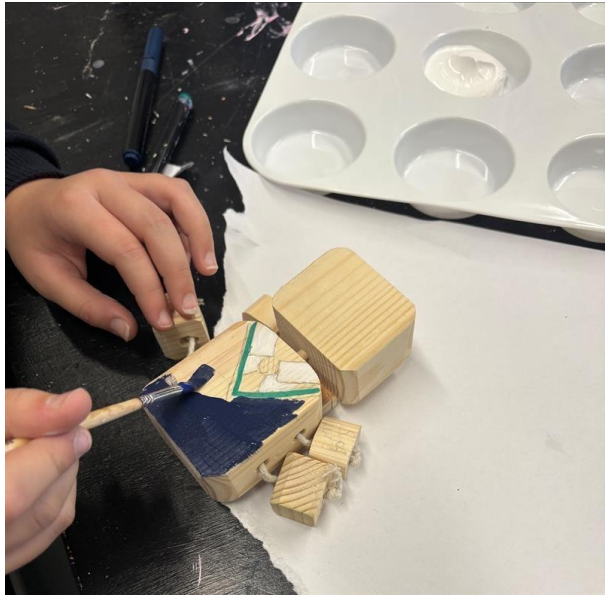


Sophia has created a mini version of herself, complete with her school uniform. She has accessorised her robot with a backpack and created a skirt that matches our school's checked pattern, hand drawing the checked pattern onto fabric and planning to add pleats. We absolutely love seeing the care and attention to detail our students are putting into their projects. We look forward to sharing students completed robots with you soon.









Spotlight on Apprenticeships



*On Wednesday 3 December 2025, our Sixth Form students had the opportunity to attend an insightful presentation on apprenticeships, delivered by an adviser from **AIM Apprenticeships**. The session aimed to broaden students' understanding of the diverse pathways available after A-levels, highlighting how apprenticeships combine practical work experience with academic learning.*

The presentation covered key topics such as:

- Types of apprenticeships – from intermediate to degree-level opportunities.*
 - The application process – tips on finding apprenticeships, the importance of preparing effective applications, and taking part in interviews.*
-

This event forms part of our ongoing commitment to supporting students in making informed decisions about their future, ensuring they are aware of all options available beyond Sixth Form.

Below are the comments of two of our Sixth Formers:

The recent presentation on Apprenticeships was very helpful in giving us a clear picture of the opportunities available beyond Sixth Form. I learned that apprenticeships offer an opportunity to gain real work experience while earning a qualification and a salary. What was very interesting was the advice on preparing for interviews, especially virtual interviews, which are becoming more common. Furthermore, we were informed about useful resources such as UpTree, Amazing Apprenticeships and TalentView.

Overall, the session made me feel more confident about exploring apprenticeships as a career path.

Oliver

The apprenticeships presentation was really interesting. I learned that different companies have different application processes. Larger companies often have more complex steps, which can include multiple stages such as online applications and assessment tasks. I also learned that interviews could vary as some are in person, while others are virtual. It was great to understand how these processes work and what employers are looking for.

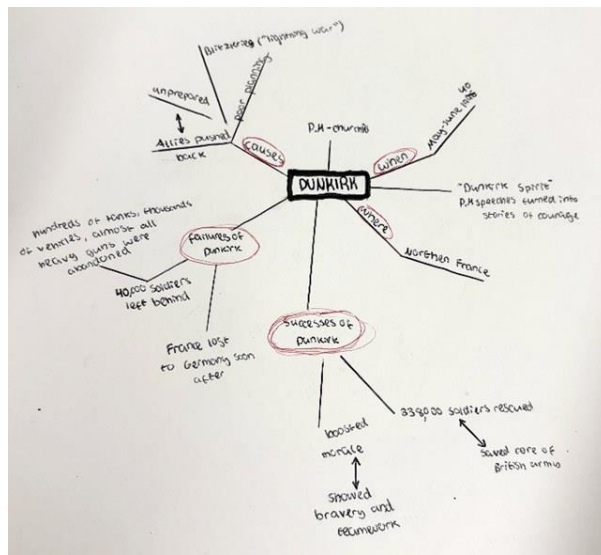
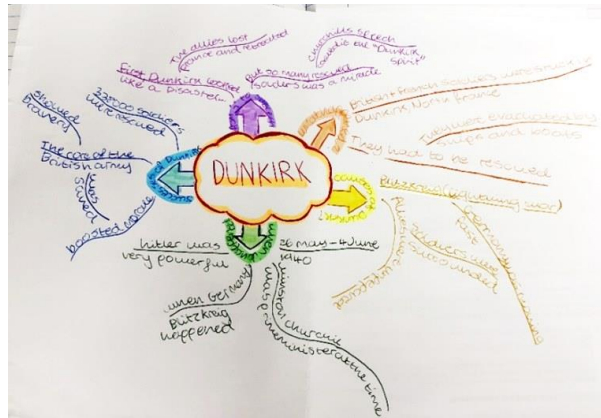
Theo

Ms Koveri | Deputy Head of Sixth Form and 2ic in Humanities.

Supporting your child with revision: Mind maps

*At STA, we are continuing our focus on revision strategies to help students develop strong, independent revision habits. This half term we have focused on **mind maps**.*

Mind maps from Year 9 students in preparation for their history assessment:

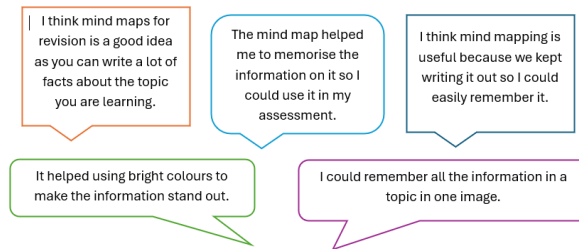


Why Mind Maps are great for revision

Mind maps are a simple but powerful way for students to organise information visually. Instead of writing long notes, a mind map uses keywords, colours, and branches to show how ideas connect. This helps students:

- **See the bigger picture** – They can understand how topics link together.
- **Boost memory** – Using colours and images makes information easier to recall.
- **Stay engaged** – It feels more creative and less overwhelming than pages of text.
- **Focus on key points** – Mind maps encourage summarising, which is essential for exams.

What do our students think about mind maps?



How parents can support

You don't need to know the subject in detail! Here's what you can do:

- 1. **Provide materials** – Paper, coloured pens.*
 - 2. **Ask guiding questions** – “What’s the main topic?” or “What ideas link to this?”*
 - 3. **Check for clarity** – Encourage your child to use short keywords, not full sentences.*
 - 4. **Celebrate effort** – Praise the creativity and organisation, not just the neatness.*
 - 5. **Use it for discussion** – Ask them to explain their mind map to you. Teaching someone else reinforces learning and memory.*
-

To find out more about mind maps and revision techniques, see our school website. [St Andrew the Apostle](#)

Mrs Viala | Assistant Headteacher

Careers Fair

As part of our ongoing commitment to preparing students for their future pathways, we are excited to announce that the school are planning on hosting a Careers Fair later in the academic year. This event will be aimed at students in Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5, providing

students with valuable opportunities to explore a wide range of careers, gain insights into different industries, and ask questions about the skills and qualifications needed for success.

To make this event as engaging and meaningful as possible, we would like to invite parent volunteers to take part. We are keen to showcase the diverse career journeys within our school community, and we believe that hearing directly from parents about their chosen professions and pathways will be both inspiring and informative for our students.

If you are willing to contribute, your involvement could include:

- Sharing your career journey and experiences.*
- Explaining the qualifications, skills, and personal attributes required in your field.*
- Offering practical advice and answering student questions.*
- Highlighting opportunities and challenges within your industry.*

Your participation would greatly enrich the event and help our students make more informed decisions about their future.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact r.browell@standrewtheapostle.org.uk by 19 December 2025, so that we can begin planning the programme and ensure a wide range of careers are represented.

Mr Browell | Extended Leadership Team

Sports at STA

Basketball



*Our school proudly hosted its **first-ever basketball fixture in the brand-new sports hall**, and it was a game to remember. The atmosphere was buzzing as our team faced King Alfred's in a thrilling contest that kept everyone on the edge of their seats.*

*From the opening whistle, both teams showed determination and skill. The first half was a defensive battle, with points hard to come by. In the second half, the pace picked up as ST Andrew the Apostle fought back strongly, closing the gap and creating chances right until the final buzzer. Despite their efforts, King Alfred's managed to hold on for a narrow **12-9 victory**.*

***Man of the Match:** A huge congratulations to **Sebastian**, whose outstanding performance stood out throughout the game. His energy, leadership, and commitment were key in keeping the team competitive and keeping it a close game.*

Mr Godden | Teacher of PE



Year 7 Match Report – Final League Game vs Ashmole School

Our final game of the league season saw us travel to Ashmole School to face a strong side sitting near the top of the table. Despite the tough opposition, the team showed fantastic spirit and determination throughout.



After falling behind early, a brilliant strike from Seb brought us level at 1-1 just before half-time, giving us real momentum going into the second half. Unfortunately, Ashmole's quality showed after the break, and we eventually went down 3-1 to a very good team.

The scoreline doesn't reflect how competitive the game was, and there were plenty of positives to take. Standout performances came from Jayson at the back, using his pace and composure to get us out of trouble on several occasions; Sebastian, who controlled the midfield with energy and vision; and Youssouf, who displayed excellent leadership, filling in wherever needed to keep the team organised.

A spirited display to end the season, well done to all involved.

Volunteer Librarian Vacancy Available



VOLUNTEER LIBRARIAN

A flexible, rewarding opportunity for someone who enjoys working with children and young people, and wants to make a meaningful contribution to a learning environment. You'll support the day-to-day running of the library and help create a welcoming, well-organised space that encourages reading and discovery.

What We're Looking For

- A genuine love of books and reading
- Friendly, patient, and approachable nature
- Good organisational skills and attention to detail
- Confidence working with children of all ages
- Basic computer literacy (training provided)
- Reliability and a willingness to learn

 020 3195 5444

 vacancies@standrewtheapostle.org.uk

 St Andrew the Apostle School
Brunswick Park Road,
Barnet, London,
N11 1EH



Scan QR Code to apply!

Scan QR Code to visit our Instagram page!



STANDREWTA

A high achieving school for Barnet and beyond

Build a Library - Mark Your Legacy!

We are incredibly grateful to the families who have shown such heartfelt support for our school library.

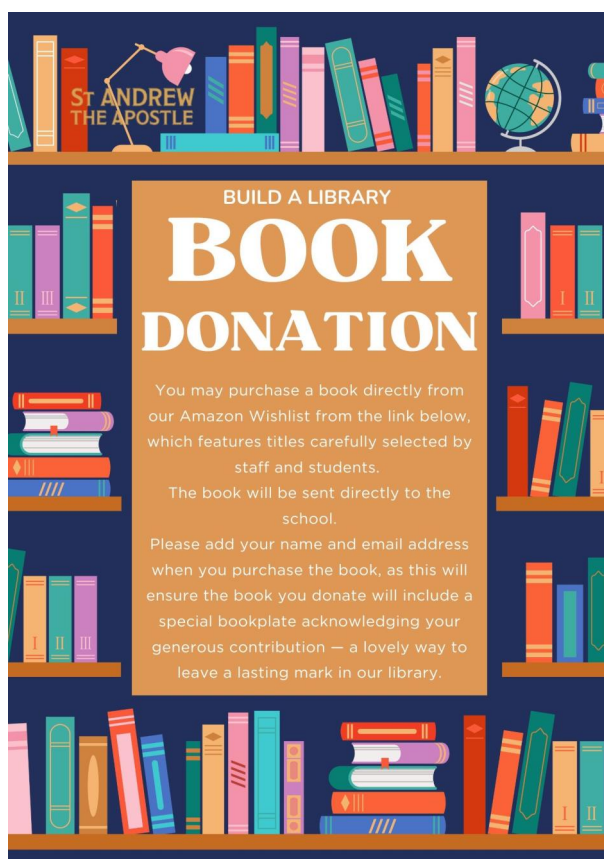
We have currently had over 48 book purchases, and this continues to grow. Your generous donations of books have enriched our shelves and opened up new worlds for our students to explore. You may access our Amazon wish list [here](#) to join in building our school Library.

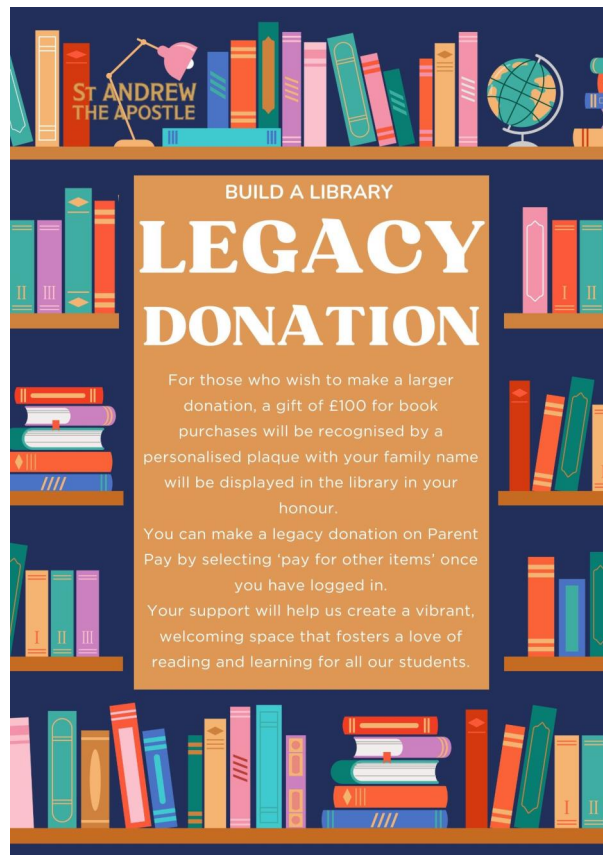
Please ensure to add your full name to the note at checkout.

We would also like to extend a special thank you to the all the families who have donated £100 to mark their legacy. Your contribution is a lasting investment in the future of our students.

If you would like to support the school through a legacy donation, you can sign in on Parent Pay and select 'pay for other items' once you have logged in.

Thank you for being part of our story.





Competition Time!

Young people aged from 11-19 years are asked to investigate, analyse and write about history. The subject categories cover local history, the modern world and especially aspects of 20th-century history.

[Young Historian Awards 2026 – take part \(Secondary prizes\) / Secondary / Historical Association](#)

The Historical Associations' public speaking competition open to school Year 10 - Year 13:

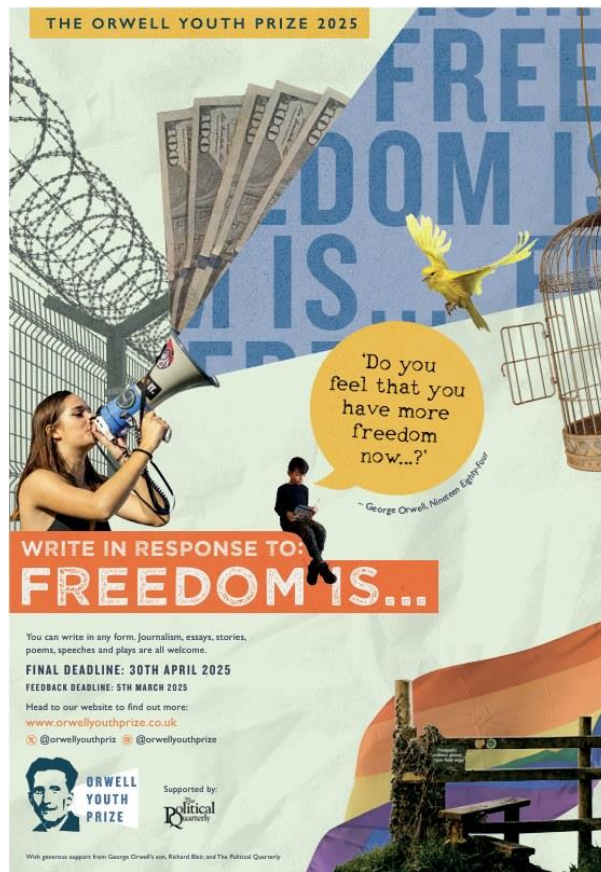
[The Great Debate 2026 / Secondary / Historical Association](#)

An exciting opportunity to enter a competition and to express your opinion on 'Freedom is...'

The Orwell Youth Prize 2025 is now open for entries on the theme of 'Freedom is...'

Enter [here](#) by 5 March 2025 and receive personal feedback on your draft! <https://www.orwellfoundation.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/A4-poster.pdf>

The Orwell Youth Prize uses the writing of George Orwell to inspire you to write about your own ideas and experiences. It's open to everyone at secondary school or college in the UK, or on a UK curriculum.



Taking part in competitions enhances students skills because:

It builds Confidence and Motivation

- *Competitions give students a platform to showcase their talents and hard work.*
-

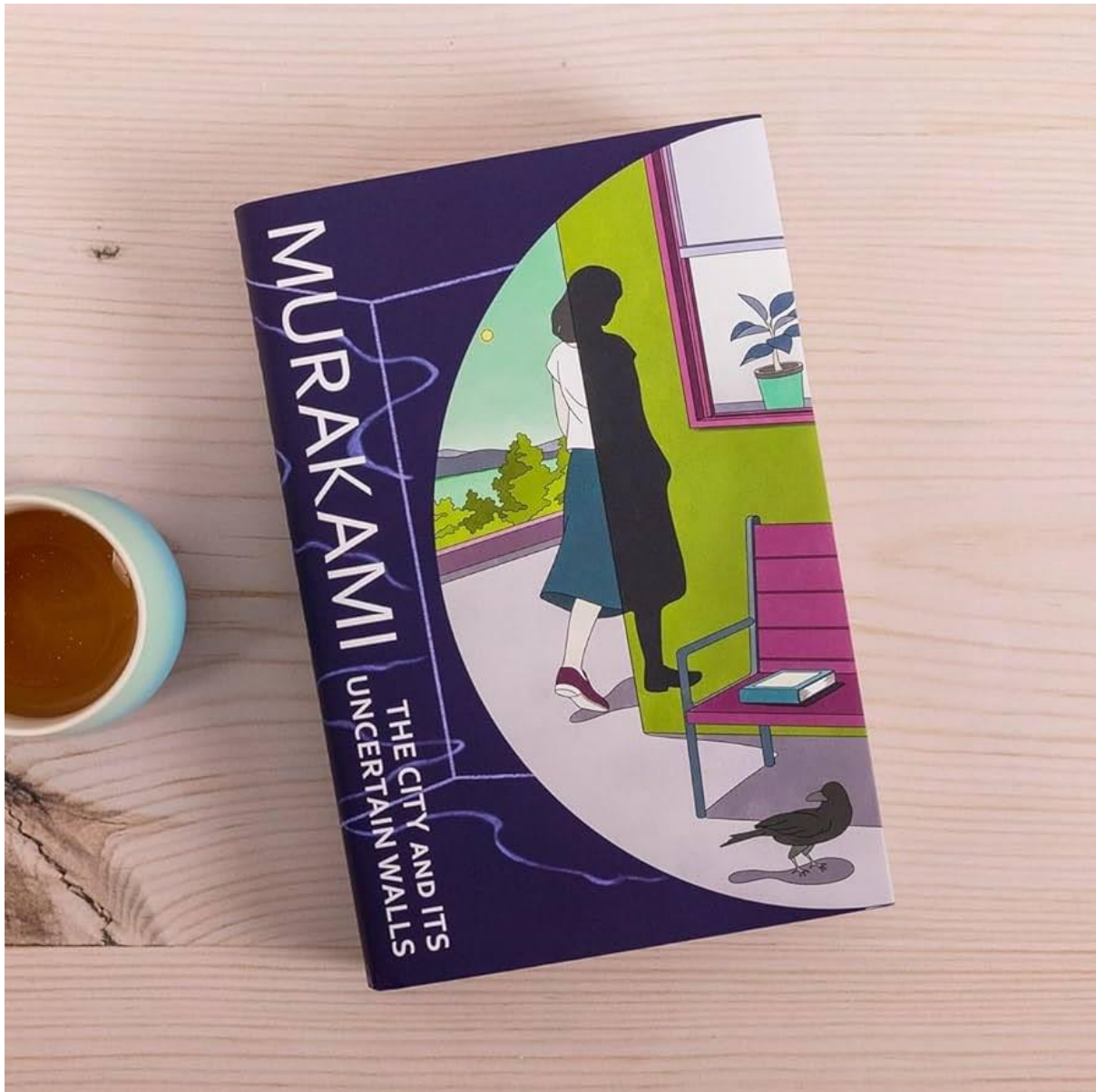
- *Success, or even just participation, can boost self-esteem and encourage them to aim higher.*
-
-

It encourages Deep Learning

- *Preparing for competitions often requires going beyond the standard curriculum.*
 - *This fosters independent learning, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills.*
-
-

Ms Koveri Zic Humanities and Deputy Head of Sixth

Mr Martin's Christmas Reading List



As we celebrate Christmas and have the time to reflect on the year gone and the year ahead, I'm delighted to share a selection of books that I have read this year that I have either gripping, thoughtful or both. If you're unsure of any stocking fillers, I would recommend these.

1) *The City and Its Uncertain Walls by Haruki Murakami*

Haruki Murakami's latest novel is a haunting tale about memory, identity imagination. His prose is dreamlike, drawing readers into a world both familiar and unsettling. A must-read for those who love great storytelling.

2) 1929: Inside the Greatest Crash in Wall Street History *by William Quinn*

Quinn delivers a gripping account of the events leading to the 1929 crash, it's a vivid story with sharp economic insight. It's a cautionary tale and a fascinating exploration of human behaviour in times of frenzy.

3) The Fourth Turning Is Here *by Neil Howe*

This bold analysis of generational cycles offers a compelling lens on today's turbulence and tomorrow's possibilities. It's provocative, researched, and challenges us to think of history as a pattern rather than a straight line. A fascinating guide for navigating uncertain times.

4) In the Garden of Beasts *by Erik Larson*

Larson captures the tense atmosphere of Berlin in 1933 through the eyes of an American diplomat and his family. It's a chilling portrait, written with the pace of a thriller and the depth of history.

5) The Daughters of Yalta *by Catherine Grace Katz*

Katz brings to life the untold story of three remarkable women at the heart of a pivotal moment in history. With elegance, she reveals how personal relationships shaped global decisions. A compelling blend of diplomacy, family and resilience.

6) When the Clock Broke *by John Ganz*

This book offers an unsettling look at the roots of modern conspiracism and political extremism in America. Blending history and cultural critique, this book is illuminating—a guide to understanding the forces shaping today's world.

7) Apple in China: The Capture of the World's Greatest Company *by Patrick McGee*

McGee delivers an exposé of Apple's entanglement with China, revealing how a quest for efficiency and profit reshaped global tech and left Apple vulnerable to political leverage. Meticulously researched and thought-provoking. Good reading for anyone interested in business, technology, and geopolitics.

8) Race Against Terror: Chasing an Al Qaeda Killer at the Dawn of the Forever War *by Jake Tapper*

Tapper delivers a true-crime narrative about the pursuit and trial of an al-Qaeda operative who murdered U.S. soldiers. Blending drama with courtroom tension, he explores justice, law, and morality in the shadow of 9/11. A fast-paced read.

9) The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny and Murder by David Grann

Grann's masterful storytelling plunges readers into an epic saga of survival and betrayal on the high seas in the 18th Century. Meticulously researched and vividly written, it's a exploration of human endurance and moral ambiguity. A triumph of narrative nonfiction.

10) Say Nothing: A True Story of Murder and Memory in Northern Ireland by Patrick Radden Keefe

Keefe's investigative brilliance turns a dark chapter of the Troubles into a riveting narrative of secrecy, betrayal, and moral complexity. It's haunting, human and impossible to put down.

Root word of the week

Root Word of the week
OMNI (Latin) = all or every
Omnipresent (present everywhere) e.g. "Technology has become so omnipresent in modern life that it influences nearly every aspect of our daily routines."
Omnivore (an organism that eats every kind of living thing.) e.g. "The bear is an omnivore, eating both plants and animals to survive in its habitat."
Omnipotent (all powerful) e.g. "In many mythologies, the chief deity is portrayed as omnipotent, possessing unlimited power over all creation."
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Omnibus - A collection of different things into a single volume or series.• Omnifarious - Of all kinds of varieties.

Sparx Reader

Sparx Reader

At St Andrew, students in Years 7 to 10 are expected to earn at least 300 points per week (which equates to approximately 30 min of careful reading) through reading a wide selection of fiction books of their choice from an online library.

Our students of Years 7 to 10 have already read 1,047 books and spent 2,095 hours of careful reading.

Well done and keep up the good work!

Ms Bassington | Head of English

Congratulations to our top October readers from each year group:

Year 7 Top Readers:

Tia M: 12,623

Serena R: 5,801

Chloe Howles: 3,764

Year 9 Top Readers:

Anu O: 12,810

Mark M: 1,888

Lily C: 1,551

Year 8 Top Readers:

Teshan D: 7,375

Lusandro H: 5,843

Moyosoreoluwa S: 2,539

Year 10 Top Readers:

Ali O: 2,003

Christopher F: 1,441

Josh D: 1,279

Ms Bassington | Head of English



THE GREAT BRITISH
BAKE OFF

COULD YOU BE THE NEXT STAR BAKER?

WWW.APPLYFORBAKEOFF.CO.UK

APPLICATIONS CLOSE ON MONDAY 15TH DECEMBER 2025 AT 1PM.
MORE INFO: APPLYFORBAKEOFF@LOVEPRODUCTIONS.CO.UK

Have YOU got what it takes to be the next Star Baker?

Love Productions are looking for a new batch of bakers for the next series of The Great British Bake Off and they want to hear from you!

If you or someone you know is a talented home baker, then apply now

at www.applyforbakeoff.co.uk or

Email on applyforbakeoff@loveproductions.co.uk or

Call 0117 456 8530 for an application form.

Closing date for applications is 1pm on Monday 15th December 2025.

Breakfast: Free Porridge for All Students!



*We're proud to offer **free porridge every morning** for all students, plus other tasty, affordable options like toast, fruit, and cereal.*

Breakfast fuels the body and mind, helping you stay focused and ready to learn. One student said:

"I was in such a rush this morning I didn't eat at home. Having porridge at school meant I could concentrate all day."

*Join us every school day from **7:45am in The Olive Tree** — don't miss out!*



Celebrating Our Environmental Achievement

Gold Level TFL Award

Congratulations to STA for achieving the Gold Level TfL STARS Award! This recognition celebrates the school's outstanding commitment to sustainable travel and active transport.

STA has demonstrated leadership in promoting safer, greener journeys to and from school. The Gold Level status reflects the school's dedication to creating a healthier environment and inspiring positive change across the borough.





Sustainability at STA: Over 9832 Bottles Saved!



STA has made an incredible impact by saving over 9832 plastic bottles since the start of the school year, thanks to the installation of brand-new water fountains in our new building. This initiative not only promotes sustainability but also encourages students and staff to make environmentally conscious choices every day. Well done to everyone involved!

STA's Carbon Cut: 3,705kg of CO₂ Saved!



St Andrew the Apostle School is proud to announce that our new building has already helped save 3,705 kilograms of carbon dioxide through our use of solar panels—a huge step toward reducing our environmental footprint. This achievement reflects our commitment to sustainability and creating a greener future for our school community.

SEND Information

The Basketball Bulldog Club

SEND Basketball Sessions

For Information

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

- <https://barnetyouth.uk/event/Special-Educational-Needs-and-Disabilities-Basketball-Session/6548>
-

The sessions take place every Thursday, 5.00pm to 6.00pm at Copthall Leisure Centre.

Annalisa Cellini

Fit & Active Barnet Development Officer Greenspaces & Leisure

Communities, Adults and Health

London Borough of Barnet



BELS Advisory Team for Autistic Children and Young People

BACPAC: Barnet Autism Course for Parents and Carers. An Online Parent/Carer Training Course

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.

**BACPAC: Barnet Autism Course for Parents and Carers.
Spring Term 2026 One, A 6-session evening course.**

Dates and times:

Wednesday 7th January 6.00-7.30pm
Wednesday 14th January 6.00-7.30pm
Wednesday 21st January 6.00-7.30pm
Wednesday 28th January 6.00-7.30pm
Wednesday 4th February 6.00-7.30pm
Wednesday 11th February 6.00-7.30pm

Sign up form here: [BACPAC: Barnet Autism Course for Parents And Carers, Jan. & Feb. 2026. Sign-up form. – Fill in form](#)

**BACPAC: Barnet Autism Course for Parents and Carers.
Spring Term 2026 Two, A 5-session morning course.**

Dates and times:

Monday 23rd February 10-11.30am
Monday 2nd March 10-11.30am
Monday 9th March 10-11.30am
Monday 16th March 10-11.30am
Monday 23rd March 10-11.30am

Sign up form here: [BACPAC: Barnet Autism Course for Parents And Carers, Feb. & March 2026. Sign-up form. – Fill in form](#)

Autistic Discovery Journey

AUTISTIC DISCOVERY JOURNEY (ADJ) PROGRAMME

Aucademy have been working with Barnet Education and Learning Service (BELS) to improve the narrative and culture in Barnet schools about Autistic experience.

BELS and Aucademy are very pleased to offer a group of young people (aged 13-19 years old & living in Barnet) the opportunity to attend an eight-week **Autistic Discovery Journey (ADJ)** programme together online.

For more info on Aucademy visit <https://aucademy.co.uk/>

REQUIREMENTS:

Open to anyone who identifies as Autistic - diagnosed or self-identified, who wishes to participate & engage in an educational programme.

Access to Zoom on a laptop or PC (phone/tablet may be manageable) and a quiet space - No expectation to use your camera or microphone if you do not want to.

Parent/carer consent is required for young people under the age of 18.

Chat box participation is embraced, especially if using mouth words is not your preferred method of communicating.



WHEN?

Wednesdays 4:30-6pm, online (via Zoom).
22nd October – 17th December. No session 29th October (half term) TBC.

WHAT?

The Autistic Discovery Journey (ADJ) programme includes:

Working out where you are in your discovery journey and holding space for you, whatever stage you are at.

Understanding your experiences with the knowledge that you are/might be Autistic.

Building knowledge and awareness of your personal Autistic profile - what makes you, YOU.

Learning how to communicate your needs and boundaries to Others.

Learning coping strategies, including stimming, and how to improve your well-being and self-esteem.

Finding others with whom you share similarities, and feeling part of a community.

Teaching you about neurodivergence, opposing the disorder narrative - showing we have challenges and strengths.

If you are interested in joining this group, please contact:

Autism.Team@Barnet.gov.uk

With the subject title:

"Aucademy/BELS ADJ Autumn 2025"



Young Barnet Christmas Campaign



The poster features the Young Barnet Foundation logo at the top, with a Santa hat on the 'Y'. Below the logo, the text reads 'Christmas Campaign'. A photograph shows a group of children holding wrapped gifts. To the right of the photo, text explains the campaign's purpose: 'Christmas is a time of generosity, kindness, and community, but sadly, many children and young people in Barnet face hardship and may go without a gift this festive season. At Young Barnet Foundation, we aim to wrap and deliver over 3,000 gifts this year to local children who would otherwise go without. Can you help us make a difference?'. Below this, a QR code is provided for donations, with an arrow pointing to it. Text next to the QR code says 'Scan here to buy a gift for a vulnerable child this Christmas and give what you can'. At the bottom, there is an illustration of a gift box and contact information: 'Please select the option to deliver to our office or contact us to arrange drop off: Old East Barnet Library, Brookhill Road, East Barnet, EN4 8SG', along with the website 'www.youngbarnetfoundation.org.uk' and email 'info@youngbarnetfoundation.org.uk'.

Safeguarding at STA

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.



Attendance



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 

The advertisement features a blue background. At the top, there is an illustration of a laptop and a smartphone, both displaying the Studybugs app interface. Below this, the main text is centered in white. A QR code is positioned on the left side, and two logos for Google Play and the App Store are on the right. The Studybugs logo, consisting of the word 'Studybugs' and a green plus sign, is at the bottom center.