

Dear Parents and Carers

Our validated results are finally through and I am pleased to confirm that we are indeed an 'Average' Academy, whatever average might mean!

This means that we have moved from well-below average, to below average and now to average over the course of the last three years. In terms of numbers of schools, it means we have gone from the bottom 10% of secondary schools nationally to the middle 40% of schools and we won't stop there!

What can you help us with? Attendance!

We still struggle with some of our students getting in to school and realising the importance of an attendance over 96%. Today (Friday 1st February), we stayed open when many other schools have closed because of the snow. Students have sat in front of me today still learning valuable content! It is vital that we support our students and ensure that missing school becomes an exception rather than the norm!

As we approach half-term the weather has taken a turn for the worse, so please remind your children to travel to and from school carefully, as we look forward to a milder half-term.

With best wishes

Liz Furber
Executive Principal

~ Half Term ~
11th - 15th February
Students return on
Monday 18th February

Dear Parents and Carers

It's rather too late to wish you a Happy New Year, but the sentiments are there, even if they are a month old by now! I'm not one for making resolutions, although I am shamed by friends who have been observing 'Dry January', which is very commendable. What I do know is that All Saints starts 2019 in a good place. You might be aware that the government produced its finalised secondary school data and league tables recently. They confirmed that our Progress 8 score is -0.13, making us an Average school – the middle 40% of schools nationally. It also confirmed that our 6th Form provision is Average. Putting that into context, we are 7th out of 13 schools in Central Bedfordshire in terms of GCSE outcomes, and 6th out of 12 schools in Central Beds for A Level performance. What is also significant is that All Saints is the highest performing secondary school, with an intake at Year 7, in Dunstable (Priory Academy does better but is a 9-16 school, admitting into Year 5). It's not a competition, because all young people deserve the best education, but we have outperformed Houghton Regis Academy, Queensbury and Manshead!

Of course, you can prove most things you want with data ('Lies, damned lies and statistics') but there is no doubt that the effort which has been made over the past three years or so is reaping benefits. This term is a crucial one for all students, but particularly our Year 11 and Year 13 cohorts. This is their last full term of learning before entering the summer-term examination period. It is vital that everyone does their utmost to secure the outcomes that are clearly possible and which they deserve.

In closing, I ask for your support, as parents and carers, to ensure that your children, whatever year they are in, attend school on a regular basis and come prepared to learn, both physically and emotionally. We are proud of every single one of our students and want the very best for each one.

David Fraser
Chair of Governors

Discovery Day at Cambridge University

On Friday 18th January 2019, nine Year 10 students and one Year 9 student attended a Discovery day at Jesus College, University of Cambridge. A minibus ride, a quick jump on the local bus and we arrived to attend lectures within the amazing buildings of Jesus College. It was an incredibly inspiring day for all students, who attended



academic sessions led by the academics from a range of departments within the University of Cambridge. They experienced a variety of events, from learning how to engineer the perfect paper aeroplane to discussing genetics, from ecosystems to speaking ye olde English language and discussing theological aspects of God and aliens! For our students who are bright, capable and intelligent young people it has given them the confidence and the desire to study at University and follow their dream careers. Maybe even to study at Jesus College, Cambridge!

Helen Anton
Head of Careers

News From Inclusion

I hope many of you managed to see the Christmas display at Houghton Hall Park which the Inclusion Students helped to design.

It's been a busy start to 2019; we've decided to cheer the Bungalow up and are in the process of displaying our spring time theme where everyone can see them. The students have drawn their designs onto the main window and are in the process of using glass paint to ensure it's vibrant. We have started making stunning dreamcatchers to display as well.

Inside we have a display dedicated to the continents of the world, we explore a different continent each week and have on our world map the countries' flags, some of the countries we had never heard of and the flags were definitely colourful and bright! Please take a look when you visit the Academy.

Food Technology is now a weekly lesson and so far the students have produced peppermint creams dipped in dark chocolate, pancakes with a variety of fillings and toppings and caramel shortbreads.

The Year 10 and 11 Prince's Trust groups have been working hard on their Career Planning unit, with Year 11 ensuring they are well prepared for college interviews and work placements and Year 10 exploring options open to them for their work experience in the summer.

Year 9 Prince's Trust are nearing completion of their Healthy Lifestyles unit where we have learnt about good and bad lifestyles and they are all now planning for their assessment to prepare a healthy meal.

Alison Spicer
Inclusion Manager

Teaching and Learning

We are constantly reviewing standards of Teaching and Learning in Key Stage 3 and are pleased with the focus that the majority of students are demonstrating in their learning. At the start of the year, we made effective teaching and learning a focus on our staff development programme and we are trialling a range of strategies to boost learning and achievement.

Following on from our Assessment Point 3, we will be reviewing our setting arrangements and will be adjusting student groupings in a number of curriculum areas.

We would like to thank those students who consistently work hard on their learning both in class and at home.

Year 8 Parents Evening

As you read this newsletter, we are preparing for our Year 8 Parents/Carers' Evening on 6th February. This is an important evening for our Year 8 students as it provides an opportunity to review progress in all subjects before making the all important choices for GCSE courses.

After half term, we will welcome Year 8 students and their families back to the Academy for a Pathways Evening on Thursday 21st February. This evening will provide an opportunity to view the courses on offer, discuss appropriate pathways with staff and gain a valuable insight into the choices process.

We look forward to welcoming all parents/carers for both evenings.

Each half term, we explore a "Big Question". This half term it has been "Is Everyone Equal?" We have explored this question through discussion of race, gender, sexuality and faith. We would like to thank all students for their contributions and responses, particularly those who have contributed to our assembly delivery.

Reading Support

Part of our vision of "Living Well with Dignity, Faith and Hope" is the certainty that our students will have a more dignified and hopeful future if they are able to access the curriculum fully and achieve at the expected levels and beyond. A key element of realising this vision is ensuring that every student can read with confidence. We have introduced iPads as one mechanism for improving reading skills.

This term, we have also recruited a wonderful team of Sixth Form students who read with students after school on Wednesdays in the Café and after half term we will be welcoming a team of parents who have offered their services as Reading Partners. Both of these strategies are helping readers to improve their confidence in a supportive and relaxed atmosphere. We would like to thank our readers and their partners for their efforts.

Rewards Trip

This term, our rewards trip will be to Go Bowling and we will be sending out invitation letters very shortly. The criteria for qualifying for the reward is:-

- ⇒ 95% attendance or higher
- ⇒ 5 or fewer behaviour points
- ⇒ 20 or more House points

As with last term, we will send out invitation letters and reserve a few additional spaces for students who do not immediately qualify but work towards that goal in the following fortnight i.e. by improving attendance. Congratulations to everyone who has met this high standard this term.

Well Done Club

Latest visitors to the Well Done Club are:

Year 7	Year 8
Tia Owen	Michelle Cleaver
Acer Whitney	Davoy Pinnock
Callum Church	Chris Hicks
James Chesnutt	Olivia Leenders
MillieMai Kerrigan	Ellie Sibley
Elise-Joy Kampta-Cabey	Maddison Harwood
Connor Baker	Cayden Bannon
Ashton Allen	Kasey-Leigh Dalton
Scarlett Sale	Shannon Embleton-Chalk
Maria Petcov	Kerry Breed
Dilaksha Satkunarupan	Filip Suchcicki

Standards Matter

You will be aware that we have been checking uniform and equipment very regularly, knowing that being prepared makes for a settled and focused school day. If your son/daughter has a uniform issue, please send a note into school and we will issue a temporary uniform pass (usually one day). If there are issues in replacing missing or damaged uniform quickly, please let us know and we will support if we can.

Please use the half term break to provide essential equipment for your child—they need a pen, pencil every day and their iPad must be in their bag fully charged each morning.

Houghton Regis Pancake Race takes place on Tuesday 5th March at 11.00am and Key Stage 3 will be sending a team of top athletes. Letters will be sent home just after half term.

Thrive

Over the next month, we will be introducing the full version of the Thrive App to your son/daughter. Thrive allows students to monitor their emotional well-being include sleep patterns and we believe it will be a key element in helping to create a healthy work-life balance for them.

The App is provided to students free of charge and they will also be signposted to organisations which provide additional support if they feel that this is necessary. We will be exploring the App with students through form time.

Applying for Sixth Form

We were extremely proud of the Sixth Form data that was released this month which shows that our Sixth Form continues to improve year on year. Applications from Year 11 students who wish to come here are now in and we will be starting the meeting process in February. If you have not applied to the Sixth Form here, but are still interested, please make contact with Simon Miller or Anthony Lee who will be able to give you more information and help you with the process.

Simon Miller

Assistant Principal - Key Stage 5

Mathematics Workshops

The Mathematics team have been hosting a series of workshops for Year 11 students, first of a kind at All Saints Academy! The aim of the sessions was to develop methods for empowering parents to support their children in preparation for the upcoming GCSE examinations and moreover, reflect upon uses of mathematics in everyday life, so they can support their children's mathematics learning. Every day we experience our Maths learning through problem solving, which enables us to apply our Maths knowledge and understanding to real life situations. We have had a real focus on Mathematical thinking and reasoning, using models, images and functional exam questions to help us. The Maths workshops have been a great success, thank you to all those who attended. We received such positive feedback which was lovely to hear. We wish all our Year 11 students the best of luck for the upcoming exams.

"Excellent, well explained and great to learn how the children are learning maths."

"It was great to get a full understanding of what is expected of the children."

"Very informative, especially to train ourselves not to push our 'old' methods on them!"

"I have been attending the maths club and found it to be both informative and fun. It is a great opportunity to get together with other parents with similar concerns. As a parent, I struggle to remember how to do the maths I did at school, let alone know how to help my children with their maths, so it has been very helpful to find out how maths is taught today and learn useful strategies that I can use to help my children with maths. I look forward to any future sessions."

Nausheen Malik

Director of Mathematics

Year 11 Macbeth Performance

On Wednesday 20th February, Year 11 will be treated to a theatre performance of Macbeth here in our own Main Hall.

We have a national theatre company coming in to deliver what we hope will be a very powerful and memorable adaptation of the Macbeth story, followed by a question and answers session with the cast.

This performance will run from 1.30pm to 3.00pm so some timings on that day will be different for the Year 11 students.



The Chill Zone

*For 15-18 year olds only

Join us Monday 7pm - 9pm every fortnight for a relaxed session, including:

- ✓ PS4
- ✓ Music
- ✓ Pool
- ✓ Badminton
- ✓ Table tennis
- ✓ Drug & Alcohol support
- ✓ Advice on sex and relationships
- ✓ Career advice and guidance

Where? Bedford Square Community Centre, Angel Lane entrance, LU5 5ES

Sessions will be running on the following dates (term time only):

28 January	4 March	1 April
18 February	18 March	29 April

For more information contact David Ramsay on 07736132293

www.groundswork.org.uk/east

'Project 5' Maths and English Workshops

As mentioned elsewhere, we have invested heavily in a wide range of interventions, including a programme called 'Project 5'. Many students find pushing into the secure Grade 5 boundary for English and/or Maths really challenging, so we have ensured that we have a rolling programme of support that targets exactly this very important and significant group of students. So far, 60 Year 11 students have accessed this provision and we have one more round of 'Project 5' forthcoming in April which will see an additional 30 students gain access to this very valuable intervention prior to the summer exams.

Period 6

Period 6 intervention sessions are continuing throughout the year, with many students accessing this additional and focused support. Students are welcome to attend any Period 6 session and many have been targeted with personalised timetables that were posted home prior to the Christmas break.

Graham Elsdon – Additional Targeted English Support.

Our Key Stage 4 students in both Year 10 and Year 11 have been lucky enough to work with Graham Elsdon, a lead examiner for AQA, once a month in some very targeted English Language and Literature Workshops. Graham is an outstanding and widely respected practitioner who has delivered extremely beneficial sessions to our students that are full of helpful tips, advice on what an examiner is looking for and a general insight into how to achieve highly in English assessments. These monthly workshops will continue throughout both this and the coming term and we look forward to seeing the impact of Graham's work with our students.

Saturday HA Maths

15 students have been working with our partners from twenty:twenty learning and have taken full advantage of a targeted set of Saturday morning workshops to increase their academic outcomes in Maths.

This provision is proving to be a valuable use of time and will continue, with the next Saturday workshop scheduled for 23rd February and the final one on 27th April.

Maths Workshops

We have invested heavily in additional support and intervention that targets Maths progress at Year 11. So far a total of 76 Year 11 students have worked through an intensive 25 hour Maths workshop that is led by a group of experienced external guest speakers. Assessment outcomes for Year 11s in Maths is starting to show us the positive impact of this hard work and dedication and we would like to take this opportunity to praise all of the students who have worked through such an intensive and demanding week. Your dedication and effort will pay off if you continue to focus in class and make appropriate efforts when studying independently.

We have also had a programme of parent and student Maths workshops running every Wednesday evening for the past month. These have been led by our Maths teachers and have proven to be a well received additional intervention. It has been wonderful to see families working together with the support of our staff. All attendees have been welcome to stay for an evening meal after every session. This provision will restart again later in the year as we approach the summer exams.

Andy O'Rourke

Assistant Principal - Key Stage 4

Transitioning Into 6th Form

On Wednesday 23rd January a group of Year 11 students were invited into the hall to chat with Year 12 and 13 students regarding their opinions on the courses they study. This initiative was undertaken in the hope that students would gain a far more realistic picture of what life as a sixth former at All Saints Academy was like. After a rather timid start, the Year 11 pupils plucked up the courage to mingle with the KS5 pupils and ask relevant questions about the topics, work load and teachers.

By the smiles on faces and the interactions taking place, this appeared to be a great success. Pupils were enthused by what they heard and in some cases were excited to learn about new courses such as Film Studies and Media. Here's to the new cohort of Year 12 in 2019/20!



Anthony Lee

Deputy Assistant Principal - Key Stage 5

Exam Preparation

Almost unbelievably, we are over the half-way point of the year and for Year 12 and 13 this means that most of them will soon be finishing their theory so that they can focus on exam skills and techniques. At this time it is very important that our Sixth Form students are working hard in and out of lessons so that they have a sound understanding of their subjects. All the hard work done now will pay off when results are in!

University of Bedfordshire Futures Event

Two Year 12 students Georgia Hawthorne and Natsai Mundawara attended the University of Bedfordshire on Wednesday 23rd January for a Law taster day. Both students found the day incredibly informative and it has certainly helped them to think about their passion for Law and a potential career in this area.

Helen Anton

Head of Careers

"Our trip to the University of Bedfordshire for the Law introduction day was very interesting and engaging. The staff whom we met were very helpful and knowledgeable about the course and life at university itself. Both of us received heaps of information, which has clearly helped me in choosing my course when I come to applying for university. As well as that, we had a tour around the campus itself, that benefited our knowledge of university life, and each aspect of the campus was clearly explained. Towards the end of the day, we both were given a bag of resources to help us with decisions for our future."

Georgia Hawthorne, Year 12

Preparing For Life After Sixth Form

We are extremely proud of the way that our Year 13 students are preparing for when they leave school. We have a number of students who have put in university applications and are pleased to announce that they have had a number of offers. These range from medicine and teaching, to social work, journalism and economics. Plans are also in place for our students who do not want to attend university, as they are attending an apprenticeship fair where a number of different careers will be on offer.

Simon Miller

Assistant Principal - Key Stage 5

JOB VACANCY

Exam Invigilators

Casual Contract - Term time only

£8.29 per hour

At All Saints Academy our vision is "Living Well Together with Dignity, Faith and Hope". We strive for excellence in all that we do, enabling our students to transform their lives and to hope for happy and successful futures. Our vision translates into our everyday practice and our values are particularly relevant in ensuring all in our community are encouraged to strive for excellence.

We are looking for enthusiastic, hard-working and reliable colleagues to assist with the examinations provision within the Academy. The role involves working closely with the Examinations Manager to invigilate exams, including mock exams and end of year exams, in addition to all public exam sessions.

This post is an excellent opportunity for someone who enjoys flexible hours, as hours will be dependent upon Academy needs and on an as and when basis.

Previous experience within an educational setting is desirable, however this is not essential as training will be provided.

For further details or to request an application pack, please contact Tammy Jones, HR Assistant or download an application form from our website www.allsaintsacademydunstable.org

Lost Property

Are you missing your child's blazer? A bag? Or even a trainer - or two?! Please encourage you son/daughter to check lost property and collect any items by half term. Any un-named articles still remaining will be donated to charity during the holiday.

Angie Woodcraft
Academy Services Deputy Manager



✓ Tuesdays & Wednesdays
6pm - 8pm

✓ For ages 12-18

✓ Free, fun activities!

15 & 16 Jan Welcome back - dream building
22 & 23 Jan Healthy eating - healthy mind
29 & 30 Jan Swap a youth worker week
5 & 6 Feb Pancakes galore
12 & 13 Feb Love, love, love! (half term week)

For more information, contact David Ramsay, Senior Youth Worker,
on 07736 132293 or david.ramsay@groundwork.org.uk

Aquarius, Brook and other trusted organisations might attend some of our sessions.
Normal youth club activities and resources are available at every session.

www.groundwork.org.uk/east



Houghton Regis
Youth Centre



@groundworkeast



✓ Tuesdays & Wednesdays
6pm - 8pm

✓ For ages 12-18

✓ Free, fun activities!

19 & 20 Feb Swap a youth worker week
26 & 27 Feb Mother's day activities
5 & 6 Mar Managing anxiety and stress
12 & 12 Mar Celebrating National Bed Month
19 & 20 Mar Relaxation and mindfulness
26 & 27 Mar Revision support
2 & 3 Apr Swap a youth worker
23 & 24 Apr Bake of challenge
30 Apr YOUTH CLUB CLOSED

For more information, contact David Ramsay, Senior Youth Worker,
on 07736 132293 or david.ramsay@groundwork.org.uk

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www.groundwork.org.uk/east



Houghton Regis
Youth Centre



@groundworkeast





Houghton
ATHLETIC F.C.



**Players
needed**

**U12's year 7 (now) going up
to U13's year 8 next season**

**Does your child play football at a
reasonable level? Or was in a
school team in primary school
but no longer plays, but wants to
join a team?**

**If your child is dedicated and is a
team player please get in touch.**

Manager: Jamie Wadsworth 07792 384992
League: Chiltern Junior 7's
Match Days: Sat Mornings
Match Format: 9 a-side
Training: Thurs Eve 7pm-8pm (BedsFA)



Our Year 9 Prince's Trust and Christian Union students have been raising funds for the homeless and disadvantaged in our community and have received this certificate from the Salvation Army in recognition of money raised

Nicola Oxley

Leader of Christian Union

Looking Ahead

Thursday 7th February

Sciences taster day at University of Cambridge

Year 12 Science students

Friday 9th March

UK University and Apprenticeship Search fair

Year 12 and 13

Thursday 21st February

Year 8 Options Evening

Tuesday 5th March

Year 9 Parents Evening

Friday 8th March

UK University and Apprenticeship Search fair –

Year 12 and 13

Tuesday 19th March

School Show Matinee Performance

And

Year 9 Careers Day

Wednesday 20th March

School Show Evening Performance

Thursday 21st March

School Show Evening Performance

Access to the Academy Site

We would like to remind parents/carers that for the safety of our students, there is no vehicle access to the Academy site between 8.15am and 8.45am every morning and 2.45pm and 3.15pm every afternoon. If you need to access the site during these times, we ask that you park off site and use the pedestrian entrance. Thank you for your support.

And Finally:

How the New Year will turn out is entirely up to you. The attitude you bring, the determination you have, the goals you set all will result in the type of year that you will have. So let your attitude be positive, your determination be strong!

Theodore W. Higginsworth