

S. Peter's Collegiate School

ISSUE 20 23/04/2021

-Parent Bulletin-

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



When I arrived at S. Peter's Collegiate School in September, I made a clear statement that I will make decisions with three hats on, these being; as a Principal, a colleague and as a father.

This is a statement I hold dearly. All of the children at S. Peter's are important to me, their families are important to me and so are the colleagues that I work alongside.

This has been a very testing week for all of the S. Peter's community. It is never pleasant to have to inform parents that we cannot educate their children in school as I know that it causes a great deal of anxiety, not to mention disruption, to family life.

It would be far easier to write about our wonderful students and their achievements this week, but I believe that you deserve to be informed about some of the events that have unfolded recently.

The NASUWT union have spoken readily to the press about their members' concerns regarding 'health and safety' and 'adverse management practices' from the leadership of the school. We are not always in a position to respond in detail, but I am able to put a perspective and context on the issues raised.

The health and safety concerns relate to two things:

Firstly, the presence of asbestos. In a school building of S. Peter's age, this is to be expected and is quite common. There are many schools around the country which have asbestos present in their buildings. Asbestos is perfectly safe if concealed and undisturbed. All areas of the school that contain asbestos have been highlighted and relevant checks have taken place.

The second area of concern highlighted was with regard to the fire alarm system. Whilst there were two fully functioning alarms, two blocks were not synchronised. A workable and accepted risk assessment was put in place up until Easter so that during the holidays, the system could be repaired. The fault was fixed by Mid-West, a local authority named service provider, who are contracted to manage the system.

In recent months working with Three Spires Trust, we have commissioned several health and safety audits and compliance checks. All work that has been recommended is currently being addressed to ensure the site remains safe. A programme of planned maintenance works is also now underway to enhance the environment. This will be developed alongside the exciting plans for the partial rebuild programme.

The concerns raised around management practice focus on a number of changes made in the school since my appointment.

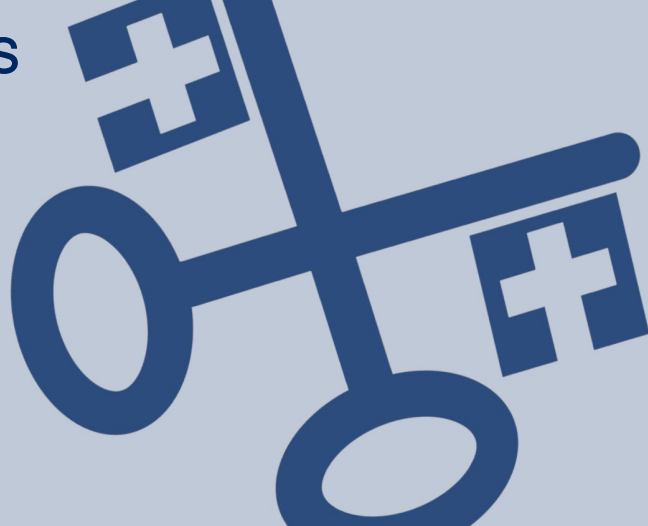
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SOCIAL MEDIA AGE RESTRICTIONS

13+ Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, Snapchat, TikTok

16+ WhatsApp

18+ Youtube, Kik



As a Principal with over 20 years of experience in education, I believe that there are certain practices that have to be a priority in any school. I was disappointed to hear from parents that they felt that there was a lack of interaction with students during the first lockdown period (spring/summer 2020), so I made it a priority to ensure that this situation would be significantly different should lockdown occur again. I feel our efforts were successful and I was truly delighted with how the staff responded to our procedures and the positive comments we received from parents.

As both a Principal and a parent, I was also very concerned with the lack of routine marking taking place in the school. When I reviewed this further, I discovered a policy that needed to be revamped and finalised, but unfortunately had been stalled previously. This is also true for the following policies; safeguarding, teaching and learning and remote learning. In response to this, the leadership team developed working parties, provided opportunities for training, consulted with heads of department and key staff and trialled policies in order to bring about positive change. Many of the refinements made to the policies simplified and reduced staff workload and as a result, significantly improved the provision for our students. Unfortunately, the energy and determination to get processes moving quickly, for the benefit of all students, was matched by many staff, but not welcomed by everyone.

One of my remits when starting at S. Peter's, was to ensure that safeguarding in the school improved. As you are aware, just three weeks into my tenure, there was an Ofsted Section 8 inspection. During this one-day inspection, the inspection team highlighted issues with historical safeguarding practices and lapses in governance provision. The Ofsted team were quick to point out that there were green shoots appearing under the new leadership, that day to day safeguarding was effective and that morale was good. The report was critical of former leadership in the school.

Since then, I am pleased to say that safeguarding has continued to improve and we are now incredibly confident that both our day to day practices as well as our overall safeguarding provision, is of high quality. Lines of reporting and accountability are very clear and followed by all. Recently, we commissioned an external safeguarding review which confirmed the excellent progress in this area and also provided us with clear next steps to work towards.

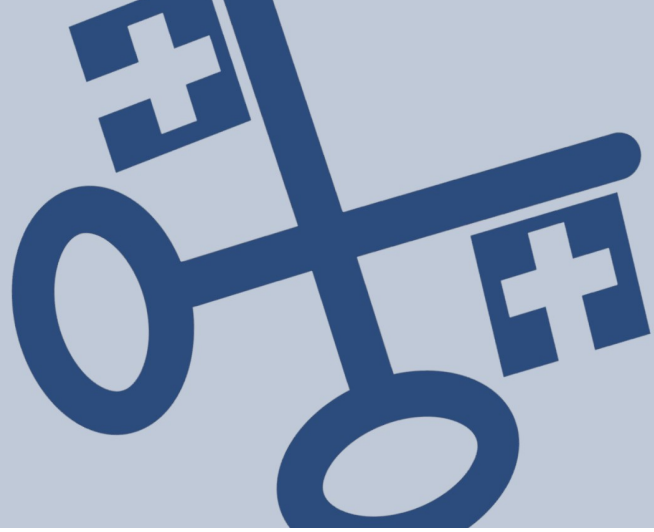
To date, I have been delighted with the work and support of the local governing body as well as the support that I have received from the Diocese and most recently, from the Three Spires Trust.

The leadership team is a relatively new one and we have been incredibly fortunate to have benefited from the experience that both Jeanette Vincent and Kim Popratnjak MBE, have brought to the school this year as Associate Heads/Advisors. Interviews are taking place next week for a substantive Vice Principal and an Assistant Vice Principal. We are thrilled to have an exceptionally strong field for both positions - undoubtedly, there will be a highly competent, dynamic leadership team at S. Peter's, ready for the new academic year.

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REMINDERS

- Masks are to be worn in all indoor spaces in school
- Full school uniform is to be worn at all times



I try to run the school with a smile on my face and with compassion. I take my responsibilities as Principal seriously; I know that I cannot please everyone with every decision that I make and it's just unfortunate, that not enough were made before I arrived. As a consequence to this, I have had to make some considerable changes in the short space of time I have been here however, I can assure you, these changes were necessary and for the benefit of the children of S. Peter's.

I am very proud of the many positive changes that have taken place in the school since September 2020. To name a few: the introduction of head girls and boys in all year groups, the creation of an exciting enrichment and enhancement programme, improvements in safeguarding and SEND provision, and a more open approach to reciprocal working with other schools. Securing our place to be amongst the fifty schools named nationally for consideration of a new build programme, is the investment in the school's environment we need. It has occurred at a pertinent time as the school continues to move from strength to strength.

The publication of a weekly bulletin and introduction of a Parents Advisory Group has also helped to considerably improve our communication processes. If you follow the weekly bulletin, you will hopefully see a common thread which permeates through each edition. The aim is to inform the school community of the upcoming foci for the school, such as changes to the curriculum, options and new strategies to improve behaviour, punctuality and uniform. You will also see many examples of outstanding students' work and the plethora of opportunities available to them.

I am very aware that there is still a lot to do, this fact is not lost on me. The challenge to make S. Peter's truly outstanding is an exciting one and we are committed to realising this ambition.

The school still has to work within the constraints of Covid-19 and is mindful of all the added pressure that this brings.

Following the industrial action, I now want to work towards re-uniting the school and focusing on the next phase of our development. As the Principal of S. Peter's, I am delighted that the school will officially join the newly formed Three Spires Trust on May 1st - together in partnership, we will continue to drive the school forward on our quest to becoming truly outstanding.

A colleague informed me yesterday that part of being a Wolves fan is one of the motto's 'out of the darkness, cometh light'. This sums up where we are at the moment; new beginnings are important and from these, there will be excellence.

Perhaps Paul's words are most apt, 'Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility, count others more significant than yourselves' (Philippians 2:3)

CONTACTS

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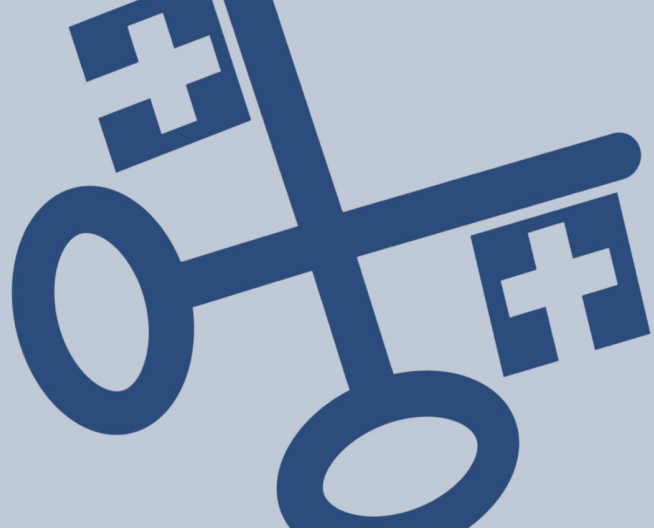
Head of Year 9 - ajohnson@speters.org.uk

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

Post 16 - 6thform@speters.org.uk

For general enquiries speters@speters.org.uk



FINANCE MATTERS

Due to the current situation, we are not taking cash in school, but the finance office is still open.

All payments for purchases must be made through the SCOPAY platform (see the link below).

Items currently available to buy include: Calculators (£6.00), Stationary packs (£3.50) and DT folders (£1.60).

Once payment is received, we will give the item[s] to the Head of Year to pass on to the student.

If you have not yet registered for your online account, please email finance@speters.org.uk for a link code.

LINKS TO THE ONLINE PAYMENTS PAGE ARE

www.scopay.com/speters

OR YOU CAN DOWNLOAD THE SCOPAY APP

Thank you

The Finance Team

EASTER SCHOOL SUCCESS



Over 240 students and 20 Staff at S. Peter's Collegiate came together in School during the Easter Holidays. Students and Staff were happy in giving this eggs-tra time to promote learning and encourage confidence in the Student's achievement and attainment.

The school made the decision to open its door to pupils and host a number of workshops aimed at making up some of the lost time due to the pandemic.

Our Technology department hosted sessions for Year 11 and 13 students with a particular focus on practical work. Our Year 11 students came in over 2 days. Design Technology students were able to experiment with materials, build models and prototype ideas. In Year 13, Product Design and Textiles students spent a day further developing their major project work and manufacturing concepts that they have worked so hard designing over the past few months.

Mr Buck Head of Technology said, "All the workshops held were very well attended and enjoyed by both staff and students. It felt great being able to provide students with opportunities to be creative and for them to get back some of what they've missed out on."

Mr Arnold Principal said, "Students took part in workshops involving practical and academic subjects. Having responded to the opportunity with gusto they reported the extra support and focused sessions were really well worth it!"