

Keynotes

April to May 2026



Edition 23

Dear Parents and Carers

Once again, the exam season is upon us! I always marvel at the resilience of our young people as they tackle up to five weeks of exams which is the culmination of years of hard work and the springboard to future growth and adventures.

Last week we bade farewell to our Year 13 students as they started their study leave. We celebrated Mass at St Pius and heard from each form tutor of their fond memories of guiding the students through a challenging two years.

I am not sure students always know just what an impact they have on us, as staff, and the richness they contribute to everyday life at St Peter's. It is a privilege to have a school Sixth Form as many schools are just 11-16 and the vibrancy of post-16 education cannot be underestimated. We look forward to celebrating the end of the exams with their prom and then onwards to the summer when I am confident they will be successful and ready to enjoy the next stage of their journey.

Year 11 are going through a similar challenge with some students completing around 20 exams by the end of the season. As adults, I think many of us would be challenged to prepare for that level of intensity of exams and I am sure as parents, you have shared the stresses of the season with your children. For this, I thank you and please continue to champion them!

As you know, the summer term is always filled with all sorts of activities in addition to lessons and exams. Last weekend, we saw 96 Year 10 students complete their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition practice. A dedicated

team of external leaders and our own staff supported them to camp and hike in the local area in preparation for their final expedition on the South Downs. Year 11 DofE students will complete their Silver assessed expedition on Exmoor in a few weeks and the Gold award students will venture into the wilds of the Brecon Beacons at the end of term. Good luck to them all!

We also look forward later in the term to this year's school production of 'Goodnight Mr Tom' which you may have read or seen the movie. Please do come and support our young actors who are very excited about the production.

As we move further into the summer season, we are reminded that it is not simply one day of celebration, but a continuing invitation to live with hope, purpose and joy. In schools, this can often be the busiest and most demanding part of the year, yet it is also a time when character is revealed most clearly.

At St Peter's, we see this through the daily way our young people and staff live out our rocks: showing courage in facing challenges, service in supporting others, love in the care and kindness they show, justice in standing up for what is right and reflection in taking time to learn and grow from each experience. These values are not only important for school life; they are the foundations of the strong and compassionate community we continue to build together.

Thank you, as always, for the part you play in supporting the spirit and mission of our St Peter's community.

God Bless

Mr T Miller, Headteacher

St Peter's Keys

The St Peter's Keys for last half term, were awarded to Chris 13FR and Nick 13KO who ran a half marathon at Dorney Lake near Windsor before Easter, in memory of Tom Combeer. They also raised money for MIND, a mental health charity that fights for change, raises awareness and supports people with mental health problems.



Both boys completed the race ahead of their target times, despite picking up injuries during their training, and also smashed their fundraising target ultimately attracting sponsorship of over £2000. They were supported on the day by lots of their friends and fellow students who cheered them and everyone else along the route. Thank you to Nick and Chris for their service to others; the school community are very proud.



Read, Read, Read!

2026 is the National Year of Reading, with its tagline 'whatever you're into, read into it', and as a school we share the sentiments of Queen Camilla, patron of the National Literacy Trust, who says, 'My lifelong conviction is that books make life better.'

To celebrate this, we are encouraging all students to commit in 2026 to reading a book they have always meant to read, or a challenging book about a subject they are 'into'. Like all of us, young people often want an easy or familiar read, but our school focus this year is on encouraging students towards a challenging read, one that will stretch them and give

them cultural capital.

In our recent celebrations of World Book Day, many of our staff dressed up for the day as a character from the book they have chosen. Students took the opportunity to talk to their teachers and support staff about which books they were focusing on and why.

We would love for you to take these discussions into your own families - encourage your child to read challenging books that will widen

their perspectives and talk to them about the books you most enjoyed at their age.

To support this, staff and some students will be sharing their chosen books (and their progress!) with students over the coming term.

If your child would like to share their experiences of their chosen read, they are welcome to do so by emailing Mrs Hulland jmhulland@st-peters.surrey.sch.uk (they can be kept anonymous if they prefer!)

Written by Mrs Hulland





Success at District Sports

Well done to all the students who represented St Peter's at District Sports this year. It was a hugely successful day and despite having to contest with the odd rain shower, all athletes competed and supported with great enthusiasm!

Congratulations to the following students who came first in their event:

- Nell - Long Jump
- Amelia - Long Jump
- Poppy - 100m
- Joe - Shot Put
- Oliver - Cricket Ball Throw
- Piotr - Javelin and 400m
- Finn - Discus
- Louis - Triple Jump
- Year 7 Girls' Relay
- Year 7 Boys' Overall Winner

Students are now waiting to hear if they have qualified to represent the district at Surrey Schools. Best of luck to all involved!

Written by Mr Richards



Student Success Outside the Classroom

Before Easter, Flynn 10JP and Toby 10RO had been selected to compete for Surrey Athletics as part of their Sportshall Team and won the Southeast Regional Finals.



Since then, the Surrey team went to Stoke-on-Trent to compete in the Nationals against nine other Regional Champions. We are delighted to report that the Surrey U15 boys' team won that competition and are now the 2026 UK National Champions!

In addition to this Toby, who was the team captain, also won the individual competition having scored the most points of any athlete on the day!

It has been a long campaign for the boys and a fantastic experience, demonstrating what can be achieved with dedicated hard work and team spirit. Well done, Flynn and Toby!



Supporting Wellbeing This Half Term: Take Notice

This half term, our wellbeing focus for students is Take Notice. Over the course of the last six weeks, we have encouraged students to slow down, notice the world around them and develop greater awareness of their thoughts and feelings, as well the everyday positives. During this time of year and exam period, learning to pause and reflect can play an important role in supporting wellbeing and focus.

Mindfulness and Emotional Regulation

Since the Easter holidays, students have explored mindfulness and emotional regulation through prayer, reflection and naturebased activities. Mindfulness is a key wellbeing activity which can help teenagers build awareness of how they are feeling, manage challenges more effectively and respond rather than react when emotions feel overwhelming. Alongside this, students have been encouraged to explore gratitude and how to recognise moments that bring happiness and a connection. You might want to try asking at home, "What did you notice today that made you feel grateful?" Small reflections can help build this habit over time.

How We Have Marked Mental Health Awareness Week: Theme Take Action

As part of this half term's wellbeing focus, we also celebrated Mental Health Awareness Week with a range of practical activities designed to support healthy habits and positive routines, all centred around the national theme of Taking Action.

- Zumba sessions, offering an energetic and inclusive way to get moving and boost mood.
- Gratitude journalling, giving students space to reflect on positives and achievements.
- Wellbeing circuit challenges, combining movement, teamwork and problem solving.
- Pause for reading, encouraging calm, screenfree time during the school day.

Assemblies and tutor time activities focused on healthy habits including:

- The importance of sleep.
- Managing screen time.
- Healthy eating for energy and focus.
- Learning how to be a selfcoach, using positive selftalk and practical strategies when facing challenges

These activities will help students to develop small, manageable habits that can make a real difference to how they feel day-to-day.

How can you support at home?

You can reinforce this half term's focus with a few simple approaches at home:

- Create screenfree moments where possible, especially before bedtime.
- Encourage your child to notice the small positives in their day.
- Support regular routines around sleep, meals and breaks.
- Model selfcoaching by talking through how you approach challenges calmly and constructively.

These small steps help students practise the skills they are learning in school in a familiar environment.

Useful Apps and Reading

You may find the following resources helpful for supporting mindfulness, calm and exam time readiness at home:

- **Headspace – Mindfulness for Teens**
Guided mindfulness exercises designed specifically for young people.
- **Calm – Breathing and Sleep Tools**
Practical tools to support relaxation, sleep and focus.
- **Exam Day Readiness Guide**
<https://v2.nationalcollege.com/guides/exam-day-readiness>.

Key Wellbeing Dates

Across the remainder of the term, students will also take part in activities linked to the following focus dates:

World Environment Day: 5 June

Encouraging connection with nature and care for our shared spaces.

Healthy Eating Week: from 15 June

Exploring how food, routines, and balance support energy and focus.

International SelfCare Day: 24 June

Highlighting the importance of rest, routines and healthy habits.

World Youth Skills Day: 15 July

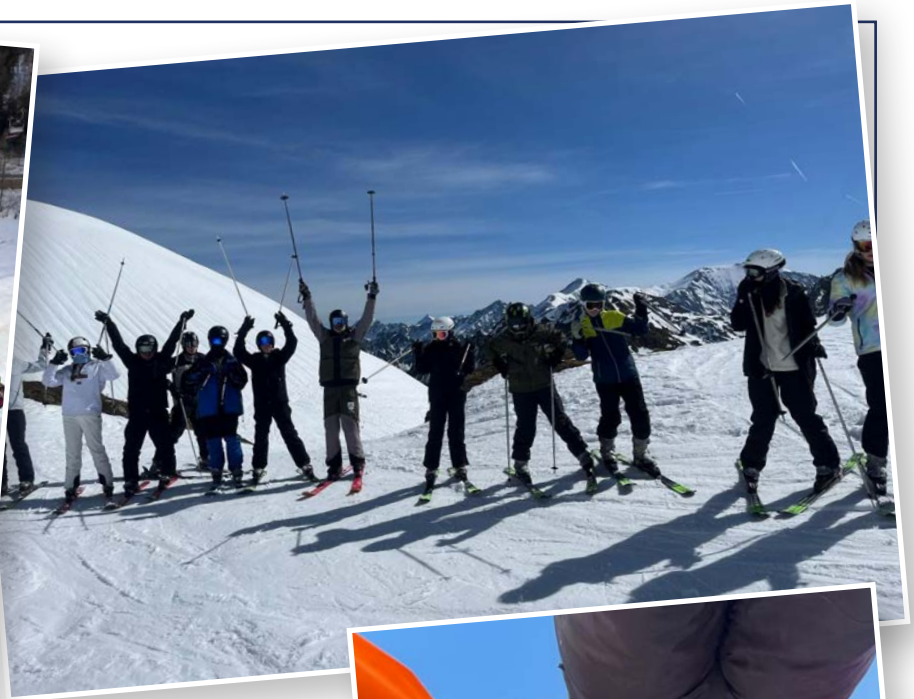
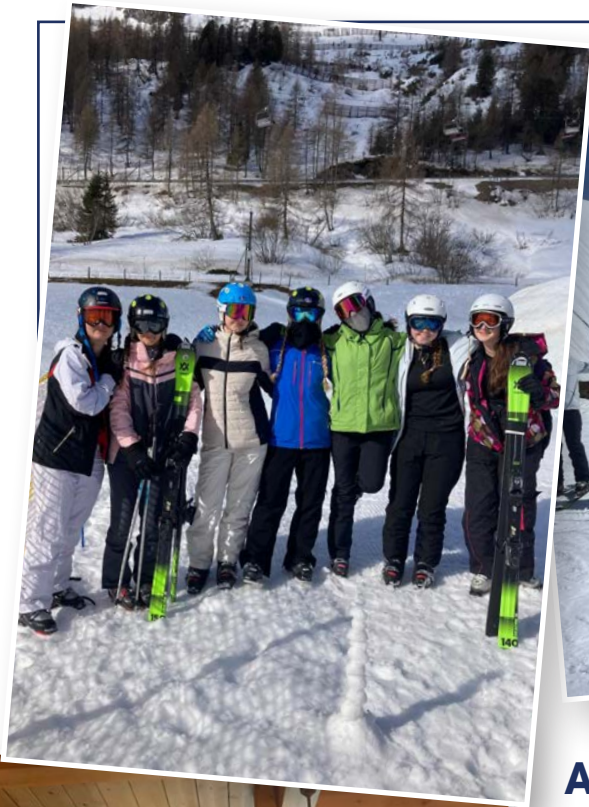
Celebrating the skills and strengths students are developing for the future.

International Day of Friendship: 30 July

Reflecting on positive relationships, kindness, and connection.

Written by Mrs Fraser and Mr Sumner





Austria Ski Trip

Over the Easter, students were lucky enough to go to the beautiful town of Obertauern for their Austrian ski trip - 2,526 metres above sea level. The weather was beautiful and the conditions were perfect and thanks to the sheer determination of the students - everyone managed to complete a red run by the end of the week. It was a great week filled with skiing, sun, snow, bowling, lots of skiwasser syrup, good food, shopping and competitive UNO tournaments. Bring on 2027 when we hit the slopes again!





Canada 2026 Ski Trip

During February half term, 48 students headed off to Jasper, Canada for an unforgettable ski trip in the Marmot Basin. From the very start, they were an absolute pleasure to be with and represented the school brilliantly. Even on the coldest day, when temperatures dropped to an incredible -29°C, spirits stayed high and smiles stayed firmly in place. Wrapped up warm, students took it all in their stride and were rewarded with the chance

to ski in one of the most beautiful mountain settings imaginable. When they were not on the slopes, there was plenty more to enjoy. A visit to the Jasper Planetarium admiring the stars captured everyone's attention, while the drive along the stunning Icefields Parkway offered views that will not be forgotten in a hurry. The trip also included time in Banff where students enjoyed exploring the town and picking up a few souvenirs. What really stood out was the students themselves - their resilience,

teamwork and positive attitude made the trip such a success and a fantastic experience for everyone involved.

Written by Miss Resa



Year 12 Work Experience Week

At the beginning of May, Year 12 students embarked on their work placement week, where they gained experience in the workplace as well as a real-time insight into the world of work. In addition, students gained experience in valuable 'soft skills' such as communication, problem solving, teamwork, communication and adaptability. Placements ranged from hospitals to schools, laboratories to wildlife sanctuaries, airlines to engineering companies.

At the end of their placements, students and employers were invited to provide feedback on the week. One student said, "I would have happily done this placement for longer." Another student noted, "I am very proud of everything that I learnt during this experience. I

supported daily activities and became more confident in completing tasks effectively."

It is clear that the Year 12 students thoroughly enjoyed their placements and benefited from experiencing the workplace. One student immensely enjoyed their placement and said afterwards, "I loved it so much it has altered what I want to do for my career path."

The feedback from employers was equally positive. "She came across as a passionate, friendly and positive individual. She asked thoughtful questions, remained extremely

polite and was very attentive to the information provided. I have no areas for improvement to highlight; rather, I would encourage her to maintain this level of enthusiasm. I wish her every success in her future endeavours."

Another employer shared the following, "From the start, she demonstrated an incredible level of maturity, professionalism, capability, as well as curiosity. I felt that she has really immersed herself in this experience, where she asked lots of thoughtful, well-informed questions and really quickly built a strong understanding of what we do."

One student was offered a part-time job at their placement and another was given the opportunity to return as an intern. As a Sixth Form, we are delighted that our students had such a positive experience and several of the placement providers were so impressed with our students that they have offered to host students again in the future.

Written by Mrs Warren





Year 13 Leaver Celebrations

Last Friday, it was a pleasure to join Year 13 on their last day at St Pius X. We all really enjoyed hearing the speeches whilst laughing/crying along to stories about their time at St Peter's. We were treated to final musical performances from the Year 13 Worship Band including an incredibly jazzy version of 'We Want to See Jesus'. The students rose to the challenge of singing along and did themselves proud throughout the Mass and speeches.

It was also an opportunity to reveal the final winners of the Peak Potential Award, as well as the students who showed the strongest engagement with the Careers Programme. A huge congratulations to Adam 13RO and Trinity 13RO, our overall winners, who were awarded a free prom ticket. We finished the occasion with a barbecue and yearbook signing by St Hilda's, where students said their goodbyes to each other and members of staff.

Thank you very much to all the Form Tutors, Mr Dodsworth and Mr Miller for your beautiful speeches. Also, a huge thank you to Mrs Hulland for organising the event and making it such a happy and memorable way to mark the end of our Year 13s' school journey.

Written by Mr Steady

Spring Music Concert

Earlier this year, we enjoyed two evenings full of musical talent showcasing St Peter's huge range of music extracurricular opportunities. The Orchestra, Guitars and Ukles Club, Girls' Choir, Boys' Choir, Brass Ensemble, Rock Band, Folk Band, Musical Theatre Club, Jazz Band, Senior Choir, Marimba Club, Acapella Choir and String Orchestra all performed beautifully to 'sell out' audiences. Well done to everyone involved in making this a wonderful event. If any students would like to get involved in the clubs mentioned, please speak to any of the teachers in the Music Department.



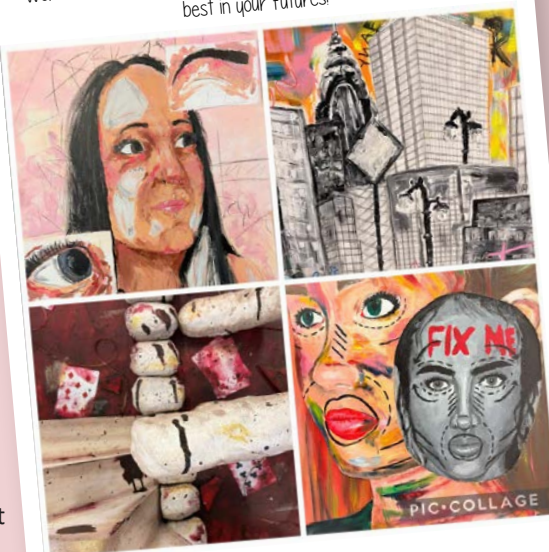
Year II Update

As the school year draws to a close, there is a special kind of atmosphere surrounding our Year 11 students - a mixture of pride, relief, determination and just a hint of "how is it already May?!"

It all began with the steady hum of sewing machines and the occasional tangled thread as the Textiles exams kicked things off. Calm hands, focused minds and perhaps a few heroic last-minute stitches. Since then, it has been a whirlwind. From the creativity of Art to the compassion shown in Health and Social Care, the confident voices of Spoken Language, and the dramatic flair of Drama - students have taken each challenge confidently in their stride. And what a stride it has been...

There is something genuinely impressive about the way this cohort has approached the start of their GCSE journey. One minute they are perfecting a performance, the next they are refining coursework or presenting ideas - all while somehow remembering (most days!) to bring the right equipment. It has not always been straightforward, but their resilience and determination have been clear in every lesson, studio and stage performance. Alongside these achievements, there have also been moments of reflection that have brought the year group even closer together. The recent memorial for

Congratulations on your time at St Peters Catholic School. You have been amazing, and your time here has been incredible! Well done for everything you have done, and we wish you all the best in your futures!



Well done Year 11, Class of 2025/26

Nathan Torre was a particularly moving occasion. It was truly heartwarming to hear the kind and thoughtful words shared by his friends, painting a picture of someone who clearly meant a great deal to so many. Seeing many of his peers come together in his memory was a powerful and special moment - a real testament to the strength, compassion and unity of this year group. A new bench with a plaque dedicated to Nathan has been placed in the Peace Garden.

These moments, both joyful and reflective, remind us of

that Year 11 is about far more than exams alone.

Teachers have not only seen hard work, but real growth - confidence building, skills strengthening and friendships deepening, even under the pressure of upcoming exams. There have been the usual moments of panic - the classic "that exam is when?" but these have been balanced with determination, humour and an admirable sense of perspective.

What stands out most is how Year 11 have embraced everything, so far. Rather than shying away, they have stepped forward - whether delivering speeches, performing under stage lights, or completing detailed coursework - showing they are more than ready for what lies ahead.

As they now stand on the brink of the main GCSE exam period, one thing is clear: this year group isn't just prepared... they've earned this moment.

So, here's to Year 11 - resilient, supportive, hardworking and occasionally powered by snacks and sheer determination. They have already made us incredibly proud and we wish them every success as they take their next steps.

Written by Mr Campbell
Head of Year 11



Memorial Plaques

This half term, we hosted the families of Nathan Torre and Hannah Fogell for a ceremony to place plaques in the Peace Garden, here at St Peter's.



Nathan died in the summer of 2025 as he was about to start Year 11. We welcomed his family and friends including Fr Roy to a service of remembrance in the

school's Chapel, followed by the placing of a plaque and wooden bench donated by Nathan's family. Nathan is still firmly in our hearts at St Peter's and we will always remember him fondly as a lovely student and close friend, as future years of staff and students enjoy sitting in the Peace Garden.

Hannah Fogell was a brilliant RE Teacher and Head of Department who lost her long battle with cancer during the summer of 2025. It was an honour to know her

and share quality time with a dedicated professional, wife and Mum. We marked Hannah's passing a few months ago with a service of remembrance in our Chapel and last week welcomed Hannah's husband, Rajul, back to school to place her plaque and flowers in the Peace Garden. Hannah will always be remembered as a wonderful colleague and an awesome teacher.



MAY HALF-TERM BASKETBALL CAMP

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In Store Opening Hours

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