



Headteacher's Update

15 January 2021

Key Messages

Dear Parents and Carers

Please [click here](#) to access a short video message from Indira Warwick (Headteacher).

Thank you for your support in ensuring that your children are ready to attend online lessons on Microsoft Teams starting with form time at 8:30am every morning. Attendance has been very high and we are very pleased with the positive level of engagement from all of our students. Please do get in contact with your child's form tutor or their Head of Year if you are experiencing any difficulties and we would be pleased to assist you.

Please advise your children to make a note of their usernames and ask them to select a memorable password for all of our online learning platforms. We have been able to reset the user details for over 20 students but we do not wish any of our students to lose any valuable learning time so please check in with your children to ensure that they are logging in successfully every day.

We were delighted to meet with our Year 11 and Year 13 students and their families using our new Online Parent meeting system and initial feedback from students, families and staff has been very positive.

We have sent out a short questionnaire to Year 11 and Year 13 Parents and Carers and we would be pleased to receive your feedback so that we can continue to further improve our provision.

We are looking forward to celebrating name days in our Assemblies where we link the significance of the name day with the relevant Saint. On Thursday 14 January, we celebrated the name day of Nina (Nina, Ninas). Saint Nina is said to have belonged to a Greek-speaking Roman family from Kolastra, Cappadocia and

was a relative of Saint George. Saint Nina is believed to have performed miraculous healings and converted the Georgian Queen Nana, and eventually the pagan King Mirian III of Iberia, who, lost in darkness and blinded on a hunting trip, found his way only after he prayed to Saint Nina.

We are pleased that work on our brand new, specially designed and state-of-the-art new building will commence in the summer term of this academic year. Please [click here](#) for updates about our new building and links to Press releases.

"Reading for pleasure is the single biggest factor in success later in life, outside of an education. Study after study has shown that those children who read for pleasure are the ones who are most likely to fulfil their ambitions. If your child reads, they will succeed – it's that simple."

Bali Rai

If your child is a reluctant reader, I would recommend purchasing a book in hard copy and accompanying the book with an audio book or an Audible version. That way your child can have the book read to them whilst still following the book for themselves. Alternatively, you may wish to take turns reading the book with your child and enjoy an adventure through the book together. Please click [here](#) to access books on Audible free of charge. I will share a comprehensive reading list with you in next week's newsletter.

I would like to reach out to you to ask for your support with the STA Big Give fund. We are running a time limited campaign for only **two weeks**. If you are able to, please click [here](#) to make a £10 donation to the fund which will enable us to purchase a reading book for families who need support. Your donation will make a huge difference and I would like to thank you in advance for your generosity.

For any families who would like to request our support to purchase a reading book for their child, please contact your child's Head of Year and we would be pleased to help you.

I am looking forward to holding a **'Meet with the Head'** Parent focus group meeting commencing in the week beginning **Monday 1 February**. I will write to you with further details of how to access this meeting on Microsoft Teams in next week's newsletter. I know that this was a very successful initiative when Mr Vassiliou launched it last term. Items for discussion this term are: *Help with remote learning; Student and Parent wellbeing; Overuse of mobile phones; Healthy living during lockdown; Exercising at home with our children, Fundraising through Parent events e.g. Quiz night.*

I would be pleased to take further suggestions from you after our first meeting.

Finally, I wanted to share this wonderful announcement from the Offices of the Holy Archdiocese about His Grace Bishop Athanasios, who is also a loyal and dedicated member of our Governing body. We send our warm congratulations from our whole school community.

Having learned of the election of His Grace Bishop Athanasios of Tropaeou as the Metropolitan of the once-illustrious Metropolitanate of Colognia, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain gives thanks to Almighty God and expresses its gratitude to the His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate for honouring Metropolitan Athanasios for his many years of service to Christ and His Church.

Best wishes,




Mrs I. Warwick (Headteacher)

Messages from the Heads of Year

All students mentioned in the weekly Newsletter will receive 10 recognition points awarded by their form tutor.

Year 7: *Mariaelena A* and *Yiannis A, 70* – determination and perseverance during this first week of live remote lessons.

Year 8: *Aaliyah K 8L* – outstanding engagement in all online lessons and for excellent work produced in French. ***Christos M 8S*** – incredible efforts in all lessons this week, with recognition points given for outstanding engagement in Geography, French, History and Drama.

Year 9: *Mariami K 9O* – producing excellent work in French, History and Classics. ***Luciano S 9E*** – producing outstanding work in History and English.

Year 10: *Nicos N 10N* – outstanding work in Media Studies. ***Lucas E 10N*** – outstanding contribution in English.

Year 11: *Christina A 11E* and *Thea P 11G* – the highest achievements points since the beginning of term and showing high levels of commitment and effort during remote learning.

Year 12: *James H 12O* and *Roksolana W 12A* – high levels of effort and commitment in lessons.

Year 13: *Andria F 13O* – for being the first in the year to receive an unconditional offer from University. ***Jason D 13O*** – consistent effort and commitment to his studies.

Please do let us know of any accolades your child has achieved by emailing their Head of Year so we may celebrate them in future newsletters.



Competition Zone

Maths Competition

✕ ✕

The product of the digits in the number 126, is:

$$1 \times 2 \times 6 = 12.$$

How many other three-digit numbers have a product that is equal to 12?

✕ ✕

Science Competition**Spaghetti Tower Challenge- how high can you go?**

When anything is being built – a building, a bridge, a road, or a pier – the architects and engineers have to design it carefully so that it is safe and fulfils the required purpose. This can be quite a challenge!

Your task: Using only spaghetti and marshmallows, build a structure that won't collapse! Please obtain your Parent/ Carers permission to send us a picture of you standing next to your tower along with its height in centimetres.

Speakers for Schools

Click [here](#) to view free inspirational broadcasts from a wide variety of speakers from the world of work. There has never been a more important time to think widely about possible careers in our ever-changing world. Write to us to tell us about your ambition for your future career.

English Competition

Enthral imaginations
by creating your own
mini saga!

'Unsolved' invites young writers to write a mini saga (a story told in just 100 words) inspired by the crime & mystery genre. Will they fight for justice? Take on the role of detective in an enthralling whodunit? Or embark on an adventure as a fugitive? You can watch a short video for inspiration [here](#)

The deadline for STA students to enter this competition is **Friday 22th January**. This can be submitted to your English teacher on ClassCharts or on Teams. We can't wait to read your entries!



All other entries must be submitted to admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk by the end of the school day on **Monday 1 February**. Please remember to include your full name, year group, form, school and contact details for your Parents/ Carers.

Year 5 and Year 6 winners will be entered into a prize-draw competition and winning students will receive a certificate and a great prize!

Help for Parents and Carers

A helpful leaflet has been attached for Parents/ Carers entitled: **How Parents and Carers can support online learning** followed by **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**.

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

This will take place every Friday from 5pm until 6pm **starting on Friday 22 January**. 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.

Help for Parents and Carers from Barnet Education and Learning service

Family Links Nurturing Course for parents of children with ADHD starting on Tuesday 19 January 2021. This will consist of 8 sessions on Zoom, with a half-term break in the middle. For more details, please have a look at [the attached flyer](#).

For details of the DrugWise Parenting Programme, please click on the link [online drug aware parenting programme](#).

Safeguarding news

I would like to bring to your attention a highly unsuitable and damaging online game called 'Cunch-Line Chronicles.' Please ensure that your children do not play this game.

Advice for Parents/ Carers

Please click [here](#) for advice from the NSPCC and [here](#) for advice from the UK safer internet centre.

Please click [here](#) to send a free 'Thank you' to a member of staff postcard. Anyone can send a card all year round. The *Thank a Teacher* campaign recognises ALL staff working in UK schools and colleges; school leaders, teachers, teaching assistants, and all support staff such as office staff, technicians, lunchtime supervisors and caretakers.

For up-to-date information from the Department for Education, please [click here](#).

Important dates for the calendar

Thursday 21st January 2021

Year 9 Parent/Carer Evening (Virtual)

Thursday 28th January 2021

Deadline for Year 9 Option choices

Thursday 4th February 2021

Year 8 Parent/Carer Evening (Virtual)

Thursday 25th February 2021

Year 10 Parent/Carer Evening (Virtual)

Thursday 11th March 2021

Year 7 Parent/Carer Evening (Virtual)