

Dear Parents/Carers

It was a very sad start to the term with the loss of the Houghton brothers and we have been touched by the students' desire to support the memorial garden with fund-raising events. It has also been a time for students to reflect upon how important every day is; among the staff and students there is a definite feeling of making the most of your time at school.

You will notice the different look of the newsletter, which ties in with our new website and prospectus. It is a time to start a new academic year with the new leadership team in place, making All Saints Academy feel like a different learning environment than the one that many of you have experienced previously.

To start this transition we have developed a new Vision Statement:

Living Well Together in Dignity, Faith and Hope

We have been asking the students what this will mean to them on a day-to-day basis and will feed back this element of Student Voice in the next newsletter. We will be using this Vision Statement to underpin everything we do in the Academy, so if your child begins to mention 'Living Well Together', you will understand where it has come from!

I am pleased to say the new Year 7s have settled very well and were exemplary ambassadors at the recent Year 6 Open Evening. Years 7 and 8 have embraced the new creative curriculum which means their learning is themed and has been about Journeys this term. Please do talk to them in the half-term holiday about the journeys they have been discussing in each subject.

Year 11 have their mock exams immediately after half-term and need to ensure they revise over the break. They have been told to aim for one grade better in each subject than they achieved in their

recent assessment point. As parents it would be useful to have a discussion with your child about what grades they are aiming for and what they need to do to get there!

Finally, this term finishes with another fabulous Enrichment Day to celebrate All Souls and All Saints Day, which includes lots of fun and challenging activities for all of our students. I hope you all have a good break and enjoy not battling the traffic for a week!

Kind regards

Liz Furber

Parent Governor Vacancies

In our Academy we have made provision for two parent governors and there are currently two vacancies. No special qualifications are needed, however, we would particularly welcome nominations from parents with the following skills:

- Experience of financial management/planning
- Association with a local business/organisation
- Experience of data management

Nominations must be from parents or carers with children at the school on the day that nominations close. If you would like to nominate a parent (please obtain their consent) or put yourself forward, please contact me at the Academy at **clerk@allsaintsacademydunstable.org** by **Monday 31st October** to request a nomination form. If there are more nominations than vacancies there will be an election by secret ballot. If that is necessary, voting papers will be sent to all parents together with details of the ballot procedure.

Sharon Reid
Clerk to Governing Body

Year 11

The Year 11 students have made a promising start to the new academic year, with the focus on achievement and student progress a priority. Achievement points are being awarded constantly and clearly outweigh behaviour points; this is due to the focus, determination and willingness of the students to work hard and succeed. Period 6 intervention has been put in place and it's pleasing to see so many students attending these sessions and embracing the opportunity to receive additional support with coursework/assessment and exam preparation. Many students have been given a personalised Period 6 timetable which identifies which subjects they must attend on specific days; it is encouraging to hear students discussing Period 6 and how they are working and making the most of this additional time. As the half-term approaches, Year 11 students will enjoy a week's rest before preparing for their mock exams in November.

I am extremely pleased with the positive attitude and start made by Year 11 so far. Keep up the hard work.

Mark Gilbert
Head of Year 11

Your Child's Assessment

We have now carried out our first set of assessments for the year and the grades have been collected. We will now be able to produce an individual Flight Plan for your child and these will be ready after half-term. For students and parents/carers who are new to the Academy, Flight Plans show your child's working at grades in each of their subjects and grow into a document that plots your child's progress as the information for each Assessment Point is added through the year.

The Flight Plans have been redesigned this year to make them easier to understand and to allow both students and parents/carers to see how the working at grades compare to the student's targets in each band. A more in-depth explanation will be sent out with the Flight Plan.

If you are unsure of any information included on the Flight Plan or if you have any concerns over your child's grades, please contact the Head of Year in the first instance.

Denise Greenhood
Data Manager

Year 11 into 12 Taster Day - Wednesday 2nd November 2016

The Year 11 students will be off timetable all day on Wednesday 2nd November for a taster day to sample subjects which may be on offer in our Sixth Form in September 2017. The students will follow a carousel of subjects and a presentation on Post 16 Careers. Information about the Year 11 into 12 Options Evening on Wednesday 7th December 2016 will follow in due course.

Year 12 and 13 Careers Day - Friday 4th November 2016

All Sixth Form students will be off timetable on Friday 4th November 2016 to take part in Careers Day. We have a number of guest visitors delivering presentations and workshops. The students will be choosing workshops which they feel are relevant to their future pathways.

Helen Anton
Assistant Principal - Curriculum & Timetable

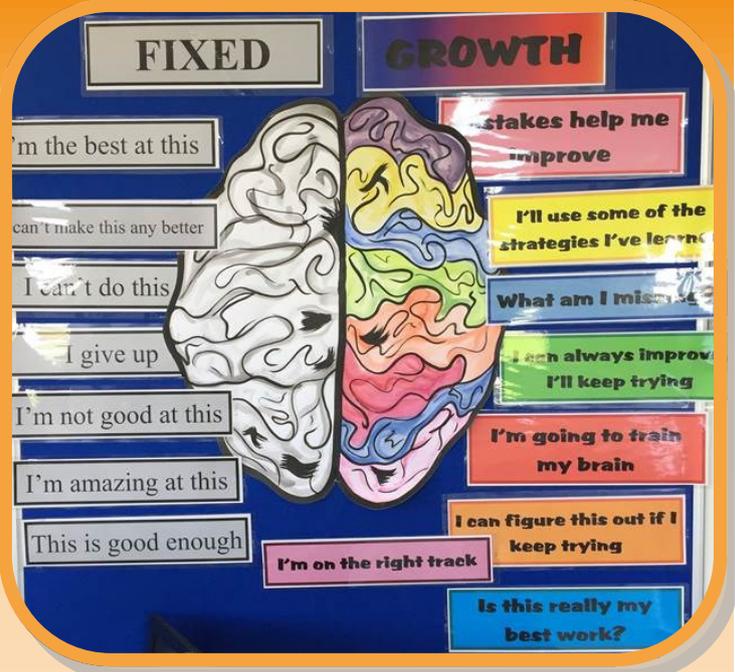
Growth Mindset

We are encouraging Growth Mindset amongst students and staff. Students in Years 7 to 9 are undertaking 'Learning to Learn' lessons which kicked off this half-term, looking at the skill of resilience. Ask your child if they can give you examples of their resilience in learning. All students will have heard mention of learning skills, such as resilience, determination and perseverance, through their assemblies and lessons. Staff read the Dr. Carol Dweck book 'Mindset' over the summer and have been using the ideas from that to create successful learners in all classes. If you get a chance, have a look at this book, it is applicable to all walks of life – not just education.

Next half-term we are looking at collaboration and cooperation to encourage students' ability to work together. Please feel free to ask your child about these skills at home.

Rachel Bowers

Assistant Principal - Teaching & Learning



Boycode

We were delighted to welcome up and coming young boyband "Boycode" to the Academy on 7th October. The band are currently touring local schools to give a strong message to students about the importance of e-safety and staying safe online.

Students in Years 7-10 enjoyed the performances and then were able to speak to members of the band and get signed photographs to help them remember the visit.

Thank you to Mrs Pullen, Mrs Ojulah and Mrs Spicer who organised the event.

Remembrance

We will be marking a 2 minute silence on Friday 11th November, just before 11.00am. Last year's remembrance was an incredibly moving event, involving our whole school community. Once again, we would like to invite friends, family and members of the community to come and share in our Act of Remembrance. The Academy gates will be opened at 10.45 to allow you to join us - you will be very welcome.

Harvest Help

When we were planning our Enrichment Day for 21st October, our Student Voice team asked that students donate one item of food that could be given to local residents and our local foodbank instead of the traditional £1.00. Thank you to all of our students who supported this initiative. This is an excellent example of our students **Living Well Together** in partnership with our local community.

Our Values

During the first half-term of the year, we have been introducing our vision statement **Living Well Together in Dignity, Faith and Hope**. The phrase **Living Well Together** represents our hopes for the character of the Academy - that it will become a place where students and staff can work together, learn together and grow together.

Our assemblies have focused on care for others, the value of learning and making amends when things go wrong. Our thanks to the vast majority of our students who regularly display the values that we wish to develop. As a result of their high personal standards, the Academy is rapidly becoming a wonderful place to live and learn.

Sixth Form Parent/Carer Evening

Thank you to all our parent/carers, students and staff for a very successful evening on 6th October. Booking reached 65% which meant this was a busy and productive evening. There is a further evening for parent/carers of Sixth Form students on 2nd February.

Year 11 Parent/Carer Evening: Save the Date

We look forward to welcoming parent/carers of Year 11 students on Thursday 24th November. Once again, we will be using our excellent on-line booking system and a letter giving full details and instructions will be sent out during the week of 7th November.

Attendance and Punctuality

Attendance has been very strong for the first half of this term, with many students achieving 100% attendance. We consider attendance of over 98% to be exceptional and we expect all students to achieve at least 96% attendance. We are now entering the Winter period and we know that there will be coughs and colds but we urge every student to attend on every day that they can as **every** day of learning matters.

We are aware that there have been difficulties for those travelling by car in recent days, as roadworks divert traffic onto Houghton Road. We will, of course, be understanding if you experience difficulties but would advise everyone to leave an extra 10 minutes for their journey until the work is complete. For enquiries about attendance matters please email attendance@allsaintsacademydunstable.org

Mandy O'Donnell
Attendance Manager

Supporting Children and Families

We are very fortunate at the Academy to have access to a range of organisations who can support individual students and also families. If any student, or their family, require support to help them with issues which are affecting attendance or learning, please contact Mrs West on lisawest@allsaintsacademydunstable.org and she will signpost you to the relevant agency. Sometimes this will be support in school and, at other times, this might mean a referral to another agency. While there may be a short wait to access services, we will do our best to process your request as quickly as possible.

Lisa West
SEND Manager

Safe Journeys to School

There have been several reports of strangers in vans approaching students and of "clowns" scaring children in our community. The police advice is to travel with friends, to report incidents as quickly as possible (999 if on the spot and 101 after the event) and to try to note details of dress or appearance. Parents are advised to always report incidents to the police.

Communication Matters

Over the past few weeks, you will have seen some changes to some of the most visible aspects of All Saints Academy's image—our website has been reorganised and redesigned, we have a smart new prospectus and now our monthly newsletter has had a makeover too.

We hope that you find the newsletter information and useful and we want to make sure that as many of our families as possible receive their copy. The majority of parent/carers now receive the newsletter directly to their phone or tablet via email. We will shortly be sending out a text to those who have not yet provided us with an email address and would urge you to respond so that we can make sure you receive our news and information in a timely way.

We welcome any feedback on our bright, new image.

Elaine Boyd
Vice Principal

Lost property

We would like to remind parents that we have limited storage available for lost property and, therefore, any items not collected are sent to charity at the end of every half-term. We recommend that parents write their child's name in items of clothing so we can quickly re-unite them with their owners.

Remembrance



To commemorate this year's Remembrance Day we will be displaying a field of ceramic poppies on the grounds outside the school entrance.

This project was originally launched by a group of our Year 7 students last year in the Art Enrichment Club. We are relaunching the project this year for all new and existing students who would like the opportunity to make a ceramic poppy. The Art Club runs every Wednesday in Room 1035 from 3.00 – 4.00pm.

We have been particularly impressed with the poppies produced by our visiting Year 6 students on their taster days and at our recent Open Evening; they certainly set a high standard and we look forward to making their works a part of our school collection.

Poppies will be available to purchase after the event with all profits going to the charity Help for Heroes. Please look at the Academy website for further details.

Jess Granger
Curriculum Leader - Creating & Designing

Alice in Wonderland Production - Date Change

Please note the production will now take place in March instead of February: **1st, 2nd and 3rd March 2017.**

Student Success

We are extremely proud that Robert Collins, Year 9, has been named in the Great Britain and Northern Ireland squad for the World Transplant Games in Malaga in June 2017.

Robert, who had a kidney transplant in 2009, has regularly attended the British Transplant Games with the Great Ormond Street Hospital Renal Team.

Next year Robert will join over 200 transplant athletes at the World Transplant Games and now has the challenge, with his family, of raising funds to pay for his flights, accommodation and training.

If you would like to support Robert, donations can be made at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/RobertCollinsWTG



~ CALENDAR ~

Monday 31st October

INSET Day

Wednesday 2nd November

Year 11 into 12 Taster Day

Friday 4th November

Sixth Form Careers Day

Friday 11th November

Remembrance

Friday 18th November

Visit to The Skills Show

Thursday 24th November

Year 11 Parents' Evening