

## Dear Parents and Carers

I am delighted to tell you that just before the holiday we launched our All Saints Academy Twitter account which, will hopefully become a more regular way of keeping you up to date with the activities at the Academy.

As with all social media, it is imperative that all stakeholders use it responsibly, remembering that once comments are shared in the electronic world, they cannot be erased. This is especially important for our youngsters since, when applying for sixth form college and university places or for employment opportunities, they will find interviewers quite often run a search of the internet. This can sometimes reveal comments that were posted many years earlier and do not reflect the person they are now. Unfortunately, I have known individuals who have not been offered places because of inappropriate use of social media, so please help us to ensure our students do not damage their futures!

The Reflection Centre was opened on the 15<sup>th</sup> May by Doug Houghton, the father of Joshua and Ethan Houghton who both tragically died in a car accident almost 3 years ago. The story was covered by the BBC news and you may have seen David Fraser, our Chair of Governors, refer to the Centre as a quiet place for our students to be. It will house our Chaplain and our counsellor, and I hope it will serve to support our students with their worries and help to minimize the increasing levels of mental health concerns there are generally in our society.

I hope you have all enjoyed your half-term holiday and that we see a 'proper' summer over the next few months!

**Liz Furber**  
Executive Principal

## Dear Parents and Carers

The opening of the Reflection Centre was a bittersweet moment. It was good to welcome Doug Houghton and his family to open the building that is dedicated to the memory of Ethan and Josh, but very sad that we had to hold such an occasion. As he spoke at the event, Doug said that his boys had been 'stolen' from him. That 'theft' had been caused as a result of someone being distracted by his mobile phone whilst driving his lorry. The consequences, as we are all aware, were totally devastating, with four lives cut short and dozens of other lives profoundly affected forever.

Doug wore a 'Back to the Future' t-shirt for the event because he wishes that he could go back and stop the events that happened in August 2016. Perhaps there are two messages for all of us: to treasure and make the most of (hopefully a very long) time we have as families; and, not to risk 'stealing' someone else's children by using our phones while driving.

Best wishes.

**David Fraser**  
Chair of Governors



Doug Houghton at the opening of the Reflection Centre

## Thinking ahead to the summer holidays and next academic year

We would like to recommend that you take advantage of the free sight tests that are available on the NHS at local opticians.

Children over 16 years of age can attend alone.

### Why Should I Get My Child's Vision Screened?

The eyesight of our young people lets them learn and discover.

About 80% of what is taught in schools is presented visually.

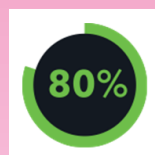
Not being able to see clearly can be confusing in a busy classroom.

Poor eyesight can cause learning and behavioural problems, which might be blamed on other things.

Some young people may not even be aware they have an eyesight problem at all.

This can obviously affect reading and writing.

*preventable yet  
permanent*



**Amblyopia** (lazy eye) is one of the top causes of preventable, yet permanent, vision loss in children.

80% of all visual impairment **can be prevented or cured**, according to the World Health Organisation.

19 million children worldwide are **visually impaired**.

1 in every 20 children has a **significant eye disorder**, such as amblyopia (see above).

Vision loss from amblyopia limits career opportunities as an adult.

**Thrive App**

We are delighted to have been able to provide the Thrive app for our students. The app is designed to help students practise their relaxation and reflection and to help them monitor their emotions and moods. This is particularly important as our Key Stage 3 students make their way through the beginning of their teen years. Please encourage your teen to use the app and its games and challenges every week. For any teens who require more help, there are clear signposts to services and support within the app. The student code is YMCA0119YP

**Litter Pickers**

We would like to thank the vast majority of students in Key Stage 3 who have led the way on our litter picking initiative. Each week, a different form group has tackled any litter on site and kept our Academy looking smart. At the end of the week, the team responsible for litter picking has been rewarded with a pizza party. We are very proud of the students and their tutors for taking this on board.

**High Attainers**

Our High Attainers in Year 7 and 8 have completed a six week programme with Sarah from Learning Performance who has helped them to understand the science of their amazing brains and worked with them to problem solve and develop strategies for learning. Well done to them all.

**Holidays in Term Time**

A reminder to all that we don't authorise term time holidays for any student. In exceptional circumstances, we can decide to withhold the fine that goes with an unauthorised holiday IF the student has excellent attendance for the rest of the year and there is a particularly important reason for that holiday. Please call to discuss with us if you are unsure about your child's situation.

**Learning Performance**

As we approach the summer exam season for Key Stage 3, we are providing workshops for both Year 7 and Year 8 with Learning Performance. The company's expert presenters will teach our students about the way their brain works when preparing for exams and tests and teach them a range of strategies to help them study effectively. Year 7 had their session on 21st May and it was great to see them getting so involved. Year 8 have their session on 25th June and there will also be a session for any Key Stage 3 parents/carers on the same afternoon from 3.30pm-4.30pm. We look forward to seeing many of you there and giving you an understanding of the work your son/daughter is experiencing.

**New Year 7  
Welcome Evenings  
will take place on  
13th and 27th June**

### **Wheelie Fantastic**

Our Year 7 Nurture Group are designing and planting a wheelbarrow for the Dunstable in Bloom competition. If anyone is able to donate any beddings plants or hand tools for gardening, please send them in to reception. They will be gratefully received and we'll post pictures of our wheelbarrow in next month's newsletter.

### **Welcome to New Year 7**

We are looking forward to welcoming another wonderful group of Year 7 students to the Academy as they start their educational journey with us. This is another large cohort of students and so we will see the majority of students on **Thursday 13th June** and another cohort on **Thursday 27th June**. Our fabulous student leaders and Living Well Ambassadors will be supporting both evenings and we thank them, in advance for their support.

**New Year 7 Transition Days:**  
**Tuesday 2nd and**  
**Wednesday 3rd July**

### **Summer Term Rewards**

Our summer term reward is a Festival on the Field where we have a day of fun activities, music, competitions and a giant picnic planned. This reward is available to all students with 5 or fewer behaviour points (measured from 22nd April to 24th May), 95% attendance or above and 20 House points or more.

### **Year 7 Parental Feedback**

Following on from our Year 7 Parents/Carers' evening, we invited you to feedback on how you feel your son/daughter is progressing at All Saints Academy. From the parents/carers who answered our survey, there was a high level of satisfaction with the well-being, happiness, safety and progress of students. The two main areas for us to focus on are:-

- Consistency of sanctioning behaviours in class
- Consistency of homework setting

These areas were highlighted by a few of the parents/carers who responded and we will make these areas the focus of our work in the coming months.

### **Uniform Standards**

We are very proud of the high standards of uniform achieved by our students but want to remind all families that shoes are required every day and that skirts must be of a suitable length. We do know that our students often grow rapidly but please check uniform and replace it if needed. We would prefer to start the new half term with positive rather than challenging conversations so please get in touch if there are any issues and you require our support.

### **Attendance**

We have seen a real improvement in morning punctuality and would like to thank all our parents/carers for getting their children to us on time. Where there are still issues to do with attendance or punctuality, we will be issuing final warning letters, fines and invitations to meet with our Educational Welfare Officer after the break.



### **Year 11 Geography Fieldwork**

On 25<sup>th</sup> March, our Year 11 Geographers donned wellies and waterproofs to find out how the River Wye changes as it travels downstream. After a classroom session with the Field Studies Council, we headed out with our clipboards, hydro-pros and tape measures determined to find evidence proving whether Bradshaw's model of river change is true or false. We had a wonderful day outside and the students were able to see geography in action. This will help them in developing their understanding of rivers as well as collect crucial data to be used in their fieldwork investigation. Well done to all the students who took part – we look forward to having some of you back for more fieldwork as you begin your A Level studies in September.



**Caroline Room, Gareth Morris and Naomi Craker**  
Geography Department

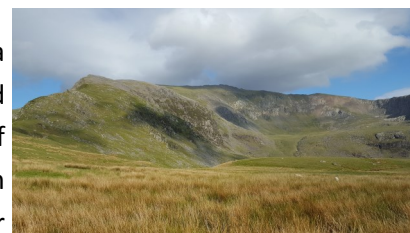
### **Year 11 Prom**

We are pleased to announce that our Year 11 Prom will take place in the Luton Hoo Walled Garden on Thursday 20th June. We consider this a rite of passage for our Year 11s after all their hard work this year. It is their final event together as a year group and we look forward to celebrating it with them. It will be an evening to remember including music, dancing and fun. Dress code is formal. Please contact the Head of Year if you have any questions or queries. Tickets are now available to purchase at Student Reception.

**Sinéad O'Doherty**  
Head of Year 11

### **All Saints Conquer Snowdon**

Congratulations to Cameron, Caitlin, Isabella and Elizabetta, who, along with myself and Miss Robson, stood on the summit of Snowdon, having walked up the Rangers path to do so (no cheating and taking the train for this group).



For those who don't know, Snowdon is the highest mountain in England and Wales, topping out at an impressive 1,085 metres tall.

The students, set off just before 10am, in rain and poor weather, to then summit just over 4 hours later. By the time the group had enjoyed their hard earned hot chocolate, the weather cleared and they were rewarded with fantastic views all the way down. The trip was planned as a sponsored hike for Cameron and Caitlin, who are still busy fundraising for their trip to Kenya, with Camps international next year.

The three day trip was enjoyed by all, with the comments on Sunday of 'I'm



never climbing a mountain again' changing to 'Ben Nevis next?' on the journey home on Monday. As well as the mountain, we toured the area, spent time on the beach (with the obligatory ice cream, of course) and enjoyed some toasted marshmallows around the campfire.

**Michelle Watt**

### Exams

We are now halfway through our AS, A level and BTEC exams and are very proud of how well our Sixth Form students are coping with their exams and the pressure it brings. It is good to see them all working so hard in the study room and taking them so seriously. We are looking forward to some excellent results in the summer.

### EPQ

At Sixth Form, students are given the opportunity to complete an Extended Project Qualification, and this week was the final submission date. As part of their project they had to complete an essay and presentation on a subject of their choice. This year the projects ranged from Veganism, Anxiety, the NHS and baking! It was fantastic to see how hard the students had worked over the year and the results of their hard work.

### A Level Geography Trip to Swanage

Our A Level Geographers had a very successful trip to Dorset at the end of April, visiting Studland Nature Reserve, Swanage Bay, Lulworth Cove and Durdle Door. The area is a fantastic location to study coastal landscapes and processes and our students engaged in a range of experiences that brought them up close to the geography around them. Highlights of the trip included our walk to see Old Harry's Rocks, enjoying the views across the entire East Dorset coastline and meeting with a conservation expert at Studland to learn about the rare sand dunes environment, now at threat due to sea level rise. We also completed some fieldwork on the beach at Swanage, allowing us to assess the success of coastal management in protecting the people and place



from erosion and flooding. Our Year 12s can look forward to more trips next year as they move into Geography A2. We would like to wish our Year 13 Geographers all the luck in the world as they embark on the next chapter in their lives and their studies.

**Caroline Room, Gareth Morris and Naomi Craker**  
Geography Department

### Attendance

As we continue our attendance push, the following students have maintained 100% attendance this month:

Luke Conniff	James Hagan
Cian Geraghty	Delight Musundire
Megan Adams	Stephanie Rodriguez
Arron Barry	George Hourican
Hayley O'Brien	Pavan Asodia
Lucy Crossley	Jamie Thompson
Kyle Lynch	Amy Mead
Jack Chilton	Marta Grabinska
Lewis Burns	Amber James
Kieran Denny	Summer-Louise Lacey
Felicity Young	Zoe Samuels
Kailey Smith	Felicity Moore
Neville Nyatondo	

### Applying to Sixth Form

If you are in Year 11 and are still unsure of what you plan to do next year, please speak to Mr Miller or Mr Lee and they can talk to you about what the Academy can offer and if it will be a suitable option for you next year.

## A Night at The All Saints Oscars



**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June**

Please dress accordingly for this  
red carpet event!

£3 Adult      £2 Concessions

**7pm**

Dance

Drama

Music

### Looking Ahead

**Thursday 13th June**

New Year 7 Welcome Evening

**Wednesday 19th June**

Year 8 Girls HPV Immunisations

**Thursday 20th June**

Year 11 Prom

**Thursday 27th June**

Additional New Year 7 Welcome Evening

(for Tithe Farm and Hadrian families only)

Summer Showcase

**Wednesday 10th July**

Awards Evening

**Friday 19th July**

Last Day of Term

### PE Standards and Expectations

PE and Sport continues to be popular amongst the students and it is pleasing to see so many students thriving in lessons and at extracurricular clubs/events.

In order to maintain our high standards and expectations, can I please remind parents/carers that PE is a compulsory subject and all students must take part in lessons. Students must bring their PE kit to every lesson regardless of whether they can take part practically or not due to injury. There are alternative roles students can fulfil in lessons such as officiating, and sports leadership for example which will require the students to be in full Academy PE kit.

If a student cannot take part practically then a note from parents/carers is required. Any long term injuries/medical issues will require medical evidence. Alternatively a phonecall/message can be left with reception.

Many thanks for your continued support with maintaining high standards in PE and Sport.

**Mark Gilbert**

Curriculum Leader for Sport, Health and Leisure

## Danger - Measles is circulating in the UK

**Make sure you and your family are  
protected by having the MMR vaccine**

### Facts about measles:

- Measles is one of the most infectious diseases known. If you child is unvaccinated and comes into contact with measles there is a 90% chance they'll catch it.
- 1 in 5 children experience complications such as ear infections, pneumonia and meningitis
- 1 in 10 children who gets measles ends up in hospital
- Adults tend to be more ill and for longer if they get measles
- Measles can be fatal
- There is no treatment- the only way to prevent it is through vaccination
- MMR vaccinations are highly effective- 2 doses of MMR vaccine is over 99% effective at preventing measles
- Everyone should have two doses of MMR vaccine - this is available for free from your GP.

If you have any questions, please contact your  
GP or Essex Partnership University Trusts (EPUT)  
immunisation team on 01234 310408



### **Cycling Advisory information from Central Bedfordshire Council Road Safety Team.**

Due to the increase in complaints from local residents about the manner in which children are seen cycling both to and from school and also outside of school hours, we feel it is important that you remind your children about the importance of being safe and not a danger to themselves and other road users.

Hence, we would like to remind all parents of safety tips and current laws around cycling;

- Any person using a bike is strongly encouraged to wear an appropriate fitted cycle helmet for the entirety of their journey.
- Cycles must be the correct height for the person riding them – they should be able to straddle the bike with both feet flat on the ground
- 80% of cycling accidents occur in broad daylight through playing in the streets, pulling stunts on bicycles, failing to look properly and poor manoeuvring.
- The Law states that bicycles must be equipped with approved front and rear lights which are lit, clean and properly working, when cycling in the dark and poor weather conditions. They must also have red rear reflectors and four amber pedal reflectors.
- It is an offence to ride a bicycle on public roads without two efficient braking systems, which operate independently on the front and rear tyres
- Cyclist must also stop at a red traffic light – this can carry a £50 fine if not adhered too. They must also stop if a school crossing patrol officer is present in the road.
- Cyclists should stop and get off their bike to cross roads and controlled crossing points.
- It is illegal to carry more than one person on a bicycle, unless it is specifically constructed or adapted for the carriage of more than one person.
- Section 29 of the Road Traffic Act 1998 states: If a person rides a cycle on a road without due care and attention or without reasonable consideration for other persons using the road, he is guilty of an offence.
- Cyclists pulling wheelies and stunts on public roads and pavements is prohibited and dangerous as the person riding is not in full control of the bicycle.
- Ensure basic hand signals are used when cycling as this gives clear indication to other road users of where the cyclist intends to go.

The above has been sent to you to open up conversation with your children to help ensure the safety of your children, other road users and pedestrians and to promote safe practices.

We are actively working with the local schools to identify children riding on the public roads and footpaths around the area in an inconsiderate and dangerous manner. Those identified will be contacted individually by the school and invited in to discuss the matter with ourselves.

Parents are reminded that how their child / children travel to and from school is ultimately the responsibility of parents.