NEWSLETTER

Dignity, Faith and Hope

Issue 6—January 2023

ALL SAINTS

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for your recent support during the Gaining Additional Evidence (GAE) Ofsted inspection. It is a most unusual occurrence that we will be challenging with Ofsted through the Academy's legal representatives.

Last week the validated results from last summer's examinations were released by the Department for Education. It was pleasing to see that, after two years of Covid interruptions, the Academy has *more* than held its own with our nearest schools. As you will know Progress 8 is the measure of how much progress students make across their best 8 subjects judged against their KS2 starting points.

	P8	P8 ENGLISH	P8 MATHS	P8 EBACC
All Saints Academy Dunstable	-0.45	-0.38	-0.33	-0.39
Manshead Academy	-0.70	-0.66	-0.87	-0.75
Queensbury Academy	-0.48	-0.32	-0.38	-0.57

From the table you can see that All Saints had the **least negative** (or most positive) Progress 8 score. A P8 of -0.45 means that the students were on average 3 grades short of where they would have been based on their incoming KS2 results. For example, if they were targeted 8 grade 6s from their KS2 SAT results, our results mean on average they attained 5 grade 6s and 3 grade 5s. Hence a drop of three grades. This is most regrettable for the students but highly understandable considering that during Years 9 and 10 they lost two terms of lessons due to lockdowns, many daily lessons were missed due to bubbles being sent home, and not forgetting the impact of staff and student absence. I would like to thank the dedicated staff who worked hard to ensure the effect of this unprecedented period of our lives was minimised.

Our maths and English are as good as, if not better, than Manshead and Queensbury (both Ofsted category GOOD schools), and our progress across the EBacc subjects (English, maths, science, Humanities and MFL) speaks for itself, demonstrating our determination to provide our students with an aspirational curriculum.

If you wish to see more of this data please follow the link below:

<u>Find and check the performance of schools and colleges in England - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</u>

We have one more snap of cold weather forecasted for this week after which hopefully we will begin to feel winter is behind us and the lighter, warmer days are just around the corner.

Liz Furber Executive Principal

Dear Parents and Carers

As an employer, the governors of the Academy recognise the right of all professional associations and trade unions to ballot their members regarding industrial action. This week, teachers from the National Education Union (NEU) took strike action for one day, possibly the first of a series of strikes. All Saints Academy remained open to all students.

Disruption was actually kept to a minimum and the impact on the education of your child(ren) was negligible. I am grateful to members of the Senior Leadership Team for covering any absence there was on that day, and to all staff for ensuring that learning continued and students were safe.

That level of commitment should not mask the fact that education is poorly funded. Whilst there have been pay awards for teaching and non-teaching staff during the past year, they were well below the current level of inflation and had to be funded from within the budget that was planned last July.

As an Academy, we will always seek to ensure that our resources are used for the maximum benefit of students in any academic year. However, the budget will only stretch so far so we will continue to monitor it very carefully to

(Continued on page 2)

NEWSLETTER

Dignity, Faith and Hope

Page 2



(Continued from page 1)

ensure that effective teaching and learning can always take place.

I appreciate some families might have been inconvenienced by strike action taking place at other schools in the area this week but, as we showed on the recent 'snow day' and throughout the lockdown period, All Saints will always strive to make provision and be there for its students. I am very proud of, and grateful to, our leaders and staff for enabling this to happen.

Best wishes

David Fraser Chair of Governors

Free School Meals

If you think you meet the free school meals eligibility criteria, please call Central Beds Council on 0300 300 8306. You will need to have the following information ready:

National Insurance numbers and dates of birth for you and your partner; dates of birth for your children; if you receive support from the National Asylum Support Service, your NASS number.

More information can be found at Free school meals | Central Bedfordshire Council.

Looking Ahead

8th February Y7-Y9 Flu Vaccinations

10th February Enrichment Day / Charity House Day

13th February
Half Term

20th February
Students return after
half term

21st FebruaryY9 and Y10 Vaccinations

22nd FebruaryY9 Options Evening

Water Bottles

The Academy has water fountains around the building where students can fill up water bottles.

We sell refillable water bottles for £1 and these are available from Student Reception, but students can bring one from home if they wish.

While we provide plastic cups at break and lunchtime, these do not hold as much water as a bottle and are more difficult to carry around the building.

Please encourage your children to bring a refillable water bottle every day.



NEWSLETTER

Dignity, Faith and Hope

Page 3



Students with Nut Allergies

We have had some instances recently of students bringing nuts to school and not disposing of the shells and packets responsibly.

Please can we ask that students do not bring nuts to school as this could be a health and safety risk to students who have a nut allergy.

King Charles' Coronation

As you may be aware, there is an extra Bank Holiday this year to mark the coronation of King Charles.

This will be taking place on Monday 8th May 2023 and the Academy will be closed on this day.



An updated calendar can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Free School Meal Vouchers

If your child is eligible for free school meals, Central Beds Council will be providing vouchers for the half term holiday. The vouchers will be sent via the normal online system.

If you have any issues with your vouchers, please contact CBC direct on 0300 300 8306. Unfortunately, the Academy is not able to help with any queries as we have not been involved in issuing the vouchers, other than to provide up to date email addresses for parents/carers so that the vouchers can be sent.



Children's Flu Vaccination Clinics

*for Children in Reception to Year 9 only

If your child still needs a flu vaccination we have the following catch up clinics available:

Monday 13th February Milton Keynes

Tuesday 14th February Sandy

Wednesday 15th February Luton

Thursday 16th February Bedford

If you would like to book an appointment or require further information please call us on **0300 790 0594**, Monday – Friday 9am to 5pm

Appointments are subject to availability.

Lost Property

All lost property is kept at Student Reception and anything that is named is returned to students.

If your child has lost any of their uniform or property, please remind them to check with staff at Student Reception to see if their item has been handed in as all unclaimed lost property is disposed of each half term

ParentPay

ParentyPay is an online, secure payment system where you can top up your child's cashless catering account so that they can buy items in the canteen. You can also purchase items such as replacement ties and locker keys.

If you do not have a login for ParentPay, please contact the Academy.

Living Well Together with Dignity, Faith and Hope

NEWSLETTER ALL SAINT

Page 4

From the Chaplain

Focus verse: "The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in love."

Psalm 103 verse 8

If we could pick and choose characteristics that we would find attractive and that we would want to see in our parents/carers or leaders, then our focus verse probably contains things that would be high on our list; compassion, graciousness, slow to anger, abounding love.

Compassion:- showing care for the misfortune of others;

Gracious:- kind, forgiving, courteous, humble;

Slow to anger:- merciful, it takes a lot to get cross;

Abounding in love:- generosity, wanting the very best for someone, will go out of their way to help.

And if we want to see this in others we perhaps ought to be modelling it too, rather than just expect everyone to be of good character but not bother to work on our own temperament.

I cannot think of anyone who would not think that these qualities are a positive thing. And yet many people seem to overlook that these attributes are an essential part of who God is. Regrettably, that can be down to

having negative experiences of the church or a particular Christian, or being disappointed by their perception of God. However, my anecdotal experience seems to be that many people have misunderstood, or not really even considered the implications of the nature of God. For example; yes God does allow negative things to happen to us - but is still compassionate, He can be forceful - but still gracious, He can get angry and cross with us but most of the time is merciful. And loving someone does not always mean giving them what they want - I have lost count of the number of people who tell me that they think all

their problems will be solved if they won the lottery and yet we are often reading about people whose lives have been ruined by big wins because they cannot deal with the responsibility that comes from it. God is both immanent (interested in the personal details of our lives) as well as being transcendent (being able to see the big picture and operating outside of our normal human experience).

Once we get our heads around this then it can be a wonderful thing to accept the friendship that God offers us through Jesus; a friendship for eternity whereby we can enjoy each other's company.

Prayer:

Loving God,

Thank You for our Academy and for the opportunity it provides us to learn, grow and develop.

Please help everyone at All Saints, staff and students, to support each other so that all in our community can achieve today and in the future.



In all our work, help us to act with responsibility.

In all our relationships, help us to care for others with compassion and respect.

In our lives, help us to grow in understanding and faith in You.

We pray all these things in Jesus' name.

Revd. Tim Davis School Chaplain

NEWSLETTER

Dignity, Faith and Hope

Page 5



All Saints Academy Dunstable Exam Invigilator Vacancy (Casual)



We are looking for enthusiastic, hard-working and reliable colleagues to join our existing team of invigilators. As an Exam Invigilator you will supervise students taking examinations according to regulations determined by the Academy and Examination Boards, this will include supervising the arrival and seating of candidates, handing out exam papers with the support of the person in charge and continually monitoring students during examinations, reporting any irregularities, such as communication between students, as necessary.

This is a casual role and previous experience is not essential as training will be given. As well as public exams, invigilators are called upon to support at other times of the year during periods of mock and end of year exams.

Salary

£9.50 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 <u>www.allsaintsacademydunstable.org</u> or visit <u>www.mynewterm.com</u> for additional details on this vacancy and how to apply. CVs will not be accepted.

All Saints Academy is an equal opportunities employer. The Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers, prohibition order check and the Disclosure & Barring Service.





NEWSLETTER

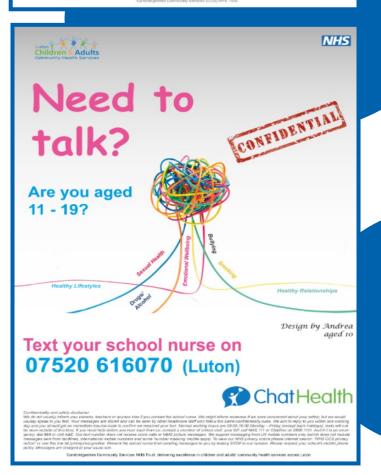
Page 6

ALL SAINTS

NHS

Dignity, Faith and Hope









NEWSLETTER 1

Dignity, Faith and Hope

Page 7

ALL SAINTS

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