

# September to October 2023

# Keynotes



## Dear Parents and Carers

Last week we celebrated our Welcome Masses to mark the start of the new academic year which was a wonderful opportunity to come together as a community. Whilst many of our prayers were for people facing challenges across the globe, we found time to also reflect on what we can give thanks for and how we can make a small (or large) difference to those around us.

It is easy to focus on our own journey and sometimes we need a reminder as a Christian community that we are 'Called to Serve'. In 1 Peter 4: 10-11 it says "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God." Many of our students have been modelling this sentiment over the last three months with their service to pilgrims in Lourdes at the start of the summer through to our Head students representing our school community at various events since the start of term.

This half term started with celebrating some fantastic exam results for last year's Year 11 and Year 13. Both year groups were wonderful and made similar progress as last year's cohort, when we saw some record-breaking outcomes. Our Sixth Form has continued to grow with 160 students starting in Year 12 (an all-time high) and they have made an excellent start to the year.



At the end of July, we received some great news as our bid for funding to increase the provision for Sixth Form was successful. This will enable us to build a second block next to St Hilda's and provide a second large and much needed study space, three Sixth Form classrooms and a small computer suite. Work will start in January 2024 and we should be able start using it in June.

As we approach the October half term break, our brilliant PTA are starting the preparations for our Christmas Fayre which will be held on Saturday 25th November from 1pm until 4pm. We have not held

this festive event since the pandemic and it will be lovely to welcome you to celebrate the Christmas build up. It provides a great opportunity to get some Christmas shopping done, enjoy some fun stalls and support the fundraising efforts of the PTA. Please put the date in your diary and look out for the emails from the PTA giving you the opportunity to contribute to the Fayre.

Last year we shared with you the renovation of our Peace Garden which has flourished over the summer and is regularly utilised as a place of quiet and reflection by both staff and students. As well as being an oasis of calm, the garden is a memorial space to those staff and students who have passed away in recent years. This week we will host a memorial service for the families of Rose, Luke, Daniel, Maria, Tracey and Stuart. We will place a plaque in the garden in their memory to mark their place forever in the St Peter's School community.

God bless.

Mr T Miller, Headteacher



## Presentation and Graduation Evening

Thursday 14th September marked our prestigious annual Presentation and Graduation Evening, where we celebrate effort, ethos and success across the school.

The event took place at St Joseph's Church and a total of 88 awards were

presented by Mr Paul Lofting, a former student and current parent. The occasion is also particularly special as we recognise the achievements of our Year 13s and say a final farewell with a graduation gift. We wish them every success as they embark on their next journey.

## Curriculum Subject Focus: RE

This year marks the introduction of the new Religious Education Directory (RED) in our curriculum, beginning with Year 7 students. This revised programme is structured to provide a comprehensive understanding of various aspects of religious education, which will be expanded to Years 8 and 9 in subsequent years, aiming for complete Key Stage 3 implementation by September 2025.

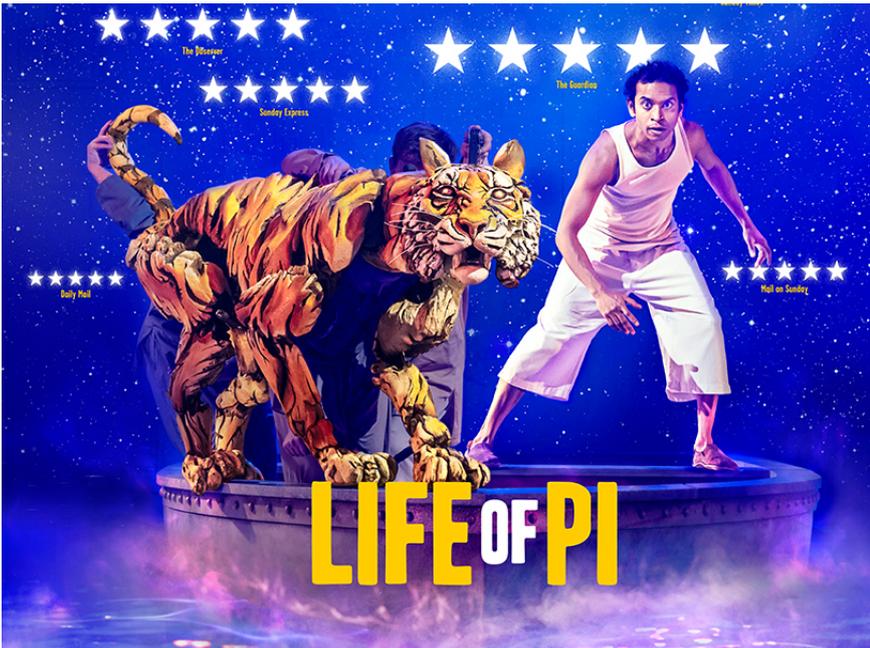
The curriculum for Year 7 begins with the unit titled 'Creation and Covenant.' This unit is designed to give students insights into the teachings on creation from the Book of Genesis, supported by the Catholic Church's perspective on scientific explanations of the origins of the universe. It offers a balanced view, aiming to educate students on both religious and scientific fronts.

Our vision is to create an inclusive community where students can explore spirituality and engage in self-reflection. We aim to enhance students' critical thinking, religious literacy, and achieve academic excellence. We enable students to foster a profound sense of belonging, ensuring that everyone, regardless of background, finds a welcoming place to grow and thrive.



Each unit in the RED is examined through four lenses: Bible, Belief, Celebrate and Lived Religion. This approach ensures that students gain a well-rounded view of the topics covered, encouraging a deeper engagement with the content. This allows students of all faiths and none to explore and reflect on the material based on their individual beliefs and perspectives. Furthermore, students will have the opportunity to explore beliefs and practices of other Christian denominations as well as various world religions.

As we begin this academic journey with the RED, we are committed to providing a learning experience that is both educational and respectful of diverse beliefs and opinions, promoting an environment of mutual respect and understanding. This is in line with our departmental vision, as shared above.



## Creative Writing at St Peter's

At the end of the last academic year, the St Peter's English Department launched their exciting Creative Writing competition. With the chance to bag their spot on a trip to the New Victoria Theatre in Woking to see Life of Pi, plenty of students put pen to paper over the summer holidays to show what they were capable of.

From ghost stories to thrillers, our budding authors had to demonstrate their skill with language and their ability to captivate the audience in only 100 words. Congratulations to the

28 winning writers, who celebrated their efforts by watching an award-winning spectacular in the Life of Pi together this term.



## Year 9 French Trip

After a rough ferry crossing, we were very grateful for the peaceful coach journey to the beautiful Château de la Baudonnière and the delicious hot chocolate that was waiting for us on our arrival.

Our four-night stay was jam packed with activities and sightseeing. We practised archery, made bread, had a quiz night, talent show and disco, played aeroballe for the first time and everything was in French!

From the moment we woke up, we were immersed in French language and culture, in a beautiful château. We enjoyed sampling lots of delicious French food whilst at the château, including 'escargots'. Practised our French whilst buying souvenirs, 'crêpes' and ice cream at the market town of Villedieu-les-Poêles. Visiting Mont Saint-Michel and rafting at the château were absolute highlights. We made new friendships, enjoyed new experiences, and came back feeling so much more confident in our French speaking! Thank you to Madame Isaacs, Monsieur Hullahd and Madame Milner for taking us!



## Sixth Form Work Experience Week

The last week of the summer term saw all our Year 12 students on their work experience placements which they prepared for as part of their careers and skills sessions. We were delighted that the year group succeeded in finding some really great placements which not only gave them a taste of the world of work but also helped them to develop soft skills such as punctuality, taking and following instructions and working with new people in a team environment.

Student placements included some well-known companies such as NatWest Bank, Coca Cola, British Airways and the Royal Surrey County Hospital. Whilst some students remained in the area, others travelled to London or beyond, giving them a real idea of what it is like to be a commuter.

As part of her work experience week, Orla attended the Young Professionals Careers Festival at the QE2 Conference Centre, Westminster where she took part in workshops held by some well-known global companies. Diego enjoyed

a week at the INV group, where he was invited to contribute to the daily in-house feedback meetings. As a complete contrast, Alfie spent his week at Arundel Castle, where he helped with the tour groups as well as learning more about the castle. Alfie even volunteered to dress in a suit of armour!

Following their placements, all the students received feedback as well as completing a careers and skills module which reflected on their week.

One student noted "I have found myself continually using skills learned at my placement for all my A Level work and found them to be very valuable and time saving! I also improved my typing skills greatly and coming in to see the office was a very interesting experience. I also learned a lot about workplace expectations and courtesy. The virtual meetings I attended with

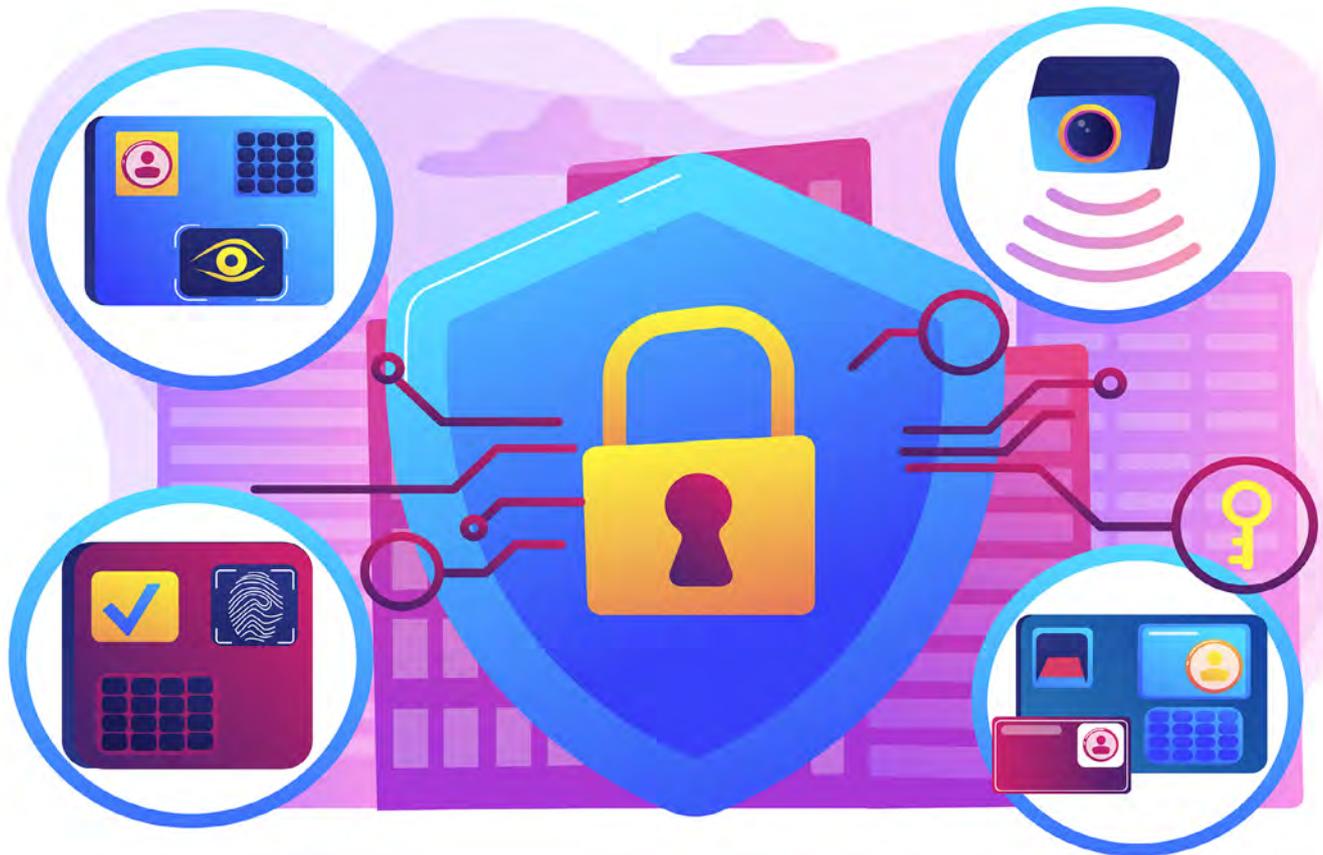


the US offices were definitely the highlight of my experience and I loved the brainstorming meetings."

Another student commented "I left the week with many transferable skills that I can take forward. I believe the most important skill I

learned was how to work as a team in a professional environment. Being able to work with several different people in different sectors really gave me an insight into how different jobs require different personal skills."

The heart-warming feedback from employers demonstrates that our students not only chose their placements well, but also applied themselves diligently and enthusiastically. Many students have been offered part-time jobs following their work experience week and one has been offered an apprenticeship.



## Keep Young People Stay Safe - Online Safety

Following our Online Safety Evening, below are a few top tips for keeping young people safe online.

### Downtime

Teenagers need sleep and relaxation to ensure they are able to function properly at school. According to the NHS, 68% of teenagers do not get enough sleep during the school week and much of this is to do with phones and devices.

There are settings on all phones called "Downtime" which stops young people using these. Also consider other devices in bedrooms. How can you ensure these are not being used overnight? Do plugs or controllers from games consoles need to be removed? Perhaps mobile phones could be charged in a communal area overnight?

### Time limits

Most phones and tablets have the ability to limit time on specific apps and it is really useful to apply these limits. You can also add specific websites if your child uses a website a lot e.g. Minecraft, COD or FIFA. You can change these for school days and weekends by customising the days, if this is relevant to your family and your child.

### Monitoring

There are a huge number of monitoring apps and it is useful to have these in place. This website reviews several of them and is a useful starting point if you do not have monitoring in place currently: <https://www.safetydetectives.com/best-parental-control/>

### Gaming

Check age restrictions and content on all games your child is playing. Remember, it is not just about the content of the game, but the ages of the people playing it. If the game is an 18, the chat will no doubt reflect more adult content and many of our Year 7s reported being in chats where homophobia, racism and sexism was rife. Most chat functions can be shut down or limited to a few friends rather than chatting to random people around the world.

### Reporting

Know how to block people on any apps/games/websites your child is using so you can help them if needed. Make sure your child knows how to report anything that makes them uncomfortable:

- <https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/> - reporting anything that makes you uncomfortable

- <https://www.iwf.org.uk/report/>

- <https://www.report-it.org.uk/your-police-force>

### Research

Do some research! It is vital that we all stay up to date so we can keep our children safe. Some great sites to help are below. Lots more resources are also on the Online Safety presentation including some great films, books, podcasts and social media groups: <https://www.st-petersschool.co.uk/page/?title=Online+Safety&pid=280>

### Communication is the key!

Keep talking to your child about what they are doing online, what they enjoy online, what apps they like etc. Keep conversations going on a regular basis, little and often.

### Research sites:

- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>
- <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>
- <https://www.internetmatters.org/>



## Year II Geography Trip to West Wittering

As part of their GCSE Geography course, students must carry out two investigations: one with a physical geography focus, the other with a human geography focus. The students will then have to answer questions about their fieldwork experiences in their GCSE exam, Paper 3.

On Monday 9th October, students participated in their second investigation which was based at West Wittering beach in West Sussex. During the day, we worked alongside the Chichester Harbour Conservancy Education Team and students used a range of fieldwork techniques to investigate how the beach is changing and how it is being managed. This allowed our Year

11 students to reinforce their coastal classroom learning and to see 'real life' geography.

Our students were impeccably behaved and their enthusiasm was of the highest level. The sun shone, the challenging questions were answered, fieldwork skills were exceptional and the pride flowed.

Thank you to the staff and students for making geographical memories.



## Amazing Flamenco Experience!

Ana Dueñas León, a renowned Flamenco dancer, conducted two intensive workshops where students were not only taught to dance, but they also got to showcase their newfound talents in a captivating performance.

The workshops focused on two quintessential Flamenco styles: the lively and rhythmic Rumba and the passionate and dramatic Tango. Ana, with her extensive knowledge and expertise, shared the intricacies of these dance forms and divided the students into two groups.

Through Ana's guidance, they learned to feel the music in their hearts, move with grace and express their emotions through the language of Flamenco. The grand finale of the workshop was a spectacular performance, where the students took centre stage.

The auditorium was filled with excited parents and supportive staff, all eager to witness the culmination of their hard work. The energy in the room was palpable as the students danced their hearts out, pouring their souls into every step and movement.

Ana, the driving force behind this transformative experience, wowed the audience with three electrifying Flamenco performances that displayed the true essence of the art form. Her passion, skill and charisma left everyone spellbound, and her infectious energy lit up the room.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all parents, staff, students and especially Ana, who made this remarkable experience possible. The parents were also offered a real taste of Spanish food which included palmeritas and tortilla.

# GCSE Results 2023

Just in case you missed this article in August!

We are proud to announce that the St Peter's community has been celebrating outstanding GCSE results again. Many staff shared in the moment when the envelopes were opened and seeing the delight of the students' achievements and the affirmation of all their hard work over the last two years.

In fact, the school results are excellent and are better than our attainment in summer 2019 which is where nationally results are most closely aligned. 92% of students gained five GCSEs at grade 4 or above and 85% gained five GCSEs at grade 5 or above. 55% of all entries are grades 9-7.



We would like to pay tribute to all our staff who supported the students throughout the last five years, to the parents who have shared the anxiety and pressure whilst trying to remain calm but especially to the students and their fabulous talents and sheer hard work that enabled them to be awarded the grades they deserved.

It has been a delight to welcome our students back into St Peter's Sixth Form in September and see them start the next stage of their journey.



## A Level Results 2023

Congratulations to all our Year 13 students! We are incredibly proud of all they have achieved, especially considering that this was the first round of public examinations this group had ever sat due to the pandemic. They showed perseverance and resilience across the two years of their A Level and BTEC studies.

As the government announced,

schools have seen a return to pre-pandemic results in 2019. We are pleased to say that St Peter's has slightly increased our attainment from 2019. Our final grades are as follows:

- 45% A\* - A
- 73% A\* - B
- 90% A\* - C
- 46% of our students are going on to Russell Group universities from those that applied.



## Chaplaincy Update

On 4th October, our Year 8 leaders represented the school for the Annual Diocesan Schools Pilgrimage. Led by Bishop Richard, we began at the bottom of town, walking past Arundel Castle and through its estate to the Cathedral where we celebrated Mass.

As it was the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, we were encouraged to reflect on the gift of creation, stopping to appreciate our surroundings and take photos of what inspired us. At midday, Pope Francis issued Laudate Deum, with the Bishop's homily reflecting on its message, inviting us to pray and act on the climate crisis and its impact on the poorest in the world.

## UCAS Update

September saw us bid farewell to our 2023 cohort of A Level students, who are moving onto the next phase of their educations and into their adult lives. The sheer variety of options open to them is staggering: students are starting degrees in all manner of fields, taking on high-profile degree apprenticeships with some of the largest companies in the world, and embarking on gap-year activities that will take some of them across the globe. I look forward to working with some of the gap-year students again when they start their own UCAS application process in 2024.

We are particularly proud of this year group's ambition,



determination and resilience. As the first year group since the 2019 cohort to face the full spectrum of A Level and BTEC exams with no concessions to COVID, they have faced more challenges than many – and yet, in the face of tightening grade boundaries, they have managed to deliver an astonishing set of results that has seen 46% of university applicants secure places in Russell Group universities, and five students gain places at Cambridge University.

As I write this, the next UCAS cycle is getting underway, and I am as excited as ever to see the next set of A Level leavers achieve their aspirations in 2024.

**Mr Martin**  
UCAS Co-ordinator



## A Wonderful Night at the Musicals

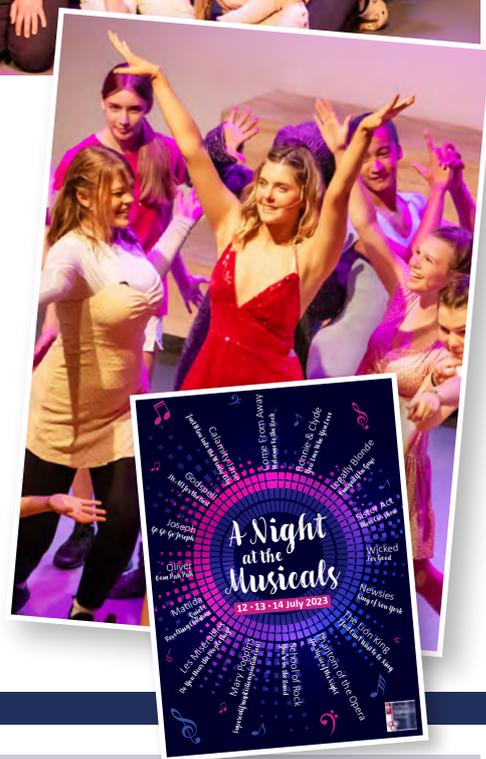
Over three nights in July, St Peter's students presented 'A Night at the Musicals.'

Audiences were treated to an evening of songs ranging from early musicals such as Calamity Jane and Oliver through Andrew Lloyd-Webber classics such as Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat to more modern-day shows including Legally Blonde and Matilda.

Students from Years 7 through to Year 13 sang and danced, either as a solo or duet and sometimes in a large ensemble. The songs were accompanied by an

outstanding theatre band, consisting of students from all year groups, as well as a couple of talented members of staff from the RE Department! And not forgetting our backstage crew, who ensured that the whole production ran smoothly.

The energy, variety and sheer professionalism from our students was a privilege to watch. Our thanks must go to all staff involved including Miss Myatt, Miss Pollard, Mrs Gregg, Ms Meoli, Mrs Hanford and Mr Bates as well as all those who supported on the night. Oh, and to our audience for their exceptional singing during the encore!



## Art Exhibition

On Wednesday 19th July, we held our annual celebration of art and transformed the Exam Hall into a space full of ideas and creativity. Every student who has studied Art in Years 11 and 13 as well as the Year 13 Photography students showcased a piece of work.

It was lovely to welcome so many visitors from parents to grandparents and siblings. Conversation flowed and



everyone agreed this year's show looked fabulous. It was particularly lovely to see some ex-students and catch up.

Alongside the art we were treated to live music from some of the Sixth Form Enrichment group supported by Vic Cox. Thanks Vic for giving up your time.

We look forward to seeing you next July when we celebrate the talent from this year.



## Careers Week

One of the highlights of the Careers calendar is our Year 10 Careers Week. This year, students had a fantastic week taking part in engaging, practical activities that helped them to think about their future career ideas, develop transferrable skills and discover what it is like to work in different businesses and organisations.



**Enterprise Day** This activity saw students budgeting, branding, manufacturing and selling lemonade, discovering key employability skills along the way. It proved a fun way to experience what it is like to run a business!

**CSI Day** Students learned some key skills used in forensic science, using these to solve a crime. They discovered how these skills are important in a range of careers and found out about different pathways to this exciting STEM career.



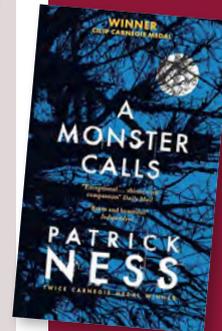
**Alumni Morning** Former students visited Year 10 and chatted with them about their own career journeys, answering questions and inspiring current students with their stories.

**Business Day** Students had a fantastic day visiting two different businesses, finding out about different careers and progression routes. They met employees and took part in activities so that they could experience what the work was like.



## Literacy Focus

Excitingly, this half term Sparx Reader has been launched in Year 7. Sparx Reader is a reading, comprehension and vocabulary programme that encourages students to read regularly to help improve their literacy and love of reading. Sparx Reader homework provides a highly personalised weekly reading homework for students, tailored to their reading ability. Students can choose from a range of eBooks at their appropriate level and as they read, they will answer questions to check they are reading carefully. Readers earn points meaning they can track their progress and climb the league table.



We are looking forward to: seeing how Year 7 engage with the programme; watching their literary progression and to awarding half termly book prizes to our top readers.

A way to help support your child, regardless of year group, with reading for pleasure, is to use the PEER Framework. This framework is a simple sequence that can be used to promote discussions around reading:

- Prompt your child to say something about the book.
- Evaluate their response.
- Expand their response by adding information to it.
- Repeat the prompt to help them learn from the expansion.

Thank you for your continued support with your child's literacy journey.

## Student Life Outside the Classroom



### Emmie 8KO (second from left)

I started at Guildford and Godalming Athletics Club in April 2022 and focussed mainly on short distance track events.

In April this year, my coach asked me to start hurdling and this has now become my main event. In May, I competed in the Surrey Championships, winning a silver medal. I was then selected to represent Surrey in the Inter County Championships, unfortunately I fell over. However, I was subsequently selected to be part of the 4x100m and 4x200m relay team in the Surrey Championships in September where we picked up a bronze and silver medal.

### Martha 10FR

Currently I am playing for the Hockey Mentors First Squad which is a team that brings together state school students from all over the country, so that we can get a similar standard and amount of hockey as private schools.

We play matches against the best hockey schools in the country (e.g. Repton School), a selection of universities (e.g. Birmingham University) and sometimes U16/U18 international squads (e.g. Scotland).



I am also playing for Guildford Talent Academy (TA) and Guildford Juniors and Ladies. Guildford TA is a selection of players from Guildford Hockey Club and surrounding clubs to make a team to play against other Talent Academies. At the end of the year, there is a tournament with all the TA teams across the country and it is a chance to get selected for the England international squad.



### Elsbeth 11TE and Conor 11JPII

Both students went to Arundel Cathedral over the weekend to attend the Mass of St Stephen in celebration for the guild of altar servers.

### Florence 8BA

Florence in Year 8 has been awarded the Commodore's Broad Pennant which is the highest achievement badge a Junior Sea Cadet can attain and was the first pennant awarded in six years at the Guildford unit.

Florence loves Sea Cadets and has just graduated to the Blue Jackets. Here is a photo of her receiving her award.



## Peace Garden

Following the summer break, our Sixth Form Enrichment Team have been tidying up and maintaining the Peace Garden and the other flower beds in the school. They have been weeding, picking up all the fallen apples from our lovely apple tree and cutting back the spent wild flowers and other flower heads. We have also sown grass seed to fill in one area that was not working as a regular flower bed.

Over the past few weeks, we have come across many new friends showing how the biodiversity has increased. This has included worms, caterpillars, many different moths and



butterflies, bees, grasshoppers and most recently frogs!

Thank you all so much for your support and generosity so far! As it is autumn, we would like to plant some more spring and summer bulbs in the north/south end of the garden, to mirror the others. All donations are very happily received. If you would like to donate money, please use this link <https://gofund.me/a9769414>

We are looking forward to the winter colour that will hopefully pop up through the soil in the next few months.



## Girls' Netball

On Wednesday 27th September, the Year 11 netball girls' team went to George Abbot and competed in a tournament against several other schools. The girls showed incredible teamwork skills and played some fantastic netball. Overall, they came joint first in the games they won. On Tuesday 3rd October, Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 netball A teams

went to George Abbot. All teams played exceptionally well with Years 8, 11, 12 and 13 winning their games and Years 7, 9 and 10 just missing out, well done to all the girls who played!

The following week, it was the turn of the netball B teams to play some friendly matches at George Abbot. This was the Year 7s first match representing the school and they all did extremely well.

Years 8 and 10 ended up winning their matches and the Year 9s just missed out but worked tirelessly all match.

**Student notice:** Please make sure you are checking the PE Bulletin which can be found outside the Gym Office and Sports Hall Office on a Friday for clubs which are taking place the following week.



## Girls' Football

In September, the U14s team travelled away for their national cup game. Although we played with two players down, all the girls worked their socks off and were determined throughout the game. The first half ended with the girls winning 2-1 and just before full time the opposition scored to make it 2-2. We went straight to penalties which we ended up losing 4-3, however, the girls should be incredibly proud of themselves, Miss Hardy definitely is!

Our second national cup game this

term was played by our U13 girls' team at home against Harries Academy, Wimbledon. It was great to see the new Year 7s throw themselves into a football game and work so well with the year above. All the girls played brilliantly and there were some excellent goals scored by Poppy and Amaya. The girls fought all the way until the final whistle but just lost out narrowly on a 6-5 defeat.

To finish up our national cup games this term, the U14 girls travelled to Sussex. It was a brilliant game from the start and we scored a quick goal giving us the lead. The opposition fought back and scored a goal, and by the time it got to half time it was 2-2! Just after the start of half time, we scored to make it 3-2 although the opposition pulled one back a few minutes later. Although it ended 5-3 to the opposition, it was an extraordinary game to watch from the start and the girls should be proud of themselves.

## Boys' Football

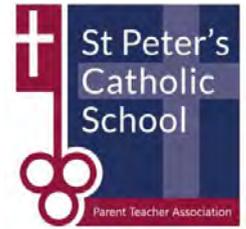
The Year 7 boys played their first fixture for the school against Guildford County; it was superb to see these students represent the school and play with such good teamwork. They narrowly lost the game 2-1. The Year 8s, 9s and 11s have all played against various schools and have also shown great determination in the games to work as a team and support one another. The Sixth Form team played against Guildford County and despite the awful conditions played some magnificent football and were rewarded with a 2-1 win.





# Christmas Fair

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November 1-4pm



THE PTA WOULD REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR HELP WITH THE CHRISTMAS FAIR IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

(All donations to be brought into School Reception. Thank you!)

WHAT?	WHEN?	HOW?
Raffle & Auction Prizes 	As soon as possible	If you know of any local businesses who could donate a prize please contact <a href="mailto:PTA@st-peters.surrey.sch.uk">PTA@st-peters.surrey.sch.uk</a>
Volunteers 	As soon as possible	We would be so grateful for any time you can spare to help setting up, during the event and even clearing up afterwards. Please contact <a href="mailto:PTA@st-peters.surrey.sch.uk">PTA@st-peters.surrey.sch.uk</a>
Christmas Market 	As soon as possible	If you have a small business and would like to setup a stall at our Christmas market please contact <a href="mailto:PTA@st-peters.surrey.sch.uk">PTA@st-peters.surrey.sch.uk</a>
Match Funding 	As soon as possible	If you work for a large company that participates in Match Funding please contact: <a href="mailto:PTA@st-peters.surrey.sch.uk">PTA@st-peters.surrey.sch.uk</a>
Toiletries & Gifts 	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> October onwards	Please send in donations of good quality toiletries and gifts for our Find-a-present stall.
Raffle & Auction Tickets 	Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> November onwards	Tickets will be available for sale online 12 <sup>th</sup> November onwards and in paper on the day of the fair. Please spread the news to family, friends & colleagues.
Decorations 	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> November onwards	Please send in donations of decorations – tinsel / garlands / large baubles etc to help us decorate the school for the fair.
Second Hand Uniforms 	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> November onwards	Please send in donations of branded items (blazers, blouses, skirts, new PE kit, ties, jumpers) for our second hand uniform stall.
Mince Pies 	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> November onwards	Please send in boxed mince pies for our mulled wine stall.
Bottle Mufti Day 	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	Students can wear Mufti in exchange for a bottle for the Bottle Tombola.

