

**Dear Parents/Carers**

I recently visited a school in East London that works with children who demonstrate challenging behaviour. I heard one of the team of very dedicated teachers say to a troubled student. 'I might not always like you, but I will always love you!' To my mind, that simple statement encapsulated everything about the ethos of that school. Being a Church of England Academy, we especially remember this time of year and the birth of Christ, the meaning of which is summed up to me by that famous biblical verse, 'God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son'. The love referred to in that verse and, indeed, the love that the teacher was trying to express to the troubled student, was not about having a warm and fuzzy feeling, but is all about giving to others those things that you would want them to give you if you were in their situation - and it's doing so even if they can't pay you back. In fact, it's doing so especially if they can't pay you back! Christian love is respect for others.

As I visit the Academy, meeting with staff and students, I increasingly pick up on that notion of mutual respect and a willingness to give. Like you, as parents and carers, there isn't a single person in the Academy who doesn't want the very best for the students in their care. Of course, there are times when circumstances and issues get in the way of that aspiration, but I know that colleagues work very hard to address those situations so that relationships can be repaired and restored. One of the excellent programmes that I, and my colleague governors, have witnessed this term is the Restorative Justice programme, which has had a significant impact on staff and students alike.

In closing, and in wishing you and your family a very happy and restful Christmas, I want to express publicly my thanks, and those of my fellow governors, to all the staff in the Academy, so ably led by Liz Furber, for all the hard work they have done throughout the year in supporting your children/our students. I look forward to the opportunities, and undoubtedly challenges, that the New Year will bring and hope that the aspirations that we all have will be met.

**David Fraser**  
Chair of Governors

**Dear All**

As we come to the end of this incredibly long fifteen week term, a final message from me, to wish you all a restful holiday. The rewards trips in the last week have been a real celebration of improved behaviour and effort in the Academy and I congratulate all students who were invited to attend. Unfortunately, the snowy weather meant many events had to be cancelled and rescheduled, which the students and staff did with good humour.

Finally, thank you to all the people who willingly work so hard for our students, particularly our wonderful staff and governors. Staff return to school on Wednesday 3rd January for an INSET day and students on Thursday 4th January.

Merry Christmas to you and your families!

**Liz Furber**  
Principal

## Antarctica Day



Antarctica Day was started in 2010 to celebrate the 1<sup>st</sup> December 1959 signature of the Antarctic Treaty, which was adopted “with the interests of science and the progress of all mankind.” Antarctica Day is an annual event to build global awareness of this landmark institution, celebrating this milestone of peace in our civilization with hope and inspiration for future generations.

This year we were visited by a PHD student, Madeline Brazier, who has been to the Antarctic with The British Antarctica Survey.



Madeline gave a talk to all of Year 11 about the career pathways both herself and her colleagues had followed and the variety of different and exciting careers in science.



Year 9 and Year 10 students participated in a workshop to build awareness of the ecological and environmental issues currently affecting Antarctica. They were introduced to alien looking Antarctic worms, built ecosystems, investigated rising sea levels and made their own gloopy Glaciers.

**AP3 Assessments for Years 9-13**

Students in Years 9-13 will have their next assessment point in January following in-class assessments. Looking slightly further ahead, Sixth Form students will be experiencing their second set of mock examinations after February half term, as will students in Year 11. It is highly recommended that revision starts during the Christmas break so that students are fully prepared. Practice papers, revision workbooks, mind maps and Post-It notes are just some of the revision methods that could be utilised in the time off and run up to mock examinations. All students in examination years will have been provided with holiday homework to make sure that they continue to make progress during the break.

**Year 11 Transition**

It is an important time of year for our Year 11 cohort who are deciding on their future pathways in education, training and employment. The Russell Group has twenty four world-class universities which maintain high levels of research, outstanding teaching and learning experiences and attract students from around the globe. The University of Oxford and University of Cambridge are just two examples of their prestigious universities. We highly recommend reading their support materials at the link below which provides clear information for how to pair different A Level subjects, what subjects typically are needed for certain university courses and what the different Level 3 courses mean.

<https://www.russellgroup.ac.uk/media/5272/informedchoices-print.pdf>

If you would like a printed copy of this booklet please contact

[charliebellwood@allsaintsacademydunstable.org](mailto:charliebellwood@allsaintsacademydunstable.org)  
or your son/daughter's form tutor.

**UCAS Update**

Twenty four students submitted applications for university in the last week of term. The UCAS process can take a long time, with universities typically responding within three months of submitting the application. The process is extremely competitive, so I am pleased that we have more than ten offers already made to students in the few days since submitting their applications! It is really important that students check their emails over the Christmas break and read the conditions of their offers carefully. I wish all of the students good luck with their applications and future pathways to higher education.

**Charlie Bellwood**  
Head of Sixth Form

**Flight Plans**

The second Assessment Point of the year has taken place for Years 9 to 13, while Years 7 and 8 will have had their first of the year. All the information has been transferred to students' Flight Plans and these have been sent home with the students. We hope that you find these Flight Plans informative and that they are easy to understand. If you have any questions or concerns about the information they contain, please do not hesitate to contact the Academy.

**Denise Greenhood**  
Academy Services Manager

### **Attendance Matters**

It has been with great pleasure that we have seen attendance improve by 1% across the course of this term. This represents a greater focus on attendance through target setting meetings, greater emphasis on attendance in form time and greater recognition for our students with excellent attendance in Celebration Assemblies. In the New Year we will be improving this figure even further **starting on the 4th January when students return for the new term.**

**Robbie Swain**  
Attendance Officer

### **Free School Meals**

We strive to ensure that all students can access all areas of school life, academic and pastoral. Families who are entitled to free school meals benefit from additional funding given to schools which allows us to support you with the cost of trips and equipment. If you think that you might be entitled to free school meals, please contact Central Beds Council on 0300 300 8306.

If you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Jackie Proctor**  
Assistant Principal—SEND and PP

### **Clergy Rotation**

It has been a great pleasure to work with Father Diego, Father Bernard and Rev Money this term. They have supported special services, including our Christingle, joined in with RS lessons, helped with prayer writing and have hosted visits by our students in their own churches. Special thanks to Rev Money who leaves her Dunstable parish over Christmas to take up a new role in Herefordshire. We wish her well in her new direction. Father Diego and Father Bernard will continue to work with the Academy during the Spring Term.

### **Careers Education: The Skills Show**

On 16th November, students in Year 10 set off for Birmingham and the amazing Skills Show. Each year, the organisers gather together an amazing range of trades and vocational organisations to demonstrate the career opportunities open to learners.

On arrival, students were overwhelmed by the sheer number of visitors to the show and the size of the exhibition halls. Walking through a packed coach park with hundreds of students from schools across the country, they were soon inside the exhibition and free to explore stands from many industries. ICT and the performing arts were very popular but there was also an opportunity to see robotics, engineering, hairdressing and a host of other skills in practice.

The staff were extremely impressed with the conduct of all the students at all times. They were a



credit to the Academy and we hope that the Skills Show has provided a launching point to help students think about their Careers Education and Work Experience placements. Thank you to all staff who supported this visit.

**Jo Ojulah**  
Parental Engagement & Careers Co-ordinator

### **Standards**

Standards have been high this term but let's hope that Christmas brings some stationery supplies, some plain black socks and possibly new shoes to all students who need their uniform and equipment topping up. The post-Christmas sales can be an excellent time to make sure everything is in place.

**House Points**

Every week, we award points for attendance, behaviour, House achievement, competitions, litter collection and everything else that we think will contribute to a positive community here at All Saints. Competition has been fierce and each House has been determined to win. The rankings change every week with each House showing strength in different areas. At the end of term, we congratulate Inspiration who have risen up through the ranks steadily during the course of the term and who have become our Autumn Term winners!

**CURRENT STANDINGS**

<b>INSPIRATION</b>		<b>450</b>	
<b>RESPECT</b>		<b>402</b>	
<b>EXCELLENCE</b>		<b>350</b>	
<b>COURAGE</b>		<b>333</b>	
<b>DETERMINATION</b>		<b>296</b>	

LIVING WELL TOGETHER IN DIGNITY, FAITH AND HOPE

We look forward to a fresh start in January with lots more competition and many more opportunities to show strength from each House. Good luck to everyone and a very Merry Christmas!

**Miles Walbank**

House Co-ordinator and Head of Year 7



**House Christmas**

House Christmas has been hotly contested during the second part of this term with every tutor group decorating their tutor room's door and each House creating a free standing Christmas tree. We were thrilled by the effort put in by students, form tutors and Heads of House and are delighted to announce that the winners at the end of the competition for the doors were "Inspiration".



Inspiration's yellow Christmas Tree came second, leaving them in overall winning position for House Christmas—well done!

**House Netball**

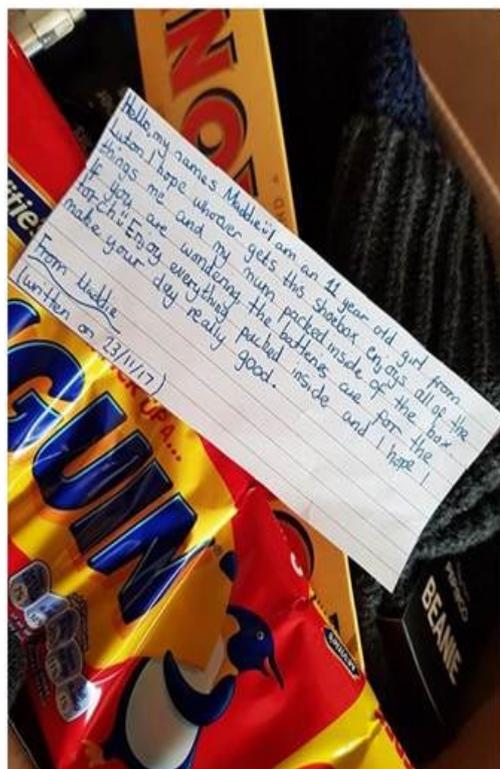
We managed to play a number of the matches in the House netball competition and things were going really well until the snow decided to stop play.

The remaining matches will be played in our first full week back and we hope to announce the winners in our Form Tutor PowerPoint on 15th January.

### Shoe Box Appeal

Following on from our Christmas Streetlife appeal and Operation Christmas Child appeal I just wanted to share a screenshot of a Facebook post uploaded by Streetlife with you. The post is about a shoebox of donations that contained a torch; batteries, food and warm clothing. It's fantastic that the work of our students and families is being recognised in the wider community, and that this year staff, students and parents/carers have made a difference to the lives of people living homeless in Luton. We look forward to continuing to support this fantastic, small community charity over the next year to come.

Huge huge thankyou to all saints for there very kind donations today we are always sovery grateful for all you do for streetlife ,we thought we would share the note inside the shoe box we received from little maddie out of the donations to allsaints academy , dont worry maddie we have re sealed the box and it will be on its way to luton on tuesday , you touched the hearts of every one of us this afternoon this needed a share #streetlifeshowyoucare #shoobox #feedthehomeless



### Houghton Regis Craft and Coffee Community Forest

All Saints Academy were invited to decorate a tree to go onto Houghton Regis Library's concourse as part of the Houghton Regis Craft & Coffee Community Forest. The tree was a real community effort; we kindly had a real Christmas tree donated to us by ASDA Dunstable, and the students eagerly set about making decorations that represented the Academy and our values. The tree was adorned with the Academy logo, House logos and the Academy ethos of 'Aspire, Strive, Achieve' and 'Dignity, Faith and Hope.'

Two students accompanied me to drop the tree off, William Stock and Kaitlin Horton Samuel who, as ever, were fantastic representatives for the Academy. The tree is still on the concourse if anybody wishes to go and have a look at the students' great work.

**Nicholas Carter**

Student Support & Community Engagement Co-Ordinator



**Winter Time Concert**

On 8<sup>th</sup> December a group of Year 10 Music students put on a Winter Time Concert to raise money for Ethan and Josh Houghton's memorial garden. It was arranged entirely by the students: Shannon Dolan, Alyssa Roberts, Ella Varle, Salome Dudu, Ebony Kumire and Devan-Jade Okai.

It was a great event that was well attended and enjoyed by all. A total of £175.50 was raised.

A big well done to the girls for their great work and thank you to everyone who attended and supported the girls making their concert a huge success.

**Nicola Fountain**

Second in Curriculum  
Creating and Designing

**'A Christmas Carol'**

'Tis the season to be jolly.....well not according to old Humbug Scrooge!!! The English department is taking all of Year 11 to see the critically acclaimed production of 'A Christmas Carol' at the Old Vic in London on the evening of Wednesday 17th January. The trip will enhance their understanding of the novel for their GCSE Literature Paper 1 exam. In addition, every attendee will have a late start on Thursday morning (9.50am) to accommodate the late return to school.

**Donna Witter**

Curriculum Leader - English

**ParentPay**

We have recently introduced the facility to pay for school trips through ParentPay. This new feature is proving popular as it makes paying for trips much easier and means you no longer have to find the right change or make a last minute visit to a Cashpoint machine.

It also allows you to monitor how much your child is spending on their lunch each day and lets you see what they are buying.

If you do not have a login for ParentPay, contact the Academy and we can send home your login details and a User Guide to help get you started.

**Year 8 Trip to Greenwich Royal Observatory**

Year 8 students had a fantastic time during the trip to Greenwich Royal Observatory. Students enjoyed learning about astronomy with the interactive displays and exhibits, which included samples of meteorites and prototypes of early telescopes. There was also a careers workshop lead by a PHD student, where students had the opportunity to learn about the different pathway options in science. The highlight of the day was the planetarium show on constellations, galaxies and the expansion of the universe.

**Haleema Hussain**

Trainee Teacher

**Water Bottles**

Even though the winter months are upon us, students should still bring a water bottle with them every day. This could be a sports bottle or a recycled juice or pop bottle. These can then be filled at the water fountains located around the Academy. Students often visit First Aid complaining of a headache and, in many cases, this is due to them not having had a drink during the day.

### Educational Trips and Visits

We are really pleased that every year group will have had one educational and/or reward trip by the end of this term. Dates for December's trips are shown below and further details are available on the **Educational Trips and Visits** page of our website.

**17th January 2018**

**Year 11 A Christmas Carol, London**

**30th January 2018**

**Year 11 Geography Field Visit**

**15th February 2018**

**Drama Visit: Blood  
Brothers**

Letters have been distributed to relevant students. Consent and medical forms can be



### Looking Ahead

**Wednesday 3rd January**

**Staff Training Day  
(Academy closed to students)**

**Thursday 4th January**

**First Day of Term**

**Tuesday 9th January**

**Year 9 and Year 10 Immunisations**

**Tuesday 23rd January**

**Year 10 Parents/Carers' Evening**

**Friday 1st February**

**Sixth Form Parents/Carers' Evening**

**Wednesday 7th February**

**Year 8 Parents/Carers' Evening**

**Monday 12th February**

**Half Term**

### Help Over Christmas

We hope you all have a stress free and peaceful festive period. The following numbers are provided in case anyone in our Academy family needs additional support at this time of year.

Samaritans **01582 720666**  
Or **116123** (free)

Childline **0800 1111**

Mind Mental Health **0300 123 393**

Text **86463**

Salvation Army **01582 699092**

NSPCC **0808 8005000**

Domestic violence **0808 2000247**

NHS **111**

### Also....

Beehive Childrens Centre \* **01582-699092**

Tithe Farm N'hood Centre\* **01582-867692**

Noah Enterprise (Homeless) **01582-728416**(141Park Road Luton LU1 3HG open 8.15-3.45 weekdays 10-3 weekends and 7pm every evening)

\*Foodbank vouchers available