

## Final Heads Contact Article

Our time in Sixth Form has not been how we expected it to be. We never thought we'd spend so much time at home! The national restrictions brought about a need to find different ways to support each other, resulting in a closer community despite the separation. Students have experienced greater pressure to adapt to a more independent study technique, better preparing us for the university workload. For the first half of the year, many worried about sitting normal A level exams. Once TAGs were introduced, it relieved the tension and allowed us to finally focus on an end goal. As our assessments are now drawing to a close, many are looking on to university, whilst some have secured apprenticeships. We are all looking forward to the future.

On the last day of term, we will have a warm-hearted leavers mass reminiscing about the memories made in the last year as well as a positive look into the future that approaches the Year 13 students. Following this we are having a BBQ and then a Sixth Form rounders match to celebrate the completion of a stressful year. After the last day has been shared the Year 13's will have prom to look forward too with one last night to all be together before we all depart and move on to the next chapter of the lives.



It has been a busy year and as we reflect we have been given opportunities to build leadership skills. One great memory to leave with was the decorating of the sixth form for Christmas which we hope will be carried on for the future years. Despite the challenges from COVID-19 our Sixth Form experience will be one to remember and we are thankful for the support and encouragement we have received from the school.

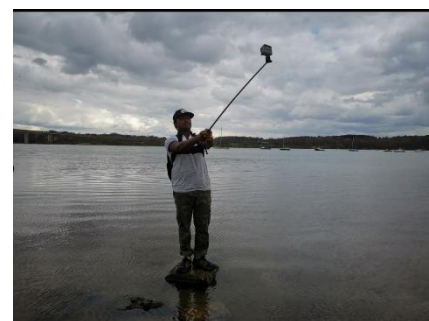
We would like to recognise the efforts of our House Captains, who despite the difficulties of COVID have been so determined and consistent in helping to support and raise awareness of those in need. Each of them organised House Charity Day



events for Sixth Form and encouraged the rest of the school to do the same such as COVID friendly bake sales, whole school prize raffles and boba tea – and that's just from the Sixth Form! Year 7 were especially great at raising money! The collective efforts of the whole school raised a massive £1200 so far this year for our charities - CAFOD, Mind and SVP. A great achievement that will have a real

positive impact.

In addition to this, during Lent, the school joined together as part of the CAFOD 'walk for water' challenge with students completing sponsored laps around the field. In particular one of our Year 13 students – Anangan, head of the chaplaincy team, took on the challenge of walking 10,000 steps a day for 40 days in hope of spreading awareness of water poverty in disadvantaged countries. He raised an amazing £316 for the charity!





Due to social distancing, traditional whole school masses have not been able to take place this year. As a Catholic school, faith and fellowship are a huge part of our identity - it is what makes us unique. The endless efforts of our brilliant Sixth Form chaplaincy team and choir have ensured that the school's virtual services have remained meaningful and more beautiful than ever. Thank you so much.

The pastoral and chaplaincy team have been so helpful in easing the worries of us Sixth Form students throughout such a stressful year. Despite the challenges both students and teachers have faced due to COVID-19, it is certain that the Year 13's time at St Alban's Sixth Form has still managed to be a positive and successful one.

As we end our time here as students, we have so many people to thank for making our High School and Sixth Form experience so special. Our great teachers, who have continued to support and care for us throughout the years, who have persevered with the constant changes and pressure and who have given us the confidence to trust in them. It is also important to recognise those who work behind the scenes. The cleaners, the caretakers, the canteen staff, the technicians, the governors – everyone who plays a role in allowing us to be at school. They do so much. One of the biggest lessons of the pandemic is of how important school is, not only in our learning but also to our physical, mental, and social wellbeing. We are blessed to be here.

Of course, we can't forget our peers – the students. There are so many memories to look back on fondly and so many friendships that have been built to last. The enthusiasm and commitment of students in every year group has been vital to making this year a real success. Despite being separated into our bubbles there was always a real sense of unity within the school. This what makes St Alban's so special – a community that cares. We are proud to represent our school and we are proud to be a part of St Alban's.

Thank you so much for your continued love and support,

Annabella, Charlotte, Clive, and Oliver

Head Girl, Deputy Head Girl, Head Boy, and Deputy Head Boy.

