

Dear Parents and Carers

The first month back at school has flown by! We have focused on safeguarding and have had visits from the NSPCC, our School improvement Partner (SIP), and the Local Authority.

The NSPCC were very pleased with the improvements we have made since last September – in particular they felt students were more confident that their voices would be heard and actions would happen as a result of their comments.

Our SIP focused on our students who use alternative provision to ensure we were robust in our checking of attendance and visited the students regularly.

Finally, the Local Authority audited our safeguarding last week and we discussed our rules for use of the toilets with them. During break and lunchtime all toilets are open for students to use. During lesson times we try to discourage students from interrupting their learning but if they do need to go a member of staff is emailed and they will be escorted. Some students felt this was over cautious but I trust you will understand that whilst students have the freedom to go to the toilet they do not have the opportunity to wander aimlessly—potentially trying to avoid lessons.

We have also added more CCTV to the stairwells as students requested this as they felt sometimes incidents happen in 'blind spots' around the Academy. CCTV is also used in some toilets where there is space to position the cameras so they can only see the sinks and not into the cubicles. This ensures that students feel safe in toilets as the presence of CCTV ensures they do not make poor behaviour choices. Since installing CCTV we have eliminated any vandalism or potential places for vaping, and this keeps the students safe even when out of sight of staff. In assembly students have been shown the views from the cameras so that they understand that cameras cannot see into the cubicles.

In the 1:1 surveys, 95% of students reported that they felt safe all or most of the time. I have managed to meet with many of these students to find out what more we can do to make them feel safe around the Academy.

Some suggestions raised involved making the corridors less busy at lesson change over times, so now all classes have a staggered leaving time. Students also mentioned the canteen queue felt a bit crowded so now we have students lining up in twos allowing for a controlled and calm access to the canteen.

There is a real feeling of us all working together and listening to concerns raised around the Academy. I do hope your son or daughter has fed back to you the raised profile we have given to 'feeling safe' and that they know who to go to if they have any concerns.

Best wishes

Liz Furber
Executive Principal

Looking Ahead

9th-13th October

Open Mornings

19th October

SEND Day

20th October

INSET Day

(Academy closed to students)

23rd to 27th October

Half Term

6th to 17th November

Y11/Y12/Y13 Mocks

13th December

Y11 Parents' Evening

20th December

Last Day of Term

Contacting the Academy

You can contact the Academy:

By phone on the main switchboard number - 01582 619700

By email using our dedicated parent/carer email address – parentcontact@asadunstable.org

By text on 07860 098785

The school **website** is also a source of useful information and links – www.allsaintsacademydunstable.org

Dear Parents and Carers

As schools are now back into the swing of things for the new academic year, the safety and well-being of all students remain priorities, alongside the need for learning and progression.

However, there are two issues that seem to be dominating education headlines at the moment: attendance and vaping. I doubt very much whether these two issues are linked since the fall in attendance seems to have its roots firmly set in the aftermath of the pandemic. The rise in vaping among young people is very much associated with attempts to reduce the number of people who are reliant on cigarettes.

Both elements have a legal basis. It is a legal requirement for all those under 18 to be in some form of education, employment or training, and it is illegal for anyone under 18 to purchase e-cigarettes. However, legislation alone is never going to solve these problems. Ironically the answer to addressing both issues lies in education. Understanding the long-term benefits of regular school attendance can only be gained through an educative process, and understanding the long-term harm that vaping can do will only be gained through a programme of health education. At the Academy we seek to encourage regular attendance through a series of measures that try to avoid resorting to a legal process, although it remains the ultimate sanction. Similarly we will discourage students from engaging in vaping and, where necessary, impose sanctions to prevent it happening in school.

Ultimately, the success or otherwise of these measures relies on the three-way partnership between students, parents/carers and the Academy. We very much appreciate the cooperation we receive from the vast majority of parents/carers in tackling these societal issues and will always seek to work towards solutions that support the health and well-being of our students.

Best wishes

David Fraser
Chair of Governors



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.



Y2A

YOUTH 2 ADULT

16-24 YEARS

**GET INVOLVED**

**MAKE FRIENDS**

**GAIN ADVICE**

**RECEIVE SUPPORT**

Join our new group for a fun and creative space where you can meet new people, jam out with your musical skills, and stay active in our community gym.

Come along to find out more and let us know what other services you would like to access.

STARTS
TUESDAY
10TH
OCTOBER

TUESDAY 6PM TO 8PM
FRIDAY 10AM TO 2PM

DUNSTABLE COMMUNITY HALLS
MANCHESTER PLACE, DUNSTABLE,
BEDFORDSHIRE LU6 1HT

07957196025
CASEY.KNOWLES@BEDSRCC.ORG.UK



Our story and verses are from the story of Jesus washing the disciples feet, like the lowliest servant and the whole story can be found in John 13:1-20

"Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you." (John 13 verses 14 & 15).

I don't know about you but I often read the words of Jesus and think, "Really? Are you sure?"

because much of what He said and did was counter-cultural; going against the grain of popular thinking. And so we need to scratch away beneath the surface and explore a little as to what He actually might have meant.



On this occasion, the story is that there is a situation where Jesus was invited into a house to celebrate a meal for the Jewish festival of Passover. In those times it was custom for the host to wash the feet of his guests but for some reason the host didn't do it, so Jesus did it. Why was that? Was He trying to take over and be the host, or was something else going on here?

Washing feet is a simple, but humble, act of service. Feet aren't the most glamorous part of the human body; they're often hidden from view as they're functional and often get dirty, dusty, and smelly. Washing feet isn't pretty. And so by Jesus washing the feet He is symbolically demonstrating that serving others is a good thing. Jesus goes on to talk about how if anyone wants to be great then he must be the servant of all. And this is where that counter-cultural thinking comes into play. Most of us probably think that washing our own feet isn't particularly nice, let alone washing someone else's feet. And yet by doing so, Jesus is saying that it is important to treat and value other people greater than yourself.

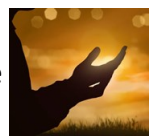


And here is the challenge, by serving others you are honouring and valuing what they do. Think of all the mundane and sometimes unpleasant jobs that need doing which are actually necessary for sanitary living conditions; bin collectors, litter pickers, toilet cleaners, cleaners, home carers, etc. Everyone has value and we shouldn't think that certain things are "beneath us" or "unimportant". I wonder if there is someone you need to serve, or at least say thank you and show gratitude to, today?

Prayer:

Dear God,

I'm sorry when I undervalue people because of what they do, or who they are, or what I've thought they're capable of. Thank You that You value everyone and that we can all contribute to a happy community life by serving others in the things that we are good at and in what we've learnt and experienced. Please help me to understand and appreciate everyone more and more for the unique special skills that each person brings and show them that they are appreciated.



Amen.

Rev. Tim Davis
School Chaplain

Anti Food Waste Apps

During the current climate where prices are on the increase, the following two apps may be of support. They offer unsold food at either free or discounted rates.

OLIO connects neighbours with each other and with local businesses so surplus food can be shared, not thrown away. This could be food nearing its sell-by date in local stores, spare home-grown vegetables, bread from your baker, or the groceries in your fridge when you go away. For your convenience, OLIO can also be used for non-food household items, too.

At **Too Good To Go**, we're determined to help fix the problem. Our anti-food waste app lets you rescue delicious, unsold food from businesses to save it from going to waste. In turn, the app powers our efforts to build an anti-food waste movement.

Useful Financial Support Links

[Grants and benefits to help you pay your energy bills- Citizens Advice](#)—

You might be able to get help if you are struggling to afford your energy bills or top up your prepayment meter

[Check benefits and financial support you can get](#)—Find out what support you might be able to get to help with your living costs. You can get benefits and other financial support if you are eligible.

[Cost of Living payment](#)—You may be able to get a payment to help with the cost of living if you are getting certain benefits or tax credits.

[Entitled To](#)—One of the leading providers of online benefits calculators in the UK today. We help people determine what they can claim from national and local government via our self-serve calculators.

[WaterSure scheme](#) – Help with paying water bills

[British Gas Energy Trust](#)—Help with your money and fuel bills

[PDSA](#)—If you live within the postcode catchment area of one of our Pet Hospitals, and you are receiving benefits, you should qualify for treatments and help with the cost of prescribed medications for your pets.

[Stepchange](#)—Debt advice



Information support and guidance –
Grants and funds available to parents who are starting work.

Guest speaker Lisa Sinclair from DWP
Department for Work and Pensions

Parent Insight Session
Thursday 9th November 2023
4-5pm

Free to attend via Microsoft Teams
Register for your place via the Eventbrite link below
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/700730282137>

Resources will be shared after the workshop.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES
MULTI-SPORTS COURSE 6 weeks

Castle Newnham School (Sports Hall)
Pollhill Avenue, Bedford MK41 9DT

Every Thursday from
2nd November to 7th December

4.45pm - 5.45pm

For ages 8-17 years

Cost: £15.00 per child (AB members)
£20.00 per child (non AB members)
Siblings welcome to attend.

Book Now

enquiries@autismbeds.org

01234 214871 (general enquiries)

Autism Bedfordshire

Working in partnership with Blues Foundation

Parents/Carers must stay on site and supervise their child/ren at all times.