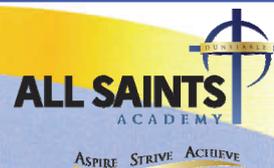


ALL SAINTS' NEWSLETTER

Issue 5, Monday 29th February 2016



Leadership and Management

A Message from the Principal

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been an exciting return to school with a whole new focus on the start to the school day. On Monday morning every child in the school will have standards of uniform and equipment checked. Tutors will also check student planners, so it is a good time to put a note in your child's planner if you have any concerns. Your child will have the opportunity to talk to their tutor about rewards and sanctions that may have been issued the week before.

On three of the other mornings, students will meet together for a Senior Leadership Team assembly, a Head of Year assembly and a new House assembly.

Every student belongs to one of 5 houses and attended a house assembly last Friday. The houses are named after the five Olympic values: *Excellence, Inspiration, Respect, Courage and Determination*. We hope that belonging to a house will foster a spirit of competition as well as enabling the students to feel they are part of the wider school community.

Last Thursday I had my first open morning and met with some parents and grandparents for a coffee and a catch up. As usual, the main points raised were to do with homework and communication! Please ensure your child can now log on to the *Show My Homework* website and that you as a parent can monitor the amount of homework set. If you have any suggestions about how we can improve our home school communications please drop us an email at

ideastoimprove@allsaintsacademydunstable.org

This is a very short half term; there are only four weeks until Easter and our students should all be preparing for their exams. It is an intense time of year and every lesson requires full concentration, hence the importance of a good breakfast. Every student at All Saints can have a free breakfast in the cafeteria every morning, to set themselves up for the day. Please encourage your child to make the most of this opportunity.

Liz Furber
Acting Principal

Governors' News

The Governing Body of All Saints Academy has now determined its admissions arrangements for September 2017. The Admissions Policy and Determined Admissions Arrangements for admission into Year 7 and Year 12 at All Saints Academy are available to view on the Academy's website.

If you would like to request a copy of the document, please contact the Academy.

Sharon Reid
Clerk to Governing Body

Goodbye to ...

We say goodbye and good luck to Miss Barron who left us at the end of last half term. We welcome Rachel Henwood who has joined the Humanities Curriculum Area until Easter when permanent replacements will take up their appointments.

Following some exceptional interviews last week, we are pleased to announce the appointments to the following roles: **Teacher of English, Teacher of Business & ICT, Head of RS and SMSC and Head of Sixth Form.**

Paula Burgess
Assistant Principal (Finance & Operations)

~CALENDAR~

Tuesday 1st March

Romeo Jones (Year 10)

Thursday 3rd March

World Book Day (All Years)

Visit by Bonita Norris (All Years)

Parents/Carers' Evening (Year 10)

Thursday 10th March

4YP Careers' Day (Year 9)

Parents/Carers' Evening (Year 11)

Wednesday 16th March

Show My Homework Evening for Parents/Carers

Thursday 17th March

Parents/Carers' Evening (Year 9)

Thursday 24th March

Final Day of Term (Students finish at 1.30pm)

Outcomes for Students

Year 11 February Half-term Revision

It was wonderful to see so many students attending the booster sessions during February half-term. Mrs Lipman and Miss Carter supported students with their English coursework at the start of the week. On Tuesday, Miss Astin and Mr Buckley ran a very well attended (and sweet fuelled) History booster session. Wednesday was the turn of Science with Mrs Malik running some very informative Science booster sessions. Miss Alani ran the ICT session on the Thursday and on Friday, it was the turn of Creating and Designing, led by Mrs Granger and Mrs Bowers. A massive thank you to all the teachers who worked during their half-term holiday and to the Year 11 students who turned up and gave it their all! There will be information about the Easter Revision School in the next newsletter.

Lindsey Rolfe
Assistant Principal (Outcomes)



Year 11 Mock Results

Year 11 students had their second set of Mock exams in February and celebrated success in the form of a Mock Results Day on Friday 26th February when students received their results as they will in August. We are very proud of our Year 11 students and there were plenty of smiling faces!

It's important for students to act now as these results give very clear areas for development going forward. The first exam is an early one with English Language on **Tuesday 3rd May**. The rest of the exams run from **Tuesday 17th May** until the end of June. Students will be bring home individual timetables in the next week. Don't forget Year 11 Parents' Evening on **10th March** which is another opportunity to discuss your child's progress.

Lindsey Rolfe
Assistant Principal (Outcomes)

Year 8 Options

We held our very successful Options Evening on 4th February which was very well attended by the Year 8 students and their Parent/Carers. The students have to make two choices from the option blocks based on their career aspirations and subjects they want to study at GCSE /BTEC from Year 9 onwards. All the option forms have now been returned and are being processed.

Parents/Carers and students will be invited into the Academy for a short interview with their Tutor, HOY or Mr O' Rourke from **Monday 7th March** over a two week period to discuss potential choices. At this point students will be advised of any courses that are oversubscribed or indeed no longer available.

Following these meetings, the students and Parents/Carers will be receiving confirmation of the students' subjects chosen for study in September 2016.

Helen Anton
Assistant Principal (Timetable and Curriculum)

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Outcomes for Students

Year 12 Psychology Visit

The Year 12 'Psycho' team attended a day at the University of Bedfordshire on 20th January as guests of the Psychology department. The students were treated to lectures and workshops linked to their areas of study for their AS course and subsequent examination.

First up was a tour to see the amazing development of the University's new study facilities, vast social areas, student support department and the fabulous accommodation. The new library building is awesome! At our introduction, the University gave us each a goodie bag and in it was a selfie stick!! I was most excited to get one of these!!! Then we knew why we'd been given it....The first lecture we attended looked at the 'Psychology of the Selfie'..... Wow – we can reveal a lot with one of those....!!! Certainly that told us a few things about our students and social media!! This was followed by a chance to 'play' in the psychology demonstration lab... what fun!

Our students were keen to be the subjects of various studies for memory, decision-making, attention, perception and thought processes. Putting on beer goggles made a few feel a bit queasy! Nicola and Darren were amazingly quick on the light reaction time! Shannon got to experiment with the most expensive pair of glasses...£30,000. Linked up to a computer we could follow her line of vision and see what she was focusing on.... she will never go to Specsavers again! Little did Mr Bloomfield know but we had lined him up to be the subject of the lie detector!!! You will be pleased to know he is a very cool customer and, much to our disappointment, he had nothing to hide!!

After a spot of lunch, the students had a lecture on UCAS, University life and suitability for courses of study. It certainly made some of our students think that University is for them and they would relish the challenge.

It was a great day for our students who gained a lot from the visit. Our grateful thanks to Gabi and her team; Sarah, Lee and Paul for organising such a great, worthwhile visit.

Helen Anton
Assistant Principal



Year 8 Careers Day

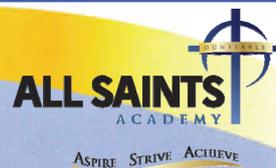
As part of their Careers Education and Impartial Guidance Year 8 were treated to a carousel of activities on Tuesday 19th January centred on their future career choices. This is part of a programme which is integrated into the students' experience of the whole curriculum and is aimed to help them make choices for the courses they would like to study from Year 9 onwards. It is hoped our Careers Day will raise aspirations, challenge stereotyping and promote equality and diversity.

The students took part in a range of activities which helped them think about their skills, aptitudes, aspirations and the different types of careers available. The intention of the day was to help the students develop a broad understanding of the changing nature of work, learning and career choices, including the full range of post-16 education or training options, including apprenticeships.

Continued over ...

ALL SAINTS' NEWSLETTER

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Outcomes for Students

Year 8 Careers Day (continued)

We were most grateful to our Academy partners in Career Education who planned and led the sessions throughout the day. We were especially indebted to the staff from Balfour Beatty who brought Engineering into All Saints!

Below are some of the comments we received from students about the Day:

"I enjoyed learning more about myself and what jobs would suit my interests"

"I enjoyed using U-Explore"

"It makes me think I still want to be a teacher!"

"It has helped me immensely with my career path"

"I now know what websites to look at for jobs"

Students also told us what we could do better in the future:

"Get more real people in with real jobs!"

"Organise a day's work experience"

"Please have more days like this for students"

"We need more information about what qualifications we need for jobs"

Helen Anton

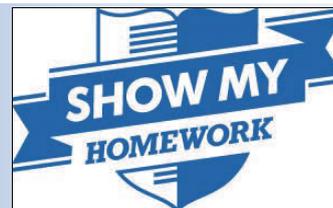
Assistant Principal (Curriculum and Timetable)



Equipment Reminder

We want to ensure your child starts the day ready to learn. Students know they should have the right equipment for lessons. This includes a pen, pencil, rubber and ruler. All of these items are available to purchase at Student Reception. Should your child not have this equipment, staff have been provided with equipment to lend them, but this should be used as a last resort as the process of lending equipment takes up valuable learning time. We would like to remind parents/carers and students that we provide breakfast in the Cafeteria from 8am until 8.15am. Students can only be ready to learn if their bodies are fuelled correctly so we provide cereal or toast with a drink free of charge.

Rachel Bowers - Assistant Principal



Show My Homework

This excellent new system is now up and running and students have been issued with their log-in details. The quick link to the site is on the homepage of our website.

We are holding an information session for parents/carers on **Wednesday 16th March at 6.00pm** and all are welcome to come along for a demonstration of the system.

Rachel Bowers

Assistant Principal (Teaching and Learning)

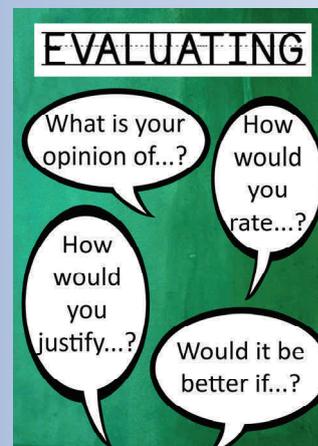
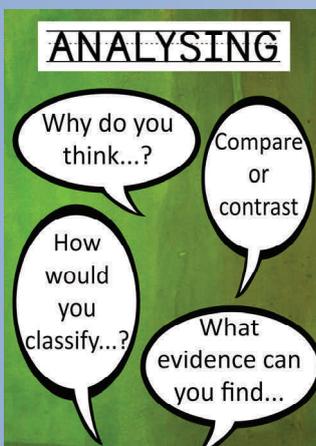
Teaching, Learning and Assessment

What great learning looks like!

We believe that great learning comes in many forms. In some classes it may be silent, independent work and in others it may be much noisier and collaborative. The important thing to remember is that Attitude to Learning counts for a lot. On top of arriving to lessons on time and being well equipped, we also encourage students to fully participate in lessons by asking and answering questions, contributing to class discussions and allowing their work to be used as examples.

Shown below are some miniatures of posters we are displaying in all classrooms. We are asking students lots of questions to develop their thinking. We would really appreciate it if you can continue this questioning at home. Questioning students about their learning helps to embed new information, and explaining ideas to your child will ensure their own thinking is clear and focussed. The poster order goes from remembering, to understanding, to applying, to analysing, to evaluating and finally creating.

We are also working on developing student responses to feedback to ensure it is valued. Please ask your child about the feedback they have received from teachers, either verbal or written, so they can share their struggles and success with you!



Rachel Bowers
Assistant Principal (Teaching and Learning)

Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare

Assemblies and Form Time

The new structure of the school day means that we are now having an excellent start to our learning. Students either have Form Time (focussed on standards and our theme of the week) or an Assembly (with their Heads of Year, with SLT and guests or in their House Teams). We can see a very clear impact on the smooth running of the Academy and students are particularly excited about the new House system which have been introduced to help our students feel a greater sense of belonging here at the Academy. Students left their assemblies on Friday full of smiles and with lots of discussion of the new structure.

Attendance Update

Attendance continues to improve and our current figure is 94.9% which is just 0.1% away from our target. I have recently been working with the Local Authority Attendance Officer and our Inclusion Manager, Mrs Spicer, and both are extremely pleased with all the support we are putting into helping students to be in school regularly.

There has been a significant improvement in morning punctuality and we would just like to remind you that students are marked late if they are not at their form room door by 8.30am. Being late to tutor time will result in a break-time sanction. To ensure our safeguarding procedures, all students who arrive after 9.00am, can only enter the building through the Main Reception area.

We would like to thank all parents/ carers for helping us to make these improvements to our attendance and punctuality and would ask that all students and their parents/carers think very carefully before taking any time off unless there is a very significant reason or serious illness. Every day of absence is a day of learning lost and this very quickly has an impact on achievement.

Mandy O'Donnell
Attendance Manager

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural

Our assemblies and form times this year are clearly focused on delivering SMSC themes to all students. Our half-term's programme got off to a flying start with an assembly tackling homophobic and racist bullying delivered by Ms Alani and her working group team. This was a very interactive assembly dealing with some challenging themes but it was wonderful to see how many students congratulated Ms Alani on her assembly and thanked her for leading it.

Speak Out!

One of the results of this week's assemblies has been the creation of 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

There will also be a box at Student Reception where written concerns can be posted.

Uniform and Jewellery Standards

Many thanks to all of our students who have worked hard to meet our raised expectations of uniform and appearance. There are very few students now who do not 100% meet our daily requirements.

Form Tutors will be using their morning session on Mondays to check jewellery, uniform and equipment. Where students have items missing or incorrect, we will send a text home so that you have the opportunity to put this right. If there is a legitimate reason why something is incorrect, we would appreciate a note of explanation.

Elaine Boyd
Acting Vice Principal

Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare

Parents/Carers' Evenings

A very big thank you to all of our Year 8 Parents and Carers who were the first to try out our new online booking system. The feedback we have received tells us that it was a resounding success. We were delighted because the system allowed us to do a number of things:-

1. We were able to see who hadn't booked and we could then phone and talk to parents/carers about the evening and help them book as needed.
2. We increased the number of parents/carers who were able to come along to our Year 8 evening to over **70%**, which meant that we could have some very important conversations about progress, option choices and learning in lessons.
3. We were able to keep our evening running mostly to time. Our evening finished just after 7.00pm and that included lots of extra, unbooked appointments which our amazing staff fitted in.

Our next parents/carers' evening is for **Year 10** on **Thursday 3rd March** with **Year 11** taking place on **Thursday 10th March**. Booking is open for both evenings and can be accessed through the quick link on the home page of our website and instruction sheets which have been sent home.

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

Elaine Boyd
Acting Vice Principal

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

Lent

One of the things I love most about living in this part of the world is the way the changing seasons help us to reflect on our Christian heritage. This is as true for anyone who never goes near a church as it is for someone like me. The bleak austerity of Lent at the end of a long winter gives way, little by little, to the joyful new life of Easter and the warmth of Spring. I really can't imagine celebrating the Christian festivals in Australia or New Zealand!



On Ash Wednesday a few staff joined me in the traditional 'ashing' ceremony in which ash is painted onto the forehead as a sign that we recall that we are all 'dust - and to dust we will return'. This may seem an unnecessarily negative message but Christianity is nothing if not realistic! Lent offers us, in this sombre light, an opportunity to 'strip away' unnecessary clutter (I wear my cassock around the Academy as a reminder of this) and to focus on what our lives should be about.

Happily, it's not solemnity for ever! The message of Easter is that, whatever the circumstances, if we allow God to transform us from within, we can live the "life in all its fullness" which Jesus promised.

Mother Karen
School Chaplain

Taken Performance

On Monday 22nd February students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 were treated to a performance by an upcoming Irish boyband '**Taken**'. The performance was coupled with a very strong e-safety message teaching the students about how to stay safe online. Students were provided with information on how to protect themselves from cyber bullying and the importance of not sharing private information with people they do not know. All groups of students enjoyed the performances and behaved impeccably throughout.

Nick Carter, Key Stage Assistant

Notices from the Student Services Curriculum Area

All Saints Academy is proud to be part of **Kick Ash**; an anti-smoking programme run by Central Bedfordshire Council and working alongside trading standards.



We currently have six Kick Ash mentors at All Saints: *Elizabeth Vowles, Nicola Chadacz, Sophie Ward, Rosie Thornton, Kianna Dalton & Felicity Young*; who meet regularly and promote a smoke free lifestyle.

On **9th March 2016, National No Smoking Day**, our mentors will have a stall within school with information and resources for students to access during the lunch break. Please feel free to pop in and have a look. If you would like any further information, or if your child would be interested in becoming a mentor, please contact Anita Pullen, Student & Family Support Worker.

Young Carers

- Does your child help you, or someone else, with daily living?
- Would you like to speak to someone confidentially about your child and their caring role and how we can support your family in supporting your child?

At All Saints Academy Dunstable we strive to ensure that every young person is supported to enjoy Academy life and would like to extend an offer of support to any of our students who may be caring for someone at home.

If you would like to talk to someone, please contact Anita Pullen, Student & Family Support Worker, on 01582 619700 or email at anitapullen@allsaintsacademydunstable.org

Sex and Relationships Education

We are pleased to inform you that, following the hugely successful production of Chelsea's Choice, we have another production for Year 10 students. **Romeo Jones** is going to be presented to Year 10 students on **Tuesday 1st March 2016** and explores safe relationships among teenagers. This original drama contains no physical violence or swearing but does include powerful messages to help young people recognise when relationships are not safe or healthy.

If students or parents/carers have any questions or concerns after the production, they are welcome to contact a member of the Student Services Team.

Lisa West & Diane Hutton - Joint Curriculum Leaders (Student Services)

Adult Learning at All Saints Academy

All Saints can help improve our parents' skills for everyday work and life, with courses for English and Maths run in small groups in local venues. These courses can help with reading, writing, spelling or basic maths; they can help you to support your child's or grandchild's learning, or become the first step to gaining a qualification. The classes are free, subject to eligibility.

Two of our parents have successfully completed an adult literacy course run by Central Bedfordshire Council.

"I am so much happier helping my child with their homework now, thanks."

"They were so helpful and explained everything..... I'm ready for the next course"

Should you like more information about adult learning, please feel free to contact our Student & Family Support Worker, Anita Pullen, on 01582 619700 or by email at anitapullen@allsaintsacademydunstable.org

All Saints Stars

Enrichment Day

Our second All Saints' Enrichment Day took place on Friday 12th February. Love was in the air as we celebrated St. Valentine's Day in style. Students in Years 7 - 11 took part in the following lessons:-

- Geography: The Global Impact of Buying a Red Rose
- English: Love Poetry and Valentines Cards
- Student Support Team: E-Safety
- Science: Principles of Genetics

In the Sixth Form, students studied E-Safety but also took part in their own programme of events which included a Mr & Mrs Quiz to test compatibility and a Psychology lesson, looking at the Science of dating.

Everyone had a wonderful day and the highlight of the event was our Year Group Charity Market, Roller disco and giant Chocolate Fountain in the Sports Hall. What a wonderful way to end our half term.



All Saints Triumph!

Having spent the weeks leading up to Shrove Tuesday practising their pancake making, it was a particularly exciting culmination for students at All Saints Academy to enter three teams into the Houghton Regis Pancake Race. Students were thrilled to have won but were more enthused by the experience of being part of a community event mixing with lower schools and community groups

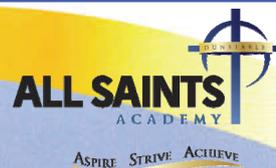


Students taking part across Years 7—10 included: *Olivia Graham, Vanesza Palencsar, Georgia Matthews, Bethany Sansom, Joshua Quinn, Robert Collins, Molly Clark, Arianna Juearezz Zorilla, and Bryn La Riviere*. Both members of the public and event organisers commented on the fantastic community spirit of the group; cheering on every other team and sharing their frying pans with those who hadn't brought theirs. This excellent attitude was rewarded with chocolate pancakes and a winners' trophy!

Jess Granger
Curriculum Leader (Creating & Designing)

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All Saints Stars

Duke of Edinburgh Success



Congratulations to Shania Fitzgerald as the Academy's **FIRST** Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award holder. Shania has competed all four sections of the award (Volunteering, Skill, Physical and Expedition) and we are awaiting her badge and certificate. I would like to take this opportunity to remind others taking the award that they need to get their assessor reports uploaded and ensure they submit things for approval, not leave them in draft.

This year is up and running and meetings for all participants and would-be participants are held every Wednesday lunchtime in Room 1025. Come along if you have any questions. The last chance to sign up for this year will be the end of term so we can ensure everyone is expedition-ready on time.

Michelle Watt
DofE Co-ordinator

Robert Collins and the Nicholas Cup, Switzerland

Mixing with over 40 fellow transplant recipients from 12 countries from as far New Zealand and Australia, through to our nearer neighbours in Scotland and Ireland, **Robert Collins** (8AH) was privileged to represent Great Ormond Street Hospital and, of course, our Academy in the recent Nicholas Cup in Anzère, Switzerland. Robert (No 12) did us proud, not only learning to snowboard but also practicing his language skills saying that *'His favourite part of the trip was meeting so many new people from lots of different countries, in such a fabulous country.'*

The games are a unique way to educate and promote the positive results of organ donation and transplantation to transplant recipients, healthcare professionals and the general public. The camps also help show and thank donor families the result of their "gift of life".



South Beds Cross Country Championship

On Thursday 21st January, twenty students competed in The South Beds Cross Country Championship at Cedars Upper School in Leighton Buzzard. All the students did well but a special mention must go to the following students who finished within the first 12 in each race and qualified to run for South Bedfordshire in the County Schools Championship which was held at Ampthill Park on Wednesday 10th February: *Libby Magill (12th)*, *Lawson Farley (12th)*, *Megan Thompson (4th)*, *Charlise Myrie (3rd)* and *Natasha Hayman (2nd)*.



Zoe Broadfoot
Curriculum Leader (Sport Health & Leisure)

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Community Corner

Sixth Form Charity Events

A number of our Sixth Form students are involved in the work of the National Citizenship Service (NCS) and are currently raising money for CHUMS. They will be organising a cake sale and a Dodgeball competition this week and they would really like the support of everyone here at the Academy. Look out for posters around the Academy and notices in form time.

Charity Fundraising

Our Year Teams continue to raise money for their chosen charities. The latest events were our charity stalls on Enrichment Day where everything was Valentine themed.



Also raising funds for good causes on Enrichment Day were our newly re-formed Student Voice Team who got off to an excellent start to raise money to support Student Voice activities here at the Academy.

Student Support Team

Tenner Challenge

Students at All Saints Academy are taking part in the "Tenner Challenge" organised by Young Enterprise. Each team is given a £10 note and challenged to make as much money for their chosen charity as they possibly can. We've had a great response and our first team collected their "Tenners" on Thursday. They are planning to run a photo booth and cake sale at this week's Year 10 Parents/Carers' Evening on **Thursday 3rd March**, so please support them if you can.



We look forward to our remaining teams starting their "Tenner Challenge" next week.

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



Catering Assistant Required

Based at All Saints Academy Dunstable, this is a great opportunity to work on a casual basis within a small team, providing a high quality catering service within a Secondary school.

We are looking for a confident person with a friendly personality and good customer service skills, basic food preparation experience and a 'can do' attitude.

Reporting to the Catering Manager, general duties include some basic food preparation in line with our menu and recipes, health & safety compliance, cleaning duties and serving from the counter.

Full training will be given.

All job offers will be subject to successful DBS.

Term time only

As Required

£7.99 per hour (includes holiday pay)

General Assistant Required

Based at All Saints Academy Dunstable, this is a great opportunity to work on a casual basis within a small team, providing a high quality catering service within a Secondary school.

We are looking for a confident person with a friendly personality and good customer service skills, basic food preparation experience and a 'can do' attitude.

Reporting to the Catering Manager, general duties include some basic food preparation in line with our menu and recipes, health & safety compliance, cleaning duties and serving from the counter.

Full training will be given.

All job offers will be subject to successful DBS.

Term time only

20 hrs per week

£7.20 per hour

For further information – please call Taz Campbell 01582 697614