

# Autumn term 2024 News



St Peter's  
SIXTH FORM  
Discover your potential

## Half term update

It has been a very busy eight weeks in Sixth Form and as you will see from our half termly newsletter, there has been lots going on for our fantastic students in all elements of school life. Our Year 13s are working with great focus on university and apprenticeship applications and are really 'heads down' in their independent studies. Our Year 12s have settled in well into A level life, and on 13th November will have a Study Skills session with Michelle Miller, building on last year's revision workshop to think more about how to manage their independent study time, ensure they get enough sleep, and think about their overall approach to getting the most out of their Sixth Form experience.

## Update from one of our Early Applicants

My name is Ellie, and I was the first person to receive an offer from university this year. The application process was a little stressful, but the sense of reward once I had finally sent it off made it all worthwhile!

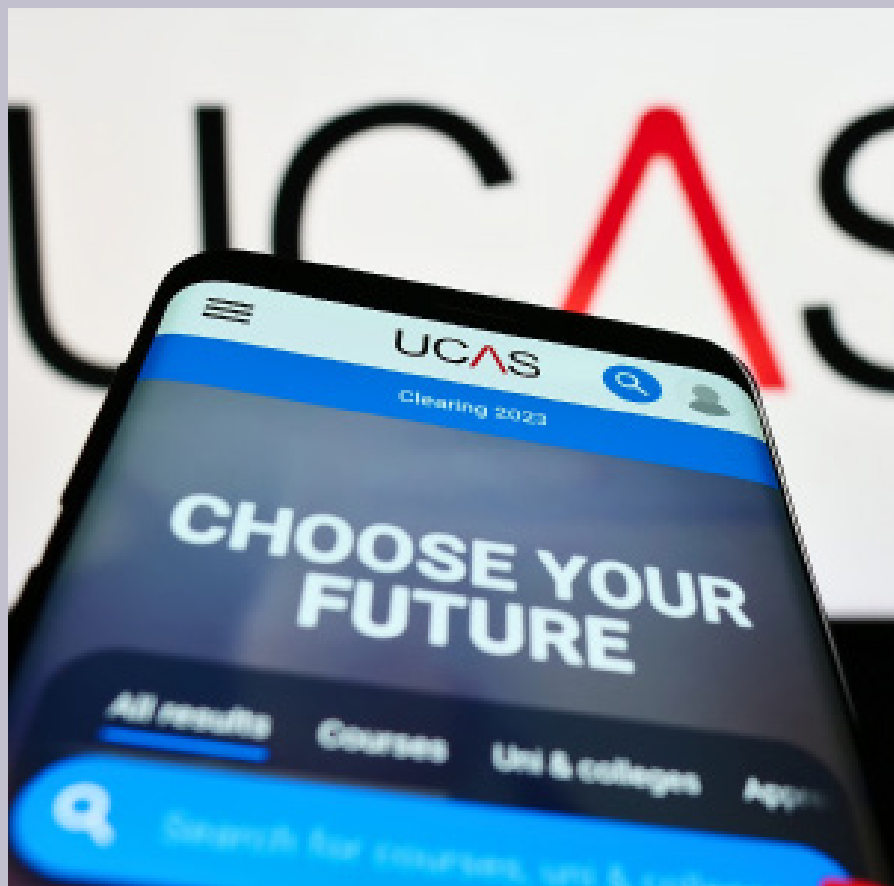
In my opinion, the most difficult aspect of the application was the personal statement, but I found that the hardest part was to actually start. Once I'd put some words on the page, everything seemed to flow a lot easier.

I would say that the most exciting part about the application process was going to university open days. I would highly recommend going to some, because it gives you a real sense of what it might be like to live and study there. Besides,

getting some of the university tote bags and pens was a fun little highlight!

For the current Year 12s, my advice would be to just start. When you first get the opportunity to write your personal statement, go into it with the expectation that it is only a first draft. There is so much time to edit and rework so it definitely doesn't need to be perfect. Hopefully, when you take that initial stress away, the process will become so much easier and enjoyable.

It's not as scary as you think, and before you know it, your application has been sent off and your offers start to come through, which is an extremely exciting feeling that makes the whole process worth it.



## UCAS Update

33 of our students have sent their applications for the most competitive courses, including at Oxford and Cambridge, Medicine and Veterinary Medicine and 33 students have met the early deadline for UCAS, which is a new school record (beating the previous record from the 2022 cohort by six). This includes some gap year students not in the 2025 cohort. 20% of the current Year 13 cohort have their university applications away. We wish them all the best with this challenging part of the application cycle. **The main deadline for all other UCAS applications is 29th January; all applications need to be in by 6pm that evening.**

Year 12 will begin considering future options in February, and we have booked tickets for the annual UCAS Discovery Exhibition on 24th April, where students will be able to talk to representatives of many universities from across the country. More details to follow.



## Careers Talk

We had a very informative Careers Law talk from Guildford Chambers Barristers and are very grateful to the parent who offered us this opportunity. It gave students an insight on the routes into the very

competitive area of Law. If any other parents would like to contribute to our Careers or Work Experience programme, please get in touch anytime with Mrs Hegg at [shegg@st-peters.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:shegg@st-peters.surrey.sch.uk)

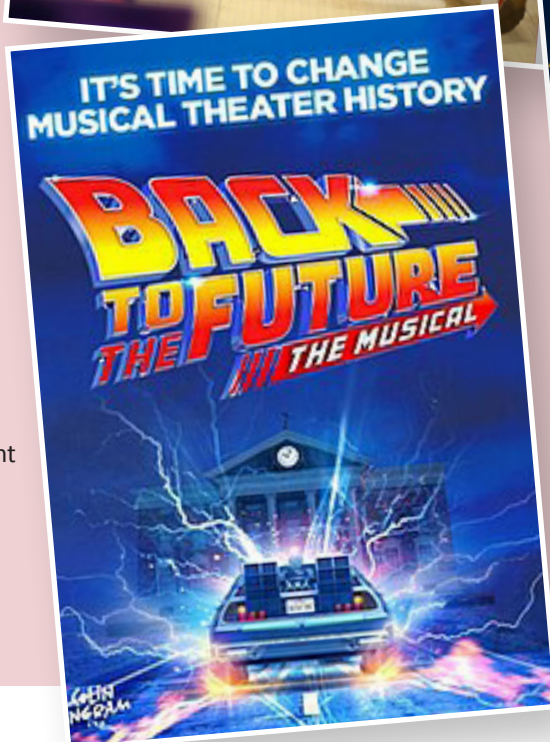
## Apprenticeships

Several students are opting to apply for degree apprenticeships and Mrs Calvert organised a special workshop for them last week. She has been able to give advice on how to find and then apply for one of these very competitive places and students need to keep their eyes and ears open as more degree apprenticeship opportunities become available, usually between October and March. A good place to look out for vacancies is <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>



## Key Dates

- **Monday 11th November**  
Year 12 Reading day (at home!)
- **Wednesday 13th November**  
Year 12 Study Skills with Michelle Miller and Year 13 Bowling at The Spectrum
- **Friday 15th November**  
INSET day
- **W/C 18th November**  
RAG Week, led by Year 13
- **Wednesday 20th November**  
'Back to the Future' theatre trip
- **Saturday 23rd November**  
Christmas Fayre
- **Wednesday 27th November**  
Year 13 Careers Networking event
- **Thursday 28th November**  
Christmas Concert
- **Friday 29th November**  
Year 12 Progress Reports



- **Monday 2nd December**  
SCHOOL CLOSED
- **Thursday 5th December**  
Year 12 Parents' Evening (in school)
- **Tuesday 17th December**  
Christmas Carol Concert
- **Friday 20th December**  
End of term

## Enrichment

All our 6th formers choose an Enrichment option on Wednesday afternoons. This gives them a break from academic work so they have the chance to relax, socialise, learn a new skill or give something back to the community.

### Well-Being

Many students choose to do a sport, with 30 going off to swim or use the gym at the Spectrum.

Others joined in with a team sport: Year 13 boys have started a new Spikeball group, and if you haven't heard of it before, it's a bit like doubles tennis and involves a small trampoline! When asked, the team of Mikey, Azeem, Fin and Shane said, "It's like all the sports in one" and helps us to develop "good teamwork skills."

A group of Year 12 boys wanted to set up a new school basketball team, and Lawrence, Victor and Ronan all said how much fun it was. They're hoping to get some matches against other schools soon.



Volleyball has also proved really popular and the sports hall buzzes with energy when all the teams are playing. Isis and Skye are in a team with Chloe and Yannie and they listed some of the positives of playing together: "It stretches your muscles; it develops teamwork; it gives us a breather from our A levels; it gets the blood flowing, and it really helps with our work life balance."

For those students who don't feel like physical activity, the Quizzing club has been the perfect place to, in the words of Filipe and Ollie, "share our interests and practise our team-working skills."

And as for Crafting, Victoria in Year 12 reports: "We've been making a tote bag and I'm enjoying it so much. I would really recommend crafting as it's so calming and fun to create."

### Service

All students offer a term of service, be it Fundraising for the SVP, developing the school allotment project and maintaining



our Peace garden, volunteering at the Queen Elizabeth Care Home or working as a TA in a local primary school. Nicole in Year 13 volunteers at St Thomas's, and she says, "The experience has been incredibly rewarding, allowing me to

support the learning and growth of the students in a hands-on collaborative and dynamic environment."

And Sophia in Y12 says, "Volunteering at the Queen Elizabeth Care Home has been an incredibly enriching experience. I've had the privilege of engaging with residents

in meaningful ways, whether by participating in activities such as baking or flower arranging, listening to their stories, or simply offering companionship. Every interaction has been incredibly rewarding- I've built special relationships with the residents. It feels great to be part of a team that brings joy and comfort to their lives,

seeing the residents' smiles and hearing their laughter makes it extremely worthwhile, and it's inspiring to be part of a space that values respect, dignity, and care. I definitely recommend it!"

Next term, Year 12s can volunteer to be trained as a Coach, and once they have this skill, they will meet a younger student and mentor them on a weekly basis.

### Personal Development

St Peter's brings in some external experts to offer Yoga, Self Defence and Music Enrichment and these are proving very popular. All Year 12s will attend the Self Defence course where they learn skills like how to react, should someone try and take their phone from them on the street.

Another group is Learning how to Cook, preparing meals they might typically live on when more independent in the next year or so.

Miss Noonan is delighted with her group of Early Applicants, whom she is supporting to apply for Oxbridge, Medicine or Veterinary degree courses. "It's the biggest group we've ever had – 30 students," she reported, "and they are full of enthusiasm!" Good luck to them all.

Next term, the Gold D of E programme begins for Year 12s and will be run by Mrs Bromley.

So, Wednesday afternoons in 6th form are full of variety, energy and engagement and there's a real buzz about the place. It's a pleasure to be involved in it all this year.

*Mrs Hegg - Enrichment and Personal Development Lead*



## Work experience

Last July approximately 150 Year 12 students embarked on their work experience week which they had been preparing for in their careers and skills sessions. We were delighted that the year group succeeded in finding some super 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, BUPA, Berkeley Homes and the Royal Surrey County Hospital. Whilst some students remained in the area, others travelled to London or beyond, giving them a taste of commuter life.

Sophia J was lucky enough to spend her work experience week at Watts Gallery, where she experienced many roles within the gallery. Sophia said of her week: "My time at Watts Gallery was incredibly worthwhile. I worked with various age groups and departments. Alongside reaffirming my passion for art, the staff were incredibly supportive and organised, ensuring I had the best experience possible, reinforcing my desire to continue pursuing creative and educational opportunities in the future".

As an addition to his work experience

week at the University of Surrey physics department, Shayne A spent a week at Imperial College, London as part of their Summer School programme, where he spent five days gaining an insight into research and was able to look into academic careers in his chosen field of study.

Two students were fortunate to gain a place on the Surrey Police work experience week, where they both experienced a variety of roles within the police. Amelia C said after her week: "We were put into groups and given the opportunity to learn about a variety of units in the police that I never would have even thought of. This included call centres, canine unit, riot police, detectives, traffic police, intelligence, forensics, training (where we were taught basic self-defence), and armed guards. I was also lucky enough to experience a day out with a 'safer neighbourhood team', allowing me to get firsthand insight into being a police constable (without the full risk level that they deal with.) Some people in my cohort were lucky enough to be part of a blue light run! One of my favourite days was spent learning about forensics in the police, where they taught us how to lift fingerprints as well as footprints."

Overall, the week was a huge success and the heartwarming feedback from employers demonstrates that our students not only chose their placements well, but also applied themselves diligently and enthusiastically. As one employer commented: "I was immensely impressed with her initiative. Incredibly helpful, interacting with every member of the team, being thoughtful, enthusiastic and polite." Another employer said; "I honestly cannot commend her enough. She was truly wonderful and we are desperate for her to come back – her dedication and initiative were that of a qualified teacher." And one final comment about a student who spent his placement with GSK Pharmaceuticals: "A positive and open attitude. I admire that he is making a good effort to learn and broaden his understanding of what is on offer for him in the future. I would be pleased to support him for university places or roles going forward."

We are immensely proud of all our students for independently researching and finding their work experience placements and look forward to seeing where the current Year 12s placements will take them!

*Mrs Warren - Work Experience*

Michael D. Watkins

# THE FIRST 90 DAYS

Proven Strategies for Getting Up to Speed Faster and Smarter

### Sixth form Reading

In both year groups, we encourage our students to complete some wider reading during tutor time.

This half term, Year 12 have been looking at 'The first 90 Days' by Michael Watkins, and Year 13 have been reading 'The Success Code' by Amanda DeWinter.

If you haven't come across these texts before, why not look? Or better still ask your offspring to summarise their learning for you!

# THE SUCCESS CODE

UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL

ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS

# CODE

'Marvellous book. Guarantees to give you the spark you need.'

ANDRIA ZAFIRAKOU, MBE

AMANDA DEWINTER



### **Message from Mr Dodsworth**

The year 12s have settled in brilliantly this year. They have made a positive and proactive start to the year, and they have risen to the heightened expectations of A-levels.

It has been a pleasure to engage with them and speak to them about their life in the Sixth Form. It was amazing to see so many parents at our partnership evening as this is one of the few times we are able to come together as a community in each academic year. I am looking forward to working with both the students and parents.



### **Message from Mr Steady**

It has been a privilege working with Year 13 this year. The students have been working hard in lessons and during study periods. I am pleased to see effective study habits being embedded into their daily routines.

Furthermore, students have been developing their personal statements for UCAS applications, including many who have already sent their applications as early applicants.

In tutor time, the students have had input on key revision strategies including Cornell notes, flashcards/Leitner System, knowledge organisers and organising their time. In personal development sessions during Thursday tutor time, the students have been focusing on success, drawing upon the research found in the book 'The Success Code' by Amanda Dewinter. In these sessions, students have been reflecting on their own personal goals in life; learning about the science of stress and how to manage it; understanding how to develop good willpower, and other life skills.

I feel confident that if the students maintain and develop their study habits each term and keep high expectations of themselves, they will be very successful this year.

