ASPIRE STRIVE ACHIEVE

NEWSLETTER

Issue 3—November 2021

ALL SAINTS ACADEMY

Dear Parents and Carers

A busy November comes to an end. The students have to be commended on the respectful way they observed the silence at the remembrance service and a huge 'Well Done' to the exam year groups as they sat their first set of mock exams.

The Year 13 students are busy applying for university places and I am delighted to share with you the exciting news that our Head boy, Zack Islam, has been invited to the University of Oxford for an interview. Although we want Zack to be successful in this venture the most important thing to celebrate is the high aspiration he has shown by applying to one of the best universities in the world. To even achieve an interview is amazing!

As we enter the last two weeks of the calendar year there are familiar rumblings about the increase in virus cases and of course the new Omicron variant! This year we all feel better protected with the vaccine but please ensure your child brings a mask into school that they can use in the canteen and corridors. Dare I tempt fate and say so far we seem to be doing quite well with very few students and staff testing positive, meaning we have not had to resort to online learning.

Please ensure students are wrapped up well against the particularly erratic cold spells we are experiencing and urge them to stay safe, as they travel to and from school, in decreasing daylight hours.

Liz Furber
Executive Principal

Dear Parents and Carers

The pandemic will probably teach us a number of lessons that the country will reflect on should such a thing ever occur again. One is about the importance of vaccines to combat the worst effects of such a disease, and the second is about the importance and value of outdoor spaces and fresh air. Having the vaccine is a matter of personal choice and individuals must make up their own minds about it. I, for one, have been very happy to have my three Covid and one flu vaccinations. I know that there were many parents and carers who were keen for their children to be inoculated when it was offered in school during this last month. I believe there will be the offer of a second vaccination after about three months; we await the details of that. I was pleased that we were not subjected, as were several schools nationally, to the ant-vax campaigners and their threats of legal action. It is very important that everyone makes up their own minds about what is best for themselves and their families, although I do worry about the influence that social media is having on this issue. For my own part, I would rather trust the combined wisdom of doctors and scientists than someone without expertise posting on Tik-Tok! On the matter of spaces, the creation of bubbles last year made us look at how appropriate our outdoor, and indeed indoor, areas are for our students. Whilst our playing fields are a tremendous asset, they cannot be accessible all year round. We saw that some of our hard-standing areas had been originally designed more for their aesthetic appeal rather than for their practicality. Much of the exterior of the Academy has been transformed over the past 12 months so that year groups have areas that are suitable all year round. We were very grateful to the Local and Public Health Authorities for providing funding that meant new benches and protective sails were installed in the areas that we had redeveloped into more useable spaces. In addition, the Academy has installed outdoor gym equipment and totally developed the Reflection Centre garden, partly as a memorial to the Houghton brothers but also as a safe and quiet place for students to be. Our biggest project, which will hopefully be fully operational after Christmas, is the extension to the Canteen area. This will provide far more space for students to enjoy their lunches and includes additional toilet facilities. Some other exciting projects, like the development of the bungalow, will also bring great benefits to both the curriculum and student well-being. Much has been talked about the mental health of young people, and we have excellent structures and programmes in place to support this, but physical health is also important and the creation of these new spaces makes that increasingly possible to support. At All Saints we believe very much in nurturing and developing the whole person. The funding we receive is intended for those students who are currently with us, not those who might arrive in future years. That is why we have invested significant amounts during the past 18 months when the need has been there.

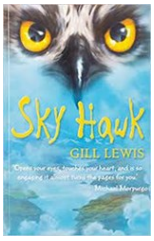
David Fraser
Chair of Governors

December Virtue: Generosity

Skill: Creativity

Year 7

In Arts, Year 7 students will be exploring the virtue of **generosity** and the skill of **creativity** through the creation and giving of greeting card birds. In dance, students will continue their ZooNation unit, focusing on showing **creativity** as they choreograph scenes. In DT, students will be working on wood and plastic materials. In food, students will be developing knife skills. In media, students will be focusing on television and films as media outlets, exploring how media channels demonstrate **creativity** through sharing or stretching the truth. In music, students will be continuing their studies of Caribbean music, giving **generous** feedback to others' performances. In PE, students will study football, basketball and netball, focusing on their **creativity** in embedding skills into their sports.



In Languages, English lessons will continue to focus on the book 'Skyhawk'. Students will explore how the characters are **generous** to one another and when **generosity** is not reciprocated. Students will look **creatively** at how they would respond in the situations faced by the characters. In Spanish, students are continuing to look at free time activities, focusing on how people can be **generous** with their free time. They will also be **creative** in choosing how they want to spend their own free time. In French, students will focus on relationships and school, focusing on **generosity** about someone's positive traits and empathetic towards a person's shortcomings. They will demonstrate **creativity** by making French New Year cards, before demonstrating **generosity** by giving these to loved ones.

In Social Sciences, Year 7 students will continue to focus on the British Isles in geography, demonstrating **generosity** about the positive features of Britain. They will demonstrate **creativity** as they plan a potential 'staycation'. In history, students will continue to focus on the Anglo-Saxons, considering the **generosity** demonstrated by King William after his conquest. In philosophy and ethics, students will study the key beliefs of different religions, demonstrating **generosity** where these views differ to their own.

In STEM, students will continue to study algebra, demonstrating **creativity** as they write their own expressions based on information provided. They will demonstrate **generosity** with their time, supporting students to complete these tasks. Students will study particle models in science, demonstrating **creativity** as they design their own models to represent diffusion of particles. In computer science, students will complete their Kodu unit, demonstrating **creativity** as they create a 3D video game, demonstrating **generosity** as they provide feedback to peers.

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

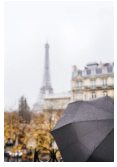
December Virtue: Generosity

Skill: Creativity

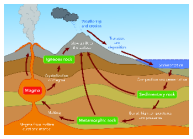
Year 8

In Arts, Year 8 students will continue developing their Diwali Embroidery, demonstrating **creativity** with their patterns and **generosity** in gifting these. Dance lessons will continue to explore the Andy Goldsworthy stimulus, demonstrating **creativity** as they develop their choreographies. Drama lessons will explore mystery plans and protest, with students able to demonstrate **creativity** as they rehearse specific scenes. They will demonstrate **generosity** as they provide feedback. DT lessons will focus on the sketching and presenting of ideas. Students will focus on the **creativity** used in false advertising. Food lessons will focus on protein, demonstrating **creativity** as they make their own chicken fajitas. Media lessons will focus on the history of the cinema, looking at **creativity** in advertising and the **generosity** demonstrated to entice customers. Music lessons will explore samba, with students demonstrating **creativity** as they develop their composition. In PE lessons, students will analyse the performances of team members, demonstrating **generosity** as they review their own performance and that of others.

In Languages, students will develop a creative writing piece in English. They will read their own story to their peers, who will demonstrate **generosity** by listening well and providing polite and **generous** feedback. In French, students will explore the weather and the clothes suitable for different weather. They will focus on **generosity** by considering animal welfare in relation to fashion and **creativity** as they create and present a short presentation. In Spanish, students will continue to look at free time activities, considering how they can be **generous** with their time. They will be **creative** as they describe the different activities they do in their free time.



In Social Sciences, students will continue to study population change in geography, considering the **generosity** of those who care for aging populations. Students will also explore **creative** ways in tackling aging populations by encouraging younger families to move to an area. In history, students will explore the **generosity** anti-slavers had in trying to fight for emancipation. They will also consider the **creativity** of anti-slavers in convincing others to abolish slavery. In philosophy and ethics, students will focus on inspirational leaders, providing **generous** accounts of the impact they had.



In STEM, students will continue to study data in maths, considering how data can be misused **creatively** and considering the **generosity** demonstrated by some measures. In science, students will study the structure of the earth, demonstrating creativity as they build a rock cycle model. In computer science, students will demonstrate **creativity** as they continue to create programs in the Python programming language.

All information about the content students are studying in Year 8 is available in our Curriculum Maps on our website.

December Virtue: Generosity
Skill: Creativity

Year 9

In Arts, students will be continuing their studies of surrealism in art. They will create designs which are recognisable but not realistic. In dance, students will continue their studies of Musical Theatre, with students able to develop their **creativity** in their choreography. In drama, students will continue to study Stanislavksi and Brecht, developing their **creativity** as they rehearse scenes. In DT, students will explore structures and architecture. Students will be able to create a design, ensuring these are accurate. In food, students will make scones and bread. In media, students will explore campaigns and sponsorship, exploring the **creativity** used in false advertising. In music, students will create a protest song. In PE, students will demonstrate **creativity** in developing strategies to win their game.

In Languages, students will be developing a creative writing piece, developing highly descriptive and imaginative pieces of writing. In French, students will explore **generosity** by being inclusive in inviting people to a festival. In Spanish, students will explore where they would like to work, exploring the **generosity** that can be demonstrated in the workplace. They will demonstrate **creativity** as they create an extended writing piece across three tenses.

In Social Sciences, students will continue to study glaciers in geography. Students will explore the creative solutions and **generosity** demonstrated by countries working together to tackle climate change. In history, students will focus on political reform, exploring the **creativity** used to promote political change and the **generosity** demonstrated by politicians in times of political change. In philosophy and ethics, students will explore the sanctity of life, exploring giving life and respecting life as an act of **generosity**.

In STEM, students will explore **creativity** and **generosity** as they enlarge shapes to create more space in maths. In science, students will explore evolution, exploring **generosity** in preserving biodiversity. Students will also be **creative** in predicting future evolutions of species. In computer science, students will demonstrate **creativity** as they continue to create programs in the Python programming language.

All information about the content students are studying in Year 9 is available in our Curriculum Maps on our website.

Year 11

Maths

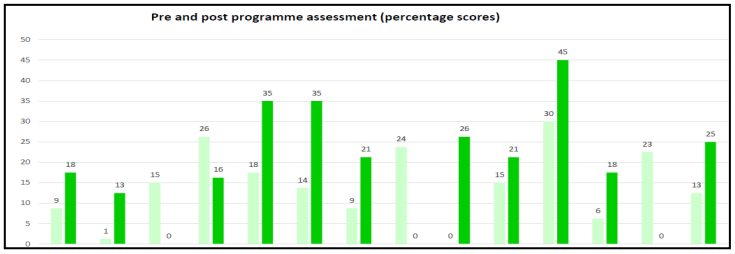
Project 5 in 5 is a programme delivered to Year 11 students to improve their English and/or maths grade to a grade 5 and we have the results of our first groups of students. In the five day maths intervention run at All Saints Academy, ten students completed both the initial and summative assessment. 90% of these students improved on their raw score in summative testing. Headline figures were as follows:

80% of students moved up a grade (60% moving to grade 4 and above)

Average raw score of the cohort increased by 10.6%

Mean grade change was a 1.4 grade improvement

The graph below shows the improvement made by the students.



Mock Exams

Year 11 students completed their first set of mock exams on Friday 26th November. The majority have shown great resilience and **courage** in the face of this challenge and I am certain their results will reflect this brilliant effort. Teachers will be able to give detailed feedback from these exams to parents/carers on Year 11 Parents' Evening on Tuesday 14th December 2021.

Year 11

English

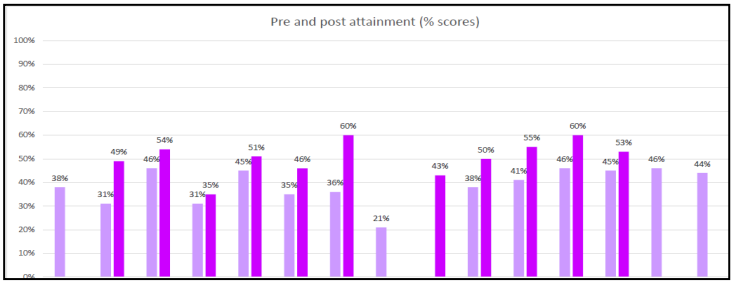
In the five day English intervention run at All Saints Academy, ten students completed both the initial and summative assessment. 100% of these students improved upon their raw score in summative testing. Headline figures were as follows:

Three students improved by two grades

Average grade increase 1.2

Average raw score of the cohort was increased by 11.75%

The graph below shows the improvement made by the students.



Victoria Lake

Head of Year 11

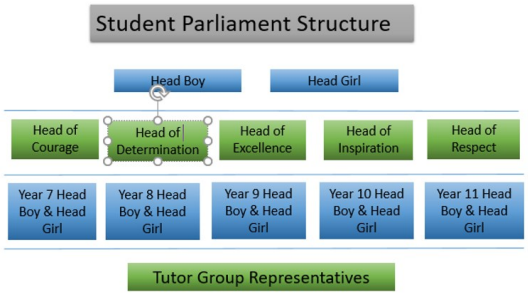
Student Parliament Update

It is a pleasure to be writing to you to provide you with an update for Term 1 for the Student Parliament at All Saints Academy.

The Student Parliament for 2021/2022 is now fully operational and is currently working on a number of different and exciting projects. Student Parliament members were elected via a formal Election and Ballot process. To become a member, students were required to submit their application of interest and provide manifesto type speeches on why they should be elected as a member. Students were only then elected to the Student Parliament if they were voted in by their fellow peers, within either their tutor group or year groups.

The structure of the Student Parliament and the successful students are outlined below.

Congratulations to all successful members!



Virtual Assembly

Recently our Year 7 and 8 students took part in a virtual assembly talking about the impacts that alcohol can have on them and their social situations. The team behind the assembly have also produced a parents' guide which provides useful further information for parents/carers to continue the conversation on alcohol at home: https://indd.adobe.com/view/f985b63f-c5ac-47f7-b78c-1247d0888d2b

Let's Go Fly A Kite

On the final day of half term, Year 7 went to Dunstable Downs to fly kites as a reward for settling so well into life at All Saints. Students were split into small groups and they had to assemble their kites before flying them. The students had a fantastic time with one student saying, "It was the best trip ever!". The students were a credit to the Academy. Well done and we are all looking forward to the next reward trip.

Rob Gould
Head of Year 7

Remembrance Day

On Remembrance Day, we held our annual remembrance service, which included all members of our academy, and we were astounded by the amount of students who said that they were thinking of children from war-torn countries, who have experienced or are still experiencing similar things to what our nation's heroes experienced all those years ago. After seeing how passionate the students were about helping children who have had to flee their country to escape the horrors of war, we felt Safe Place UK was a suitable charity to donate to and on Friday 19th November we held a non-uniform day in order to raise money for charity. As a school, we raised £620.20, which was shared between Safe Place UK and Children in Need.

James Golds
Assistant Principal—Behaviour and Attitudes—Upper School

Attendance

We are very pleased that despite the national picture with COVID, attendance is remaining high in the Academy. With so much learning time lost over the past two academic years, every day is vital and we are committed to ensuring high levels of attendance for every student in the Academy. To reward those with good attendance, the Academy is running an attendance reward for the month of December. Anyone who has full attendance for this month will receive a £5 gift voucher on the last day of term, and each student that is in school for the whole of December will be placed into a draw with one student from each year group receiving a £50 gift voucher.

Simon Miller

Deputy Principal—Behaviour and Attitudes

Bullying

At All Saints we have a zero tolerance approach to bullying and when it does occur, we deal with it swiftly. In a recent student survey, 95% of students reported that if they had reported bullying it was dealt with. While this figure is incredibly high, we want to aim for 100%. If you have any concerns over bullying, please contact the relevant Head of Year and they will make sure the matter is dealt with. Students can email the Academy's anti-bullying email address speakout@asadunstable.org if they do not feel comfortable going to their Head of Year.

Here At Last

This half term we were able to host the band *Here At Last* who not only performed live for all of our students throughout the day but were also able to deliver an important message about mental health, online safety and cyber bullying, and the ways in which we can protect ourselves from harmful online content and boost our own self esteem. Performing live to each year group throughout the day, a tailored message was given to support our students in the development of their understanding of the online world and the impacts that social media can have. We were lucky to hear real life examples of how to manage our online presence and ensure that we are safe.

Tom Golds

Assistant Principal for Personal Development—Lower School

Advent Blessing

As we come crashing into December and the run up to Christmas, we enter what Christians call, Advent.

Advent Sunday (November 28th this year) is actually the start of the churches calendar and it's a start which prepares us for Christmas. When we think of preparation for Christmas we often think it means things like; shopping for presents, decorating a tree, sending cards, partying with friends and/or work colleagues, getting the house cleaned and sorted for special guests etc. But for Christians, there is a lot more to it than that.

Advent is also about God entering our world as one of us in the form of baby Jesus. As such Advent is about expectant waiting, hopeful anticipation and joyful expectation. It's about waiting for God to come into our hearts and minds at all times and in all circumstances; the good times and the difficult moments, and for us to realise that God understands what it is like to live the human life. Furthermore, Advent reminds us all that God's promise to us is that Jesus will return again and that we should try to get our own lives in order too but that there is also joy in these things. We've missed the point if we think the weeks leading up to Christmas are just about waiting in the queue to buy our Christmas presents or frittering our time away at parties (although that's not to say these things can't be done or enjoyed).

As a season, Advent is often regarded as similar to Lent. Certainly both are times of reflection and waiting. But they are also very different. Whilst Lent is more about repentance and saying sorry, a time to give our lives a bit of a spring clean if you like, Advent is more a season of hope and anticipation. A time to prepare to welcome that special guest I mentioned in my first paragraph - Jesus.

The colours of Advent are often thought of as green and red. Green for the tree and a colour for growth and nature and red for the colour of blood as well as celebration. However, it would be more accurate to think of them as purple and pink, like on a traditional advent wreath. Purple, because it is a colour of remembering as well as prayer, penitence and sacrifice. And pink because it is the colour of rejoicing. The third candle in the advent wreath is the pink candle lit for Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means rejoice! It gives us a break from all the other preparations to remind us of the joyful hope we have for the future, and to not lose heart because it isn't long now till the countdown has ended…

So Advent isn't just about shopping, stressing, planning, and buying. It is about expecting, waiting, hoping, and praying. There's a phrase that is sometimes recalled that if you are sick of Christmas by December 25th then you haven't done Advent correctly! So, as part of your Advent this year why not do something a little different? Volunteer at a charity shop, hospital or soup kitchen, spend some extra time in prayer, spend more quality time with your family, call that person who's been on your mind recently, speak kindly to strangers, maybe even go to church. But perhaps most of all, share some hope with those who need it most whilst we wait for the special guest, Jesus Christ.

Revd. Tim Davis
School Chaplain

Looking Ahead

Monday 14th December
Year 11 Parent's Evening

Wednesday 15th December
Year 11 Trip to the Birmingham Christmas Market

Thursday 16th December
KS3 Trip to see Aladdin

Friday 17th December
Last day of term

Tuesday 4th January
INSET Day
(Academy closed to students)

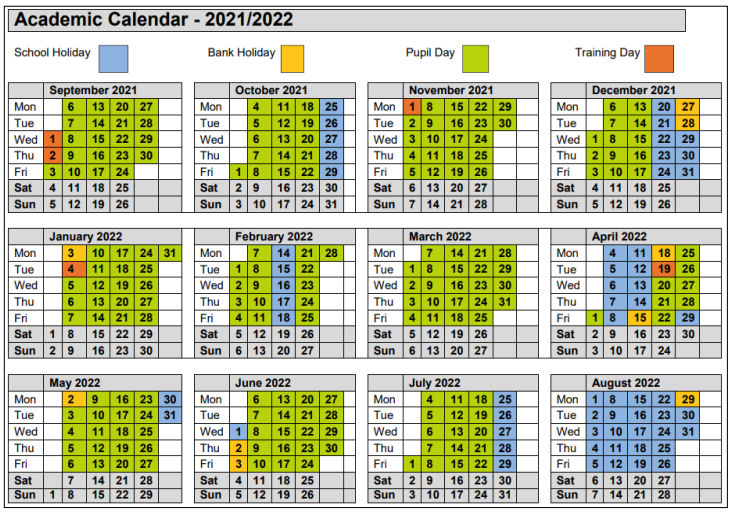
Good To Grow Vouchers

We are asking if all parents/carers can help support our growing allotments at the Academy by collecting Morrisons 'Good to Grow' vouchers when you are at the supermarket doing the weekly shop. All vouchers collected can be passed to Miss Sue Kelly who oversees the students who are working hard maintaining the allotments.

It's Good to Grow from Morrisons

Thank you for your continued support.

Additional Bank Holiday 2022



Academic Calendar - 2021/2022

School Holiday | Bank Holiday | Pupil Day | Training Day

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

As you are aware there is an additional Bank Holiday for the Queen's Jubilee on Friday 3rd June 2022. In light of this, the DfE have advised that where this falls during half term, schools are able to identify another day of 'holiday' elsewhere in the year. As shown on the attached calendar, we would like to advise you that **the additional day when the Academy will be closed is Friday 29th April 2022.**

Denise Greenhood
Academy Services Manager

Bedfordshire Community Health Services | Children & Adults | NHS

Children's Occupational Therapy Service

for children and young people who experience difficulties with everyday activities

You can find information and access the resources listed below on our webpage:
www.cambscommunityservices.nhs.uk/Bedfordshire/services/occupational-therapy

- 'You make the difference' video - for parents and carers of children aged under 5, to promote use of hands and independence skills.
- Sensory Processing Awareness Training - online video, planning wheels and strategies.
- Development Skills Package - provides information to support the development of the skills notes below.

SCAN ME

This information is also available in easy read or other languages, please see the website or scan the QR code to use our RECITE function.

easy read and translation

- Play
- Eating
- Dressing
- Self-care (eg washing)
- Managing at school (e.g. school tasks and helping a child with a physical disability with supportive seating or to get around their classroom)

Further information (including details of your Local Offer pages) can be found at:

www.cambscommunityservices.nhs.uk/Bedfordshire/services/occupational-therapy