

Parent Bulletin

ISSUE 45 10/12/2021

'In everything, do to others what you would have them do to you.' Matthew 7:12

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



This week we held our first Curriculum Discovery week. In some cases a chance for teachers to go outside of the normal curriculum and teach something to students that they love, or something that has inspired them to have a love of their subject. In other cases, it was an opportunity to give students an experience of what it is like to study a subject that they have not done so previously, ahead of any potential option choices in the future. Subjects like Business Studies and Film Studies for example. This is often a concern of schools, parents and students when it comes to picking subjects for the future, that there is not enough information about new subjects in order to make appropriate decisions, so hopefully this week (and the next time we have a Discovery Week), will help significantly.

The Christmas Concert on Tuesday was fantastic. Despite the need for social distancing, it was fantastic to see the array of talent that we have at St Peter's.

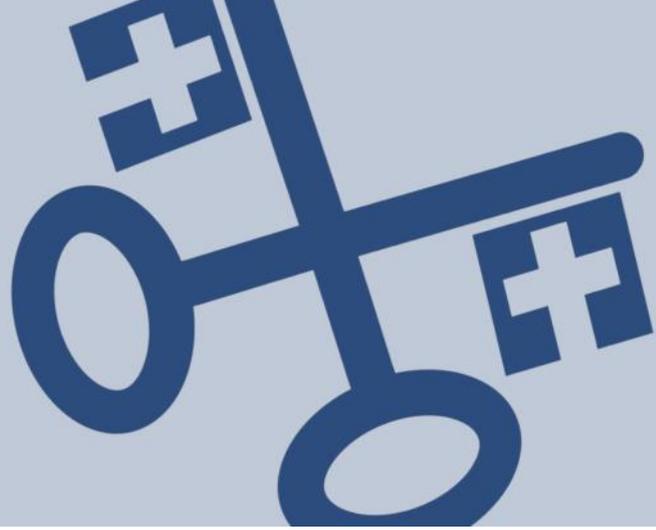
It was good to see many students enjoying Christmas Dinner this week in the canteen. Just after Christmas, we are revamping the canteen slightly and trying to improve the experience for all students. We will be looking at removing lots of the wrapping for take away food and asking students to eat predominantly indoors, or in a designated outside area only, to try to limit the litter around the site in the afternoons. Many of the students who I meet with every week are keen to solve any issues of litter around the site, and they are pleased that we will be receiving new tables and even some stand up tables to try to create a nicer environment for dining and socialising.

As we go into the last week of term, it is important that students continue to wear facemasks inside the building to protect themselves and others. It has been really challenging over the last few weeks in terms of staff absence, with positive tests adding to the usual winter illnesses that effect schools. I am proud of how the staff have rallied round each other to keep going. It has got very close to having to announce that a year group may have to go home under Remote Learning Provisions. Supply agencies have almost run out of available help for schools at times recently. It is not ideal having substitute teachers, but they do a very essential job in schools and without them we would have had to take some very difficult decisions similar to last year. Hopefully with a few weeks break, people will be back to good health and we can make a positive start to the Spring term.

Today the students are wearing Christmas Jumpers to raise money for Charity and I believe that our Head Girl and Boy (Noestra and Rae-Kwan) in Year 13 have arranged quite a few additional fundraising events that students can get involved with next week. I managed to complete my solo half marathon last weekend. I ran slower than ever before probably because I was on my own, and I was happy that the money that I had raised for Shelter had now been earned!

SPRING TERM DATES 2022

- **Term Time:** Tuesday 4 January 2022 – Friday 18 February 2022
- **Half Term:** Monday 21 February 2022- Friday 25 February 2022
- **Term Time:** Monday 28 February 2022 – Friday 8 April 2022
- **Inset Days:** Wednesday 2 March 2022 (half day following Ash Wednesday Eucharist) | Friday 8 April 2022



KEY DATES

- 10/12—Y7 Theatre Trip
- 13/ 12 — Carol Service
- 17/12 - Break Up for Christmas
- 4/1/22 - Return to school
- 5/1//22 - Y9 Review 1
- 6/1/22 - Y13 Parents' Evening
- 10/1/22 - Y12 Assessment week
- 10/1/22 - Y8 HPV Vaccinations
- 13/1/22 -Y8 Options Information
- 19/01/22 - Year 8 National Enterprise
- 20/01/22 - Y9 Parents' Evening
- 24/01/22 - Y10 Assessment week

CHRISTMAS EUCHARIST

Our end of term Christmas Eucharist will this year take place in school as a virtual event. The Eucharist will be led by Joe Maggs our school chaplain and will be streamed live to form rooms from our newly refurbished school chapel.

Students will be dismissed from school after the school eucharist which is due to finish at 12:30 pm. Any student who is in receipt of a free school meal should go to the canteen to collect this on their way out of school.

UNIFORM UPDATE

You may be aware that there has been statutory guidance released by the Government concerning uniforms in terms of affordability and gender inequality. The current uniform, while iconic to the school, does not meet these requirements so we have engaged in an ongoing consultation.

Following meetings with an advisor to the DfE, students and governors and surveys with parents we are making immediate amendments to the school uniform. These will appear on the school website - please take them into consideration if buying any new uniform.

There will be further changes moving forward which will be released to you.

Current uniform will still be totally acceptable.

SPORT @ ST PETERS

Our year 10 Basketball team played The Kings school in their latest match. The team rallied late on after trailing by 16 points going into the last quarter of the game. With only a minute left on the clock they were only one point behind, but two late scores from Kings resulted in them losing the game 37-42.

CONTACTS

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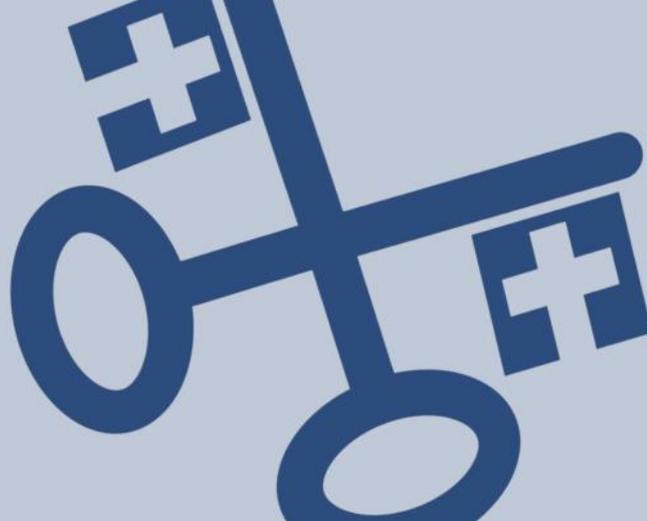
Head of Year 9 – elord@speters.org.uk

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For general enquiries speters@speters.org.uk



STUDENT DATA - ASSESSMENT & REPORTING

With the Academy joining the Three Spires Trust, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and new guidance from the government we have decided that now is the right time to review our use of data, assessment and how we communicate this information to parents/carers and students.

At the end of our review we will revise our practices to deliver the following:

- An approach to target setting that meets the needs of students, parents and the school
- A reporting system that communicates relevant and accurate information about your child's progress and achievement
- A paperless reporting system direct to your email inbox
- A website that contains easily accessible and clear explanations of our target setting, assessment and reporting processes

The Principal and Vice-Principal recently met with a group of parents to listen to their views on how the school has used data in the past and also parent suggestions for changes and improvements. During this meeting parents expressed their view that they were happy for changes to be made incrementally and it is our intention to make changes throughout the year enabling our systems to evolve and importantly, to communicate these changes to you as they happen. We will write to you throughout the year, communicate key information through the parent's bulletin and on future progress reviews.

RETURN TO SCHOOL IN JANUARY

There will be a phased return to school in January 2022 for all year groups. Students must arrive on their designated time slots. Students who are arriving for testing should wait outside the main school reception. See the full details [here](#)

VIRTUAL PARENTS' EVENING

This academic year all parents' evenings are managed and administered via an online parents evening system <https://speterscollegiateschool.schoolcloud.co.uk/>. This system allows parents to choose and book their own appointments, subject to availability, at times which are convenient to them throughout the evening. The system also provides a video appointment facility. A full parent guide for booking appointments can be found [here](#) information on when parents' evenings are can found in the school bulletin or the school calendar on the website.