

St Andrew the Apostle Greek Orthodox School



Ever to Excel



Dear Parents and carers,

Thank you for all of the feedback regarding our second Microsoft Teams lesson practice on Thursday 26th November. I would like to say thank you for all of the positive comments and messages of support which you continue to provide about live lessons via MS Teams at St Andrew the Apostle School and our staff more generally. The current situation is immensely challenging for people in all

circumstances and in all walks of life, but I know that all of us who work at St Andrew the Apostle School draw great strength from your positive feedback and support. I am aware that there were some technical issues in some of the MS Teams lessons – and thank you to parents alerting us to this so promptly as we were able to make fairly, speedy improvements as a result.

Mock Examinations and Qualifications in 2021

We have now completed Mock examinations for Years 11 and 13 – and we have been proud of the way in which students have approached these exams, both in the level of preparation and in managing the process within the bubble system.

As ever with our approach to securing success in formal qualifications, our approach is one based on working closely with our students in a calm and purposeful manner. We are aware that some students (largely because of the Government’s handling of 2020 examinations) are perhaps overly concerned about the grades which may be awarded in the mock exams and the significance which these could carry. I would like to assure parents and students that the purpose of our mock exams remains to ensure that teachers and students can identify areas of strength as well as areas for further study and focus in readiness for the Summer 2021 real exams.

I know that previous U-turns from the Government promote uncertainty, but we must proceed on the basis of their commitment that examinations in 2021 will go ahead as planned, albeit with some previously advertised adaptations. This means that we should all proceed on the expectation that examinations will go ahead in May, June and July and work towards those dates in preparedness to achieve the best outcomes possible for every individual and for our Year 11 and Year 13 classes of 2021. If something unexpected does arise, we can of course ensure that we are flexible and ready to meet whatever challenges arise with positivity and the aim to ensure that our students are not disadvantaged by shifts in national decision making. In the meantime, we should prepare for success in the summer exam series and assume that all will run as scheduled.

The end of National Restrictions – A return to the Tier System from 2nd December 2020

You are likely to be aware that national restrictions concluded on 2nd December 2020 and has been replaced by a more local tiered system. London as you will have had by now has been placed in Tier 2 from this date – and this will be reviewed at a national level regularly.

Details of the tier system can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/find-coronavirus-local-restrictions> and here : <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-restriction-tiers-what-you-need-to-know>

Please note that schools will continue to operate under different rules from the rest of the population and of course the Government have, again, updated the guidance for schools! However, the good news is that from initial exploration of the school guidance, there will be very little change from our current arrangements. The rules on face coverings in school and on buses remain and if anything have been strengthened, which we feel is the right course of action. If there is anything additional to be aware of or any last-minute updates from the Department for Education, I will make parents aware at the earliest opportunity.

Sixth Form Admissions

A reminder that all 2021 Sixth Form admissions information and videos can be found on our school website. The closing date for current Year 11 students to apply (both internal and external applicants) is Friday 11th December 2020.

Year 13 Parents Evening

For parents of Year 13 students, we will be hosting the subject consultation evening via our Parent Booking System on Thursday 10th December 3.30 –6.30pm. Full details have already been sent out, but if you do have any further questions, please email admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk.

St Andrew's Day

This year's St Andrew's Day celebrations at our school were rather muted compared with previous years given that we were unable to take a delegation of our students to the church of our Chaplain, Father John, and neither were we able to have Father John in school. However, we marked the feast Day of the Apostle Andrew in form time and were fortunate to have Father John deliver a special St Andrew's Day message via a pre-recorded video.

Christmas Fasting for Orthodox Christians

We have entered the 40-day period of fasting as we prepare for the Nativity of our Lord. In doing so, we are given the opportunity to reflect upon the meaning of His birth. The form of fasting, however, is not merely just what we eat, but also includes fasting from negative thoughts. Fasting includes not just that which goes into our mouths, but that which comes forth from our mouths, in other words, being more attentive to our words. Fasting also includes giving to charity and being more generous to those less fortunate than ourselves. This is one of the most important aspects of fasting because in doing so we are encouraged to look at each person as the image of Christ. If we do these things as Orthodox Christians, we believe that we will have successfully participated in the Nativity Fast and we will be able to rejoice in the coming of our Lord, God, and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch, Wednesday 16th December

On Wednesday 16th December, we will be holding our annual Christmas jumper Day, where we ask all our students to come in wearing a Christmas themed Jumper as part of their uniform. We have traditionally also used this occasion as an opportunity to fund raise for charity; this year, our intention is to forward the proceeds from this fundraiser to the Enfield and Barnet Food Bank. Unlike previous years where we collected money at the gate, I would like to ask you to make a donation via our ParentPay system. In addition, we are working with our catering providers to see if we can have a Christmas lunch served to students in a COVID secure process. We will miss our school traditions of teachers helping serve a full Christmas dinner, Christmas crackers and Christmas hats being worn. We do hope we can have muted, safe celebrations, however, and we will keep you posted on these arrangements.

Please do get in touch if there is any matter which you would like to discuss, please email admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk and I hope that as we emerge from another period of national restrictions that you continue to remain safe and well.

God Bless.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Vassiliou', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael Vassiliou

Headteacher – Acting

Sixth Form



Sixth Form Admissions Deadline!

The window for application window is now open and the deadline to complete is Friday 11th December 2020. You will then be invited to our 'Sixth Former for a Day' event on 8th January 2021, 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 sixth form is the vehicle for your successful journey to the next step in your academic life.

Our founding year group is proof of that as last summer they received the first set of A Level results in the school's history. All the students in this year group are special to us and we are incredibly proud of their achievements. Through their time at the school, they have been true to the values of the school and their hard work and resilience has been rewarded. Their faith, dedication and desire to excel has been borne out in a wonderful set of results. We are very proud of the accomplishments of all our students, but some individuals really shone:

- *Andrianna C* achieved grade A's in History, Psychology and Philosophy & Ethics.
- *Stavros K* achieved 2 grade A's in History and Economics and a grade B in Mathematics.
- *Sevi K* achieved grade A's in History and Philosophy & Ethics, and a Distinction in BTEC Business.
- *Marianna C* achieved grade A's in Psychology and English Literature, a grade B in Mathematics.
- *Yulianna D* achieved 2 grade A's in Biology and Chemistry and a Grade C in Mathematics.

These grades and those received by our students reflect just how hard students and staff members have worked to achieve these outcomes. The collective success demonstrates not only how continuity in education is so important for successful outcomes but also how our community embodies our motto: Ever to Excel.

These Year 13 students have set the standard for future years and we are incredibly proud of what they have achieved and the young women and men who have now taken the next steps in their education or careers. Please see a list of the destinations below where students have been accepted to study:

Student	University	Course
Yuliana D	Cardiff University	Optometry
Marianna C	University of Nottingham	Finance, Accounting and Management
Demitra E	University of Northampton	Interior Architecture & Spatial Design
Melanie N	University of East London	Primary Education with QTS
Anna-Georgia R	Nottingham Trent University	Law with Psychology
Nadia K	Brunel University London	Economics and Mathematics
Zahra B	University of Westminster	Law
Joanna D	University of Reading	Psychology with Professional Placement
Nicolas M	Manchester Metropolitan University	Philosophy
Joanna I	Brunel University London	Digital Design with Placement
Iraklis A	Nottingham Trent University	Mechanical Engineering
Stavros K	University of Nottingham	Economics
Rachael H	University of Bristol	Biology
Gabriel A	Nottingham Trent University	Media and Philosophy
Helena P	University of Reading	Consumer Behaviour and Marketing
Andrianna C	University of Nottingham	Psychology
Vasily M	Loughborough University	Politics, Philosophy and Economics
Christina N	Nottingham Trent University	Psychology
Sevaan K	Queen Mary University of London	Business Management
Maria P	University of Essex	Business Management
Jenai M	London South Bank University	Criminology with Psychology
Panayiotis M	Nottingham Trent University	Sport and Exercise Science
Stavroulla P	University of Reading	Psychology
Christopher G	University of Reading	Philosophy and English Literature
Maya Jade R	University of Leicester	Law
Amelio G	University of Nottingham	American Studies and History
Rico G	Nottingham Trent University	Accounting and Finance
Maria G	City University of London	Psychology

Personal Attention + Relationships = Progress

Why trust anyone else?

St Andrew the Apostle – Thoughts for the Week



Bible Readings and Prayers for this time:

Psalm 2 Official Glories of the Eternal Son

1 Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?

2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against His anointed, saying,

3 Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.

4 He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.

5 Then shall He speak unto them in His wrath, and vex them in His sore displeasure.

6 Yet have I set My king upon My holy hill of Zion.

7 I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto Me, Thou art My Son; this day have I begotten Thee.

8 Ask of Me, and I shall give Thee the heathen for Thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for Thy possession.

9 Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; Thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

10 Be wise now therefore, O ye kings; be instructed, ye judges of the earth.

11 Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling,

12 Kiss the Son, lest He be angry and we perish from the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in Him.



Heavenly father, I am your humble servant,
I come before you today in need of hope.
There are times when I feel helpless,
There are times when I feel weak.
I pray for hope.
I need hope for a better future.
I need hope for a better life.
I need hope for love and kindness.
Some say that the sky is at it's darkest just before the light.
I pray that this is true, for all seems dark.
I need your light, Lord, in every way.
I pray to be filled with your light from head to toe. To bask in your glory.
To know that all is right in the world, as you have planned, and as you want it to be.
Help me to walk in your light, and live my life in faith and glory.
In your name I pray,
Amen.

Theme of the Week – Week beginning 7th December 2020

Theme of the week	Key Dates/Events	Bible Quotation	Inspirational Quotation	Questions to consider
Fairness: The value of equality – helping the needy at Christmas	10th December - Human Rights Day 10th December - First Day of Hannukah	“If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?” – James 2: 15-17	“We should give as we would receive, cheerfully, quickly, and without hesitation; for there is no grace in a benefit that sticks to the fingers.” - Seneca	As we approach Christmas, how much are you focusing on yourself, or others? Which people most need our support over Christmas? What can you do to help?

Future Events for the Diary

<u>Week 14</u>	<u>Key Events</u>
Monday 7 th December	
Tuesday 8 th December	
Wednesday 9 th December	
Thursday 10 th December	Y13 Subject Consultation Evening - 3.30-6.30pm
Friday 11 th December	Sixth Form Admissions deadline

<u>Week 15</u>	<u>Key Events</u>
Monday 14 th December	
Tuesday 15 th December	Year 11 Mock Results
Wednesday 16 th December	Christmas Jumper Day Christmas Lunch (TBC)
Thursday 17 th December	
Friday 18 th December	

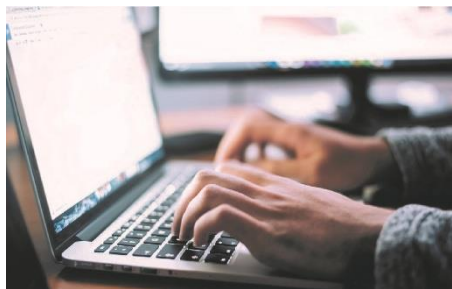
STA Careers

Year 13 Virtual Workshop

On Tuesday 17th November 2020, STA sixth form students of year 13 had the unique opportunity to attend a virtual careers workshop delivered by one of the most respected education officers from Middlesex University, who with high passion and enthusiasm engaged our students in a presentation about the process of applying for an undergraduate degree.



Our sixth form is developing



What students thought...

In our building 4 assembly hall, year 13 were able to interact virtually with the education officer and student ambassadors from Middlesex University. Students discussed university life, types of degrees, understanding the UCAS process of application and writing personal statements. Students were given a physical and online workbook to take away which is highly useful for drafting and perfecting personal statements with guidance and effective advice. Year 13 benefited from talking to undergraduate ambassadors who are currently studying various subjects in a blended learning environment and the Q&A session. The Education consultant from Middlesex University was highly impressed with our sixth formers' engagement and interaction; year 13 were excited to be there and made effective use of the session by asking lots of insightful questions. The careers team has many Career ideas planned forward for our students in all key stages.

Middlesex University Virtual Workshop

17.11.20

The Careers Team

At STA, the careers team consists of a group of passionate, educational experts with a field of opportunities to provide our students, to ensure they reach a level of effective career decision making. All our sixth formers have had and will have further opportunities to have one-to-one career interviews with our career's adviser **Mr Williams**. **Mrs Glover**, our careers consultant has years of expertise and provides educational career opportunities forward. **Mrs Chenouf**, Careers Lead heads the team in organising and developing whole school career prospects and targeted objectives alongside various heads of year and Assistant Headteacher **Mr Martin** who supports the school's career aspirations by providing a strategic lead.

STA 2020 Christmas Card Competition



Christmas Card Competition

The students across all year groups have made such a super effort to create Christmas cards for the whole school competition. It was such a pleasure to judge them and see the vast amount of creativity shown. Thank you very much for such wonderful entries, the student should feel very proud of themselves for representing St Andrew the Apostle school.

1st place:



Eric S 10L

2nd place:



Lara T 110

"I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carol play
and wild and sweet
The words repeat
of peace on earth, good-will to all"

The beautiful message written in the Christmas card.

3rd place:



Antonio C 8P

We hope you all have an enjoyable holiday and a well earned rest at the end of the term, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year!

DT and Art Dept



Highly commended awards go to:



Natalia E 9E



Twyla N 11S



Liana J 8S



Collage by Gabriella B 9E



Mimi S 7H



Stelios C 8S



Anonymous

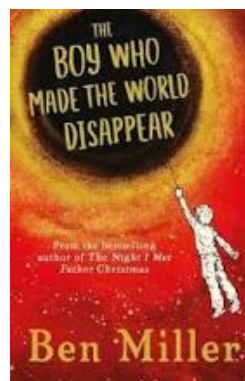
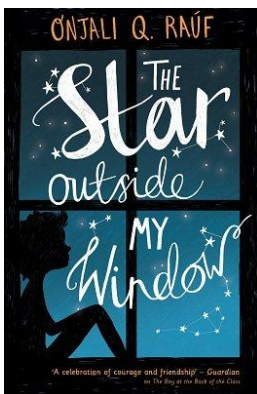
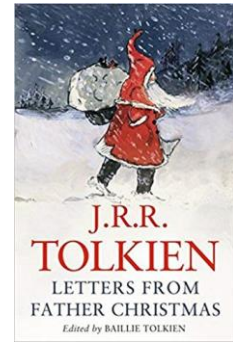
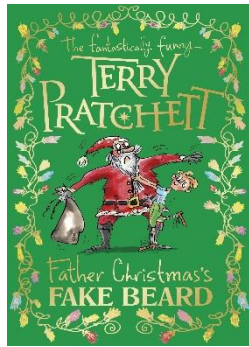
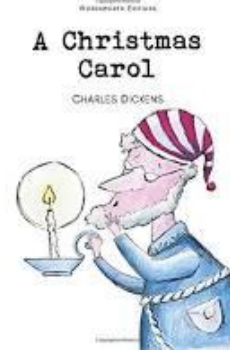


Maria U 9T



Cosy up this Christmas with a good book!

As the chill of winter takes hold, why not snuggle up with a hot chocolate and a good book? There are so many great stories to leap into and new weird and wonderful worlds to explore! Here are some recommendations for this Christmas:



Recommended book list this Christmas:

A Christmas Carol – Charles Dickens

Father Christmas' Fake Beard – Terry Pratchett

The Christmasaurus – Tom Fletcher

Letters From Father Christmas – J.R.R. Tolkien

The Girl Who Saved Christmas – Matt Haig

The Boy Called Christmas – Matt Haig

The Beast of Buckingham Palace – David Walliams

The Book of Dust (volume1) – Philip Pullman

The Star Outside My Window Onjali Q. Rauf

Boy Giant – Michael Morpurgo

The Boy Who Made The World Disappear – Ben Miller

Forgotten Fairy Tales of Brave and Brilliant Girls – Kate Pankhurst