

**Saint George's Church of England
School Secondary Phase Termly
Newsletter**

Term 3

Friday 14th February 2025



Dear Saint George's Parent,

Thank you for your support this term, a term which manages to squeeze as much into it as the longer ones, not least our Year 11 and Year 13 PPEs which finished this afternoon.

It was my pleasure to hand out a whole host of certificates this morning to our primary phase pupils, who were collecting awards for writing, reading, resilience, creativity and gymnastics as well as our usual stars of the week. A huge congratulations to Owls class (and Miss Hazel!) for winning our accelerated reading quizzing award this term. All of this after the primary phase disco yesterday! It was also lovely to be joined by Year 7 Value Ambassadors as they rewarded five separate primary phase pupils for their work in designing emotion emojis as part of mental health awareness week. Our student voice and value ambassadors work is really taking off at the school.

The secondary phase too is always busy, be it listening to guest speakers talk about everything from road safety to knife crime, our Duke of Edinburgh Award sessions, crucial careers interviews, all the way through to our Year 11 biologists dissecting various animal organs as part of their knowledge and experience in Science. These things, including great outcomes of course, mean that we continue to offer an outstanding breadth of personal development opportunities to our pupils here at Saint George's. I am very grateful to staff colleagues who, like me, see real value in such opportunities.

With best wishes for half term,

Mr Murphy

Chaplain's update:

This term the Value Ambassadors from Year 2- Year 12 have established their regular phase meetings, beginning to bring focus to their role of representing peer voice as well as maintaining a high profile for how we as a school community put our values into action. Year 12 pupils have continued to strengthen their leadership skills in chairing these meetings and supporting the younger pupils to focus on different project areas.

Primary Value Ambassadors worked hard on two leadership training mornings, hosting St Botolph's school council representatives, as well as visiting their school. Secondary Value Ambassadors will be enjoying similar activities with Knole Academy pupils later in the year.

We were delighted to host and welcome Rt Rev. Simon Burton-Jones to our school this month and he had the opportunity to meet with a number of our Value Ambassadors from both the Primary and Secondary phase as they talked to him about their role as leaders and asked him questions about his role as Bishop of Tonbridge. He shared advice about the importance of listening and humility in leadership.

Bishop Simon also delivered a talk to our Y12 students about Ethical Leadership – a counter-cultural message, with the challenge to be and become leaders who show compassion and empathy. It was an inspiring morning for all involved.

I have also been privileged to be involved in wider events this term with pupils from across our school community - the Holocaust Memorial Day service at Cliffe Woods school, where a number of our Year 13 students spoke with great maturity about the importance of being an upstander not a bystander when we witness any form of intolerance or prejudice. Also, the Young Voices event at the O2 where pupils from our Primary phase and Year 7 joined in with thousands of pupils in a fantastic musical performance. At both events our pupils were wonderful representatives for Saint George's.

As we move past the mid-way point of the year and enjoy a short break over half term, my prayer for us all:

May the God of love fill us with compassion to act and speak in love.

May we notice the small moments of care and amplify them in our words and actions.

And in all that we do, may the peace of God, that passes all understanding, be with us all.

Amen

Year 7 and 8 Excel trip

'On Friday the 7th of February we took a group of year 7 and 8 students to the London Science Museum. The trip was a great experience for students to explore and involve themselves in the wonders of science. Students participated in a rocket workshop as well as taking a trip through time looking at the development of gaming consoles. Students were able to see how immerse themselves in the history of the technology that impacts their daily lives. Overall, it was a great experience for all students involved who thoroughly enjoyed the experience of navigating London and exploring the marvels of science.'

Premed Anatomy workshop

On Wednesday, 5th February, Team Science welcomed **Premed Anatomy** to deliver a comprehensive, hands-on workshop for 60 students from Years 10 to 12. The session was designed to complement both the GCSE Science and A-level Biology curriculum, providing an immersive learning experience. The workshop featured four detailed academic sessions, covering various anatomical systems, and included **seven dissections**—brain, spinal cord, eye, vocal cords, trachea, lungs, heart, and components of the digestive system. Students not only engaged in practical, hands-on dissection but also had the opportunity to document their observations and annotate diagrams, enhancing their understanding of human anatomy.

'The Premed Anatomy session provided an outstanding experience for our students. The sessions were highly engaging, enriched with real-life stories that captivated students from the outset. Additionally, the expert guidance on embedding key terminology into memory, along with strong curriculum links, significantly enhanced their learning. Throughout the day, our students demonstrated exemplary conduct, serving as a true credit to the school.'

Lunch time

We have been working hard over the last few months to change the way we serve food at lunch time.

In January we started with year 7 and will be implementing the change to year 8 from the start of term 4, on Monday 24th February. This means that if your child orders a hot, main meal they will now queue in the hall and have their meal served to them on a plate from the servery, rather than collecting their meal pre-served in a cardboard container.

This will enable the students to sit and eat their meal with their friends, creating a better sense of community at lunch time.

We have already seen the extremely positive impact that this has had with our year 7 students and hope the same will apply to year 8.

Please discuss this with your child so they are aware of the change from next term.

On-Line/Social Media

We encourage our parents/carers to remain vigilant and up to date around social media and online platforms. Some of the newer apps are **Squid Games** which is rated 15+ and **Monkey App** which is strictly for over 18's only.

What can you do?

- Parental Controls - set up appropriate parental controls on your broadband, devices and on individual apps to reduce access to content that is not age appropriate
- Talk - discuss with your child around age ratings, what this means and that certain programmes/apps are not suitable for them to watch/engage with
- Individual Profiles - set up child profiles on any streaming services to ensure that your child is only viewing content that is appropriate to them
- Reporting - make sure your child knows how to report and block on all platforms that they use
- Explore - watch and explore things online together so that you can see and are aware of what your child is doing and how best to support them

Charlie's Promise - Assembly Delivered to Year 10's on Friday 17th January 2025

Charlie Cosser was a 17-year-old who was stabbed at a house party in July 2023 and 3 days later lost his life. Dad, and the family, have pledged that they will raise awareness around knife crime and the impact that this leaves on friends and family.

They have, in addition, made it their passion to educate young people. Charlie's Promise is a charity dedicated to helping the fight against the rising issue of knife crime in Surrey and across the UK and they aim to help fight against the rising issue of knife crime in the UK by raising awareness of the dangers of both carrying and using a knife, by using their own real life experience, they educate young people on the immeasurable impact knife crime has on the victim's family and friends, and the wider communities.

Though the assembly was hard-hitting, the pupils' behaviour was exemplary, and they should be congratulated by how they presented and conducted themselves so please do chat to your child about what they have learned through this experience.

We would also like to reiterate the importance of reporting anyone who is carrying a knife by contacting 999 and taking themselves away from the situation. In addition, they can use FEARLESS 0800 555111 to report any crime or concern **anonymously**.