



St Andrew The Apostle School
Newsletter 18.12.25





Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of the School,

As we come to the close of another busy and rewarding term, it's an excellent opportunity to reflect on all that we have achieved. Throughout the year, our newsletters have celebrated the many successes and events that make our school such a vibrant community. Each edition has included academic achievements, sporting triumphs, and cultural experiences.

This final week of term has been particularly special as we embraced the festive season. Christmas has been at the heart of our celebrations, and the school atmosphere has been full of purposeful cheer. We are deeply grateful to Father Damian for delivering liturgy in school, reminding us of the true meaning of Christmas, and bringing our community together in faith and reflection.

On Wednesday, we enjoyed two traditions: our Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day. It was lovely to see students and staff sharing a meal, dressed in their most creative and colourful jumpers! These moments of togetherness are what make our school feel like a real community.

Adding to the festive spirit, many of our students had the fantastic opportunity to attend a performance of 'A Christmas Carol'. This trip was not only a chance to enjoy a classic seasonal story but also an enriching musical experience that complements our curriculum and inspires a love of literature.

As the week continued, we turned our attention to celebrating achievement. Our Achievement Assemblies were a fantastic way to say “well done” to our current students for their hard work and dedication this term.

It was equally heartwarming to reconnect with former students during our Certificate Evening on Tuesday, where we celebrated their accomplishments and wished them continued success. These events remind us of the pride we have in sharing in every student’s journey.

A special congratulations to former student Gabriella for winning the Yiannis Pareas Award, and we would also like to congratulate Katina for winning the Headteacher Award. Both students were awarded in recognition of excellent Academic Progress and demonstration of our school values.

Looking ahead, please remember that school reopens on Tuesday 6 January. We hope that the Christmas break provides time for rest, family, and reflection, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new year, ready for another term of learning and growth. Thank you for your continued support throughout 2025.

Your partnership is invaluable, and together we have created a school community where every child can thrive.

On behalf of all of us here, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Christopher Martin | Headteacher

Faith in Action

As we conclude this term, our faith has been at the heart of our celebrations and reflections. This week’s liturgy, beautifully led by Father Gregory and Father Damian, reminded us of the true meaning of Christmas and how it connects to our school values of Respect, and Caring. Coming together in prayer and worship is a powerful way to strengthen these values and to prepare our hearts for the joy of Christ’s birth.

We also marked several important Name Days this week, including those of St Spyridon (December 12) and St Eleutherios (December 15). These saints inspire us through their lives of service, humility and steadfast faith—qualities we encourage in all our students.

St Spyridon, Bishop of Trimythous, is remembered as a humble shepherd who became a miracle-working saint. His life teaches us simplicity, generosity, and trust in God. He is often called upon as a protector and helper in times of need.

St Eleutherios, a young bishop and martyr, showed extraordinary courage and devotion to Christ even in the face of persecution. His example reminds us of the importance of standing firm in our beliefs and living with integrity.

Celebrating these Name Days helps us keep our Orthodox tradition alive and reminds us that our values are not just words, but a way of life. As we enter the Christmas season, let us continue to live out these values in our homes and communities: showing kindness, offering forgiveness, and sharing joy with those around us. May this festive period be a time of peace and blessing for all.



Christmas Card

Please [click here to view](#) our wonderful Christmas e-card, created by our student Christmas card and prayer competition winners.



1 - [standrewtheapostle.org.uk/documents/newsletter-sway/STA Christmas Card %282%29.mp4](https://standrewtheapostle.org.uk/documents/newsletter-sway/STA%20Christmas%20Card%282%29.mp4)

You will also enjoy listening to a beautiful Christmas Carol sung by one of our students.

APOSTLE  **NEWS**

[Click here to read our student Newsletter!](#)

WE HAVE LIFT OFF!



Trial Day for our Greenpower electric car was a huge success! After months of hard work, our student engineers finally took their project from the workshop to the track. But they weren't the only ones behind the wheel! A few brave members of staff also took the electric racer for

a spin, proving that innovation is a team effort from students and mentors. These photos capture the focus, excitement, and pure triumph of seeing their creation come to life. From final checks to the first silent lap, it was a day of huge learning and even bigger smiles.

Mr Chalepas | Teacher of Science





Christmas Service: Peace is for life; not just for Christmas.



Our Christmas Show was a truly special evening, bringing our school community together to reflect on the message that peace is not just for Christmas, but for life. Through music, movement and drama, students reminded us to pause and remember where it all began, to appreciate what we have, and to carry that spirit of kindness and reflection forward—not just into the New Year, but throughout the whole of 2026.







The joy and pride in the room was unmistakable as 84 young people took to the stage. Whether performing in the dance groups, singing as part of the choir, playing in the string orchestra or bringing the story to life through drama, every student contributed something meaningful. Their confidence, teamwork and commitment shone through, making the performance both uplifting and memorable.







The show was a powerful reminder of the talent within our school and what can be achieved when students work together with a shared purpose. A huge thank you must also go to Chika, whose exceptional backstage work ensured the evening ran seamlessly. From lighting and sound to managing the screen, her technical expertise was vital in bringing the performance to life. It was a wonderful celebration of creativity, community and the enduring message of peace, a huge well done to all of our performers and thank you to everyone who came along to support!

Miss Walt | Assistant Headteacher

Celebrating Success in School















This week, we are incredibly proud to celebrate the remarkable achievements of our students across the school. Our Achievement Assemblies provided a wonderful opportunity to recognise and honour the hard work, dedication, and excellence shown by so many members of our school community.

During these assemblies, students were celebrated for their outstanding academic achievement across subjects—excellence that reflects our Ever to Excel values in action. Alongside academic awards, students were also recognised for their impressive progress, demonstrating determination, resilience, and a commitment to continually improving their learning.

We were delighted to award Form Tutor, SLT and Head of Year Awards to students who consistently embody our school values. These students show, day in and day out, what it truly means to be part of St Andrew the Apostle: respectful, hardworking, kind, and committed both to their learning and to our community.

A particularly special highlight this week was seeing an outstanding 68 Year 7 students achieve their Bronze Stars—a wonderful accomplishment so early in the year and a clear sign of the enthusiasm and effort they bring to school life.

We are extremely proud of every student who received recognition this week and of the positive example they set for their peers. Their achievements remind us of the incredible things that can be accomplished through perseverance, curiosity, and a love of learning.

Well done to all—keep striving to be the best that you can be!

Miss Walt | Assistant Headteacher







Celebrating Excellence at Certificate Awards Evening



On Tuesday 16 December, St Andrew the Apostle School proudly hosted its annual Certificate Evening, honouring students who returned to collect their GCSE and A-Level certificates. The event reflected our motto, Ever to Excel, and celebrated outstanding achievement.

Two prestigious awards were presented:

-
- **Headteacher's Award** for GCSE excellence went to **Katina**, recognised for her dedication and resilience.
 - **Yiannis Pareas Award** for A-Level success was awarded to **Gabriella**, whose exceptional results were commended by Founding Governor Marina Pareas.
-

We were delighted to welcome alumni now studying at leading universities, including King's College London, University of Manchester, City University, University of Leeds and the Royal Veterinary College.

Headteacher, Christopher Martin, emphasised the school's core values—Respect, Responsibility, Forgiveness, Fairness, Caring, and Trustworthiness—as the foundation for lifelong success. Staff praised students for their perseverance and reminded them that excellence is a journey.

Congratulations to all certificate recipients and thank you to families and staff for their continued support. We look forward to seeing our alumni excel in every endeavour.





St Demetrios Food Bank Collection





Over the past week, our school community has once again demonstrated its generosity and commitment to supporting those in need. We are delighted to share the success of our recent Food Bank Collection, which has provided valuable contributions to Saint Demetrios Food Bank.

Thanks to the kindness of parents, students, and staff, a wide range of food items were donated, ensuring that families in our local community will benefit during this important time of year. The response has been overwhelming, and we are truly grateful for the collective effort shown.

A special mention must go to our Sixth Form students and Student Council members, who played a crucial role in the organisation of this initiative. From advertising the collection to coordinating donations and ensuring everything was delivered safely, their leadership and teamwork have been exemplary. Their dedication highlights the positive impact of student voice and the importance of giving back to the community.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to this initiative. Your generosity has not only supported families in need but has also reinforced the values of compassion, responsibility, and community spirit that we strive to instil in our students.

Mr Browell | Extended Leadership Team

Decorate a Christmas Jumper workshop



It was wonderful to welcome students back for our second Decorate a Christmas Jumper workshop. The atmosphere was filled with excitement as students embraced the festive spirit

and let their imaginations run wild. Using a colourful mix of fabrics, glitter, and creative flair, they designed unique jumpers that showcased their individuality and artistic talents. The results were truly impressive. Events like this not only spark joy but also highlight the creativity and enthusiasm our students bring to school life. We are incredibly proud of their efforts and delighted to celebrate their achievements together.

Miss Walt | Assistant Headteacher



Sixth Form Christmas Fair







The Sixth Form Christmas Fair was a wonderful celebration of festive spirit, bringing joy and laughter to our Year 7–9 students. Organised and run entirely by the 6th form, the event was filled with gingerbread making, card decorating and some very enthusiastic Christmas karaoke. Behaviour throughout was excellent, and we are incredibly proud of the maturity and enthusiasm shown by our 6th formers in making the fair such a success. A heartfelt thank you goes to Years 7–9 for joining in with such good fun. It was a memorable occasion that captured the very best of our school community.

Ms Bicarregui | Assistant Headteacher and Head of Sixth Form





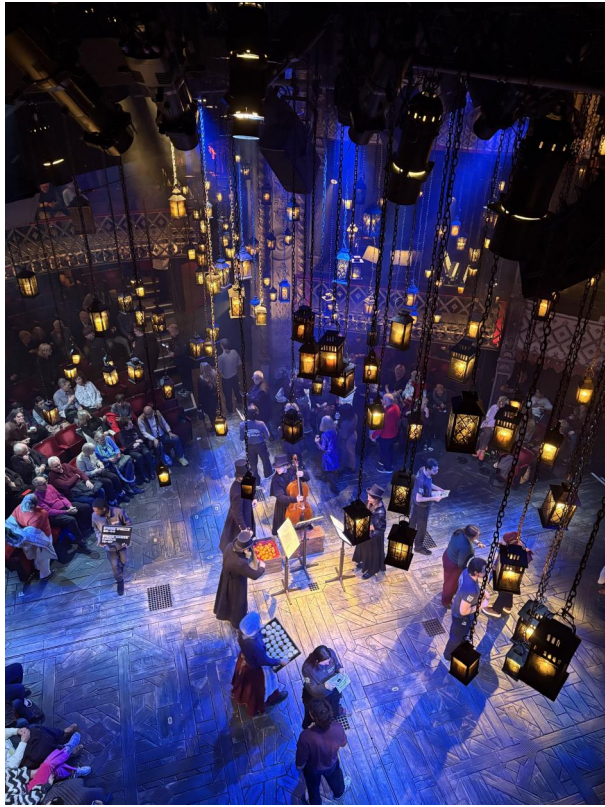




GCSE Drama Trip to *A Christmas Carol* at The Old Vic







Our Year 10 and 11 GCSE Drama students enjoyed an unforgettable theatre experience at The Old Vic, watching the acclaimed production of A Christmas Carol. This modern retelling of Dickens' classic captivated the audience with its inventive staging, powerful performances, and atmospheric design.

The trip offered students a valuable opportunity to deepen their understanding of characterisation, set design, and dramatic techniques. The production was staged in the round, with live music accompanying each scene, and the creative use of space and ensemble work will enrich students' own practical explorations in class.

A huge thank you to our students for representing the school so brilliantly. It was a festive (with real snow)! and thought-provoking performance with a strong Christmas message.

Miss Viola | Assistant Head Teacher





A Festive and Inclusive Christmas Lunch





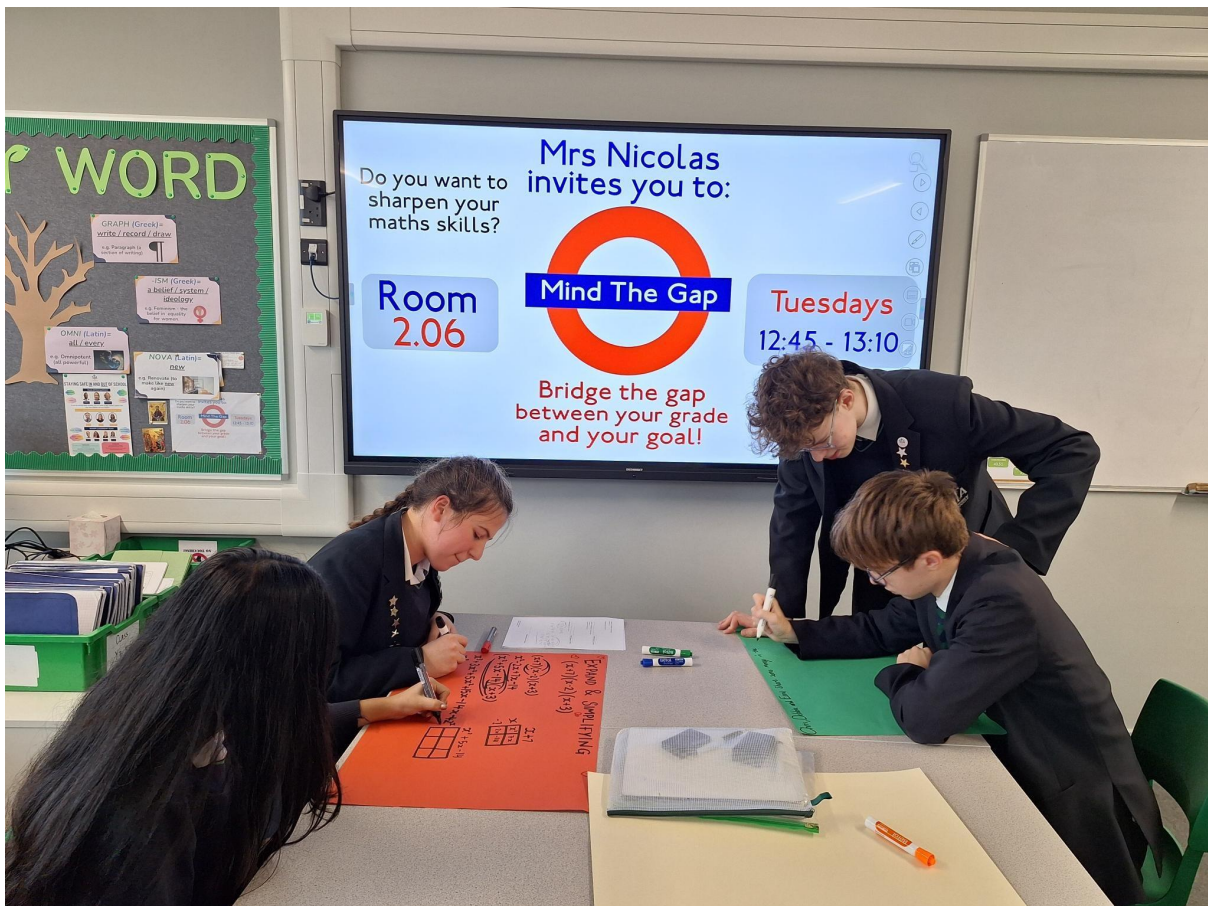


Our annual Christmas Lunch was a resounding success, bringing together staff and students for a joyful celebration of the season. The event was filled with warmth, laughter, and a true sense of community, as everyone enjoyed a delicious festive meal in a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere.

It was wonderful to see the entire school come together, sharing in the spirit of Christmas and creating memorable moments that reflect the values we hold dear—kindness, togetherness, and celebration.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to making this occasion so special. Your efforts ensured that this year's Christmas Lunch was not only festive but also a shining example of the positive and supportive environment we strive to foster at St Andrew the Apostle.

Mind the Gap: Tuesday Lunchtimes Just Got Brilliantly Mathematical...and there are free 'maths biscuits' for students today!





Every Tuesday lunchtime, the maths corridor comes alive with energy and enthusiasm as students dive into the exciting world of multi-step problem solving at the 'Mind the Gap' club.

This weekly gathering is more than just a club - it's a brain-boosting adventure where students tackle challenging maths problems in a fun, collaborative environment. From algebraic conundrums to real-life applications involving percentages, geometry, and logic, each session is designed to stretch thinking and spark curiosity.

What makes 'Mind the Gap' so popular is its mix of teamwork, creativity, and friendly competition. Students work together to crack complex problems, share strategies, and celebrate those satisfying "lightbulb" moments. With supportive teachers on hand and a steady stream of puzzles to solve, the club turns Tuesday lunch into a highlight of the week.

Whether you're preparing for exams or simply love a good challenge, 'Mind the Gap' is the perfect place to sharpen your skills and enjoy the magic of maths. Come along - your next breakthrough might be just one problem away!

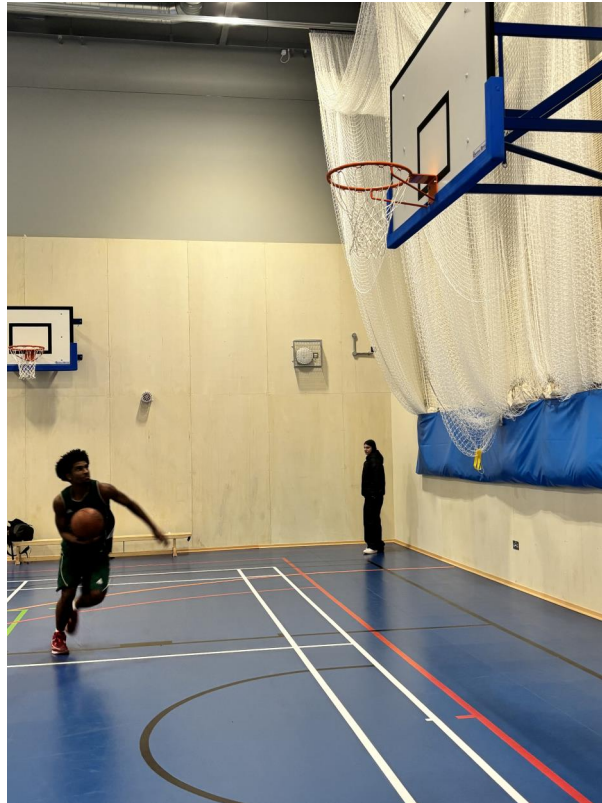
Miss Nicolas | Teacher of Maths

Match Report: STA Sixth Form Basketball vs FCBS









Final Score: STA 66 – FCHS 53

In an electrifying start to the season, our U18 basketball team delivered a statement performance against Finchley Catholic High School, securing a 66–53 victory built on teamwork, resilience, and individual brilliance. From the opening tip, Stelios stole the show with an unbelievable performance, combining skill, composure, and relentless energy to keep STA in control throughout the game. His impact at both ends of the court set the tone for the team. Leadership and desire were evident in Hendrik and Tobias, whose determination and communication inspired those around them. Their ability to rally the team during key moments proved crucial in maintaining momentum. Around the basket, Christos showcased his finesse with a series of lovely finishes, demonstrating both creativity and confidence under pressure. Adding to the excitement, Freddie, a Year 10 student playing several years above his age group, represented the school in a fantastic way his maturity and effort were nothing short of impressive. Above all, team spirit shone through. Every player contributed to a performance that reflected hard work and unity, culminating in a well-deserved 66–53 win to kick off the season in style.

Mr Fowlie | Teacher of PE

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

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AGES 3 TO 21 YRS OLD!



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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

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

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BEAT MUSIC ACADEMY EAST
Saturday Mornings
 East Barnet School, 5 Chestnut Grove, East Barnet
 EN4 8PU





 **BEAT MUSIC ACADEMY CENTRAL**
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 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



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BEAT Love Music Make Music

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- All levels welcome from beginner to advanced
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Department for Education ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Highlights from this Term

Throughout the year, our newsletters have highlighted so many memorable moments. We've celebrated sporting successes, from athletics to football, and shared stories of teamwork and perseverance. We've also showcased academic achievements, including outstanding exam results and creative projects that reflect the talent and dedication of our students. These updates have been a wonderful way to keep our community connected and informed.

We've also enjoyed cultural and enrichment activities that broaden horizons and spark curiosity. From educational trips and guest speakers to charity events and themed days, each newsletter has captured the spirit of learning beyond the classroom. Looking back, it's clear that 2025 has been a year full of opportunities for growth, discovery, and joy. Here's a reminder of the great moment's we have had this term.













Meet the Staff



Hello, my name is Mr Dogan, and I am the Head of Mathematics and Business Studies here at St Andrew the Apostle School. I've been part of the school since the summer of 2019, and it has been an incredibly rewarding experience. I truly enjoy working in such a friendly and supportive environment, and seeing my hard work appreciated by both students and colleagues is very satisfying.

I studied Mathematics and Education at King's College London and have been teaching since 2001. Before pursuing teaching, I spent six years in accounting at Royal Mail, but I soon realised that teaching offered a unique excitement and fulfilment that I couldn't find elsewhere.

Outside of school, I enjoy travelling, discovering new places, and experimenting with new recipes in the kitchen. If I could have dinner with three celebrities, it would be Thierry Henry, Dennis Bergkamp and Arsène Wenger—of course, we'd talk about Arsenal FC!

I'm passionate about helping students succeed, and I look forward to continuing to support their growth.

St John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church Christmas Appeal

Every year, we decorate our church's Christmas tree with love and gather gifts for children.

This year, however, our hearts are called a little farther away.

The children of Jamaica, after the recent disasters, have lost not only belongings but also pieces of their daily life.

In the midst of this hardship, we want to send a simple message:

they are not alone. Someone, somewhere, is thinking of them.

We are collecting wrapped Christmas gifts for the children — toys or clothing, just as we do every year.

If anyone wishes, you may also prepare a separate small package with school supplies to accompany your gift:

pens, pencils, erasers, sharpeners, notebooks.

They may seem like small items to us, but for children trying to return to their school routine, they are a true gift of hope.

Every contribution, even the smallest one, becomes a light in the darkness.

It becomes a hope that travels across the ocean,

a smile on the face of a child who genuinely needs it.

Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts, for being part of this embrace.

Together, let us send a little warmth where it is needed most.



Κάθε χρόνο στολίζουμε το χριστουγεννιάτικο δέντρο της εκκλησίας μας με αγάπη και συγκεντρώνουμε δώρα για τα παιδιά. Φέτος όμως, η καρδιά μας ταξιδεύει λίγο πιο μακριά.

Τα παιδιά της Τζαμάικα, ύστερα από τις πρόσφατες καταστροφές, έχασαν όχι μόνο πράγματα, αλλά και κομμάτια από την καθημερινότητά τους.

Μέσα σε αυτή τη δυσκολία, θέλουμε να στείλουμε ένα μήνυμα:

ότι δεν είναι μόνα. Ότι κάπου, κάποιος τα σκέφτεται. Συγκεντρώνουμε λοιπόν τυλιγμένα χριστουγεννιάτικα δώρα για τα παιδιά — παιχνίδια ή και ρούχα, όπως κάθε χρόνο.

Αν κάποιος το επιθυμεί, μπορεί μαζί με το δώρο να ετοιμάσει ένα ξεχωριστό μικρό πακετάκι με σχολικά είδη:

στυλό, μολύβια, γόμες, ξύστρες, τετράδια.

Μπορεί να είναι μικρά πράγματα για εμάς, αλλά για τα παιδιά που προσπαθούν να ξεναβρούν τον ρυθμό του σχολείου τους, είναι αληθινό δώρο ελπίδας.

Κάθε προσφορά, ακόμη και η πιο μικρή, γίνεται ένα φως μέσα στο σκοτάδι.

Γίνεται μια ελπίδα που ταξιδεύει χιλιάδες χιλιόμετρα,

γίνεται ένα χαμόγελο σε ένα παιδί που το χρειάζεται πραγματικά.

Σας ευχαριστούμε από καρδιάς που είστε μέρος αυτής της αγκαλιάς.

Ας στείλουμε μαζί λίγη ζεστασιά εκεί όπου αυτή τη στιγμή λείπει περισσότερο.

Fr Konstantinos Mamouris

St John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church,

Wightman Road, London, N8 0LY

Playing Shakespeare with Deutsche Bank: Romeo and Juliet – Student Graffiti Competition

TEACH SHAKESPEARE
BY SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE



Romeo and Juliet is a play of intensity, wherein the passion of teenage love runs up against the consuming force of cyclical violence. Our challenge is for students to choose a one-to-two-word phrase that they feel best encapsulates their own interpretation of the many and varied themes present in Romeo and Juliet. We're looking for students to design a graffiti tag that represents their chosen phrase, and to share their creation with us. The winning entry will be displayed in the Globe as part of the show and will be seen by over 30,000 students over the course of the run.

Students, your task is:

- Create a design, in landscape layout, which we could use on one of the graffiti boards featured in the show. You can see examples in the picture below.*

- *Your design should be based on one or two words from the play Romeo and Juliet; you might choose the most important word to you from the prologue, or another favourite moment from a part of the play that means something to you.*
 - *Your design of the word, and the art around it, should fit with the style of the graffiti you can see in the pictures below.*
 - *When submitting your design, please also include a few sentences explaining your choice of phrase and letting us know why you feel it is important, either in the play, in society today, or both.*
-



How to enter:

Please email your submission to playingshakespeare@shakespearesglobe.com by 1.00pm on Monday 5 January 2026 with the subject line 'Graffiti Competition – [your name]'.

In the email, please include:

- *A high-quality image of your design (a scan, a photograph, however you'd like to share this with us – but make sure we can see all details of your design!)*
- *A few sentences explaining your choice of phrase and letting us know why you feel it is important, either in the play, in society today, or both.*

- *Your name*

- *Your school*

- *Your year*

We will aim to be in touch via email with the results of your application by Friday 30 January 2026. In addition to earning a place for your artwork among the set design for Romeo and Juliet, the winning entrant will receive four free tickets to see a performance of the show with their friends and family! These will be awarded for Saturday 21 March 2026 at 2.00pm and entrants MUST be able to attend the show on this date.

If you have any questions about the above brief, please get in touch with us at playingshakespeare@shakespearesglobe.com. We wish you the best of luck!

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.

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 1,313 books and spent 2,671 hours of careful reading.

Well done and keep up the good work!

Ms Bassington | Head of English

Congratulations to our top November readers from each year group:

Year 7 Top Readers:

Tia M: 17,756

Serena R: 9,267

Lara JA: 5,771

Year 8 Top Readers:

Teshan D: 7,775

Lusandro H: 6,816

Moyosoreoluwa S: 3,401

Year 9 Top Readers:

Anu O: 13,113

Mark M: 2,291

Alexandra: 2,004

Year 10 Top Readers:

Ali O: 4,151

Alaya A: 1,850

Christopher F: 1,775

Ms Bassington | Head of English

Building Learning Habits

This term we worked with staff and students to increase the amount of learning and practice which students complete at home. We wanted to do this to bring us into line with the highest achieving schools locally and nationally, so that our students can learn at least as much as students in other schools and have the best chance of competing at all levels.

In total, our students have completed more than 5000 tasks! This represents a huge increase from the same term last year.

Our student survey showed that 66% of students who completed the survey are now completing 1 or more hours of learning and practice each night. 97% said that they receive learning and practice most weeks in most subjects.

To support students to manage the shift, we continue to run Learning and Practice Club (previously Homework club) in the library from 3-4pm every night. To help students who fail to complete activities at home, we put in place a Learning and Practice Detention. Students who miss a task do not receive negative behaviour points, but instead receive a L&P detention, which they complete in the library where there are Chromebooks and staff on hand to support them. 52% of students benefited from this at least once, while a fantastic 48% (263 students) completed all their L&P on time and never needed to go!

Of course, students don't need to wait to get a detention before they go to L&P club; it is there for them to attend any time they like.

Students told us that they prefer learning and practice in Art and DT, as well as Dr Frost, Sparx and Carousel. They want more drawing, art, music and fun.

We also attended Student Council and met with SEND parents at the SEND coffee morning. We received requests to ensure that there is always enough time to complete tasks, that tasks are self-explanatory so that families can help at home, and we fed these back to our staff and continue to work with them to improve further.

In the new term, we will start to look at the quality of the tasks and the impact that they have on our children's attainment and progress. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with your feedback, which we value highly. We look forward to updating you again soon.

Ms Malakouna and Ms Helan

3.1 BUILDING LEARNING HABITS: VISION



Every student spends 5-15 hours a week on effective learning and practice at home, so that all students feel confident of their knowledge and skills and exceed expected progress to achieve their full potential.



"Be kind to one another, loving one another as God forgave you." Ephesians 4:32

Build a Library - Mark Your Legacy!

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

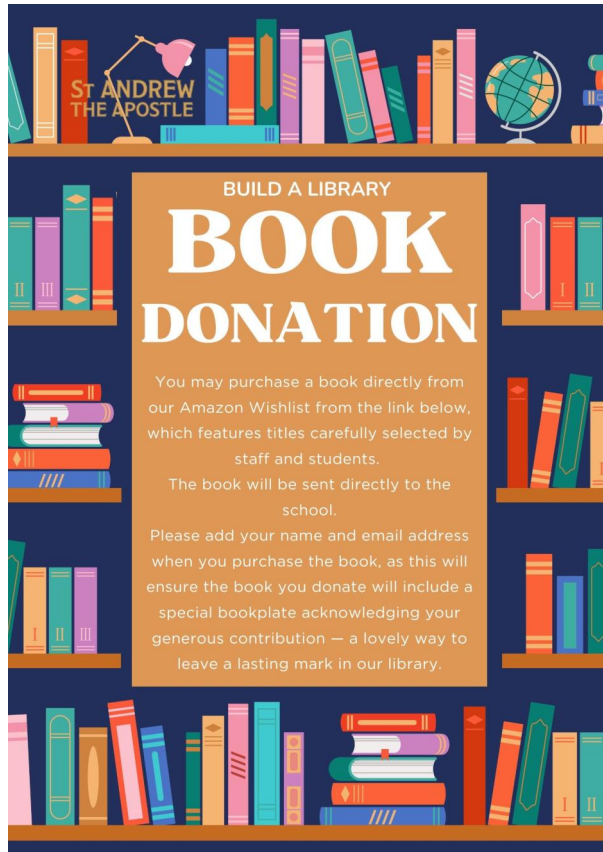
We have currently had over 48 book purchases, and this continues to grow. Your generous donations of books have enriched our shelves and opened up new worlds for our students to explore. You may access our Amazon wish list [here](#) to join in building our school Library.

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 Kyriazos family 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.



St ANDREW
THE APOSTLE

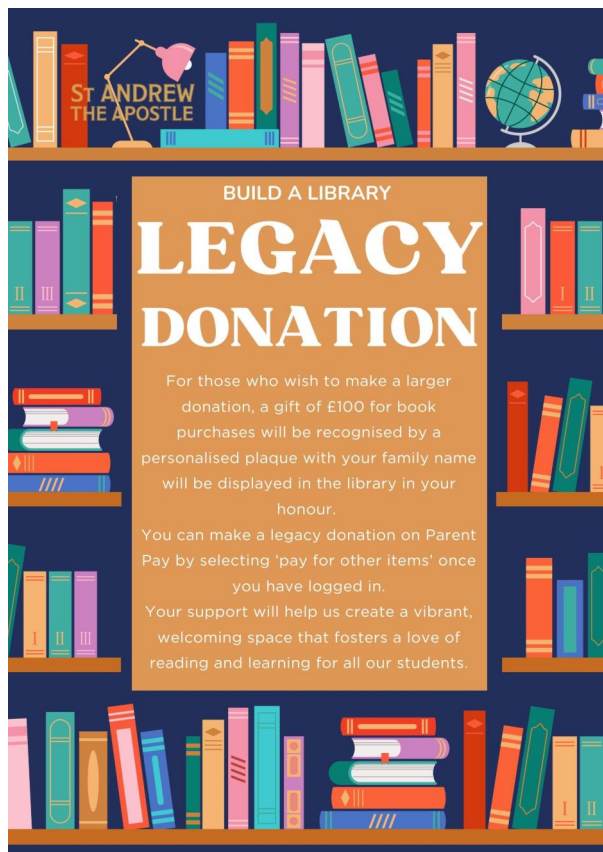
BUILD A LIBRARY

BOOK DONATION

You may purchase a book directly from our Amazon Wishlist from the link below, which features titles carefully selected by staff and students.

The book will be sent directly to the school.

Please add your name and email address when you purchase the book, as this will ensure the book you donate will include a special bookplate acknowledging your generous contribution — a lovely way to leave a lasting mark in our library.



St ANDREW
THE APOSTLE

BUILD A LIBRARY

LEGACY DONATION

For those who wish to make a larger donation, a gift of £100 for book purchases will be recognised by a personalised plaque with your family name will be displayed in the library in your honour.

You can make a legacy donation on Parent Pay by selecting 'pay for other items' once you have logged in.

Your support will help us create a vibrant, welcoming space that fosters a love of reading and learning for all our students.

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!



A high achieving school for Barnet and beyond

2 - [Volunteer Librarian at St Andrew the Apostle Greek Orthodox School, London, | MyNewTermClick Here to Apply!](#)

Parent Governor Opportunity

Dear Parents,

Our governing body has two positions for parent governors. Our current parent governors have served the school brilliantly for their elected period of office, which is four years. This term is coming to an end early in 2026 and both governors are interested in serving another term. However, we would like to know if there are any other parents who would also be

interested in becoming a governor. If you would like more details about this role or would like to express an interest, please email us using the following email address:

Sta.governance@russelleducationtrust.org.uk

Regards,

Clerk to the Governing Body

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](#)

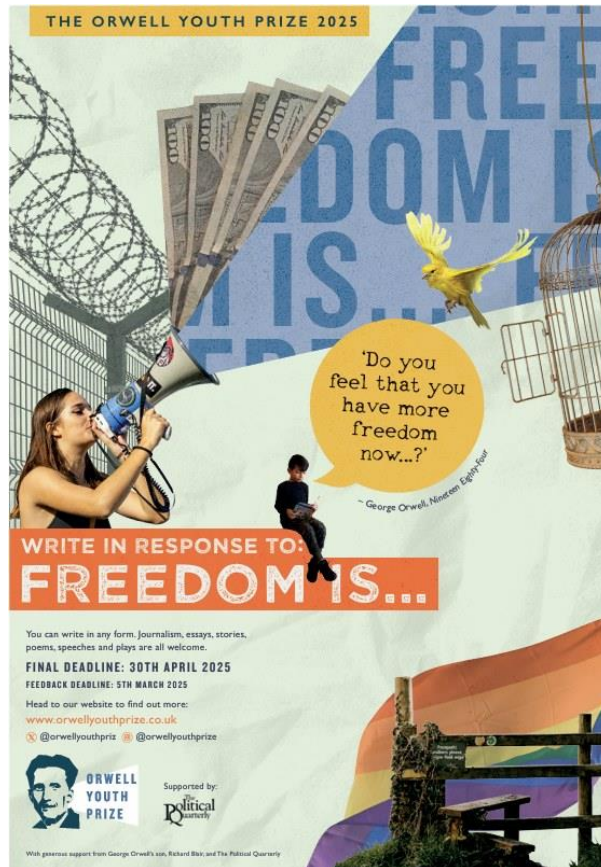


An exciting opportunity to enter a competition and to express your opinion on 'Freedom is...'

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.*
-

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. This course is now fully booked.

**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



YOUNG BARNET FOUNDATION

Christmas Campaign

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?

Scan here to buy a gift for a vulnerable child this Christmas and give what you can

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

www.youngbarnetfoundation.org.uk
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. The QR code is positioned to the left of the app store logos. The Studybugs logo at the bottom consists of the brand name in a white, rounded font followed by a green plus sign icon.