

St Andrew the Apostle School Weekly Newsletter



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

02 February 2024

The Three Hierarchs

On Monday Father Gregory and Father Peter from St Mary's Wood Green, visited students at St Andrew the Apostle Greek Orthodox School and shared with them in a service, celebrating the three Hierarchs (St Basil, St Gregory, St John Chrysostom).

Pupils gave readings which reflected the values of these saints, such as defending the Holy Trinity, giving to the poor and needy and being grateful for what we have been given from God.

Father Gregory reflected on the importance of education and how these three saints were all high-level scholars and men of action. Father Peter discussed the importance of freeing ourselves from the grip of material possessions, the better to give to the poor and needy.

At the end of the service, they sliced up a delicious vasilopita kindly provided by Mrs Angela Nicholas, a senior maths teacher at the school, before being given a tour by Dr Hills, the Head Teacher and Mrs Argyro Koveri, Assistant Director of Sixth Form at St Andrew the Apostle.



Message from the Headteacher

It was excellent to be able to share with Father Gregory and Father Peter from St Mary's as they led our celebration of the feast of the Three Hierarchs earlier this week. Their message of defending the Holy Trinity and giving generously to those in need is one which still resonates strongly today. I was impressed, too, by the iconic Three Hierarchs bookmarks made by students in Ms Ntaountaki's class, which you can see below.

Our basketballers seem to go from strength to strength with another convincing win. Our female footballers have not been quite so blessed, though it is not through want of trying: in football, as our Year 10 boys have learned this season, if you create great chances but fail to put them away, the result will not always fairly reflect the balance of play.

Sometimes, when things are not going so well in our studies, our sporting teams or our spiritual lives it can be a temptation to lose heart. The story of St Laurence, the second Archbishop of Canterbury, which you can read below, reminds us of the importance of perseverance and keeping faith, even in the toughest of circumstances, and of how quickly God can turn things can turn around for the better.

Another good example of keeping faith in times of trial is that of the actions of the Mayor, Bishop and community of Zakynthos (Zante) in World War Two. In Year 7 History lessons, reflecting Holocaust Memorial week, our students have been learning the story of how the islanders defied the Nazi order to hand over the Jews so successfully that every single member of the Jewish community was kept safe by the kindness and bravery of their fellow citizens.

I know that many of you attended the RET online safety evening to learn how best to safeguard your children's devices and internet use. For those who missed it, you can find a recording of the presentation below:

[RET Parent online safety](#)

Philip Hills

Upcoming Dates and Information 2024

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

Social Media



[Twitter](#) [Facebook](#)



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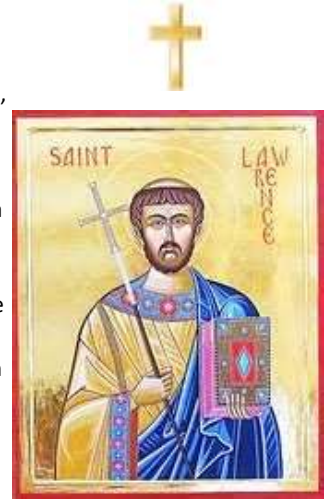
Faith

St Laurence of Canterbury, Feast Day 2 February

Born Laurentius, nothing is known of the childhood of St. Laurence. According to St. Bede, Laurence was among the first missionaries to the Anglo-Saxons. He arrived in a party of missionaries with St. Augustine of Canterbury in 597 AD, on the island of Thanet. Among their early conversions to Christianity was King Ethelbert of Kent. After Augustine was consecrated bishop in Arles, Laurence was sent by Augustine to report to Pope Gregory the Great of their successes.

In 601, Laurence returned with Mellitus, who became Bishop of London, and others with a pallium for Augustine and a collection of religious objects. Augustine probably consecrated Laurence bishop a short time before he died, about 604, after which Laurence succeeded to the See of Canterbury. King Ethelbert died in 616 and was succeeded by his son Eadbald, who began a return of the populace to the heathen faith. This prompted many of the missionaries to flee to Gaul. Tradition relates that about 617-618 Laurence was among those who were giving up but was visited by St. Peter in a vision. Peter berated Laurence and whipped him. The next day Laurence visited Eadbald and showed him the marks from the whipping, thus effecting Eadbald's conversion and the reversion of his kingdom to Christianity.

Laurence died in February 619, and was buried with St. Augustine in St. Peter's Church, which was later dedicated as the St. Augustine Abbey Church.



The Three Hierarchs

In view of the celebration of the **three Hierarchs** "Οἱ Τρεῖς Ἱεράρχαι", Basil the Great (also known as Basil of Caesarea), Gregory the Theologian (also known as Gregory of Nazianzus) and John Chrysostom. We dedicated a Greek lesson exploring these influential personalities of history. Our students learned about the reason we celebrate the Three Hierarchs together as well as the reason schools, teachers and students celebrate on the feast of the Three Hierarchs.

Why are the Three Hierarchs celebrating together?

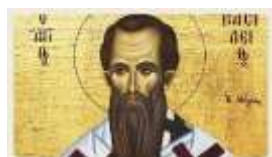
Although each of them has its own holiday since the end of the 4th century, there is a common holiday for all 3 on January 30 of each year. The reason they celebrate together is that they have some common characteristics: 1) all three were born and lived during the 4th century in a time of turmoil and uncertainty. The Christian religion had just recovered from the persecutions and disasters while it was being mortally shaken by the various sects. The three hierarchs were full of strength and prudence and supported the Christian Orthodox faith. 2) They were living examples of self-denial, charity and piety. 3) They served God, because they strongly supported the integrity of the Christian faith, but they also served people, because they dedicated all their materials, also giving their physical and spiritual guidance.

Why do schools, teachers and students celebrate on the feast of the Three Hierarchs?

The 3 hierarchs loved the wisdom and culture of the ancient Greeks, which they studied and admired. They emerged as important representatives of the synthesis of Greek traditions and Christianity, supporting the continuity of the Greek spiritual heritage within the context of the Orthodox Christian religion. They became great teachers, but also great orators, this is why their celebration is a celebration of teachers and students, of schools and letters, of books and learning.

At the end of the lesson, we didn't miss our chance in creating our established bookmarks with the three Hierarchs!

Miss Ntaountaki (Teacher of Greek)



Ὁ Ἅγιος Βασίλειος ἦταν ἕνας ἀπὸ τοὺς ἰσαριθμοῦς τῶν Ἱεραρχῶν τῆς ἐκκλησίας τῆς ἀνατολῆς. Ἦταν ἕνας ἀπὸ τοὺς ἰσαριθμοῦς τῶν Ἱεραρχῶν τῆς ἐκκλησίας τῆς ἀνατολῆς. Ἦταν ἕνας ἀπὸ τοὺς ἰσαριθμοῦς τῶν Ἱεραρχῶν τῆς ἐκκλησίας τῆς ἀνατολῆς.



Ὁ Ἅγιος Γρηγόριος ἦταν ἕνας ἀπὸ τοὺς ἰσαριθμοῦς τῶν Ἱεραρχῶν τῆς ἐκκλησίας τῆς ἀνατολῆς. Ἦταν ἕνας ἀπὸ τοὺς ἰσαριθμοῦς τῶν Ἱεραρχῶν τῆς ἐκκλησίας τῆς ἀνατολῆς. Ἦταν ἕνας ἀπὸ τοὺς ἰσαριθμοῦς τῶν Ἱεραρχῶν τῆς ἐκκλησίας τῆς ἀνατολῆς.



Ὁ Ἅγιος Ἰωάννης ἦταν ἕνας ἀπὸ τοὺς ἰσαριθμοῦς τῶν Ἱεραρχῶν τῆς ἐκκλησίας τῆς ἀνατολῆς. Ἦταν ἕνας ἀπὸ τοὺς ἰσαριθμοῦς τῶν Ἱεραρχῶν τῆς ἐκκλησίας τῆς ἀνατολῆς. Ἦταν ἕνας ἀπὸ τοὺς ἰσαριθμοῦς τῶν Ἱεραρχῶν τῆς ἐκκλησίας τῆς ἀνατολῆς.

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Year 10 Basketball Victory

In a nail-biting victory against Saracens High School. Our Year 10 basketball team secured a narrow win, propelling them into the semi-finals of the regional cup. The journey to victory was not an easy one, with the team facing a daunting 10-0 deficit in the first quarter. However, the tides turned dramatically in the second quarter when our MVP, Oliver Z, stepped onto the court. His entry proved to be a game-changer as the team rallied together, closing the gap to 13-10. The subsequent quarters were a fierce battle, and the scoreboard seesawed until the final buzzer. The climax came in the last 20 seconds when Ray M, displaying remarkable composure, who sank two crucial free throws, putting us back in front at 24-25. Through sheer physicality and unwavering tenacity, the team pulled themselves out of a challenging situation, clinching a breathtaking victory.

Mr Liu (Teacher of Science and Basketball Coach)



U13 Girls England School Football Association Competition

After an excellent afternoon, our U13 girls football team unfortunately exited the ESFA Competition. The girls played in an incredible match against a strong Bishop Hatfield side. There was some outstanding talent on display, and some brilliant skills from our Y7 and Y8 girls during their debut.

We took the lead early in the match after a goal from Melina D, this was equalised after a shot from Bishop Douglas, which was against the run of play, they scored a second in quick succession, leading us into half time 2 - 1. After half time, Melina scored another excellent goal which brought us level.

Huge well done to our two nominated players of the match: Tiana K and Sofia D

Miss Walt (Head of Year 11 and Teacher of PE)



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Nationals Schools' Football Week – Monday 5 February 2024

Next week in schools across the country is national schools' football week. We as a school have lots of exciting activities taking place throughout the week. This starts with an inter-form match for Y11s on Monday 5 February between rival core PE groups. Moving on to some crucial football fixtures with the Y11s and Y7s boys' teams both having cup matches. Y11 play Archer on Wednesday 7 February in the borough cup semifinal and the Y7s play Whitefields on the same day in the borough cup quarter final. The Y8 and Y9 girls' team are looking for a comeback next week against East Barnet in the borough cup after narrowly losing last week to Bishop Hatfield in the English Schools trophy. Y7 students will take part in an inter-form competition on Thursday 8 February. Additionally, there will be a keepie ups competition at lunchtime on various days in building 5 playground. The winning boy and girl from each year group will win a prize and reward points.

Mr Godden (PE Teacher)

Bikeability Training

We have been given the excellent opportunity to provide free Bikeability Training at Level 2 to our children in year 7. The date for this will be 11 - 15 March 2024. Due to the nature of the course, there are only 24 spaces available, therefore, places will be allocated to those who give in their permission slips first.

The training programme is progressive, and your child is expected to attend every day; the training session is usually 90 minutes daily.

To secure your child's place on this course, please make sure you read the letter and sign the consent form in the link below and return to Mr Francis by 9 February 2024. Training will be carried out by Cycle Confident, the borough's cycle training provider, and will be delivered by 2 fully accredited National Standards cycling instructors with enhanced DBS checks.

[Letter and Consent Form](#)

Mr Francis, (Head of Year 8 and Teacher of PE)



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Epping Forest

Last Wednesday, and the previous Wednesday, our Year 11 students went to Epping Forest and Stratford in East London. The trips proved to be an enriching and well-rounded experience for the students. Epping Forest, with its lush greenery and diverse ecosystems (with a focus on rivers), offered an ideal backdrop for immersive learning in environmental science. The guided nature walks and interactive sessions not only aligned with the curriculum but also provided students with a tangible understanding of ecological concepts.

The trip to Stratford in East London added a cultural and historical dimension to the trip. Visiting iconic landmarks such as the Olympic Park and exploring the vibrant cultural scene broadened students' perspectives beyond the classroom. Exposure to the rich history and modern developments in Stratford enhanced their awareness of urban dynamics and regeneration projects.

The trips also fostered a sense of community among the students. Collaborative activities, both in the natural setting of Epping Forest and the urban landscape of Stratford, promoted teamwork and communication skills. The combination of the serene natural environment and the bustling cityscape created a balanced experience that catered to different learning preferences.

The Year 11 school trips to Epping Forest and Stratford offered a comprehensive educational and cultural experience. They not only enriched the students' academic knowledge but also provided a holistic perspective on the interplay between rural and urban life, contributing to their personal and intellectual growth.

Mr Walch (Head of History and Classics)



Safeguarding

At St Andrew we have a team of colleagues ready to remove or reduce any barriers to students learning or wellbeing. If you have any concerns about your, or any other child in school please contact us. This should include:

- Their physical safety, such as their travel to and from school or the environment they are in outside of school.
- Their mental wellbeing, such as any concerns about anxiety, loneliness, bereavement or other mental health concerns.
- Their social development, such as concerning friendship groups or worries over gang involvement.
- Any other concerns such as obsession over gaming or being on the internet too much.



Health – Measles

Please ensure your child is up to date with their vaccine. See link below to know what to look out for:

[MMR \(measles, mumps and rubella\) vaccine - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/vaccines-and-jabbing/child-vaccines/child-vaccination-schedule/child-vaccination-schedule-2019-2020/)

APOSTLE NEWS

Don't forget to have a read of our latest student edition of Apostle News [APOSTLE NEWS Issue 3!](#)

Extra Curricular Clubs Timetable - Term 3

	Lunchtime	After school
Monday		All Years Boys and Girls Table Tennis (3 – 4pm) B4 Hall KS3 (Y7 - Y9) STEM Club – 3C4 (3.05 – 3.45pm) Homework Club – ICT1 (3-3.50pm)
Tuesday	Y7 and Y8 Drama Club – DR1 (12.50 – 1.20pm) Strategy Club: Chess, Connect 4, Backgammon, Card Games – MA3 (12.35 – 1.10pm)	Homework Club – ICT1 (3-3.50pm)
Wednesday	Y9 Drama Club – DR1 (12.50 – 1.20pm) Strategy Club: Chess, Connect 4, Backgammon, Card Games – MA3 (12.35 – 1.10pm)	Dance - B5 Changing Rooms (3 – 4.30pm) Art Club – Art1 Sign Up Only (3 – 4pm) Homework Club – ICT1 (3 - 3.50pm)
Thursday		All Years Boys and Girls Basketball – (3 – 4pm) B5 Changing Rooms GCSE PE Trampoline (INVITE ONLY) (3 – 5pm) East Barnet School All Years Girls Dance – (3 – 4pm) B5 Changing Hall Choir – MU1 (3 - 3.50pm) Homework Club – ICT1 (3 - 3.50pm)
Friday	Guitar Club – MU1 (12.35 – 1.20pm) MFL Speaking Club – CR11 (12.35 – 1pm) A Level Film Club – EN6 (12.35 – 1.15pm) Apostle News Writing Group (12.35 – 1.15pm)	Homework Club – ICT1 (3 - 3.50pm)