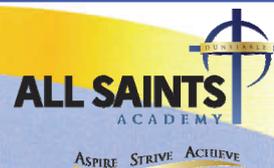


ALL SAINTS' NEWSLETTER

Issue 6, Thursday 24th March 2016



Leadership and Management

A Message from the Principal

Dear Parents/Carers

Another half term draws to an end and although only 5 weeks long it has certainly been eventful!

The changes to the school day have been successful. Students enjoy the assemblies in the morning or being with their tutor. Lunch times are more pleasant with additional opportunities for the children to mix with each other inside - be it in the Sports Hall, Main Hall or Games Room, playing card games such as 'Pokemon'.

All students now belong to one of five houses and this is certainly bringing the element of competition to All Saints Academy. Last week saw inter-house sports competitions, with congratulations to all members of the winning House *COURAGE*. A "Sport Relief" week culminated last Friday with all students running a mile. Students have also had themed assemblies on anti-homophobic and racist bullying, World Book Week and extremism. One student was heard to say, "I really look forward to assemblies now!"

This week we will have our second whole school assembly where we will reward the highest achievers in each year group. All Saints students are working harder than ever before at school and achieving well. We need to get this work ethic firmly embedded at home through homework, so I ask you to ensure you can log on to SMHW and check the homework your child has been set over the holidays. Underneath the SMHW icon on the website you can find the homework timetables. All students will be set homework and should return to school on **Monday 11th April** ready to hand it to their teachers.

Although Easter will be a well-earned rest for most of our students, the Year 11, 12 and 13 students will be in school attending revision sessions organised by dedicated staff. Please ensure your child attends every revision session opportunity, as once the exams are over

they will either have 10 weeks off before they start the Sixth Form or 12 weeks before they go to University. They can look forward to their long holiday but for now they must knuckle down to ensure they achieve the best grades possible. The Year 11 revision session timetable can be found on our website - just click on the Year 11 Revision tab.

Have a peaceful Easter break and I look forward to welcoming our students back for the final term of 2016.

With best wishes.

Liz Furber
Acting Principal

Chair of Governors' Charity

Thanks to all staff and students involved in fund raising for SEDCU, my chosen charity. Recent money raised by All Saints has funded 50% of the salary of a Primary School teacher at the **Mgahinga Community Nursery and Primary School in Uganda**. We can be assured that the entire amount is being used to support that salary since the charity passes on 100% of all donations.

I hope to invite representatives of the Charity to visit All Saints in the summer term and talk to students in assemblies about the charity's work.

David Fraser
Chair of Governors

~CALENDAR~

Monday 11th April

First day of Summer term

Thursday 14th April

Additional Year 9 Parents' Evening

Tuesday 21st April

Year 7 Parents' Evening

Monday 2nd May

Bank Holiday

Monday 16th May

Public examination season starts

Outcomes for Students

Year 11 Intervention and Support

The summer examination season is approaching rapidly and Year 11 students are now focused on achieving the best outcomes in all of their subjects. We are offering a wide range of support opportunities and look forward to working with our students to ensure that they are fully prepared for the challenges ahead.

1. "Drop Down Days" - we are altering our timetable on some days so that Year 11 can spend extended periods improving their coursework and making sure that all key assessments are prepared for.
2. Period 6 Intervention — each day, we offer a different intervention from 3.15pm until 4.30pm to support students.
3. Easter Revision School — we have a full programme of revision activities during the Easter break and all Year 11 students have received a programme which can also be found on our website.
4. Super Saturdays — these start after the Easter break and will offer a fast paced approach to revision as we approach the key exams.

All students have been issued with an examination timetable which contains key intervention dates and which also provides a revision programme to lead up to the examinations. Please put this up somewhere at home where it can be seen and discuss each piece of revision with your son or daughter. Your support, added to ours, will make the critical difference to this summer's outcomes.

Elaine Boyd
Acting Vice Principal

Year 11 Extra Core Lessons

As we approach the exams I have met with the Senior Leadership Team and discussed the progress of every Year 11 student at length. Many of our students are studying 11 GCSE subjects which can cause anxiety and undue pressure on students who are already struggling at this difficult time.

Your son or daughter may have conversations with their subject teachers over the next few days where it is recommended that they are withdrawn from a subject and focus the extra time on core subjects such as English, Maths and Science. This will ensure the grades in these key subjects are as good as they can be.

This will only happen in subjects where the teacher feels the student will not achieve a grade in the exam and parents will need to agree that this is an acceptable alternative provision.

Liz Furber
Acting Principal

Goodbye and thank you

We say goodbye to a number of staff at Easter. We thank them for their contribution to All Saints and wish each of them all the best in the next stage of their career:

Helina Debnam (Science), Pierre Fauquemberg (MFL), Jo Freeman (Humanities), Jo Jaggs (Business/ICT), Arefa Sulthana (Business/ICT), Lindsay Union (Maths), Suzanne Walton (Science) and Joyce Wood (Food Technician).

We are really pleased to welcome new staff after Easter: Avais Amin, our new Head of Sixth Form, and Melissa Joliffe, Teacher of English.

Paula Burgess
Assistant Principal (Finance & Operations)

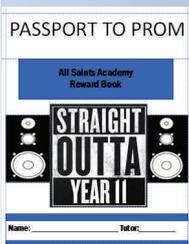
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Outcomes for Students

Passport to the Prom.



Many Year 11 students have chosen to opt into an incentive and reward scheme that we have called 'Passport to Prom'. Students are financially rewarded for being in the top two Progress 8 leagues and for attending extra support and intervention in preparation for the forthcoming GCSE exams. The rewards equate to money off of the prom ticket, with many students already on course to get a free prom ticket as a result of excellent achievement and attendance to period 6 intervention. Keep up the hard work!

Andy O'Rourke
Head of Key Stage 3 and 4

Progress 8 reminder, League Tables – AP3.

Progress 8 is a national measure that shows us the progress being made against students' SILVER target in their top 8 subjects. If they have a Progress 8 Score of 0 then they are making expected progress in all subjects. If their score is above 0 then they are currently working above target.

To get into the Premier League students need to be achieving their SILVER target in every subject. If they are below -0.49, then they are below the government target.

Our league tables are displayed outside the Main Hall and allow Year 11 students to see where their progress sits after Assessment Point 3 (AP3).

Maths Update

The annual UKMT national maths competitions, aimed towards higher achieving students, have started this term and so far the Seniors and Intermediate individuals have taken place, along with the team events. The Seniors did well at both their events, as did the Intermediates (Years 9, 10 and 11) collecting two Silver and four Bronze awards. Also, Hugh Holland qualified to another level, the Grey Kangaroo, on 17th March. This was just one day after he represented the school with three other students (Cody Robinson, Charlie Mansell and Megan Thompson) at the team event in Cambridge, so his brain was working well. The Junior (Years 7 and 8) individual event is on 28th April, so please do let your teacher know if you want to take part!

Michelle Watt
2nd in Curriculum - Maths

As you read this we will have also had our annual trip to the **Big Bang Fair** at Birmingham NEC. This year we took 53 Year 10 students with us and we hope they were inspired about where science and maths can take them in the future.

Examination and Revision Timetables

All students have been issued with an examination timetable which contains key intervention dates and which also provides a revision programme to lead up to the examinations. Please put this up somewhere at home where it can be seen and discuss each piece of revision with your son or daughter. Your support, added to ours, will make the critical difference to this summer's outcomes.

Natasha Swain - Head of Year 11

Timetable Changes

We have some new staff arriving at the Academy in April and we also have some adjustments to grouping arrangements. As a result, every student will be issued with a fresh timetable on **11th April**. Please keep this safely stuck into planners as a charge is made for additional copies.

Helen Anton
Assistant Principal (Curriculum and Timetable)

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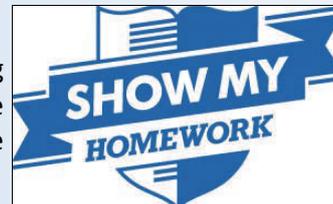
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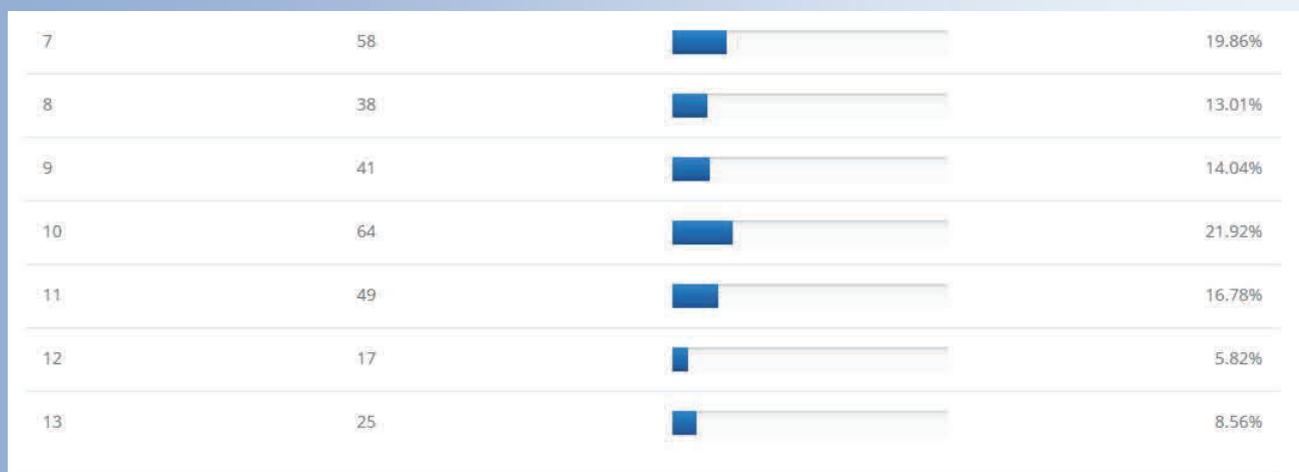
Teaching, Learning and Assessment

Show My Homework

Show My Homework has been fully introduced this half term with all students being given their log-in details through tutor groups. The login-in letter also contains the parent pin so parents/carers can access their child's homework too. If you have more than one child at the school, your pin will give you access to all their homework.



The system is becoming embedded. Statistics for this half-term show that Year 10 have received the most homework using this system, and the most homework has been set by the Maths team.



We will continue to use this system throughout the year. If you have any difficulties logging into the site, please contact the Academy and we would be happy to help.

Rachel Bowers
Assistant Principal (Teaching and Learning)

Equipment Reminder

All students must have a pen, pencil, rubber and ruler for every lesson. Academy-wide presentation guidelines dictate that writing is completed in pen, titles are underlined and all graphs and diagrams must be completed in pencil. Staff have equipment to lend but this really should be used as a last resort – lending equipment is not the best use of learning time! If you have the correct equipment for every lesson, well done you. If not, please rectify this over the Easter break. Remember - stationery is available for students to buy at Student Reception.

Form tutors are expecting to check equipment every Monday morning and will set sanctions for missing items unless there is an exceptional reason.

Rachel Bowers
Assistant Principal (Teaching and Learning)

Quality of Teaching and Learning

Monitoring shows that the quality of teaching is much improved across the Academy. Active learning is far more common and group work is becoming the norm. Students are dealing well with new routines and experiences in the main.

Change is never easy but we ask students to raise their attitude to learning in the same way we are raising our expectations across the board. Students must take an active part in lessons – asking and answering questions, being a good role model, ensuring their behaviour is beneficial to the whole class and completing work to the best of their ability. With team work we can accelerate the improvements already being made.

Teaching, Learning and Assessment

World Book Day

For World Book Day this year we didn't just celebrate on the one day but during the whole week. Our students were amazing in how they embraced assemblies, took part in 'Stop Everything and Read', and sat spellbound as they listened throughout the day to a chapter of *The Surgeon* by Roald Dahl being read at the beginning of every lesson. A particular success was when the Library was brought to life every lunchtime by staff reading their favourite children's stories.

On World Book Day itself, the school was awash with a variety of characters from *Where's Wally* to the *Hunger Games*, as staff excitedly dressed up as their favourite characters from books. The students thoroughly enjoyed the lessons that creatively incorporated aspects from these books, especially in Maths who took the *Treasure Island* theme and explored co-ordinates and maps. All form groups entered the "Guess the Book" challenge and well done to 13ZSW for beating all the other tutor groups and winning.

It has been an absolute pleasure to organise this event and we would like to thank all the staff and students for supporting these activities and making them truly memorable.

**Zoe Broadfoot (Literacy Working Group Lead) and
Jo Goodchild (Literacy Co-ordinator)**



Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare

Assemblies and Form Time

Our morning routines are now well-established. We have seen a reduction in the number of students who are late arriving to the Academy and many students choose to come in early so that they can enjoy a free breakfast in our Café.

Form times are structured so that they allow staff to support students in being "Ready to Learn" and so that they key themes of the week can be developed.

We have had an exceptional series of assemblies this half term, tackling some challenging and thought-provoking topics. Students have responded with maturity and now enjoy the morning assembly very much.

We would like to thank Ms Alani, Miss Broadfoot, Miss Small and Ms Anton who have provided this half term's assemblies.

Attendance Update

Attendance remains stable and consistent and is currently just below 95%. After Easter, we will be working with small groups of students so that we can begin to find out some of the reasons why attendance varies for some students.

We would like to remind students who arrive at the Academy after 8.30am that they should report immediately to form time or join the assembly they should be attending. A fifteen minute reflection time will be set for them at break time on the same day.

Persistent absence or lateness is a serious matter and has a very negative effect on learning outcomes. Thank you to all students and families who are working hard to support us in achieving high standards in both areas.

Mandy O'Donnell
Attendance Manager

Mobile Phones

Students have asked us to clarify the rules concerning mobile phones.

We are very clear that the use of mobile phones is not permitted during the Academy working day (8.25am-3.15pm) as they are a distraction to learning. We will, however, allow students to use them for music (with headphones) or games in the Café until 8.25am. Students who need to contact home when they are staying for intervention may use their phone after 3.15pm. We will continue to confiscate phones used, seen or heard at other times and these will be kept in Student Reception to be collected once the student has completed their 20 minute detention for breaching our policy.

Thank you to the students who have raised this issue with us and we hope they are pleased with the outcome of their enquiry.

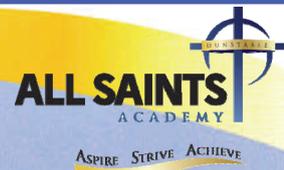
Uniform and Jewellery Standards

The summer is almost here and the Easter holiday is a good time to check uniform. There are a couple of things to note:-

1. Please make sure that skirts are of a decent length, particularly if students are moving from dark tights to bare legs or socks.
2. Suitable shoes (not Vans or trainers) are required by all students.
3. Blazers should be worn every day. If the weather becomes too hot, then we may decide on "no blazer" days.
4. Facial piercings are unacceptable and we will ask for their removal.

Elaine Boyd
Acting Vice Principal

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Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare

Attendance Rewards

We have awarded certificates to all of our students who have achieved 100% attendance for the year so far and have also acknowledged those who have met our Academy target of 95%. Well done to everyone who has maintained such excellent attendance.

Students who have achieved 100% attendance have been entered into a "draw" and the winner from each year has been presented with a Thornton's Easter Egg in our final assembly of the term. The lucky winners were:

- Year 7 - Rebecca Johnson
- Year 8 - Alyssa Roberts
- Year 9 - Kirsty Foster
- Year 10 - Adam England
- Year 11 - Jamie Snow
- Sixth Form - Connor Plenty

Congratulations to them all.

Confirmation this Easter

As part of the confirmation programme at St Mary's, St Vincent's and St Elizabeth's, confirmation candidates attend the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral in Northampton. We are delighted to support **SASKIA DAVIES, JAMES MCGINLEY and STEPHANIE RODRIGUEZ** in attending this very important occasion on Thursday 24th March.

National Citizenship Service (NCS)

A number of our Sixth Form students have been fundraising on behalf of the NCS who are supporting CHUMS, the child bereavement and trauma service.

Connor Field and Nikini Jayakody have led the fundraising efforts with a cake sale and a dodgeball competition and their contributions will be combined with those of NCS volunteers across Bedfordshire and will be used to select items to support the work of CHUMS.

Well done to both of them.

Contacting the Academy

A reminder of some emails you can use to contact us:

- ideastoimprove@allsaintsacademydunstable.org
- keystage3@allsaintsacademydunstable.org
- keystage4@allsaintsacademydunstable.org
- office@allsaintsacademydunstable.org

Job Opportunities at All Saints

We currently have vacancies for a part-time Receptionist, and we also need additional exam invigilators on a casual basis ready for the summer examination period.

If you are interested in any of these positions, or know anyone who is looking for part-time work, please look at the job details on our website and get in touch.

Theatre in Education

We have been very fortunate to be able to support some of our SMSC work with performances from external agencies.

At the start of the half term, we welcomed up and coming boy band "The Taken" who brought us excellent music and a clear message about e-safety and the importance of protecting your "digital footprint".

This was followed by a theatre production "Romeo Jones" about teenagers and violence in relationships. This production was aimed at Year 10 students and we were very pleased to welcome this new play to the Academy.

Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare

Parents/Carers' Evenings

We have now had 4 out of our 5 Parents/Carers' evenings and we can see the clear impact of our new online booking system. Each evening has seen an improved number of bookings and our recent Year 9 evening had a fantastic 68% booking!

We hope that parents, carers and students have found the conversations and support useful. We are aware that last week's evening had an unusually high proportion of staff absence due to illness and we will be running an **additional Year 9 Parents' Evening on Thursday 14th April** as an opportunity for parents and carers to speak with staff after the Easter break. Further information will follow after Easter.

Our next parents/carers' evening is for **Year 7 on Thursday 21st April**. Booking will open after Easter once letters and instruction sheets have been sent home.

If you experience difficulty with our booking system at any time, please call or email Main Reception and we will be happy to support you.

Elaine Boyd
Acting Vice Principal

Cross Country Championship — Update!

4 students represented All Saints and South Bedfordshire in the County Schools Championships at Amptill Park on Wednesday 10th February. *Libby Magill* (Year 7) ran a fantastic race and finished 34th, even with a twisted ankle! Megan Thompson and Charise Myrie (Year 8) ran together and finished 50th and 51st respectively. Natasha Hayman (Year 10) performed amazingly well and finished in 11th place.

A very big well done to all the students who behaved brilliantly; they should be proud of their efforts.

Kade Gaskell
School Games Organiser

Speak Out!

A reminder that we have a new email address which will give students an easy way to report any issues related to bullying or other things which may be making them unhappy at school. The email address is:

speakout@allsaintsacademydunstable.org

Sport Relief 2016

Throughout the week commencing 14th March 2016, All Saints Academy hosted their Sport Relief week. The purpose of Sport Relief is to get the nation active, have fun and raise life-changing cash. In order to follow these principles, students participated in lunchtime football tournaments and PE lesson competitions. Students all donated money towards these activities and finished their week with a sports-wear day which boosted the fundraising efforts greatly. All students finished their Sport Relief week with a mile walk, run or jog around the school grounds to show their support of the Sport Relief traditions.

All money raised by All Saints Academy goes towards Sport Relief. In the UK, the money helps give shelter to young people living on the streets and protection to those living with domestic abuse. Across the world, the money helps children into education, and provides communities with fresh water and life-saving vaccines. We hope to continue our fundraising efforts for this cause and we thank all students, parents/carers and staff for their support.

Charlie Small
Head of Year 12



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All Saints Stars



Well done ...!

We are Year 7 students and we decided to do a 5 mile run, jog, walk. Together we raised an amazing £100! We wanted to do this to raise some money for people who need it to have a good education or to help someone.

We ran in our onesies and had a sign on our backs, and had Sports Relief written on our face and some red dots.

Shaylee Doyle-Looker & Evie Hogg



Communication Matters

We hope that Parents/Carers and students are finding our monthly newsletter interesting and full of information. 99% of Year 8 Parents/Carers now have a registered email address with us and we'd like to reach that figure in other year groups too. The newsletter is particularly easy to read on your smartphone or tablet and this means that you can access it when it is convenient to you! We'll send out another text request this month and hopefully we'll see the numbers improving all the time. Last month we sent the newsletter to all students at their school email addresses and we got lots of emails thanking us for this, so we'll continue to send it out to students AND parents.

For those who prefer to receive their newsletter in hard copy, a black and white print will be produced and given to your son/daughter to bring home. If at any time, you think you are missing your copy, let us know and we'll arrange a replacement.

Elaine Boyd
Acting Vice Principal