



Headteacher's Update

9 July 2021

Key Messages



[Divine Liturgy](#) commemorating the 3rd Sunday of Matthew, July 11, 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another happy and productive week at STA.

We have enjoyed having our Church services at St Katherine's Greek Orthodox Church and we give thanks to Father Damian and the Church for the support of our school and the spiritual guidance we receive. We look forward to continuing our work with Father Damian and Father John next term.

Over the last two days, we received two notifications of positive COVID tests in our student body. These tests were conducted using the home LFD test kits and both students are awaiting the result of a confirmatory PCR test. I am pleased to let you know that we have acted swiftly to identify all those students who should self-isolate as a precaution. If you have not been contacted by the school, that means that your child must attend school as normal as they are not in the self-isolation group. Please see the COVID update section of this newsletter for further information.

In next week's final newsletter, we will say farewell to three members of staff and welcome our new staff. I have asked our new colleagues to write a brief paragraph about themselves and I will be sharing this with parents and carers next week and at the start of next term. I am pleased to inform you that we have made some internal promotions to begin in September 2021. You will be able to view a message from Mr C Martin (new Deputy Headteacher and DSL), Ms K Beddoes (new SENDCo and extended SLT) and Ms S Halil (new Head of Year 11) on the final page of this newsletter.

I have written to parents and carers of Year 11 and Year 13 students about the arrangements for the two results days and the procedure for appeals on 10 August (Year 13) and 12 August (Year 11). This information can also be found in the dedicated section of our website. Please [click here](#) to view.

All parents and carers will receive their child's end of year report this week and I will also send a letter to you outlining the start of Autumn term arrangements. A reminder that we have two staff training days on Wednesday 1 and Thursday 2 September.

We have been informed by the Government that secondary schools will become mass asymptomatic test centres again at the start of the Autumn term, so my letter to you will confirm how this will affect the return to school date for your child.

In my assembly to students this week, I asked them to reflect on the true meaning of *Ever to Excel*. I recorded the assembly before the historic final of the Euros on Sunday 11 July. I have shared the words of the England Manager Gareth Southgate, written on 8 June- well before England made the phenomenal progress to the final. Southgate said this about our players:

"This is a special group. Humble, proud and liberated in being their true selves."

"When England play, there is much more at stake than the result."

"It's about how we conduct ourselves on and off the pitch, how we bring people together, how we inspire and unite, how we create memories that last beyond the 90 mins. That last beyond the summer. That last forever".

"We want parents and teachers to say to their kids *"Look. That's the way to represent your country. That's what England is about. That is what is possible."*

I think these words are equally applicable to all of our students at STA. I am proud that our students have the freedom to be themselves in a united and supportive environment. We are on a journey and sometimes, there are challenges on the way. However, by working as a united team, we will overcome those challenges and come back even stronger.

I would also like to share this story which forms the second part of my assembly to students:

Once upon a time, a man set out to change the world. Before long, he discovered that the world was far too big for one person to change. So, he decided to change his country. However, politicians and special interest groups thwarted his efforts. So, he decided to change his local area.

But his neighbours closed their doors and windows so they couldn't hear his message. So, he decided to change his wife and children. But his family rebelled and refused to listen to him. Finally, the man decided to change himself. And when he did that, he changed the world!

You can't find happiness or peace simply by changing your external surroundings. You need to make a positive change on the inside.

Scripture teaches us that when you become a Christian, "the old has gone, the new has come" (2 Corinthians 5:17)

The transformation has come from the inside out.

Finally, please see below for the arrangements for the end of term- Friday 16 July

- Year 10 non-uniform day (please refer to the last page of this newsletter for further details). £2 voluntary contribution is requested, with all proceeds being donated to the NHS.
- Students will follow their normal timetable until 12.30pm, followed by a staggered dismissal. All students in receipt of free school meals will be provided with lunch. There will be a full lunch and snack service for all students at break time.



Best wishes,

Mrs I Warwick (Headteacher)

Faith - πίστις



The Third Sunday After Pentecost: Seek First His Kingdom and His Righteousness

In the Gospel reading marking the Third Sunday of Matthew, Christ urges us not to be anxious about our lives and bodies—**what we shall eat, drink, or wear** (Matt. 6:22-33). But how can this be, if we must eat and drink, and clothe ourselves? Ultimately, we are mortal and are therefore bound by laws of biological existence. Do we not come from our forefather Adam, who is dust (Gen. 3:19), and as he was so we also are (1 Cor. 15:48). We are descendants of Adam, and one could argue that we find ourselves in a *fallen state*.

Christ came to restore our nature, to lift us out of the *fallen state*, and to give a new and original order to our lives. Our spirit must now find nourishment in God; our soul must be inspired by things divine, even as the spirit draws it to God; **even our bodies must not live "by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God"** (Matt. 4:4)

Christ is not calling us to stop eating—He Himself ate and drank, and His disciples did the same; He is not calling us to disregard our clothing—He Himself wore a robe made for Him by His most pure Mother. Christ is not calling us to reject our life, but to sanctify it: to bring every aspect of our life to the service of the kingdom, to remember that the goal of Christian life is **theosis**—a union with Christ and an ascension of our nature to the right side of God.

"Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well" (Matt. 6:33). Note that Christ is saying that these things will be yours as well. God knows that we need all these things (Matt. 6:32). He placed us in this world, and He blesses the labour of our hands.

In essence, The Lord is saying: "If you think about God first, you will see clearly. Keep your thoughts positive and focused on doing what God wants."

You cannot want something, like the latest phone, so much that you'll do anything to get it. God knows what you need. He takes care of every living thing. He does not want you to think about what you need. He knows what you need. What he wants is for you to trust Him, and to walk with Him. Seek, or look, first to find the kingdom of God.

Stay close to God. Pray always. Do what is always good and right. Walk with God and do not worry.

Mr M Vassiliou (Senior Deputy Headteacher)

Student of the Week

Well done!

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

Year 7: HENDRICK S (7P) for brilliant effort in French demonstrating excellent progression every lesson. **TYRA O (7O)** for carrying out exceptional work in all lessons, especially in French, RE and Art.

Year 8: CHRISTOS P (8M) and LIZZI A (8A) for demonstrating huge progression in STEM classes, especially in Maths.

Year 9: COBI J (9E) and LYDIA F (9O) for showing maturity and development in Drama and for supporting their classmates.

Year 10: ISABELLA O (10A) and TONI R (10A) for showing creativity and progress in History. **ASH W (10S)** for showing excellent leadership in his role as a senior prefect.

Sixth formers of the Week

HAILU B (12O) HANI R (12A) PETER T (12O) LOUI K (12O) for the outstanding maturity when assisting with school procedures and events.

Barnet Summer BACE Holidays- Reminder



[BACE Holidays](#) stands for Barnet. Active. Creative. Engaging. Holidays! The Summer Camps are free and for all children currently in receipt of free school meals.

Marcus Rashford MBE & Henry Dimbleby MBE have written a personal letter to all Parents/Guardians. To view, please [Click here](#).

Community Focus Open Day on Saturday 17 July

This is a free one-day event for parents, carers and their children and young people who want to know more about what Short Breaks and Articulate do. [Click here](#) to find out more!

Headteacher Parent Surgery

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 5.00pm until 6.00pm. 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.

Please note that there will be no Parent surgery on Friday 16 July. Instead, appointments will be allocated to **Monday 19 July**.

V&A Platinum Jubilee emblem competition

The V&A and Buckingham Palace are inviting artists and designers aged between 13-25 years old to design a special emblem for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022.

The winning design will feature in the lead up and throughout the Jubilee celebrations, including on TV, in street parties and community events.

The entries will be judged by a panel of graphic designers, visual artists and design professionals, including Margaret Calvert OBE RDI, Lubna Chowdary, Yinka Ilori MBE and Gabriella Marcella, chaired by V&A Director Tristram Hunt.



They will be joined by experts from the V&A, Royal College of Art, Design Museum and a member of the Royal Household.

[Click here](#) to find out more on how to enter!

Sustainable Fashion Webinar



Our doors are open and we're looking forward to welcoming you back. Spend your day exploring our miles of galleries or dip into the exciting array of exhibitions and displays. Our café and shops are also open.

On now until Sunday, 19 September 2021

Opening times: Wednesday to Sunday, 10.00am – 5.45pm.

Last admission 4.45pm.

Tickets: Free/Advance booking is recommended. Exhibitions require a separate ticket.

To find out on how to book a visit, [click here!](#)

Mental Health Awareness



[Barnet Local Offer: Home / Mental Health and Wellbeing Zone](#) has been designed for young people, their families and the professionals supporting them.

Please [click here](#) for information from North London Partnership about a mental health crisis line for secondary aged pupils. This is a newly developed crisis service and will be able to offer guidance and support and provide a same day appointment if required.

Clinics can also be contacted directly on **0208 702 4500** or **0208 702 3300** and the duty clinician on the day will also be able to help.

Please [click here](#) to access helpful advice and support from **Young Minds**.

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 Sweet (DSL*); Mr M Vassiliou (DDSL*); Mr C Martin (DDSL*); Ms M Henshaw-Devall (Millie); Mr N Anemori and Ms M Hirli (Melissa) *DDSL is the Deputy Designated Safeguarding lead *DSL is the Designated Safeguarding lead

Free Thank You Cards for School Staff

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.

Friends of STA (FOSA)

Thank you to parents and carers for your responses to the survey we posted in this section of the newsletter.

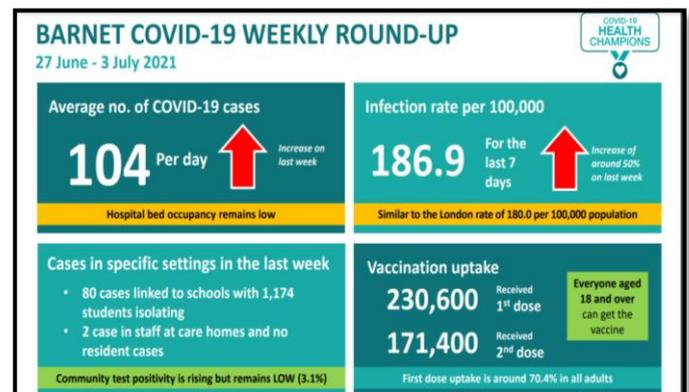
Given the current increase in COVID-19 cases in London, we have decided to postpone the social events we had planned to take place at the end of this term.

There is still time to join our small group of committed parents and carers if you would like to do so. We will get together in September to plan events for the Autumn term.

Please email admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk and mark your email for the attention of **Mr M Vassiliou (Senior Deputy Headteacher)**.

COVID-19 update

Please [click here](#) to view data from the Barnet COVID-19 weekly round up.



We have been in contact with a small number of families of students in Year 10 and Year 8 over the previous two days as we were notified that two students tested positive for COVID. The students obtained the results via the home LFD tests and are currently awaiting confirmation via a PCR test. We are restricted in sharing further information with families due to data protection regulations.

We have completed a thorough and robust 'Track and Trace' process which has resulted in some students being required to remain at home to self-isolate.

Reminder: I have written to the relevant families to explain that all students who will now be self-isolating at home will be required to continue to study as long as they are healthy and well. On Monday 12 July, teachers will set work for this group of students and from Tuesday 12 July until Friday 16 July (morning only), students will be required to attend live lessons on MS Teams.

If you have not been notified by STA staff, that means that your child must continue to attend school and is able to go about their daily routine.

Thank you to all students and families for your cooperation and for continuing to conduct home LFD tests twice weekly. Thank you also for continuing to adhere to our simple and clear COVID-safe measures. We continue to recommend the wearing of face coverings in communal areas and we are happy for students to choose whether or not to wear a face covering in the classroom.

We are in a much better position than many other schools who have experienced far larger numbers of staff and students in self-isolation.

Please contact your child's form tutor or Head of Year if you have any questions or need support.

Dress code for Year 10 non-uniform day

The SLT were impressed by the compelling presentation by a Year 10 Prefect on behalf of the student leadership team. We have agreed in principle to allow a non-uniform day for Year 10 only.

Therefore, Year 10 will be the only year group who will be allowed to attend school on **Friday 16 July** in their own clothes if they choose to do so.

Students will need to pay £2 via Parentpay and our students have asked for all the money collected be donated to the NHS.

Whilst this non-uniform day will allow students the opportunity to express themselves as individuals, it must be done so in an appropriate way. It is particularly important that any student dress on these occasions recognises that our school is still a working environment, and further that student dress does not give the wrong impression or cause embarrassment to staff, students and other members of the school community.

The following outlines our expectations that are to be met when students are not in school uniform:

- Non-uniform day clothing is to be appropriate to the learning atmosphere.
- Expectations regarding jewellery and piercings remains the same- only small sleepers or studs, one per ear, are acceptable.
- All usual lesson equipment and/or kit should be brought or worn to school.
- Usual values regarding make-up and nails apply.
- If students wear t-shirts, they should cover shoulders, chest and upper arms.

The following items should not be worn:

- Clothing with offensive logos.
- Any rips or patches on clothing.

It is recognised that the guidance above will not cover all issues that may arise, but we trust our students to make appropriate decisions about what to wear to school. On the rare occasion that a student may decide to wear items which are against the tenor of this guidance, a member of the Senior Leadership Team will use their professional judgement to make a decision about the appropriateness of the outfit.

Should a student not be appropriately dressed, they will either be sent home to change (with permission from a parent/carer) by a member of the Senior Leadership Team, or isolated until appropriate attire is brought into school by a parent/carer.

Your support in upholding the ethos of STA is very much appreciated.

Message from Mr C Martin (new DHT and DSL)

In September I am very pleased to be the school's new Designated Safeguarding Lead as part of my new role in school as a Deputy Headteacher.

I have taught at three fantastic schools in and around London over the last fifteen years. I have lived in London since I moved here for university over 20 years ago. In my spare

time I read widely and I am the treasurer and captain of a local rugby club, which currently plays in Essex leagues.

Throughout the lockdowns I have been reminded how much I enjoy working in school, I enjoy working with young people and I enjoy the time we have together as a school community.

I am enthusiastic about providing an inclusive education for all. This means I want students from all ethnic and religious backgrounds and students of all identities to know and feel that they are a part of our school.

I would like to work with the SLT to provide an environment for students with different personality types and abilities to thrive and feel that they are a part of our community.

I would like every child to feel safe in and out of school as well as when they navigate the online world.

I know that STA is a school where we treat all students as individuals and ensure that all students are listened to and valued.



Message from Ms K Beddoes (new SENDCo)

I will be joining the extended senior leadership team as the new Special Needs Coordinator.

I have been a Head of Year for almost 10 years and believe that now is the time for a new challenge. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with you and your families for the last two years.

I look forward to working with some of you, in my new role as SENDCo. Please rest assured that I have been working closely to hand over to Mrs S Halil who will take on the role as Head of Year 11.

I will of course be available to offer guidance and advice to colleagues about the year group whenever needed.



I have witnessed my year group grow academically, emotionally and socially. I believe that every student will excel in Year 11 and will make extremely good progress in all areas of their life.

Message from Ms S Halil (new Head of Year 11)

I am delighted to introduce myself to you as the new Head of Year for Year 11. Being a Year 10 form tutor and teaching Business and Economics this year, I have the privilege to teach many of your sons and daughters.

I am looking forward to leading the year group into this important stage of their education and their GCSE examination studies.

I have come to know Year 10 as a conscientious, talented, and ambitious group of students who, whether in academic or an extracurricular capacity, are always dedicated to school life at STA.

Having been a qualified teacher and form tutor for the last eight years, I know how important my job is for the students under my care, and how vital it is to be a responsive point of contact for you.

My main targets for the initial part of the year are to settle your son or daughter, whether new or returning, into their GCSE studies and to establish a positive, ambitious, and warm ethos for Year 11 as a group.

There are many new and exciting things on the horizon for the year ahead at STA, which will be shared with you in due course. For now, I just wanted to establish contact and to let you know that if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in contact.

I wish you all the best over the holidays and look forward to welcoming our new Year 11 cohort back to school in September.



Important dates for the Calendar

Please [click here](#) to access term dates for this and for next academic year. Please note that these dates are subject to change, so please do keep checking in on a regular basis. If you have any queries about a specific date, please email us at admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk