

S. Peter's Collegiate School

ISSUE 12 05/02/2021

-Parent Bulletin-

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



As we move towards the final week of the half term it has been pleasing to see that our students are still working exceptionally hard. The figures for attendance to on-line learning have continued to grow as we have moved through the last five weeks.

This week I sat in on an RE lesson with Year 7 students. It was awesome! The same amount of pace that you would see in a normal lesson, engaging topics and plenty of interaction. We have to understand that it is not always possible to conduct all lessons (virtually) in this way, sometimes it depends on the topic and the key elements that have to be learned, but nevertheless it was brilliant to be able to see such fantastic learning taking place.

Next week we move into the period of Lent. I have always considered this to be an important part of any year. Growing up, Lent was always about giving something up. As a child I often gave up things that I enjoyed, simple things like sweets or chocolate. I often watched on as my parents also gave up things for this period. I don't think though that I ever considered the true significance of this act in relation to the sacrifice that Jesus made.

This year, we have given up so much already due to the global situation that we find ourselves in. For that reason, it may seem difficult to be giving up things again.

But there is another way. I find myself drawn back in time for a few weeks when I was facing a potentially difficult meeting, that was causing me some anxiety. I received some advice from a valued colleague; to try and give up ten minutes to be still and talk to God. As a result, this ten minutes did give me the strength to know how to respond, it also gave me courage in my convictions. This could be the same for many of us whether it be a meeting, an important decision or conversation, an examination or a lesson. Perhaps what we need to do this year for Lent is give up ten minutes every day to talk with God, rather than make other sacrifices, so in effect we need to do something, rather than give something up.

Next week we will be having a worship focus on Ash Wednesday. It would be excellent if you could join us as a community and watch this with your children, either on Friday, or on Ash Wednesday itself. You may also consider reading our Chaplain's weekly blog - the Holy Frog blog - during Lent to reflect on the Lord's prayer and see how Jesus took time to seek after God.

On Friday 12 February, during the afternoon, students will be given a break from their normal screen time by taking part in some exciting and varied challenges. More details will be sent to students within the next few days.

Speaking with other Head teachers throughout the week I have come across a familiar theme. We all long for a return to normal and we all value the social side of school life - perhaps more than we imagined. I for one, having arrived as the Principal under the Covid-19 related education restrictions, really cannot wait to see S. Peter's in all its glory. I am so excited about seeing a thriving school in all with Musical events, school productions, sports teams, celebration events and school trips. I have really enjoyed being able to start preparing for normality in September 2021, or at least a much more normal version of schooling.

And finally, you may have read in today's press that we have been selected to be part of a national rebuilding schools project. This announcement is very exciting news for our school and indeed the local community and I hope to bring you more news on this in the coming weeks.

CONTACTS

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

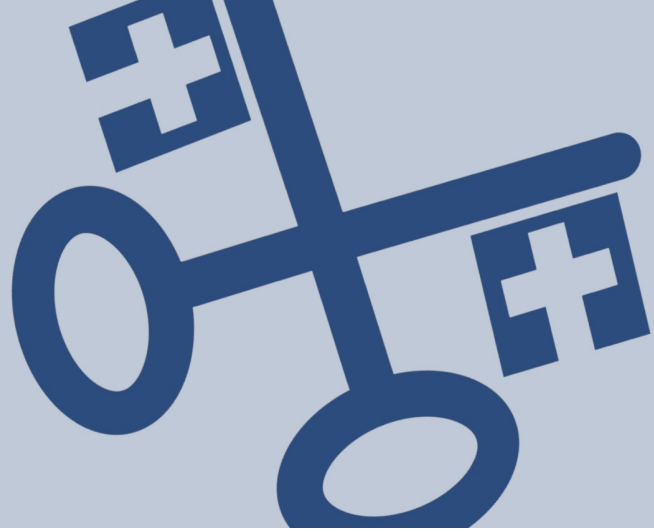
Head of Year 9 - ajohnson@speters.org.uk

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PRESENTATION EVENING - AWARDS AND CITATIONS

The month of January normally sees us host our annual Awards evening. The event hosted at St Peter's church is full of pride and excitement for all those involved. Unfortunately due to the current restrictions the event had to be cancelled but that hasn't stopped us from giving out the awards. Below are just a selection of the awards and citations given to students.

Rae-Kwan Jackson – Award for Dedication to the Performing Arts

Rae-Kwan instantly sprang to mind among the Performing Arts department staff for this award. His dedication to the Performing Arts at S. Peter's was second to none. As a drama student in the classroom he was focused, committed, encouraging of others, hard working, eager to learn new skills and able to take direction and feedback graciously and use it to develop his performance and ability. This was evident in his academic achievement in the subject, finishing within the top 3 in the class. His dedication also extended outside of the classroom and he was a regular participant in a range of extra curricular activities within the Performing Arts. Rae-Kwan was most recently seen in the school production of Les Miserables where his memorable performances on the barricade will be remembered for years to come. Rae-Kwan was able to utilise his classroom learning and put this into practice in an outstanding performance in a range of characters in this production, often guiding younger members of the cast and sharing his knowledge and experience - what a great role model. Well done Rae-Kwan.

Hamarni Jeer–The John Fish Memorial Prize for Strength of Character

Hamarni has been an inspiration to all members of our school community. At the very beginning of Year 9 Hamarni suffered a very serious health concern. She never let this get her down. She had to work through intense therapy and yet she never took focus off her academic studies. Over the next few years Hamarni's health improved but she still had to work extremely hard. She has been an amazing role model and we wish her all the best in the future.

Joseph Croot– Award for Combined Science

Joe started and finished each lesson with a smile. His quiet, reserved approach to his work never hid his genuine interest in the subject, which along with his positivity, made him a valued member of the class. Joe is to be commended on his hard work and progress over the two years and congratulated on the excellent grade that he achieved. He is a most worthy recipient of this award and we wish him the best of luck with his Sixth Form studies.

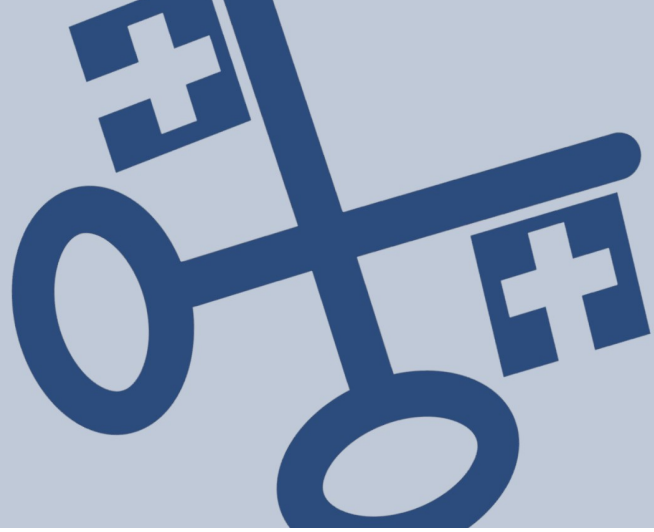
Olivia Beech– Governors' Prize for Contribution to the Christian Ethos of the School

Olivia has always been a prominent member of our faith community. Not only does Olivia frequently participate in school church services, she embodies the Christian values of our school in the way in which she conducts herself every day.

CONTINUED

REMINDERS:

- Our website has a detailed section on remote learning found [here](#)



Molly O'shea—Award for Geography

Molly is an outstanding geographer who demonstrated, over the two years, a passion and commitment towards her study of the subject. She has a natural flair for physical and human geography and embraced all the learning opportunities on offer. Molly's impressive work ethic and dedication, in both Year 10 and Year 11, enabled her to achieve a grade 8; a grade that was justly deserved. All members of the department agreed that Molly was the perfect recipient of this year's award. Well done and all the best for the future!

Leo Tonks— Award for Physical Education

Since first stepping into school in Year 7 Leo has shown a huge amount of natural athleticism and skill and has matched this with an unfailing commitment to both theoretical and practical Physical Education. Leo has an outstanding aptitude in human physiology and psychology, achieving 9s in almost all his assessments, including his mock exam. He has a wide range of sporting knowledge that he applied to class discussion, thus deepening his own and others' understanding. Leo is highly conscientious and meticulous in his approach to learning and revision and would have no doubt excelled in his final exams. Leo's commitment to Physical Education is far wider than achieving a 9 in GCSE PE. He has made an invaluable contribution to the department and the wider school in the way that he has represented himself and the School, when competing in a huge range of sports, always demonstrating great determination, teamwork, a sense of humour and fair play. He has excelled in many sports, most notably in athletics and cross-country where he has competed at a county, regional and national level. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication to the department, Leo.

Laura Potts— Award for Business Studies

Laura is a committed and hardworking student who displayed a very strong work ethic throughout Years 10 and 11. She consistently produced work of a high standard which demonstrated her strong interest in the subject. All of her hard work and dedication paid off as she achieved a well deserved grade 8. We wish Laura the best for her A-levels and beyond.

Devan Whitehouse— Award for Film Studies

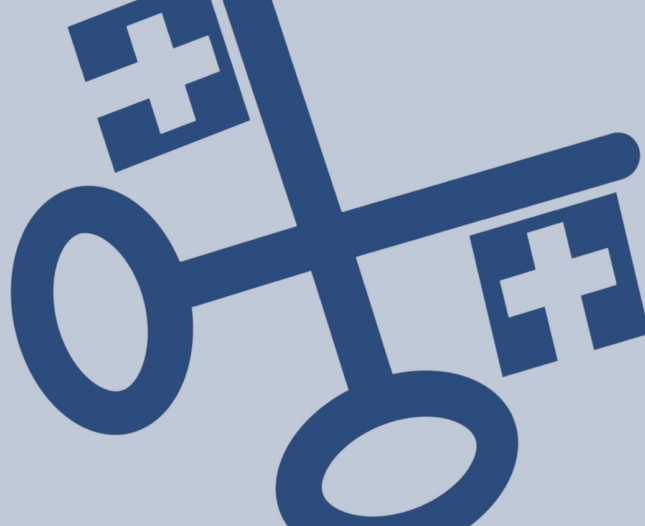
Devan is a bright, articulate and enthusiastic learner with an encyclopaedic knowledge of film. His work was of a consistently high standard and he always showed kindness to others in the group. A well deserved award.

Yashica Ghai— Award for English Language

Yashica is hard working and went above and beyond in all elements of the English Language course. She was always thoughtful and a delight to teach. The department wish Yashica every success for her A Levels and the future.

REMINDER:

- For those pupils attending school the bus service is not running, public buses are still running
- National Apprenticeship week starts on Monday 8th February 2021 more info [here](#)



SIXTH FORM NEWS – Mrs. Leek

And breathe!...At last the UCAS application deadline has closed. The team in Sixth Form have been working incredibly hard to make sure all of those students who wanted to apply for University have done so.

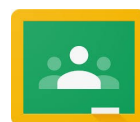
With some last minute applications and tweaks to courses it really wouldn't be UCAS deadline day without the drama.

Next week we welcome Elevate back to host a 'Stress and Wellbeing' webinar on Tuesday 9th February. The free event for all of our Sixth Form parents and students builds on what our students have been requesting help with.

The programme includes, spotting symptoms of stress, how parents can support and stabilise children for tougher periods and also strategies to manage exam stress something many of our students have asked for.

The webinar starts at 6 pm and should last no longer than one hour and registration is available [here](#)

REMOTE LEARNING UPDATE



Miss. Wheatcroft & Mr. Walker

We are approaching the end of another busy, but very different half term.

Again, we celebrate the learning of so many students who have engaged so positively with our remote learning programme. It is fantastic to hear the success stories. Students have been enthusiastically responding to online quizzes, off-screen challenges - and, this week, our Year 13s have completed mock assessments.

Do take a look at the display of work further on in the bulletin - it is work we were keen to show off and celebrate. We are very proud of their efforts.

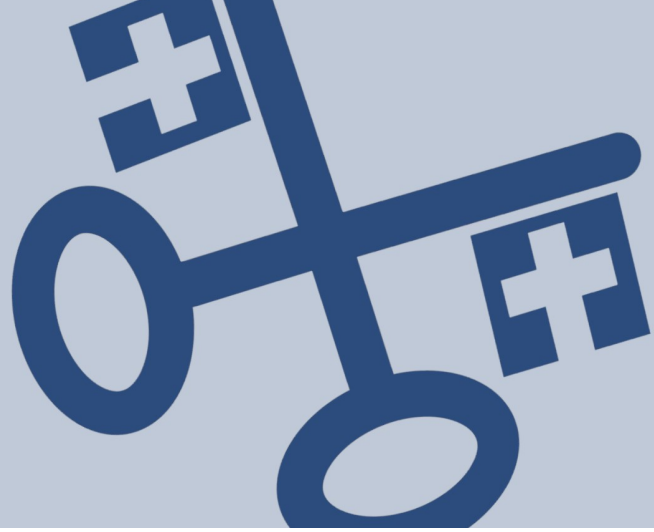
Students have adapted quickly, embraced the challenges that the half term has presented and displayed a very admirable resilience.

It is perhaps easier to adapt and develop resilience if students maintain some form of routine. Being at home, without the structures of the school day, it can be difficult - and particularly difficult to stay engaged and motivated. Please can we urge you to ensure that your child has established a routine.

CONTINUED

REMINDER:

- Pupils must log in to the school website each day



They will have days when they access form worship and should still be following their timetable, accessing virtual or set work through google classroom. (Some often need that extra reminder to submit the work they have produced so please encourage them to share!)

It is also really important that students still have their 'break' and lunch' time as an opportunity to rest and refresh. Ideally, this should be off screen time too.

Finally, can we remind you that all students should be logging on to their google classrooms via the school website. This should be undertaken daily.

We hope you have a good weekend.

Do take care and stay safe

Mornings generally go well!

Amy Kirkby 9EMC

Waking up in the morning always takes ten times longer than usual especially with the dark mornings and not particularly fabulous weather that seems to be a constant here in the UK.

The day of most virtual learners including myself begins with breakfast, that is usually shovelled in at high speeds because you woke up a little bit too late and you don't want to be late for your first lesson.

Mornings generally go well, I can put lots of effort in. However after lunch I definitely start to feel the effects of hours on the computer. Tired eyes and an achy back.

Over the last few weeks our teachers seem to have learnt that making our lessons easy going and as fun as possible keeps our attention best

I know for a fact that many students have struggled with being away from friends and hope that when it is safe to do so we can go back to school.

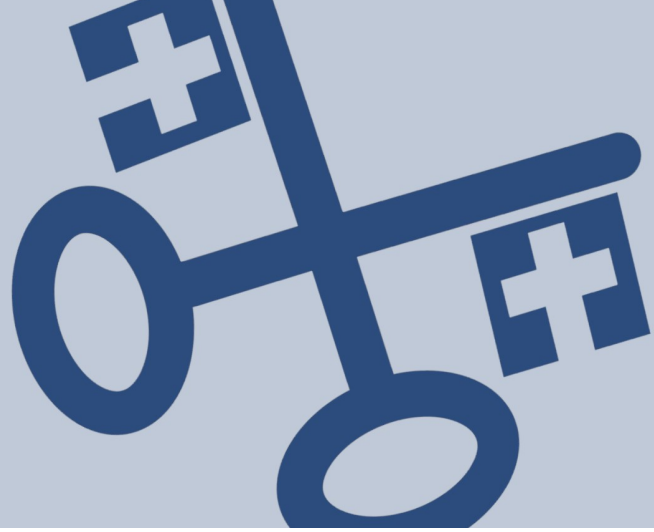
I always thought that being able to work from home would be great, lie-ins and snacks at all times except it is not quite like that. Most people including myself can't wait to go back to school which would have been a foreign concept back in 2018/19 before covid-19 came about. The nation has been brought together by a virus that seemingly wants to keep us 6 feet apart. People are getting back in touch with loved ones even if it is over Zoom and people are becoming grateful for the little things like taking a walk in the park with the dog or watching the birds from the safety of our lounges.

We are thankful for the teachers and members of staff who have been working hard to keep us on timetable at this strange, confusing time.

As the day draws to an end, students and teachers take a collective sigh of relief, virtual learning is tiring but we work together to make the best out of everything that is going on. I always think at least we get the luxury of staying indoors in the warm on cold days and most of the time a nice warm meal at lunch rather than sandwiches that have been sitting at the bottom of your school bag for ages.

REMINDERS:

- If your child is doing something during lockdown you think should be celebrated get in touch speters@speters.org.uk



A day in the life of a virtual student...

George Spooner 8LC

I wake up, refreshed and ready for the day ahead. I have my breakfast at around 8:40, and I start my live History lesson at 9:00am, it was very informative and we learnt about the British Empire and the factors that made it a force for good. We learned about that until around 10:30 where we have a break and get ready for our next lesson, which is at 10:50 and we have maths, which we are learning about scatter graphs and the line of best fit, I learnt a lot and found it very informative and interesting. After that lesson, I had some lunch and had a break so I didn't have to think about work. Then, at around 1:20, I had my science lesson, which was on atoms, compounds and elements. It was a bit challenging but I got there in the end. And that is the day in a life of a virtual student.

Those grumpy teenage years...

Brooke Gamble 8NCO

A day in my life starts like most Year 8 students days begin, with a grumpy teenager debating whether to get out of bed or not. Many stop at the 'not', but school forces over 10,000 teenagers to get out of bed every day. Once I'm awake I eat and get ready for that day's lessons. Some mornings I have an assembly at 8:45, which I think is good because it helps you get in the right mindset before lessons.

After assembly or form, I do my next periods work. If I have a virtual lesson during the break given I relax by getting fresh air or may succumb to the temptations of Netflix every once in a while. But if I don't have a virtual lesson I have a self-initiated break. I prefer to have virtual lessons because it's more engaging and interesting than working through a PowerPoint.

Then I have my period 3 and 4 lesson. After the lesson, I eat but because I only have 50 minutes and considering I may have not finished my work yet, lunch is around 40 minutes. During lunch, I try not to be on a device because it's bad for you to be on a screen all day but the only exception for that is when I have chaplains chat (a school club) during lunch. Chaplain chat is where Christians meet together on virtual meetings and talk about God together.

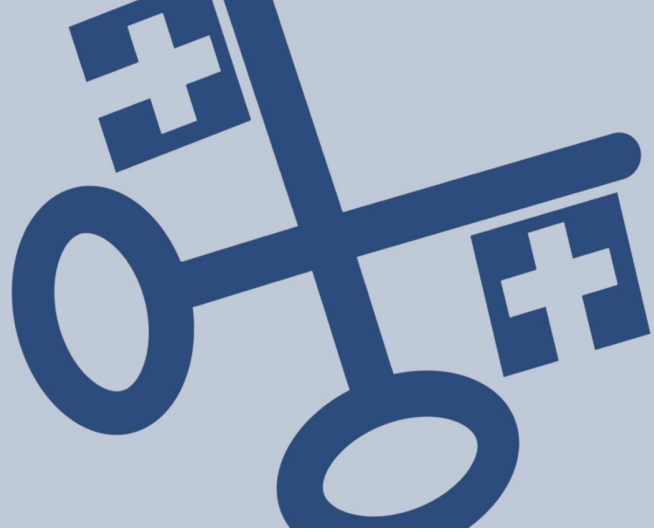
Then I have my last lesson of the day most of the time finishing my food during the lesson. After school, I either do my homework or rest but the majority of the time homework is a reality and resting is a dream.

FUN FACT

Sometimes I find myself sprinting to the front door when the doorbell rings because that little face-to-face interaction may be the only interaction I have had with someone outside my household in a while.

REMINDERS:

- Mrs. Tranter is our Careers lead in school contact her on: atranter@speters.org.uk



CAREERS PROGRAMME - PwC ONLINE SESSION

On Tuesday 2nd and Wednesday 3rd February students in Years 10 and 12 took part in the PwC Insights session for Business, Accounting, Finance and Technology. These events gave students the chance to discover more about life at PwC. During this interactive session, they found out about apprenticeships, degree programmes and work experience, and heard from PwC staff and students. They were able to pick up lots of information about the work PwC do, that will help them to decide which of their career options interests them most and how to get there. In each session, they focussed particularly on the work they do locally, how they help their clients, and what it takes to pursue a career in this exciting, fast-changing sector.



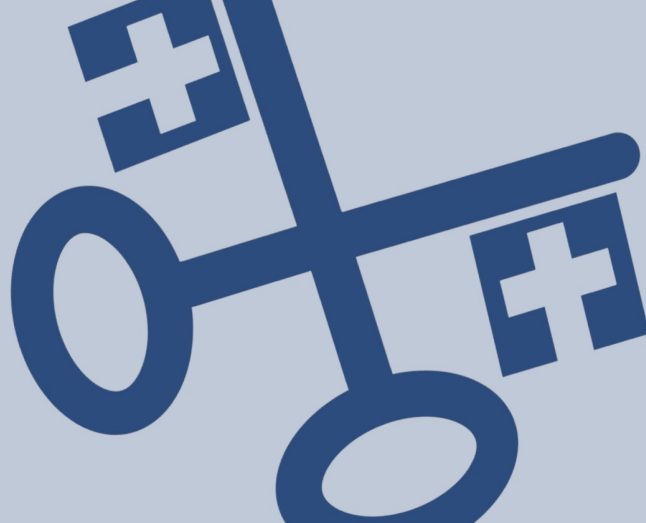
Monday-Thursday next week, students will have the opportunity to take part in National Apprenticeship week. Students in Years 7-9 will be able to investigate what apprenticeships are and the different apprenticeship routes available on leaving school. They each have a pack of information to help them with this task on their careers google classrooms.

Years 10 - 13 have been given registration details for a number of virtual sessions which they can attend, these have already been posted on their careers google classrooms and are also available on our NAW 2021 Guide.

For more information about our work experience programme click [here](#)

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](#)



LIVE LIFE : LIVE FAITH

BRINGING THE RELEVANCE OF FAITH TO THE REALITY OF LIFE!

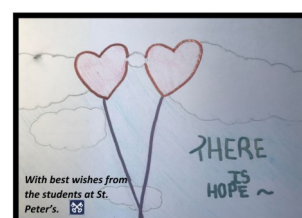
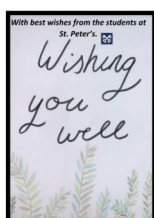
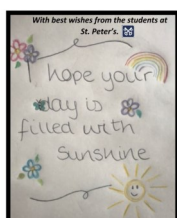
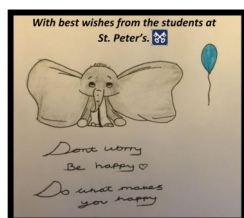
The Label Project

“Love thy neighbour” - a quote so familiar that it is often overlooked, but, as with so many things in life, it is the familiar and simple aspects that truly matter.

The past year has really focused my understanding of what love is. Love is not always grand gestures or life changing moments between two people (like the many rom coms I watched during lockdown would have me believe!) - instead, love is something much more quiet, much more ordinary. A text from a friend, a zoom quiz with colleagues, a ‘have a good day Miss’ at the end of an online lesson, a conversation with a person at the supermarket checkout, a ‘thank you’ from a stranger in the street as you distance to let them pass by - these are all expressions of ‘neighbourly love’ and our lives are so rich with it - if only we pay attention. Love is a hushed yet profound knowledge that we are thought of and valued - in short, love is connection.

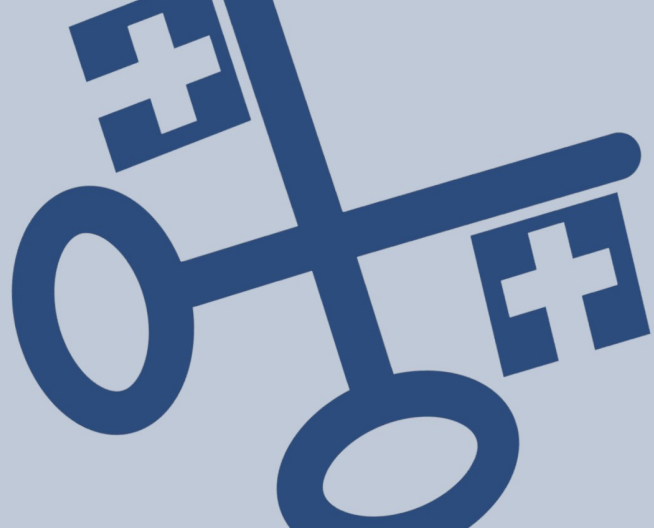
During the last couple of weeks our pupils have connected with elderly residents who are shielding in our city. They have created some thoughtful cards to go alongside food parcels which will be delivered to the older people. They have created beautiful designs and written lovely things such as ‘I hope your day is filled with sunshine’. I have been hugely inspired by so many pupils who jumped at the chance to help with this project. I was especially proud of the Year 11s who took the time to get involved even during their week of assessments.

Our young people are so often the ones who care the most and are so naturally driven to make a positive difference - and they have! These cards will be read by elderly residents, cut off from so much connection, and will bring a smile to their faces. These cards will let them know that they are appreciated, thought of and valued. Our pupils have truly lived up to the command of Jesus to ‘Love thy neighbour’ and we, at S. Peter’s, couldn’t be prouder of them.



REMINDERS:

Our weekly Frog Blog is available on the school website click [here](#)



Give us our daily bread ...Lawnmower!

Lawnmower? Can you really ask God for a lawnmower? How does that even work? Not the lawnmower, the prayer!

This was the reaction of our youth group when our youth-leader shared with us his amazing practice of trusting God for provision of his needs, on this occasion a lawnmower! In wanting to be diligent with finances and with an ever growing lawn, our youth leader and his wife, had taken the issue to God in prayer, as they took ALL THINGS to Him. That was their normal way of life to talk to God about stuff. Incredibly, a few days after they had prayed, as they looked through 'items for sale' in the newspaper, they saw a genuine bargain lawnmower for sale that was just perfect for their needs. What struck me about this was not so much that God provided for their need, but that they actually asked in the first place...trusting He would provide. I wanted what they had. The relationship with God, not the lawnmower!

In the first lines of The Lord's Prayer (Jesus' guide on how to pray) we see that relationship; Jesus prayed to The Creator of Heaven and Earth calling Him, "Daddy"! such was his close relationship with God. We can know Him this way too. Jesus then asked Our Father to reign 'on earth as in Heaven' and willingly gave his life to God; Jesus chose to live under God's direction and according to His ways: As we may also choose to do. With this relationship being key to our prayers, we now come to the next phrase, "Give us this day our daily bread".

Here, in a spirit of humble dependence, Jesus asks God to provide his needs from day to day: As we are invited to do. Note the word NEED rather than WANT. We are not given license to ask God for the winning lottery ticket (even if we promise to give some of the prize money to charity) or for popularity and power (even if we promise to use them for good) This is not about a wish list that we demand but rather a conversation, with Our Father, about our need. Jesus himself explained that "your Father knows what you need even before you ask Him" (Matt6:8) just as any parent who knows their child would understand what they require, or sometimes, actually don't need! It is in the trusting relationship between us and God that we are encouraged to make our needs known to Him, asking that He will provide. Which was exactly what my youth leader had done!

[READ MORE HERE](#)