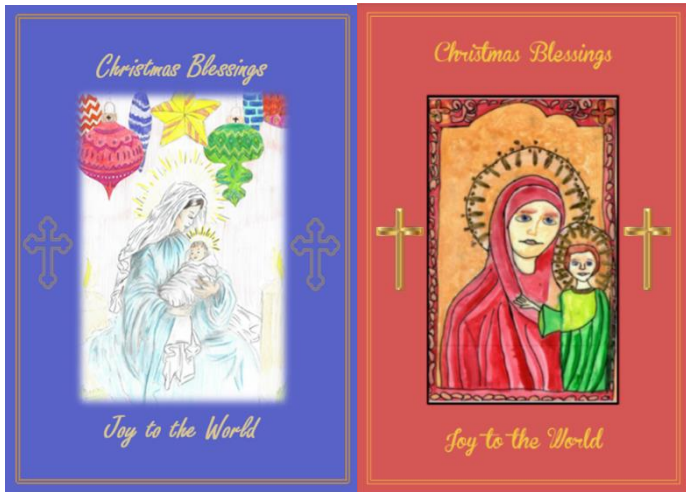




Headteacher's Update

16 December 2021



Zafirah I (11S) and Christiana C (7S)- Christmas card competition 2021

Key messages

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for all your support throughout 2021. We have had some wonderful moments to reflect on and we give thanks to the Lord for He is good.

Some highlights for me include the first day that we were all together again in March 2021 after the second lockdown. I was finally able to see students and staff for the first time in person rather than on a screen. I was surprised at how tall everyone was!

Other notable moments of course must include meeting our new Year 7 students and their families; visiting St Katherine's Greek Orthodox Church; celebrating the excellent Year 11 and Year 13 results; the return of extra-curricular clubs with STA enjoying great sporting success and of course what a wonderful way to close the year with our fantastic Christmas concert! Please [click here](#) to view the full performance.

There is also a brief version of the highlights of the performance on the website and that can be viewed [here](#).

STA shone brightly with Christmas colours on Wednesday 15 December as we held our Christmas jumper and non-uniform day. Thank you for supporting us to raise money for our school playground equipment by paying £2.00 via ParentPay. I will leave the window open for donations until Friday 7 January so that as many parents and carers as possible are able to make a donation.

We also enjoyed a delicious Christmas lunch on Wednesday whilst listening to Christmas music. An excellent day for all!



End of Term Update

Please note that school will finish at **12.30pm today, Thursday 16 December**. **Students in receipt of free school meals will receive their lunch before dismissal from school.**

Term begins again for students at the normal time on Wednesday 5 January 2022* as there is a teacher training day for staff on Tuesday 4 January.

Those families who have requested on-site LFD testing will be contacted with details of the testing arrangements by early next week. *Testing for pre-booked students will take place in Building 5 on Tuesday 4 January 2022.

On behalf of all of us at STA, I would like to wish you, your families and friends a joyous Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year!



COVID update

COVID-19 UPDATE

Our COVID-safe protocol has proven to be very effective in keeping our school community safe and well and we will continue with these procedures in the new year.

Reminder: Daily testing for contacts of COVID-19

From **Tuesday 14 December**, all adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 – whether Omicron or not – should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating. Daily testing by close contacts will help to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Once notified by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact, all eligible staff, pupils and students should take an LFD each day for 7 days and report the results through the Online Reporting System and to their setting. If they test negative, they can continue to attend their education setting. Outside of the education setting, they should continue to follow the advice set out in the Sunday 12 December press release. This approach should also be adopted over the winter break and on return in January.

Anyone who tests positive, should self-isolate and order a PCR test to confirm the result. If the PCR is positive, they must self-isolate for 10 days. If the PCR test is negative, they no longer need to self-isolate but should continue to carry out the remainder of the daily tests, and only need to isolate if it is positive.

Please [click here](#) to read the rules in full.



CORONAVIRUS SAFETY INFORMATION

Students should be testing themselves at home twice weekly (Wednesdays and Sundays) using lateral flow tests and results should be reported to the school using our online reporting system. This should continue throughout the school holiday. In order to facilitate this over the holiday period, each student has been issued with seven LFD tests in form time today.


Over the Christmas holidays, parents can book first vaccinations for their child, if aged 12 or over, through the [NHS booking system](#). Second doses will be available for eligible children by Monday 20 December.

Further information on [vaccination for 12 to 15 year olds](#) is available on the NHS website.

BARNET COVID-19 WEEKLY ROUND-UP

5 December – 11 December 2021

Average no. of COVID-19 cases

307 Per day  Increased from around 251 last week


Bed occupancy & admissions have decreased in the last week

Cases in specific settings in the last week

- 81 cases associated with schools have been reported in the last week.
- 7 staff members and 2 residents in care homes have tested positive in the last week.

Community positivity remains MEDIUM (6.3%)

Infection rate per 100,000

569 For the last 7 days  Increased from 457 per 100,000 population last week

Similar to the London rate of 540 per 100,000 population

Vaccination uptake

262,200 Received 1st dose

240,700 Received 2nd dose

Everyone aged 12+ can book a vaccine appt
Children aged 12-15 will also be invited for vaccination in school or a GP Practice if clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV)

First dose uptake is around 72.5% for all ages (12 & over)

Please [click here](#) if you would like to view the Barnet COVID-19 weekly update.

Reminder: Face coverings: Face coverings should be worn in communal areas in all settings by staff, visitors and pupils or students in year 7 and above, unless they are exempt. Pupils or students (in year 7 or above) should continue to wear face coverings on public and dedicated school transport, unless they are exempt.

New STA Staff



Assistant Headteacher – Mr Stavros Hajisavvas is joining us in January 2022. We are delighted to welcome him to the Senior Leadership Team at STA. Mr Hadjisavvas will introduce himself to parents, carers and the school community in the Newsletter in the new year.

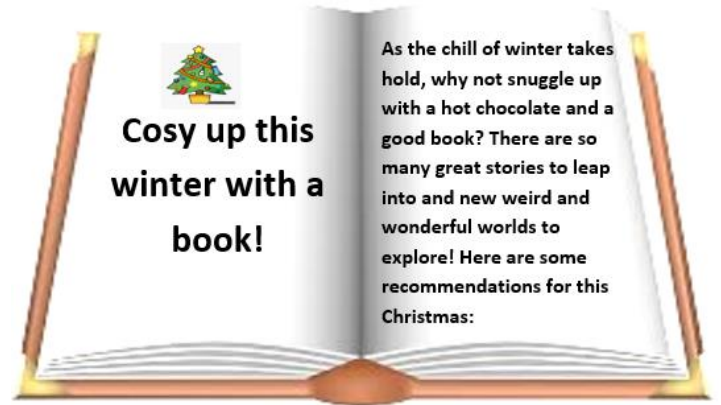
Safeguarding and Inclusion Officer – We are pleased to welcome **Ms Dimitria Moustaka** to STA in January 2022.

COMMUNITY LET OPPORTUNITY

COMING SOON: If there are any community groups who would like to express an interest in hiring our school facilities from September 2022, please send an email with your details to the Headteacher’s PA, Mrs Helen Marcou at Head@standrewtheapostle.org.uk



Winter Book Recommendations



Recommended book list this Christmas:

- A Christmas Carol - Charles Dickens
- The Christmasaurus - Tom Fletcher
- Father Christmas’ Fake Beard – Terry Pratchett
- Hogfather – Terry Pratchett
- The Girl Who Saved Christmas – Matt Haig
- The Boy Called Christmas – Matt Haig
- The Night I Met Father Christmas
- Lost Christmas – David Logan
- Letters From Father Christmas- J.R.R. Tolkien
- The Penguin Book of Christmas Stories – various writers
- Christmas Days – Jeanette Winterson
- Murder Most Festive – Ada Moncrieff





The Feast of the Nativity of our Lord draws our attention to the Great Divine Truth which is “the Word became flesh” (John 1: 14). It means that God took flesh in order to save man and that the relationship of eternal love between **God the Creator** and man that He created is a relationship which was broken by disobedience but which has now been restored when God became flesh and “dwelled among us” (John 1: 14).

The Christian faith is based on this doctrine, namely that the Lord Jesus Christ is God incarnate, “so that by believing, you may have life in His name” (John 20: 31). With this faith, the Christian believer is sure that the darkness which did not overcome Christ, will not overcome him too (John 1: 5), because the Lord Jesus born in this dark world has become the light of the world (John 8: 12).

This is the unique divine event which St. Paul calls a great mystery saying: “Without any doubt, the mystery of our religion is great: God was revealed in flesh” (1 Timothy 3: 16). The incarnation of Christ brought back hope to the people, as it is proclaimed by the angels: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men!” (Luke 2: 14). Through His birth, hope was renewed on the face of the earth, joy increased, and salvation was born. Indeed, great is this mystery that casts away fear from the hearts of people, drives away doubt from their minds and strengthens them so that they do not feel insecure but are certain that God – Emanuel – is with us (Matthew 1: 23) since the beginning because “He was in the world, and the world was made by Him” (John 1: 10).

Let us thus seize this opportunity and contemplate the mysteries of the nativity, where we will encounter the humility of the Lord Who “emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.” (Philippians 2: 7), abandoning His great glory in order to save us and discern His will to dwell among us as an infant, choosing the simplicity and the poverty of the manger over the luxurious lifestyle associated with Kings. We thus understand that God’s ways are different from the ways of man (Isaiah 55: 8), for His ways lead to salvation and holiness.

As many places around the world continue to suffer because of wars, destruction and other disasters as well as a deteriorating economic situation affecting the people’s daily lives, we offer prayers to Christ, the King of peace, asking Him to shine His light in the midst of darkness and let His peace reign in all corners of the world. We pray that 2022 will be full of hope and that the Lord may bless all with security, peace, good health, success and prosperity. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mr M Vassiliou (STA Spiritual Director)

Upcoming Key Dates

Date	Event
04/01/22	• Inset day
05/01/22	• Spring Term Starts



Please [click here](#) to access term dates.

Best wishes,

Mrs Warwick (Headteacher)



Faith - πίστις

[The Feast of the Nativity – Final Thoughts as Another Term Ends](#)



Student Recognition



Year 7: Michael M - for supporting his peers when needed and consistently demonstrating our school values. **Stephanie K** - for the exemplary work she has produced to raise awareness of anti-bullying.

Year 9: Liana J - for the most positive behaviour points. **Hugo P** - Improved attitude, and achievement points!

Year 11: Zara O - for being well organised and working hard towards mock exams. **Panny X** - for always being prepared for revision during form time.

Year 12: Aaron C and Kyri Y - for excellent participation in discussions and debates taking place during form time. Both students have been proactive in preparing and presenting a PPT on the topic of the week.

Year 13: The Sixth Form Band: Thomas F, Kapil S, Matthew A, Georgia C, Demetri T and Theo C - for an amazing performance during the STA Christmas Concert.

Reminder: STA Ancient Greek Club starting in January



χαίρετε ὦ μαθηταί

ANCIENT GREEK CLUB

Learn to read and write one of the oldest languages of Europe, in which many great works of literature and history were written.

If you enjoy Latin, you will enjoy this approximately twice as much! Further details: Open to all Year 7 students. Beginners' level. 30 minutes/week. Speak to **Ms Galazoula** to sign up.

This will take place every Wednesday from 12 January 2022.

Message from FOSA – STA Christmas 2021

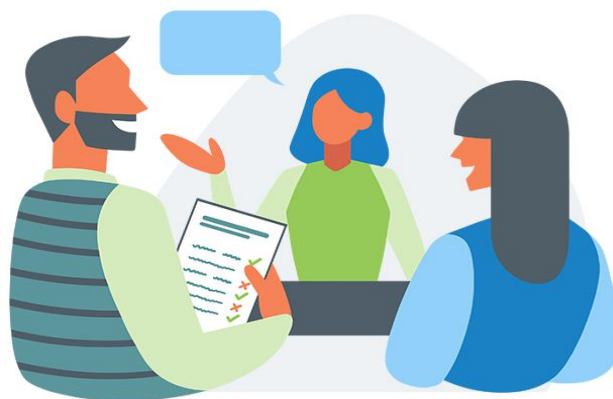


Friends of St Andrew

Please do get in touch if you would like to join our small group of dedicated parents and carers- by emailing us at admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk with FOSA in the title. Please mark your email for the attention of Mr Michael.

Mr Michael (Senior Deputy Headteacher)

Headteacher Parent Surgery



If you would like to meet with the Headteacher or the Senior Deputy Headteacher at our weekly Parent and Carer surgery, please email admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk

This will take place on Fridays from 5pm until 6pm. The time allocated for appointments will be 15 minutes in the first instance. Please send your request for an appointment in by 10am every Wednesday so that we may allocate an appointment and send you confirmation in good time. All appointments will take place via Microsoft Teams during current restrictions.

The next Parent surgery will take place **on Friday 7 January 2022**.

Christmas Puzzle - GCHQ

Christmas puzzles to challenge young people to discover their inner Intelligence Officer



The UK's intelligence, security and cyber agency GCHQ has released this year's official Christmas card. Each year the card contains a Christmas brainteaser, only this time there's a twist as the seven fiendish puzzles have been specially designed for 11 to 18-year-olds.

The agency, which works to keep the country safe, is encouraging secondary schools and colleges up and down the country to take part in the [#GCHQChristmasChallenge](#). The aim is to persuade more young people to take an interest in STEM subjects and consider future careers in the intelligence services.



Young people who enjoy the Christmas Card puzzles and are interested in developing their cyber skills are encouraged to take part in the National Cyber Security Centre's [CyberFirst activities](#), or there are more puzzles on the [GCHQ website](#).

London Mayor and MOPAC Youth Survey

MAYOR OF LONDON

OFFICE FOR POLICING AND CRIME

We know that COVID-19 has had a disproportionate impact on London's young people, and we must do all we can to

protect their futures. Today, I am asking for your continued support to achieve this key priority. As part of the current Police and Crime Plan, I, as Mayor of London, have committed to keeping children and young people safe by tackling the crimes that cause the most harm to them. You may know that last year I published an Action Plan to improve trust and confidence in the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) and to address community concerns about the disproportionality in the use of certain police powers affecting Black Londoners.

I am committed to ensuring that the British model of policing by consent allows for the voices of young people to be heard and reflected in the work we do. To help achieve this, the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) is launching the new Youth Survey 2021 across London and we are asking for your support with this project.

What are we aiming to do?

The survey aims to gather the views of young people aged 11 to 16 (school year groups 7 to 11) in relation to a wide range of crime and safety issues, including:

- Personal safety
- Crime victimisation
- Perceptions of the police
- Serious youth violence
- Online activity and safeguarding

Survey responses will be used to drive important improvements in the way that the police and other criminal justice agencies work with and deliver services to young people. The survey will give young people the chance to shape policies and campaigns we develop, and to inform local policing priorities and youth engagement strategies.

We ask for your support...

We would be very grateful for your assistance in helping us to hear from as many young Londoners as possible, to enable us to make real differences to the lives of young people. The survey is hosted online and will be open until 21 January 2022. A link to the survey is included below, which can be copied and pasted into a web browser:

www.londonvoice.org.uk/WeAreLondon.

The survey should take around 20 minutes to complete. Participation is entirely voluntary. Please ensure that your school's local policies for consent are followed before taking part. All responses will be anonymous, confidential and will not be attributable to any individual or school.

Throughout the survey, there are links to relevant support agencies as a safeguarding measure for any young people that have concerns around the topics raised.

The previous wave of this survey was conducted in 2018 and received nearly 8,000 responses from young people in London. Results from this survey can be found at: https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/youth_voice_survey_report_2018_final.pdf. The results from the 2018 survey were used extensively by MOPAC, the MPS and other agencies. This included helping to assess the effectiveness of the London Needs You Alive campaign, part of a strategy to reduce serious youth violence in the capital.

Thank you very much for your support in this very important piece of work.

Christmas Facebook Live on keeping children safe

DigiSafe
keeping children safe



Christmas Facebook Live on keeping children safe, offline and on phones, games & devices

Some of our students will be lucky enough to receive new devices, games consoles and phones for Christmas. Many of the rest will have access in one way or another to internet-enabled devices. We all want to ensure that everyone in our school community has a safe Christmas holiday, online and beyond.

PARENTS – keeping kids & teens safe on phones, games & devices (and offline too) this Christmas

Join us & guests to get holiday and new-device ready!



We encourage the positive use of technology at school and often talk about the fun that goes on in lessons, but we also discuss the more dangerous things too throughout the year. As we approach the holidays, why not find out about what you can do to help – whether by setting parental time and age controls (before you wrap new ones), or simply by finding out more about what's going on?

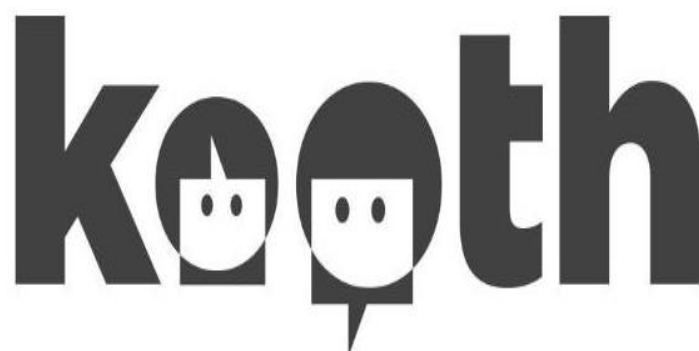
There will be a Facebook Live drop-in for parents on Monday 20 December 7pm on the @LGfLDigiSafe channel talking about staying safe online and offline too – what to worry about and what not, and how to have tricky conversations at home. There will also be discussion of how parents can help with bullying, relationships, criminal and sexual exploitation and simply starting tricky conversations!

Sign up now by heading to www.facebook.com/LGfLDigiSafe/posts where you can click 'Interested' / 'Going' on the post to receive a reminder when it is about to go live.

Please also remember before buying Christmas presents that games, series and films (including on Netflix) have age ratings linked to their content, not their difficulty (we often forget for games that they are also rated 18 for the same reasons as films).

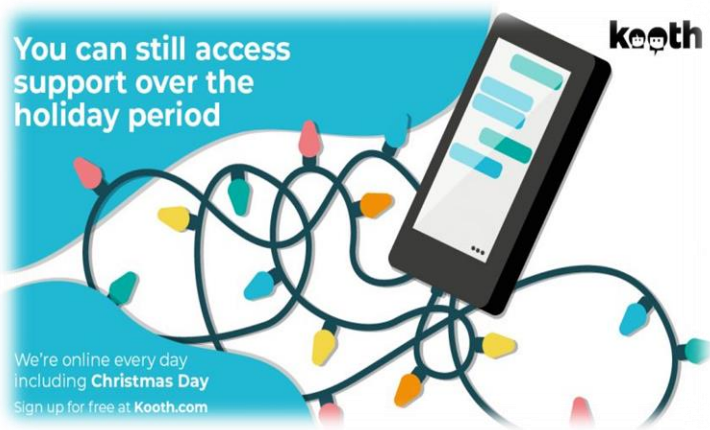
You may wish to visit the parentsafe.lgfl.net website where you will find many of the resources that will be presented to you on the evening.

Kooth webinar- message for Parents / Carers and Young people



Join our Kooth Webinar on Monday 20 December, from 4pm-5pm, for Parents/Carers and YP accompanied by their Carers:

[Reserve a FREE space and Read our webinar rundown](#)



Kooth Resources

- [Kooth and Qwell Holiday Period Chat Availability Resources](#)
- [What's On Kooth This Month posters - December](#)
- [Kooth's Parent and Carers Support Pack](#)
- [Kooth in the Capital Report](#)
- [Qwell's Opening Up Campaign Spotlight Page](#)

Mental Health Crisis Helpline- Reminder

If you're in crisis and need to talk right now, there are many helplines staffed by trained people ready to listen. They won't judge you and could help you make sense of what you're feeling.

Samaritans. To talk about anything that is upsetting you, you can contact [Samaritans](#) 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. You can call [116 123](#) (free from any phone)

SANEline. If you're experiencing a mental health problem or supporting someone else, you can call [SANEline](#)

National Suicide Prevention Helpline UK. Offers a supportive listening service to anyone with thoughts of suicide. You can call the [National Suicide Prevention Helpline UK](#) on 0800 689 5652 (open 24/7).

Campaign Against Living Miserably (CALM). You can call the [CALM](#) on 0800 58 58 58 (5pm–midnight every day) if you are struggling and need to talk. Or if you prefer not to speak on the phone, you could try the [CALM webchat service](#).

Papyrus HOPELINEUK. If you're struggling with suicidal feelings, or concerned about a young person who might be struggling, you can call [Papyrus HOPELINEUK](#) on 0800 068 4141 (weekdays 10am-10pm, weekends 2pm-10pm and bank holidays 2pm-10pm)

Please [click here](#) to access helpful advice and support from the **NHS for teenagers and young adults** who need support with their mental health and are coping with bereavement.



Reminder: During school, students needing emotional support can talk to their Form Tutors and their Head of Year. The following members of staff are also available: **Mr C Martin, Deputy Headteacher (DSL*)**; **Mrs C Hammond, Assistant Headteacher (DDSL*)**; **Mrs I Warwick, Headteacher (DDSL*)**; **Ms M Henshaw-Devall**; **Mr N Anemori** and **Ms M Hirli**. *DDSL is the Deputy Designated Safeguarding lead *DSL is the Designated Safeguarding lead.

Applications for our Sixth Form - Reminder

Ofsted 2018 *"The school's work to promote pupils' personal development and welfare is **outstanding**. Leaders in the sixth form set **high expectations** for their students. Students really enjoy their learning in the sixth form."*

Please [click here](#) to apply for our sixth form. Early applications stand a better chance of being successful in obtaining a place to study the course of choice in our sixth form.

Personal attention + Positive relationships= Excellent Progress

We are the first Greek Orthodox Secondary School in the country. St Andrew the Apostle School- a community led school where every child is known.

Ever to Excel

