

Leadership and Management

A Message from the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers

There is a real sense of industry around the Academy as the current Year 11s and Sixth Formers use every last lesson to prepare for their final exams.

The Year 11s have a suggested revision timetable which can be found on the school website under Year 11 Revision. We know you will do your utmost at home to support your children as they prepare for these vitally important examinations. All students are welcome to a free breakfast every morning to steel their nerves before they enter the exam hall.

Communication from the Academy will increase over the next few weeks and parents of students taking exams will receive texts ensuring they are aware of the specific exams taking place the next day. We will also be making contact if your son or daughter is not in morning registration, as the last thing we would want is for the last three years of hard work to be wasted by missing examinations.

It was a pleasure to meet with some of you last Wednesday evening to discuss the next steps after the recent Ofsted report. The Academy has wonderfully supportive parents and although we discussed many of your concerns, it was obvious that we have a lot of support in the local community. As we try to pick up pace and go faster with our improvements I will keep you informed of the changes that are occurring.

We do want to give all year groups an experience of proper end of year formal exams. This will inform us of their sets for next year so that we can ensure the students are in the right place, and in front of the right teachers, enabling them to make rapid progress. To ensure a speedy start to next year we are intending to roll forward the September timetable into the last two weeks of July. This will ensure that staff know their groups and can be considering learning strategies over the holidays.

We will also be changing the structure of the school week for September and we hope to convert to a 25 lesson week, which means losing the current early finish on a Friday. Whilst there is no requirement for the

Governing Body to consult on this proposed change, we do wish to take parents/carers views into account and further information can be found on page 8 of this newsletter.

I hope you have enjoyed the long May weekend and, like me, you are looking forward to some warmer weather.

With best wishes.

Liz Furber
Acting Principal

Chair of Governors'

Message

Pictured right is Mr Niyibizi George, a 29-year-old teacher of Primary Seven Class at Mgahinga Community Nursery and Primary School, Uganda, who took up his post at the school in February of this year. His post is partially funded through the generous contribution made by students and staff at All Saints Academy through their fund-raising efforts at the charity Christmas market in December.



Above are the Big Brothers at MCHS, with the current school management committee (SMC), during a visit. Seated with the staff in the right are: the headteacher and class teacher for P.4, with her daughter; Isaac's; Valence (new teacher for P.2); George (new teacher for P.2); David (Chairman SMC); and John (new deputy headteacher and class teacher for P.4) and the newly built water tank in background. www.mchsc.org

A letter from the co-ordinator at the school concludes: *'The aim of this communication is to express our heartfelt thanks towards your encouragements and support that have enabled us to start primary seven class, which is the top level of primary education in Uganda.'*

David Fraser
Chair of Governors

~ CALENDAR ~

Tuesday 3rd May

Main Public Examination season starts

Monday 30th May - Friday 3rd June

Half-term

Tuesday 7th June

Year 8 HPV Immunisations

Outcomes for Students

Year 11 Intervention and Support

Students have been working extremely hard in school, after the formal school day and at weekends, to ensure that they are entering the written examinations with the best possible coursework grades. It is very important that all students continue to attend these sessions so that they can receive the support they need. Going forward, we still have a number of "Super Saturdays" to complete and there will be further revision opportunities over the half term break at the end of May.

All information to support Year 11 can be found on our website www.allsaintsacademydunstable.org on our special Year 11 Revision page.

Parents and carers with students in Year 10 may wish to have a look at this area as there are lots of past papers and resources available which may also be of use to their son/daughter.

Elaine Boyd
Acting Vice Principal

Exam Preparation

Year 11 students are now entering a critical period of public examinations and, in their Assembly on 20th April, everyone was issued with final reminders for examination organisation:-

- Individual examination timetables have been issued to all students and these must be kept safely
- There are agreed processes for examinations and these are all contained in the examinations booklet which is on the website
- All students need full and correct uniform for examinations—please organise this now
- ID cards are required in all examinations. Any that have been mislaid can be replaced by Student Reception at a cost of £2.50.

Please support your son/daughter at this time by helping with their everyday organisation.

Keri Kropelnicki
Exams Manager

Examination Breakfasts

Every student will be offered breakfast before each morning examination. This will consist of a bacon or sausage sandwich (with vegetarian alternative). These will be brought into the Main Hall where students will be having their final warm-up before each examination.

In addition, we will provide every student with a bottle of water before every examination (morning or afternoon) to ensure that they are properly hydrated.

If any student forgets their ID card, they should report to Student Reception who will organise a loan for lunch on that day.

Natasha Swain
Head of Year 11

Stationery for Examinations

Students will require the following equipment for their public examinations and we would recommend that this is organised as soon as possible:

- Black pens (as papers are scanned by exam boards)
- Ruler
- Scientific Calculator (with no sleeve)
- Highlighter pens (English and History)
- Compass

Some of these items are available for sale at Student Reception.

Natasha Swain
Head of Year 11

Outcomes for Students

Top Ten helpful tips for GCSE students

1. Create a Revision Timetable

Building a revision timetable can add structure to your revision and help you identify which GCSE subjects you need to prioritise to get better marks. Creating a revision timetable is a great way to organise your study time, plus it also helps boost your motivation to revise for your exams. ASD have provided one of these for you.

2. Practice, Practice, Practice

One of the biggest recommendations that past GCSE students suggest is to practice questions by doing as many GCSE past papers as you can. Practising past papers will help you get familiar with the following:

- Exam format / Question style / Time pressure / Retrieve information quicker

The All Saints website has a 'Year 11 Revision' tab that is full of past papers and resources.

3. Collaborate with Classmates

If you find your coursework to be too much, why not divide the course study notes between trustworthy classmates and share your notes with each other. This will reduce the amount of workload you need to do to prepare for your GCSEs, plus you will gain an insight into how other students learn.

4. Take Regular Study Breaks

Do you feel stressed, tired and that no new information is entering your head? There is no point forcing yourself to study for hours upon hours as this will not result in a positive outcome. Taking regular study breaks and exercising is proven to engage your brain in studying and improve your exam performance in the long-run.

5. Understand Your Learning Style

Everyone thinks that there is a best way to study but the reality is that each person is different. Once you understand your learning style by deciding if you are a visual, auditory, reading/writing or kinaesthetic learner, then remembering and recalling new information will become much easier.

6. Variety is the Spice of Life!

Mix up your study habits and methods by listening to podcasts, watching videos or documentaries, moving to a new study area or even something as simple as using different colours for your study notes.

7. Use Mind Maps to Connect Ideas

If you find it difficult to remember tons of new study notes, Mind Maps may be the key to improving your memory. The theory behind mind mapping explains that making associations by connecting ideas helps you to memorise information more easily and quickly.

8. Day of Your GCSE Exam

The day of your exam can be the most stressful of the entire examination experience but there are ways in which you can minimise your anxiety, such as avoiding panicking friends and giving yourself plenty of time to get to the test centre on time. Also, don't underestimate the power of eating a healthy breakfast on the day of your exams!

9. Adapt for Different GCSE Subjects

It may seem obvious but many students try to study for different subjects using the same study methods. Your GCSE revision should take account of the differences between your subjects and the challenges they represent.

10. Apps for Students

If you want to stay ahead of your friends with the latest technology, get the best student apps before anyone else. Not only will they help you show off to your friends, some apps such as ExamTime are designed to improve your learning.

Andy O Rourke

Head of Key Stage 3 and 4

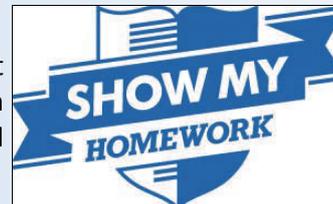
Day by Day Revision

Staff have created a "day by day" revision planner to ensure that all topics are covered in time for each examination. This planner has already appeared on your revision schedule but you can also find it on the Year 11 Revision page of the website.

Teaching, Learning and Assessment

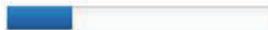
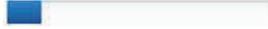
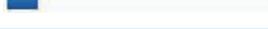
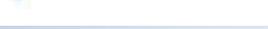
Show My Homework

The use of Show My Homework is off to a cracking start this half term. If you have not been given a letter with a PIN on it from your child, please contact the Admin Team in the Main Office or Jo Ojulah who can give you the PIN over the phone. If your child asks their tutor, another letter can be given so that you have both your PIN and theirs.



Logging on to the system for the first time is easy. Go to

www.showmyhomework.co.uk, click login on the top right and scroll to the bottom to enter your PIN. You will be prompted to enter a password and email address to use for future log ins.

Year group			
7	82		25.39%
8	42		13.00%
9	68		21.05%
10	54		16.72%
11	38		11.76%
12	19		5.88%
13	20		6.19%

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 as soon as possible. Remember - stationery is available for students to buy at Student Reception.

Form tutors are expected 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 – in fact the last round of monitoring was at 75% good or better. Students are becoming partners in learning and taking much better care over their work. Please support us at home by encouraging your child to respond to feedback and to present their work neatly.

Expectations

The Summer term is an exciting time, especially for our exam classes to whom we wish the very best of luck. Students should please be aware that many exams are occurring around the Academy – not just in the Sports Hall – and that a quiet and orderly move between lessons is essential at this very important time.

Rachel Bowers
Assistant Principal (Teaching and Learning)

Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare

Assemblies and Form Time

We have started the new term with an excellent series of Assembly themes.

At the start of term Mrs Furber and Ms Boyd looked at what it means to make a fresh start and reminded all students that this was their opportunity to present an even better version of themselves.

Mr Walbank led our second week of assemblies with the theme of British Values of fairness and equality, and we also managed to say Happy Birthday to the Queen on her 90th birthday. Miss Small continued our aspirational assemblies by looking at the achievements of a range of well-known figures, all of whom are "White British Boys", a group whose under-achievement is frequently a cause for concern in schools.

All of our assemblies have been linked to form time activities and each one has generated lots of discussion amongst our students and staff.

Elaine Boyd
Acting Vice Principal

Attendance Update

Attendance continues to be just below our target of 95% and, now that the sickness of winter is behind us, we hope to see this figure improve in the coming weeks.

You are reminded that it is the Academy policy to decline holidays in term time and that any holiday absence outside half term and holidays will be coded as "unauthorised" except in very exceptional circumstances.

We will shortly be launching our app for parents and this will allow you to track your son/daughter's attendance and punctuality on a daily basis.

Mandy O'Donnell
Attendance Manager

Mobile Phones

At the start of April, we altered our mobile phone policy so that students who came into school early could use their phones in the Café area if they wished. The policy remains unchanged for the rest of the day and phones must not be seen, or used, in the Academy between 8.25am and 3.15pm.

Our trial was very successful and we plan to continue this arrangement until half term, when we will review it again. If we feel that there has been an increase in inappropriate mobile phone use, or an increase in the visibility of headphones, we will remove the privilege of using phones in the morning.

Elaine Boyd
Acting Vice Principal

Uniform and Jewellery Standards

The standard of uniform is currently very good and we would like to thank all parents/carers who have quickly put right any issues at the start of term.

Please do not agree to any facial piercings during the school term as these are not allowed in the Academy. Any piercings which cannot be removed will be covered with surgical tape. The most suitable time for any fresh piercings that students wish to have is the first week of the summer holidays, when there is a six week healing time which will allow jewellery to be removed in time for the start of the Autumn Term.

Please expect to be contacted at home if your son/daughter has:-

- Missing items of uniform
- Inappropriate facial piercings
- An extreme hairstyle

Thank you for your support.

Elaine Boyd
Acting Vice Principal

Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare

Bikeability

We have been participating in the national Bikeability scheme over the past fortnight and our figures for bike and scooter use have been extremely high, placing us in the Top 10 nationally. The week has allowed us to observe the safety of our young riders and we would ask that all observe the following guidelines when they bring their bike or scooter to school:-

- Please ride safely when on the public highway
- Walk your bicycle or scooter from the main gate to the bike racks
- Lock your bicycle or scooter up as soon as you arrive (locks are available to borrow from Student Reception in case of emergency)

We will be working with Bikeability to introduce cycling safety courses over the coming months.

Contacting the Academy

We want to ensure that you make contact with the right people in the Academy as swiftly as possible. Although contacting members of staff directly may seem like the most efficient way to do this, there can be delays when staff are teaching, on courses or absent from the Academy. With that in mind, please direct urgent queries to us by email at office@allsaintsacademydunstable.org and we will ensure that the most appropriate person receives your message. We always aim to respond to all enquiries within 24 hours.

In addition, we have central emails which may be useful for you:-

ideastoimprove@allsaintsacademydunstable.org
keystage3@allsaintsacademydunstable.org
keystage4@allsaintsacademydunstable.org

We also have a dedicated email address so that students can communicate with us if anything is worrying them. All emails to the special address speakout@allsaintsacademydunstable.org are seen by the Principal and Vice Principal and our two Key Stage Assistants and we can put the right support in place for any issues which are reported.

Behaviour Policy

Our Behaviour Management Policy has been updated during the course of this year and has now been approved by the Governing Body. You will find a copy of the new policy, which reflects the introduction of the 6Ms and some of the more recent behaviour changes, on our website under Our Academy/Policies.

Elaine Boyd
Acting Vice Principal

Exam Invigilators Required

We currently have vacancies for Exam Invigilators for an immediate start. These roles are part-time, casual and offered on a zero hours contract.

If you are interested, please contact the Exams Manager for more information. Application forms can be found on the Academy's website

www.allsaintsacademydunstable.org

Michelle Arnold
HR Manager

Year 11 Fundraising

The Year 11 Prom Committee has been raising money to fund decorations for their Prom in July. So far they have raised £75 from a bake sale and over £100 for a themed non-uniform day that took place on Friday 29th April. Students dressed up in outfits from different decades and made a huge effort to dress to impress! We had 1950s dresses, 80s denim and even a group of 'Pink Ladies' from the well-known film 'Grease'. Tysha MaCauley won a voucher for 'best dressed'; she really looked the part in her vintage dress!

The Prom Committee will be continuing to come up with fund raising ideas over the next few weeks, so watch this space!



Natasha Swain - Head of Year 11

Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare

Following our election in March, when six students ran for positions within the Student Voice team, we are pleased to announce the following:

Chairperson	Shannon Stack
Vice Chairperson	Jack Griffin
Secretary	Maya Unadkat



Other students on the student panel are identifiable around the Academy by their blue 'Student Voice' badges and welcome being stopped by their peers to discuss new ideas.

The team has set off with a fast pace, already implementing a weekly drop-in session every Monday during break time (11:00-11:20) in the Careers Office on the second floor. The drop-in session is open for anyone to attend with any ideas or suggestions for improvements to the Academy.

Alternatively, we have a new Student Voice email address: Studentvoice@allsaintsacademydunstable.org

We have recently been working to promote the 'Big Pedal', a national campaign to promote cycling and scooting to school. We recorded the use of bicycles and scooters over a 10 day period and averaged 86 bikes and 12.5 scooters. The highest recorded number was on Wednesday 27th April when 102 bikes and 21 scooters were used by students to get to/from school. Prizes were awarded at random to the following students: *Abbie Jones Potter (Year 8)*, *Lily Rose Hurley*, *Ryan Gentil and Connor Fludgate (Year 9)*, and *Luke Ryan (Year 10)*. It is really important that we promote safe cycling and healthy lifestyles amongst the students and we urge them to get on their bikes for the Big Pedal. More details can be found on the All Saints website.

It is crucial that each student at the Academy feels that their opinion is valued and arrangements are in place, via scheduled meetings, to make sure the opinions of our students are heard amongst the management staff in the Academy. It is a really exciting time to be part of the team.

Shannon Stack
Student Voice Chairperson

Geography A-level Trip to Dorset

On 15th April, amid a very heavy Spring downpour, four A-level students and their teachers set off for a weekend of Geography fieldwork at the PGL Centre, Osmington Bay, Dorset. Our hearts sank as we travelled south and the rain continued, but the weather eventually improved and we spent the afternoon team building, tackling the fear of the giant swing and the fast paced excitement of Aeroball, before chilling out in the activity zone that evening.

Over the next two days we got down to the Geography fieldwork section of the weekend, visiting four different locations along the UNESCO Heritage Jurassic Coast. We tried our hand at beach profiling and land use mapping before tucking into a lunch of fish and chips in Lyme Regis. In the afternoon, we visited a range of different beaches to examine the management put in place to protect this stunning coastline. We were able to collect lots of information and data to apply in our Unit 2 exam and have developed a strong understanding of why different parts of the coast are managed in different ways. We also visited the famous Durdle Door and Lulworth Cove, where we were able to see and discuss the formation of a range of coastal features. Although we had a tough walk over the cliffs, the views were amazing and we all caught a little sun along the way. Thanks to Miss Room and Mr Walbank for their hard work and for giving up their weekend.

Louis Lockwood, Aiden Skipp, Bethany Whitehead and Dominika Zdanska

Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare

Parents/Carers' Evenings

We have now come to the end of our series of Parents' Evenings and we would like to thank every student, every parent/carer and every member of staff for making them so successful.

Having introduced our online booking system, we have seen a rise in attendance from 35% to an amazing 75% at last week's Year 7 event. We would particularly like to thank Jo Ojulah who has supported so many of you in making your bookings.

Going forward, we will review our evenings and will work hard to make them even better than they have been this year. We will want to keep our online booking system, as this has improved attendance and really helped with the smooth running of the evenings.

We would, however, welcome your feedback if you can think of anything which would improve the parent/carer evening experience for you. We will take the comments you have made through the booking system but if there is anything you would like to add, please contact us on ideastoimprove@allsaintsacademydunstable.org

Elaine Boyd
Acting Vice Principal

Year 10 Charity Collection

The students in Year 10 have been actively collecting food for their chosen charity, 'Dunstable Food Bank'. Students wanted to donate to a charity which is in the local community and support those who need it. Year 10 students will be undertaking more fundraising this term to raise more money to create food parcels for the Food Bank.

Thanks to all Year 10 students who donated to this good cause.

Mark Gilbert
Head of Year 10



Curriculum Planning and Timetable Construction

Proposed Change to Academy Day

We are considering changes to the Academy day from September 2016 which will result in a full teaching week of 25 one hour lessons, including a full day on Friday.

We would welcome your views on this proposal and have set up an on-line questionnaire via our website so that you can let us have your feedback. Please let us have your views by **Friday 27th May 2016** so that responses can be collated during half-term. We will feedback on the outcome of the consultation by the middle of June.

If you would like a hard copy of the questionnaire, or if you have any questions about the proposed changes, please don't hesitate to contact the Academy.

Time	Monday – Friday
08.30 – 8.50am	Registration/Tutor/Assembly
08.50 – 9.50am	Period 1
9.50 – 10.50am	Period 2
10.50 – 11.10am	BREAK
11.10am – 12.10pm	Period 3
12.10 – 1.10pm	Period 4
1.10 – 1.50pm	LUNCH
1.50 – 2.00pm	Registration/Tutor
2.00 – 3.00pm	Period 5

Helen Anton
Assistant Principal (Curriculum & Timetable)

All Saints Stars

Level 2 Babysitting Award

All Saints is very proud of all the students who completed their Level 2 babysitting course organised by Mrs Pullen (Student & Family Support Worker) and led by tutors from Central Bedfordshire. The feedback from both the facilitator and the external verifier was that the students involved were outstanding. Their enthusiasm and hard work definitely paid off as they have all passed. Congratulations!

*Sasha Mead
Elise Doyle
Rebecca Evans
Kyla Howden
Tatenda Jack
Amber James
Jasmine Khaliq
Shannon O 'orman
Wiktorja Piotrowska
Bryn La Riviere
Siobhan Schliebe
Emily Stacey
Katie Stredder
Josh Thomson
Chloe Waversek
Natalia Zabinska
Joseph Giltrow
Aimee Bart*

Lisa West
Curriculum Leader - Student Services



Communication Matters

The number of parents and carers who receive their communication electronically has continued to grow and we are hoping that the number will increase further in the coming months. We are aware, however, that not everyone uses their email every day and so we are just about to launch a mobile "app" which brings together all the information you could possibly need to support your son/daughter at school, and this will be available for android and IOS tablets and smartphones. We running some tests over the next few weeks and then we'll be sending home information about downloading the app, with details in our next newsletter.

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

Dunstable and Houghton Regis School Sports Games

The School Games initiative is a National School Sport Competition programme which is designed to motivate and promote physical activity for all young people in Years 1 to 13, encouraging them to get involved in a variety of ways regardless of their abilities.

Schools across Houghton Regis and Dunstable have the opportunity to bring students to a range of School Games activities at a local level (Levels 1 + 2) which then lead on to the county Winter and Summer School Games (Level 3).



In the Spring term, 298 pupils participated in Level 1 competitions across 5 different sports, and at Level 2 396 pupils participated in 11 different sports. Over 150 young leaders have volunteered to support these events.

Event	Year(s)	Date	Time	Venue
Tennis	9 & 10	27/04/2016	4.00pm - 5.30pm	Cedars
Gymnastics	1 - 4	28/04/2016	4.00pm - 5.00pm	All Saints
Tri Golf	5 & 6	04/05/2016	1.30pm - 3.30pm	All Saints
Golf Extreme	7 & 8	04/05/2016	4.00pm - 6.00pm	All Saints
Golf	3 & 4	10/05/2016	1.30pm - 3.30pm	All Saints
SEN Table Top	All	19/05/2016	9.30am - 11.00am	All Saints
Athletics T&F	7 & 8	06/06/2016	10.00am - 2.00pm	Stockwood Athletics
Cricket	3 & 4	07/06/2016	1.00pm - 3.30pm	Dunstable Cricket Club
Quadkids	All	08/06/2016	1.00pm - 4.00pm	All Saints
Cricket	5 & 6	09/06/2016	1.00pm - 3.30pm	Dunstable Cricket Club
SEN Athletics	All	10/06/2016	9.30am - 12.00pm	All Saints
Tennis	5 & 6	21/06/2016	1.00pm - 3.30 pm	Dunstable Tennis Club
Rounders	5 & 6	22/06/2016	1.00pm - 3.30pm	All Saints



Kade Gaskell
School Games Organiser

