

Dear Parents and Carers

Finally, the spring looks to be upon us and I sincerely hope I'm not tempting fate by saying that! For me personally it is wonderful to be driving in to work with some daylight.

It is a crucial time for our exam year students as they struggle with the immense pressure that is put upon them by our exam system and the pressure they put upon themselves. I have seen a remarkable improvement in attitudes in this most recent mock exam fortnight that we are just finishing. Students are determined to improve on their grades and this augurs well for the summer exams.

Work on the Reflection Centre starts on 12th March and will hopefully be completed in May. It will house our Chaplain and full-time counsellor. It is wonderful to hear from Reverend Tim and Mrs Norton that students are 'booking-in' to talk to them. This is one way we can try to alleviate some of the pressures they are feeling and take care of their emotional well-being.

Thank you for all your support with attendance. Students are gradually getting the message that if they are not in then they can't learn! We hope to report on an improved school attendance figure before Easter.

Liz Furber

Executive Principal

~ REMINDER ~**Staff Training Day****Thursday 2nd May****Academy closed to students****Dear Parents and Carers**

The month of February is usually fairly unexciting, apart from one event that dominates the middle of it: Valentine's Day. Having done a bit of research, it appears that St Valentine was a Roman bishop who was executed for his Christian beliefs on 14th February, 269 AD. It is rumoured that he wrote a final note to the daughter of a judge whom he converted to Christianity which read 'from your Valentine'. Another says he was executed for carrying out illegal weddings. These are almost certainly stories that we might term 'fake news', with the legend about St Valentine probably originating in the Middle Ages.

The issue of fake news is very real in the digital age in which we live, with rumour and speculation being spread by a variety of mediums, including newspapers, radio, television and social media. Our children and young people, as well as many parents, can be greatly influenced by platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and Twitter. Most of the time, these are harmless, efficient ways of communicating, but sometimes it can be forgotten that our written thoughts and hurtful photographs can cause serious harm, either intentionally or unintentionally, to other people.

There has been much publicity recently about the destructive power that social media can have on the lives of some young people. As educators, parents and carers, we should all do our utmost to protect our youngsters and to impress upon them that living in a society that enjoys freedom of speech and expression, also brings with it certain responsibilities.

If we are to draw something from the legend of love and passion associated with St Valentine's Day, perhaps we should focus on a quote by the Romanian gymnast, five-times gold medal winner, Nadia Comaneci, who said 'Enjoy the journey and try to get better every day. And don't lose the passion and love for what you do'.

David Fraser

Chair of Governors

Year 8 Careers/Options Day

At All Saints Academy we are committed to our vision of supporting our students in Living Well Together with Dignity, Faith and Hope and this is particularly important for our Year 8 students as they make choices for the next stage of their education and begin to explore the world of careers education.

On Tuesday 29th January, all Year 8 students were involved in their Careers Day which introduced the range of subjects and courses on offer as they approach the big decision of selecting their options for Year 9. The day involved a carousel of activities taken by both our staff and guest presenters. 4YP offered a session on careers for the future; jobs that probably don't even exist now, as well as the importance of personal attributes needed to get their dream job! The Police presentation regarding the many varied careers available with the Police Force is always a great favourite. Wearing parts of the uniform and trying on the protective vest just had to be done! As well as getting a taster session in the many courses on offer by our curriculum areas, the students had an opportunity to reflect on the skills and qualities needed for specific careers. The students must be commended for their mature and proactive approach to the day and the feedback was extremely positive. Hopefully they feel that they are now a little bit better informed to make those all important decisions next month!

What the students said.....

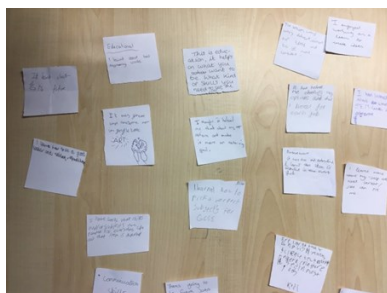
"I've learnt more skills today and I have widened my option ideas and job ideas"

"I have enjoyed the sessions and I loved being able to create our own job. From this session I will take away the fact that creativity is important"

"I have learned that science and maths are important and you need certain traits for certain jobs."

Helen Anton

Head of Careers



Unifrog

Parents you can sign up to support your son/daughter!

Unifrog is the one-stop-shop for destinations, allowing students to explore every university course, apprenticeship and college course in the UK plus others around the world; opportunities such as European and US undergraduate courses.

Parents with children in Years 8, 9, 11, 12 and 13 already have a login to this fabulous site. Please contact Helen Anton for more information on how the platform can help your son/daughter.

Year 9

Careers Day

Tuesday 2nd April

Year 10 Work Experience 1st - 5th July 2019

Students in Year 10 have now all received a letter regarding the Year 10 work experience in July. Any students arranging their own placement should have returned the 'Own Placement' form, completed by parent/carer and the employer, to Helen Anton by Friday 8th February 2019.

For all other students the database went 'live' on Tuesday 19th February for selecting placements. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Helen Anton. Thank you for supporting your child with this fabulous forthcoming opportunity.

Helen Anton

Work Experience Co-ordinator

Careers Adviser

Every student has the opportunity for a 1:1 careers advice meeting with our 4YP Careers advisor.

Mr McCree is in the Academy every Thursday. Appointments can be booked through your child's form tutor or by contacting Helen Anton. You are also very welcome to attend to support your son/daughter.

Email: hanton@asadunstable.org

CEIAG- Can you help?

To help every student achieve and progress onto their successful destination as well as grow local talent inspiring our young people into careers for the future we need help from local businesses and local employers!!

We know you are busy, but on behalf of our young people we would value your contribution, whatever this may be. Could you spare some of your time to

- ◆ Provide a 'careers insight' talk or workshop to students on your career sector
- ◆ Send a representative to act as an interviewer / assessor at a mock interview for our Year 13 students
- ◆ Host a workplace visit for a small group of students
- ◆ Host a Year 10 or Year 12 work experience student
- ◆ Link with a relevant subject in the Academy to provide a 'workplace' task to support careers/employability within the curriculum, bringing real world context to a particular topic

The above list is not exhaustive, if you have any further ideas of how you could support our CEIAG programme please do not hesitate to get in touch with Helen Anton, Head of Careers.

We are particularly keen to engage with any of your employees who are alumni of either All Saints Academy or Northfields Upper School.

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

Prince's Trust

It's been a very busy few weeks in Prince's Trust. Years 9, 10 and 11 have all completed two units which are being moderated by the Prince's Trust board. There's no reason why these shouldn't be passed and that will mean that the students will have achieved a Level 1 Pass in the Achieve unit.

Year 9, in particular, completed a practical assessment for their Healthy Lifestyles project preparing and cooking low fat spaghetti bolognese and beef-burgers. Many took tea home for their families - I hope you enjoyed it!

As we enjoy the onset of Spring, the Bungalow students are starting work on the garden which is in need of a makeover following the winter months. We welcome any donations from 'green fingered' parents of any seedlings which we can use in our flower beds or pots. Thank you!

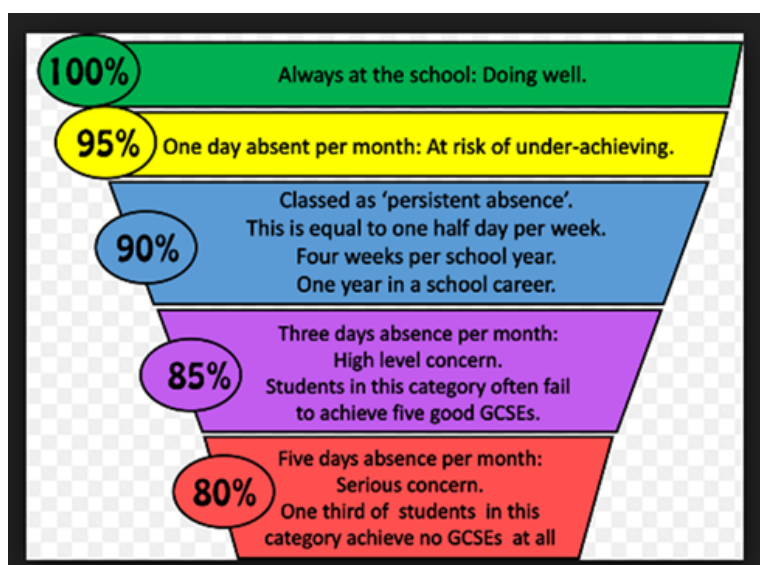
Alison Spicer

Inclusion Manager



Attendance

Parents/carers will be aware that we have a very clear focus on attendance and that we expect all students to attend on every day that they are able. A copy of our Academy Attendance Leaflet can be found on our website alongside our policy. We will write to parents/carers when their child's attendance falls below 96% to make families aware that attendance is lower than we would like. We will send another letter when attendance drops below 93% to make families aware that attendance has now dropped significantly below expectations. Our third letter is sent to families whose child has attended less than 90% which makes them a "Persistent Absentee". At this level, we monitor attendance daily with students who fall 2% below 90% meeting Mrs Goodchild and Miss Bolton daily and students who fall 5% below 90% meeting Mr Hide daily. At the end of each week, we meet with all the students who are on the Persistent Absentee list at 3.00pm to update them on their attendance progress and set out our expectations for the following week. We have seen an improvement in attendance figures for many students already and hope to see further improvements in the coming week. To support us in our drive to improve attendance, please send your child to school on every day they can attend, alert us to any absences promptly and provide medical evidence, where requested, for absences if your son/daughter is a Persistent Absentee.



Houghton Regis Pancake Race

We were delighted to be able to support the Houghton Regis Pancake Race again this year, sending a team from Key Stage 3, 4 and 5. Many thanks to Head Boy, Hayden Keeler for organising the Key Stage 3 Team so efficiently.

**Academy
Attendance Target
96%**

Uniform

We are very pleased with the standard of uniform in Key Stage 3 but would be grateful if parents/carers could monitor the length of skirts at this time of year, as children often experience growth spurts in the latter part of the year. Shoes also need checking so that they can be replaced quickly in the event that they are outgrown. If we receive a note from home, we can issue a short-term uniform pass but will expect items to be replaced promptly. For Pupil Premium students and in cases of hardship, please do speak to us to see if we can support with replacement uniform.

Support for Parents Evenings

A huge thank you to the Form Captains and Living Well Ambassadors from Year 7 who supported at Year 8 Parents/Carers' Evening and Year 8 Options Evening. They provided a very professional hospitality service and we know that our Year 8 families were very impressed at the welcome they received. All students received 5 House Points for representing the Academy so well.

Survey Feedback

Thank you to the Year 8 parents who completed the survey following our Year 8 Parents/Carers' Evening and Options Evening. We were very happy to see that majority of families were happy with the education their child is receiving at All Saints. We will be focusing on some of the areas which were indicated as areas for development, including homework, over the coming weeks and months.

Teaching Groups and Setting Arrangements

We recently made some changes to our teaching groups in Year 7 to support more effective teaching and learning and we are pleased to report that this has had a positive impact for many students. We will review progress after AP4 which is being completed at the moment and will make further changes as needed.

The Academy can be contacted on our dedicated parent email address:
parentcontact@asadunstable.org

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

The Academy is committed to the safeguarding and promotion of children's welfare and all job offers are subject to Disclosure and Barring Service checks.

Litter Champions

We have invited our students to take pro-active action on litter in our Academy. Although the Academy is an attractive and well-maintained building, litter can be an issue, particularly in windy weather. Year 8 students are leading the way with this initiative with teams of litter pickers operating at break, lunchtime and after school to keep the site tidy. At the end of the week, successful litter picking teams receive a reward to say thank you for their efforts.

Period 6 and Easter Intervention

Staff are keen to provide Year 11 with a comprehensive programme of targeted support and intervention options throughout the Easter holiday. More details will be sent home shortly.

The full Period 6 Intervention Timetable can be found below.

Andrew O'Rourke
Assistant Principal—KS4

Year 11 Intervention Timetable 2019		a.m. core intervention 8am–8.25am P6 Monday-Friday 3.05pm - 4.05pm	Never hope for it more than you work for it.	HARD WORK PAYS OFF.	I prefer to earn it. It makes me appreciate it more.	It's hard to beat a person who NEVER GIVES UP.	NOTHING WORTH HAVING COMES EASY
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY			
	a.m. MFL intervention 8am–8.25am French – Miss Lake 1022 Spanish – Mrs O'Doherty 0037		a.m. MFL intervention 8am–8.25am French – Miss Lake 1022 Spanish – Mrs O'Doherty 0037				
P6 Science	Staff meetings, no P6 today.	P6 Maths	P6 English				
The Science Team 0124 & 0125		Miss Malik & the maths team 1019	Mrs Jolliffe & the English team 1072 & 1073				
P6 French		P6 Spanish	P6 Sport, Health & Leisure				
Miss Lake 1022		Mrs O'Doherty 0037	Mr Gilbert and the S, H & L team LRC				
P6 Music & Media		P6 History					
Miss Fountain - 0054		Mr Caraca and Miss Astin 1030 & 1004					
P6 Dance		P6 Geography					
Miss Bolton -Dance Studio		Mr Morris & Miss Room 1025 & 1006					
P6 Food	P6 RS						
Miss Robson 1038	Mr Grant & Miss Henwood 1026 & 2016						
P6 Art, Photography & Graphics (every 3 weeks 3pm-6pm)		P6 Business GCSE and BTEC	Monday - Art, Photography & Graphics Dates for Diary 14th January, 4th February, 4th March, & 25th March				
Miss Hawkes & Miss Tynegate Art Room	Mr Miller 1076						

Saturday Maths Workshops

On 23rd February we welcomed back our partner guest speakers from Twenty Twenty Learning who worked with a group of Year 11 students through a variety of Maths topics. We look forward to seeing the results of the February mock exams and are sure that all of this additional hard work and effort will be rewarded in good time.

February Mock Exams

Year 11 have again risen to the challenge of this second full round of mock exams as we now begin the final preparations for the summer GCSE assessments.

Students have worked really hard to prepare, with good levels of attendance to additional support and interventions.

As always, we encourage all students in Key Stage 4 to make use of the fantastic independent learning resources that they have access to on their iPads such as Seneca Learning (website), GCSEPod app, Quizlet app and Kahoot app to name but a few.

Macbeth Performance – Box Clever Theatre



On 20th February, All Saints hosted the fantastic Box Clever Theatre Company from London who delivered a memorable performance of Macbeth to our Year 11 students. The actors also worked with students in a workshop to help ensure students could recall key quotations from the play. This was a very successful intervention that was thoroughly memorable and enjoyed by the Year 11 cohort. We are now keen to welcome Box Clever next year for other Key Stage 4 cohorts, with 'A Christmas Carol' and 'An Inspector Calls' earmarked for 2019/2020.



AQA GCSE Art, Graphics and Photography Exam

Approaching Fast!

Year 11 students are currently preparing for their Art, Graphics and Photography 10 hour exams which will be taking place on -

Wednesday 1st May and Friday 3rd May – Art and Graphics
Tuesday 7th May and Wednesday 8th May – Photography

Students selected 1 title from 7 options set by the exam board in January. They have until the morning of the exam to collect research on artists/designers/photographers, explore and suggest a range of ideas and experiment with a variety of mediums to create a plan for their final product. Students then have 10 hours split over two days to create their final outcome.



Experimentation

Farmer

by Thomas

Year 11 Parents' Evening Wednesday 27th March

Learning Performance Study Skills workshop for year 10.

On 20th and 21st March, we welcome back our partner guest speakers from Learning Performance who will be delivering the third instalment of the excellent 'Passport to Success' programme to our Year 10 students. The focus in these workshops are 'Get Fit for Exams'. Students will be focusing on stress management, healthy habits, subject specific memory techniques and other sensible and straightforward methods of exam preparation.

Options Process

We are well underway with the options process for those students in Year 11 who wish to come back to the Academy and study in our Sixth Form. Thank you to all those who attended the interviews and were so well prepared. Our next stage is to look through all the responses and create the option blocks.

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.

Exam Pressure

This is a key time for our students as the run up to exams start. To help with their study, we have moved the Sixth Form Study Room within the Academy and the Sixth Form Management Team have new offices close by. This has created a Sixth Form Hub within the Academy to support students so they can balance their down time, study time and so that they can have access to Sixth Form staff easily if needed. We hope this will help them in the run up to the exams.

Anthony Lee

Deputy Assistant Principal – KS5

Work Experience and Volunteering

Thank you to all of the KS5 students who are supporting the school with their work experience in lessons and also their volunteering around the school. We have a very high proportion of students helping with lunch duties in the LRC, reading with younger students, mentoring Year 7 students and also supporting the Form Tutors within the Academy with the day to day running of the forms.

Destinations

One of our key priorities is making sure that our Sixth Form students have good options available to them when they leave school. As part of this, we are taking all of our Year 12 and a key group of Year 13 students to a University and Apprenticeships Fair.

We hope that it will be an inspirational event for all of our students.

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school app
NOW**



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Step 2:

Search for My Ed

Step 3:

Download the app

ParentPay

We would like to encourage all parents/carers to sign up to ParentPay as we are now using this system for trip payments, as well as lunch payments. This is an easy to use and secure system that can now be accessed from the MyEd app. If your child buys items from the Café, you are able to view their account balance as well as the items that they are purchasing. Your homepage will also show any trips that you need to pay for and this list is unique to your child. You will need a username and password to logon which can be requested from the Academy.

Sanitary Products

We firmly believe that all students are entitled to dignity at all times and this includes times for our female students when they may be having their period. We would like to remind you of our Pink Bag scheme which provides free sanitary products to all of our female students so that no-one ever feels that they could not come to school because they don't have what they need. Pink Bags are available from Student Reception.

School Production

Our annual production is Peter Pan this year. We have the highest amount of students ever involved with this production - 70 students! Any money raised from the production will be donated to Great Ormond Street. Please come and join us for this special event - Wednesday 20th March and Thursday 21st March. Tickets are now on sale at Student Reception.

Are your contact details correct?

Being able to contact parents/carers is of paramount importance. Students may be unwell and need to be sent home, or a member of staff may need to speak with you regarding your child.

The Academy also uses mobile numbers and email addresses to send information and reminders home. If these are incorrect, you will be missing out on vital information.

If you have not received information that you know other parents/carers have received, get in touch with the Academy to check that we have the correct information for you.

Looking Ahead

Friday 8th March

**UK University and Apprenticeship Search Fair
–Year 12 and 13**

Wednesday 20th March

School Show Evening Performance

Thursday 21st March

School Show Evening Performance

Monday 25th March

Year 11 Geography Trip

Tuesday 2nd April

Year 9 Careers Day

Friday 5th April

Last Day of Term

Tuesday 23rd April

First Day of Summer Term

Thursday 2nd May

Staff Training Day

(Academy closed to students)