

Dear Parents/Carers

Finally, the weather has turned warmer and our thoughts focus on the upcoming Easter holidays... for most of us! Please remember to support our Year 11, 12 and 13 students as they enter into an intense examination period; it is even harder to revise when it is gloriously sunny weather outside!

I have been impressed with the attitude of the Year 11 students I teach as they have definitely become much more focussed in recent weeks. There will, of course, be Easter revision sessions and I ask that all parents encourage their sons and daughters to attend.

We are extremely fortunate to have a beautiful and safe site here at All Saints Academy. Unfortunately, in recent days, there have been some near misses between students and traffic on site. You will understand, therefore, that I have taken the decision, in order to keep our students safe, that no parent traffic will be allowed on site after Easter. Please drop your child(ren) off and pick them up at an agreed location outside of the school gates. The only time parents will be allowed on site with their cars will be for a pre-arranged meeting with a member of staff; the Reception staff will then permit entry.

We finish at 12.15 p.m. next Friday after our whole school assembly. I wish you all a peaceful and relaxing Easter holiday and look forward to seeing all of our students again on Tuesday 25th April following the staff INSET day on Monday 24th April.

Liz Furber
Principal

Young Enterprise Success

On Wednesday evening, All Saints Academy was delighted to host the second semi-final of the Young Enterprise Company programme competition for 2016/17. This is a programme primarily designed for Year 12 students, who set up their own company and run it, as directors, for a year. The company decides on a product(s) or service they are going to offer and then tries to make as much money as possible, whilst getting the opportunity to experience what it is like to be in business. Part of the overall experience involves the opportunity to sell their product/service at various regional trade fairs and also to take part in local, regional, national and European competitions.

As Chair of the Young Enterprise Board for Bedfordshire, it was pleasing to host the semi-final at the Academy, but especially exciting because, for the first time in many years, a team of Year 12 students from All Saints took part. **Xenon Concepts** had already won a couple of awards at the Bedford Trade Fair in December and on Wednesday they won the award for Best Trade Stand and were interviewed by some of the judges. **I can also report that they have been awarded a place in the County Final, to be held at Bedford School on Wednesday 3rd May.**

The team is a tremendous credit to the Academy, as are all our Sixth Form students. Not only are they always immaculately turned out but, more importantly, they convey such a professional attitude in everything that they do, and truly behave like the young adults they have become.

I am very grateful to everyone at the Academy who supports the programme, but especially to Michelle Watt for the time she dedicates to the team. They are also supported by a local NatWest Manager, Mark Garnell, who acts as their Business Adviser, offering ideas from his experience as to how they might address certain issues.

David Fraser
Chair of Governors

Assessment and Reporting

Year 9 parents/carers have received their child's Annual Report and have had the opportunity to discuss them with staff at Parents/Carers' Evening; we hope you found this evening helpful and informative. Both Year 7 and Year 8 Annual Reports will be sent home before the Easter break, and although the Year 8 Parents/Carers' Evening has already taken place, please do not hesitate in contacting the Academy with any queries or concerns you have regarding your child's Annual Report. Assessment Point 4 has now taken place, and updated Flight Plans will also be sent home before the Easter break. Students, however, will receive their A5 copy when they return in April to avoid them being misplaced during the holiday.

Denise Greenhood
Office and Data Manager

Countdown to Sixth Form Examinations

The first examination for Sixth Form students is Friday 5th May 2017 and the exam season will be upon us shortly! I want to congratulate students on their hard work in the mock examinations and their mature conduct throughout these. Students must now ensure they attend all after school support sessions, if they are below target grade, as this is the final half term to ensure standards of coursework and mock essays are improved.

Charlie Bellwood
Head of Sixth Form

Examination Season 2017

Students will be issued with their examination timetables just before the Easter break and we thought this would be a good moment to remind you of some of the examination requirements.

All students are required to have their Student I.D cards for every examination, as these serve as their formal identification for the examination. Replacements are available at Student Reception for £2.50. Every student is responsible for providing their own stationery to support their exams. We recommend that all students have everything on the list of stationery below:

- ⇒ A **clear** pencil case
- ⇒ At least 2 black pens
- ⇒ Pencil and rubber
- ⇒ 30cm Ruler
- ⇒ Compass
- ⇒ Protractor
- ⇒ Scientific Calculator (without sleeve)
- ⇒ Highlighter pens
- ⇒ Coloured pencils

In addition, students are welcome to bring in water to every examination, but labels must be removed from bottles.

Keri Kropelnicki
Examinations Manager

BTEC Deadline

The final deadline for Key Stage 5 BTEC is Friday 30th June 2017. Students in Sixth Form must have all their coursework for BTEC courses marked and submitted by this time. Their final grades will be entered on the system during week commencing 3rd July 2017.

Curriculum 2017-2018

Students in Year 11 will be receiving Conditional Offer letters for places in All Saints Academy Sixth Form for September. On the back of the Ofsted report, which was very positive about our Sixth Form provision, students have the choice of a blend of courses; both academic and vocational. We endeavour to meet the demands of a student-led curriculum and we have 18 subjects on offer. We are enticing students to remain in our Sixth Form with new and exciting subjects including **Philosophy and Ethics** and **Accountancy and Finance**, as well maintaining our traditional offer of subjects including Music and Art.

Year 8 students have completed their Options process and have just finished selecting their subjects for study at GCSE in Year 9. We are particularly excited to be offering the Princes' Trust 'Achieve' programme to selected students. Parents/Carers will be receiving confirmation of their child's chosen courses in May.

Once again we will be preparing for our new academic timetable for 2017-2018 to take effect from Monday 10th July 2017. We have a two week rollover period at the end of the Summer Term to get everyone ready for the new academic year!

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the Academy.

Helen Anton

Assistant Principal (Curriculum and Timetable)

Reward Trips

Year 7 and 11
Wednesday 5th April

Years 8, 9 and Sixth Form
Thursday 6th April

Prince's Trust

Since 1976, the Prince's Trust has worked with over 825,000 young people, giving them practical and financial support to develop their key work skills so they can move into employment, education or training. Recognising that many young people lack formal qualifications, the Prince's Trust actively promote qualifications to those who need them most.

The qualification seeks to:

- Ensure learners have every opportunity to gain formal recognition of their skills and achievements
- Develop qualifications that offer flexibility, choice and pathways to progression
- Provide excellent support and service to our partners to ensure they're best placed to support young people

Curriculum and Timetable Spring Term 2017

Throughout the term there have been a few necessary curriculum changes to ensure that all classes have been supported and have access to specialist teaching. This has naturally involved some minor disruption for both staff and students. Additional changes will continue to be made in the best interests of student progress and academic achievement. Some groups (Science and ICT mainly) have been amalgamated to make classes more viable. Class sizes remain reasonable and the changes mean that our students have access to better high quality teaching. In both Year 8 and Year 9 we have made the decision to reduce the number of tutor groups to allow for more efficient and effective pastoral care. The numbers in each tutor group are comparable with those in other schools and we hope that students feel that they have an effective tutoring arrangement every day.

GCSEPod Goes from Strength to Strength

All Saints' students have embraced this superb new revision tool and have really appreciated the accessible nature of this resource. In just over 3 weeks, our students in Years 9 to 11 have streamed or downloaded over 5,000 academic videos or podcasts!

This is fantastic news and demonstrates that our students have a strong thirst for learning and want to do well. I look forward to monitoring closely the playlists and assignments that teachers will soon begin to set for our students via GCSEPod and its link with ShowMyHomework.com

We have printed flyers available from our Reception area which explain GCSE Pod and give ideas for using it. Please feel free to pop in to collect one and also to ask any questions that you may have.

Andrew O'Rourke
Head of Intervention

College Applications

We have already processed some college applications for students wishing to spread their wings and explore new avenues at alternative educational establishments. If your child has not yet handed in their college application, please encourage them to do this as soon as possible, so that staff are able to write references before the application deadline.

Denise Greenhood
Office and Data Manager

Forthcoming Year 11 Interventions

We have a number of different external providers visiting the Academy to provide some additional interventions for our Year 11 students in the coming weeks as we prepare our students and their families for the GCSE examinations.

We have Keynote Conference events running in the next few weeks in both English and Maths.

On Thursday **6th April** we are hosting a 'student and parent revision/study skills workshop' from **5pm – 7pm**. All students and families from Year 11 are welcome to attend. This workshop is being delivered in the Main Hall by the outstanding speakers from 'Learning Performance'. Prior to Christmas, all Year 11 students had a half day intervention with this company and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. After the Easter break we will also be providing a number of Year 11 students with a potentially crucial additional intervention called 'Project 5-in-5', where we are aiming to ensure the students in question secure a Grade 5 in either Maths or English this summer.

Raising Aspirations Project

The work that the vast majority of students in this target group have done this half term has been truly fantastic, and this has thankfully been reflected in the incredibly positive direction of their individual 'Progress 8' Scores. 88% of this group have made significant progress between AP3 and AP4. We will be having our half termly meeting shortly, where these students will receive a selection of comments from staff, Achievement and Behaviour Points will be analysed and finally prizes for those who have made the most progress will be distributed. I would encourage all of them to continue working hard, use GCSEPod as part of their routine and attend the morning, P6 and forthcoming interventions at Easter.

Homework & Student Feedback

Homework has evolved over time. However, there is one status quo most parents expect: homework. The old adage that 'practice makes perfect' seems to make sense when it comes to schoolwork. But, while hunkering down after dinner among books and worksheets might seem like a natural part of childhood, there's more research which questions the best way to set and complete homework. A belief exists that it helps to teach children how to work on their own and be disciplined with themselves - both skills that are useful later in life. It can also provide an opportunity for parents or carers to get involved in their children's learning.

At All Sainrs we have set up a working party to review the process with the objective of ensuring that we prepare students for the new style examinations. We have already established a Homework Club in the Café, which is supported by our Student Support Workers.



Your voice...

A vital part of our review is your voice. To this end, I invite you to complete a short survey to gather your views on 'learning beyond the classroom'.

Please login to Survey Monkey at the following address to complete our survey;

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/XJWBPPW>

Martin Serrao

Vice Principal (Teaching and Learning)

Homework: A timeline

- 1997:** Just over 6 in every 10 primary schools made their pupils do homework
- 1998:** Government publishes advice for schools in England and Wales about setting homework (e.g. pupils aged 5 to 7 should do 10 minutes of homework a night)
- 1999:** Around 9 in 10 primary schools are setting homework
- 2012:** Government gets rid of its guidelines, saying that schools should get to decide for themselves

"Pupils take pride in their work"

"Questioning is used well to probe and deepen pupils' understanding".

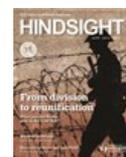
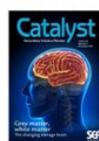
"Feedback is being used increasingly well by pupils to improve their understanding"

Magazines Literacy Project

We have recently begun exploring the benefits to students of having a subscription to an educational

magazine. The aim of this new project is to encourage a love of reading as well as independent learning in a subject of the student's choice. We have initially signed up eight students from across the Academy to test out some magazines and report back on their educational benefit, and how enjoyable they are to read. If their feedback is positive, we hope to get more of our students subscribed to a magazine of their choice.

The magazines currently being tested are Scoop, National Geographic Kids, The Loop, How it Works, Catalyst, The Week and Hindsight. We also have MFL magazines available at all levels and a GCSE Geography magazine aimed at Year 9 and Year 10 available for testing. If you would like to receive more information about this project, the magazines available or if you are interested in your child receiving a magazine subscription, please contact Miss Caroline Room, Curriculum Leader for Humanities.



Writing Club Competition Results

Students from Years 7 to 9 competed in the Young Writer's *Welcome to Wonderland* mini saga competition where students use their creative writing skills to write a mini saga in only 100 words. We have since learned that four of our students will have their pieces published in *Welcome to Wonderland Bedfordshire & Buckinghamshire!* A massive congratulations to **Rebecca Twining** (Year 9), **Caitlin Jones** (Year 7), **Charlotte Preston** (Year 7) and **Mia Fisher** (Year 8) for their amazing creative efforts as young writers and the achievement of being published at such a young age!

Robin Gacek
Teacher of English

World Book Day

Yet again, All Saints Academy rose to the occasion for World Book Day 2017. The Academy was no longer filled with staff but a selection of characters who had escaped for the day from a variety of much loved children's books. Every lesson began with a section of a Roald Dahl's short story 'The Hitchhiker'; by the end of the day the entire academy had read the tale. At lunchtime, after students had feasted on Charlies Marvellous Macaroni and perhaps even won a golden ticket, they were able to listen to staff read their favourite books in the library. The purpose behind days such as these is to promote a love of reading. By delving into a book, students have the opportunity to develop their imaginations and expand their vocabulary. Reading helps us to grow. I think it is fair to say, we all can't wait till next year to do it all again.

Jo Goodchild
Literacy Coordinator

Move it!

On Tuesday 21st March, there was a Drama Workshop from Tamasha Theatre delivered by the writer of the play, Satinder Choham, and workshop director, Charity Muiruri, for selected students in Years 8, 10, 12 and 13. The workshop was based on a play 'Half of Me', that is going to be performed in the Hat Factory Luton on 31st March and 1st April. One of the highlights for me was the aspirational talks from Satinder and Charity about their very different background of the arts. Their talk on career progressions really enabled students to think about the different paths they could take. Following on from their amazing talent, students have been invited to perform at the Hat Factory Theatre on 31st March before the show. This is a brilliant opportunity for All Saints to showcase their talent to an audience on a professional stage. If you are able to, then please join us at the theatre and see what our students can do.



Sophie Bolton
Teacher of Dance

Move It

On 10th March Miss Bolton and Mrs Goodchild set off in the mini bus to London Excel Centre with 'The Six' Performing Arts students in Year 12 and 13. The mini bus was filled with excitement, sing songs and selfies as we made our way to the biggest dance event in Europe. Throughout the day, the students and teachers took part in 3 workshops: Justin Beiber dance tribute, Physical Theatre and movement, Advance Contemporary Dance. The day was full of bass, sparkles, dance and fun!

"Move It was a great chance to get involved in dance workshops that before I thought would have been out of my comfort zone. I had a lot of fun and learned a lot – especially through watching the live performances"

Kaitlin Horton-Samuel Year 12

Communication Matters

As Parents and Carers, you may often feel that you want support in communicating with the Academy, so this page gives Parents/Carers some additional support in ensuring that we can give you the best possible communication system.

Dedicated Email Address for Parents/Carers

One of the biggest problems in communicating in a big Academy, can be knowing who to contact. We are pleased to introduce the email address parentcontact@allsaintsacademydunstable.org

This address allows us to direct your enquiry to the most appropriate person. We will know who can best support you and, if your contact details are up to date on our system, we can also guarantee a response within 24 hours.

Contact Details

Are your contact details up to date? Have you changed your mobile number? Have you got a new email address? Do we have all your priority contacts registered?

We want to be able to communicate with you effectively and promptly but sometimes we find that your numbers or email addresses are out of date.

At the start of next term, we will send home a data sheet with your child. Please take a moment to check it and return it to us on 25th April with any amendments.

Remember that only **you** can make sure your contact details are correct.

MyEd

Have you downloaded the MyEd app yet? If you have, you will know that you can check your child's:-

- **Attendance and Punctuality**
- **Timetable**
- **Achievement Points**
- **Behaviour Points**
- **Calendar**

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You can also access our newsletters, messages and lots of other useful resources from your smartphone or tablet. The MyEd app also has a translation function which may help with access to some of our communications. Best of all, when you use the MyEd app, **our communication with you is FREE**, so you are also saving the Academy money which can be spent on resources for your child. The three easy steps to download are shown above and we look forward to welcoming the majority of our parents to the MyEd app shortly.

Attendance Target

We are working very hard to improve the attendance of all our students because we know how closely attendance is linked to achievement.

The national average figure for attendance has risen to 95.8% and, as a result, we are increasing our Academy target to **96%**.

You will see from our Attendance letters and from our revised policy, which will appear on the website over the Easter break, that your son/daughter's attendance is now measured against this figure.

Thank you to every student who attends every day that they can. To reward them for their efforts, we have been delivering chocolates to every Tutor Group who achieves 96% or better attendance in a week and we have a special prize draw for the last week of term. Every student will receive 1 ticket for every day that they attend **and as long as they attend on 7th April**, they have the chance to win a £50.00 High Street Voucher.

Rewards Trips

At the start of this term, we told students that everyone with **fewer than 5 Behaviour Points** and **over 96% attendance** would be eligible to go on their Year Group Reward Trip.

We are very proud that well **over 50%** of the Academy's students are eligible to attend these opportunities and letters have been sent directly to those who are invited. Trips for Years 7, 8, 9 and Sixth Form are happening before Easter, with trips for Years 10 and 11 following after the break. Pupil Premium funding is available to support those who are eligible for this.

ID Cards and Planners

We are a cashless Academy and ID cards are used to pay for printing, gain access to the building and pay for food at break and lunchtime. We have become aware that a number of students have lost or damaged their cards and are relying on the goodwill of various staff to get these important services. From 24th April, students will need their cards to buy food and printing—replacements are available from Student Reception for £2.50. Planners are used to communicate with home and replacement copies can be purchased from Student Reception—the cost is £2.00.

Student Voice—Student Survey

We wrote to you last month and told you we were planning a student survey which would allow us to identify any classroom where the Climate for Learning was not "outstanding".

Your son/daughter has received a link to this survey in their Academy email account and we would urge them to complete this as promptly as possible.

All survey returns are anonymous and the information provided will help us support specific classes and will also help us have conversations with any students who are struggling to meet our Academy expectations.

This is an excellent example of Student Voice being used to support Teaching and Learning in the classroom and we are very grateful to every student who takes the time to complete this.

Elaine Boyd

Vice Principal (Personal Development,
Behaviour & Welfare)

Year 9 Careers' Day

The feedback we have had from the Students is that they enjoyed the day and took a lot from it.



During the Careers' day, staff and visitors from 4YP, Youth Action and the RAF delivered sessions on learning styles, identifying skills linked to different careers and Post Sixteen options available, volunteering, first impressions and teamwork.



Jo Ojulah

Parental Engagement & Careers Co-ordinator

National Apprenticeship Week

During this week we had Central Bedfordshire Council running a lunchtime stall advising students of Apprenticeships available to them and key information on how to apply.

Jo Ojulah

Parental Engagement & Careers Co-ordinator

NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK

Also during this week - we had visitors in school from 4YP, Central Beds College, National Citizen Service and Central Beds Council – these professionals gave students information on next steps and how to access them, whether it be Sixth Form, college, apprenticeships or employment.

UK University Search Trip

On Friday 3rd March 2017, many Year 11 and Sixth Form students travelled to the Emirates Stadium to experience a University Fair. Students were a credit to the Academy and came away with new ideas for their future careers and education choices. Please enjoy some of the pictures from the day.



DEADLINE

**Work Experience Applications
Must be complete by Friday 7th April**

Pancake Race

Seven students participated in the annual Pancake Race at Houghton Regis Village Green on Tuesday 28th February 2017. Congratulations to our Sixth Form team who won their age category, with the help of Mr Carter!



Congratulations to all the students at All Saints Academy for their fundraising efforts this term. Our activities for Comic Relief day raised £660.00 and brought lots of fun to the Academy.

Memorial Garden Fundraising

We were delighted to receive another visit from staff at Central Beds Council. This time bringing us a whopping cheque for £800 towards the creation of our Memorial Garden for Josh and Ethan Houghton. Sue Bates, who is a parent of a student at the Academy, has been really great at staying in touch with us as we plan the garden. Her colleague, Cheryl Mullan, who would have been Tracy's new boss at the Council has just completed a Muddy Run to raise the £800 for the garden and we are so grateful for her support.



Red Nose Day

Over the past few weeks, Student Voice has been focusing its attention towards fundraising events and re-shaping the design of the team. After Easter, it is proposed that the team will meet after school, one night a week, so as to have a full hour's opportunity to meet and drive forward changes. Most recently, a small team went to Houghton Regis' Red Nose Day Street Party and represented the Academy selling cakes and other sweet treats. I am immensely proud of all the students who accompanied me on the trip and I can report that all the students behaved impeccably. Members of the local community and town council commented on the hard work of the All Saints team. The Street Party ran from 3pm-6pm in Bedford Square on Friday 24th March and the local community raised over £752 for the Red Nose Day Appeal. Year 8 students organised a cake sale and raffle at school, with the support of Mrs Granger, whilst a group of Year 8 boys arranged a penalty shootout competition alongside the PE department. These two events, coupled with the non-uniform day, raised a fantastic £660.00. Well done All Saints!

Nicholas Carter

Assistant Achievement Leader



~Calendar~

3rd April
Sixth Form Art Trip

4th April
Year 7 and 8 Celebration Assemblies

5th April
Years 9, 11 and Sixth Form
Celebration Assemblies

6th April
Years 7, 8, 9 and Sixth Form
Rewards Trips

7th April
Final Day of Term
The Academy will close at 12.15pm

24th April
INSET DAY: Staff Only

25th April
Students Return to the Academy

27th April
Year 7/8 UK Maths Challenge

27th April
Year 7 Parents/Carers' Evening

Two Minute Silence

We were extremely proud of everyone in the Academy as we joined together to mark two minutes of silence. Our silence showed support and solidarity with those affected by the tragic events in Westminster on the previous evening.

Mr Michael put together a PowerPoint Presentation to show how events had unfolded. The presentation also highlighted the **courage** of members of the public and the emergency services, and the **resilience** of the people of London determined to carry on their daily lives as normal. Thank you again, to all students and staff.

Year 7 Parents/Carers' Evening

This takes place on Thursday 27th April, just three days after we return to the Academy. Booking is open from Monday 3rd April, and we will do our best to support anyone who needs help to access the system, but please remember that the Academy is closed between 7th and 24th April.

Please note that the
All Saints' Spring Term
finishes on
Friday 7th April
12.15pm

EASTER

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