

Living Well
Together with
Dignity, Faith and Hope

NEWSLETTER

Issue 5—December 2023

ALL SAINTS
ACADEMY

Dear Parents and Carers

The last newsletter of the year from me to wish you and your families a peaceful Christmas and a joyful New Year! The students have had a wonderful time this week with reward trips, Christmas parties and end of year assemblies. The students and staff now need a rest to get over an exciting term so we can return refreshed in January.

I hope you have a wonderful break, and safe travels to those of you visiting families and loved ones over the Christmas period.

Happy Christmas to you all.

Liz Furber

Executive Principal

Wednesday 3rd January

INSET Day

(Academy closed to students)

~

Thursday 4th January

First Day of Term

Dear Parents and Carers

As we come to the end of another long term, I was reminded recently that society as a whole only 'gives permission' for the Christian church to talk about Jesus just twice a year: Easter and Christmas. As we mark the birth of Jesus, which Mark's gospel heralds as being 'The beginning of the good news', we look at a world that far from embodies those sentiments. When there is so much conflict, and so many lives being lost, it is difficult to reconcile 'Peace and good will to all'.

And yet this is a time of year when, apart from marking the birth of Christ, families and friends come together, to spend some time relaxing and reflecting and, perhaps, looking ahead to the hope of better times.

The education world has, very recently, been focused on the tragic death of Ruth Perry, Headteacher at Caversham Primary School. The coroner at her inquest concluded that an Ofsted inspection had contributed towards her death. Her husband, teenage daughters and wider family are facing their first Christmas without her, which will be a very difficult time, I'm sure.

As we continue our own challenge of Ofsted, a process that has lasted for over a year now, I want to put on record my thanks to Liz Furber, the Senior Leadership Team, all staff and my fellow governors for the way in which they have continued to press ahead, making a real difference to the lives of the young people in their care. I also want to thank our students, and you, as parents and carers, for your continuing support during difficult times for everyone.

Can I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a happy, peaceful and restful Christmas.

Finally, it feels appropriate to leave you with the words of Ruth Perry, 'There is nothing more important in life than kindness. Be kind, always'.

Best wishes

David Fraser

Chair of Governors

Year 7

Year 7 have made such a fantastic start to their time here at All Saints Academy.

They have settled in really well with their new Non-Teaching Head of Year, Mr Newton, and it has been a pleasure being able to praise and reward our Year 7 students for improvements in their attendance and positive attitudes around the Academy.

Most recently, we have enjoyed a rewards trip to the Pantomime to see Jack and the Beanstalk, where we were able to celebrate the end of term and Christmas with our wonderful students.

Well done Year 7!



Lianne Riley
Assistant Principal

Year 8

Thank you for your support in what has been a very busy first term for Year 8. We have seen big improvements in behaviour and attitudes linked to reward incentives, such as our weekly raffle which has been well responded to by students.

We are also very proud because each form has produced a great work display board which we are calling the Greatest of All Time Wall. Each student has their name and space on the wall and this is to be updated weekly. Students are very proud of their work.

Finally, I would like to thank Mrs Connolly, Year 8's Non-Teaching Head of Year, who has already made a huge difference to the year group with her daily support of students. Thank you to all parents and carers for your amazing support. We cannot do this without you!

John Acquah
Head of Year 8

Year 9

On 14th December, the year group journeyed to Go Bowling in Dunstable for their annual rewards trip. Over the course of the term, Year 9 have worked with great purpose. Indeed, they have represented themselves with dignity around the Academy and sought to make every lesson count. Year 9 are undoubtedly a fantastic year group and it was a pleasure to see them enjoy themselves at the bowling, whether that was the more competitive games, which exhibited some wonderful strikes and splits, to the more relaxed games that utilised the bumpers to great effect. Many enjoyed the amusements too. It was a pleasure to see them bond together over driving games and the ever elusive basketball net game. I myself remained undefeated at table hockey. Upon returning to the Academy, students were further rewarded with treats and a film. By popular demand, Elf was chosen – a great choice! It has been my privilege, as well as Ms Fallon's, to lead our year group this term. I hope everyone has a relaxing Christmas so that we are all ready for the new year!

David Knott
Head of Year 9

Student Parliament

The Parliament met with Mrs Furber and in a short time we achieved a lot! The Parliament are keen to bring more environmental awareness to the Academy with more recycling which was fully supported. New benches for the Muga, a 'drop-down' Culture Day, a meeting with the canteen staff, a new fire bell sound were also initiatives that were brought forward and agreed. We hope that students will continue to feed their ideas to Parliament through form reps.

Year 11

It has been a busy term for our Year 11 students and after mock exams and gap filling lessons, students were ready for their end of term reward. Go Bowling in Dunstable kindly accommodated the whole year group for a game of ten-pin bowling. It was a gloomy, rainy morning as we left school for the walk into Dunstable but despite the soaking we had received on the way, the students were looking forward to their games. It was a pleasure to see the students enjoying themselves. Our students produced some stunning bowling across ten rounds of competition, with a number of strikes and spares scored. After their bowling game, students had time to relax with a game of pool or some arcade games. Some students treated themselves to refreshments from the café.

On our arrival back at the Academy, the students were treated to a two course Christmas lunch, followed by a Christmas film. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our Year 11 students and their families a very merry Christmas and best wishes for 2024.

Ellen Farrell
Head of Year 11

Competitions

We had many wonderful entries for our Christmas Card Competition and so many students made a great effort. This was our winning entry and congratulations to Blessing in Year 8.



Flight Plans

Now that we have had our first Assessment Point (AP1), Flight Plans for students can be found on Edulink in the Documents section of your child's profile.

Flight Plans show your child's end of year targets and Working at Grades (WAGs) for AP1, along with how your child is progressing against their target grade.

Comments about your child's Attitude to Learning (AtL) and homework are also given.

Year 10

Year 10 have done fantastically well so far this academic year, taking a mature mind-set into their GCSE studies. This will have a major impact on their future aspirations and I am incredibly proud of all of them.

This school year, we have had a really big focus on attendance. It is vital that students are in school as much as physically possible, as 90% of young people with attendance rates below 85% fail to achieve five or more good grades of GCSE and around one third achieve no GCSEs at all. The love of learning and eagerness to achieve that the year group have, is pleasing to see.

This week we have been able to celebrate the achievements of the year group with a Christmas bowling trip. The students acted in a mature, competitive way and it is so nice to see students in a different environment.

Lastly I would like to wish you all a great Christmas and thank you for all of the support that you offer us as a school.

Tom Smith
Head of Year 10

Festive fun from some of our Year 8 students

Sports Quiz

Football Round

1. When did the first football game take place?
2. What does 'FIFA' stand for?
3. How many players are on the pitch per team?
4. When a player is fouled inside the box what happens?
5. What is it called when an individual player scores three goals in one match?

Cricket Round

1. How many stitches does a cricket ball have?
2. How many players are on the pitch altogether?
3. When did cricket originate?
4. Apart from England, which other countries are famous for playing cricket?
5. What is a 'bowl' called?



Ingredients

- 225g plain flour, plus for extra dusting
- Salt
- 2tsp bicarbonate of soda
- Ground ginger
- Cinnamon
- 75g of unsalted butter
- 100g soft brown sugar
- 100g golden syrup

Method

1. Heat oven to 190C/170C fan/gas mark 5 and line a baking tray with baking parchment.
2. Sieve the flour, salt, bicarb, ginger and cinnamon into a large bowl.
3. Heat the butter, sugar and syrup until dissolved.
4. Leave the sugar mixture to cool slightly then mix into the dry ingredients to form a dough.
5. Chill the dough in the fridge for 30 minutes.
6. On a surface lightly dusted with flour, roll out the dough to a ¼- inch thickness.
7. Stamp out the gingerbread men shapes with a cutter, then re-roll any off cuts and repeat.
8. Place your gingerbread shapes on the lined trays allowing space for them to spread.
9. Cook for 10-15 minutes then remove from the oven to cool.

Christmas Jokes



From the Chaplain

Focus verse:

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!” Acts 7:59

During Christmas time we can often think of traditions and values that we hold dear, or there might be friends or family members, no longer with us who have a particular significance in our lives which means it can be quite difficult for some people amongst the joyous celebrations and festivities. So I thought we would look briefly at some things that often go under the radar in the latter part of Advent and into the Christmas Season.



The first thing is the 3rd Sunday in Advent which is traditionally called Gaudete Sunday. During the season of preparation in Advent there is one Sunday to remind us specifically that these preparations are for a joyful time, that it is a celebration even though there might be hard work leading up to Christmas. Therefore, the 3rd Sunday has a slightly different focus and has a different coloured candle, pink instead of purple, on the advent wreath. Gaudete is Latin for rejoice! And given most liturgy in churches originates from Latin, it has kept its name. Being on the 3rd Sunday it is a reminder that the time for celebrations is very nearly upon us as we rejoice at the gift of God's Son, Jesus, come to earth in human form to show us what God is like and to remind us that He is relational, loves us unconditionally, and is very much for us!



Also, there are two Saints that Christians think of around Christmas time. One is Stephen. He is widely regarded as the first martyr in Christianity because he stood up for what he believed in. It was a truth that was actually good for people to hear, it was not an extreme point of view but people did not want to know and so they stoned him. He is remembered in the Christian Calendar on 26th December (Boxing Day). He is



the St Stephen that is sung about in the carol Good King Wenceslas.

The other Saint is the fourth century Bishop, St Nicholas, or probably better known as Father Christmas or Santa Claus. St Nicholas is the Patron Saint of Children amongst other things. Legend has it that he secretly gave gifts to children and the rest has evolved from that – there is plenty that we can read up about him.

So, may I take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, remembering that it is a joyous time that we celebrate with special traditions but that it can also be a time remembering loved ones no longer with us.

Prayer

Dear Lord,

Thank You for all the anticipation, hope and joy we have as we rapidly approach Christmas. Please help us to show gratitude for whatever people may give us. Help us to be thoughtfully generous in what we get others. Please help us to remember the struggles other people go through whilst still enabling us to have a joyous time. Amen.



Rev. Tim Davis; School Chaplain

Academic Calendar - 2023/2024

School Holiday						Bank Holiday						Pupil Day						Training Day							
September 2023						October 2023						November 2023						December 2023							
Mon		4	11	18	25	Mon		2	9	16	23	30	Mon		6	13	20	27	Mon		4	11	18	25	
Tue		5	12	19	26	Tue		3	10	17	24	31	Tue		7	14	21	28	Tue		5	12	19	26	
Wed		6	13	20	27	Wed		4	11	18	25		Wed		1	8	15	22	29	Wed		6	13	20	27
Thu		7	14	21	28	Thu		5	12	19	26		Thu		2	9	16	23	30	Thu		7	14	21	28
Fri	1	8	15	22	29	Fri		6	13	20	27		Fri		3	10	17	24		Fri	1	8	15	22	29
Sat	2	9	16	23	30	Sat		7	14	21	28		Sat		4	11	18	25		Sat	2	9	16	23	30
Sun	3	10	17	24		Sun	1	8	15	22	29		Sun		5	12	19	26		Sun	3	10	17	24	31
January 2024						February 2024						March 2024						April 2024							
Mon	1	8	15	22	29	Mon		5	12	19	26		Mon		4	11	18	25		Mon	1	8	15	22	29
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Wed	3	10	17	24	31	Wed		7	14	21	28		Wed		6	13	20	27		Wed	3	10	17	24	
Thu	4	11	18	25		Thu	1	8	15	22	29		Thu		7	14	21	28		Thu	4	11	18	25	
Fri	5	12	19	26		Fri	2	9	16	23			Fri	1	8	15	22	29		Fri	5	12	19	26	
Sat	6	13	20	27		Sat	3	10	17	24			Sat	2	9	16	23	30		Sat	6	13	20	27	
Sun	7	14	21	28		Sun	4	11	18	25			Sun	3	10	17	24	31		Sun	7	14	21	28	
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