

Dear Parents/Carers

Normally January feels a long month after the celebrations of Christmas. This January, however, has flown by with the excitement of our Ofsted visit in the second week back. Staff and students showed the Academy in the best light possible and I will be writing to you, hopefully before half term, to share the report with you once it has been officially released.

Last week the students and staff thoroughly enjoyed the Burns' Night enrichment day and celebrated the culture of one of our nearest neighbouring countries. It was wonderful to see the Academy community coming together in such a heartening manner.

There will be a special Ofsted edition of the newsletter next week!

**Liz Furber
Principal**

Memorial Garden Fundraising

Although we have closed our "Just Giving" Fundraising page, we are delighted that donations for our Memorial Garden project are still coming in.

Earlier this month we received a cheque for £150.00 from Central Beds County Council, where Tracey Houghton, the mother of Josh and Ethan worked. Colleagues were greatly moved by the tragedy last summer and have decided to support our fundraising with this cheque and some other activities in the near future.

Mrs Bates came along to All Saints to present the cheque and has taken back our thanks to all the members of Tracey's work team. We thank them for their support.

**David Fraser
Chair of Governors**

~Calendar~

Tuesday 31st January

Ryman's Enterprise Challenge (Year 8)

Wednesday 1st February

An Inspector Calls (Year 11 visit)

Thursday 2nd February

Year 8 Careers' Day

Thursday 2nd February

Sixth Form Parents/Carers' Evening

Tuesday 7th February

Year 10 Immunisation

Wednesday 8th & Thursday 9th February

Year 11 AQA English Course

Thursday 9th February

Year 8 Parents/Carers' Evening

Monday 13th—Friday 17th February

Half Term

Thursday 23rd February

Year 8 Options Evening

Tuesday 28th February

Year 11 Parents/Carers Evening



Assessment and Reporting

Our first set of annual reports for the year have been completed and sent home to Year 10 parents/carers. We hope you found these reports informative, and useful, in helping your child understand how they can progress further. We have also written reports for 6th Form students and these were available for collection at Parents' Evening on Thursday 2nd February.

Our third assessment point for the year takes place at the end of January and Flight Plans will be sent home early in February. Flight Plans not only inform parents/carers about the progress of their child but are also used across the Academy by staff and students as a point of discussion and understanding to aid improvement.

If you need clarification of any information included in these documents 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

News from the English Department

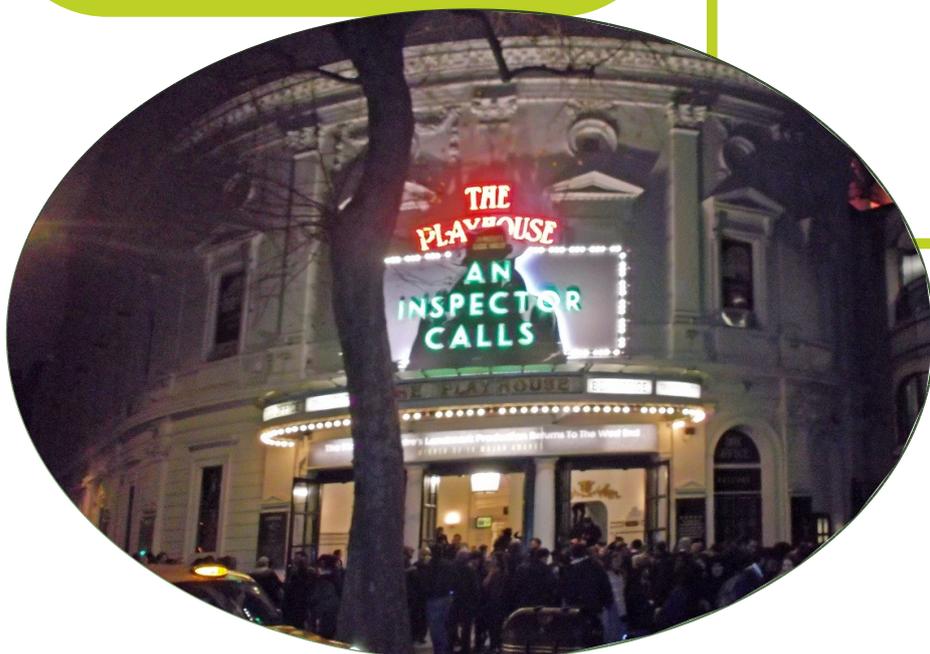
Things have been very busy in the English department as we prepare students for their language and literature exams in the summer.

We are currently working on Spoken Language assignments and students have chosen a wide range of topics for their speeches. We're looking forward to hearing them all next week.

Just this week, we took 108 students in Years 10 and 11 to see "An Inspector Calls" at The Playhouse Theatre, London. The students were a credit to the Academy and enjoyed the spectacle of a play they have studied so closely. It was a striking performance which got a 10/10 from many of the students as they left.

Next week, on **Wednesday 8th** and **Thursday 9th** February, we are hosting two AQA examiners at All Saints and they will be working with all of our Year 11 students on a close study of the examination techniques for both English Language and English literature. This is a fantastic opportunity to get an insight into the best approaches for each paper and we look forward to working with them and the students. This will also be a great training opportunity for our staff.

Donna Witter
Curriculum Leader: English



District Cross Country

On the **19th January 2017**, students from Years 7,8, 9 and 11 took part in the District Cross Country event which was held at Vandyke Upper School. The students involved ran to the best of their ability and it was pleasing to see all students keen to represent the Academy in the event.

Congratulations to **Charise Myrie** (year 9) and **Natasha Hayman** (year 11) who won their respective races and will now go on to the County Cross Country finals. Well done girls!

Mark Gilbert

Curriculum Leader: Sport Health and Leisure

PE Kit and lessons

I would like to take this opportunity to reinforce the expectations of the Academy with regards to students' PE kit. If a student cannot take part physically in a PE lesson we expect students to still bring in their PE kit as there are many different roles students can undertake within their PE lessons such as official and leader.

Also with the dropping in temperature recently we encourage students to wear 'layers' underneath their All Saints PE kit. Students are welcome to wear hats and gloves, but they are not allowed to wear their coats or hoodies in the lesson.

Finally, well done to all students who have embraced a range of different sports in their PE lessons and have shown commitment, enthusiasm and perseverance throughout. It's also rewarding to see many students who have shown excellent leadership skills and qualities by supporting at festivals and tournaments over the last term.

Extra-Curricular

It's pleasing to see so many students attending the extra-curricular clubs after school, with football and the fitness club seeming to be amongst the most popular attended. There have been changes to the timetable this term with the introduction of badminton and table tennis. Hockey has also been added to the programme - it will be great to see students attending these clubs as well. Furthermore, I am delighted to say that we have secured the services of external coaches to support with the extra-curricular provision of rugby and football. **Bedford Blues** are supporting with the rugby on a Wednesday and Luton Town FC are supporting with football on a Thursday. These clubs are open to any student, so why not come down and give it a try!



Sixth Form Mock Exams

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Sixth Form students for their mature approach to the mock examinations in January. Students have arrived promptly, used their free time for revision and have even come in when feeling unwell. Once results are collected, it is important that students reflect on their performance and identify which areas require further support or revision. Each subject holds weekly intervention sessions and we urge students to attend these as a useful tool for revision and coursework support.

We are already organising the future mock examinations later in the term so students are fully prepared for their summer examinations.

UCAS Applications

UCAS applications have been submitted and students are already receiving excellent offers from their favourite universities! 26 students applied for UCAS this year, compared to 9 last year. We are pleased to support such a large number of the Year 13 cohort to follow their higher education ambitions. Students worked tirelessly to ensure their applications demonstrated their skills, academic achievements and community involvement. In preparation for university interviews (relevant for some courses) we are holding an interview practice session on Friday 20th January 2017 so students can build the confidence to really 'sell themselves' as the perfect candidate for the course. Universities may respond any time until **March 31st**, so we urge students not to worry if they haven't heard back yet. We wish the best of luck to all applicants and are available to support any students with worries or concerns.

Charlie Small
Head of Sixth Form

Pancake Race

The Houghton Regis Pancake Race is held on **28th February 2017**. Our Sixth Form students are looking to enter a number of teams and challenging others in the community to be crowned the winner. Good luck to all students taking part!

Monday	Wednesday	Thursday
Film Studies in 0058 3-4pm	Art in 1035 3-4pm Health and Social Care in LRC 3-4pm Sport in LRC 3-4pm Travel and Tourism in LRC 3-4pm Public Services in LRC 3-4pm Performing Arts in 0047 3-4pm ICT in 1052 3-4pm Business in 1052 3-4 pm Geography in 1006 period 3 Graphics in 0059 3-4pm Media in 0058 lunchtime and 3-4pm	Art in 1035 3-4pm Media in 0058 lunchtime and 3-4pm Hospitality in 1038 3-3.45pm EPQ in LRC 3-4pm Applied Science in LRC 3-4pm

From a Student Voice consultation, we have taken on board the need for greater recognition for the good character and efforts of students in the Academy. In response, we have created the following new recognition and praise systems that have been launched in school this fortnight and all students have been given a fresh start with their behaviour and achievement points from January.

Value Award

As part of the **Living Well Together** initiative we are aiming to recognise and reward positive characteristics in both our staff and students; building a stronger, and more positive, whole school community. This fortnight we have been discussing in tutor time and assemblies what Perseverance is, where we recognise it in each other and where we need to develop it in ourselves. The most important aspect of the **Stars of the Week** are that they are voted for by their peers and it's been with immense pride that we've watched students recognise the good in each other. Particular recognition should be given to a group of students from **11 JGR** who requested to present the award outside of the year group to a Yr7 student **Thomas Lockett**, the reasons they gave showed a great awareness of their role within the school and is being encouraged as an extension of the current mentoring system.

Stars of the Week

These are still the weekly recognition for an individual student's success in a particular subject. Students are nominated by their teachers and names are displayed on the Heads of Year boards.

Following on from feedback of the success of Miss Astin's praise postcards sent to her Yr10's, we have used this good practise from Humanities as our starting point and will be looking for examples from other faculties to ensure that parents and students are receiving regular positive feedback from all subject areas.



Assemblies and Values

This half term, we have been exploring the Academy **Values of Trust** and **Perseverance**. Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will read about our **Values Awards** as part of our new Rewards' Scheme. We have also been enjoying a varied programme of assemblies to support our enrichment theme of **Burns Night** and our commitment to volunteering through the **Duke of Edinburgh** scheme and the **NCS Volunteer programme**.

All of these assemblies contribute to developing our vision of **Living Well Together**—thank you to all of our students who understand and follow this vision.

Elaine Boyd
Vice Principal

Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare

Work Experience

Students are already very excited about their Year 10 Work Experience which takes place between 3rd and 7th July 2017. A reminder that WEPDA forms must be returned by **Friday 10th February**. If there is any inaccurate data please cross it out before returning to us. All queries to Mrs Ojulah please.

We are planning to make the Work Experience database live after half term and provide instructions for viewing and selecting placements.

Year 8 Option Process

It's a very exciting time for Year 8. At All Saints, students choose their GCSE and BTEC subjects in Year 8 and begin studying their new courses in our "roll forward" period in July. This gives them a fantastic focus and a head start on their new learning and careers. We have a range of day events and evenings to support the Option Process and, so far, students in Year 8 have approached these with great enthusiasm and commitment. It was lovely to be at the gate this week and hear them talking about their future plans and ambitions. It's great to see our students aiming so high!

Year 8 Ryman's Challenge and Careers' Day

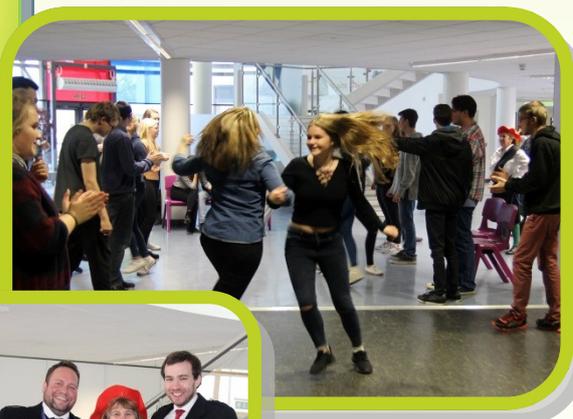
Year 8 have had a real focus on developing business skills and preparing for future careers in two themed days this week. We would like to thank all of the staff from **Ryman's** who led our day on Tuesday and the team from **4YP** who provided the core Careers Guidance for our Careers' Day yesterday.

We look forward to seeing all parents and carers at next week's Parents/Carers' Evening (Thursday 9th February) when we will be able to continue to support conversations about careers and options choices.

As always, support with booking appointments is available from Jo Ojulah

Enrichment Day—Wednesday 25th January

Students and Staff have learned to expect the unexpected when it comes to Enrichment Day at All Saints Academy and our Burns' Night extravaganza was no exception! We believe that enrichment days are about learning new skills, understanding new cultures and daring to be a little bit different. Students were introduced to the ancient craft of archery and learned about the techniques of creating and decorating shields. They learned about Scottish culture and were serenaded by an authentic Scottish piper on their way to break and lunch. Our Sixth Form students went one step further and prepared and enjoyed a Burns' Night lunch of Haggis, Neeps and Tatties all piped in by our Piper Kevin, before taking part in a traditional Ceilidh! Those of our staff with Scottish roots were only too happy to join in the fun. Our thanks to Mrs Watt who organised such an amazing day for us all and to all the staff who organised and delivered sessions.



Attendance Matters

Robbie Swain has now been our Attendance Office for a full month and we have already seen an improvement in our weekly attendance and a significant improvement in the number of form groups who are achieving over **96%** attendance in a week. Mr Swain visits assemblies and form rooms to reward those form teams who achieved this attendance figure.

We are currently reviewing our Attendance Policy to reflect changes to County and National Policies. The basic points of the policy will be:-

- We expect all students to achieve over **95% attendance** each year. We know that attendance lower than this impacts on learning, qualifications and future employability.
- We expect that every absence will be supported by communication from home to explain the reason for the absence.
- We will challenge, and support, families where their child's attendance falls below expected levels.
- We will work with the attendance law to make sure that attendance improves.

We want to work with families to help attendance improve but we must also follow the attendance law. Where necessary, and appropriate, we will send out letters to inform you when your child's attendance falls below certain levels and we will issue fines when reasons for absence are not provided, when attendance does not improve and when unauthorised holidays are taken. ***We would like to thank all families who regularly support our attendance policy and work with us to secure the safety and well-being of students.***

Inclusion Unit

The Inclusion Unit continues to grow. Since the last newsletter, the facility is now used to support identified students from all year groups at morning registration and afternoon tutor time. Miss Tarrant ensures these students are prepared for the day ahead, looks at any issues which may arise in lessons and puts strategies into place to avoid internal and external exclusions.

We have also progressed with our Admissions Policy and are pleased to report that any student new to the academy completes baseline testing, meet their Head of Year and gets a tour of the Academy prior to starting

The Unit has been busy supporting Year 11 Students with their Mock exams - especially those students who require additional support completing their exams.

Mrs West, Miss Tarrant and Miss Pullen meet weekly with me to identify, and put strategies in place, for any students in the Academy who need that little bit of extra help from the Inclusion Team .

Alison Spicer
Inclusion Manager

Speak Out!

We were very pleased recently to receive some student feedback that bullying, although rare, is dealt with effectively. Students and parents are reminded that we have a confidential email address for any incidents to be reported on which is **speakout@allsaintsacademydunstable.org** where any issues can be reported.

Sustrans 2017

We work very closely with Sustrans as we are one of the top Academies for transport to school by cycle or scooter. We are delighted that Derek Smulders continues to support the Academy in our campaign for safe cycling and healthy lifestyle and there are some key dates to add to your diary:-

Dr Bike Safety Check

21st February

Our first 20 registered Cycle Users will have a free Safety Check on their bikes

Smoothie Bike

The Smoothie Bike will be in the Café on

Wednesday 5th April

Come and pedal up a smoothie!

Big Pedal

20th—31st March

We record our cycle statistics and aim to be the top Academy for bike use in the country!

Cycle Safety

Thank you to those students who have returned their cycle registration forms. The first 20 students who gave their forms in will be given a free Dr Bike Safety Check session after half term and will be entered into a prize draw to win a set of high quality cycle lights.

Next **Thursday 9th and Friday 10th February**, staff on the gate will have extra copies of the Cycle Registration packs to give to students who haven't yet registered and we'd like these back after half term.

We will be challenging students who ride inappropriately on site or while leaving the site and will contact home to ask that cycles are not brought to school where this is the case.

Student Voice

It's been a productive start to the New Year for **Student Voice**; we have welcomed new members, fresh ideas and, therefore, have a more positive driving force for intended plans this term.

Student Voice at the end of last year delivered postcards and chocolates to teachers as a recognition of their hard work and commitment to our education. They were overwhelmed and one curriculum leader fed back *'Hi Student Voice, I can't remember whether or not I told you what a fantastic initiative this was. It created a fantastic atmosphere in the faculty. It'd been a hard-working term and it meant so much to each of them. Personally I was surprised by the students who sent me a card...it's made me rethink our relationships and how they perceive my teaching and support. Lovely way to end the year.'*

All of us at Student Voice would like to say a big 'thank you' to all students who took the time to get involved. Moreover, due to the increase in members to Student Voice, I've decided to split the team into three different focus groups: **Teaching and Learning**, **Community and Engagement** and **Building and Operations**. These are fundamental areas that Student Voice are prioritising to come up with innovative ideas as to how we can improve and make a difference within the Academy.

Currently **Teaching and Learning** are working on a survey that is student focused and will identify what type of learner students are. This will assist revision as well as provide advice for teaching in the classroom. Furthermore, **Community and Engagement** are working on activities and fundraising events for mental health week, proposed by Mr Grant, as well as 'Red Nose Day' in March. Additionally **Building and Operations** are looking at methods as to how we can improve congestion at break time within the Café, as well as outdoor activities we will be able to run in the summer months.

Student Voice meetings are held on a weekly basis in Room 0036 on Wednesday from 13:30-13:45. We always welcome new faces, if you have any further questions please see Shannon Stack (Leader of Student Voice) or Mr Carter.

Shannon Stack

HOMEWORK CLUB

STARTING MONDAY JANUARY 23rd, 2017

Are you looking for a quiet place to complete homework, catch-up on reading, or receive help with school?

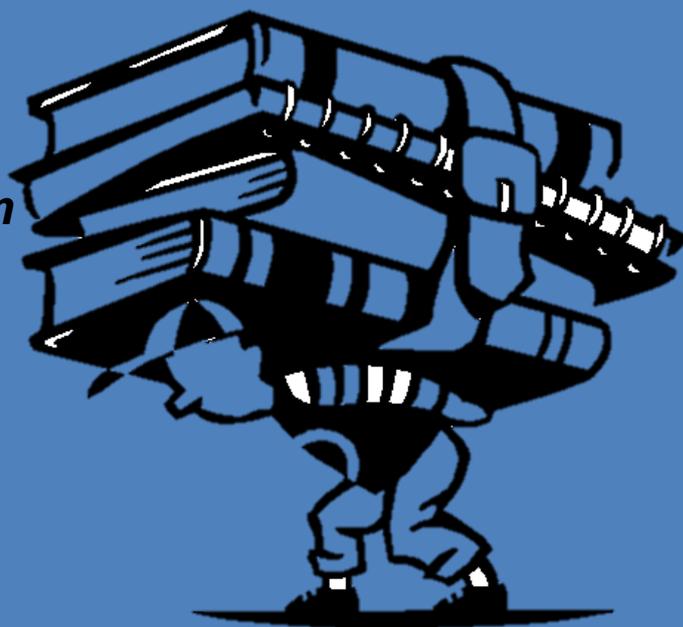
Come and join our Homework Club!!

HOMEWORK CLUB HOURS:

MON TO THUR: 3.00pm – 4.00pm

FRIDAY: 3.00pm – 3.30pm

LOCATION: School Café



**EVERY SESSION WILL BE STAFFED AND ALL RESOURCES
WILL BE PROVIDED...**

The ICT room 0036, will also be available for you to use...

Refreshments will also be provided for all students!

We are looking forward to seeing you there!!