

Dear Parents and Carers

I thought it was too good to be true! We have had a recurrence of the September situation with positive COVID cases in multiple year groups. You will recall that last time, we sent the bubbles home immediately and the spread stopped. During October and November, we had seven weeks with no cases. I sincerely hope the same thing will happen now, however with cases rising rapidly in the East of England, it may be harder than ever to stop the spread!

If your child is in one of the year group bubbles learning from home, their booklets should be with them, so if you are at home with them, please encourage them to fill in all boxes across the double page for every online lesson. Many thanks to the parents giving us positive feedback on the booklets – they are one way of easily blending school learning with home learning.

The DfE guidance changes a little every day but I must point out to you this link to guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

In particular can I highlight this paragraph which has remained the same since the last week in July:

'All teachers and other staff can operate across different classes and year groups in order to facilitate the delivery of the school timetable. This will be particularly important for secondary schools. Where staff need to move between classes and year groups, they should try and keep their distance from pupils and other staff as much as they can, ideally 2 metres from other adults.'

From this it is clear that students must be in bubbles but **staff are not** in bubbles! Staff have never been expected to be, or guided to be in bubbles.

The overwhelming support from parents for our safety measures over the last week has been gratefully received. I don't know of any other school that has taken the temperature of every student, every day since the 7th September. For our wonderful Heads of Year this can amount to over 9000 temperatures taken ... and still they continue. Unfortunately, many of the students are asymptomatic and therefore could be carrying the virus without even knowing it. This does make the battle against Coronavirus feel impossible at times, but I know we have your full support.

A couple of issues have arisen in the last fortnight. First, if you have children in different year groups, please do not ask those being sent home to collect siblings as we have had to sanction some students who have endangered others by breaking bubbles because their parents '... told them to!'

Second, I also had to take serious action last week about defamatory remarks on social media. Please ensure your child does not get involved with inappropriate use of social media. Everyone - teachers, students and parents - have signed agreements which, if broken, can result in legal and police proceedings being brought.

I don't wish to end on an unpleasant note so I will celebrate your wonderful children who this week have amazed me with the measured way they have received news that a year group colleague has tested positive. They act with genuine concern for the individual even though, for our exam years in particular, it is only human nature that they will be thinking about the effect on their futures and exam results. I won't be disingenuous and say no one will be disadvantaged – of course they will – but as ever at All Saints Academy we will strive to make it a level playing field so they are less disadvantaged than any others.

Liz Furber
Executive Principal

Dear Parents and Carers

I'm sure the expression 'I'll be glad when this year is over', has been uttered in many households in recent months. But when does a year start and end? The obvious answer is - the calendar year starts on 1st January. However, the school year starts on 1st September; the financial year usually starts around 1st April. Many religions and faiths also have clearly defined formulas for determining the start of their own year, often based around cycles of the moon. The Christian year starts on Advent Sunday, four weeks before Christmas (which this year is 29th November) and is a way of preparing for, and celebrating, the birth of Jesus.

As a Church of England Academy we celebrate events within the Christian calendar, but I am very conscious, in a multi-faith school, that some people have not been able to mark key festivals like Eid al-Fitr, Eid al-Adha, Diwali, and probably Hanukkah, in the usual way this year. These festivals are often characterised by families and friends coming together to celebrate, but with a common theme in most faiths being one of light.

In what has been a dark year for many people, there are glimmers of light at the end of the tunnel, especially with the recent announcements about the development of vaccines that might help protect us against COVID-19. In the meantime, it is important that we all remain vigilant and try to avoid spreading the virus, especially among those members of our families who might be more vulnerable.

I realise that during this term, we have had to send year groups home after being notified of positive cases. I am deeply grateful to the staff for the way they have enabled students to continue learning (something that was highly successful during the lockdown period) and to you, as parents and carers, for your continuing support.

There will be more Christmases and other celebrations to enjoy in future years, but my genuine Christmas wish for this year is to see everyone safe and well in the calendar New Year. Best wishes.

David Fraser

Chair of Governors

We raised £50.50
for the Poppy Appeal

Remembrance Service

The Remembrance Service at All Saints Academy is a special event, and in these difficult times it is more important than ever to remember our loved ones. Although we had to do our service socially distanced this year with students



in bubbles, we felt it was important to carry on with this tradition. Every year students talk about those that they are remembering, but this year students also talked about the family that they are remembering during this time of lockdown and the loved ones that they cannot see at this time. It was an extremely moving service.

Simon Miller

Deputy Principal – Behaviour and Attitudes

Creative Curriculum Topic 4

Year 7

As we move into Topic 4, Year 7 students will be considering the conventions of good speech which include how we present ourselves, how we communicate, how we speak and how we listen. We will be challenging our students to look for chances to move outside their comfort zones, asking adults for support and challenge. Arts subjects focus on collaboration and the importance of good communication through teamwork. Dance and PE will focus on Acro-sport with its reliance on clear communication while drama will be focusing on facial expressions, body language and vocal skills – all essential elements of good speech and communication. Music will explore expressions of **freedom**, **human rights** and **being thankful** working through different Reggae songs.



In **Social Sciences**, the focus is on the importance of free speech with **history** exploring the feudal system in Medieval England, including the Magna Carta and the Peasants' Revolt. Geography will explore the culture of Ghana and RS will explore Sikhism, showing that it is important to understand and respect other cultures. In **STEM** we will introduce new terminology. In mathematics, we will be studying 'algebraic expressions' which are a form of **communicating** and in **science** there will be a focus on chemistry as the students will cover 'Brownian motion' and 'Chemical reactions'

which will embed the skill of **aiming high** as students research some of the scientists that made important discoveries in this area. This study recognises that these scientists would have had to **persuade** people that their ideas were valid and, therefore, would have had to use good speech and good communication. In English, students will focus on the characteristics of writing and delivering a **good speech**. They will look at examples of **speeches** and examine how writers use language and structure to create **meaning and effects**. Students will then write their own speeches on any of the themes covered in this topic in order to extend this virtue of **good speech** to the rest of the subjects. In **MFL** we will simulate scenarios of the daily routine where having **good speech** is essential but also where **good manners** are the axis for keeping **good communication** skills in society; in this case, the society of the target language. All in all, we look forward to seeing Year 7 develop their confidence as they explore the many facets of good speech through communication.

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Non Uniform days raised:
Show Racism the Red Card £539.45
Local homeless charity/UNICEF £356.43

Year 8

Following on from a successful delve into the virtue of Justice and Truthfulness, Year 8 now move on to look at the virtue of **Good Speech** with their Topic 4 'The World Out There'. This is a fantastic topic with lots of opportunity for students to learn about the wider world. In English, Year 8 will be analysing language by looking at language use across cultures such as Japanese haikus and Mexican language in the film Coco.



This is a challenging skill as students take their first steps towards building those analytical GCSE skills so students will really be **aiming high** during this topic. In MFL, students will be focusing on **good speech** by developing their past tense skills to lead to the ability to speak about a previous holiday they have taken. In STEM, Year 8 science will focus on **the world out there** and the impact climate change has had on the environment. This will link in with maths where students will study area and perimeter of islands at risk of natural disaster due to climate change. Social Sciences take time to study the slave trade in history and the natural disasters impacting Japan in geography, creating a cross-curricular link with languages as well as STEM subjects. For Year 8, RS focuses on the British value of **respect** as students look in depth at different religious festivals and their significance across different cultures. The Arts



subjects are going to move students over to South America where they will study the Brazilian combat-style dance, Capoeira.

This will involve students enhancing and practising their **good speech** skills as they communicate with **respect** during rehearsals to ensure their best final performance.

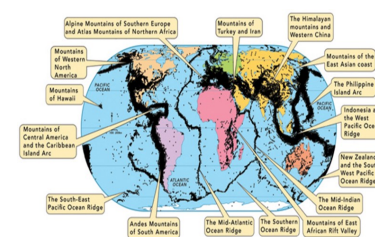
Year 9

Will be exploring the virtue of **good speech**. The topic, titled '**Creation and Destruction**', will help them develop this virtue, with a focus on the skill of **teamwork** (respecting the ideas of others and making contributions to the team). In the Arts, students will look at Banksy and debate whether the work should be considered art or vandalism. In dance and drama they will be looking at the key features of the theatre of the absurd. The main focus will be discovering ways to deconstruct scenarios and scenes to create a new way of delivering text to an audience. In STEM, students will explore demolition and **destruction** alongside topics such as electromagnets and current electricity. They will be tasked with the **creation** of a use for a powerful electromagnet. In maths lessons there will be focus

on collecting data to create charts, with an emphasis on birth rates. They will work in **teams** and will speak out in front of

the class when **presenting** their findings. Moreover, students will be able to investigate the potential beauty that can come from **destruction** through the study of poetry linked to **destructive** events such as war in English. Lastly, in Social Sciences, history will look at some of the most **destructive** battles of World War One, and students will discuss the question: what should have happened to those with the burden of leadership in those times?

In geography, students will learn about plate tectonics which causes some of the most **destructive** natural events. Lastly, in RS students will debate about war and whether it can ever be justified.



Year 10

Following on from their recent Forever Change unit, Year 10 students are moving on to Topic 4 'We are the future', with a focus on the virtue of **Good Speech**. In English, the students will be focusing on persuasive language, writing and giving speeches based on their experiences of online teaching. In MFL, students will be focusing on the topic of careers, **aiming high** by exploring how good speech can be used to apply for jobs in the language they study. In science, the students will be exploring different waves and radiation, including exploring X Rays. In maths, students will explore standard form and simplifying expressions. In geography, students will be exploring erosion and how it impacts the future of the coastlines of the UK. In history, students will be exploring the topic of war, including justifications for war from different religions. In drama, students will explore the topic of conflict, focusing on non-verbal communication and role-plays of conflict resolution. In PE, students will explore skills for playing football, as well as how to build their fitness for a healthy future.

~ Reminder ~

Please keep contact details updated so that you do not miss out on any important information sent to parents/carers

~ Edulink ~

The Edulink app gives you access to a range of information, including attendance, House points, behaviour points and much more. If you do not have your login, contact the Academy.

Year 11

In Year 11 Topic 4, students will be focusing on **study skills and revision techniques** in preparation for their mock examinations which start on 11th December 2020. 'Learning Performance', an external provider, are coming in to deliver a day of study skills workshops on Friday 4th December. Students studying remotely will also be able to access these sessions which will support their preparation ahead of their exams. At the end of the mock examination period, Year 11 will have the opportunity to watch a live stream of '**A Christmas Carol**' from the famous Old Vic theatre.



Students will also be exploring the virtue of **Staying Positive** as they prepare for their mock examinations – we don't know at this stage how important they may be.

Student Safety

During these dark winter months, please remind your child that they should, where possible, walk on main roads and in small groups within their bubble. Should they raise any concerns whilst walking to and from school, then please call the police and report them.

Anita Herd

Welfare and Safeguarding Officer



Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing
Service for Children and Young People

The Power of Sleep: A Workshop for Teenagers to Tackle Sleep Troubles

Is your teenager having difficulties
with their sleep?
Are they struggling to get to sleep?
Do they often wake up during the night?

The CHUMS Family Wellbeing Team is offering a virtual workshop which will provide strategies to overcome sleep difficulties. For Young People aged 13+ years
(A separate sleep workshop is available for parents with children aged 4-12 years).

If your child is interested in attending this workshop, please contact us on the email address below and provide the young person's name and a contact number. Please also state that you are interested in the 'Teenage Sleep Workshop'.

fwteam@chums.uk.com

Once you have registered your interest, you will be contacted via email with more information on the workshop, as well as a registration form to complete. Due to COVID-19 social distancing measures, this workshop will be delivered online.

PLEASE NOTE: YOU MUST BE REGISTERED WITH A GP SURGERY IN CENTRAL BEDS, LUTON OR BEDFORD BOROUGH TO ATTEND THIS WORKSHOP.

There are limited spaces for this workshop, please contact us ASAP to avoid disappointment.



COVID-19 LOCKDOWN 2 UPDATE

Prestige Design & Workwear Barton
Will Be CLOSED To All Walk In Customers
From Thursday 5th November
Until 2nd December 2020.

Online Ordering For Home Delivery &
Collection Service Is Still Available
For Any Enquires Please email
sales@prestigedesignwww.co.uk
For Placing Online Orders

www.prestigedesignwww.co.uk

Thanks As Always For Your Support,
Keep Safe
From All At Prestige.

Blessing

At the time of writing there continues to be great uncertainty and anxiety as to what the future holds for us regarding Christmas and any sense of when normality might return - or even what 'normal' will look like! And that's even before we start to consider the educational issues regarding methods of learning, teaching and exams. And so for all concerned we long to see a sense of clarity and a hopeful vision of what might unfold over the weeks and months to come.

I know the staff here have been working extremely hard, going above and beyond the call of duty, to try and deliver the best quality education in the most trying of circumstances. I have seen first hand the lengths that they go to in order to give the students the best opportunity to learn and so all deserve our gratitude.

As we all pull together to try and support one another we can also look to God for a sense of hope. That's a big part of what this Advent season is about in the run up to Christmas. A time to prepare, and to hope, for something positive to come; that's what the Israelites did in the years leading up to the birth of Jesus Christ, and it's what we need to do today; to hold on to something that gives us hope that God not only understands these difficult times, but walks alongside with us too.

I know that, whatever your circumstances may be, we can put our hopes and trust in God who, through Jesus, shows us that God isn't some sort of distant, remote and out of touch being, but a close, personal and tangible presence who can lead and guide us through the most dark, difficult and uncertain times.

Take care and God bless,

Tim Davis
Chaplain

~ Last Day of Term ~
Friday 18th December

Looking Ahead 2020

Friday 4th December
Year 11 Study Skills
Workshops

Friday 11th December
Year 11 Mock exams begin
Followed by a livestream of
'A Christmas Carol'

Wednesday 16th December
Christmas Dinner

Thursday 17th December
Year 11 Careers Day
Workshops

Friday 18th December
Last Day of Term

2021

Monday 4th January
Inset Day

Tuesday 2nd January
First Day of Term

Parking

When bringing your child to school by car, please be mindful of where you stop or park so that you do not block our neighbours' driveways/front gardens. We would also like to make you aware that it is prohibited to park on yellow and white zigzag markings and that you may risk a fixed penalty fine and points on your driving licence.

Ian Taylor
Site Manager