

September to October 2025

Keynotes



Dear Parents and Carers

As we complete our first half term of this new academic year, I would like to thank you for your continued support of the school and your child's education. Last week we had our annual Open Evening and, as I always do, I highlighted the importance of regular attendance at school, indeed it is the single biggest factor in determining outcomes for young people in education. I said it is pretty simple: if students turn up to school every day and work hard, they are pretty much guaranteed to succeed. The Open Evening was very successful and many of our students helped out in departments or as tour guides. We also hosted our morning school tours this week which are always popular with prospective parents and students.

This week, I have taken assemblies for some of our year groups which included the gospel of the unjust judge and the widow. This seemingly uncaring senior member of the community does not support the widow as she seeks his help to tackle her enemy without her having to return again and again to ask. The gospel is a call to prayer, to invite us to persist in our mission to seek guidance from God. Most of our students do not have to persist or be patient to get what they want. They have loving families, a caring school and friends who are there for them whenever they need. My message to them, as they progress through the school, is that when something appears out of reach or they get knocked back, then resilience and persistence are key. Please help your children to see that they have

to step up and pursue their goals and not wait for everything to fall into place for them.

Our term started with much sadness with the loss of Mrs Fogell, one of our Co-Heads of RE and then Nathan Torre, a much loved member of the current Year 11. They both received a blessed send off at St Pius and St Joseph's Church respectively and our school community mourned alongside family, friends and the Guildford parish. It is a terrible loss to us all when a member of our school community dies but the uniqueness of being a Catholic school and the love and support that is offered helps enormously to strengthen our resolve, faith and bind us together in love. We remember Mrs Fogell and Nathan with fondness and happy memories.



As we head into the second half of the term, we look forward to our festive celebrations including the PTA Christmas Fair, the Christmas Concert and the Carol Service.

You are warmly invited to all these events and we particularly appeal for your support in preparation for the Fair including contributions towards the Bring a Bottle, Jolly Jars and the Chocolate Tombola stalls! There is a PTA article in this newsletter and they will be in touch with more details after half term.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that the Poppy Appeal will be commencing on the first day back after half term, more details will follow shortly.

God bless.

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'T Miller', written over a thin white line.

Mr T Miller, Headteacher



PE Update

Year 7 Netball

We took all the Year 7s that have turned up to netball training to a mass netball coaching game where they played against George Abbot, developed their skills and represented the school very well.



Year 7 Girls' Football

The Year 7 girls travelled to Christ's College to play in their first football fixture. It was great to see them play well, utilise their skills and develop as a team. Despite losing the game, we anticipate lots of wins in the future! Well done all!



GCSE Kayaking

We took our GCSE PE boys to a kayaking course in order to give them the best opportunity to gain high grades in the practical element of the course. The two-day course involved looking at different skills within kayaking and performing in a 3K race.



Year 7 Reflection Day

Our Year 7 students spent a wonderful day at the Franciscan Centre, Ladywell for their annual Reflection Day - a chance to pause, reconnect and grow in faith as they settle into life at St Peter's. The peaceful setting provided a safe space for students to deepen their relationship with God, build stronger bonds with one another and their form tutors and simply enjoy being together as a new community.

Throughout the day, students took part in activities designed

to help them reflect and grow - from fun indoor games that built teamwork and friendship, to quiet moments of prayer and stillness. The group gathered inside a beautifully lit tipi, glowing with fairy lights, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere for prayer, reflection and discussion. Surrounded by green open spaces, the students also had time to run, laugh and simply be kids, embracing the joy and freedom of being outdoors.

Led by David Beresford and our School Chaplain, Riya, the students explored the theme of prayer, identity in Christ and how to live out their missionary call. They walked to Canticle Corner for a time of calm and silence amid the busyness of the new school term. Later everyone gathered in the Ladywell Chapel, where they were introduced to the habits of journalling and gratitude - learning to pause, notice and give thanks for the blessings in their lives.

By the end of the day, Year 7 returned uplifted, refreshed and inspired - ready to carry the spirit of reflection, gratitude and joy into their journey at St Peter's.



Joining the St Peter's Family

Firstly, a warm welcome to all the new families joining our St Peter's community for the first time.

Year 7 have got off to a flying start! In just this first half term, they have made new friends, deciphered their two-week timetables and found their way around a busy school. They have adapted well to the use of Microsoft Teams to complete their homework and many of them have made the effort to join new clubs. My ears are still ringing from hearing the girls' football team cheer as they scrambled onto the minibus to play an away match earlier this week!

Speaking of minibus journeys, each of our seven tutor groups had a day of reflection at Ladywell Convent in Godalming and it was a joy to hear them singing together on the bus. They also sang brilliantly in their Welcome Mass



which took place in St Pius Church and their behaviour and participation made me feel very proud of them.

The first autumn half term is very long and I am delighted at the resilience

the Year 7 students have shown; some of them even had the energy to help at our Open Evening. Next half term, Year 7 students will be supporting the school by donating lots of Jolly Jars for the Christmas Fair, so please do come along and buy them back on Saturday 22nd November!

Staff agree that this Year 7 cohort is a fantastic group of talented and enthusiastic students, brimming with potential. I am absolutely delighted to be working with them and just want to take this opportunity to thank the wonderful tutor team who so warmly welcome the children into school every day.

Have a lovely half term break.

From Mrs Hegg
Head of Year 7



Year 7 Dazzle at the Disco

On Tuesday 30th September, St Cecilia's Theatre was transformed into a vibrant dance floor as Year 7 students celebrated their new



school year with a high-energy disco. While parents were welcomed into school for their Partnership Evening, students were able to relax, have fun and build new friendships after settling into secondary school life.

With music pumping and lights flashing, students danced the night away to their favourite hits. From K-Pop Demon Hunters to disco classics such as the Macarena, the playlist kept everyone moving. A highlight of the evening was everyone joining in the Conga line which had everyone snaking their dance moves around the room.



Refreshments and snacks were sold throughout the evening, raising money for the Year 11 Prom and some wonderful Sixth Form helpers became photographers and DJs for the evening - capturing dance moves and memorable moments. One Year 7 even asked: "Can we do this every term?"

Year 10 Students Get a Taste of Enterprise with OCR Course

Students in Year 10 are diving into the world of business through the OCR Enterprise and Marketing course - an exciting option that blends creativity, strategy and real-world application. The course is made up of two coursework units and one final exam, giving learners a hands-on experience of how products are developed, marketed and sold.

Currently, students are working on Unit R068, which challenges them to propose the design of a brand new burger. From identifying customer needs to developing promotional strategies, this task encourages students to think like entrepreneurs and apply marketing theory to a practical product.

To support their research, students interviewed Mr Antonioli, Manager of Five Guys in Guildford. He shared insights into what makes a burger successful from sourcing quality ingredients to understanding customer preferences. "It's not just about taste," he explained. "It's about consistency, branding and knowing



what your customers want."

This real-world input has helped students refine their ideas and consider factors like pricing, packaging and promotion. Later in the course, they will move on to Unit R067, where they will pitch their final product and marketing campaign.

The OCR Enterprise and Marketing course is proving to be a dynamic and engaging option, helping students build confidence, creativity and commercial awareness - skills that will serve them well in future studies and careers.



Student Success Outside the Classroom - LAMDA

Aria 9JP2

My love of acting began at the age of three in a local theatre club which helped me to grow my passion for performance through participation in various productions and workshops. I then had the opportunity to undertake one-to-one LAMDA lessons with a superb professional actor and coach. He has helped me understand how to communicate dramatic texts effectively to an audience by exploring character, context and subtext. Lessons also focus on voice, diction, movement and emotional expression. His brilliant teaching has enabled me to secure a distinction for three years running in grades 3-5.



the musical production at St Edmund's Catholic Primary School, Godalming.

I have been very grateful to be able to use the skills I have developed in various roles including the lead role in

What I love most about acting is bringing a script to life and the process involved in creating a new character. I

have thoroughly enjoyed participating in productions here at St Peter's and am very grateful for the opportunities I have received through the inspiration and encouragement of my teachers, as well as my parents!

PTA October Update

Dear Parents and Carers

It was a pleasure to support the school's Presentation Evening in September and to see so many happy faces. We have made a fabulous start to the new term, raising over £1000 for the school through the Secondhand Uniform Sale held earlier this month. Thank you for your uniform donations throughout the year and to those who volunteer to run the sale.

We are now focusing our efforts on the upcoming Christmas Fair. Please help to make this an extra special event for the students and our school community.

**Saturday 22nd November 2025,
1pm to 4pm**

You are invited to kick off the festive season in style! Please join us for festive music, a Christmas market, BBQ, pizza, raffle, inflatable assault course and much more.

Free entry and free on-site parking.

- If you can donate raffle or auction prizes, please email us by 3rd November.

- Would you like a stall at the Christmas Market? Email us to secure a place!

- Could you volunteer an hour or two of your time to help at the fair? It will be fun!

- Please donate school uniform, Christmas jumpers and gifts that need a new home.

Please contact:
PTA@st-peters.surrey.sch.uk

All donations can be left at School Reception.

Join the St Peter's PTA Community

We are incredibly lucky to have a wonderful team of PTA volunteers. Volunteering is a great way to meet other parents and carers at the school, as well as to help support school community events and raise vital funds. If you would like to volunteer on the committee or on an "as and when you can" basis, we would love to hear from you PTA@st-peters.surrey.sch.uk



Refurbished School Library

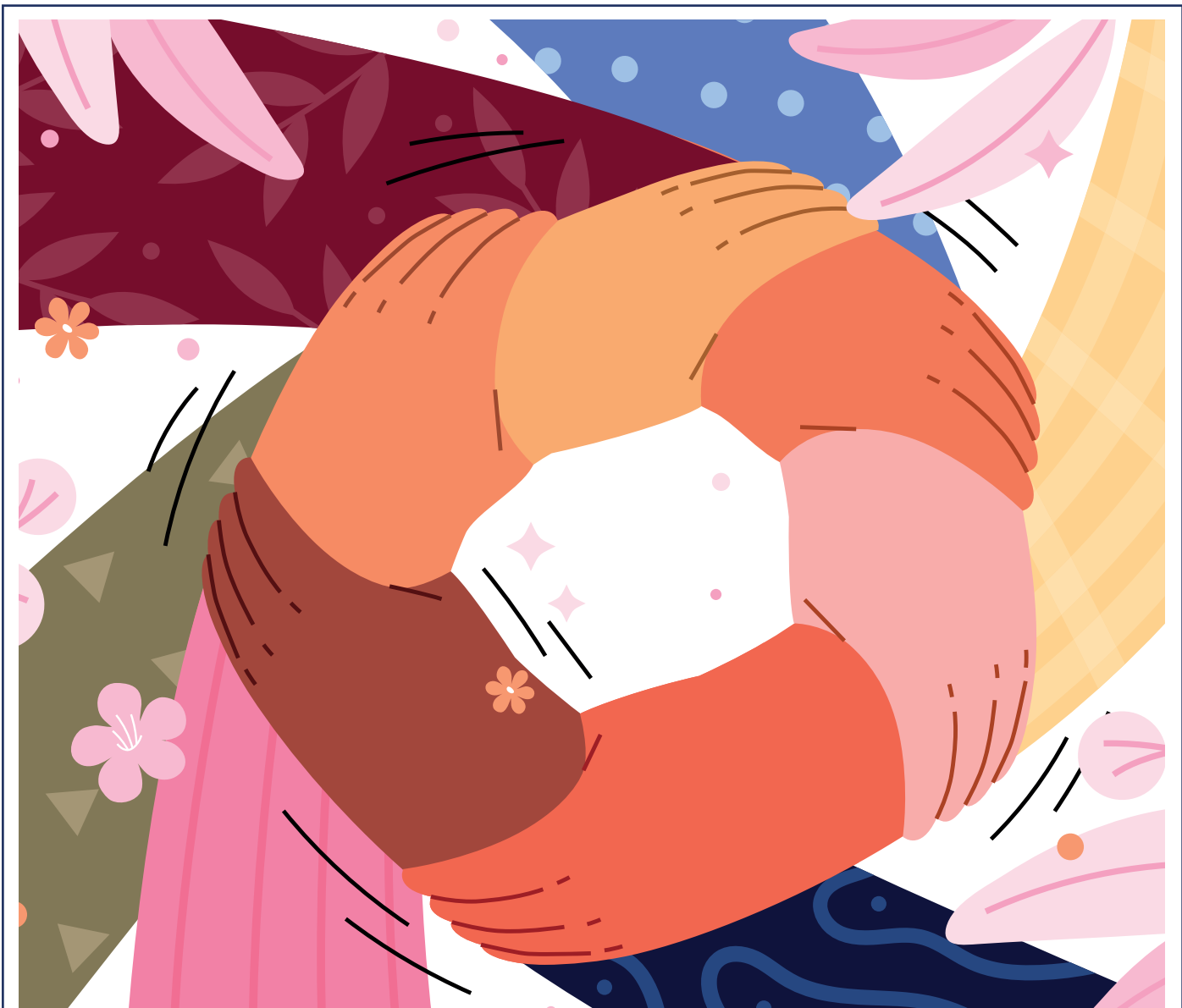
Thanks to your fundraising efforts with the PTA last year, the library was refurbished over the summer holidays. The 25-year-old carpets(!) have been replaced and new bookshelves have been installed, making this an inviting space for the students to spend time in.

This has been made possible thanks to the funds raised by you, through your continued support of PTA events and fundraising initiatives. Thank you!

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Christmas Fair on 22nd November. With best wishes for a lovely half term break.

Susan, Rebecca, Mel, Natacha, Pav & Emma on behalf of the PTA Team.





The Power of Connection

As part of our whole-school approach to enhancing our wellbeing, we have been exploring the theme of connection and how to connect with others. We know that strong relationships and a sense of belonging are vital for young people's mental health, especially as they settle into the new academic year.

At school, we have launched a range of activities this half term to help students build meaningful connections. Each year group has had a wellbeing assembly and tutor time sessions have explored the importance of friendship, empathy and inclusion.

We also marked World Mental Health Day with a tutor time activity focused on connection and kindness. Staff and Sixth Form wore yellow to show solidarity and raise awareness, and we were proud to launch our new Mental Health Champions team, a group of

Sixth Form students who will support their peers and promote positive mental health across the school. The team are really looking forward to making a fantastic impact in our school community.

Why does connection matter?

Strong peer relationships can reduce anxiety, boost resilience and improve engagement in learning. When students feel connected, they are more likely to thrive both academically and emotionally. Research from Young Minds shows that not having that sense of belonging can be challenging. With that in mind, we would like to ask for your support at home in encouraging conversations around friendships, clubs and subjects at school. Alongside this, we would also like to signpost some fantastic resources that can help support those conversations.

National College Parent Resources

- 10 Top Tips for Encouraging Open Conversations – Practical ways to help your child open up about their feelings. <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/10-top-tips-for-parents-and-educators-encouraging-open-conversations-at-home>

- Healthy Friendships Guide – Advice on helping your child build and maintain positive peer relationships. <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/healthy-friendships>

Final Thought

As we continue to build on our culture of care and connection, we know that parents and carers play a vital role. Thank you for supporting your child's wellbeing journey. Together, we can help every student feel seen, supported and ready to thrive.

A Visit to Wisley

On Thursday 2nd October, 55 Year 10 Art students spent the day at RHS Wisley. We visited the Exotic Garden, the Glasshouse and the vegetable garden. At all three locations, the students spent time recording from life, using a mixture of media and materials, ranging from watercolour painting to pencil and pen work, as well as taking photographs.

All the work produced will be presented in their sketchbooks and will contribute towards their coursework grade. The students enjoyed the day and engaged so positively with the tasks set.

Many visitors to Wisley commented how lovely it was to see the students working and engaging in conversation. Thank you, Year 10, for all the energy you put into the day.



Presentation and Graduation Evening

In September, we held our prestigious annual Presentation and Graduation Evening at St Peter's, where we celebrate effort, ethos and success across the school.

A total of 94 awards were presented by Mr James Kibble, CEO, Xavier Catholic Education Trust and current parent, who also gave an inspirational speech encompassing some words of wisdom for all our students to take on board!

The occasion was also particularly special as we recognised the achievements of our Year 13s and said a final farewell with a pre-drinks event and graduation gift. We wish them every success as they embark on their next journey.



St Peter's Keys

The winner of the St Peter's Keys this half term was Alex in Year 12. He and his cousins completed the Camino Santiago or St James' Pilgrimage to Santiago. They navigated the five-day trek themselves which finishes at the Santiago de Compostela Cathedral. Congratulations, Alex, a fantastic achievement.



Christmas Fair

Saturday 22nd November 2025, 1 - 4pm

WE NEED	WHEN	HOW YOU CAN HELP
Raffle & Auction Prizes	Now until 7 th November	Do you know of local businesses who could donate prizes for the Raffle or Auction? <i>If so, please contact PTA@st-peters.surrey.sch.uk</i>
Christmas Market Stalls	Now until 14 th November	Would you like a stall at the Christmas market? <i>If so, please contact PTA@st-peters.surrey.sch.uk</i>
Toiletries & Gifts	3 rd - 21 st November	Please send in donations of good quality toiletries and gifts for the Gift stall.
Decorations	3 rd - 21 st November	Please send in donations of decorations. <i>E.g. Tinsel, garlands, large baubles etc.</i>
Second-Hand Uniforms	3 rd - 21 st November	Please send in donations of branded uniform <i>Blazers, blouses, skirts, PE kit, ties, jumpers.</i>
Christmas Jumpers	3 rd - 21 st November	<i>Please send in donations of Christmas Jumpers. Help to recycle & reuse!</i>
Mince Pies	3 rd - 21 st November	Please send in boxed mince pies for the festive mince pies and mulled wine stall.
Jolly Jars Years 7	3 rd - 21 st November	Years 7 to bring in Jolly Jars. <i>2 requested per student.</i>
Chocolate Years 8, 9, 10 & 11	3 rd - 21 st November	Years 8, 9, 10 & 11 please bring in donations of chocolate.
Bottle Mufti Day	Friday 21 st November	Students can wear Mufti in exchange for a bottle for the Bottle Tombola.
You, your family and friends!	Saturday 22 nd November	Come along to enjoy the Christmas market, Pizza, BBQ, inflatable obstacle course, festive music, raffle, disco, mulled wine & more..



Please send any donations to the School Reception.

Can you volunteer some of your time to help out at the Fair?

If so, please contact: PTA@st-peters.surrey.sch.uk

