

## Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you enjoyed the half-term break with your children and that they are well-rested for the hardest part of the year in the lead up to Christmas. It is very important that they attend school every day because if they are not here they cannot learn. We are having a real push on improving attendance this half-term so please encourage your child to come in if they only have a cold or feel like a 'duvet day'!

We have had a preliminary release of our progress 8 data which suggests we have moved up another category to become an 'average' school which is a category given to the middle 40% of schools in the UK. Last year we were below average, and the year before that well-below average. This is a tremendous improvement and the whole school community should be very proud of this achievement.

In the final week of last half-term, we had an Ofsted monitoring visit to ensure we are still moving rapidly in the right direction: becoming a GOOD school. I will share the news with you as soon as the official letter has been released.

This week our new school Chaplain Reverend Tim Davis starts with us one day a week and later this month a full-time counsellor will start. This is to ensure that even with exam results being our main focus., the personal development of our students is still of paramount importance.

The weather has suddenly got a lot colder! Please remind your children to wrap up warm and take care in the darker evenings!

Kind Regards

**Liz Furber**  
Executive Principal

## Dear Parents and Carers

I was looking through my old school reports recently, not written on parchment – contrary to popular opinion – but pre-dating the birth of the vast majority of people reading this article. Some of the comments do not make for comfortable reading, and my handwriting has certainly deteriorated since it was first mentioned as an issue when I was aged 10. However, I was more interested in my absence record over a 13-year period. It seems that I missed three half-days whilst at Primary School and three days at Secondary School; that's about 99.8% attendance. I was very fortunate to enjoy good health, and also enjoy school.

The reason I raise this is because, whilst the majority of our students have good attendance records, there is a significant minority who demonstrate what is officially termed as 'persistent absence'. This is defined as a student missing 10% or more of their possible sessions. The importance of that is the link it has with attainment. Whilst we have now moved to a different system of grading, the message still remains the same, as highlighted in this Department for Education finding: **pupils with no absence are 2.2 times more likely to achieve 5+ GCSEs A\*-C or equivalent and 2.8 times more likely to achieve 5+ GCSEs A\*-C or equivalent including English and mathematics than pupils missing 15-20% of KS4 lessons.**

We know that achieving well at GCSE is a springboard for both higher education and employment opportunities, and that persistent absence can have a significant impact on progress. Governors, working with senior leaders and staff, are making the reduction of persistent absence a priority this year. We want to work with you, as parents and carers, to make sure that your child(ren) gains the maximum benefit from their time at All Saints Academy, so will be looking at ways in which we can further improve attendance.

Best wishes.

**David Fraser**  
Chair of Governors

**Young Carers**

Does your child help you or someone 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 Mrs Pullen Welfare & Safeguarding Officer on 01582 619700 or email [apullen@asadunstable.org](mailto:apullen@asadunstable.org).

**High Attainers**

We have a really exciting electives offer, which we are calling our Big Thinking. Students have been selected for this to develop and stretch them outside what they normally experience in the classroom. Sessions are being led by Sixth Form students in cross curricular learning and challenging activities.

**Melissa Tynegate**

Deputy Assistant Principal –  
Individualised Pathways

**Link Governor**

The Individualised Pathways team had a recent visit from our Link Governor, Belinda Copson. We had a very productive meeting and shared the exciting things we are doing to support all of the students in the Academy. Belinda is a relatively newly appointed Governor to All Saints and we look forward to working with her. She has a great deal of experience of working in the area of Community Cohesion and we will welcome her input as to how this can be improved yet further in our setting.

**Kate Searle**

Assistant Principal—Individualised Pathways

**The Academy can be contacted on  
our dedicated parent email  
address:  
[parentcontact@asadunstable.org](mailto:parentcontact@asadunstable.org)**

**News from Inclusion**

It has been a busy start to the new year. As well as using our standalone Inclusion Unit to support our students with high needs, both academic and social and emotional, we have also introduced interventions which support identified students one period a week. We have intervened with behaviour management by asking the students to identify their behaviour triggers and exploring strategies with them to use in lessons to avoid sanctions. A number of students are being supported with handwriting, especially letter formation and fluency of handwriting. The Prince's Trust is now running in Years 9, 10 and 11. Year 9 and Year 11 are following a Teamwork unit and Year 10 are just starting on a unit entitled "Preparing for a healthy lifestyle". We have two students following a course at Develop, concentrating on life skills to prepare them for life Post-16.

By the time we write the next newsletter, I will be able to report on further interventions both in the Academy and in the local community

**Alison Spicer**

Inclusion Manager

### **Key Stage 3 Rewards Trip**

We are delighted that 170 students in Key Stage 3 have qualified to participate in our Rewards Trip on **18<sup>th</sup> December 2018**. We are going to see Snow White at The Grove Theatre, Dunstable and the criteria for joining the trip were:-

- ◆ 5 or fewer behaviour points
- ◆ 95%+ attendance

These are really challenging targets and we are delighted that so many students have met them!

We know that some students were disappointed to have missed out because of their attendance but we have held some tickets in reserve and would like to be able to offer these to any student in Year 7 or 8 who meets 95% attendance by the end of November. By setting these targets, we are clearly setting out our expectations of behaviour and attendance for all our students. For those who do miss out this time, there will be alternative activities in the Academy on 18<sup>th</sup> and we will have a fresh start in January to see how many students can qualify for the Easter Reward Trip.

**Elaine Boyd**

Assistant Principal, Key Stage 3

### **New Email Address**

We hope that all parents/carers are aware of our [parentcontact@asadunstable.org](mailto:parentcontact@asadunstable.org) email address which is the best for general enquiries to the Academy. We also have a new email address [ks3@asadunstable.org](mailto:ks3@asadunstable.org) which is received directly by the Key Stage 3 Team of myself, Mr Hide, Miss Bolton, Ms Goodchild, Mr Grant and Miss Pritchett and we hope that by having this dedicated email address, you will have any queries answered even more promptly.

In return, we would be grateful if every family could supply us with an email if possible. Although we will always provide paper copies of newsletters and information, it is always good to be able to make quick contact with you and send out information electronically as well – particularly as many of us use our smartphones and other devices to receive our communication. We'll send you a reminder from time to time if we still don't have an email address for you – thanks to everyone who updated us last month with their details!

### **Head Boy and Head Girl**

We are delighted to welcome Ashleigh McDade and Hayden Keeler as Head Girl and Head Boy of Year 7. Ashleigh and Haydon were very busy in October as they both gave speeches to a packed hall of prospective parents/carers and then they were very busy supporting our Academy in Action Tours during the following week. Ashleigh said that she felt "that this school was the pick of the bunch" and Hayden added that "moving to Year 7 was a major life step" he felt that he had settled well in his year group and his "form group were like his family." It's lovely to see our students settled so quickly. Ashleigh has also represented the Academy by attending the Diocesan Synod Conference and reading the lesson at the opening service. Although this was a really nerve-wracking experience, Ashleigh managed this with confidence and impressed the audience who included over 100 members of the clergy from across the Diocese and three Bishops! We have also elected Samuel Odetola as Head Boy Year 8 and Medow Cox as Head Girl Year 8 and we will feature their activities in the next newsletter. Congratulations to all our elected student leaders and form captains.

### **Building Resilience Project**

We are very pleased to be working with 4YP, one of our Careers' Education providers on the Building Resilience project which aims to work with students to build their self-confidence and ability to deal with challenging students. The team are working with a group of Year 8 boys in the lead up to Christmas and will then be working with a mixed group of Year 7 and 8 girls after Christmas.

The project has started well with students challenging themselves to try new things and to work together as a team to achieve their goals.

**Key Stage Attendance is currently 95.4% - we're aiming to get to 96% by Christmas.**

### **Assessment Point 1**

Years 7 and 8 have just completed assessments in all of their lessons and it has been really interesting to see the work they have produced. We are starting to introduce GCSE style questions into their assessments as Year 8 are already starting to think about their GCSE courses for next year and Year 7 will find this focus really helpful when their turn comes.

### **Big Pedal**

Each year, the Big Pedal records the numbers of students who travel to school by bike or scooter. All Saints Academy have always done very well in this competition, and this year we came third in the region for numbers participating. We were presented with our award in the Key Stage 3 Assembly on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October and it was great to hear from members of the Sustrans team, who updated us on some of the aspects of cycling safety which we all need to be aware of. As we celebrate our success, we would just like to remind everyone of some cycling safety basics:-

- Cycles and scooters may not be ridden on the Academy site – students must walk their bikes/scooters to the bike racks
- Everyone who brings a scooter or cycle to the Academy also needs to bring a lock – we have a small supply to lend in an emergency but valuable machines need to be kept safe
- Cycle helmets and reflective clothing are strongly recommended – particularly as the mornings and evenings get darker
- Cycling in the community must be safe – members of our local community will always report unsafe travel to us



***Our award was received by one of our students who always rides to the Academy.***



### **Living Well Together Awards**

Key Stage 3 students are asked to demonstrate our Academy vision of “Living Well Together with Dignity, Faith and Hope” through their everyday actions. At the end of last half term, we appointed our first “Living Well Ambassadors” who we feel best represent our values.

|                      |                          |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 7COU Sky Stevens     | 8COU Leo Pyatt           |
| 7EXC Charlotte Tobin | 8DET Sophie Edwards      |
| 7INS Jasmin Kemp     | 8EXC Charlie Stanford    |
| 7RES Robert Hart     | 8INS Mae Arnold          |
|                      | 8RES Lawrence Lee-Mowatt |

Congratulations to them all—they will soon be wearing their Ambassadors badges for everyone to see!

**Jo Goodchild**

Head of Year 7

## **Our Attendance Target is 96%**

### **Target Setting**

Year 8 started the year by setting targets for attendance, personal development and attainment and over the past two weeks, Year 7 have also been reflecting on these areas following our Assessment Point 1. All students should be able to discuss their targets and we would encourage you to have these conversations at home.

We will be reviewing teaching groups and sets after Assessment Point 2 which is in November and we will communicate with you if there are any changes involving your child.

### **The “Well Done Club”**

Every week, Form Tutors nominate the student who they feel has made the best contribution to life at All Saints for that week. These students are invited to have hot chocolate and cookies with their Head of Year. This month’s Well Done Club members are:-

#### **Year 8**

Joana-Denisa Gabor  
Lawrence Lee-Mowatt  
Estelle Lee-Mowatt  
Shannon Embleton-Chalk  
Harry Dye  
Alex Tanase

Congratulations to everyone who has visited the Well Done Club so far.

**Sophie Bolton**  
Head of Year 8



### Year 11 Mocks

Year 11 students will be starting their first set of mocks on Monday 5th November and the timetable can be found below. Breakfast will be provided each morning and all exams are preceded by a warm up session to ensure that students are focussed. We wish them well and ask that you encourage them to take full advantage of all the resources available to them.

**Andy O'Rourke**

Assistant Principal—KS4

|         | Monday<br>5th November   | Tuesday<br>6th November  | Wednesday<br>7th November  | Thursday<br>8th November         | Friday<br>9th November      |
|---------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| AM exam | Maths                    | English Lang             | Maths                      | English Lang                     | Maths                       |
| PM exam | Science - Biology        | MFL (reading)            | Science - Chemistry        | History                          | Science - Physics           |
|         | Monday<br>12th November  | Tuesday<br>13th November | Wednesday<br>14th November | Thursday<br>15th November        | Friday<br>16th November     |
| AM exam | English Lit              | English Lit              | Geography<br>History       | RS Full & Short<br>Course        | Graphics & Art<br>(all day) |
| PM exam | Dance, Media,<br>Food    | MFL written              | Dance practical            | GCSE Business<br>Music (written) |                             |
|         | Monday<br>19th November  |                          |                            |                                  |                             |
| AM exam | Photography<br>(all day) |                          |                            |                                  |                             |

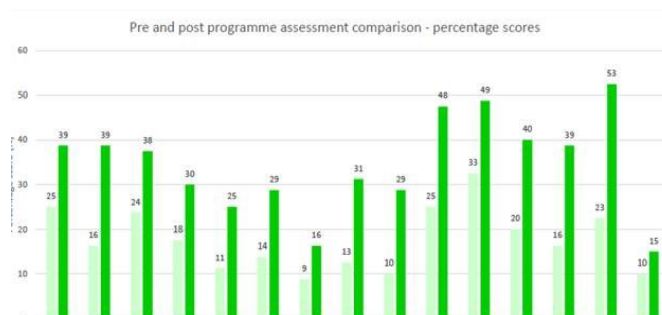
### Project 5 in 5

Project 5 in 5 is a programme delivered to Year 11 students to improve their English and/or maths grade to a Grade 5 and we have the maths results for our first group of students; English is to follow. The report stated:

*In the 'Project five' workshop intervention run at All Saints Academy, 15 students completed both the initial and summative assessment. 100% of students improved upon their score in summative testing (all 15). Headline figures were as follows:*

- 100% of students moved up a grade (86% moving to grade 4 and above);
- average raw score of the cohort increased by 17%;
- mean grade change was a 1.4 grade improvement.

The graph to the right shows the improvement made by the 15 students.



### University

Going to university is a popular choice for Sixth Form students after they have finished their A levels and BTECs, and All Saints Academy is no different. We are currently supporting students with their UCAS applications and have students applying to a whole range of courses from Medicine to Journalism to Criminology. We are extremely pleased with mature way that our students are approaching their option choices and look forward to receiving all their offers.

### Rewards

A new Sixth Form Rewards Committee is starting up shortly to look at how Sixth Form students can be praised and rewarded for their hard work. We would like students to be involved so that they have ownership of the system and look forward to taking them out on lots of exciting rewards.

### Sixth Form Open Evening

The Sixth Form Open Evening will be running on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November. This is an excellent opportunity for Year 11 students from the Academy and the wider community to come to the school and speak to teachers about what courses are on offer and if they would be suited to the course. Please come along to the evening to have a chat with the Sixth Form team.

### Driving

Whilst at Sixth Form, students will turn 17. A number of students will decide that they want to drive so will start taking lessons. We want our Sixth Form students to be responsible behind the wheel so we have set up an elective programme for students where they can study for their driving theory test. Students will learn about the rules of the Highway Code and will practice hazard perception to help them pass their test and become safe drivers.

**A free breakfast is available for all students at the Academy as we know that a good start to the day helps make a good day.**

## Remembrance Services

# 11th November 2018



A BEACON WILL BE LIT AT 11AM ON  
SUNDAY 11TH NOVEMBER 2018 ON THE  
VILLAGE GREEN.

THE TOWN COUNCIL IS 'RAFFLING' THE  
CHANCE TO LIGHT THE BEACON, WITH  
PROCEEDS DONATED TO THE ROYAL  
BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL.

TICKETS COST £1 EACH AND ARE  
AVAILABLE FROM THE TOWN COUNCIL  
OFFICES. THE RAFFLE WILL BE DRAWN  
ON THURSDAY 8TH NOVEMBER AT 4PM  
AND THE WINNER NOTIFIED BY  
TELEPHONE OR EMAIL.



## "Lest We Forget"

### **Dodgeball**

The Year 7 and 8 dodgeball team recently competed in the district dodgeball competition, finishing 2nd and 3rd and just missing out on a place in the county finals. Well done to all students involved and for their application and hard work throughout the tournament.

**Mark Gilbert**

Curriculum Leader for Sport, Health and Leisure



During last half term the students were very busy with extra-curricular sporting activities. It is very pleasing that so many students are engaging in our clubs! Keep up the good work! Year 9s and 10s have already completed the district Football tournaments in which they all played well. It is also pleasing to see that all year groups are through to the second round of the county cup. Fixtures will be coming out soon!

**Kade Gaskell**

Teacher of Sport

### **Working with Sophie Gresswell in Art**

We had a brilliant experience doing Art with a professional artist. We did activities such as tracing our hands and printed our fingerprints into the work. This was after we were shown artwork which told a story by pressing a button, this was based on the artists grandfather. All the work we saw and made was linked to DNA, we designed images linked to Houghton Regis onto disks which were projected into patterns. The artist was funny and made the Art fun. The Artwork we made will go in the new Dunstable Library and will be projected on to the walls.

*Kian Read, Dylan Higgins, Kieran Barson, Harryscott Kerrigan and Charlie Kearns  
Year 9 Artists*

### **Student Lunch**

Students are able to either bring a packed lunch from home or buy food from the Café to a maximum of £4 per day and we ask that parents/carers ensure that students have enough food or money to see them through the day. We have previously loaned students a maximum of £2.40 for lunch if they have forgotten their food or money but from Monday 5th November we will no longer be doing this as, unfortunately, some students do not always repay their loan; we will instead be providing a small snack and drink if we feel there is a need. Some students choose to spend their daily allowance at break time and we ask parents/carers to encourage their children to be mindful of the items they are buying and budget their money if they want to eat at both break and lunch time.

ParentPay is an ideal way for you to check on account balances and if you would like login details to access this system, please contact the Academy. ParentPay allows you to top up your child's account online as well as pay for school trips.

We will be writing to parents/carers to inform them if their child has any outstanding loans that need to be repaid.



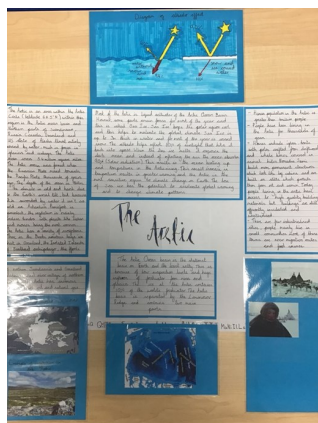
### Young Geographer of the Year 2018

Congratulations to all our Young Geographer of the Year entrants. This year's focus was 'Why is the Arctic unique?' and students in Year 8 were asked to complete some research before creating an A3 poster presenting their answer. A popular aspect of the Arctic for many of our students was the unique wildlife living there and how animals are adapted to survive in the most extreme of situations. However, we were impressed by entries which also examined the unique cultures of the people living in the Arctic Circle and the threats of climate change. A number of students have received a commendation award for their excellent work and collected certificates in assembly. However, we are proud to announce that the following students have been awarded with prizes:

Winner-Millie Woods, Runners up-Anica Abdul, Faiza Islam, Maddie Cole.

**Caroline Room**

Director of Natural and Social Sciences



Millie Woods' winning entry

### Food Bank Appeal

Thank you to everyone who supported our food bank collection. We are really pleased to be distributing bags of goodies to the Dunstable Foodbank. The winner of the donation competition was Determination who clearly made the biggest donation!

**sad**  
Sudden Adult Death Trust  
**SADS UK**  
Sudden Arrhythmic Death Syndrome

**Jake's Bash - Memorial Disco**

**Cake Stall**  
**Face Painting**  
**Wag a Wag Race**



**Buffet**  
**Disco**  
**Entertainer**

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2018**  
7pm till late

Creasey Park Community Football Centre,  
7 Creasey Park Drive, Dunstable, LU6 1BB

**Tickets £6 Adults - Children £3**

**Tickets available from Sarah Pyatt 07974 054 286**

All proceeds to SADS UK

**to put lifesaving defibrillators into schools**

For more information about SADS UK please visit [www.sadsuk.org](http://www.sadsuk.org)  
e-mail [info@sadsuk.org](mailto:info@sadsuk.org) or contact Anne Jolly on 01277 811215  
Registered charity 1113681

### Looking Ahead

**Tuesday 27th November**  
**Year 11 Options Evening**

**Thursday 6th December**  
**Year 11 Parents/Carers' Evening**

**Thursday 13th December**  
**Christmas Showcase**

**Wednesday 19th December**  
**Last Day of Term**

**Wednesday 2nd January**  
**INSET Day**  
**(Academy closed to students)**

**Thursday 3rd January**  
**First Day of Term**