

St Andrew the Apostle Greek Orthodox School



Ever to Excel



Dear Parents and carers,

Thank you for supporting a productive start to our second Autumn term and despite the restrictions of the second national lockdown, we are working hard to deliver the best education possible in the safest way possible. As the weeks progress, we are increasingly focused on securing high levels of progress and academic achievement for every student. The success of this is perhaps most evident in our attendance data, which despite Covid, has compared well with levels before the start of the pandemic. Our cumulative attendance is currently at a rate of 94%, which compares against 87% for secondary schools nationally. Thank you for your support in this and in ensuring that our students are able to benefit from their continuing education in such uncertain times. We recognise the sacrifice that has been made to allow schools to open at the current time and we want to ensure that we make every day and every lesson count. More to follow below on formal assessments, as we wish to ensure that students across every year group are able to test themselves across the curriculum before Christmas.

Remembrance

"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning

We will remember them."



St Andrew the Apostle School paused as is now traditional for us, on Wednesday, the 11th day of the 11th month. We paused in order to remember all of those who have died and suffered so that we might live the lives that we have today. We held a two minute silence across the school and as well as assemblies last week to encourage us to recognise the importance of remembrance and the sacrifices made by so many in times of conflict and war.

Positive Covid-19 Cases

We were notified that there were two positive coronavirus test results for students at St Andrew the Apostle School.

Both students are recovering well and we have sent best wishes to them and their family. We have consulted Public Health England, and do not consider that this was likely to be a school based transmission.

Thanks to the quick action of the family, we were alerted to the test result last weekend and were able to instruct all affected students to self-isolate prior to school opening on Monday morning.

The school remains open to all students who have not been required to isolate and your child should continue to attend as normal if they remain well.

Full information from PHE regarding Coronavirus can be found at the end of this column.

Decision Making in Response to Positive Covid-19 Cases

Thank you for the positive feedback we have received regarding our systems of control, our communication of positive cases, and also regarding how quickly and efficiently we have contacted students and families regarding self-isolation. Twelve months ago this was not a function we could ever have imagined that we would have to deliver. It is of course incredibly time consuming, as we consult with the Department of Education / Public Health on each and every case to ensure that our response is correct and in line with best practice. It is greatly valued to know how appreciated by students, staff and parents this work is.

I also wanted to take the opportunity to outline the decision making process which we go through with Department for Education and public health, particularly relating to circumstances in which we would consider closing a bubble.

Public Health also look at data for the local area and compare this to the number of positive test results within a school setting to determine if there seems to be an increased risk regarding being at school. The current advice is that the number of positive test results that we have had at St Andrew the Apostle are reflective of the prevalence of the virus in the local community. Put simply – given the rates of infection locally, we would expect to see a certain number of positive tests results within our student and staff population. The trigger for further action and possible bubble closure would be if we were to have far more positive test results amongst students and staff than would be expected from the local data in the wider population.

Of course, the aim of the second national lockdown is to reduce transmission both at school and more widely and we will of course monitor this carefully alongside public health and the department for education.

Control Measures

A reminder also to all students that regularly sanitising hands is the best way to ensure personally reducing the risk of infection. We have hand sanitiser stations across the school, including in every classroom. We have a good stock of replacements and a daytime cleaner who is able to replenish stock on demand. Please do remind students that if they find a hand sanitiser empty, please alert a member of staff as we can act quickly to re-stock these.

We would also be grateful if you could remind students that avoiding physical contact with each other, and with each other's possessions where possible is also an important control measure.

Re: Remote learning from home using Microsoft Teams – 2nd Practice, Thursday 26th November 2020

Remote Learning Practice No2

Further to our previous remote learning practice on Tuesday 10th November which proved to be successful, we are to hold a second practice session involving Years 7 –13 (**with the exception of Year 11 who are undertaking mock exams**) on Thursday 26th November between 8.30am – 9.45am. The purpose of this exercise is to consolidate the use of Microsoft Teams as a teaching and learning resource for both staff and students.

Once again, naturally, we will be using Microsoft Teams to deliver lessons. I also wish to reassure all parents that **MS Teams allows us to securely communicate and collaborate with our students if/when we are informed that all students need to learn from home.** We also want to be sure all Year groups can use the software and access lessons from home with confidence.

Therefore, on **Thursday 26th November 2020**, all students will not be expected in school until 11.00am. Instead students should remain at home and login to Teams for the following sessions:

8.30am – Tutor Time

8.55am – Lesson 1

Once again, we would appreciate it if you could support your son/daughter in accessing the two sessions.

The practice registration period and lesson will end at 9.45am whereby we will then expect students to make their way to school in time for period 3 which begins at 11.00am. There will be no break time on this day, but students can access our canteen at their usual lunchtime.

In advance of Thursday 26th November, once again can you please check your son/daughter can do the following:

- Access Office 365 via our school website
- Log in using his/her Office 365 address and password issued to all students before the half term break
- Find the icon for Microsoft Teams.
- Log in to the live tutorial session taking place on Thursday 26th November at 8.30am.

Face Coverings

As parents will know, we have welcomed the clarity from the DfE regarding the use of face coverings at school and on buses and I would like to thank the entire school community for how quickly everyone has adapted to these rules. We are active in enforcing these rules and have been heartened by how well students and staff have adapted to the new requirements. As you may remember, these new rules were launched by the Government with virtually no notice, so the fact that we were able to facilitate this change so quickly is a real testament to the way in which we are able to work together in partnership. In light of the speed of the change, there are a couple of clarifications to be made regarding expectations here:

To ensure that we are able to enforce the rules properly, we have an increased presence at the front of school to ensure that every student who enters our school has with them and is wearing a face covering. Equally, we instruct students to wear face coverings at the end of the day when leaving their lessons and making their way to the school gates.

Wearing face coverings is now mandatory on public transport. We ensure that all students who board transport at the end of the day are wearing face coverings. We would also be grateful if you could remind your son or daughter to adhere to these measures.

Recent updates from the government reiterate that students do not need to wear a face covering when in outside areas at break and lunchtime. We do, of course, remind students that face coverings must be worn when re-entering the building.

Thanks again for your support with this and also for ensuring that students are well stocked with supplies. Face coverings can break and having a spare at all times is obviously very useful and avoids parents needing to be called in the middle of the day to bring in a replacement. As a school, we do have a small stock of masks for emergency situations, but of course we are unable to provide masks on request across the school population. Consequences are in place for students who do not wear masks when they must.

Public Health Information

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must not come to school and should remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

All other household members who remain well, must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'.

Further information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home.

If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online.

Household members staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community

If you are able, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period.

Symptoms

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)
- For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

[19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/](#). If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19

Do

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Further Information

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Positive Feedback

When events are moving so quickly and there is so much concern about the current situation, it can sometimes be easy to overlook the good that is around us and take time to recognise the acts of positivity and kindness which so characterise life at St Andrew the Apostle School. We take great strength as a school community from your positive parental feedback and also from our students who do occasionally speak positively of the benefits of being at school! We will also be encouraging an even greater focus on care and kindness in the weeks to come as we approach Christmas. Although circumstances are likely to be different for us all this year, we are seeking to promote a range of planned for and random acts of kindness in the weeks ahead, and to find ways to work together as an entire school community, even though we are currently forced to work apart in individual bubbles.

Anti Bullying Week

To mark Anti Bullying Week, we have encouraged all students and staff to wear something purple in recognition of this important event and to raise awareness of anti-bullying. There are also some great resources available on <https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week> We will be delivering a range of pastoral work with students on this theme in order to encourage the respect and care for one another which is such an important part of being a member of St Andrew the Apostle School Community.

Mock Exams and Formal Assessments

Although Coronavirus seems to dominate all aspects of life at the moment, we remain absolutely committed to ensuring excellent levels of student achievement across every year group. Our Year 13 students have been engaging well in their mock exams and we anticipate that Year 11 will also respond in the same manner as they begin their mock exams this week. Good luck to everyone who is sitting their exams and it is really refreshing to focus on the liberating power of a great education which will be of such importance to our young people for the rest of their lives, with coronavirus hopefully receding in its impact upon us all.

Students in all other year groups will also have assessments across the curriculum and we will be ensuring that lessons are focused towards ensuring success in these. A reminder that homework is uploaded to Classcharts, so if you want to know what your child is learning or wish to encourage some extra work prior to the end of term assessments, please do check Classcharts.

Thank you for all that you are doing to support your son/daughter's education during this second lockdown. We appreciate your support and if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us via email on: admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk

Best wishes,



Michael Vassiliou
Headteacher - Acting

St Andrew the Apostle – Thoughts for the Week



Bible Readings and Prayers for this time:

Psalm 97

- 1 The LORD reigns, let the earth be glad;
let the distant shores rejoice.
- 2 Clouds and thick darkness surround him;
righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.
- 3 Fire goes before him
and consumes his foes on every side.
- 4 His lightning lights up the world;
the earth sees and trembles.
- 5 The mountains melt like wax before the LORD,
before the Lord of all the earth.
- 6 The heavens proclaim his righteousness,
and all peoples see his glory.
- 7 All who worship images are put to shame,
those who boast in idols—
worship him, all you gods!
- 8 Zion hears and rejoices
and the villages of Judah are glad
because of your judgments, LORD.
- 9 For you, LORD, are the Most High over all the earth;
you are exalted far above all gods.
- 10 Let those who love the LORD hate evil,
for he guards the lives of his faithful ones
and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.
- 11 Light shines on the righteous
and joy on the upright in heart.
- 12 Rejoice in the LORD, you who are righteous,
and praise his holy name



A Prayer for Remembrance

Ever-living God,

We remember those whom you have

Gathered from the storm of war

Into the peace of your presence;

May that same peace calm our fears,

Bring justice to all peoples

And establish harmony among nations,

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Theme for the week – Week beginning 23rd November

Theme of the week	Key Dates/Events	Bible Quotation	Inspirational Quotation	Questions to consider
Forgiveness: The value of starting again	21 st – 28 th November - Anti Bullying Week 29 th November – Advent begins	Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.” – Isaiah 43: 18	Do not be embarrassed by your failures, learn from them and start again. - Richard Branson	When have you started again? Was it easy/difficult and why? What is the benefit of making changes in your life?

Sixth Form



Sixth Form Virtual Open Evening

This week, we were delighted to present our Sixth Form Virtual Open Evening, which our year 11 students were invited to attend in order to find more information about our fantastic 6th form. The evening provided us with a chance to give a description of the excellent teaching and learning, close and positive relationships, and opportunities which make our Sixth Form so distinctive. Attendees found out about our exciting courses, about careers and UCAS, and about our expectations. Victoria and Alex, two Year 12 students, eloquently explained why they felt St Andrew Sixth Form is the best place for them to study in two inspirational speeches.

The window for application window is now open and the deadline to complete is Friday 12th December 2020. You will then be invited to our 'Sixth Former for a Day' event on 8th January, to experience life as a Year 12 student. [Click here to apply.](#) Please contact us via admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk if you need help with applying.

Our subject leads remain available to talk to students about their subjects, and you can watch their presentations [here.](#)

Please browse our [Sixth Form website](#) to find out details of our Pastoral Care, Curriculum and life in our Sixth Form.

We are looking forward to welcoming our Year 11 students in our Sixth Form and to guide them through the next stage of their academic life.

KS3 - Writing Assessment in English



In the next few weeks, KS3 English students will be preparing for their English Language writing assessment.

Our students will be asked to write a piece of descriptive writing based on a particular theme they have been studying in class. Year 7s will be writing a fairy tale; Year 8s will write their own Gothic story; and Year 9s will be planning for a GCSE style writing question. Along with revising the work they have done in class, students may find the BBC Bitesize link below useful as a reminder of important features and devices to use in their writing:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zpp4kqt/revision/1>

For extra inspiration, the link below is for a booklet of descriptive extracts, short stories and poetry created this year by a range of published authors and poets:

https://issuu.com/bloomsburypublishing/docs/thebookofhopes_interactivepdf/4?ff&experiment=no-fs-header

On the next page is a short story from one of our gifted English students: Thea P (Year 11).

TOWERED

She towered over the body that lay before her, watching its eyes became void of the essence of life. Scarlet blood was painted over her hands as she smiled menacingly, proud of the task she had just accomplished. A weight was lifted off her shoulders...

Adelaide and Penny had been best friends from birth. Their mothers had been in the same hospital ward during childbirth and ever since then they had been inseparable. To everyone else they were the ying to each other's yang. However, there was more to their friendship that met the eye. Penny had always had a streak of malice, she could become green with envy, destroying everyone and everything in her path if things didn't go her way. She was stupendously gorgeous, quite the contrary of Adelaide. With model like legs, always ensuring she was stood tall and confidently, liquid gold for hair and a chiselled face with chocolate brown eyes that you could get lost in for hours. Not only was she striking to the eye, she had a personality which attracted people like a magnet which, unfortunately for Adelaide, made Penny painfully popular.

However, Adelaide had her secrets too. The fallout of Penny's darkness left her blamed and she carried this burden into their teenage years with "bad influence" branded on her forehead. But no one saw how she hid her demons that occupied her every second of every day sapping her of energy, the tears she shed when she was alone in the darkness, the burn she had to be perfect. She was the reason Penny was the person she was now, she had given her the key to her kingdom, but Penny locked her out and threw a feast. Adelaide yearned for the crown.

The lights of another Friday night party hypnotised Adelaide and the music resonated in her ears. Something snapped within her like a guitar string, the song playing deafening her with the words that plagued her mind. "I don't like your little games." The words she wished she could have expressed to Penny years ago. "Don't like your tilted stage." She was drained from lurking in the shadow of those who surrounded her. "The role you made me play of the fool." She had a list of names and hers was red and underlined. "I don't like your perfect crime."

She didn't even feel the knife go in.

She towered over the body that lay before her, watching its eyes became void of the essence of life. Scarlet blood was painted over her hands as she smiled menacingly, proud of what she had just accomplished. A weight was lifted off her shoulders, she was free. She had risen up against her oppressor...

There was the body of my best friend lying beneath my feet and I waited for the tears to fall like rain, but they never did. Looking back, I don't recognise the girl I was, the girl who was broken and sick with envy.

Looking back, I fear her.

The English department love hearing your imaginative stories, so keep sharing!

GCSE PE

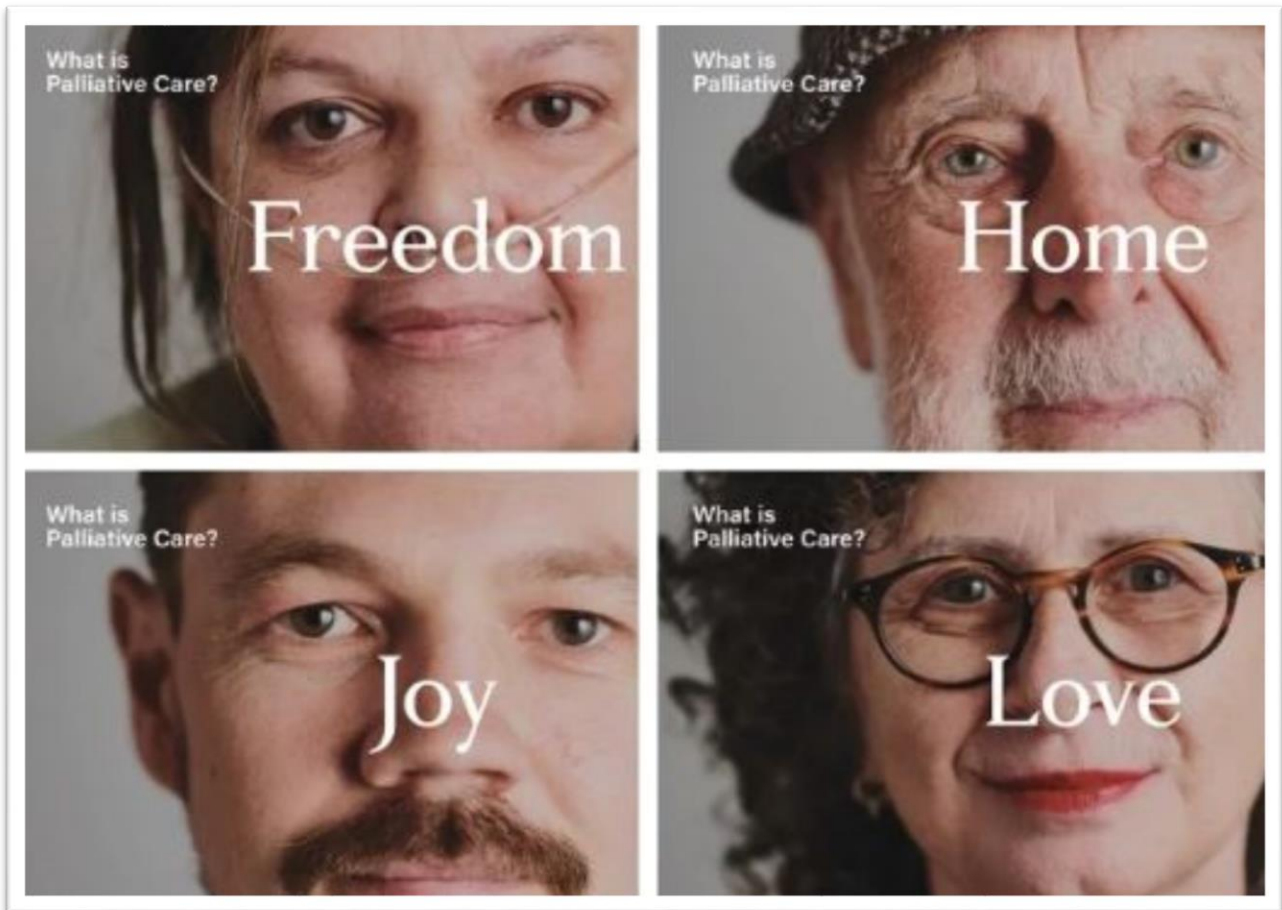
This week in our Year 10 GCSE PE lessons the students were learning about the structure and functions of the heart. They were very keen to show off their artistic skills when drawing their structures on T-Shirts.

A huge well done to all the students involved for all of their efforts and dedication during their lessons.

The PE Department



Moments That Matter Campaign



36 hours to make Moments That Matter for seriously unwell children in London!

Dear all,

As mentioned in our Newsletter No3, I have agreed to be a Team Leader for Noah's Ark Children's Hospice's 'Moments That Matter' campaign. We're aiming to raise £1.2m in 36 hours to fund nurses and carers for London's most unwell babies and children: life for them without this funding is unimaginable and you can make the most significant difference.

Please click on this link

– <https://www.charityextra.com/noahsarkmoments/standrewtheapostlegreekorthodoxschool> to watch the most inspirational video, showcasing the moments this vital charity is making possible for some of London's most unwell children.

All donations made between 10am on Sunday 22nd November and 10pm on Monday 23rd November will be doubled by friends of the charity! If you feel compelled and able to support this vital cause, I would be hugely appreciative.

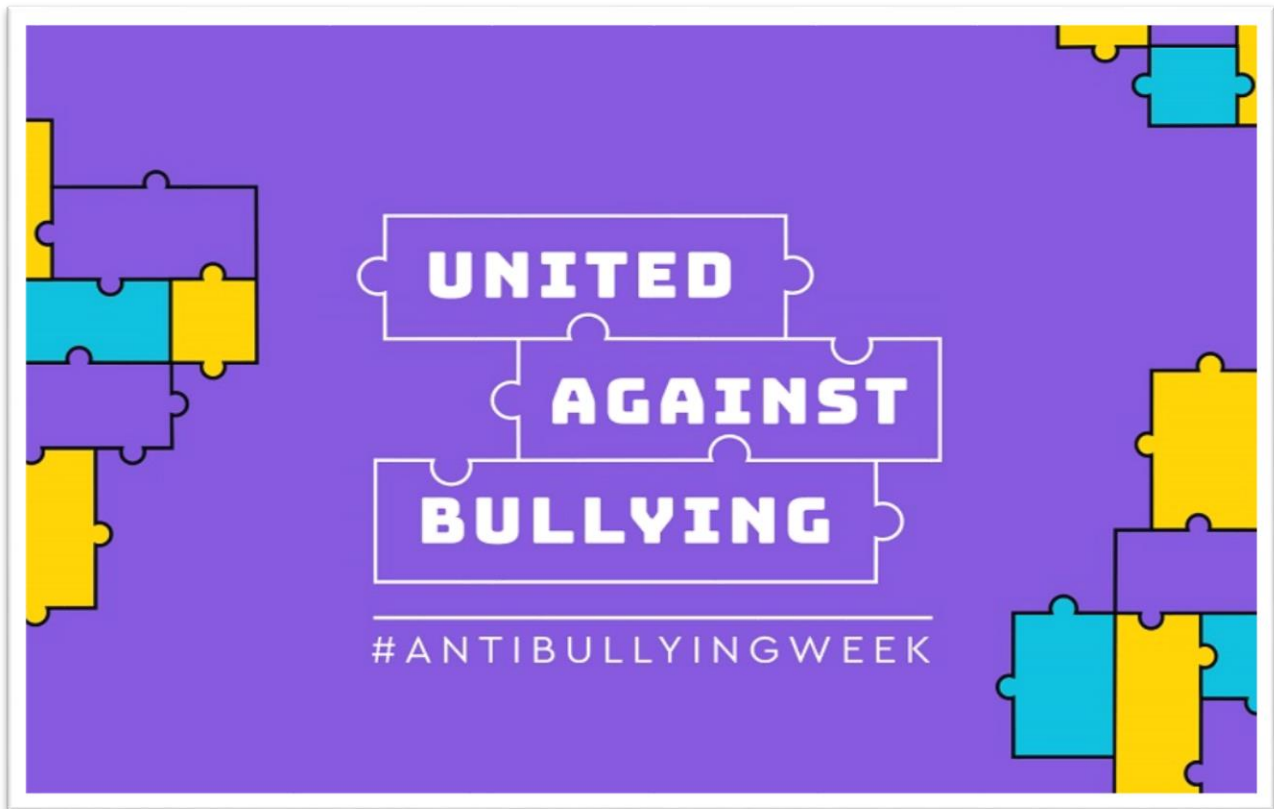
If you would rather donate by cheque or bank transfer, please click 'donate' and then on your preferred method. Somebody from the charity will then contact you with relevant details.

All best wishes,

Mr Lasithiotakis

Head of Performing Arts

Anti-Bullying Week



Part of this is to ensure that our school remains focused on ensuring the culture and environment of the school continues to be supportive and caring of all students and that bullying, where it does exist, is dealt with swiftly and fairly. We are proud that our community is kind, caring and compassionate.

To demonstrate to the community our shared values, we encouraged every child to wear a purple accessory for this week. This could have been a purple head band or scarf, purple socks and badge or a pin that is purple; something discreet but visible which shows commitment to anti-bullying.

Useful websites to help you

- <https://www.childline.org.uk/> – contains tips and resources for victims
- <https://www.bullying.co.uk/> – help and advice for victims, parents and schools
- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/> – help and advice for parents and families
- <https://www.kooth.com/> – a good source of independent counselling for students
- <https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week>



Future Events for the Diary

<u>Week 12</u>	<u>Key Events</u> Anti-Bullying Week Y11 Mock Exams
Monday 23 rd November	Y11 Mock Exams
Tuesday 24 th November	Y11 Mock Exams
Wednesday 25 th November	Y11 Mock Exams
Thursday 26 th November	Y11 Mock Exams Remote Learning Practice No2 from 8.30 – 9:45
Friday 27 th November	Y11 Mock Exams