NEWSLETTER ALL SAINTS

Dignity, Faith and Hope Issue 8—March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a challenging term for all schools since the terrible tragedy of Ruth Perry hit the news. Ruth as you will know was the Headteacher who took her own life after an inadequate Ofsted report. It has made all of us question whether the gradings that Ofsted give schools are representative of what actually happens within schools, and more importantly whether the stress put upon school staff is warranted.

As you will know we had an additional Ofsted inspection at the end of January after the initial visit in November. It is now over 4 months since the first inspection and this prolonged process is having an impact on staff wellbeing as well as preventing the academy leadership from driving things forward.

We have tried to maintain business as normal which is especially important for our Year 11, 12 and 13 students as their exams are fast approaching. The manner in which they have conducted themselves in their recent mock exams has been exemplary. The Year 11s have been given a revision timetable for the Easter holidays which refers daily to resources that can be found on Showbie. If you are a parent or carer of a Year 11 student please could I ask you to encourage your child to engage with these daily revision activities. When we get back there will only be four weeks until the exams start and students will have an extended summer holiday once the exams are finished.

I do wish you all a very peaceful and restful holiday as we look forward to the nicer weather we will hopefully get in the summer term. Happy Easter!

> **Liz Furber Executive Principal**

Dear Parents and Carers

The focus of the education world over the past few weeks has been dominated by the tragic death of Ruth Perry, Headteacher of Caversham Primary School. The thoughts and prayers of all of us at the Academy go to Ruth's family, friends and colleagues.

Her family have attributed her death to the undue pressure put on her by an Ofsted inspection, which took place on 15th/16th November 2022. An inquest will eventually determine the circumstances surrounding her death and we must not speculate further at this time. What I can say is that you will be aware that we began our own Ofsted inspection process back on 22nd November 2022 and there is still nothing that I am able to share with parents and carers.

It is undoubtedly true that an Ofsted inspection puts tremendous pressure on everyone, especially the Principal and Senior Leaders. The vast majority of leaders and teachers that I have known and worked with over many years, get up and go to work each morning determined to do the best they can for the benefit of the young people in their care. For someone, like Ruth Perry, to feel they could no longer do that is absolutely devastating.

I have written before that we should all look to be kind to one another. Of course there are times when constructive criticism is absolutely valid and partners in a child's education should work together to find a resolution to any problems. It's a cliché to say that 'we are all only human', but that is the case. From national organisations to individuals, the wellbeing of everyone should be our primary focus. Let there never be another Ruth Perry type incident where someone feels the pressure and criticism is so much that they can no longer cope.

Thank you once again for your continuing support this last term. Have a happy and blessed Easter.

Best wishes

David Fraser Chair of Governors

Living Well Together with Dignity, Faith and Hope

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Police Impersonation Scams

Act with caution if you receive a suspicious telephone call

Bedfordshire Police have issued the following warning:

"We are urging the public to stay vigilant against scammers impersonating police officers, following recent reports of people being tricked into handing over money and valuables in Bedfordshire.

These scams involve criminals calling unsuspecting victims and telling a series of elaborate lies, such as claiming to be investigating a fraud case or that a relative is in custody, to convince them to part with their money or personal belongings.

In some cases, someone posing as a courier or police officer has shown up at the victim's home after the phone call to collect the items.

Detective Constable Lorelle Hathaway said: "This is a particularly despicable scam in which criminals appear to be targeting elderly and vulnerable individuals. "We are urging residents to remain cautious and refrain from sharing personal or financial information with cold callers, even if they claim to be police officers.

"We'd also appreciate it if people could share this message with their friends and family, in particular with any older or potentially vulnerable relatives and neighbours, to ensure they know how to best protect themselves from these types of schemes."

To avoid becoming a victim of a police impersonation scam, remember:

Police will never ask you to transfer money to another account, hand over cash or bank cards to a courier, or a pay a fine or fee over the phone. If someone asks you to do this, it's a scam. If an officer contacts you in person, they will show you their warrant card. This is proof of their identify and authority.

If someone has called you and you are unsure if they are a genuine police officer, you can hang up and call police on 101 to check their identity. It is recommended you wait at least five minutes before you call, as there have been cases of fraudsters keeping the line open after a victim has hung up."

Please help protect others from falling victim to this scam, by telling your family, friends and neighbours know about this alert.

Free School Meal Vouchers

If your child is eligible for free school meals, Central Beds Council will be providing vouchers for the Easter 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.

~ First Day of Term ~ **Monday 17th April**

Canteen Price Increase

As you are aware the price of food has risen significantly in recent months, and this has also had an impact on Harrisons, our caterers.

They have held the prices in the canteen for as long as possible but we need to make you aware that from 17th April, there will be a price increase on all items sold in the canteen.

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From the Chaplain

Easter reflection 2023:

"Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He is not here. He has risen! See the place where they laid him." –

Mark 16:6

As I have been sharing with the students in my times of Collective Worship recently, Easter is the most important season in the Christian calendar because it is the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. The point being that Jesus died in our place for all the difficulties and struggles we have, and the problems we get ourselves into. He died to



allow us to restore our right relationship with God, knowing we will never be good enough but that His goodness is sufficient.*

But rising from the dead is a pretty incredible statement and there are many who say it did not happen. A few years ago, I saw a church drama sketching out a scene from Mastermind where the chosen specialist subject was "Proofs that the resurrection of Jesus never happened". Some of the questions that were asked were:

If the disciples had deliberately invented the story that Jesus rose from the dead, why didn't they deny it when they were tortured, stoned and beheaded?

If the Romans or the Jews had moved the body of Jesus why didn't they produce it when the Christians began saying that He had risen from the dead?

If Jesus didn't rise from the dead, what was it that changed Peter, Thomas and the other disciples from fearful and doubting men into courageous and successful believers?

If the resurrection of Jesus was just a hallucination in the minds of the disciples, how come over 500 of them all had the same hallucination?

So, if the disciples didn't make up the story about the resurrection, they didn't steal the body, nor did the Jews or the Romans, and they weren't hallucinating, what other explanation is there for the fact that the tomb was empty? The answer to them all is that Jesus' resurrection must be historical fact for it is the only thing that makes sense of all the evidence. Maybe it is something to ponder over the Easter period.

Because if it is the only thing that makes sense of the evidence then it has pretty significant implications for us all. It means things like loneliness need never occur again for God is always with us. It implies that no problem or situation is insurmountable with God's help. I wonder if there is a situation in your life that you need help to overcome?

Prayer:

Dear God,

Thank You so much for Easter and the empty tomb. Thank You that it demonstrates Your love for us by going through the agony of death and yet triumphing over it. Please help me to remember that when I face struggles You are with me and can help me through. Thank You that You want to be our friend. Amen.



*if you wish to talk more about the significance of Easter then please do get in touch.

Revd. Tim Davis; School Chaplain

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Looking Ahead

17th April First Day of Term

18th April

Y9/Y11 Vaccinations

1st Mav

Bank Holiday

8th May **Bank Holiday**

> 9th May **SEND Day**

17th May Y10 Parents' Evening

Essex Partnership University

Teenage Vaccination Clinics for Secondary Aged pupils

Year 9 to Year 11

The vaccines available at the clinics are:

- Meningitis ACWY Diptheria, Tetanus and Polio Booster

Appointments available as follows:

Tuesday 4th April 2023:

Thursday 6th April 2023:

Bedford

Tuesday 11th April:

Bedford

Wednesday 12th April:

Ampthill

Thursday 13th April:

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.

Walk-in Clinics

Monday 3rd April 2023:

Thursday 6th April 2023:

uton, LU1 1TF

Do you know it's illegal to use a privately owned electric scooter in a public place?

You can only use your e-scooter on private land with the landowner's permission.

If you ride in public - on roads or pavements - and are not part of a government trial, your scooter may be seized by police and you may face a fine and/or penalty points on your licence.

Full details of the government's legislation on e-scooters can be found on the gov.uk website.



Lost Property

All lost property is kept at Student Reception and anything that is named is returned to students. Naming your child's property will help us to return items when they are handed in.

If your child loses any of their uniform or property, remind them to check with staff at Student Reception to see if their item has been handed in.

Please remember that all unclaimed lost property is disposed of at the end of each half term so it is important that students speak to Student Reception as soon as they realise the item is lost.

Students can also keep items safe during the school day but placing them in their locker. If your child has lost their key, replacements can be purchased for £1 through ParentPay or at Student Reception.

~ Save the Date ~

Year 11 Prom—Thursday 6th July



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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 (plus 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.





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