

School Newsletter No.5
St Andrew the Apostle
Greek Orthodox School



Ever to Excel

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to begin by wishing students, staff, parents, governors and friends of St Andrew the Apostle School a very happy and peaceful New Year

We return to school following completion of mock GCSE exams for Year 11 and mock A level exams for Year 13. Year 11 Parents' Evening on Thursday 9th January 2020 was also a very useful and productive occasion for students and their families to receive detailed feedback following the mock exams completed at the end of last term. We have also had options evening for Year 9. We are delighted that so many Year 13 students have applied for higher apprenticeships or university places and are now working towards completing their A level courses this summer.

We are currently accepting applications for our outstanding Sixth Form. Pupils need to achieve at least 5 GCSEs at grade 5 or above to gain a place with more information available under our Sixth Form tab on the school's website. Please do speak to Mr Marrero about any Sixth Form questions you may have. Our Sixth Form is open to all students who achieve the grades required for our A level and vocational courses.

Thank you for your support with attendance, which is outstanding at 96% for all pupils. Please do send your child into school every day as excellent attendance leads to excellent outcomes for all students.

As we remember Epiphany and the importance of Jesus to all of our lives, we thank God for sending his son to show us all how to live our lives with love and compassion. We also remember our school motto which reminds us to pray and work for success. We should work as if working for the Lord and not for others. Finally, I must also say what a pleasure it was to see so many of our students partaking in the Epiphany service presided over by His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas at the church of St Katherine in Friern Barnet.

I wish everyone a happy, successful and blessed 2020.

Χρόνια πολλά σε όλους τους αναγνώστες μας. Ελπίζουμε ο νέος χρόνος να σας βρήκε όλους με καλή υγεία. Τώρα επανερχόμαστε σε ένα νέο έτος και ελπίζουμε ο νέος χρόνος να είναι ένας αποδοτικός για την περεταίρω πρόοδο όλων των μαθητών μας. Γνωρίζουμε επίσης ποσό μας υποστηρίζετε και εσείς και αυτό μας δίνει δύναμη να συνεχίσουμε το έργο μας.

Χαρούμενο και ευλογημένο νέο έτος 2020.

Mr M. Vassiliou
Headteacher

Message for the New Year from His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas

As we enter the New Year 2020, the Archbishop and Clergy and staff of the Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain wish all a most blessed, healthy, happy and Christ-filled year. May Christ, the Epiphany and Word of God, guide all to the glory of the Kingdom.

Happy New Year!



Μήνυμα από το Σεβασμιώτατο Αρχιεπίσκοπο Θυατείρων και Μεγάλης Βρετανίας Νικήτα.

«Ευχόμαστε ο Χρήστος τα Αγία Θεοφάνεια και ο λόγος του θεού να μας καθοδηγούν όλους για να έχουμε ένα ευτυχημένο νέο έτος».

Services of Theophany and ‘Ayiasmos’

Between Wednesday 8th January and Tuesday 14th January 2020, students and staff at St Andrew the Apostle School participated in a special services of Theophany conducted by the school’s Chaplain Father John Hookway.

The significance of Epiphany was explained to students by Father John. In particular, he stressed that Epiphany is also known as Theophany, and both of these terms derive from the Greek words for “revelation” and the “revelation of God,” or “Επιφάνεια” (epipháneia) and “Θεοφάνεια” (Theopháneia).

This unique feast is celebrated by both the Eastern and Western Church, and millions of people around the world participate in liturgies, Masses and many other traditional events which take place on this day. Epiphany means shining forth or manifestation. The feast is often called ‘Theophany’ in the Orthodox Church, which means the shining forth of God. The emphasis in the celebration of this occasion is on the appearance of Jesus as the divine Son of God, One of the Holy Trinity with the Father and the Holy Spirit. This observance commemorates Christ's baptism by John the Baptist in the River Jordan, and the beginning of Christ's earthly ministry. The Feast of Theophany is the culmination of the Christmas Season, which starts on 25th December and ends on 6th January. In commemoration of this event, the Great Blessing of Water is performed on this day, and the holy water blessed is used by the local priest to bless the homes of the faithful.



The main feature of the feast of the Epiphany is the Great Blessing of Water. Following the service, Father John blessed all students and staff with holy water, more commonly known as ‘Ayiasmos’ in the Greek Orthodox Church.

Finally, Father John also explained that in Greece, Cyprus and the Greek diaspora throughout the world, the feast of Epiphany is known by its English alternative term, Theophany. Many people most commonly also refer to it as "Phóta," which is Greek for "Lights."

Greeks call this celebration Phóta because according to their belief, this is the day that God enlightened the world with His wisdom.

Χαιρόμαστε και πάλι που βρέθηκε μαζί μας ο Πάτερ Ιωάννης από την εκκλησία του Αγίου Δημητρίου Και ευλόγησε όλα τα παιδιά καθώς και τους καθηγητές εξαιτίας των Αγίων Θεοφανείων την πρώτη εβδομάδα κατά την επιστροφή μας από τις πρόσφατες γιορτές.

Ο Πάτερ Ιωάννης προσφώνησε όλες τις τάξεις εξηγώντας την σημασία των Αγίων Θεοφανείων, σύμφωνα με τις παραδόσεις της Ελληνορθόδοξης εκκλησίας.



Year 11 Exam Preparation

Following a successful mock exam session and parents' evening we hope all of our Year 11 students are revising hard for their second mock exams which starts on the **week of the 25th February 2020**. Students should be revising for at least 2 hours each evening now and also over the weekend. Year 11 parents – please check your child's work each day and make sure they are revising hard. Parents are the most important factor in ensuring students achieve high grades; the more demanding we are of students the better their results will be in August.

To support you and our students, on the **7th February 2020**, we will be having a motivational speaker from Fix Up Seminars coming into school to speak with our Year 11 students on study skills, careers for the future and support their motivation as they prepare for mock exams and for their GCSEs now just four months away.

Fix up Seminars is a company that has been motivating students UK wide and internationally for 20 years. They are committed to empowering people's minds to develop a better quality of life in a fun, creative and inspirational way. Please see the following link for information: <http://www.fixupseminars.co.uk/>

The company's objectives are achieved by offering the right tools, strategies and resources that will transform the lives of the people they serve.

If you do need help with how to support your child, please contact their form tutor who can help. If you recognise that your child is stressed at this time, and this is perfectly normal, www.kooth.com is an excellent resource where teenagers can get independent advice from councillors.

Προετοιμασίες για τις επικείμενες εξετάσεις GCSE συνεχίζουν. Εάν θέλετε περισσότερη βοήθεια για το παιδί σας παρακαλούμε να επικοινωνήσετε με το σχολείο και να ζητήσετε να μιλήσετε με την ή τον form tutor, του παιδιού σας.

The choice of what to study at Post 16 is a difficult one. We therefore encouraged all students to choose a range of subjects that they are interested in pursuing, in order to be able to make a more informed decision when the time comes for final choices. Students made excellent use of these taster sessions especially in seeing the rigor of sixth form education and asking questions regarding the subjects they could be studying in the future.

We are very proud of the maturity, dedication and exemplary behaviour demonstrated by students in all sessions with numerous members of staff being impressed and enthused at the prospect of teaching this group of students next year. The current Year 11 students have shown themselves to be a tremendous group with huge potential to achieve. We are looking forward to them achieving an excellent set of results this summer and joining us here in our Sixth Form in September.

The next step in the application process will be the interviews. These will take place on the *week beginning the 27th January 2020*. All current St Andrews' students will be interviewed during that week.

Την Τρίτη 14, Ιανουαρίου, Όλοι οι μαθητές μας απο το Year 11 είχαν την ευκαιρία να συμμετάσχουν σε δοκιμαστικά μαθήματα A' Level. Αυτή ήταν μια ευκαιρία για να δουν οι μαθητές μας τι ακριβώς συμπεριλαμβάνουν αυτά τα μαθήματα αλλά και να συμβουλευτούν από τους καθηγητές τι είναι το περιεχόμενο αυτών των μαθημάτων για να είναι καλύτερα ενημερωμένοι για τα επόμενα βήματα τους μετά από τις εξετάσεις GCSE αυτό το καλοκαίρι.

Mr Marrero
Head of Sixth Form

Friends of St Andrew (FoSA)

We will be having a meeting to elect the new FoSA committee on **Wednesday 22nd January at 5.00pm**. (Building 5, main hall). All parents are invited to attend.

Future Events for the Diary

Week 18	Key Events;; Year 12 & 13 Parents Evening;
Monday 20th January	
Tuesday 21st January	
Wednesday 22nd January	DNA Drama Trip Year 10 & 11 FoSA committee meeting 5.00pm
Thursday 23rd January	Year 12 & 13 Parents Evening 3.30pm – 6.30pm Building 4
Friday 24th January	

Week 19	Key Events: Y9 Parents Evening
Monday 27th January	
Tuesday 28th January	
Wednesday 29th January	
Thursday 30th January	Year 9 Parents' evening. 3:30pm-7:00pm Building 4
Friday 31st January	