



# St Andrew The Apostle School Newsletter 13.03.26





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*Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of the School,*

*This week has been such a vibrant one, with students across the school engaging in a variety of activities that have showcased their creativity. Science Week, in particular, has been a resounding success, filling classrooms with thoughtful questions and a sense of exploration and awe. Pupils from Year 7 took part in a lively Spelling Bee, which brought a fun and challenging twist to scientific vocabulary. The confidence and composure shown by the competitors were admirable, and it was heartening to see so many students cheering on their peers and celebrating one another's achievements.*

*We were also privileged to welcome several guest speakers who added depth and inspiration to Science Week. An optometrist visited the school to discuss the science of vision and eye health, sparking fascinating discussions about human biology, perception and medical careers. An academic speaker delivered an engaging session on black holes, captivating students with the mysteries of astrophysics and the scale of the universe. Another highlight was a talk on the science of illusions, which blended psychology, neuroscience and visual trickery in a way that left students thinking differently about how the mind makes sense of the world. All these sessions supported our students in recognising both the beauty and the real-world relevance of scientific study, and we are grateful to the Science Department for organising such an enriching programme.*

*Alongside this, the Drama Club enjoyed an unforgettable trip to see Les Misérables in the West End. The performance made an impression on everyone who attended, from the sweeping live music to the emotional storytelling and dramatic staging. Theatre visits like this broaden students' cultural horizons but also deepen their understanding of the power of the arts. The students represented the school beautifully, and we are glad they had such a memorable experience.*

*Our Year 8 Geographers also embarked on a field trip this week. Fieldwork is a vital part of geographical study, allowing pupils to apply classroom concepts to real landscapes and real data. Students were praised for their excellent behaviour, teamwork and enthusiasm as they carried out investigations, developed new skills and gained a clearer understanding of the environments they study. Their teachers were extremely proud of the maturity and curiosity shown throughout the day.*

*Another group deserving of recognition is the talented team of dancers who represented the school at the Barnet Dance Festival. Their performance was a wonderful demonstration of commitment, creativity and confidence, and they were exemplary ambassadors for our community. The effort they have put into rehearsals and preparation really shone through, and we congratulate them on a fantastic achievement.*

*As we look ahead, we are particularly excited to welcome families to the Year 7 Parents' Evening on the 19 March. These evenings are an important part of the partnership between home and school, giving us the opportunity to discuss students' progress, celebrate their successes and identify the next steps in their learning. We genuinely appreciate the time families give to attending these events; your involvement plays a crucial role in supporting students' academic growth and overall well-being. We look forward to seeing many of you there and continuing to work together to ensure our young people flourish in every aspect of their education.*

***Christopher Martin | Headteacher***

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## **Faith**

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*As we begin the week, we continue our journey through Lent, a time of reflection, renewal, and spiritual growth. In school, this season invites us to focus on compassion, forgiveness, and responsibility—values that strengthen both our faith and our daily relationships with one another.*

*This week, we also mark several **Greek Orthodox name days**, moments that connect us to the rich tradition of the saints and the virtues they exemplify.*

*On **16 March**, we commemorate **Saint Sabinas**, remembered for his steadfast faith and courage during times of trial. His life reminds us of the importance of standing firm in our beliefs and acting with integrity, even when challenges arise.*

*On **17 March**, the Church honours **Saint Alexios the Man of God**, a figure celebrated for his humility, devotion, and quiet service. His example encourages us to practise kindness without seeking recognition, and to look for opportunities to support one another with gentle generosity.*

*On **18 March**, we celebrate **Saint Cyril of Jerusalem**, a teacher of deep wisdom and clarity. His legacy invites us to pursue knowledge with an open heart and to approach learning—not only in our academic studies but also in our spiritual lives—with curiosity and thoughtfulness.*

*As we reflect on these saints, we pray that the virtues they embodied may inspire our school community throughout the week: courage, humility, wisdom, and a spirit of loving service.*

*We wish **chronia polla** to all students, staff, and families celebrating their name day this week. May it be a time of blessing, joy, and peaceful reflection.*

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## **Upcoming Dates**

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Monday 16 March - Year 12 & Year 13 Trip Mini Cooper factory

Monday 16 March - Year 10 Imperial War Museum Trip

Tuesday 17 March - Year 12 Post-18 Information Evening (virtual - 5.00pm-6.00pm)

Thursday 19 March - Year 7 Parents Evening

Monday 23 March - Year 12 UCAS Trip

Tuesday 24 March - Year 9 Senior Booster Vaccinations Mop Up

Thursday 26 March - Year 11 Aspire Evening with students & Parents 6.00pm -7.00pm

Friday 27 March - final day of the term (early dismissal)

Monday 30 March - Easter Holiday

Monday 13 April - Students return to school

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## Upcoming Competitions and Concerts!



ST ANDREW THE APOSTLE  
**CHESS**  
COMPETITION

MONDAY & THURSDAY  
LUNCHTIME

SIGN UP WITH MR DOGAN IN ROOM 2.04 TO BE ENTERED INTO A LEAGUE SYSTEM FOLLOWED BY KNOCKOUT STAGES.

KEY STAGE 3 & KEY STAGE 4 LEAGUE.

THE WINNERS OF EACH LEAGUE WILL FACE EACH OTHER TO DECIDE THE BEST CHESS PLAYER IN THE SCHOOL.

The poster features a central image of three chess pieces (a white rook, a black king, and a white pawn) on a black and white checkered board. The text is in a bold, sans-serif font, with 'CHESS' in the largest size. The background is a light beige color.


**ST ANDREW  
THE APOSTLE**

# EASTER CARD

## COMPETITION

ENTRIES TO BE HANDED INTO THE ART DEPARTMENT BY

**THURSDAY 19 MARCH  
2026**

PLEASE INCLUDE THE SCHOOL LOGO & RELIGIOUS THEME



## YEAR 7 LADY LENT COMPETITION

Run by Miss Ntaountaki – Classics / Greek

Do you enjoy being creative? This Lent, all Year 7 students are invited to take part in our Lady Lent Competition!

**🎨 Your Challenge:**

Using the **Lady Lent template**, create the most original **Easter calendar**.

**You can:**

- Decorate and colour your Lady Lent
- Add patterns, symbols or designs linked to Lent and Easter
- Be as creative and imaginative as possible!

**★ Theme:**

**Create the most original Easter calendar**

**🏆 Prizes will be awarded** for the most creative and original designs!

**🎨 How to enter:**

Good luck Year 7 – we can't wait to see your wonderful **creations!**



**Thursday 27 March**

**📧 Deadline:**

Thursday 27 March



**NEW**  
this year!

# Greek Language Club

## Thursdays

Α Β Γ Δ Α Ζ Δ

Learn the Greek Alphabet & Immerse Yourself in Greek Culture!

Join Miss Ntaountaki for fun Greek lessons every Thursday as we learn the Greek alphabet and explore Greek language and culture through engaging activities!

Lunch Break - Room 1.05

# Easter Prayer Competition!

## ST ANDREW THE APOSTLE

WRITE A PRAYER TO BE FEATURED IN OUR EASTER CARD

ENTRIES TO BE HANDED IN TO THE RP DEPARTMENT BY

THURSDAY 19 MARCH 2026

## Year 11 Celebrate a Successful Final Concert Before Heading into Exams







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*Our Year 11 GCSE Music students delivered a warm, uplifting, and memorable final concert this week—an inspiring send-off just before they step into their exam season.*

*The concert opened with a heartfelt performance from SUNC (Natalie, Isabella, and Stefan), whose rendition of 'When I Was Your Man' showcased their musical sensitivity and rich vocal blend. Their interpretation set a reflective and expressive tone for the night.*

*This was followed by Andri's confident and technically impressive performance of 'Take Five', a piece renowned for its complexity and distinctive 5/4 rhythm. Andrii handled it with maturity and musical flair, drawing clear admiration from the audience.*

*The atmosphere then shifted to soulful nostalgia as The Whispers (Grant, Dimitris, Stefan, Isabella, Eleni, and Christian) performed 'Careless Whisper'. Their ensemble delivered a polished and well-balanced performance, highlighting the group's cohesion and musical teamwork.*

*Closing the programme, Christiana delivered a powerful and expressive performance of 'Die On This Hill' by Sienna Spiro, bringing the concert to an emotional and uplifting conclusion.*

*This concert marked the final performance from our Year 11 GCSE Music group, and they certainly made it one to remember. Their commitment, creativity, and resilience shone through every moment on stage.*

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## **SCIENCE WEEK!**

### ***KS3 STEM in Action Event***



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*To start of Science Week Year 9 students had an inspiring day out at the KS3 STEM in Action event, diving into the science and engineering shaping our world. The day opened with a talk on how the periodic table has evolved over time, revealing the stories and discoveries behind the elements we use every day.*

*Students then explored the structure and significance of DNA, gaining a deeper understanding of how genetics underpins life itself. Things took a twist, literally, when we learned how smoke rings can be created using unusual shapes such as the Möbius strip, showing how maths and physics combine in surprising ways.*

*One of the highlights was a session on biomimicry, where students discovered how engineers borrow ideas from animals to solve real-world problems, from aerodynamics to robotics. And to top it all off, everyone had the chance to meet (and even touch!) two real snakes called William Shakespeare and Ekim, bringing biology to life in the most memorable way. It was a day full of curiosity, courage, and hands-on science, exactly what STEM is all about.*

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*'Vet in a Box' Workshop*



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*As part of Science Week, some of our Year 10 students took part in the 'Vet in a Box' workshop, which was sent to us by Loughborough University. The session offered a unique and informative look into the world of animal health and farm management.*

*Students heard from a vet, a vet nurse and a vet student, gaining insight into the differences between their roles, training pathways, and day-to-day responsibilities. This helped students understand the varied career options within veterinary science.*

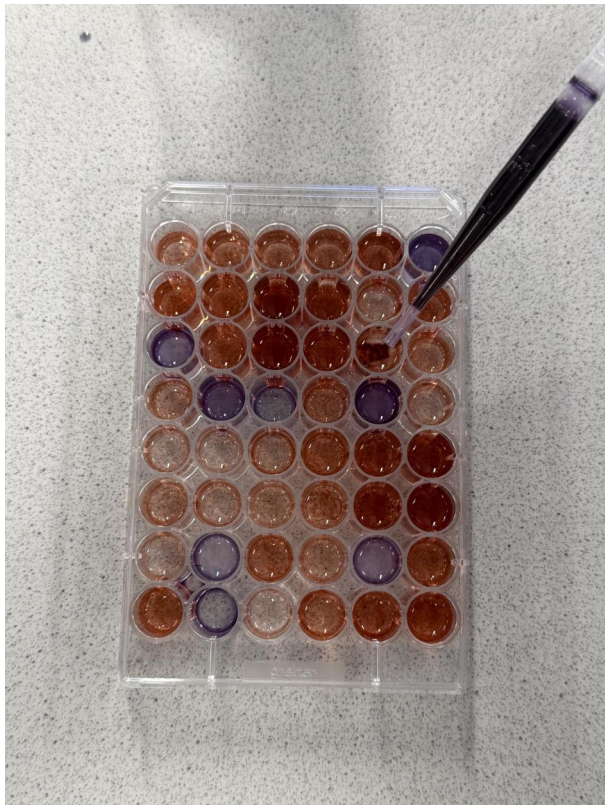
*Linking to their curriculum, students recapped the concept of herd immunity and applied it to a realistic farm scenario. They calculated how much money a farmer could make from selling milk, while also considering the many costs involved in running a farm, such as feed, labour, equipment and veterinary care.*

*Students then tested simulated samples from their herd to determine how many cows were immune and used this to calculate the overall herd immunity. Using evidence cards, they evaluated whether it would be financially worthwhile for the farmer to pay for vaccinations for the herd.*

*The workshop was hands-on, analytical, and an excellent example of science in action. We are grateful to Loughborough University for providing such a valuable and engaging learning experience!*

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## *World of Astrophysics by Dr McCaffrey*



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*As part of our Science Week celebrations, we were delighted to welcome Dr Joe McCaffrey, who delivered a fascinating talk about his journey into the world of astrophysics. Dr McCaffrey shared how his passion for science led him through university and ultimately to completing a PhD on black holes, a topic that immediately captured the imagination of everyone in the room. He explained the focus of his research, breaking down complex ideas about black holes into clear, accessible concepts.*

*Students were particularly intrigued by the mysteries surrounding these cosmic giants, and the Q&A session quickly became a highlight. Questions ranged from “What happens if black holes disappear?” to “How do we know we are detecting gravitational waves?” The event brought together students from Years 10, 11, 12, and 13, all of whom engaged enthusiastically throughout the session. Their thoughtful questions and lively discussion showed just how inspiring encounters with real scientists can be. Dr McCaffrey’s visit was a brilliant reminder of the exciting paths science can open and the importance of curiosity in driving discovery.*

***Miss Msrar | Head of Science***

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## *Illusions and Human Perception*



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*As part of Science Week, the Year 8 students enjoyed an exciting session led by Dr Denise Cadete, who delivered an interactive talk on illusions and human perception. Her presentation explored how the brain interprets the world around us, and how our senses can sometimes be tricked.*

*Dr Cadete captured the students' attention with hands-on demonstrations, including an activity involving a mirror and a fake hand. This experiment challenged students to think about how their brain recognises their own body, and many were eager to take part as they watched the illusion unfold in real time.*

*The session deepened students' understanding of perception in science and sparked curious discussions about how and why these illusions happen.*

*A warm thank you to Dr Denise Cadete for visiting and helping to make Science Week memorable and enjoyable for our Year 8s!*

**Miss Msrar | Head of Science**

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## **Extreme Reading Photography Competition - Results**

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*To celebrate World Book Day, our students and staff took part in the **Extreme Reading Photography Competition**—and the imagination on display was nothing short of extraordinary! From aviation dreams to unusual household hideouts, entries showcased just how far (and how high!) our community will go for a good book.*

*After much deliberation, we are delighted to announce this year's winners:*

 **Student Winners**

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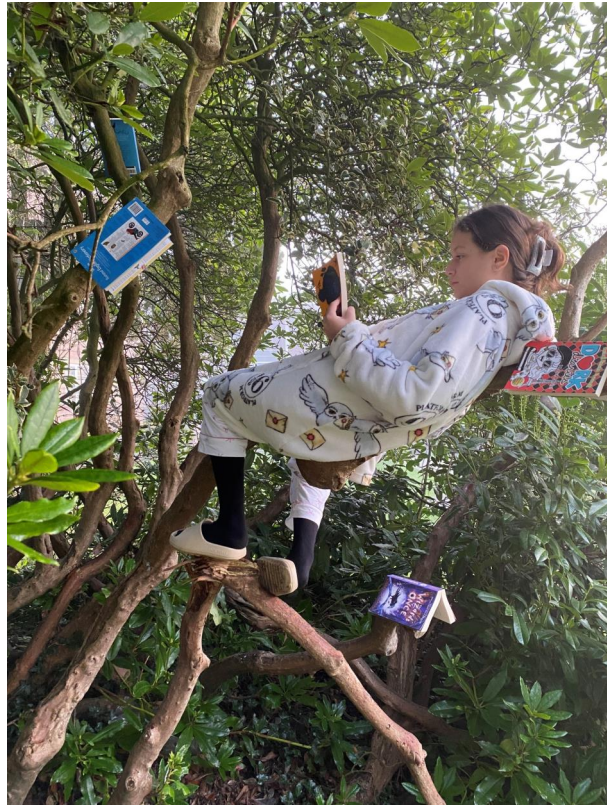


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**3rd Place: Matin, Year 9**

*A hideaway on a shed.*

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**2nd Place: Sophia, Year 7**

*A cosy scene atop a tree; surrounded by books it seems a perfect hideaway.*

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**1st Place: Danny, Year 9**

*A brilliantly creative shot combining reading, acrobatics and nature.*

*Special mention also goes to Ta'Lean for her hilarious icy reading inside a fridge, and to George for his extreme reading—even while trampolining.*

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 **Staff Winners**

*Our teachers rose to the challenge as well, proving once again that a love of reading knows no bounds.*

**The winner of 'real life' category is Ms Malakouna with a dramatic reading pose, demonstrating true commitment to literature in a theatrical style.**

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The winner of AI category is Mr Dogan with an inventive “reading while flying” image.

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*A huge **thank you** to everyone who entered. We can't wait to see where your reading adventures take you next year!*

***Ms Bassington | Head of English***

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## Year 7 'Clay Monday'



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*Year 7 have recently begun exploring the fascinating world of surrealist art, learning about artists who are known for their imaginative and dream like creations. As part of this topic, students have been looking at how surrealism challenges reality by combining unexpected shapes, objects, and ideas to create something unusual and thought provoking. To bring their learning to life, we held a special 'Clay Monday' where the classroom quite literally became a hands-on creative studio. Students used their design ideas to sculpt their own surreal clocks out of clay. Throughout the session, they developed important sculpting skills such as moulding, shaping, and manipulating clay, learning how to transform a simple material into imaginative three-dimensional pieces, distorting their clock designs to give them that surreal twist. By the end of the day, each student had produced a unique clay sculpture, showing great creativity and willingness to experiment. Next week, students will continue developing their work by painting their clocks, applying colour and surrealist themes to enhance the dreamlike quality.*

*We're looking forward to seeing how their ideas evolve as they add vibrant colours, patterns, and imaginative details to complete their surreal masterpieces.*

**Miss Agathangelou | Art & DT Tech**

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**Father Gregory Visits Year 12 Ethics**





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*We were delighted to welcome Father Gregory to the Sixth Form on Tuesday for the first of the Year 12 Ethics lessons. The session offered a thoughtful introduction to the value of ethical inquiry and the role of considered discussion when engaging with complex ideas and differing perspectives. Students explored a wide range of topics from multiple viewpoints and began developing critical thinking skills that will serve them well in their studies and in next year's interviews. Thank you Father Gregory for inspiring our students and we are looking forward to the next session.*

***Ms Bicarregui | Head of Sixth Form***

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## **Barnet Schools Dance Festival**

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*This year's we took part in the Barnet Schools Dance Festival on Wednesday 11 March, and our students showcased not only exceptional talent, but also the dedication, teamwork, and confidence that embody our school motto: Ever to Excel.*

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*Our first performance was introduced by Amelia and Kodi, both in Year 9, representing a talented group of Year 8 and 9 dancers. Their piece, a high-energy 2000s Remix, was choreographed entirely by the Year 9 students. The dancers paid tribute to the unforgettable music and dance culture of the early 2000s, celebrating rhythm, nostalgia and the joy of moving together. The performance radiated excitement and unity.*

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*Next, Year 10 students Akshara and Gabi presented their beautifully crafted choreography to Constellations. Their dance explored the idea of stars guiding people across distances, using*

*movement as a metaphor for connection, clarity, and the ways we navigate the world together. It was a thoughtful, expressive piece that demonstrated both emotional maturity and artistic vision.*

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*Across the day, our dancers represented St Andrew the Apostle School with impeccable conduct, enthusiasm and professionalism. Their hard work in rehearsals, respect for others behind the scenes, and passion on stage made us immensely proud.*

*A huge congratulations to all the girls involved - you truly excelled.*

## **Celebrating Our UKMT Maths Challenge Successes**



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*We are delighted to congratulate our students on their impressive achievements in this year's UKMT Maths Challenges. The UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) competitions are nationally recognised problem-solving challenges designed to stretch high-attaining mathematicians. They encourage students to think creatively, apply mathematical reasoning, and solve complex, non-routine problems—skills that go beyond the classroom and deepen their understanding of the subject.*

*Taking part in the UKMT Challenges provides an exciting opportunity for our higher-ability students to experience true mathematical challenge, build confidence, and compete against some of the most able young mathematicians across the country. Our students have excelled, earning certificates that reflect their hard work, perseverance, and exceptional problem-solving ability.*

*We are incredibly proud of their accomplishments and the dedication they have shown. We look forward to celebrating even more successes in the future as our students continue to rise to new mathematical challenges.*

**Mr Dogan | Head of Maths**

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## Tea with the Headteacher Celebration – Term 3



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*This term, a group of our students had the special opportunity to attend our Tea with the Headteacher celebration. This event is held each term to recognise students who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to their learning and to our school community. Students were selected because they either achieved the highest number of achievement points in their year group or showed the most improvement over the course of the term.*

*Achievement points are awarded to students who go above and beyond in their day-to-day school life. This includes showing outstanding effort in lessons, producing brilliant work, and consistently demonstrating our school values in their behaviour and interactions with others.*

*We are incredibly proud of the students who attended this term's event, and it was wonderful to celebrate their hard work, positive attitude, and continued progress.*

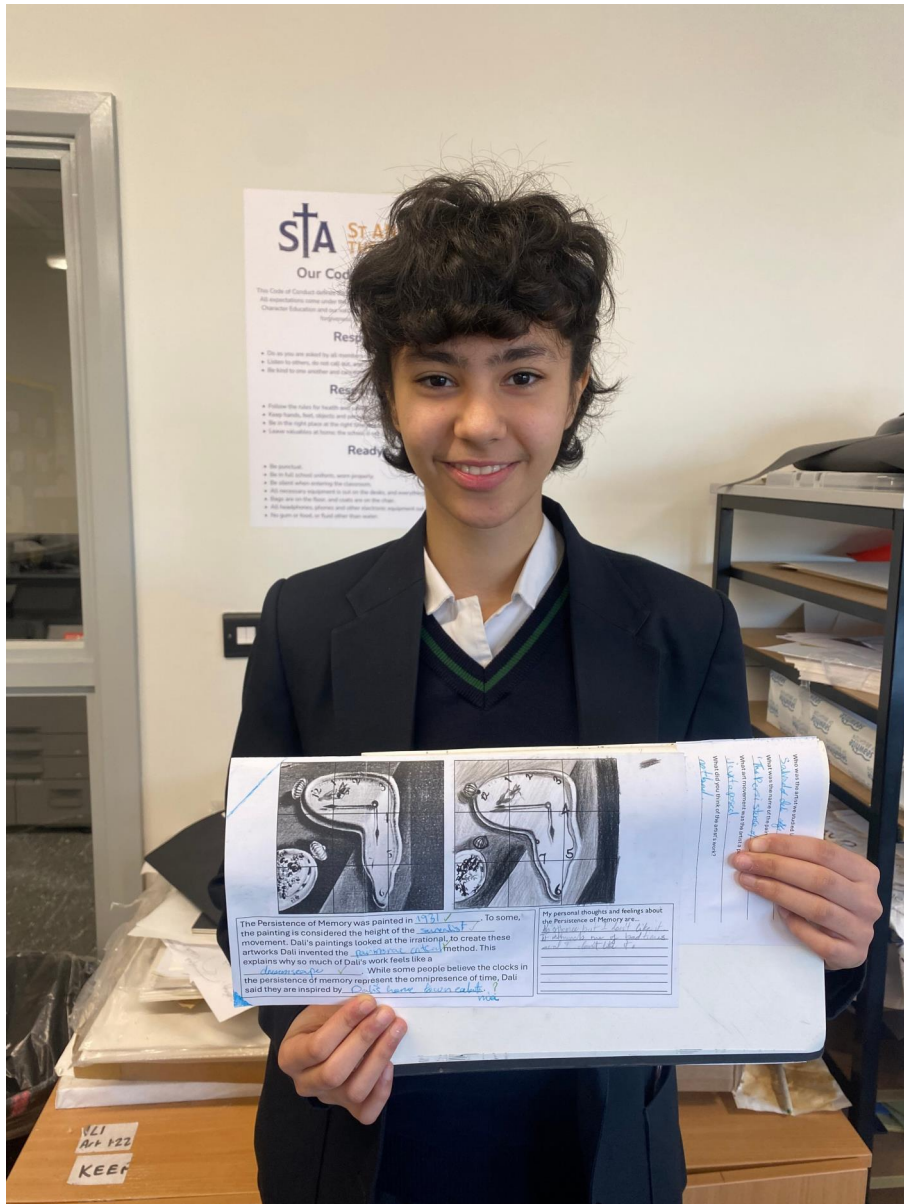
*We encourage all parents and carers to regularly check **MCAS** to monitor their child's behaviour and achievement points. This is an excellent way to stay updated on their successes and to support them in maintaining positive habits both in and out of the classroom.*

*Congratulations once again to all students who took part—you are fantastic role models for our school community!*





## Artist of the week



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*This week's KS3 Artist of the Week award goes to a Hana Year 7, whose dedication and artistic growth have truly shone. She has demonstrated an impressive understanding of the grid technique, using it to create a thoughtful and accurate transcription of Salvador Dalí's artwork. Her tonal shading has developed remarkably since the beginning of the year, reflecting the effort, focus, and pride she brings to every lesson. She should feel incredibly proud of this achievement and the beautiful artwork she has produced.*

**Miss Lisle | Teacher of Art**

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## **Student Council**

### **Student Council Charity Selections – International Charity Announced**

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*Over the course of this half term, our Student Council have been working with impressive maturity and purpose as they explored and selected the local, regional, and international charities the school will support over the coming years leaving a legacy for the council members. Their thoughtful discussions, research, and voting sessions have demonstrated a strong sense of social responsibility and a genuine desire to make a meaningful difference in the wider community.*

#### **A Broad and Inspiring Long List of International Charities**

*In preparation for selecting the school's international charity, Student Council members created an extensive long list featuring organisations working across humanitarian, environmental, and global development causes. This list included:*

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- *HelpAge International – supporting older people worldwide*
- *Humanity & Inclusion – assisting people with disabilities and victims of conflict*
- *Action Against Hunger – tackling global hunger and malnutrition*
- *World Wildlife Fund (WWF) – protecting endangered species and natural habitats*

- *Greenpeace – addressing climate change and promoting environmental justice*
  - *WaterAid – improving access to clean water and sanitation*
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*The range of charities highlighted the students’ awareness of global issues—from environmental sustainability to human rights—and demonstrated their commitment to understanding how charities contribute to a better world.*

### ***Student Vote: Thursday 12 February***

*During their weekly meeting on Thursday 12 February, council members held a structured vote to choose the charity that most resonated with their shared values and the school’s mission of empowering students to think globally. After a thoughtful discussion and democratic ballot, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) was selected as this year’s International Charity.*

*Students were particularly inspired by WWF’s work in protecting threatened species, conserving natural environments, and addressing urgent global challenges such as climate change and biodiversity loss. Their decision reflects a growing passion among our young people for sustainability and environmental action.*

### ***Charities Chosen Across All Levels***

*Alongside their international choice, the Student Council also finalised decisions for the local and regional charities the school will support. This half term’s focus has resulted in the following selections:*

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- *Local Charity: Homeless Action in Barnet – supporting vulnerable individuals experiencing homelessness*
  - *Regional Charity: Refuge – providing specialist services for women and children experiencing domestic abuse*
  - *International Charity: World Wildlife Fund (WWF) – working globally to protect nature and safeguard the planet*
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*These choices show a clear understanding of the importance of helping communities on multiple levels—near and far. The students were passionate about ensuring the school’s charity work reflects compassion, inclusivity, and a commitment to real-world issues.*

***Looking Ahead***

*The Student Council will now begin planning awareness campaigns, fundraising ideas, and whole-school activities to support their chosen charities. Their enthusiasm, teamwork, and dedication continue to be a source of pride for our school community.*

*We look forward to seeing the impact their efforts will make—both locally and globally—over the coming months.*

***Mr Browell | Extended Leadership Team***

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**Student Council Dodgeball Tournament – Thursday 26 March**





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*The Student Council is excited to announce a whole-school Dodgeball Tournament taking place on Thursday 26 March 2026. This energetic and action-packed event is open to all year groups, giving every student the chance to get involved, compete, and show off their dodgeball skills.*

*This year's tournament will take place on our roof-top MUGA — marking the first time this incredible space has been used for a sporting event since the school opened. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to experience the unique playing environment of the roof-top MUGA and enjoy sport in a space like no other.*

*For a £3.00 entry fee, students will secure their place in the tournament and will also be permitted to wear their PE kit for the entire school day. Whether students are seasoned dodgeball pros or simply looking for an afternoon of fun with friends, this is a brilliant chance to get active and be part of a memorable Student Council-led event.*

### ***Supporting Refuge – A Charity That Saves Lives***

*All money raised from the tournament will go directly to **Refuge**, the Student Council's chosen charity. Refuge provides life-saving support for women and children escaping domestic abuse, offering emergency accommodation, specialist counselling, outreach programmes, and vital advocacy in moments of crisis. Their work ensures survivors have safety, stability, and a pathway to rebuilding their lives.*

*By taking part in the tournament, students will not only enjoy a great event — they will be helping to support a charity whose role is essential in protecting some of the most vulnerable individuals in society. Every £3.00 contribution will go towards sustaining these life-changing services.*

### ***How to Take Part***

*To sign up, please visit **ParentPay** and complete your registration by **Monday 23 March**.*

*We look forward to seeing students from all year groups take part, enjoy the excitement of the **roof-top MUGA**, and help raise money for a deeply important cause.*

***Mr Browell | Extended Leadership Team***

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## Sports at STA

### Year 8 Basketball Match Report



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*The Year 8 basketball team travelled to Saracens High School on Tuesday 10 March for what proved to be a competitive and exciting fixture. The game remained close throughout the opening two quarters, with only a handful of points separating the sides as both teams showed strong defensive organisation and excellent teamwork.*

*Saracens were able to pull ahead in the third quarter, creating a lead that the team battled hard to close. Despite a determined final push, the match finished 25–15 in favour of Saracens High School.*

*The team was superbly captained by Reece, who demonstrated outstanding leadership on and off the court. Lusandro and Pierre produced brilliant baskets that kept the team within touching distance, while Danilo was deservedly voted MVP by his teammates for his effort, energy, and consistency throughout the game.*

*The Year 8s now look ahead to their upcoming fixtures against Archer Academy and Clarion, which will also mark their first home matches in the new sports hall before half term.*

**Mr Fowlie | Teacher of PE**

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## **Year 9 and Year 11 Netball vs St Michael's**





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*This week, our Year 9 and Year 11 netball teams faced St Michael's in two competitive and exciting matches. Both squads demonstrated real pride, determination, and teamwork, with plenty of impressive skills on display throughout the games.*

*Although both teams were narrowly defeated, there were many positives to celebrate. The girls showed resilience from start to finish, supporting one another and maintaining excellent spirit on court. Standout goals came from Tia (Y9), as well as Elena (Y11) and Natalie (Y11), whose confident shooting kept the pressure on St Michael's defence.*

*The matches highlighted several strengths—accurate passing, strong defensive moments, and improved attacking play. The players also identified a few areas to focus on before their next fixtures, showing great maturity and commitment.*

*Congratulations to our Players of the Match: Aurelia (Y9) and Elena and Serena (Y11) for their fantastic contributions.*

***Miss Walt | Assistant Headteacher***

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

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*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**

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**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](http://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

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  **ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND** [WWW.BEATRUST.ORG.UK](http://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

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Department for Education ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

## Supporting your child with revision: Blurting



*One simple but highly effective revision technique that we are focusing on this half term is **blurting, or brain dumps**. It helps strengthen memory and highlight areas that need further practice.*

**What is blurting?**

**Your child:**

1. Reads a short section of notes for 5 minutes
2. Closes the book

3. *Writes down everything they can remember*
4. *Checks what they missed and adds it in, using a different colour*
5. *Repeats a few days later.*

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### ***Why blurting is great for revision***

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- ***It boosts memory*** — *blurting forces students to recall information, which strengthens long-term learning.*
  - ***It reveals gaps*** — *students can instantly see what they've forgotten and what they understand well.*
  - ***It builds confidence*** — *seeing progress over time helps reduce stress and makes revision feel manageable.*
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### ***How parents can support***

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- *Encourage short, focused sessions (10–15 minutes)*
  - *Provide a quiet space and reduce distractions*
  - *Ask gentle prompts such as:*
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- *“Show me what you can remember about that topic.”*
  - *“What did you add when you checked your notes?”*
- 

- *Praise effort — the goal is progress, not perfection*
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***What have students said about blurring?***

“Blurring showed me what I actually knew, not what I thought I knew. It made revision feel more real.” — ***Year 9 Student***

*“I like using a different colour to fill in the gaps. It helps me see what’s sticking in my memory.”* — ***Year 9 Student***

“It’s quick and makes me less stressed. Once I blurt everything out, I know exactly what to revise next.” — ***Year 8 Student***

“I used to just read over my notes but Blurring forces me to write down what I know. Now I can see easily what I haven’t remembered and focus on that.” — ***Year 10 Student***

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

***Ms Viala | Assistant Headteacher***

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## Meet the Staff



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*I am fortunate to lead a team of outstanding professionals who support one another each day and bring dedication and enthusiasm to their work with students. We love what we do, and fostering a love of reading and learning remains central to our practice. I am personally committed to providing students with rich, challenging opportunities that help them grow academically and personally, encouraging them to explore different perspectives and think critically about their place in the world.*

***Ms Bassington | Head of English***

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## Careers

**INVESTIN**  
**CAREERS UNLOCKED**  
**FREE WORKSHOP SERIES**

 Ever wondered what it takes to break into some of the world's most competitive careers?


Join us for our new Careers Unlocked series, featuring seven online workshop-style sessions led by experienced industry professionals.

**Tuesday 10th March** How to Become a Doctor  
How to Become a Lawyer


**Wednesday 11th March** How to Become an Engineer  
How to Become an Entrepreneur

**Thursday 12th March** How to Become a Psychologist  
How to Become an Investment Banker

**Tuesday 17th March** **Parent Webinar:**  
A Parent's Guide to Life After School

**REGISTER NOW** 

You can also earn a certificate of attendance to use for future applications!



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*Register to join a series of upcoming STEM-careers webinars during Science Week, giving you a first look at the wide range of pathways in science, engineering, and technology. The sessions are open to all pupils who want to explore future opportunities and hear directly from industry professionals. If you can't attend live you can still register to receive the recording and follow-up resources.*

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Summer STEM Placements - Student sign-ups closing soon!

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*Registrations close - 1st April*

*Year 12 students have the chance to gain hands-on research experience this summer with a free STEM placement. These opportunities put students at the heart of real scientific work, build skills, and inspire future STEM pathways.*

*Applications for these placements are often over-subscribed so we recommend you check eligibility and help students apply before the deadline! [Research and Experience Placements information for students](#)*

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## **Extra-Curricular Clubs – Spring Term**

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*We're excited to announce that our full programme of extra-curricular clubs has officially commenced for the Spring Term. Students will have access to a wide variety of lunchtime and after-school activities, designed to enrich learning, build friendships, and develop new skills.*

*Whether you're passionate about sports, music, arts, literacy, numeracy, debate, or horticulture, there's something for everyone. Clubs are open to all year groups and offer a fantastic opportunity to explore interests beyond the classroom.*

*For clubs running at lunchtime, students will be issued lunch passes to allow early access to the dining hall—ensuring they have time to eat before attending their chosen activity.*

*To sign up, students must use Student Portal:*

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- 1. Log in to the portal*
  - 2. View your **dashboard***
  - 3. Click on **clubs***
  - 4. Find your preferred club and click **enrol**.*
- 

**Please note - If students have already enrolled for the club during Autumn Term, students do not need to re-enrol for the Spring Term.**

*We encourage all students to get involved and make the most of what's on offer. Please see attached lunch and after-school timetables.*

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## Extra - Curricular Lunch Time Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 11 Public-Library Style revision (TA)	Year 11 Public-Library Style revision (TA)	Year 11 Public-Library Style revision (TA)	Year 11 Public-Library Style revision (TA)	Year 11 Public-Library Style revision (TA)
Chess Club (Mr Kalloor)	Mind the Gap (Ms Nicolas)	Year 9 Band Practice (Mr Lasithiotakis)	Year 11 Band Practice (Mr Lasithiotakis)	KS3 Reading Club (Ms Pallas)
Choir (Mr Lasithiotakis)	Cultural Greek Dance (Ms Ntaountaki)	The Inner Circle KS5 (Ms Sorgente)	Strategy Club (Mr Dogan)	
Post Advice and Support (Ms Koveri)		Debate Club (Mr Watch)	Drama Club KS4 (Ms Nelson)	
		IT Surgery (Mr Ahmed)		
		Apostle News Club (Ms Casey)		
		Drama Club KS3 (Ms Nelson)		
		Paired Reading Club (Ms Bassington)		

## Extra - Curricular After School Schedule 3pm to 4pm

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Learning and Practice club (TA)	Learning and Practice club (TA)	Learning and Practice club (TA)	Learning and Practice club (TA)	Learning and Practice club (TA)
Young Writers Club (Ms Casey)	Art Club KS3 & Year 10 (Miss Lisle)	Debate Club KS3 (Dr Beadle)	DT Club (Ms Ayres)	Level 3 Algebra Club (Mr Dogan)
Basketball Club (PE Team)	Allotment Club (Ms Mahmuti)	Netball (PE Team)	Physics Club KS4 (Mr Chalepas)	Electric Car Club (Mr Chalepas)
Negotiation Club (Ms Rafique)	Criminal Psychology (Ms Cebir)		Science Club KS4 (Miss McCaffrey)	
			STEM Club KS3 (Miss Msrar)	
			Chemistry Club KS4 (Ms Frost)	
			Dance Club (Miss Walt)	
			Year 7 & 8 Spanish Film (Ms Errami)	

## A Walk down Memory Lane



21 March 2025



### Barnet Schools Dance Festival

A huge well done to our two very talented dance squads who performed in the Barnet Schools Dance Festival at Arts Depot on Wednesday.

Our students performed two different dances that were choreographed by students in Years 9 and 10, as well as taking part in the Finale Dance! Our students have rehearsed tirelessly to ensure they could execute their dances with precision and skill.

The first dance was 'Don't Stop the Music' and was a piece choreographed by Tanisha in Year 9. The piece aimed to celebrate the universal language of music and remind the audience that music has the ability to unite us all as it breaks barriers and transcends languages.

The second dance was a piece by our Year 10 students, Raya and Isabella.

The dance was called Shadow Symphony and was about two opposing sides who unite through music and dance. The piece was designed to celebrate inclusivity and togetherness.

Miss Walt | Assistant Headteacher & Teacher of PE



## Dr Frost - Maths Department

*Dr Frost Maths is used to enhance learning and support every student's progress. The platform offers high-quality lesson resources, auto-marked Learning & Practice tasks, and clear progress tracking, giving teachers more time to focus on effective teaching. Students benefit from interactive practice questions, step-by-step video explanations, and access to past exam problems, helping them build confidence and strengthen their understanding at their own pace. Dr Frost Maths also supports revision by highlighting areas for improvement, allowing students to target specific skills. By integrating this resource into our daily teaching*

and Learning and Practice routines, we ensure that all students receive consistent support both in class and at home, helping them become independent and resilient mathematicians.

**Mr U Dogan | Head of Maths & Business Studies**

School Rank	Points This Year	
<b>81<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>4,324,321</b>	
<b>Top 10 Dr Frost users in School</b>		
RANK	STUDENT	TOTAL MASTERY
1	Anna-Maria I (11/Mat)	23523
2	Luca L (11/Mat)	22510
3	Teshan (8/Mat)	21422
4	Angelo C (11/Mat)	21099
5	Anu (9/Mat)	20891
6	Olivia (9/Mat)	20626
7	Hana (11/Mat)	18492
8	Oliwia (11/Mat)	18235
9	Peter (11/Mat)	17879
10	Bowen (10/Mat, Year 10 Algebra)	17621

Top 3 for each year group		
Year 7		
RANK	STUDENT	TOTAL MASTERY
1	Dheeran (7X/Mat)	6740
2	Yoon (7X/Mat)	5893
3	Alex (7X/Mat)	5113
Year 8		
RANK	STUDENT	TOTAL MASTERY
1	Teshan (8/Mat)	21422
2	Ayaz (8/Mat)	14243
3	Dominic (8/Mat)	11745
Year 9		
RANK	STUDENT	TOTAL MASTERY
1	Anu (9/Mat)	20891
2	Olivia (9/Mat)	20626
3	Aurelia (9/Mat)	16334

Year 10		
RANK	STUDENT	TOTAL MASTERY
1	Bowen (10/Mat, Year 10 Algebra)	17621
2	Andreas I (10/Mat, Year 10 Algebra)	16949
3	Alaya (10/Mat)	15347
Year 11		
RANK	STUDENT	TOTAL MASTERY
1	Anna-Maria (11/Mat)	23523
2	Luca (11/Mat)	22510
3	Angelo (11/Mat)	21099

**Congratulations to all the pupils who topped the DrFrostMaths leaderboard this term!**

**We are delighted to recognise the top 10 students in the school, as well as the top 3 in each year group. A fantastic achievement – well done to you all!**



## Sparx Reader - English Department

**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 1,802 books and spent 3,724 hours of careful reading.

*Well done and keep up the good work!*

**Ms Bassington | Head of English**

*Congratulations to our top February readers from each year group:*

**Year 7 Top Readers:**

Serena R: 4,075

**Year 9 Top Readers:**

Wonder O: 4,703

Alexandru C: 3,170

Matin M: 2,469

Lara A: 3,168

Gabriel F: 2,249

**Year 8 Top Readers:**

**Year 10 Top Readers:**

Chioma O: 21,125

Ali O: 6,193

Moyosoreoluwa S: 19,473

Miles M: 1,685

Chimaranma O: 11,281

Josh D: 1,431

***Ms Bassington | Head of English***

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## **Build a Library - Mark Your Legacy!**

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*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.*

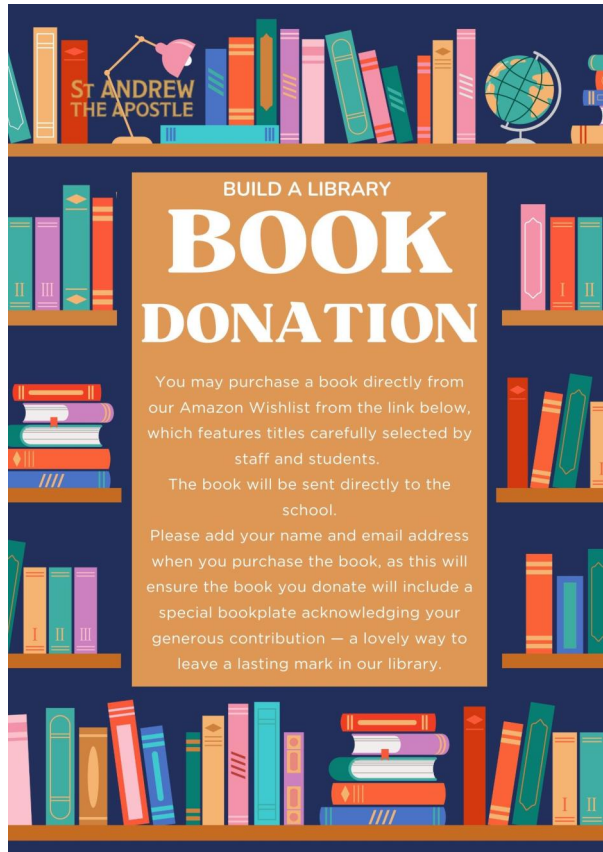
***Please ensure to add your full name to the note at checkout.***

*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.*

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St ANDREW  
THE APOSTLE

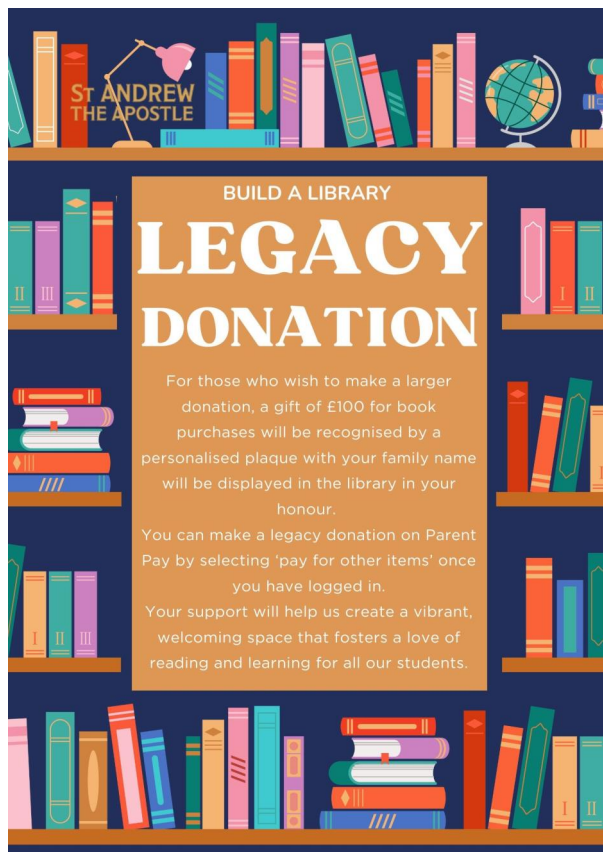
BUILD A LIBRARY

# 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.

## Breakfast: Free Porridge for All Students!



Innovate W

**START YOUR DAY WITH A FREE BOWL OF PORRIDGE**

Also available to staff with the purchase of any hot drink, or £1.00 without a drink

**ADDITIONAL TOPPINGS**

Mixed Berries	50p
Honey	50p
Other Toppings	50p



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

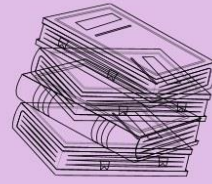
*Breakfast fuels the body and mind, helping you stay focused and ready to learn. One student said:*

*"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!*

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**YOUNG  
BARNET**  
FOUNDATION



# Easter Campaign



## HOW YOU CAN HELP

-  Donate Chocolate Eggs
-  Donate a Book and Give the Gift of Reading
-  Give a suggested donation of £1 and help brighten Easter for children who need it most!



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**How You Can Get Involved:**

 **EASTER EGG DROP-OFF POINT!**

Please donate **chocolate eggs** to help bring joy to children this Easter.

 **Donate a Book – Give the Gift of Reading!**

Encourage a love of reading by donating a **book** to a child in need.

 **Make a Difference with a £1 Donation!**

Your donation will go towards supporting children and young people through our **Space2Grow Fund**, helping local charities and community groups deliver vital activities and services.

 **Key Dates:**

 **Campaign Launch:** Thursday, 20th March 2025

 **Closing Date:** Thursday, 10th April 2025

[Click here for more information.](#)

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## **Celebrating Our Environmental Achievement**

### *Gold Level TFL Award*

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*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.*

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## *Sustainability at STA: Over 15,642 Bottles Saved!*



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*STA has made an incredible impact by saving over 15,642 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!*

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*STA's Carbon Cut: 5,597kg of CO<sub>2</sub> Saved!*



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*St Andrew the Apostle School is proud to announce that our new building has already helped save 5,597 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.*

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## SEND Information



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

#### Autistic Speaker Dean Beadle: Q&A Sessions for Parents/Carers & Professionals

We are delighted to welcome Dean Beadle.

A choice of online talks for parents/carers & professionals.

When: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026 at either

10-11am Or 6-7pm

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at either

10-11am Or 6-7pm

Online via Zoom

In these sessions Dean will answer pre-submitted questions and will look at practical ways to meet the needs of Autistic children & young people.

Dean Beadle is an Autistic speaker who has spent 20 years delivering talks across the UK and abroad. He is known for his humorous and thought-provoking sessions. He is patron of three autism related charities.

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*Wednesday 25th March 10-11am session: [Dean B Q&A 25th March 10am.](#)*

*Wednesday 25th March 6-7pm session: [Dean B Q&A 25th March 6pm.](#)*

*Please add any questions you'd like Dean to discuss on the registration form. Due to time constraints, we are unable to take questions during the session.*

*Any questions please email [Autism.Team@Barnet.gov.uk](mailto:Autism.Team@Barnet.gov.uk) with 'Dean Beadle Feb/March 26 Q&A session' in the header.*

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

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*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.*

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

**Dates and times:**

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 10-11.30am

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 10-11.30am

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 10-11.30am

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 10-11.30am

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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](#)

## Planning for Adulthood Conference - Save the Date



### Planning for Adulthood Conference Save the date!

Barnet Education and Learning Service (BELS), in collaboration with the Barnet Parent Carer Forum (BPCF), are re-running the successful Planning for Adulthood Conference.

This event is aimed at parent carers of young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Speakers will focus on topics to support young people on their journey into adulthood.

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2026**    **10:00 am - early afternoon**    **Online**

**What to expect**  
The full agenda and sign-up details will be shared in the Spring Term

**Keynote talk: Carrie Grant**

**Carrie Grant MBE:**

- BAFTA award-winning broadcaster with two Honorary Doctorates and an MBE for her services to Music, Media & Charity.
- Leadership Coach.
- Carrie has been President of the Unite Union for Community Practitioners and Health Visitors and Patient Lead for The College of Medicine.
- Author of "SEND in UK Schools - A Parent View," and bestseller, "A Very Modern Family."
- Ambassador for Crohn's & Colitis UK, The Diana Award, The National Autistic Society, Nordoff & Robbins and Adoption UK.

Carrie is Mum to four multi-hyphenate children with SEND and various intersections, including adoption, neuro-divergence, gender, sexuality and race. For the past 14 years Carrie has run a support group for over 300 autism families.

Carrie has transitioned three children into adulthood with services involved, and is currently guiding her youngest into adulthood through the Section 20 system.

**Services and organisations**  
Numerous organisations and local authority services have been invited to present information to support families on this journey.

**Young people's voice**  
Contributions from young people sharing their experiences will be included throughout the conference.

## 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.*

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## Attendance

