

Keynotes

September to October 2022



Dear Parents and Carers

I am delighted to introduce you to our inaugural school newsletter.

We are aiming to provide readers with an insight into school life with news of recent events and activities, and to use this opportunity to inform our community about how aspects of school life work. Over time, this will also include topics such as spiritual life and curriculum news around a particular subject. We will also demonstrate what is taught at school, why it is important and how families can support their child.

In the first year, we will publish one newsletter per half term and then review the frequency and readership levels at the end of the summer term. There is always plenty to celebrate at our school with so many talented young people and staff, and we would like to share with you their achievements.

This first edition includes a number of activities and trips, results from our competitive sporting calendar and informative school-related topics. One specific article that I would like to draw your attention to is online safety. As you may be aware, we recently hosted an Online Safety Evening and those who attended really appreciated the information which highlighted the key challenges our children face and how they manage their presence online. There are some excellent resources in the article and it is certainly worthwhile accessing these and talking to your child.

I hope you enjoy the newsletter and look forward to sharing future editions celebrating life at St Peter's.

Yours sincerely

Mr T Miller, Headteacher



Feeling Good Week 10th-14th October 2022

We supported Surrey Schools' Feeling Good Week which aimed to raise awareness and promote positive emotional wellbeing and mental health.

Key themes reinforced the messages that we all have mental health and that it is important to maintain and look after it as much as maintaining our physical health. We also reassured our students that it is 'ok to not be ok' and encouraged them to ask for help if they need it.

Staff have placed 'I feel good when...' posters on their doors telling students about the things we do to maintain our own mental health, presenting a unified message that we all need to take time out to do the things that can help us feel better.

Throughout the year, we will be providing students and parents with updated news, strategies, sources of support and resources aimed at developing and maintaining emotional wellbeing and promoting better mental health within young people – there will be more information to follow soon.





St Peter's Rocks

This year, we have launched the five new rocks of St Peter's, which represent the gospel values that we aspire to every day, as people and Disciples of Christ.

The rocks will become a big part of school life, used in assemblies, form time, the curriculum, part of our reward system, and as a general way of being.

As you can see above, our rocks are designed to be understood both as individuals, as coming together to be Christ-focused and the foundations on which we build our faith and discipleship.



Each week we focus on a 'rock of the week', which is reflected upon during our exploration of the Sunday gospel, in form time and assembly. Students have a copy of the rocks in their journals so that they can reflect on these values in their own time.

Year 7 Reflection Days

For most people, thinking about starting secondary school will conjure feelings of excitement and trepidation, and the actual start is a whirlwind of experiences and changing expectations. Year 7 contemplated this new chapter of life during their September reflection days, where one class at a time, they made the short pilgrimage to St Edward's Church, Sutton Place to reinforce new friendships and grow in understanding of what it means to be part of St Peter's.

Chaos and hilarity ensued with communication and team building games, then prayer stations in the church and grounds offered the chance for quiet creativity and reflecting on our relationships with God and others. A picnic lunch and walk by the River Wey gave time



for meaningful conversations and a foretaste of the summer term sponsored walk.

We considered the privilege of religious freedom and Catholic education against the backdrop of Sutton Place's reformation history, and viewed the church's rich reliquary containing the bones of St Cuthbert Mayne and St Edmund Campion – both heroes of the reformation and the primary school patrons of many of our students.



Celebrating Presentation Evening

This prestigious event is one of the highlights in our academic calendar where we, as a community, celebrate our students' achievements based upon a range of effort, ethos and academic awards, as well as a formal graduation to our outgoing Year 13s.

This year, we were delighted to welcome Kevin Goble, a former St Peter's student,

as our guest speaker. Kevin joined St Peter's in 2004 and he reminisced about his time with a humorous and witty speech whilst imparting some valuable lessons learned along the way. Kevin has since become a professional Irish dancer who has toured the world and formed his own company and created productions. <http://www.celticnights.ie/cast/kevin-goble-dancer/>



School Trips...



Geography

Our Year 11 students recently took part in their second day of required fieldwork at West Wittering. It was here that students investigated the influence of longshore drift and coastal management on the environment. Students spent the day collecting data on the changing shape of the beach at different locations and the direction and speed of longshore drift. In addition to this, they completed field sketches and bipolar surveys to evaluate the quality of

the environment and different locations along the beach. This has subsequently allowed students to analyse their data and come to a conclusion on the extent to which longshore drift and management influence West Wittering.

The day was run by Chichester Harbour Education Centre and all students made the most of the opportunity to engage with experts on this area and revise content from their GCSE studies.



Lourdes Pilgrimage



*Bonds formed
with strangers
that will last
a lifetime.*

My experience at Lourdes took place when I was 17, as a Red Shirt 12 (RS12). During the day, we were helpers getting first-hand experience with pilgrims who needed a high level of care, and in the evenings, we were Red Shirts, making friends and enjoying the full Lourdes experience.

When people ask how would you describe your experience? My only reply is 'it's not something you can describe; you just have to go for yourself'. I didn't know what to expect from the trip, but as soon as the first day was over, I did not want it to end. The love and compassion shown is something that you will never find anywhere else, and it is truly a special experience to be a part of.

Even if you are not very religious (quite a few RS12s were not) it is definitely worth going just to discover humanity's love for strangers, in one of the most welcoming places on earth.

By Meg, Year 13

Music

At the end of last term, we embarked on an exciting music trip to York.

On our first day, we practiced all our songs and then went on a tour of York Minster Cathedral and created a fun scavenger hunt. Afterwards we went bowling, where we all played very enthusiastically as we were determined to win. Later that day, we arrived at the

church, and performed for the first time. It was a very memorable experience but quite exhausting.

On our second full day, we rehearsed again and then headed off to Whitby bandstand for our next performance. Our last performance was in St Wilfred's Church, which was beautiful. We also spent some free time exploring York and discovered The York Ghost Merchants and bought some books at Waterstones. Afterwards, we all went on a river cruise, which mostly consisted of playing Uno, which we had decided to play a lot during the trip! We then headed back to the hostel to get some rest for the coach journey back down to Guildford.

Overall, the trip to York was incredibly fun. We all really enjoyed performing in different venues, but also had time to enjoy the scenery of York.

By Lyra, Year 11



School Trips...



Art

In October, Year 10 students spent a day at RHS Wisley and visited the fruit and vegetable garden, the tropical garden and the greenhouse. At each location, students were encouraged to spend short bursts of time recording from life as well as longer periods recording accurately. Along with photographs, the students will add the work into their sketchbooks, which will help them develop responses for their coursework.

Follow us on Instagram using this link: <https://www.instagram.com/stpetersart1/?hl=en>



RE

All of Year 9 recently visited the Shah Jahan Mosque in Woking. The visit was organised by the RE Department to enhance the learning of Islam, which is currently being studied in lessons. Learning about other world faiths is a requirement of the Catholic Bishops' curriculum for religious education and it helps prepare students for life in a multi-faith Britain.

Students visited the main mosque as well as the additional male prayer hall. They learnt about the history of the mosque and developed an understanding of its key features. Our guide spoke in detail about Muslim beliefs and practices relating to the



five pillars of Islam. Students had the opportunity to ask many questions about Islam and our guide helped students to appreciate connections between Islam and Christianity and they were able to dispel some common misunderstandings about the religion.



*Lola, Bella and Martha
at the Mosque*

Need to talk?

Changes to the St Peter's Safeguarding Team

We would like to draw your attention to changes to our safeguarding team this year. Our number one priority for all children at school is that they are safe. The following members of staff make up the safeguarding team at St Peter's. If you have any concerns about the safety or welfare of a child, please contact one of the team listed below, unless the child is in immediate danger, in which case always call 999. The email address to contact the team is dsl@st-peters.surrey.sch.uk.

Mr M Ebenezer: Designated Safeguarding Lead (below left)

Mr S Crome: Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (below right)



Mrs K McMillan: Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (above left)

Mrs N Rana-Brown: Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (above right)



Online Safety Evening

Thank you to everyone who attended the evening and we hope it was useful and informative. Online safety is such a vitally important topic for all young people and something that we all need to be aware of as the adults in their lives.

There will be a recording of the presentation made available shortly for those who were unable to attend but in the meantime, we have put together a list of useful websites which would be useful to look at or bookmark for future use.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/> - this is a great website with information on many topics including gaming, livestreaming and social media.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/a-parents-guide-to-privacy-settings/> - this website takes you through how to set privacy settings for your child.

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/taking-care-your-digital-footprint/> - this website shows you how to change your privacy settings on a range of the most popular social media sites/apps. It also has useful information about passwords, which is worth looking at. Many of our students in Years 7-9 are very worried about hacking and scams, secure passwords are very important as one way of allaying this concern.

<https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/> - this site has a large range of resources including an excellent resource pack entitled "Parents and Carers Toolkit" which includes a Family Agreement outline and lots of great advice. It also has blog posts to help keep you up to date with changes in the online world.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/?tab=apps-platforms> - this website explains what each social media/app does and the dangers of each.

Police Update – Safeguarding in Guildford

Within Guildford, the police have let us know of a number of 'hot spots' which are seeing large amounts of anti-social behaviour with gatherings of young people in the late afternoon and evening. On some recent occasions, this has escalated and there have been violent incidents, with young people

being injured. We are passing on this information so you are aware and can ensure your child does not become involved. Key areas are: around the Odeon cinema, the riverside, Bedford Road Flats, Bedford Road Car Park, the High Street, North Street, Bridge Street and Merrow Downs.



Meet our Head Student Team 2022-2023

Tabitha

Subjects: History, Philosophy & Ethics and French

Why did you want to be a Head Student? I really wanted to help students become more aware of what is happening around school, and feel part of the community. I wanted to build more opportunities for interaction between the lower school and Sixth Form.

Top tip to younger students: enjoy every lesson with every teacher because GCSEs and A Levels will go by in a flash. Join clubs to make new friends by interacting with different people in your year, as well as those in other years.

Sam

Subjects: Computer Science, Maths and Psychology

Why did you want to be a Head Student? I wanted to be a Head Student to represent the school community and be a representative who the students feel comfortable going to for advice and thoughts.

Top tip to younger students: work hard, but always leave time to make memories.

Charlotte

Subjects: History, Business Studies and Economics

Why did you want to become a Head Student? I chose to become a Head Student, as I want to be able to contribute towards helping other students enjoy their time at St Peter's. Also to offer my help towards the school community wherever I can by continuing to keep up the positive environment throughout the school.

Top tip to younger students: get the right balance of work and social time, this allows you to have academic success but also have achievements outside of school.

Myles

Subjects: Psychology, History and Physical Education

Why did you want to be a Head Student? I chose to become Head Student, as I wanted to represent the school community and provide a voice for lower year groups.

Top tip to younger students: work hard but spread the workload to make it manageable.

Dani

Subjects: Sociology, Health and Social Care and Philosophy & Ethics

Why did you want to be a Head Student? I am passionate about representing my peers in order to make our experience in the Sixth Form positive and memorable.

Top tip to younger students: secondary school will fly by, so make the most of every day and put your all into everything you do, it will be worth it in the end!

Amy

Subjects: Biology, Chemistry, Maths, Further Maths and Extended Project Qualification

Why did you want to be a Head Student? I wanted to give back to the school community, particularly through introducing First Aid Training in the Sixth Form.

Top tip to younger students: take all the opportunities that school offers, whether that be sports, music or drama to get the most of your time at St Peter's.

Meg

Subjects: Geography, English Language and Psychology

Why did you want to be a Head Student? I saw it as an opportunity to make a difference to our whole community. I hope to help shape the Sixth Form from our students' perspective and be involved with everyday life.

Top tip to younger students: accept help when offered; trust the process and trust your teachers.

Ethan

Subjects: Business Studies, Economics and Geography

Why did you want to be a Head Student? I wanted to represent the school as a whole and be part of the voice that makes up the school community.

Top tip to younger students: be prepared to take on any challenge. Find opportunities to develop your leadership skills.



Year 7 girls: Florence, Elodie, Emily, Poppy J, Amaya, Kaitlyn, Edie, Poppy W, Katarina, Pippa, Sophia

Girls' Football

The **Year 7** girls came second in a six-a-side district tournament and then progressed on to their first full game against Guildford County winning 4-2. A very good start for the Year 7 team at St Peter's!

The **Year 8** girls came third in a football tournament hosted by Guildford County. The girls played Christ's College, Howard of Effingham and Guildford County, and ended up winning one, drawing one and losing one game. Throughout each game, the girls put in the effort and worked well as a team, encouraging and cheering on each other. Keep it up girls!

On the 20th September, the **Year 9** girls played the first round of the National Cup against Sherfield School. The team had an incredible game winning 8-1 with some cracking goals scored. The girls continued this winning form in the Surrey Cup against Hinchley Wood on the 26th September by winning 6-3.

PLEASE NOTE: There is no need to sign up for any extra curricular clubs, just turn up!



Boys' Football

The **Year 9** boys won their first game of the year winning 7-0 in the National Cup.

The **Year 11** boys got off to a good start with a 2-2 draw against a strong Howard of Effingham team.

The **Year 8s** had a dominant sporting performance versus Kingston in the Surrey Cup with a 3-1 win. They then carried on their winning streak in the National Cup against Desborough and won 6-3.

Netball

On the 4th October, **Years 7-12** girls participated in netball matches against George Abbot. All teams played very well and worked incredibly hard showing determination, teamwork and the spirit of St Peter's.

The **Year 11** team also won their first round of netball matches in the tournament. Watch this space for the next update.



Rugby

The **Year 11** team (with some Year 10s) were undefeated in their tournament at Guildford Rugby Club. Despite the miserable conditions the team took on George Abbot, Guildford County and Rodborough and won all of their matches, well done boys!



Sixth Form Open Evening

On Thursday 29th September, we held our annual Sixth Form Open Evening. The night was a great success and very well attended by our current Year 11 students and visitors from other local schools.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this event which includes the incredible Sixth Formers who supported the staff at our subject stands, our Head Student team who took visitors on tours, the dedicated staff who answered questions all evening about their subjects and last but not least, our school caterers, Innovate, who provided a free buffet for students and parents, which

was extremely popular!

For our students in Year 11, the next step is for them to experience Sixth Form Taster Day. If you are aware of any applicants from other schools interested in St Peter's Sixth Form, please direct them to our website where they can sign up for Open Mornings.



St Peter's
SIXTH FORM
Discover your potential



Identity Team

The goal of the Identity Team is for all students at St Peter's to feel equally welcome and part of our community. We make clear that as a school, we expect all students and staff to contribute to creating conditions that make students feel safe and included.

If you have attended a Parents' Partnership Evening this year, you will have been introduced to the Identity Team.

We are a group of staff who are available to speak with students about issues in school which are affecting them; this could be linked to their identity. We advocate and make a positive impact to all aspects of student life. Students can report concerns or issues to us via email report@st-peters.surrey.sch.uk.

Throughout the past year, we have created student bulletin campaigns, delivered diversity themed assemblies and delivered staff training on being as inclusive of all as possible.



Headteacher's Open Door

We are reintroducing the opportunity for parents and carers to drop in to meet with Mr Miller on the first Monday of every month between 3:30pm and 6pm. There is no need to book, please simply sign in using the visitors book and wait in the reception area. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Literacy Update

There is a whole school focus on literacy and this term we are evaluating strategies to teach students the necessary vocabulary for success. However, this does not happen at school alone, in fact, 98% of words in a child's vocabulary are also found in their parents!

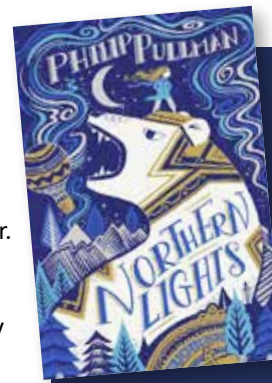
"The limits of my language means the limits of my world."
Ludwig Wittgenstein

It is estimated that children need to possess 50,000 words to tackle any epoch of history, any concept in geography and even obscure texts about extinct birds. The simplest way we can reach this goal is through encouraging

reading. Children who read for one minute a day encounter 8000 words a year. Children who read for 20 minutes a day encounter 2,000,000 words a year.

Tips for encouraging reading at home:

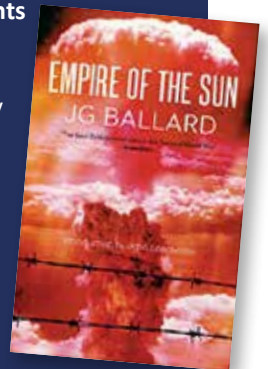
- Aim for 30 minutes of reading per day
- Encourage a wide variety of reading, e.g. books (fiction and non-fiction), magazines and newspapers
- Ask questions and show an interest in what they are reading
- Model good reading habits
- Help them choose age-appropriate texts
- Check subject reading recommendations
- Emphasise the importance of reading



Suggested reading for Key Stages...

KS3

- **Silverfin** by Charlie Higson
- **The Northern Lights** by Philip Pullman
- **Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** by Arthur Conan Doyle
- **Jane Eyre** by Charlotte Bronte
- **Boys don't cry** by Malorie Blackman



KS4

- **Empire of the Sun** by J.G. Ballard
- **To Kill a Mockingbird** by Harper Lee
- **About a Boy** by Nick Hornby
- **Flowers For Algernon** by Daniel Keyes
- **Snow Falling on Cedars** by David Guterson



UCAS News

By the time you read this, the first major deadline will have passed for university applicants; all students applying for Medicine, Veterinary Science, Dentistry or any subject at Oxford or Cambridge. This year we have an impressive cohort of eighteen students applying for these highly exclusive and competitive courses, well above the number we would expect to apply by this point in an average year. Congratulations, in particular to Eleanor, who is the first student in this Year 13 cohort to receive a degree offer in the 2023 application cycle. However, we wish them all the best with their applications, and success on their courses.

During the next half term, students will be submitting applications of their own; by February, offers will be coming in thick and fast. Exciting times



await this year group in the summer of 2023. I advise students to submit their applications before Christmas, leaving themselves free to concentrate on the Year 13 mock exams in January.

Degree apprenticeships are an increasingly popular choice for many students as well, with several students seriously considering them as a route into professions such as law.

We remain committed to supporting our alumni and are proud to say that several former students have once again asked St Peter's to manage their applications in their gap years.

Food Glorious Food

Our new catering company 'Innovate' has been busy settling into St Peter's, creating tasty new food and getting to know the students and staff. Rachel, the new Catering Manager, will be working with our Student Voice to understand what students want to eat whilst promoting healthy eating, including a new salad bar. Look out for further details including promotional themed menus and meal deals.



Upcoming DofE

Miss Ormerod is now leading the Bronze Award: Practice 19-20 May in Surrey Hills, Assessment in South Downs 9-10 June.

Mrs Doran continues with the Silver Award: Practice 23-25 March in South Downs, Assessment 25-28 June in Exmoor.

Mr Green leads for the UK Gold Award: 12-17 July in Snowdonia.

Mr Oldfield is leading for the Abroad Gold Award for the first time. We are planning to take a team to the Picos de Europa (North Spain) at the end of July.



Bronze students: "Sir we're not lost, we're just looking for the best path!"

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Update

We are immensely proud of our DofE participants as the experiences involved in the award are new to many of our students and it is a substantial commitment in time and discipline for them. We were also delighted that the lifting of all Covid-19 restrictions in the summer term meant we could travel to all our normal expedition locations.

To achieve the award, students complete four components: participating in a regular physical activity, demonstrating a skill that they either have learned before or are taking on for the first time, completing a project where they volunteer their time to help in the community and a walking expedition

involving camping skills, map reading, leadership and teamwork.

The pandemic had made the volunteering section extremely difficult for the participants with many charities unable to take on volunteers, however, our students rose to the challenge and found opportunities – online environmental charities, shopping and gardening for elderly people in the community, and working on green initiatives at school to name a few. The total volunteering time given to the community from our DofE participants last year was an outstanding 3458 hours.

The highlight for many is the expedition. Students gain skills of map reading and navigation, together with the challenges of leadership, self-reliance, and teamwork. Our participants headed to the Surrey Hills and South Downs for the Bronze Award, South Downs and Exmoor for the Silver Award, and to the Brecon Beacons for the Gold Award. The experiences involved in the expedition are new to many of our Bronze participants, gaining the valuable experience of stepping out of their



Base camp – tracking the students

comfort zone with their first experience of walking in the countryside and overnight camping.

The St Peter's DofE Team are now looking ahead to this year's cohort with 149 students enrolled on the Bronze Award, 82 on the Silver Award and 30 on the Gold Award.



THE DUKE OF
EDINBURGH'S AWARD



Gold DofE students admiring the views and taking a well deserved rest in the Brecon Beacons.



Wild camping sites – Gold DofE