

# February to March 2026

# Keynotes



## Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the end of Lent and look forward to Holy Week, I reflect on the pressures on the world and whilst events overseas appear distant and hard to connect with, it is surprising how quickly they impact on our everyday lives. When costs of living are set to further increase, it is hard to continue to think of others before ourselves and walk alongside those less fortunate. However, we are called to serve and must always keep our hearts and minds open to those around us.

Our Lenten fundraising has been for Shooting Star Children's Hospices. This is an incredibly worthwhile charity which St Peter's have had a close connection with over the past few years, as students in our community have benefited from their amazing support during treatment and end of life care.

As we end our spring term, we reflect on our Lent journey and how we sacrifice our time, wealth and energy for the good of others. This Easter, there are several opportunities to celebrate Mass through the Easter Triduum in the Catholic Parish of Guildford. Details of these are on the parish website [HERE](#).

As you will see in this edition of Keynotes, there have been many activities taking place both in and out of school over the last five weeks and I know many of your children will have benefitted. There is much to be proud of in our community and in a world that often seems bewildering, your children are thriving.

Have a good break over the Easter holidays, enjoy a blessed Holy Week and we look forward to working with you in the summer term.

God bless.

Mr T Miller, Headteacher



## St Peter's Keys

This half term, the St Peter's Keys have been awarded to Will 11FR. Will has already been the recipient of the keys for his hockey endeavours and success and has now been selected for the U16 England Hockey team. This is obviously a huge achievement in a very competitive sport, often dominated



by students from independent schools. So far, Will has played internationally in Canada and will soon be taking part in a Six Nations Tournament in Germany. Will has attained a hockey scholarship for his Sixth Form studies and we look forward to seeing him potentially go on to senior England Hockey – good luck Will!



## Silver DofE Practice Expedition

Congratulations to all our Year 10 and Year 11 students who completed the practice expedition at the weekend on the South Downs. The sun shone from Friday to Sunday on our 58 students who were delighted to have made it through to the end and no doubt slept well on Sunday night! Thanks to all the staff who gave up their weekend to make this happen, it is sincerely appreciated.



## UCAS Applications

The deadline for UCAS applications passed on 14th January, and I am delighted to report that 144 St Peter's students have applied to university this year. This includes a number of last year's students who are applying during their gap years.

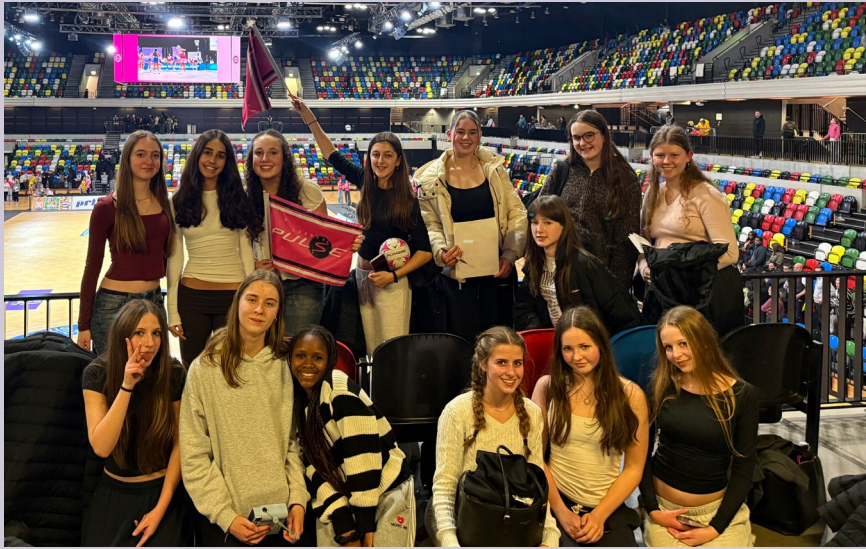


I am proud to report that several students are receiving offers for some highly competitive courses, including Medicine and other subjects allied to healthcare. We also have three students who have secured offers from Oxford or Cambridge. As I write this, the cohort has between them clocked up an impressive 539 offers, with two months left for the universities to make their decisions. After that, the students will select their firm and insurance choices.

Alongside that, many students are embarking on the exciting and challenging process of degree apprenticeship applications. These have more bespoke entry requirements than a conventional degree, and the school is ready to provide the necessary support as circumstances require.



Later in the spring, Year 12 will start the process that will culminate in their own applications. They will be the first year group to see changes to funding structures, including the exciting new Lifelong Learning Entitlement replacing the old student loans.



## PE Rewards Trip

Our Year 9 girls recently enjoyed a fantastic PE rewards trip to watch London Pulse in action. The trip was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate their commitment, effort and positive attitude in extra-curricular PE this year.

The girls were outstanding ambassadors for the school from start to finish. Travelling by train and navigating the London Underground, they showed maturity, responsibility and excellent teamwork. Their behaviour throughout the evening was exemplary and they represented the school with pride.



The match itself was an exciting and inspiring experience, and the highlight for many was the chance to meet the players personally after the game.

We are incredibly proud of the way Year 9 conducted themselves — they truly did the school proud and were a credit to our community.

## Memorial Service

This week we held a memorial service for Tom Combeer on the first anniversary of his passing. Tom's family and friends joined students and staff in the Chapel for a fitting tribute where we shared memories that had been written this time last year when the community was first grieving. Tom's Godfather led a moment of prayer and reflection in our Peace Garden where a plaque was set amongst daffodils and memorial stones. Tom's siblings, cousins and friends continue to be loved members of our community and we are honoured to host a lasting memorial in the school grounds as a focus to remember our lovely Tom.



## St Ives Art Trip

On Friday 30th January, 20 Year 12 and 13 students visited St Ives for the weekend. The purpose of the trip was to research local artists and the town to use within coursework and the exam unit.

On Saturday, we met local artist Greg Humphries who took us around the Tate Gallery, talking about how St Ives became the centre of the art world and the many artists who visited/lived in the town. He presented a number of drawing challenges which really helped unpick the artwork. He later took us onto the beach where we learnt about using charcoal in fast and effective ways, followed by a trip to Barbara



Hepworth's home and garden.

On Sunday, we spent time around the harbour putting some of the drawing techniques Greg had shown us into practice before spending the afternoon with The St Ives School of Painting, who led a workshop in working two-dimensionally (2D) and taking this into

3D. The students enjoyed the weekend and many have taken lots of tips with them that can be embedded into future work.





## Year 10 Update

The start of Year 10 has marked an exciting and important step in our school journey as students began their GCSE courses in earnest. After the foundations built in Key Stage 3, this year has already brought new challenges, greater independence and a real sense of focus for the future. Many students have approached their GCSE subjects with maturity and determination. Teachers have commented on the excellent attitude shown across the year group.

Homework standards have on the whole been high, class participation has been enthusiastic and many students are already developing effective revision techniques - a fantastic habit to build so early in the GCSE journey. High numbers of students have achieved rock badges that many wear proudly on their blazers. In core subjects such as English, maths and science, students have begun exploring more advanced topics and exam-style questions. Meanwhile, option subjects have allowed individuals to pursue their chosen subjects in more depth.

Year 10 students have not only focused on academic progress but have also embraced a wide range of enrichment opportunities. Ski trips and a Spanish trip to Cádiz to name two. We have also had visits from two theatre companies. The first one was Man Up - the students really enjoyed this show which was performed by a group of young actors about life as a teenager and what they have to deal with. The second was Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde which we have just started studying for GCSE. From a careers perspective, we have had Zoom sessions with leads from Guildford College and Merrist Wood, giving more information on the courses they offer and helping the students to start thinking about post-16 options. We will soon be starting to write CVs as well. Participation in sports teams and music groups both at lunchtime and afterschool remains strong, proving that Year 10 continue to contribute to school life.

One of the biggest changes in Year 10 is learning how to manage time effectively. Balancing homework, coursework, extra-curricular activities and personal commitments can be

challenging, but students are rising to this challenge. Importantly, resilience has been a key theme this term. Tackling more demanding content can feel daunting at times, but students are learning that perseverance and a positive mindset are essential ingredients for success. Our motto of 'Together we Thrive' is often referred to.

Although GCSE exams may still seem some distance away, Year 10 is laying the groundwork for future achievement. The enthusiasm, focus and maturity shown so far suggest that this year group is well on its way to a successful and rewarding GCSE experience. Our Year 10 Test Week commences on Wednesday 17th June and is over in time for all to enjoy Feast Day and Sports Day.

We look forward to seeing what the rest of the year brings - more achievements, more opportunities and continued growth both academically and personally. Well done, Year 10 - keep up the fantastic work!

**Mrs G Godfree**  
**Head of Year 10**

# Learning New Skills: Building Confidence and Resilience



This half term, our wellbeing theme has focused on learning new skills and how doing so, helps students build confidence and resilience.

Through our wellbeing assemblies, which were kindly led by staff, students explored how learning new skills will help them to be more perseverant and support a positive mindset. We have encouraged them to view challenges as learning opportunities. To embrace this, we have set them a task to learn a new skill over the next six weeks from our list below:

## Creativity

- Try art, music, drama, photography or simple crafts.

- Learn a new digital skill (design, editing, animation).

## Learning and Study Skills

- Experiment with new revision techniques.
- Try mini-learning goals (a new language word daily, coding basics).
- Build organisation habits (planners, timers, routines).

## Mind-Body Skills

- Practise breathing exercises or mindfulness.
- Try stretching, yoga or short calm routines.

## Social and Leadership Skills

- Join a club, help run an activity or

become a mentor/buddy.

- Practise communication and teamwork skills.

## Physical Activity

- Join a sports club or try new activities (dance, running, HIIT).
- Set small physical challenges (steps, strength, flexibility).

## Community and Contribution

- Volunteer, help with school events, support younger students.
- Join student leadership, SALT or charity groups.

**Our Mental Health Champions have also led workshops on:**

- Growth mindset: exploring how attitudes and self-talk shape confidence.
- Physical wellbeing: introducing simple movement-based activities to support mood and resilience.

These experiences have helped students feel more connected and confident in both their learning and their wellbeing. A helpful question to continue the conversation at home is: What's something new you've learned recently that made you feel proud?

## Wellbeing Dates - Summer Term 1

- World Health Day: **7th April**
- Mental Health Awareness Week: **11th – 17th May**
- World Meditation Day: **21st May**

## West Horsley Place Mental Health Talk

### Understanding Teens

A Parent's Guide to Supporting Mental Health by Joe's Buddy Line  
Tuesday 14th April at 7pm, West Horsley Place, Epsom Road, KT24 6AN

This free evening conference for parents of secondary school students will give you clear, practical tools to better understand your teenager and support their mental health. Delivered by Joe's Buddy Line, funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund.

**Book your free place:** <https://westhorsleyplace.org/whats-on/understanding-teens-1>

51 parents attended our last event in November. Afterwards, parents said:

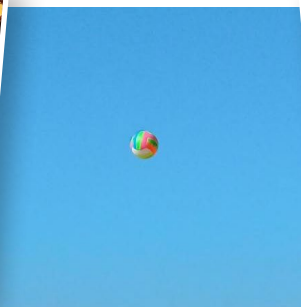
- "The speaker was excellent, so knowledgeable and held the room."
- "I think the main presentation was exceptionally good and struck just the right balance. There was no feeling of rushed time and she was extremely approachable."
- "Great speaker, lovely to have refreshments, shows actual care to parents' mental health."



### About us

West Horsley Place is a heritage charity with a vision to improve people's wellbeing through arts, heritage and nature. We're delivering this event as part of our Roots and Wings programme which works with schools to support students' wellbeing and improve

attendance. The programme includes wellbeing courses, enrichment days and meeting space for 1-2-1's with students who are avoiding school.



## Cádiz Calling! Six Days of Sunshine, Culture and Carnival Magic

What a February half term it was for our brilliant group of 18 Spanish students from Year 10 and Year 11, accompanied by the ever-enthusiastic Mrs Mortimer, Mr Bates and Miss Castellain. From 13th to 18th February, Cádiz became our classroom, our playground and our home — and what joy it brought us all.

The timing could not have been more perfect. The carnival was in full swing and the students were swept up in its whirl of music, dance and dazzling costumes. The streets buzzed with energy and our group joined in, soaking up the rhythm and colour that make Cádiz's Carnival one of the most iconic in Spain.

Our adventures didn't stop there. We climbed the famous Torre Tavira, taking in breathtaking views across the old city and marvelling at the Cámara Oscura. We crossed the bay to explore the Castle of San Marcos in El Puerto de Santa María, stepping into centuries of history with wide eyes and curious minds.

And of course, no trip to Cádiz is complete without the beach. Even in winter, the sunshine was warm enough for games, laughter and sandy shoes — a perfect reminder that learning happens just as much outdoors as in the classroom.

Speaking of classrooms, students also

took part in 10 hours of Spanish tuition at Clic International House, sharpening their language skills with engaging, dynamic lessons. Their confidence grew daily, helped enormously by the warmth and generosity of their host families, who welcomed them like their own.

Six days flew by filled with culture, sunshine, friendship and unforgettable experiences. Cádiz gave us memories we will treasure for years. A huge thank you to Mr Bates and Mrs Mortimer for organising such a magical trip and guiding students with enthusiasm, care and a wonderful sense of adventure. ¡Qué experiencia tan fantástica!

## English Drama Productions

This half term, our Year 9 and 10 students were incredibly lucky to see live performances of the texts they have been studying in English.

On 11th March, the love struck characters of Romeo and Juliet were to be found dazzling our Year 9 students with an engaging performance. The play was really fun to watch and students enjoyed the sword



fight and scintillating chemistry between the protagonists. Students thought it was a brilliant way to see Shakespeare in action and that it really brought the play to life for them.

The following week, Year 10 watched a fantastic performance of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde. It was useful for the year group

to see their GCSE text performed and students particularly enjoyed the actors' explanations and analysis of key scenes. Afterwards, students considered the choice of key scenes performed and the choice to not perform the transformation on stage. This resulted in some great analytical conversations which enhanced the text further for our students.

Thank you to the Globe Theatre Company who delivered dynamic and engaging performances for our students!

# PTA March Update

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for your continued support with fundraising for the school. The PTA handed over a fantastic £16,000 to the school from fundraising in the 2025/26 financial year. The school will put the funds towards another covered outdoor area for the students. A summary of the money raised can be seen in the chart to the right.

## Easy ways to boost PTA fundraising:

- Sign up to Easy Fundraising and play the Guildford Lottery.
- Ask your employer about matched funding.
- Find out more on the school website or email [PTA@st-peters.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:PTA@st-peters.surrey.sch.uk)
- Donate second hand uniform for our next scheduled sale (see dates below). If you have any of the following items in good, clean condition that you are happy to pass on, please leave in the school reception. We are particularly short of:

**Girls - PE kit (including socks), shirts, skirts and blazers.**

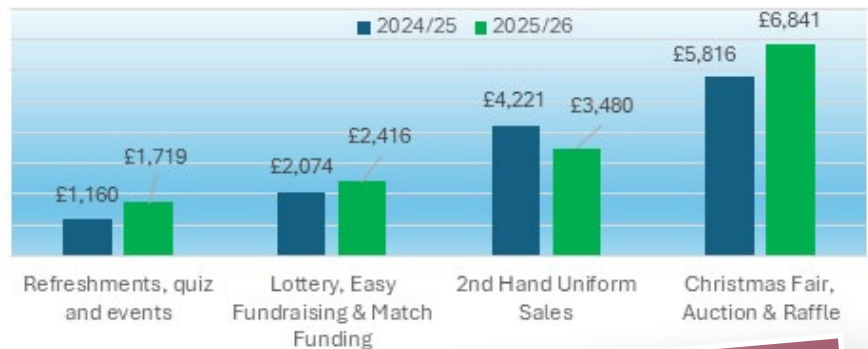
**Boys - PE kit (including socks), blazers and ties.**

Have a wonderful, blessed Easter  
From the PTA team

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

Date	PTA Support
25th March	Spring Concert refreshments
26th March	Spring Concert refreshments
18th April	Second Hand Uniform Sale
8th July	Summer performance refreshments
9th July	Summer performance refreshments
11th July	Second Hand Uniform Sale
10th October	Second Hand Uniform Sale

## St Peter's PTA Fundraising Summary



## ST PETER'S PTA NEEDS YOU!

Following a fantastic year of fundraising in 2025, we're inviting parents to join the PTA team as some of our wonderful volunteers step down. We're currently looking to fill the roles of:

- Secretary
- Chair

If you would like to play a part in supporting our fundraising efforts and making a real difference to the school community, we'd love to hear from you.

To put your name forward for election at the AGM on 11th March 2026 at 7:30pm, please email: [PTA@st-peters.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:PTA@st-peters.surrey.sch.uk)





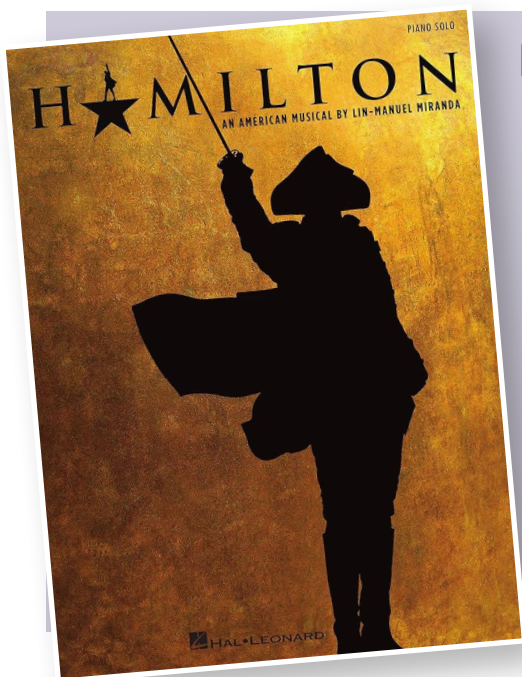
## PE Update

In February, we took 19 Year 9 students to The Spectrum where they took part in the Young Leaders programme. This day consists of teaching different sportshall athletic stations to different schools and ages, and this year the students were given Year 1 students to teach. They all taught their stations with such professionalism and enthusiasm and really engaged with all students to make sure they were having fun and felt welcomed. Many schools commented on how exceptional the

Year 9 students were and that they truly represented the school brilliantly, we could not be prouder of them!

Straight after February half term, Years 7, 8 and 9 netball teams competed in a tournament at George Abbot against other local schools in timed matches. All students showed fantastic teamwork, determination and sportsmanship skills throughout all their games. Well done to all those involved!

At the start of March, our U14 girls' football team took on Howard of Effingham. It was a competitive match where the girls worked hard and put up a great fight! The girls showed some great passage of play and were close to scoring at times, but unfortunately it ended in a loss. It was lovely to see all students supporting each other and showing great teamwork skills with some of the team being new to the sport itself!



## Hamilton Theatre Trip

Students from Years 11 and 12 recently enjoyed a thrilling trip to see Hamilton: the smash hit musical known for its bold blend of history, hip-hop and unforgettable storytelling. From the very first beat, the cast delivered the iconic numbers with incredible energy and students were enthralled from the moment the lights went down. The speed and skill of the performers in this nonstop musical was truly outstanding.

The production's clever lyricism and dynamic choreography brought Alexander Hamilton's story to life in a way that felt both modern

and inspiring. Inside the theatre, the atmosphere was electric with every song met by enthusiastic applause. A personal highlight for many was the comedic genius of King George III, whose perfectly timed humour and memorable musical moments had the audience laughing throughout.

For the students, the evening wasn't just a night at the theatre; it was a chance to see how creativity and storytelling can transform history into something vibrant and memorable. They returned to school full of enthusiasm, humming melodies and sharing favourite moments from a trip that truly blew them all away.



# BASKETBALL EASTER CAMP

**GLEBELANDS SCHOOL, CRANLEIGH:**  
30th, 31st March, 1st April

**ST PETER'S SCHOOL, GUILDFORD:**  
7th, 8th, 9th, 10th April

**YEARS 3-8 (AGES 7-13)**

10am-3pm

£36 (or £120 for 4 days)

- *Fun games and matches.*
- *Learn new skills from experienced coaches.*
- *Cool prizes to be won.*
- *Everyone is welcome.*

**BOOKINGS: [jessaustin.co.uk/basketball](http://jessaustin.co.uk/basketball)**

# INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME 2026

## 15th June to 3<sup>rd</sup> July



At Xavier Teach SouthEast, we are proud to offer an internship programme which provides those interested in teaching with the ideal opportunity to explore life in the classroom.

### NON-FUNDED AND FUNDED PROGRAMMES

Funded internship for secondary chemistry, computing, design and technology, languages, maths and physics undergraduates in their second, third or final year, and master's students, (£455pw on completion of the whole three weeks)

Non-funded internship for non-undergraduates and all other secondary subjects and primary teaching.

Aim: to help undergraduates in all subjects, as well as those considering a career change, to explore how rewarding a career in teaching can be.

As part of the programme, you will:

- Get involved in all aspects of school life
- Receive bespoke training
- Work closely with a Mentor to observe and teach lessons
- Meet with fellow Interns, ECTs and SCITT trainees
- Be given an opportunity to accelerate your interview process for our SCITT programme



*"It is the perfect programme to help you prepare for a teaching programme. When you observe lessons, you can practice managing student behaviour and helping the students."*  
Intern 2025

### INTERESTED?

Scan the QR code for the application form or visit

[www.teachsoutheast.co.uk](http://www.teachsoutheast.co.uk)



Closing date: Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2026