

S. Peter's Collegiate School

ISSUE 07 18/12/2020

-Parent Bulletin-

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



As the end of the term has drawn ever closer, I have had the opportunity to reflect on what has been a fabulous start to this academic year,

albeit in the strangest circumstances.

Your children have been a real credit to you all and we are very proud to teach such kind, respectful and inquisitive young people.

In many ways you could sense their anxiety about returning to school in September. Sometimes when we stop long enough to think, we should consider that it was a huge thing for young people to have an enforced break from their friends, from sport, from taking part in musical events and dance clubs, from being able to access learning experiences in the way that they were used to and in many cases, to manage their worries regarding future examinations and choices. But over the last few months they have found the strength to get used to a new 'normality'.

At the weekend, I completed a 10k walk with my two boys (aged 8 & 11) to raise money for the charity Shelter. I listened to their stories of how their own schools are helping them to manage the way they feel and it makes me immensely proud of them both.

This week in school we have attempted to keep lessons as close to normal as possible to continue to drive to help students 'catch up'.

Alongside this, I would encourage everyone to look at the Enrichment & Enhancement Programme on school website, [Click Here](#) to see what further opportunities are available.

There are some events to be aware of when we return to school in January, these are:

- Year 11 & 13 leavers' photo's - 14 January 2021
- UCAS application deadline - 15 January 2021

This week we announced the Head Boy and Head girl for Year 7, congratulations to both Tegjot Singh and Hannah Boden on your new roles.

I hope you are as proud as we are of our new Head Boy and Head Girl honours board (below).

I feel it is important to celebrate the achievements of our pupils and we will be doing more of this in the future.

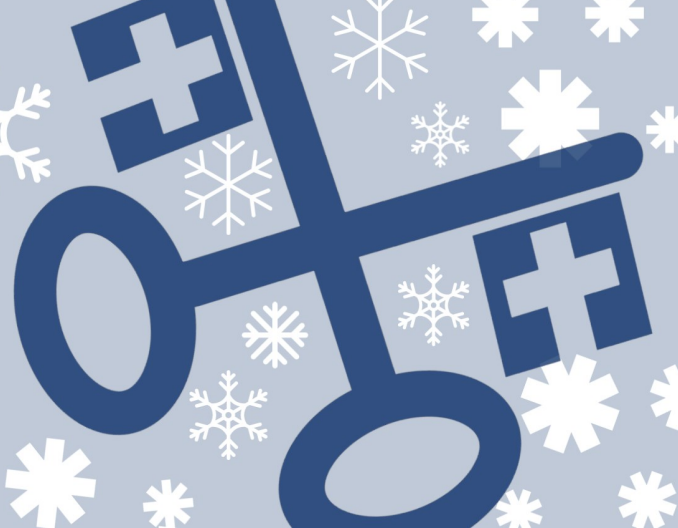


I would like to extend to all staff my sincere thanks for the tremendous effort they have put in this term and I would also like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas break, I hope that it is filled with joy.

'And the Angel said the them, "fear not, for behold. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the City of David a saviour, who is Christ the Lord" Luke 2:10-11

REMINDER:

- School starts on Monday 4th January for Year 11 & 13, children of Key Workers and Vulnerable pupils
- School will reopen to all pupils on January 11th 2020
- Weekly uniform checks take place in school, please make sure your child is wearing the appropriate uniform at all times



YEAR 7 FIRST TERM

All Change

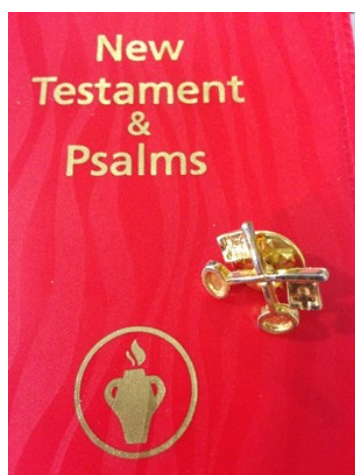
It seems a long, long time between Transition Day in July when students met their Form Tutors for the first time to the start of Term in September, but all students in Year 7 settled very quickly into lessons together in their Form Groups; an ideal opportunity to get to know one another and to learn the routines at S. Peter's.

The transition between Key Stage 2 (Primary) and Key Stage 3 (Secondary) can be a tricky one for some students and 2020 in particular has brought with it extra challenge for many; however the 64 Primary Schools represented by this year's Year 7 cohort would have been proud of the way their former pupils began the year at S. Peter's.

Testing Times

Within a few days of joining Year 7, all students underwent CATs testing to ascertain which teaching groups they would be in after the half term break and upon return to school after the holiday, students once again met their Form Tutors, settled once again into a routine with new timetables, new teaching rooms, new subject teachers.

A little later than planned, the Dedication Service took place in the Sports Hall involving every student in Year 7. We were very fortunate that Joe Maggs our School Chaplain was able to talk to us about signs and how they are there to help us or sometimes warn us. We were also lucky to listen to Rector David Wright speak to us about our dedication to the school, to ourselves and to each other. Every student was offered a copy of the New Testament from a representative of the Gideon's International and a gold cross keys badge to wear on their uniforms as a proud reminder of this dedication.



▲ Gideon Bible & Cross

YEAR 7 HEAD BOY AND HEAD GIRL ANNOUNCED



Congratulations to our newly appointed student leaders - Tegjot Singh (Head Boy) and Hannah Boden (Head Girl). Tegjot and Hannah spoke of their excitement at making a difference when meeting Mr Arnold this week.

CONTACTS

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Head of Year 8 - dsherriff@speters.org.uk

Head of Year 9 - ajohnson@speters.org.uk

Head of Year 10 - dmaullin@speters.org.uk

Head of Year 11 - gsmith@speters.org.uk

Post 16 - 6thform@speters.org.uk

For general enquiries speters@speters.org.uk

S. PETER'S IN THE COMMUNITY

An appeal made during the Dedication to help less fortunate members of our community saw great response from students in Year 7. The boxes in Year 7 Base had to be emptied regularly as students brought pasta, rice, tins and jars of food to be passed onto the Good Shepherd Ministry. One particular student of note who struggled in to school on more than one occasion weighed down with heavy foodstuffs is Joshua Yaya, who deserves special mention for his kindness and efforts in helping to feed our community.



Before too long, subjects such as DT and Instrumental Music Lessons were again available. Along with PE this enabled Year 7 students to access some of the more practical skills on offer through our excellent curriculum.

ASSESSMENT UPDATES

Many students will already have undertaken in-class Teacher Assessments towards the end of term to determine progress made by each student since joining their new teaching groups. There will also be assessments for some classes after Christmas, meaning that by early February Parents and Carers should receive the latest information about their child's progress.

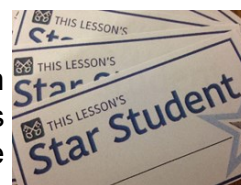
FUTURE LEADERS School Council

This term we have not only appointed our new Year group Head Boy and Head Girl but we have held School Council elections.

School Council Representatives were elected; we are delighted to announce Aman Sidhu and Harnek Singh will be representing Year 7. In addition, each form group also has it's own Form Representatives - congratulations go to Aaditi Luthra, Katelyn Williams, Arwa Al-Tamimy, Balrak Atwal, Jasdeep Suthi, Joshua Tuffour, Devina Bagri, Mansimran Kaur, Zeeshan Razaq, Jess Yeomans, Sian Paul, Joshua Yaya and we are sure they will work hard with School Council

STAR STUDENTS

The Star Student initiative brought in by Mr Arnold has already made an impact. Subject teachers award slips for excellent work, citizenship and community and at the end of term the slips are entered into a raffle for the Star Student prize. The box of slips is already bulging!



Form of the Week is an initiative brought in by Mrs Ball which rewards the Form Group with the highest number of conduct points each week with a certificate AND a mascot they can proudly display in their Form Room. Well done to Forms NC and SB for winning Form of the Week for the last two weeks – who will be next? Incidentally, the mascot is due to land on 14th December and is as yet unnamed – can anyone think of a good name for her/him?

REMINDERS:

- Have you signed up for our Parent app yet?
Email speters@speters.org.uk
- Sixth Form 2021 application process is now open [click here](#)

ENRICHING THE CURRICULUM

The Enrichment Timetable was launched recently and has seen enormous numbers of Year 7 get involved in Lego Club, Sports Clubs, Choir, Sign Language, Writing Club, Maths Club, Geography Club, Science Cub, Careers Drop In... and so many more. Thank you to Mr Walker for putting all this together but big thanks also to all the dedicated staff who work so hard to make these opportunities available to our year group.

Below we can see students involved in the recent National '100 word story' competition which was coordinated at S. Peter's by Miss Bahra, Arwa, Harriet, Hannah, Preston, Evie and Leon here proudly display certificates acknowledging the high quality of their stories that have been chosen to be part of a publication due out early in the New Year.



Towards the end of Term on Thursday 17th we all look forward to hearing from Joe Maggs again with a virtual Eucharist which will be made available to watch in class. Items included in this production include the very strong voices of Year 7 Choir led by Mrs Lacey each Tuesday lunchtime and an amazing Christmas song video where Year 7 students 'sing' to us in British Sign Language they have learnt with Mrs. Beese and Mrs. Peacock during their Monday Lunchtime club. For any students not already involved in an after school or lunchtime club – what are you waiting for?



TIME FOR A BREAK?

And so as our first Term at S. Peter's draws to a close and we anticipate some time resting at home, away from the fast pace of learning at S. Peter's, maybe presents, games and a Christmas meal to look forward to, perhaps we might find a moment to think about the true meaning of Christmas. Perhaps we might take a look inside that Red Bible we received during Dedication back in October, find a verse or prayer that resonates with how we feel. Perhaps we might reflect on how hard we have worked and how we might live our lives better in 2021.

Our Prayer to You

O blessed Jesus, give me stillness of soul in Thee.

Let thy mighty calmness reign in me.

Rule me, O King of gentleness, King of peace.

Give me control, great power of self control, control over my words, thoughts and actions.

From all irritability, want of meekness, want of gentleness, dear Lord, deliver me.

By thine own patience, give me patience.

Make me in this and in all things more like thee.

Amen



A TERM "LIKE NO OTHER" FOR FORMER STUDENT MILES



This term has been like no other across the country, and Oxford has been no different. Despite all the difficulties, I have really loved my first term at a university, which has done an extraordinary job of making this term run as normally as possible. All group tutorials, seminars and lectures have been online, but were still interesting and very informative too.

I started thinking about going to Oxford towards the end of Year 12. Originally I hoped to go to Birmingham and envisaged staying at home - I didn't even think about moving out for university until around halfway through the year. How things change!

My application to Oxford was slightly different from most people's. I applied for an organ scholarship which meant I had to do so directly (to the university) by noon on 1st September. I then applied through UCAS when I was offered a place. Applying in the summer meant I went down to Oxford in late September and did both my organ audition and academic interviews at the same time. To be perfectly honest, academic interviews weren't the nicest experience of my life, although having heard about other people's experiences I think my interviewers were relatively kind. Everyone has their own opinion of interviews: some people really enjoy them, some people don't. It's also very difficult to tell how they go; if you'd told me after my interviews that I'd be studying at Oxford now, I wouldn't have believed you. An enormous amount of credit must go to all my A level teachers, but especially the music department who were instrumental in helping me throughout my time at S. Peter's.

One of the best things about Oxford, and university in general, is meeting new people. Getting to know people has obviously been slightly problematic given the restrictions in place, but fortunately Zoom and social media have enabled students across the university to meet people from all over the country, and even the world (I've met people from South Korea and even New Zealand).

Being an organ scholar, I am heavily involved with Exeter College Choir. We have been broadcasting 3 services online every week, with the whole choir distanced throughout the chapel singing with masks on. Choir has been the one of the few things to stay even slightly normal during this term and we've had a fantastic time. Choir gives us a time to socialise, sing some wonderful music (not unlike at S. Peter's) and is also good for our health.

I would encourage anyone interested in applying to Oxbridge to go for it! One of the things that struck me this term is that most of the people at Oxford are normal, just like people I knew from school. Anyone can go there and find people they relate to. Both Oxford and Cambridge are amazing places, and I can guarantee almost all the people who study there have an amazing time!

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Phil 4:6-7, NIV).

SPOTLIGHT ON RE— Miss Rai & Miss O'Leary

"We walk by faith and not by sight" - St Paul. Never have these words been more apt than in this most unexpected year. Since March, our school community - like the rest of the world - has had to let go of the plans we had made, and learn to put our trust in God. We feel so thankful that our faith has sustained us and brought us back together as a school family. Even though no one can predict what will happen in the future, there is one thing we can be sure of - the arrival of Jesus at Christmas. The coming of God to Earth is the most wondrous and glorious part of our faith. Whilst the festive season is generally loud, hectic and glittery, when Jesus was placed in the manger, there would have been a moment of calm, peace and joy - something I hope you and your families all experience over the holidays.

WHY IS RE IMPORTANT?

Year 7 started the year by exploring the question, "Why is RE important?" They were able to come up with SO many wonderful reasons... phew! They made posters advertising why R.E should be taught in schools and have recently been studying the question, "Where did the world come from?" - big stuff for 11 year olds! The pupils in Year 7 have discussed what different Christians believe whilst exploring some scientific theories. They made some dramatic storyboards based on the theory of the Big Bang.

ROOTS OF CHRISTIANITY

Year 8 have been investigating why there are so many different types of Christian. They have explored the roots of Christianity from Jesus to the present day and have found out about some key divisions in the Church including the Great Schism of 1054 and the Protestant Reformation of 1517. The pupils in Year 8 have had some great discussions along the way such as, "Should priests be able to marry?" and, "Was King Henry right to start the Church of England?"



THE TRINITY

Year 9 have had an exceptional start to their GCSE course. They have got stuck into some proper theology by exploring one of the biggest mysteries of Christianity - the Trinity. As part of this, they have explored the idea that God is three in one and have created some outstanding artwork to represent it. They have also looked at the creation account and, very fittingly, have recently looked at the incarnation - the idea of God being born on Earth as Jesus.



YEAR 10 CONTINUE "MARRIAGE AND FAMILY" TOPIC

Year 10 have continued their GCSE studies with the 'Marriage and the Family' topic. They have explored the Christian and non-religious viewpoints on: marriage, family, contraception, divorce and gender roles. I have been so impressed with the maturity with which pupils have approached these sensitive topics. I was extremely happy to overhear a conversation in my lesson last week on gender roles, where two boys were explaining how females can be exceptional at football and basketball - great stuff!

DEWALI CELEBRATED AT S. PETER'S



Year 11 have enjoyed studying our new GCSE religion - Sikhism. They have been learning the basics of Sikh beliefs and practice. It is fantastic that we have so many members of the Sikh community at S. Peter's. Students often share their own experiences of their faith, which really brings lessons alive. It was wonderful to hear how our Sikh students celebrated Diwali and Guru Nanak's birthday recently, especially interesting because of COVID restrictions in place. Many students have been attending after school revision sessions in order to improve their exam technique; we commend their commitment.

NATURAL LAW, UTILITARIANISM AND SITUATION ETHICS

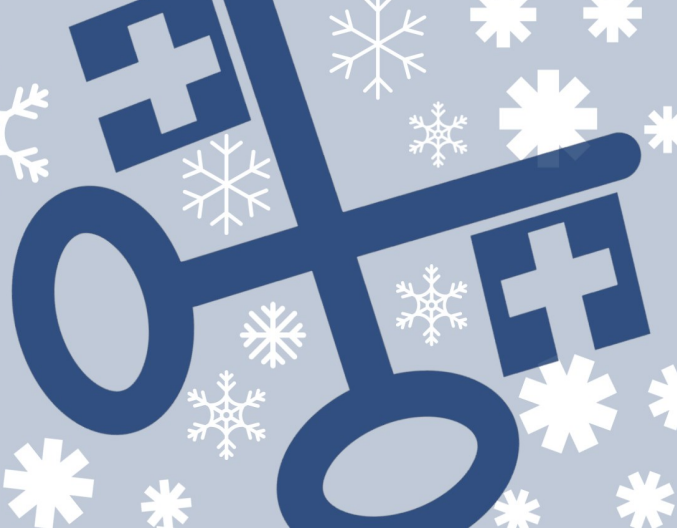
Our new A-Level students have dived straight into their studies where they have been looking at arguments for the existence of God in philosophy, including the ontological argument which seeks to prove God's existence by logic and reason alone! In ethics they've begun studying the primary ethical theories, for instance, Natural Law, Utilitarianism and Situation Ethics. In New Testament Studies they have, quite aptly, finished looking at prophecy regarding the Messiah with a focus on Matthew's Birth Narrative using art to try and unpack the theological meaning and symbolism. Here are two pieces of art Year 12 have examined...what symbolism can you see?



◀ Bonding Time: The Nativity in Townsville by Jan Hynes

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, what an incredible gift you have offered to us in Jesus. Thank you for showing us how much you love us through his example, "who being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. He humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!" *What amazing love! May we know more of you, not only at Christmas time but in our lifetime too. Amen



YEAR 13 STUDY RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCES IN PHILOSOPHY

Our Year 13 students have continued their A-Level studies by exploring religious experiences in philosophy. They have looked at many strange and powerful religious experiences, such as that of St. Paul, and have begun to look at many possible explanations for them. They have been studying Metaethics, Kant's categorical imperative, Virtue Ethics and critiques of religious ethics by people like Richard Dawkins. While in their New Testament studies they have begun looking at ways of interpreting scripture with an introduction on hermeneutics and learning they've been doing exegesis all along!

SIXTH FORM NEWS

We have made it to the end of an incredibly busy term. The Year 12 have settled in well and the Year 13 are in the midst of UCAS and apprenticeship applications.

A Busy week in the Sixth Form we have had Elevate in school to speak to our students on dealing with exam stress, resilience and goal setting. The students I have spoken to felt that they had learned a great deal from it.

Bingo on Thursday lunchtimes is a hive of excitement and it got extremely competitive last week!

Great to see so many students in for the virtual Christmas celebrations - a really lovely way to finish the term.

FAITH MATTERS

Happy Christmas with LOVE from... Moments after my first child was born, I held him in my arms, took him to the window and, caught up in the wonder of new birth, proudly spoke out the words "Hey World! Say hello to my son!" I invited the wriggling bundle in my arms to return the greeting to the watching World and paused a while, waiting, expectantly...he burped! Nothing unusual about this baby! Yet outside, the silence of the night was broken by the sound of hundreds of local residents singing "Isn't he lovely"; meanwhile, having received messages of this incredible birth, people began to leave their places of work to see what the fuss was about, coming from all around the area to converge on the hospital; inside, porters, midwives and cleaning staff all crowded into our small, dark, damp room and gazed open mouthed in wonder at the child in my arms; a bright light shone down from the Sky News Channel helicopter as it swooped in for pictures; there was great excitement! An uncontrolled time of celebration exploded across the little town of Wordsley, and soon spread throughout the West Midlands! From that very moment, there was hope, that peace, joy and love would reach all humanity, because my son had been born! "Incredible! Unbelievable! Shut up!" you say, "It can't be true! You would be right. It isn't true. You would have to be quite a special baby to have that kind of attention for sure! [READ MORE HERE](#)



DIGITAL FESTIVE SEASON

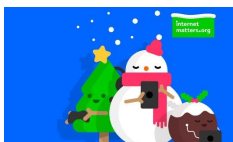
During the festive season take the time to read about keeping your child safe online.

The internet is a fantastic place for children to learn, create and have fun, but they may occasionally have to deal with a variety of sometimes challenging issues.

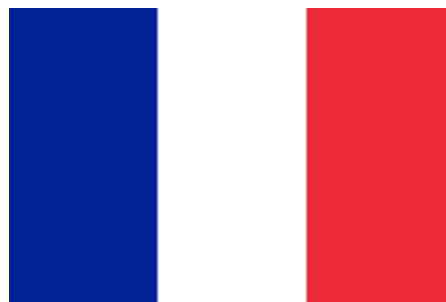
These might include cyberbullying, the pressure to take part in sexting, encouragement to self-harm, viewing pornography, along with various others. But there are positive things you can do to equip yourself and your child, support them in resolving any issue they may face.

What issues could be affecting your children? Get to grips with what they may come across on the internet and how to get help if you need it. Find out what to do if you're worried about anything you or your child has seen online.

Head over to the [Internet Matters](#) website for the latest how-to-guides on all tech.



Salut tout le Monde!



How much do you know about French school life? How does the timetable differ? Do pupils wear school uniform? How long is lunchtime?

Erine is here to explain. Let us know which school system you prefer!

[Watch the video here](#)



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Merry Christmas

*From everyone at
S. Peter's Collegiate School*