

June to July 2023 Keynotes



Dear Parents and Carers

As we finish our school year, I looked back through the five editions of Keynotes and really enjoyed reflecting on the sheer number of both curriculum-based and extracurricular opportunities and activities our students have engaged with. It demonstrates the wide variety of experiences your children can access whilst at St Peter's and it has also been great to showcase student achievement in sports and activities outside of school.

This half term, we have enjoyed two of the most popular days of the year: Feast Day and Sports Day. The rain stopped in time for a wonderful day of sporting excellence and I would like to pay particular tribute to our Year 12 students who were as keen as all the other year groups to get involved, compete and particularly beat the teachers in the sprints and relays. Father Tristan marked the spirit and values our St Peter has bestowed on our school community at the outdoor Feast Day Mass and then we hiked to Newlands Corner and St Martha's Church for our sponsored walk. The fancy dress themes were well supported and as you will find out later in the newsletter, we raised a considerable sum for this year's charities. Thank you to everyone who contributed, it is very much appreciated.

Following the outcomes from our Parent Survey, I met with a small group of parents to consider the communications between school and home. Thank you to those who were involved and it was very

interesting to hear a parent/carer's perspective on how we share key messages. One action is that we will be sharing the Student Bulletin with families next year. The Student Bulletin is a series of slides that is shared with tutor groups every Monday morning and contains key information for the week including worship and prayers but also the activities that students can be involved in. We are currently overcoming the challenges of sharing such a large file but hope to have something in place for the beginning of the new academic year.



I would like to take this opportunity to share with you a terrific image from this year. Mr O'Brien, a current Year 7 father, is an expedition leader and in April led a successful expedition to Everest. He agreed to take a St Peter's flag with him and here he is on the summit. I am sure you will agree how inspiring it is and if any parents/carers

have similar exciting destinations to take a flag to, please do let me know. We are hoping for them to be taken on future St Peter's trips to include as a record of the visit and display at school.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support this year, your children continue to be a credit to you and great ambassadors for the school. Enjoy reading the newsletter and I hope you have a wonderful summer break.

God bless.

Mr T Miller, Headteacher



Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity

During the summer term, some students were polled about the provision for LGBTQ+ students and allies in the school. As a result of feedback, a safe space has been set up during breaktimes. This will also run next year. The space provides an opportunity to meet new people.

In assemblies this term, students watched an assembly on the topic of masculinity. These assemblies were delivered by male members of staff about how to recognise the damaging effects of historic and

stereotypical expectations of men. The purpose of these assemblies was to encourage our community to not limit expectations of boys and men due to outdated stereotypes. Students were also educated on the damaging consequences these expectations of men can have on men's mental health.

If you would like to hear more about the message that was delivered, please watch 'Decoding the Man Box' by Kevin Powell and Tony Porter on YouTube.

St Peter's Keys



Callum was nominated to receive the St Peter's Keys this term for both participating in public speaking competitions and helping younger students with their public speaking. Over the last two years, Callum has represented the school in seven public speaking competitions (including one Inter-MAT competition).

At every competition, Callum has been faultless in his representation of the school and has embodied what it means to be Christ to all through his role as questioner, something which requires him to respectfully challenge the views and opinions of his competitors. Callum's inquisitive and thought-provoking questions have received compliments from organisers and adjudicators at every competition he has participated in, that has also resulted in him receiving the award for the 'Best Questioner' at the Inter-MAT Public Speaking Competition.

Callum's involvement in public speaking this year has been invaluable as he has helped Miss Conway to train the new public speakers. His generosity of time and considerate coaching of younger students has really helped the club to grow to the point where we have students involved from Years 8 to 10. Congratulations, Callum.



Year II Induction Day

On Tuesday 4th July we were delighted to welcome so many Year 11 students to their Sixth Form Induction Day. We had the greatest number of students to date; with 141 internal and 19 external students attending. They attended a taster lesson in the subjects that they hope to study at A Level or BTEC as well as a Q&A session with our Head Student Team. The feedback

from both students and staff was overwhelmingly positive and we look forward to welcoming the students here in September.

"I will definitely come back to St Peter's Sixth Form as I know I will be well supported by my teachers. I really enjoyed getting a flavour of what the lessons will be like in September."



Cooking in class is a culinary journey through Spain

In a delightful fusion of language learning and culinary exploration, the Year 11 Spanish class recently embarked on a gastronomic adventure by cooking traditional Spanish omelettes for their last lesson.

Led by their passionate Spanish teacher, Mrs Mortimer, the students dived into the vibrant world of Spanish cuisine, discovering the rich flavours and cultural significance of this iconic dish.

The classroom buzzed with excitement as students, armed with aprons and spatulas, gathered around the cooking stations. Byron, Amanda, James, Austin, Maggie and many others eagerly participated in the cooking extravaganza. The air was filled with the mouth-watering aromas of sautéed onions, golden potatoes and beaten

eggs - a true sensory delight.

Under the expert guidance of Mrs Mortimer and Miss León, the students skilfully sliced the ingredients, carefully sautéed the potatoes and expertly flipped the omelettes. As they worked together, their Spanish language skills also came alive, with conversations flowing effortlessly in Spanish. It was a truly immersive experience, where the language and culture intertwined seamlessly.

Reflecting on the experience, Byron said "Cooking the Spanish omelette was not only a fun activity, but it also allowed us to connect with the Spanish culture on a deeper level. It made me appreciate the importance of food in different societies and how it brings people together."

Amanda added "The Spanish omelette was absolutely delicious! I loved how it showcased simple ingredients that, when combined, created a masterpiece. It was a fantastic way to practise our language skills while enjoying a tasty dish."

James, with a wide smile, said "I never thought learning Spanish could be this enjoyable. Cooking the Spanish omelette was like embarking on a culinary journey through Spain. I can't wait to try more traditional recipes!"

As the delightful aroma of Spanish omelettes lingered in the classroom, it was evident that this culinary adventure had left an indelible mark on the students' hearts, nourishing not only their bodies but also their minds and spirits. Hasta la vista Year 11s!

Vita the Gladiator - Author Visit

We were excited to welcome and introduce local author, Ally Sherrick, to meet our Year 7 students at the end of June. Ally Sherrick is widely recognised for her wonderful works of non-fiction. She is best known for her first children's novel, Black Powder and is now releasing Vita the Gladiator.

The students greatly enjoyed seeing

her historical props, the first story she had ever written as a child and understanding her inspiration to become a writer. Students have praised how exciting and interesting the visit was which took place in St Cecilia's. We look forward to welcoming her back next year.





Good Shepherd Celebration

Due to the 150th anniversary of the dedication of Arundel Cathedral, this year's Good Shepherd Celebration was held there instead of Worth Abbey. Thirteen students travelled with Tom and Mr Batt to celebrate Catholic education with Bishop Richard and schools from around the Diocese and reflect on the message of Christ as the Good Shepherd. This was the first outing for our new school banner, and we presented our homemade sheep, and our school 'rocks' to the Bishop.

Year 8 Reflection Day

RISE Theatre, a Christian theatre company paid their second visit to St Peter's this term, performing on the theme of 'Happiness'. Year 8 spent the day off-timetable with their Form Tutors reflecting on both the positive and negative influences on our lives. Guided reflections took place in classrooms between the performances, building on the noise and audience participation in a quiet and deepening way. The day ended with powerful personal testimonies from the RISE team.



Sponsored Walk

Our sponsored walk was uncharacteristically cooler this year, meaning perfect walking conditions. A variety of fancy dress amused the public and Year 12 were on form energising everyone through the checkpoints. A huge thank you to everyone who supported the fundraising effort, which raised £7120, to be split between Shooting Star Chase, British Heart Foundation and Mary's Meals.



Feast Day

A highlight of the school year for many, Feast Day began with outdoor Mass in front of St Cecilia's, complete with impeccable altar serving, beautiful music and the commissioning of our new Head Student Team. Fr Tristan preached on the importance of the life of St Peter as an

example to us all. Given his track record in the Gospels and prior career, Peter was perhaps the least likely candidate upon whom to build the church, however, Jesus called him all the same: there are some things in life you can't interview for!

Trip of a lifetime for language students from Spain

In a heartwarming display of friendship and cultural immersion, eleven enthusiastic students from the Juan XXIII School in Granada, Spain embarked on an exciting five-day trip to Guildford, where they were warmly welcomed by their counterparts from St Peter's Year 11 and Year 12 classes. This incredible exchange programme, organised by Mrs Mortimer, Head of Spanish at St Peter's, proved to be an experience of a lifetime for these young adventurers.

From the moment the Granada students arrived in Guildford, the air was buzzing with excitement. Their hosts welcomed them with open arms, embracing the opportunity to forge new friendships and create lasting memories as well as practising their English. The two student groups instantly bonded and the stage was set for an amazing cultural exchange.

London, a city brimming with history and iconic landmarks, served as the backdrop for the Granada students' awe-inspiring adventure. The magnificent London Eye, granted them a bird's eye view of the bustling metropolis. As they glided gracefully along the River Thames on a picturesque cruise, they marvelled at the majestic architecture that lined its banks, including the famed Globe Theatre where they embarked to watch one of



Shakespeare's comedies "The Comedy of Errors" and then on to the illustrious Houses of Parliament.

No trip to London would be complete without a visit to Buckingham Palace. They also explored the historic Hampton Court Palace, immersing themselves in the opulence and grandeur of its stunning gardens and majestic hallways.

Away from the capital, the students journeyed to Brighton, where the captivating Brighton Pier and lively Lanes awaited their eager exploration. They savoured the quintessentially English experience of devouring fish and chips by the seaside, relishing every bite of this traditional delicacy.

Throughout their stay, the Granada students were treated to a true immersion in English culture. They experienced first-hand the vibrant energy and warmth of their hosts' families, building cherished friendships that will undoubtedly endure across the miles and years. This exchange programme was not only an opportunity to appreciate the historical and cultural wonders of the United Kingdom, but it also fostered an environment of cultural understanding and personal growth.

Thank you to Heath, Martina, Julie, Sophia, Tom, Charlotte, Evelena, Gemma, Carlos, Finn and Matteo and their parents for their great hospitality.



PE News...



The Sports Department has been very busy this half term supporting several matches and competitions across the sports spectrum. Congratulations to everyone who took part, we are proud of you all. Keep up the sports regime over the summer holidays and we look forward to seeing you in the autumn term!

County Relays

On 6th June, we took students from Years 7-10 to Guildford County to compete in the County Relays. During this event students competed in a number of relays ranging from the 4 x 100m, 4 x 200m, 4 x 400m and the 4 x 100 mixed relay. All students performed exceptionally well with some students stepping up to join other year groups due to injuries. The results by year group were:

Year 7 - Joint first

Year 8 - Third

Year 9 - Second

Year 10 - Second

Overall, St Peter's came third out of six schools.

Volleyball

On 26th June, Miss Hardy accompanied a mix of Year 7 and 8 girls and boys to Howard of Effingham to play in a volleyball tournament. Although the majority of this team are relatively new to volleyball and have been attending practice sessions with Mr Whitfield on a Thursday, they demonstrated impressive high levels of teamwork and ended up coming second, winning their last match in what was a very close game!

Cricket

There have been numerous cricket fixtures since coming back for the summer term. Years 9 and 10 boys played against Guildford County and triumphantly won the match. This was followed by a match against George Abbot but unfortunately, they narrowly lost the match, although this did not dampen their spirits and resilience. The Year 7 boys played against Howard of Effingham but just lost the match. All of the boys worked incredibly hard, showed superb teamwork and encouraged each other throughout the match.

Gabbot Sprints

On 20th June, students from Years 7-10 travelled to George Abbot to compete in a range of different sprints against seven other schools. The events in which students competed were the 100m, 200m, 300m, 400m and relays. All students were incredible throughout the event, displaying great sportsmanship and teamwork skills. The results by year groups are as follows:

Year 7 - Third

Year 8 - Third

Year 9 - Second

Year 10 - Second



Rounders

The Year 7 rounders team headed to Guildford County for their county tournament and achieved a very respectable third place. They demonstrated brilliant perseverance and improved dramatically throughout the tournament.

The Year 8 rounders team headed over to Howard of Effingham and played in a tournament against four other schools. The girls demonstrated brilliant teamwork skills when fielding and batting. The girls won three out of their four matches and ended up coming second overall with the last game played being a first place decider. It was very exciting to watch!

PE News...



Sports Day 2023

On 29th June, we held our annual Sports Day at Guildford Spectrum. Although the day started with rain, it certainly did not dampen anyone's spirits with many students breaking school sports records. The students participated in a range of track and field events such as sprints, high jump, long jump, tug of war, boccia, javelin, shot put and relays. The students finished the day by running the 15 x 100m tutor group relay which is an event that every student can be involved in. Throughout the day the cheers of encouragement were clear to hear from the stands for their fellow tutees and the students showed incredible sportsmanship. Not only did the students have competitive races and events but so did the staff with some very close sprints and relays. Well done to all students who were exceptionally behaved and showed great spirit. Lastly, a huge congratulations to all Stein House students who were the overall winners of Sports Day!



School Trips...



Geography trip extravaganza

The Geography Department has been very busy this half term!

We started with the Year 10 field trip to Stratford, London. This was the first of the two days this year group will be required to conduct fieldwork in preparation for their third GCSE paper next year.

The day was focused on human geography where the students practiced several data collection techniques, for example, environmental quality surveys and saw features of the Stratford regeneration project that they had been studying in class. They have since used this data to evaluate the fieldwork skills and if environmental quality varies between areas that had not been regenerated and areas that had been regenerated for the London Olympics in 2012.

Our next field trip was with Year 8 to Sutherland Memorial Park. For one morning, each population spent their time identifying different ways the park

was managed by Guildford Borough Council and used by members of the public to investigate how the quality of the environment varies around the park. This was an opportunity to apply what they had been learning about to the world around them and their first chance to practice the key geographical skills of fieldwork, data collection and data processing.

Finally, our Year 12 students have just returned from four days out in the field on a partial residential trip. This trip is essential preparation for the students to begin the Non-Examination Assessment of their Geography A Level. During the four days, the 15 students conducted a series of pilot studies in Guildford, Stratford, Reculver, Canterbury and the Chantries. While the days were spent practicing the accurate collection of data and thinking about how to plan their own investigations over the summer, the students also spent their evenings playing a few games, such as football, Cluedo and Connect4 and bonding as a team.



Gold DofE trek

Huge congratulations to all of our Year 13 Gold Duke of Edinburgh participants who travelled to the Breacon Beacons last week and survived four days of very unpredictable weather conditions!



Year 12 Enrichment performance

To celebrate the end of Year 12, students gathered during enrichment time on Wednesday afternoon. Students heard music from the Enrichment Band who have been working on their pieces during the year. There was a great atmosphere with the rest of the year group cheering them

on. Afterwards, students competed in rounders matches and enjoyed ice creams to re-energise! One student in Year 12 said "I look forward to playing rounders each week – it's the highlight of my week! It's a time for me to forget about my work and have some fun with my friends."

Year II Prom Night

Our Year 11 students have worked so hard all year and it was brilliant to celebrate with them all for one last time at their prom at Horsley Towers on 6th July.

The students all looked amazing and there was such a fantastic atmosphere from the moment they arrived in a wide array of vehicles, including a Lamborghini, stretched limousine and 15 boys piling out of the back of a white van!

The dance floor was packed all evening and I am sure they will all have created memories to last a lifetime; a particular highlight was the whole year group shouting along to 'Mr Brightside' with Mr Miller and Mrs Brown in the centre of the dance floor! We are so proud of Year 11 and wish them all the very best for their long summer and all of their future endeavours. The St Peter's Class of 2023 really are an incredible group of students!



Year 12 'The Apprentice' Challenge

This month, St Peter's hosted the annual Apprentice Challenge. Year 12 students from St Peter's, SJB and St Andrew's Business and Economics Departments competed against each other in an Alan Sugar apprentice style day.

The category picked at random was ice cream. Students spent the morning developing, branding and preparing pitches for their interpretation of the brief. Several of the popular ice cream products added protein and vitamins for pre- and post-workouts.

Other teams used traditional ingredients including pure dehydrated fruit power which could be mixed at home and made in branded moulds. There were ice creams galore for all ages and lifestyles!

The winning product was developed by accident as a by-product of the team's original design. A silicone upside down umbrella design was an innovative solution to the age-old problem of melting lollies and ice creams dripping creating a sticky mess. Congratulations



to SJB with this victorious design!

The judges with the unenviable task of choosing the winners included two ex-Business BTEC students Emily Jeffery, who is launching a shoe line and Chris Clark who is the MD for Wessex Gin.



Welcome to our new Head Students

SAM

Subjects:

Biology, Psychology and Economics

How do you feel to be appointed as a Head Student?

I feel honoured to have been chosen for this role and I am excited to work with the other Head Students. Being a Head Student is a great responsibility, but it is also an incredible opportunity to make a positive impact on the school and its students and faculty to make a difference and leave a lasting legacy.

Top tip: get in a good routine of being on top of your work and creating revision material in study periods as this will benefit you.

PHOEBE

Subjects:

English Literature, History and Maths

What is the most important thing about a Head Student?

Showing kindness and respect to everyone in the community, alongside using the responsibility of the role to inspire and stimulate change where necessary. I aim to be compassionate and reflective of the school ethos, building from it to respond to the needs of my peers.

Top tip: make the most of your time. Use all opportunities to help gain experience and follow your interests, alongside balancing work, socialising and hobbies.

NAREK

Subjects:

Biology, Chemistry and Maths

Why did you want to be a Head Student?

I saw it as an opportunity to contribute and give back to the school community. Being a Christian, I resonate with the values of the school very much and try to encourage an environment of respect and compassion. I wanted to be a Head Student so that I could help aid, support and facilitate the betterment of our school community, while fostering the positive values and attributes that already exist among each and every student.

Top tip: don't be worried or embarrassed to ask questions and seek to understand things you are learning which you may not understand at first. Everybody is in the same boat, and everybody will have things that they struggle with, so use it as an opportunity to help, support and build each other up from the start to the finish, trusting in God.

CHARLOTTE

Subjects:

Biology, Chemistry and Spanish

What is the biggest challenge going to be as part of the Head Student team?

My role in the Head Student team involves working together with the whole school community to

help create a fun and enriching environment. I think I will find the biggest challenge in being reflective of the needs of everyone as our school community is so large and I am thankful to have such a great team to work alongside.

Top tip: always be kind to yourself and others!

continued...

REESE

Subjects:

Biology, Chemistry, Philosophy and Ethics

What is special about your role?

The best part of my role as Head of Fundraising is the reward of outreach and serving our community. We are a Catholic school and place significance on the Catholic ethos that includes charity. These initiatives draw attention to the St Peter's rock of service and I feel honoured to be able to organise events and initiatives that encourage students to be involved and actively participate in raising awareness and funds for the charity that they feel connected to.

Top tips: as cliché as it sounds, value the journey of your school experience, learning and growing as a person. Don't put excessive pressure on yourself in pursuit of becoming the best version of you.

MARTHA

Subjects:

Biology, Maths and English Literature

What qualities are needed in the role?

My role involves working with the whole school community, particularly the lower school Student Council, meaning my role frequently involves working as a team, listening to the views and ideas of others as well as coming up with creative solutions. I look forward to the opportunity to work collaboratively within my role to help bridge the gap between Sixth Form and the lower school to implement changes that will benefit everyone.

Top tip: take every opportunity to do the things that matter to you! Working hard is important but so is prioritising your own interests, so take the time to develop any of your hobbies and surround yourself with people that support you and your success.

JAMES

Subjects:

Maths, History and Psychology

What are you excited to implement?

During my premiership I aim to implement huge changes! I want to increase the number of sports that we have available to play competitively and increase the number of fixtures for everyone. Most notably I want to, with the help of the Sixth Form, walk, run, cycle, or swim the length of Europe to hopefully raise money for a good cause whilst staying fit and healthy.

Top tip: this year was the best I ever had but the time flies by, and from time to time you might think it won't wait for you. But no matter who told you, inevitably it is all God's plan so enjoy it before it's over and take care. Overall, this is the year to turn nothings into somethings.



Year 13 Prom Night

Congratulations to all of our wonderful Year 13 students who looked amazing at the Prom which took place at the Guildford Pavilion at the cricket ground.

The students enjoyed a two course meal before dancing the night away. We wish them a well-deserved summer holiday and every success for the future.

