



### Welcome to Parents, Carers and Students,

In our Christmas newsletter you will find articles from students and staff that tell you about a variety of events that have taken place in the last half term. There are also some important reminders and announcements, so please do take the time to read through this.

This has been an incredible term for both year groups in the Sixth Form and we're really proud of all students.

Year 12 - we are still really enjoying seeing you grow and mature in the Sixth Form. You are becoming more confident as a year group and it was great to see so many of you participating in running events for our RAG week. Your first set of reports show you have made a promising start to your academic study, as well. I hope you are able to implement some of the advice you received in your study skills afternoon with Michele Miller and be as productive as you can every day. You'll never regret having a productive study period! Remember that Sixth Form is also about a time for trying new things outside of academics too. Make sure you are finding sports, hobbies and subjects you are passionate about outside of school. It would be great to see some of you getting stuck into new activities during enrichment next half term.

Year 13 – well done for leading on RAG week and reaching your incredible total. I had to eat my words as I said you wouldn't surpass £3500! Thank you to the Head Student team for also organising our first Winter Ball and every RAG week event. You are great ambassadors for this year group. We have enjoyed checking in with all of you during your 1-1s this half term, thank you for your time and honesty in these conversations. Remember that our doors are always open to you and if you feel you need extra support at any point, let a member of the Sixth Form team know. Good luck in your mocks and remember they are an incredible opportunity for feedback and learning.

Thank you to both year groups for being such a positive, warm and friendly presence in the sixth form buildings. Enjoy the Christmas break and spending time with loved ones.

Mrs Rana-Brown



### Bumper Edition

Why is this such a long newsletter? Well, so much goes on in the Autumn term, we wanted to show you the highlights of what has been a packed and really fun time, despite all the usual hard work. When I asked students to contribute to their newsletter, so many sent in comments and copy, for which I'm really grateful. What a great cohort we have this year.

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to you all.

Mrs Hegg



### Winter Ball

The Head Students did a phenomenal job of organising the James Bond themed Winter Ball at Chobham Golf club on 6th December. Students dressed up to the nines and boogied the night away. They were a real credit to the school, with club staff commenting how impressed they were. Here are a few photos that capture the evening:



## Study Skills

Three weeks ago, we (Year 12) were given a workshop on study management by Michele Miller, a subject expert. The talk was overall well received and reinforced the ideas we had previously been presented with, while also giving us new perspectives and information.

It served as yet another reminder that we must take the initiative in our work and abandon the complacency that we may have settled into. While doing so, there was a constant reminder that a balance needed to be established and that to ensure productivity in study, it would be necessary to ensure a rewards system and rest periods were implemented into a routine, to avoid burn out and procrastination.

Students were generally positive and receptive, and although some had disagreements over the pretty demanding methodology suggested, most felt that the session would improve how we study in the future, and I hope to speak for more than just myself when I say that the lessons learnt in this session have already carried through into work.

By Ben W

## Jane Austen trip



On the 12th of November, the Year 12 and 13 English Literature and Language students went on a trip to Jane Austen's house.

Once there, we were given a tour by a lovely, knowledgeable guide, who took us through the house and pointed out all the links between Austen's own life and her novels, including a portrait of a figure in Jane Austen's own life that is said to have inspired the character of Mr. Collins in *Pride and Prejudice*! We were lucky enough to see the first editions of Jane Austen's manuscripts, which were very inspiring, as well as Austen's very own writing desk!

Then, saying goodbye to the cottage, we walked down the road to Chawton House, a magnificent building that transported us back to the Regency era. Here, the literature students were treated to a lecture all about women and gothic literature, by Kim Simpson. It was an extremely interesting talk, made even more exciting by the old and creaking library in which it took place, as if we were living in our own Gothic novel!

Overall, it was a fun and exciting day, as we came away with knowledge of iconic female authors who shaped the literary canon, inspiring us to pick up one or two of their books.

By Ellie Dudley

First editions of all Austen's novels on display for first time



## RAG Week

The Head Student team organised our incredibly successful RAG week, raising over £3,900 for our charities, Shooting Star, DEC and the Middle East Humanitarian Appeal. There were cake and popcorn sales as well as a car wash service. The head students were very persuasive in recruiting staff to get involved in events such as Sponge the Teacher, a quiz in the style of 'The Chase', a staff versus student football match and a brilliant netball match where the very strong Year 13 team trounced the staff!

One of our head students reflected on organising Sponge the Teacher. At first, he said, they had no idea what to expect so the process was relatively inefficient and it was causing a loss of potential profit, so the student team developed an "algorithm" to manage the crowd, quickly fill up water buckets and more effectively work as a team. Life skills learnt whilst having fun!



## Culture Day

On 8th November, we celebrated our first whole school Culture Day. This was a day of celebration, where we were able to come together to honour and embrace the rich tapestry of cultures that make up our very diverse school community, with students and staff from various backgrounds and 49 different countries of birth: each bringing their unique traditions, languages, and beliefs. Did you know we have 11 different religions practiced within our school?

The school canteen had a multicultural menu and all lessons began by celebrating diversity of cultures and religions. There were also after-school activities that included an Indian cooking class and a Flamenco workshop. The students really embraced the opportunity to learn from one another and celebrate all our unique identities, strengthening the bonds that make our school a truly special place.

Anya said, " It was really nice to see how multi- cultural the St Peter's community is and to have the opportunity to celebrate our heritages!"



## Careers Networking Event

Mrs Calvert, our Careers Lead, organised a fantastic event in November, where our Year 13s had the chance to meet 3 of the 29 varied employers who gave up their time to come in and provide a professional networking event. The employers told us how impressed they were by the calibre of our students and several were promoting local opportunities for post A level employment and work experience.

Aston said, "At first, I didn't think it would be that useful since most employers don't have the same interest and passion as me (Actuarial Science) and work in different industries. However, I really gained confidence when I realised the employers were genuinely interested in what you are doing and what you aspire to do in the future."

Anya commented, "We spoke to employers such as British Airways, Virgin Media and Amazon. During our Careers lessons we completed activities to prepare us for the event such as thinking of ways that we can introduce ourselves, ways in which we can come across as confident and we planned questions to ask on how we can succeed in working life. After speaking to the employers, we were given feedback on what we did well, for example maintaining good eye contact, and what we could improve on, for example speaking more clearly. Everyone certainly thought the event was valuable; one student said, "The networking event really boosted my confidence and I was able to connect with some representatives on LinkedIn, so going forward I now have some really useful contacts in different industries".



## Bowling

In November, we took Year 13 on a Bowling trip to reward them for their hard work and to give everyone a chance to relax and socialise. Students said it was a fun way to have a break from studies and enjoy spending time with friends.



## UCAS

Here's an update from Mr Martin:  
Around 50 Year 13s have now sent off their university applications and the rest have until the January deadline to do so. Many students are still getting feedback on their personal statements and should be finalising these ASAP.  
We have a record 16 Oxbridge interviews taking place – the highest number ever – we wish them and all other university applicants the very best of luck!





The Year 12 students have thrived in the Sixth Form this term. They are up to speed with the expectations and the dynamics of the working day. As a result, we have seen a real growing maturity amongst the students; they are focused on what they want to achieve. This half term has provided the students opportunities to throw themselves into the school community. They experienced their first RAG week as a Sixth Form student. Many of the year 12 students helped to run these events during the week in preparation for organising them next year. We also had around 40 students attend our inaugural Winter Ball. This evening was organised by the Year 13 students, but it was a nice opportunity to bring all the Sixth Form community together. The students have put in a phenomenal effort this half term and I wish them a restful half term break and a happy Christmas and new year!

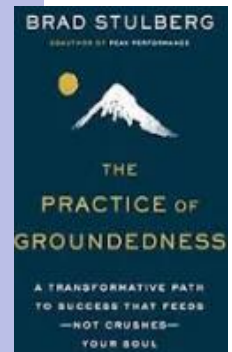
Mr Dodsworth

It has been another fantastic term for Year 13. I am so proud of how the year group came together as a community to help raise over £3,900 for RAG Week. This was led so brilliantly by the head students, however this was a team effort for the whole sixth form which involved a huge amount of car washing, ticket selling, cake baking, popcorn making and so much more.

In tutor times this term, the students have been reading 'The Practice of Groundedness' by Brad Stulberg, reflecting on a number of practices relating to the feeling of being grounded, including mindfulness, limiting screen time and managing stress. The tutors have been very impressed with the discussions between the students during these sessions. I hope they take on these ideas into their Christmas holidays.

I have been so impressed with how the students have used their study and assessment periods to carry out independent revision and timed practice. In tutor time this term, the students have been practising revision strategies including Cornell notes, flashcards/Leitner system, knowledge organisers, brain dumping and timed practice. The students have also organised their revision schedules, which I hope they will use effectively over the Christmas holidays to ensure they are able to dedicate enough time to study as well as to relax over the Christmas period.

Mr Steady



## Key Dates for 2025

Mon 6th January	Start of Spring term
6th-9th January	Year 13 mocks
10th January	Year 13 back in lessons (other than Further Maths students)
Mon 20th January	INSET day
Wed 29th January	UCAS deadline & Year 12 and Year 13 Progress reports
Thurs 30th January	Year 13 Parents' Evening
Wed 12th February	National Apprenticeship Show
w/c 17th February	HALF TERM
Mon 3rd March	Year 12 UCAS evening
w/c 10th March	Year 13 Mocks 2
Wed 12th March	Year 12 Bowling
Fri 14th March	INSET
Fri 4th April	Year 13 Progress reports & end of Spring term
w/c 7th & 14th April	EASTER HOLIDAYS