



Headteacher's Update

31 January 2022



The lives of [St Cyrus and St John](#) are commemorated on 31 January.

Key Messages

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your support as we work together to ensure that all of our students are happy, safe and feel positive about securing their future ambitions. I am delighted to let you know that pending achieved grades, STA students will commence their studies in Autumn 2022 at both the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge. We are delighted that STA students who started with us in Year 7 have received Oxbridge offers to read Medicine, Maths and Law. We are also very happy that many of our students are also receiving offers from other top Russell Group Universities such as UCL and Warwick University.

Parents of Year 11 and Year 13 students will be interested to learn that the Department for Education (DfE) has confirmed that advance information of the focus of exams in most GCSE and all AS and A level subjects with exams this year will be published by exam boards (on their public websites) on **Monday 7 February** to support students in their revision.

Advance information will confirm some of the aspects of the specification that will be assessed in the exams, relating to content, texts, topics, themes and/or skills as appropriate for each specification.

[Joint Council for Qualifications \(JCQ\) guidance for teachers on advance information](#) is available, and further information about what will be included in advance information for each specification is available on the relevant exam boards websites.

Parents/ carers may also find it useful to read a

standrewtheapostle.org.uk

recent [speech](#) by the Ofqual Chief Regulator, Dr Jo Saxton, in which she talks in detail about the intention and process behind providing advance information.

Following guidance from our local director of public health, at STA, we will continue to advise staff and students to wear a face covering in communal areas. Of course, this will not apply to members of the school community who are exempt from wearing a face covering. Government guidance is clear that school settings may be advised to continue to encourage, recommend or require the use of face coverings by local directors of public health or by the DfE. Thank you for your ongoing support to help to keep our students and staff safe so that we may operate as normal and keep our school open for all our learners.

Please look out this week for a letter from me, inviting you to contribute to our STA fundraising initiative. Your donations will be used to support and enrich our students' curriculum experience, supplement resources for those in need and improve our environment.

Please [click here](#) for a reminder of our school uniform requirements and [click here](#) for a list of 'banned' items. Please contact your child's form tutor or Head of Year if you are facing hardship and require advice about financial support.

Please see below for the Saint name days being celebrated this month. Please do wish anyone whose name is listed below a very happy name day and [click here](#) to send a free iconogram.

Saint being celebrated	Date	Month
Evdoxia, Kyros	Monday 31 st	January
Tryphon	Tuesday 1 st	February
Ipapanti	Wednesday 2 nd	February
Asimakis, Asiminina, Symeon, Stamatis/Stamatia	Thursday 3 rd	February
Iasimos, Isidoros	Friday 4 th	February
Agathi/Agatha	Saturday 5 th	February
Photis	Sunday 6 th	February

Best wishes,

Mrs I Warwick (Headteacher)



Feast Day of the Three Holy Hierarchs

This week we mark and celebrate the three Hierarchs, also known as **the 'protectors of letters'** which actually means guardians of knowledge and education. But who were the three Hierarchs and why do we honour them?

With the term "**Three Hierarchs**," we refer to the three eminent saints and theologians, **Basil the Great, John Chrysostom and Gregory.**

In honour and recognition of their wisdom and exemplary Christian lives, the Orthodox Church called them saints and celebrates each one separately. But because there was a dispute among Christians about which of the three offered the most to the faith during the course of their lifetime, it was decided and established by the end of the 4th century that for all three there should be a common celebration. Thus, it was established that all three theologians and saints would be commemorated on 30 January each year.

Basil the Great

Saint Basil or Basil of Caesarea was Bishop of Caesarea (modern day central Turkey) and considered the Father of the Church and one of the greatest theologians of the Orthodox Church. His contribution to Christian theology is considered to be crucial, and the "divine liturgy of Basil the Great" is also attributed to him. He studied in Athens and considered the study of classical writers and Greek philosophy very important within the Christian sphere. At a time when some members of the church were attempting to marginalise and criticise the writings of the classical period, he stood out as being a champion of the ancient thinkers and convinced the church that there was a great deal that could be learnt from antiquity. His contribution to the development of letters and charity made him one of the greatest figures of Christian tradition.

Ioannis the Chrysostomos or John the Golden mouth

It was often said that his tongue was "honey" because he was the most charismatic orator of his time. He was Patriarch of Constantinople (Head of the Greek Orthodox Church) and

devoted his life to the development of charity. In fact, we know from historical records that he provided meals for the poor and fed approximately 7,000 people daily.

In the field of philosophy, he may have rejected the theories of ancient Greeks about God, but he did not hesitate to use the instrumental methods of their philosophy to develop a systematic theology.

In his life he was a model ascetic, and he did not fail to condemn those priests who were enriched by their status.

Gregory the Theologian

Also known by the nickname "theologian," Gregory was a Patriarch of Constantinople in the 4th century. His influence on Trinitarian (Holy Trinity) theology is considered so important that he became known as the "Trinitarian Theologian". Most of his works still affect contemporary theologians, especially with regard to the Three Persons of the Holy Trinity. He was also a friend of Basil the Great.

He was a keen admirer of letters and he wanted to bridge the gap between Greek-speaking and Latin-speaking theologians of his time. Apart from an excellent theologian, he was also a very good poet, having written several poems with theological and moral themes.

This feast day is considered by most Orthodox Christians not only as religious but also as one its greatest national and school holidays. In many Orthodox countries, 30 January is also a public holiday precisely because The Three Hierarchs were great men of letters who were not only defenders of Orthodox Christianity, but supporters of Classical Greek learning and ideas.

Mr M Vassiliou (STA Spiritual Director)**STA Spring Term Extra-Curricular Clubs****EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Monday: GCSE PE Trampolining (Invite Only)	3pm-5pm <i>East Barnet School</i>
Tuesday: All Years Dodgeball Club	3pm-4pm <i>Building 5 Hall</i>
Wednesday: All Years Table Tennis Club	3pm-4pm <i>Building 4 Hall</i>
Thursday: All Years Dance Club	3pm-4.30pm <i>Building 5 Hall</i>

For all clubs, students need to arrive at the changing rooms after-school. A reminder if students wish to attend a club on **a day they do not have PE**, then PE kit must be brought separately to school. Students will be given the opportunity to change at 3pm in the changing rooms.

Mr R Browell (Head of PE)

STA Footballer Set For England Call-Up- UPDATE



A huge congratulations to Year 10 student Vivienne L who will be training with England Women's U16 team at the end of January. Vivienne has impressed England coaches whilst performing for Arsenal FC. We are extremely hopeful Vivienne will represent England at the UEFA Development Tournament in Monte Gordo, Portugal. Vivienne will continue to keep up her studies for her GCSEs whilst training for England. Good luck Vivienne from everyone at school!

NHS competition- All students



Enter our Step into the NHS competition and you and STA could be our London winners!

It's very simple to enter our competition and create a great entry, whether from home or in school. Read our top tips for a winning entry:

- Do you know entry routes to the career you are researching including qualifications and skills needed? Do you know what duties and tasks the role involves?
- Research into the role should be reflected in the job advertisement. There's no need to upload the job description, although you can use it as a template

- Ensure that your entry is creative and appealing to your peer group: Have you been innovative? Have you created something different?
- Is your entry showcased effectively? Is the structure and presentation clear and concise?

[Click here](#) to access the website and find out more on how to enter

Careers Webinar Evening for Parents



We are delighted to announce the first events in our Success Beyond School series for 2022. These are free-of-charge, live online seminars featuring career experts, designed to help parents amplify their children's career potential.

We have 5 fantastic seminars this term, including topics such as 'how to help your child choose their career' and 'how to inspire young women to become entrepreneurs.' These events are for parents of students aged 12-18 and are free to attend.

Success Beyond School: Making it in the Medical Sciences
Expert advice on breaking into medicine, dentistry, and veterinary science.

There are plenty of benefits to a career in the medical sciences including job satisfaction, job stability, earning potential and plenty of opportunity for growth. In this event, we'll hear from leading experts in medicine, dentistry, and veterinary science to explore the ways you can help your child on their journey into medical sciences. Highlights will include:

- The key skills required to pursue a career in the medical sciences, including ways to build, develop, and present these skills to universities and employers.
- The variety of roles available in the healthcare industry and how to get there.
- A breakdown of the application process and some top tips to help your child stand out from the crowd.

Please [click here](#) for further information.

Gresham College Lecture series- for all students



Gresham College's free hybrid public lectures (running since 1597) are delivered by world-leading professors in the arts and sciences, including Professors Chris Whitty (Medicine), Sarah Hart (Maths) Leslie Thomas QC (Law) and Edith Hall (Classics). See below to see upcoming lectures

2022 Lectures



ASTRONOMY

A series on the History of the Universe called Cosmic Revolutions by Astronomy Professor Katherine Blundell, and The Frontiers of Knowledge by Visiting Professor Roberto Trotta.

[gres.hm/cosmic-revolutions](https://www.greshamcollege.ac.uk/cosmic-revolutions) [gres.hm/frontiers](https://www.greshamcollege.ac.uk/frontiers)



BUSINESS / ECONOMICS

In The Principles of Finance, Business Professor Alex Edmans gives a primer on everything from how to save to risk management. A series by Visiting Professor Martin Daunton looks at Three Crises in Capitalism. See also Natural Capital series under Geography.

[gres.hm/principles-finance](https://www.greshamcollege.ac.uk/principles-finance) [gres.hm/three-crises](https://www.greshamcollege.ac.uk/three-crises)



ENGLISH & MEDIA

The Powers of the Novel by Visiting Professor John Mullan looks at Plot, Coincidences and Villains. The series on How Not To be Human: Exploring Humanity Through Science Fiction gives a History of Science/ Philosophy perspective on Science Fiction by Visiting Professor Jim Endersby. In our Media, Trust and Society series, Philip Howard will talk about fighting disinformation on Covid-19.

[gres.hm/novel-powers](https://www.greshamcollege.ac.uk/novel-powers)

[gres.hm/science-fiction](https://www.greshamcollege.ac.uk/science-fiction)

[gres.hm/media-trust](https://www.greshamcollege.ac.uk/media-trust)



GEOGRAPHY

Professor Jacqueline McGlade's series Natural Capital and the Wellbeing Economy looks at how our economy needs to change to guarantee a sustainable future for the planet. There is also a varied series on Natural World: Exploration, Extinction and Adaptation.

[gres.hm/natural-capital](https://www.greshamcollege.ac.uk/natural-capital) [gres.hm/natural-world](https://www.greshamcollege.ac.uk/natural-world)



HISTORY

Among the highlights are: The Hidden History of How Protestantism Went Global, by Professor Alec Ryrie and a series on Stuart Britain.

[gres.hm/missionaries](https://www.greshamcollege.ac.uk/missionaries) [gres.hm/stuart-britain](https://www.greshamcollege.ac.uk/stuart-britain)

**IT**

Professor Richard Harvey's Six Tech Inventions That Changed the World talks about IT breakthroughs everyone should know about, like GPS, Compression and Error Control Coding.

[gres.hm/tech-inventions](https://www.gresham.ac.uk/tech-inventions)

**LAW / POLITICS / CITIZENSHIP**

Race, Colonialism and Power in the Legal System by Professor Leslie Thomas QC, looks at the Immigration Act 1971, the Brixton Riots, Judicial racism and more; The Misrule of Law by Visiting Professor Thomas Grant QC looks at the misuse of law, for example under segregation in the US. Visiting Professor Imogen Gould discusses Medical Law, including lectures on freezing eggs and fertility treatment. We have Professor Anand Menon on Brexit. Finally, the Media, Trust and Society series and the lecture, Does Philanthropy Do the Public Good? may be of interest to Citizenship teachers; along with a series on Religion and Society in the 21st Century (see Religion section).

[gres.hm/race-law](https://www.gresham.ac.uk/race-law)

[gres.hm/misrule-law](https://www.gresham.ac.uk/misrule-law)

[gres.hm/medical-law](https://www.gresham.ac.uk/medical-law)

[gres.hm/brexit-learned](https://www.gresham.ac.uk/brexit-learned)

[gres.hm/media-trust](https://www.gresham.ac.uk/media-trust)

[gres.hm/good-philanthropy](https://www.gresham.ac.uk/good-philanthropy)

**MATHEMATICS**

Gresham Professor Sarah Hart's series Geometry: The Mathematics of Art discusses beauty, perspective and more; while Hugh Hunt will give a one-off talk on The Maths of Gyroscopes and Boomerangs.

[gres.hm/maths-art](https://www.gresham.ac.uk/maths-art)

[gres.hm/gyroscopes-boomerangs](https://www.gresham.ac.uk/gyroscopes-boomerangs)

**MEDICINE**

Chief Medical Officer for England Professor Chris Whitty looks at Infections and their Routes of Transmission which includes a must-watch video for cooks and caterers on Food and Drink-Borne Diseases. We also have a new series of lectures on Neuroscience: The Brain and the Mind, and a fascinating series on Medical Law which includes a lecture on Children and Consent to Medical Treatment.

[gres.hm/infections](https://www.gresham.ac.uk/infections)

[gres.hm/neuroscience](https://www.gresham.ac.uk/neuroscience)

[gres.hm/medical-law](https://www.gresham.ac.uk/medical-law)

**MUSIC**

Professor Marina Frolova-Walker will give a series of lecture-recitals on Music Under Stalin. Visiting Professor Jeremy Summerly will give a series of lectures on Music and Emotion.

[gres.hm/music-stalin](https://www.gresham.ac.uk/music-stalin) [gres.hm/music-emotions](https://www.gresham.ac.uk/music-emotions)

**RELIGION**

Three lecturers will explore some current issues in major world religions in Religion and Society in the 21st Century; one of which asks 'What is a Religion'; while our Divinity Professor will look at the work of Protestant missionaries in The Hidden History of How Protestantism Went Global.

[gres.hm/religion-society](https://www.gresham.ac.uk/religion-society) [gres.hm/missionaries](https://www.gresham.ac.uk/missionaries)

COMMUNITY LET OPPORTUNITY- Reminder

Reminder: 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



FOSA

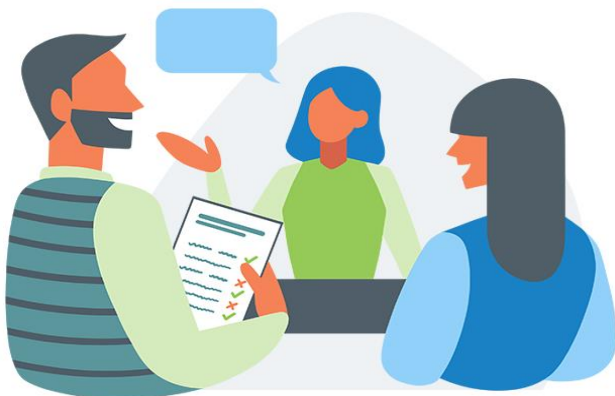


Friends of St Andrew

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.

Reminder- COVID-19 updates

Young people aged 12 to 15 in England are now being offered a second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine at a minimum of 12 weeks from the first dose, following advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI).

Parents can book vaccinations for their child, if aged 12 or over, through the [NHS booking system](#).


Vaccination for this group will also continue to be carried out by the school age immunisation service (SAIS). I will write with further details as soon as we are contacted by SAIS.

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

BARNET COVID-19 WEEKLY ROUND-UP

16 January – 22 January 2022

Average no. of COVID-19 cases

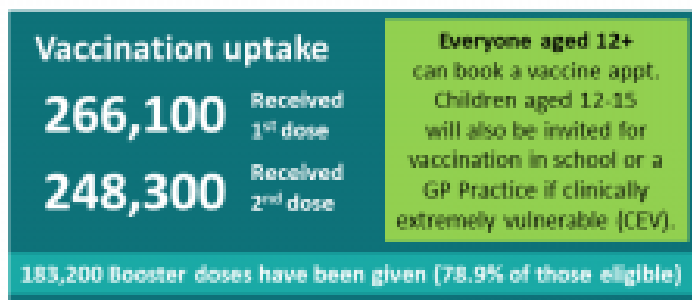
625 Per day  Increased from around 500 last week

Admissions and bed occupancy remained stable in the last week

Cases in specific settings in the last week

- 487 cases associated with schools have been reported to the DfE in the last week.
- 30 staff members and 24 residents in care homes have tested positive in the last week.

Community positivity increased & remains HIGH (14.3%)



Safeguarding

I would like to take this time to remind you of the importance of student safety. This message is not intended to cause alarm or fear, but to provide key information to you when deciding to let your son/daughter experience certain levels of independence.

The police and Barnet council are working hard to combat this. It is important for students to socialise and develop independence, but in the safest way possible.

When allowing your son/daughter to see their friends, you should consider the following:

1. Structure: Your son/daughter should never just be allowed 'out.' Students should not just be allowed to hang out without a plan or a location. Your son/daughter should always be doing something when they go out. For example, playing sport, going shopping, going for a meal, or going to the cinema.

2. Location: Your son/daughter should agree a location with you, and this should link with point 1. There should be no deviation from this plan without communication. Most smart phones have a tracking app, and this should be always on and active.

3. Friends: You should always know who your son/daughter is with, and you should have contact details of the parents of your son/daughter's friends.

4. Time: Always agree a time your son/daughter is expected home or being collected. Your son/daughter should not be walking home alone after dark.

5. Money: Do not give your son/daughter excessive amounts of money. They should only go out with enough for the intended activity.

Following these simple tips will allow your son/daughter to exercise the freedoms they want but in a controlled safe manner.

I am regularly updated by the police and council regarding areas of drug and gang activity. Students should not be socialising by McDonalds in Southgate – We are aware that this is a popular space for teenagers to spend time, however we are also aware that this is a location where teenagers are groomed by gangs for criminal or sexual exploitation.

Keeping active is an effective way of engaging your son/daughter. Thankfully, there are a range of physical activities and hobbies which will occupy your son/daughter as well as keep them fit and healthy. Whilst children's activity has seen a decrease since Covid-19, encouraging your son/daughter to find a physical activity they enjoy will not only keep them busy and active, but it is also a fantastic way of meeting new young people with similar interests.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that the school has the right to sanction students for poor behaviour to and from school, whether or not the student is in school uniform. Furthermore, a student's poor behaviour outside of school can be considered grounds for a suspension on the basis of 'bringing the school into disrepute.'

Do remember, a broad spectrum of hobbies and interests will have your son/daughter occupied in a positive manner and reduce the chances of them falling prey to negative behaviours.

Finally, Ms Henshaw-Devall, our Safeguarding Officer, has written a short paragraph to introduce herself.



"My name is Millie Henshaw-Devall. I am a Safeguarding and Inclusion Support Officer here at St Andrew the Apostle School. I have been working here at the school for 5 years and I am passionate about supporting the wellbeing of our students through one-to-one check-ins and working alongside other agencies to find the best possible support to build resilience

and support a positive school experience."

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

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*)
- Mr S Hadjisavva, Assistant Headteacher (DDSL*)
- Mrs I Warwick, Headteacher (DDSL*)
- Ms D Moustaka (Safeguarding & Inclusion Manager)
- Mr N Anemouri (Pastoral Support Officer)
- Ms M Henshaw-Devall (Safeguarding Officer)
- Mrs M Hirli (SEN Teaching Assistant)

*DSL is the Designated Safeguarding lead.

*DDSL is the Deputy Designated Safeguarding lead

Upcoming Key Dates and Information



Reminder: Please [click here](#) to read about our new method of assessment at KS3. Please click on the following links to read about our curriculum. [KS3](#) refers to Years 7, 8 and 9. [KS4](#) refers to Years 10 and 11. [KS5](#) refers to Year 12 and 13.

Please [click here](#) to access previous editions of the Newsletter.

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