

## Dear Parents and Carers

### *A Half Term of Belonging, Growth and Achievement...*

As we reach the end of our first half term together, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all parents and carers for the warm welcome, support and encouragement you have shown since the start of the academic year. The partnership between home and school is one of the greatest strengths of St Peter's, and it has been wonderful to see our community come together so positively over these past weeks.

This half term has been filled with moments that remind us of what makes St Peter's such a special place. Across the school, students have approached their learning with enthusiasm, resilience and ambition. In classrooms, on sports fields, on educational visits, through performances and acts of service, our young people have represented the school with pride and have continually demonstrated our values in action.

We have celebrated success in many forms. Students have participated in enriching experiences including geography fieldwork, drama visits and creative arts projects, while events such as our Year 7 and Year 9 Safety Days and Online Safety Evening have strengthened our commitment to helping young people navigate the opportunities and challenges of modern life. World Mental Health Day provided a valuable opportunity to reflect on the importance of wellbeing, kindness and looking after one another,

values that sit at the heart of our school community.

One of the most rewarding aspects has been seeing our vision of Belong and Thrive come to life. Whether welcoming new students into the St Peter's family, supporting one another through challenges, celebrating achievements or contributing to the wider life of the school, our students have shown what it means to belong to a caring, ambitious and faith-filled community.

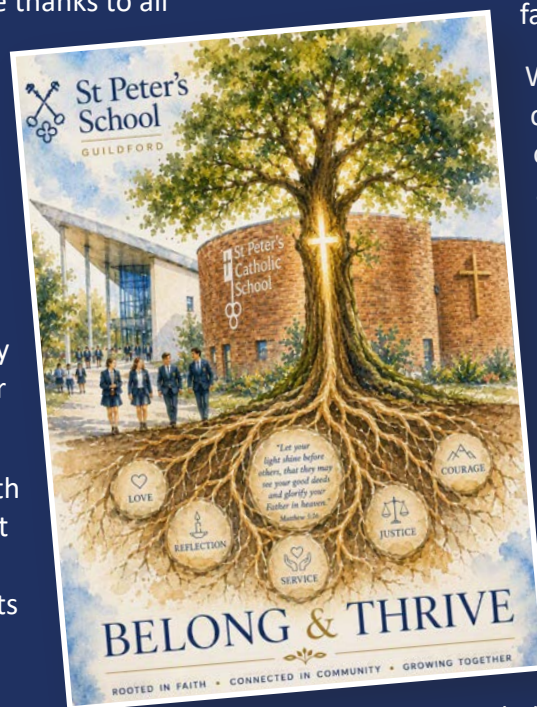
We have also been delighted to celebrate the continued success of our Sixth Form, recognised amongst the top sixth forms and colleges nationally, a reflection of the dedication of our students, the expertise of our staff and the unwavering support of families.

As you read this edition of Keynotes, I hope you enjoy the many stories and celebrations that capture the life of the school. They provide just a snapshot of the achievements, opportunities and experiences that have taken place over the

half term and reflect the energy and spirit that make St Peter's such a vibrant community.

Thank you once again for your continued support. We are proud of all that our students have achieved and excited about the opportunities that lie ahead.

I wish you and your families a restful and enjoyable break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for another successful and exciting half term.



**Mrs E Bolton, Headteacher**



## Year 7 Reflection Days

During September, all our new Year 7s were able to enjoy a day of retreat and reflection with their form tutor and tutor group, at Ladywell Convent in Godalming. We were truly blessed with the weather for all seven trip days and the students were able to spend

some special time together in the sunshine in the tipi at Ladywell.

Each day was led by David Beresford (one of our former Chaplains) and was packed with a mix of 'getting to know you' games, spiritual reflection, exploration of our house saints and St Peter, a reflective walk, gospel study, a short liturgy and plenty of outdoor time with new friends.

The students wonderfully demonstrated the values of St Peter's in their interactions with each other, the staff and David, and all left with a very clear sense of our St Peter's rocks and our mission to be Christ to all and give our all to Christ.

**Written by Mrs Hulland,  
Chaplaincy Team**





## Tristan & Yseult Trip

In October, Year 10 Drama students enjoyed a fantastic night out at the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre to see the Emma Rice Company's performance of Tristan & Yseult. Before the play began, our students were delighted when actors interacted in character with the audience, with Tom Fox who played the lead roles of Morholt and Brangian coming over to the St Peter's students to ask them how to find love. Our students unanimously told him they did not have the relevant experience!

The show itself was full of surprises,

with clowning, circus sequences, love scenes, moments of pathos and moments of enormous hilarity. At the end, our students all joined in a standing ovation for the energetic and multitalented cast.

One of our students was experiencing this performance as their first ever visit to a theatre and wondered how any other show could ever live up to this, and both Drama teachers agreed. We all really recommend this show, if you can catch it on tour!

**Written by Mrs Hulland, Head of Drama**

## 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.

Awards were presented by Mr Kelechi Okorie, a former St Peter's student, who currently works for UEFA. He gave a heartwarming speech and 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.

**Written by Mrs Buchanan-Robinson, Head's PA**

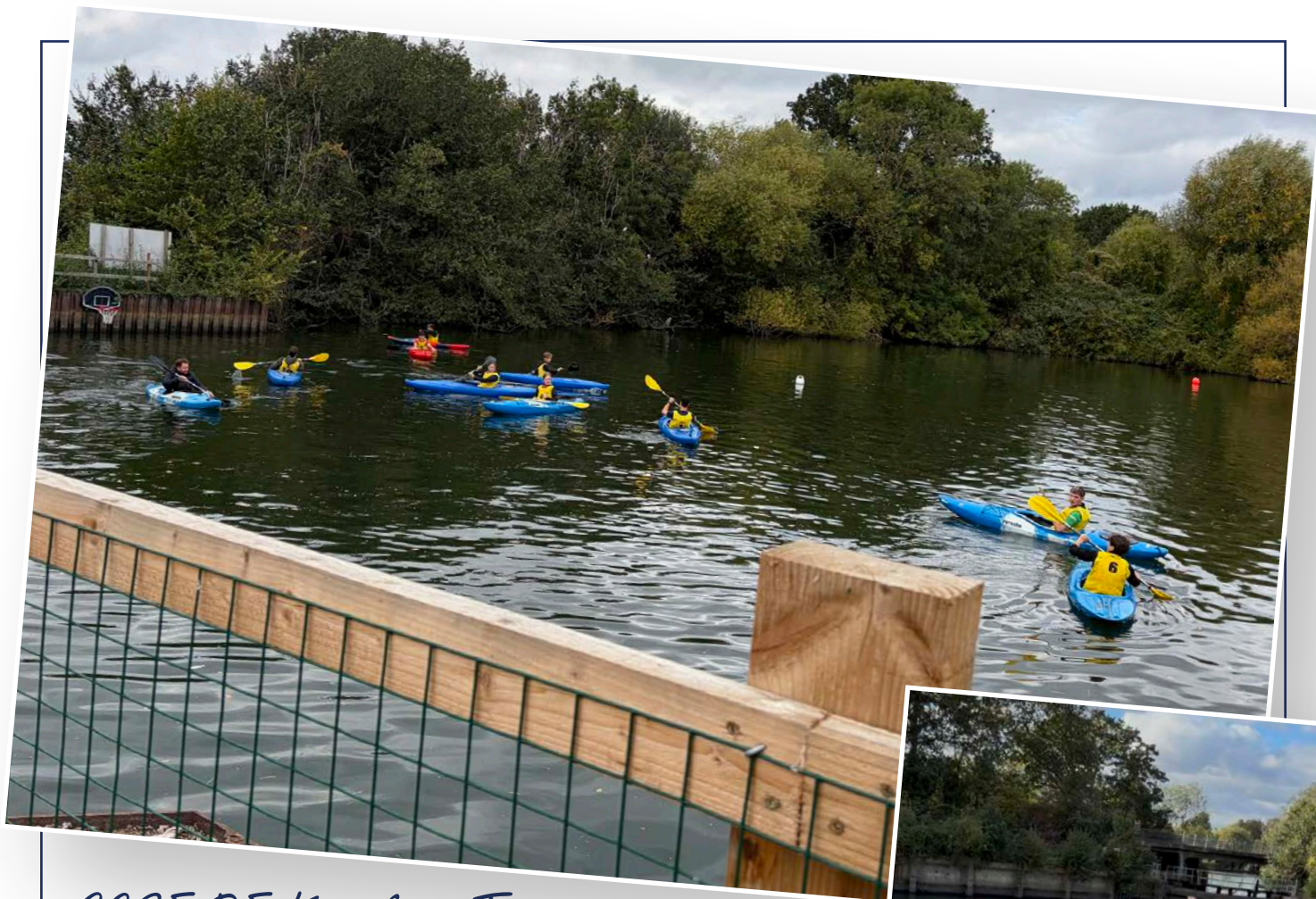


## Wisley Art Trip

On Monday 5th October, the Year 10 Art students visited RHS Wisley. The day was spent drawing from life and taking photographs all of which will be embedded into their sketchbooks in the coming weeks.

The day started in the vegetable garden followed by a visit to the exotic garden submerged by the many shrubs and fantastical forms. In the afternoon, we moved to the greenhouse to record the many cacti and other indoor plants. The students had a lovely day; we were impressed by the energy and enthusiasm they demonstrated throughout.

**Written by Mr Hartley, Head of Art**

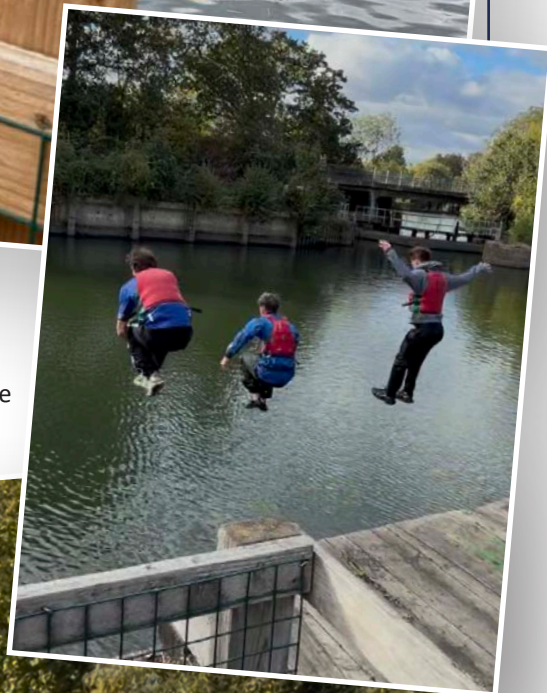


## *GCSE PE Kayaking Trip*

Our Year 11 GCSE PE students enjoyed a fantastic kayaking course in Richmond, developing their skills on the water while completing an important element of their GCSE assessment. The course allowed

students to collect evidence for one of their three assessed sports. Their enthusiasm, determination and positive attitude were a credit to the school.

**Written by Mr Price, Teacher of PE**



# PE News

## Year 7 Girls' Netball

Our Year 7 girls recently attended a netball friendly at George Abbot School, where they had the opportunity to play against a variety of local schools. Throughout the event, the girls were coached through their matches, helping them to develop their understanding of the game, improve their techniques and build confidence on the court.

The team showed fantastic commitment throughout the afternoon, embracing every challenge and demonstrating excellent teamwork. Most impressively, they represented the school brilliantly with their outstanding sportsmanship and positive attitude.

## Year 7 Girls' Football

A huge congratulations to our Year 7 girls' football team who travelled to Guildford County School for an exciting



fixture. The girls worked incredibly hard from start to finish in what proved to be a thrilling match.

Displaying determination, teamwork and resilience throughout, the team battled hard and were rewarded with

a fantastic 6-4 victory. Every player contributed to an excellent team performance and their effort and commitment were clear to see. Well done girls on a brilliant result!

## Year 9 Boys' Football

The boys' football team travelled away to Howard of Effingham and produced a spirited performance despite falling to a 3-1 defeat. The boys worked extremely hard throughout the match and deserved more for their efforts.

After going behind, the team continued to battle and showed great determination, never giving up and pushing Howard all the way until the final whistle. Their commitment, resilience and positive attitude were excellent, and they can be proud of the way they represented St Peter's.

**Written by Miss Hardy, Teacher of PE**



## Keys of St Peter's Award

In September, we were delighted to present the Keys of St Peter's to Sophie 13KO in recognition of her outstanding achievements and the exemplary way she embodies our school values.

Over the summer, Sophie represented Great Britain at the Underwater Hockey World Championships in Turkey as a member of the Under-19 squad, competing against older and more experienced players. Her performances contributed to a fifth-place finish in

the world and her leadership qualities were recognised when she was selected as vice-captain for one of the matches. Following the tournament, Sophie was promoted to the Under-24 squad, an exceptional achievement.

Alongside her sporting success, Sophie has shown remarkable dedication to her studies, balancing international competition and training commitments while maintaining a strong focus on her academic work.



Sophie's perseverance, humility, commitment and excellence make her a wonderful role model for our school community, and a highly deserving recipient of the Keys of St Peter's. Congratulations, Sophie.

**Written by Mrs Bolton, Headteacher**



## *Curriculum Focus: Design and Technology*

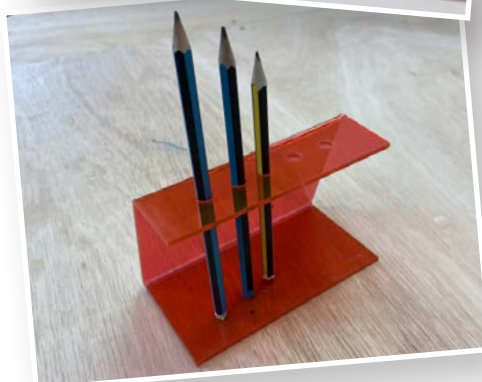
Design and Technology (D&T) is a subject people often tell me was their favourite when they were at school, however, many people I speak to in daily life are also a little unsure about exactly what our subject entails!

Design and Technology grew out of what was once known as "craft, design and technology" which was far more focused on traditional craft skills such as a woodwork and metalwork. It is a misconception which still exists to this day, with many first-time students telling us they are "excited to learn woodwork". Making skills are of course important in design and technology, however, we have developed a long way since then!

Design and Technology follows the phrase "making something, for someone, for some reason". The subject is about design and innovation, creating real life functional products which improve people's daily lives. We focus not just on traditional making skills, but on design and using new technology to create and problem solve.

In our department, we break down into four separate subject areas:

- Architecture
- Food and Nutrition
- Product Design
- Textiles and Fashion



Students spend a quarter of the year in each of these subjects with specialist teachers. They then "rotate" between these subjects, therefore by Year 9, the students have studied all four areas, three times.

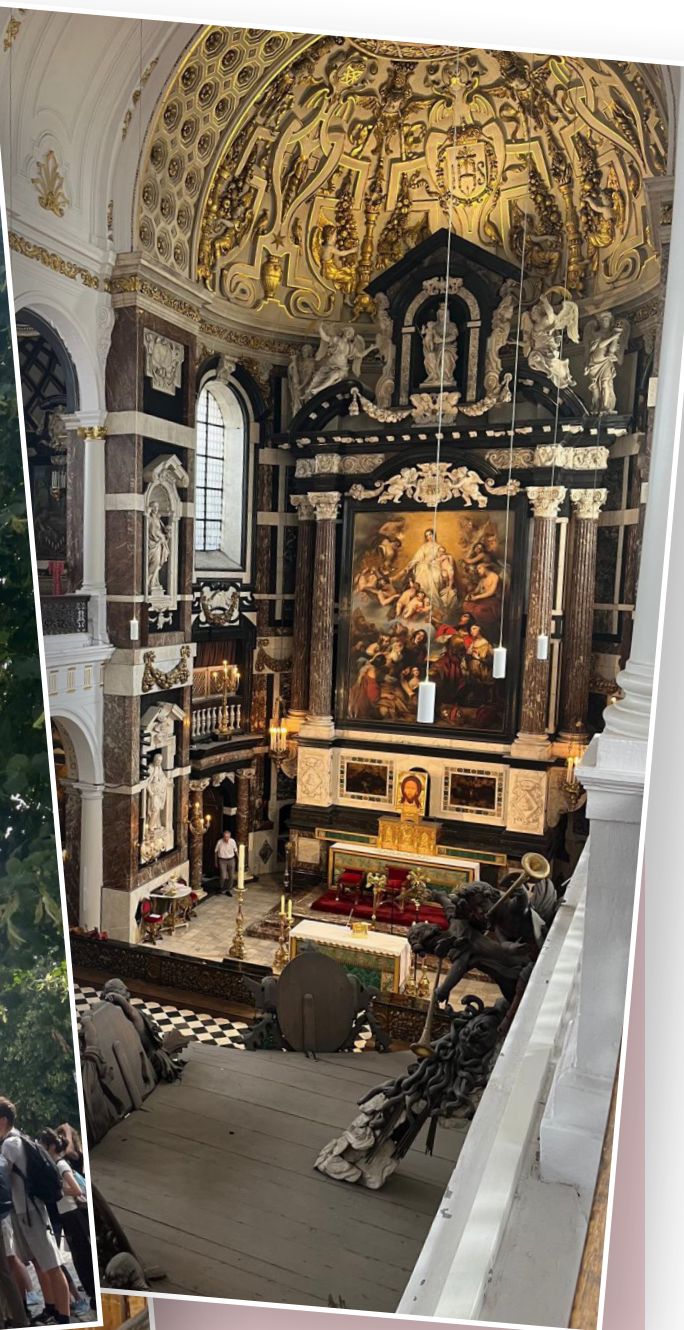
I wanted to take this opportunity to share just two of the new developments in our curriculum this year:

Our architecture curriculum has been focused on increasing our use of technology in design, introducing the use of our laser cutter to turn students' hand drawn ideas into a physical scale model. This is used to create the sign for their Year 8 shop front design project. In our Year 7 bus shelter design project, students have been focusing heavily on "biomimicry", the use of nature as inspiration for structures.

Product Design has undergone a re-vamp this year, with Year 7 particularly focusing on three new mini projects in their "material madness" project. Year 7 make with woods, metals and plastics to develop a well-rounded knowledge of materials.

We are excited to show you what our students have been working hard on in D&T and look forward to sharing more of our exciting projects in the future!

**Written by Mr Batt, Head of Design and Technology**



## *Music Tour to Antwerp 15th - 19th July 2026*

42 students from across every year group came with us to Antwerp in Belgium for our biannual music tour. We performed three concerts in total, one in beautiful Gent, one in a ruined church in a village called Mechelen where the whole village came out to watch us perform! We also led a Mass in an amazing church in Antwerp – which was quite hard as it was all in Flemish! We all had a lovely time and enjoyed eating the Belgian waffles!

**Written by Mrs Gregg,  
Head of Maths**



## Year 11 Macbeth Performance and Workshop

Year 11 students were treated to a fantastic performance and workshop from The Globe Players, who brought Shakespeare's Macbeth vividly to life.

The session focused on the key scenes from the play, giving students the opportunity to see the characters, relationships and dramatic moments they have been studying in the classroom performed on stage. From Macbeth's growing ambition to Lady Macbeth's powerful influence, the performance helped students explore how Shakespeare develops his characters and presents some of the

play's central themes.

The workshop element also gave students an opportunity to engage more closely with the play and reflect on the choices made by the actors. By exploring significant scenes and characters, The Globe Players helped students develop their understanding of motivation, relationships and the changing dynamics of the play.

The visit was particularly valuable for Year 11 as they continue their preparation for their GCSE English Literature examinations. Experiencing

Macbeth as a performance helped reinforce their knowledge of the play while encouraging them to consider the play as something to be seen and heard, rather than simply read.

It was a thoroughly engaging and memorable experience for our Year 11 students. A huge thank you to The Globe Players for delivering such an energetic and insightful performance and workshop, and for helping to make Shakespeare's Macbeth accessible, engaging and memorable.

**Written by Mrs Shearer-Freyne,  
Head of English**

## PLEASE LABEL YOUR CHILD'S BELONGINGS

PE KIT

SHOES

COAT



WATER  
BOTTLE



BLAZER

BAG



TRAINERS

PENCIL  
CASE

FOLDERS



## Year 9 Careers Fair

Our Year 9 students enjoyed a fantastic Careers Fair this week, meeting representatives from 15 organisations across a wide range of sectors including law, engineering, hospitality, architecture, the Armed Forces, further and higher education.

Armed with their careers' workbooks, students asked questions, explored different career pathways and gained valuable insights into the world of work. Our Year 12 and 13 students also had the opportunity to visit the fair and received excellent feedback.

A huge thank you to all the employers and organisations who generously gave their time to make the event such a success!

**Written by Mrs Calvert, Careers Lead**



## A Visit From Mimi Khayisa

In September, our Drama Department received a very exciting phone call from one of our former St Peter's Drama students, Mimi Khayisa (formerly Ndiweni), who was filming in Godalming and offered to come in to visit our students.

Mimi was a student here between 2002 and 2009 before going on to a very successful career in theatre, film and TV. She has performed with

the Royal Shakespeare Company in roles including Cordelia to Sir Anthony Sher's Lear and Ophelia in Hamlet with Paapa Essiedu, in films including Catherine Called Birdy, Star Wars and the 2021 Cinderella, and on TV including Mr Selfridge.

Mimi's current project is the final season of The Witcher in which she has appeared since season one as the sorceress, Fringilla.

Mimi gave talks to all our GCSE Drama students, giving them really valuable insight into many of the jobs available in the theatre, film and TV industry, a growth industry in the UK. The students



were able to ask her questions about all sorts of areas of careers in performing arts and to hear about her career journey and experiences. She also talked to them about her own experiences of St Peter's 20 years ago, being taught by Mr Power and Mrs Hulland and

hanging out in the Sixth Form building, which was a Portakabin at the time!

The students loved listening to Mimi and asking about her life and career. We are so grateful to Mimi for giving up her time whilst filming to come back to see us. We love seeing our former students and finding out the different directions their lives have taken after GCSEs and A Levels.

**Written by Mrs Hulland, Head of Drama**



# *Mental Health Champions: Making a Difference Across the School*

When the Mental Health Champions Programme was first introduced, I was unsure whether I could commit the time needed for the role. However, after getting involved, I quickly recognised the difference the programme could make. One year later, it has been a highly rewarding experience and one that I am proud to be part of.

Since September 2025, the Mental Health Champions Team has grown from six members to more than twenty. To support this growth, we have organised ourselves into three specialist groups:

- Senior Leads – responsible for planning initiatives and overseeing projects.
- Events and Promotion Team – focused on raising awareness and

delivering events.

- Resources and Creation Team – responsible for producing posters, resources and assembly materials.

Our most recent project centred around World Mental Health Day 2026. In the week leading up to the event, Mental Health Champions delivered assemblies to younger year groups to raise awareness of mental health and wellbeing.

On World Mental Health Day itself, every lesson across the school began with a dedicated 5–10-minute wellbeing activity. Each activity was linked to one of the NHS Five Steps to Wellbeing, ensuring that all students explored practical strategies to support positive mental health throughout the day. By embedding these activities into every

lesson, we were able to reach the entire school community and place wellbeing at the heart of the school day.

The response from students and staff was extremely positive. Many students spoke to Mental Health Champions afterwards to share how the activities had helped them better understand their own wellbeing and the importance of looking after their mental health.

We are also pleased to announce that our next Wellbeing webinar will be available on the school website shortly. We encourage students, parents and carers to look out for its release. In the meantime, we recommend visiting the Student Wellbeing Hub on the school website, where you can access a wide range of information, resources and support for mental health and wellbeing.

**Written by James C 13KO**





# CHRISTMAS FAIR 2026

## Your guide to helping out

Saturday 21 November 2026 | 1pm - 4pm

| WE NEED                       | WHEN                    | HOW YOU CAN HELP                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Raffle & Auction Prizes       | Now until 6th November  | Do you know of local businesses who could donate prizes for the Raffle or Auction? If so, please contact <a href="mailto:PTA@stpeters.surrey.sch.uk">PTA@stpeters.surrey.sch.uk</a> |
| Christmas Market Stalls       | Now until 13th November | Would you like a stall at the Christmas market? If so, please contact <a href="mailto:PTA@stpeters.surrey.sch.uk">PTA@stpeters.surrey.sch.uk</a>                                    |
| Toiletries & Gifts            | 2nd - 20th November     | Please send in donations of good quality toiletries and gifts for the Gift stall.                                                                                                   |
| Decorations                   | 2nd - 20th November     | Please send in donations of decorations.<br>E.g. Tinsel, garlands, large baubles etc.                                                                                               |
| SecondHand Uniforms           | 2nd - 20th November     | Please send in donations of branded uniform<br>Blazers, blouses, skirts, PE kit, ties, jumpers.                                                                                     |
| Christmas Jumpers             | 2nd - 20th November     | Please send in donations of Christmas Jumpers.<br>Help to recycle & reuse!                                                                                                          |
| Mince Pies                    | 2nd - 20th November     | Please send in boxed mince pies for the festive mince pies and mulled wine stall.                                                                                                   |
| Jolly Jars Years 7            | 2nd - 20th November     | Years 7 to bring in Jolly Jars.<br>2 requested per student.                                                                                                                         |
| Chocolate Years 8, 9, 10 & 11 | 2nd - 20th November     | Years 8, 9, 10 & 11 please bring in donations of chocolate.                                                                                                                         |
| Bottle Mufti Day              | Friday 20th November    | Students can wear Mufti in exchange for a bottle for the Bottle Tombola.                                                                                                            |
| You, your family and friends! | Saturday 21st 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@stpeters.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:PTA@stpeters.surrey.sch.uk)



# Ever thought about teaching?

At Xavier Teach Southeast, we have spent the last 15 years helping people step into one of the most rewarding careers in the world. As we look ahead to the new academic year, we are searching for inspiring individuals who might be considering a move into teaching, whether they are recent graduates, career changers, or those looking to return to work.

Have you ever thought about becoming a teacher, or know someone who would be great in the classroom?

Join Xavier Teach Southeast for one of



our informal Autumn Open Mornings to find out what training with us is really like. Whether you are looking for a brand-new career direction, finishing university, or returning to work after a break, we offer supportive, high-quality routes into teaching, tailored to you.

- Learn about our Primary and Secondary programmes, including specialised SEND pathways
- Chat with our experienced team about how training could work for you and which route might be most suitable
- Find out about tax-free bursaries available in some subject areas
- Meet current trainees and ask them your questions about what it's really like

There is no pressure to apply, just come along for a coffee, meet the team, and ask any questions you have in a friendly, relaxed setting.



**Please visit [www.teachsoutheast.co.uk](http://www.teachsoutheast.co.uk) for more information on events**

# GET INTO TEACHING



AUTUMN TERM

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**TUES  
15  
SEPT**

9:30 AM  
11:30AM

### **SCITT OPEN MORNING**

*Xavier TSE central offices,  
Salesian school, Chertsey,  
Guildford Road, KT16 9LU*

REGISTER  
HERE

**THURS  
24  
SEPT**

11:00 AM  
11.30 AM

### **ONLINE INFORMATION EVENT**

*Join the meeting now*

*Meeting ID: 377 979 067 446 5  
Passcode: VX7AG3AK*

**TUES  
10  
NOV**

9:30 AM  
11:30AM

### **SCITT OPEN MORNING**

*Xavier TSE central offices,  
Salesian school, Chertsey,  
Guildford Road, KT16 9LU*

REGISTER  
HERE

**THURS  
19  
NOV**

11:00 AM  
11.30 AM

### **ONLINE INFORMATION EVENT**

*Join the meeting now*

*Meeting ID: 397 787 846 616 6  
Passcode: x4fb2QK2*

***FAST TRACK  
YOUR FUTURE***

**APPLY  
NOW!**

CALL TO SPEAK TO US TODAY!  
01932 578 682

FOR MORE INFO  
[WWW.TEACHSOUTHEAST.COM](http://WWW.TEACHSOUTHEAST.COM)

# YOUTH CAFE AT ST JOHN'S, MERROW



**For children from year 6 - year 11.  
Youth cafe meets every Wednesday in term time  
at the Church Centre from 17:00 - 18:30.**

A place to come and hang out with their friends, play some games and relax.  
£1 entry and tuck shop available.

**Register your child via our website at [www.saintjohns.org.uk](http://www.saintjohns.org.uk)**