

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to the second half of the Autumn term. This is always an eventful time in the Academy as we commemorate Remembrance Day with a special whole school service and then build the excitement towards Christmas.

Obviously the rising rates of COVID once again complicate life for us and we ask all students to bring masks to wear in busy communal areas such as the corridors and canteen – with the exception of those students that are exempt. If your child wishes to wear a mask all the time that is perfectly acceptable and understandable.

To help us all manage this period please ensure your child takes a LFD test twice a week on a Monday and a Thursday and let the Academy know immediately if you run out of tests.

Later on this week I will share the Ofsted monitoring 8 report from July with you. It is only a monitoring report and they conclude we are 'not taking effective action' to become a Good school at the next full inspection. We have complained about this in the light of all the other issues we have had to address due to COVID throughout the last year. However, they are not for moving!

Since the July monitoring visit we have focused on issues that we believe are genuine such as working on the sequencing of the curriculum, improving attendance and improving our SEND provision.

In terms of staff workload, Ofsted seem to have missed that all exam marking and moderation was done internally last year as opposed to being completed by externally paid examiners.

The other issue we have with the report is the mention of behaviour disrupting learning. At the time of their visit one inspector went into 3 lessons and saw the students working well. We have asked for evidence of this poor behaviour but none has been forthcoming. The inspector was critical of our level of fixed period exclusions for persistent defiance so we can only assume he is using this as a measure of disruption. I am sure none of our parents and carers will have an issue with us excluding students who disrupt learning, or defy staff.

Nevertheless, we have to take the monitoring inspection in the spirit we hope it is intended - to help us to dig deep and ensure we do get a GOOD at the next Ofsted. In March 2016 we were also given a 'not effective' monitoring judgement and 9 months later we emerged from Inadequate to Requires Improvement! The staff and I believe therefore that this latest report is to give us the push we need!

We will of course try to keep you in the loop with various COVID measures if and when we have to undertake them. Students will be given the vaccination on Friday 5th November unless you have opted out of this opportunity. Since all the staff have been vaccinated we certainly feel a lot safer!

As the darker nights and colder days are coming please encourage your child to wear a coat to school. We will no longer be allowing hoodies onto the school site as staff are wasting too much time with a few persistent offenders who try to wear them around the Academy. As always if there are financial issues with buying coats for your child please contact the Academy who will treat your request in confidence.

Take care everyone!

Best wishes.

Liz Furber
Executive Principal

Dear Parents and Carers

The recent events in Leigh-on-Sea, where Sir David Amess was killed, have sparked a national debate about the safety of MPs. More widely, there have been concerns voiced for a long time about how to protect key workers and people in public office. We hear constantly about emergency workers - paramedics, police, fire-fighters - being verbally and physically abused when attending incidents. The same applies to doctors and nurses in hospitals and also to teachers in our schools. I have recently witnessed verbal abuse of staff at the Academy by both students and parents, and been made aware of incidents of a more physical nature. I would stress that these are very much from a small minority of people, but no-one should have to go to their place of work and be subjected to any form of abuse. Governors take very seriously such occurrences and will support appropriate sanctions against any perpetrators. It is incumbent on all of us to show respect and tolerance, whatever the strength of our feelings.

The words of Sir David's family are far more meaningful and heartfelt than I could write:

"We ask people to set aside their differences and show kindness and love to all. This is the only way forward. Set aside hatred and work towards togetherness.

"Whatever one's race, religious or political beliefs, be tolerant and try to understand.

"As a family, we are trying to understand why this awful thing has occurred. Nobody should die in that way. Nobody.

"Please let some good come from this tragedy.

"We are absolutely broken, but we will survive and carry on for the sake of a wonderful and inspiring man."

Best wishes.

David Fraser

Chair of Governors

Academic Calendar - 2021/2022

School Holiday

Bank Holiday

Pupil Day

Training Day

September 2021					October 2021					November 2021					December 2021						
Mon	6	13	20	27	Mon	4	11	18	25	Mon	1	8	15	22	29	Mon	6	13	20	27	
Tue	7	14	21	28	Tue	5	12	19	26	Tue	2	9	16	23	30	Tue	7	14	21	28	
Wed	1	8	15	22	29	Wed	6	13	20	27	Wed	3	10	17	24	Wed	1	8	15	22	29
Thu	2	9	16	23	30	Thu	7	14	21	28	Thu	4	11	18	25	Thu	2	9	16	23	30
Fri	3	10	17	24	Fri	1	8	15	22	29	Fri	5	12	19	26	Fri	3	10	17	24	31
Sat	4	11	18	25	Sat	2	9	16	23	30	Sat	6	13	20	27	Sat	4	11	18	25	
Sun	5	12	19	26	Sun	3	10	17	24	31	Sun	7	14	21	28	Sun	5	12	19	26	

January 2022					February 2022					March 2022					April 2022						
Mon	3	10	17	24	31	Mon	7	14	21	28	Mon	7	14	21	28	Mon	4	11	18	25	
Tue	4	11	18	25	Tue	8	15	22	Tue	1	8	15	22	29	Tue	5	12	19	26		
Wed	5	12	19	26	Wed	2	9	16	23	Wed	2	9	16	23	30	Wed	6	13	20	27	
Thu	6	13	20	27	Thu	3	10	17	24	Thu	3	10	17	24	31	Thu	7	14	21	28	
Fri	7	14	21	28	Fri	4	11	18	25	Fri	4	11	18	25	Fri	1	8	15	22	29	
Sat	1	8	15	22	29	Sat	5	12	19	26	Sat	5	12	19	26	Sat	2	9	16	23	30
Sun	2	9	16	23	30	Sun	6	13	20	27	Sun	6	13	20	27	Sun	3	10	17	24	

May 2022					June 2022					July 2022					August 2022						
Mon	2	9	16	23	30	Mon	6	13	20	27	Mon	5	11	18	25	Mon	1	8	15	22	29
Tue	3	10	17	24	31	Tue	7	14	21	28	Tue	5	12	19	26	Tue	2	9	16	23	30
Wed	4	11	18	25	Wed	1	8	15	22	29	Wed	6	13	20	27	Wed	3	10	17	24	31
Thu	5	12	19	26	Thu	2	9	16	23	30	Thu	7	14	21	28	Thu	4	11	18	25	
Fri	6	13	20	27	Fri	3	10	17	24	Fri	1	8	15	22	29	Fri	5	12	19	26	
Sat	7	14	21	28	Sat	4	11	18	25	Sat	2	9	16	23	30	Sat	6	13	20	27	
Sun	1	8	15	22	29	Sun	5	12	19	26	Sun	3	10	17	24	31	Sun	7	14	21	28

Year 12—Virtual Lecture

Our Year 12 English Literature students attended a virtual Gresham College Lecture, led by leading Shakespeare and Race expert UCL university professor Farah Karin-Cooper, on Shakespeare, Race and Performance. The students were exemplary scholars of All Saints Academy Dunstable introducing themselves to scholars from across the globe and taking academic notes to further their debates on their study of Othello. Well done to our students!

Charlotte Stanley

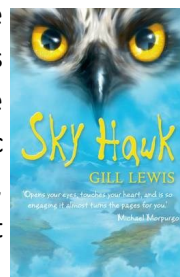
Lead Practitioner for English

November Virtue: Courage

Skill: Problem Solving

Year 7

In Arts, Year 7 students will be learning about colour theory in art. They will be looking at a colour wheel and the idea of complimentary colours, using their **problem-solving** skills to work out which colours to use when creating pieces of art. In media, drama, dance, DT, food and music, students will be rotating to a new subject from the first half of the term. For those students new to each subject, drama and dance will focus on performance with dance looking at ZooNation and drama looking at improvisation and ensemble pieces including a specific focus on the **courage** needed to perform in front of an audience. In DT, food and media studies, the focus will be on the introduction of the topics. Both food and DT look at health and safety aspects, where the skill of **problem-solving** in relation to health and safety is extremely important. Food also looks at healthy eating, discussing the **problem-solving** techniques sometimes needed to get the balance right, before moving onto a practical of making a fruit salad. Media studies introduces the idea of the media and its importance, particularly looking at the BBC and the way the importance of the news as well as the ways stories are portrayed is linked to **courage**. In music students look at Caribbean music and in PE students focus on the team sports of football, basketball and netball where they need to have the **courage** to make a play for the ball, but also **problem-solve** as a team in order to win their matches. In Languages, English focusses on the novel 'Skyhawk', looking at the two characters exploring Scotland and how they need to demonstrate **courage** combined with their **problem-solving** skills to overcome challenging situations. In both French and Spanish, students will be looking at things they prefer, developing into discussions about personalities, family and giving opinions. Students will need to have **courage** to share their opinions in class as well as use **problem-solving** to manipulate verbs and subordinate clauses in another language. In Social Sciences, students will



be looking at the British Isles with a particular focus on map reading, which will develop their **problem-solving** skills in geography. History focusses on 1066 and the **courage** needed by soldiers to enter into battle, the Anglo-Saxons and how William the Conqueror used his **problem-solving** skills to become King and then follows through into the specific history of Houghton Regis during this time period. In philosophy and ethics, students will be looking at how different religions view existence and the universe as they learn to **problem-solve** by pulling together key viewpoints and drawing conclusions. In STEM, there will be a focus on Algebra in maths, particularly on expressions and formulae, which will need students to demonstrate **courage** as they tackle an abstract topic that can be difficult in Year 7, as well as needing students to use their **problem-solving** skills to combine other mathematical knowledge within the area.

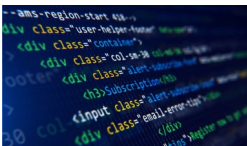
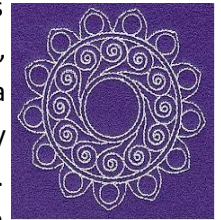
All information about the content students are studying in Year 7 is available in our Curriculum Maps on our website.

November Virtue: Courage

Skill: Problem Solving

Year 8

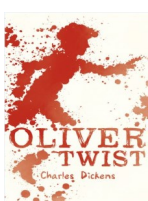
In art, students will be looking at Rangoli Embroidery and the **problem-solving** skills necessary to gain symmetry within patterns. In media, drama, dance, DT, food and music, students will be rotating to a new subject from the first half of the term. Dance and drama focus on performance with dance looking at devising pieces based on the work of Andy Goldsworthy and drama looking at different types of play such as 'mystery' and 'protest'. Students will also have a specific focus on the **courage** needed to perform in front of an audience. As this is the first year students have studied DT, this will focus on the health and safety aspects where the skill of **problem-solving** in relation to health and safety is extremely important. Food lessons investigate the **courage** shown by students as they create larger family meals and in media studies, students look at how the media portrays stories, including prejudice within the media, and the lack of **courage** that can be demonstrated at times by the media. Students studying music look at Samba and in PE all students focus on the team sports of football, basketball and netball where they need to have the **courage** to make a play for the ball, but also **problem-solve** as a team in order to win their matches. In Languages, students will be looking at **courage** in English, with a focus on how **courage** is represented in poetry, but in a more contemporary sense than the usual focus on **courage** in war poetry. Students will also use their **problem-solving** skills to make inferences from imagery used in poetry and how this might make the reader feel. In Spanish, students will be discussing their music tastes as they develop **problem-solving** whilst using comparative conjunctions. In French, students will be looking at clothes and fashion choices and the **courage** needed to make a choice to stand out from the crowd. This will also lead on to discussions about the weather, specifically linking to deciding which clothing items are needed in which weather. In Social Sciences, population is the focus in geography, in particular Year 8 are looking at population changes over time and how this is linked to city and country development. Students will need to use their **problem-solving** skills to look at ways of solving different population crises. In history, students will be looking at slavery, the slave trade and the 'middle passage' as they develop their understanding of the **courage** shown by slaves as they fought for emancipation. Philosophy also looks at **courage** of people, by looking at what makes people inspirational and different religious leaders that have demonstrated **courage**. In STEM, there is a focus on data in maths, in particular looking at representing and interpreting data in graphs and charts. Students will develop this further as they use **problem-solving** to compare different data sets using these graphs and charts. In computer science, students will be working on website development where they will demonstrate **courage** as they learn HTML, a new language to them, as well as use their **problem-solving** skills as they test their websites and fix any issues. Science focusses on variation and human reproduction and how natural **problem-solving** leads to adaptations in reproduction. All information about the content students are studying in Year 8 is available in our Curriculum Maps on our website.



November Virtue: Courage
Skill: Problem Solving

Year 9

In art, students are looking at surrealism with a focus on Dali and his work, developing towards students creating their own surrealist piece. In media, drama, dance, DT, food and music, students will be rotating to a new subject from the first half of the term. Dance students look at musical theatre, with a focus on the West End Production of 'Matilda' leading to several opportunities to discuss the **courage** of the different characters as they display the virtue or demonstrate a distinct lack of **courage**. In drama, students will study the work of Stanislavski and Brecht. As this is the first year students have studied DT, this will focus on the health and safety aspects where the skill of **problem-solving** in relation to health and safety is extremely important. Food lessons prepare students for the colder months as they learn to make vegetable bean soup. In media studies, students look at the role of influencers and podcasters and the importance of the digital footprint, discussing how **courage** is important online as everything you upload can impact other people. Music lessons focus on protest songs and the **courage** it takes to use such a medium of demonstration, whilst in PE all students focus on the team sports of football, basketball and netball where they need to have the **courage** to make a play for the ball, but also **problem-solve** as a team in order to win their matches. In Languages, students will look at 'Oliver Twist' in English, with a specific focus on the society and poverty at the time and the **courage** shown by those living in poverty as they try to overcome their living conditions. Students will look specifically at **problem-solving** in terms of how literature represents challenge and resolution. In Spanish, students will be looking at work and careers that they might want to choose in the future, demonstrating **courage** to make these decisions, as well as developing their **problem-solving** skills as they learn to use all three tenses in written work. In French, students will be looking at parties and festivals and the planning aspects of these. In Social Sciences, students will focus on climate change in geography, particularly looking at glaciers and landscape changes. Students will think about the **courage** used by those who speak out about climate change and try to make a difference as well as use their **problem-solving** skills as they look at ways to minimise climate change and glacial depletion. History also looks at the **courage** of those who speak out, but with a focus on social change and law reforms and how these changes happen thanks to the **courage** of people to speak out against inequality. In philosophy, students will look specifically how the Christian God is represented and the imagery around this. In STEM, there is a focus on data in maths, in particular looking at representing and interpreting data in graphs and charts. Students will develop this further as they use **problem-solving** to compare different data sets using these graphs and charts. In computer science, students will be writing their own algorithms as they develop their coding skills as well as having the **courage** needed to read pseudocodes. Students will need to **problem-solve** as they test their codes to ensure any issues are resolved. Science looks at chemical energy, magnetism and electromagnetism. Students will need to show **courage** as they tackle more advanced topics in chemical energy such as exothermic and endothermic reactions, as well as demonstrate their ability to **problem-solve** as they build their own electromagnets. All information about the content students are studying in Year 9 is available in our Curriculum Maps on our website.



Careers

Our Careers 1-2-1 schedule is well underway with our Year 11 students and is helping them to plan for their futures both the immediate and long term. Careers 1-2-1s are an essential part of the personal development for members of our community and will enable them to have a more targeted approach to their own ambitions. If your child would like a careers 1-2-1, they can book in via their Head of Year or myself via email at any time and we will ensure that they are supported in this.

As we begin to look forward to our Year 9s selecting their options, we have organised a careers day to provide students with a true understanding of these subjects and the careers they can lead to, this will take place prior to the selection of their Year 10 subjects. The full prospectus offer will be shared with all parents/carers of Year 9 students prior to this event.

The next Open Events are:

Central Bedfordshire College: 11th November 2021

Luton 6th Form College: Virtual tour available online and dates to be announced

Shuttleworth College: 13th November 2021

Milton Keynes College: Virtual tour available online and dates to be announced

All Saints Academy's Sixth Form event will be on Thursday 4th November 2021. The evening starts at 5.30pm and we look forward to welcoming you all.

Please do visit the careers page on our school website and watch the videos which have been recently provided by the Careers Hub Luton.

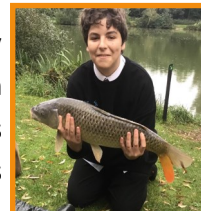
Tom Golds

Assistant Principal for Personal Development—Lower School

Help reduce the spread of COVID-19 by encouraging students
to take LFD tests twice per week,
reporting results to the NHS and the Academy.

Manor Farm Lakes

On the 11th and 18th October groups of students from Years 9, 10 and 11 went to Manor Farm Lakes to learn how to fish. Working in pairs the students received a beginners lesson from a fully qualified coach. The students were taught how to set up their rod, attach the bait and then cast into the lake which earned them their beginners CAST award. During their time at the lakes the students had great success when catching a variety of fish including roach and perch. All students were a credit to the Academy with their enthusiasm for the lessons and impeccable behaviour throughout.



Ian McCarthy

Assistant Principal for Personal Development—SEND & PP

Cashless Accounts

Please can we ask all parents/carers to clear any overdrawn accounts as soon as possible. We will be sending regular texts to students with overdrawn balances as a reminder. Please be aware that the canteen may not be able to serve students with no funds on their account. Snack packs are available from the Academy for students who have not eaten during the school day.

Items dropped into the Academy

Any items dropped into school by parents/carers will be left at Student Reception for students to collect during break and lunch time. Academy staff will email students via EduLink to notify them that items can be collected.

Locker Keys

All students have been issued with a locker key and this should be kept safe and brought into school every day. Lost keys can be replaced at a cost of £2.80. Payment can be made via ParentPay, or by cash at Student Reception.

Mobile Phones

All students have been issued with their own Yondr phone pouch to keep safe. If this is forgotten or not brought in for any reason our expectation is that the phone is handed into reception staff to be kept safe and it can be collected at 3pm when the school day is over. Any phones seen during the school day will be kept for a parent/carer to collect from the Academy. We want to continue to promote and support being a 'Mobile Phone Free Zone' as our students have really embraced this initiative.



ALL SAINTS ACADEMY

All Saints Academy Dunstable Ongoing Vacancies for Exam Invigilators (Bank)

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 and may have previous experience in a similar role, however this is not essential as full training will be given.

Salary: £9.29 per hour (including holiday accrual) paid for hours worked only and these will be at specific times in the academic year, in line with examination timetables.

How to apply

Please see our website for additional details on this vacancy and how to apply or contact Lisa Graves, HR Manager on 01582 619700 for an application form. CVs will not be accepted.

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.

Mark O'Loughlin
Examinations Manager
September 2021

Lower School

The vast majority of students in KS3 have continued to have an excellent start to the new school term. They are looking very smart and are displaying a positive attitude and resilience in their learning. A highlight was the Open Evening on Wednesday 13th of October. We had over 60 Year 7 students who were tour guides, giving parents a very positive insight into the school and they were true ambassadors of All Saints Academy. Parents were very impressed with their knowledge of the school, procedures and enthusiasm. Well done to all students who helped various departments set up and deliver activities throughout the evening. They showed they are a real asset to the school! In terms of rewarding our students for their resilience and hard work, there was a real focus on attendance last half term because we recognise the importance of students having a high rate of attendance so they do not miss important learning. We issued a number of attendance awards in the form of vouchers for those students whose attendance is 100% and will continue to reward students who meet our expectations. As always, we have also been recording students' attitude to learning scores every lesson and the top students will be awarded with vouchers at the end of term. The skill students have been working on in every lesson over the last few weeks is Leadership and this has also been brought into other aspects of the school. We had a democratic election for form reps and head boy and girl in every year group. We were very impressed with the amount of students who wished to volunteer for these important roles and students displayed great maturity when casting their votes and learning the results. The head boy and girl in Year 7 made an excellent start to their roles by delivering a presentation to perspective students and their parents at the Year 6 Open Evening on Wednesday. The fact the main hall was full did not daunt them and we are very proud of them.

Caroline Doolan

Senior Assistant Principal—Head of Lower School, Literacy and Staff Development

Upper School

Through the first half term at The Academy, Upper School students have been working hard either starting their GCSE and A Level options or applying their knowledge to make progress in their examination year. The students have been enjoying our new subjects on offer. Courses in design technology, media studies and hair and beauty have proven popular this year. Our Year 11 students will be able to hear about subjects on offer for Post 16 at our Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 4th November. The event will begin at 5.30pm and run through till 7pm. Prospective students will be able to start making applications for our Sixth Form at this point. A highlight of last term was seeing a large amount of students receive rewards for their Resilience with their attendance this term. Those students with 100% attendance in the time frame set were given a gift card for their resilience. I would like to take this opportunity to remind students and parents/carers of the importance of attending school. As we move into this half term, we want to ensure that students are making progress towards their mock exams and are in school to revise. Any absences should be a last resort. Medicine can be brought in and left at student reception. Year 13 students have now started to refine applications and make choices of their next steps after their time at All Saints. Students completing UCAS applications must submit drafts of personal statements to ensure all support is taking place so that they receive their first choice offer. Staff are more than happy to help students with this process.

James Golds

Assistant Principal – Behaviour and Attitudes – Upper School

Looking Ahead

4th November
Y11 into Sixth Form
Open Evening

5th November
COVID Vaccinations

**18th—19th
November**
Dr Bike

Notice from Houghton Regis Town Council

Tithe Farm Road
(between
Recreation Road
and Hillborough
Crescent) will be
closed on Sunday
7th November from
6pm to 9pm to
enhance the safety
of the fireworks
display.

Late Autumn thoughts

The autumn term is one of the busiest times of the school year. Apart from dealing with the change of academic year there are new students to settle in, as well as new staff. Then there are the various times of remembering such as Guy Fawkes Day, Remembrance Day, Diwali, etc. before we head into Advent and the build up to Christmas. There's certainly a lot going on.

But I want to briefly mention one day that I haven't included in the above list, one that is part of our Academy's name and that is All Saints Day. All Saints Day occurs on 1st November every year and it is a Christian feast day celebrated and remembered by various Christians, churches and denominations as a time to give thanks for those saints who have gone before us and are no longer with us and a chance to be inspired by their good examples. This is similar, although not to be confused with All Souls Day, celebrated on 2nd November, which is a more general day of remembering our loved ones departed.



Sometimes we might casually call someone a saint for their good works because it's good and right to commend their positive actions but the thing about saints is that they are not formally recognised as such whilst they are living. It is a title formally bestowed upon them after their death. That means they play no part in the decision making and gain no earthly benefit but leave a positive legacy. As such, it is through the conduct of their earthly life that they are commended for sainthood.

With everything that's gone on during the last couple of years, I wonder how we have conducted ourselves? Have we unnecessarily grabbed at toilet rolls and fuel leaving none for those who also need some when we might already have enough to get by? Have we been thinking and caring for others by wearing masks, socially distancing, good self-hygiene, and isolating as necessary? Have we been keeping an eye on a neighbour who is home alone or donated to a foodbank or charity?



These are the types of things that would get us acknowledged for good deeds in the current time. You may well have your own other ideas too.

The point of this though is that life isn't always straightforward and throws all sorts of challenges at us. But often it is in those more difficult times when our true characteristics are shown. My hope and prayer is that they become ever more saintly so that we can all take some personal responsibility in trying to improve the quality of life for everyone.

God bless you all,

Rev. Tim Davis
School Chaplain

