



CONTACT



The Newsletter of St Alban's Catholic High School

September 2018
Edition No. 1

Comments from Headteacher

Matt Baker

What a cracking summer! The weather made for a wonderful start, and topped off for us with excellent examination results – a significant improvement on last year – with increases in the top grades awarded at A level and huge gains in strong passes and A's and A* (8's and 9's in new money!). Thank you for all your support at home. I am so pleased to see so many stay on with us in to Year 12, and we wish the Year 13 students every blessing as they start higher education or employment.

This year brings several notable changes to our academic and pastoral structures, designed to increase performance and support for our students. Each student in main school has a Head of Year who has extra time to intervene with underachievement and support well-being. The Sixth Form now has a Deputy Head - Mrs Robinson. Each department is now grouped into a faculty; the idea being that common practices of excellence can be shared. One example of this is the CPA Faculty (Creative and Performing Arts). Mrs Wright now leads this team, and is charged with ensuring standards across Art, PE, Music and Drama.

I have added our School Improvement Plan to the website so that you know our aspirations for the year ahead, and governors will hold us to account for our progress against this. A big change in parental engagement next month will be our parent app, which will allow you see live achievement and behavior updates, along with our new parental online booking for Consultation Evenings. Parents and students having their say and being able to support improvement is vital to a healthy and reflective school!

On a sadder note, as those from St Mary's Parish will know, we are losing Fr John Warrington both from our school and as a governor. Following a period of illness, Fr John is recovering in Bury St Edmunds and has left Ipswich. Over the last couple of years that I have known John, he has been such a supportive priest to this school, celebrating engaging and personal Masses, as well as offering many Sacramental and other spiritual services to us. My strong bond with him will certainly endure. Students and staff, past and present, will join together to give thanks for his ministry with us next Wednesday. Katherine Edwards, our Chaplain, will write to you to support a collection for him. Please give if you can.

Could I also ask at this time for us to pray for our families with roots in Kerala, following the flooding in August.

God Bless.

Welcome

This term we welcome a number of new staff to the school:

- Nick Berry – seconded from St Benedict's Catholic College in Colchester joining the Senior Leadership Team as Head of 6th Form during the maternity leave of Sarah Morris
- Hazel Franklin - Business
- Jenny Golding – English
- Sophie Jones – Science
- Hannah MacFarlane - English
- Darren Peck - Maths
- Robert Silk – Maths

Key Diary Dates

Thursday 20 September	Year 7 Reflection Day
Wednesday 26 September	Year 7 Form Tutors' Evening
Thursday 27 September	Year 7 Reflection Day
Wednesday 03 October	Year 7 Open Evening
Monday 08 October	Open Morning
Wednesday 10 October	Year 11 Form Tutors' Evening
Wednesday 17 October	Sixth Form Open Evening
Friday 02 November	Friends' of St Alban's Fireworks Night



St Alban's Catholic High School

Open Evening

Wednesday 3 October, 5.30pm - 8.30pm

For all current Year 6 students and their parents / carers.

Open Morning

Monday 8 October, 9.30am - midday

For all current Year 6 students and their parents / carers. If you wish to come and see the school in action, please contact the school office in advance to book a tour.

Sixth Form Open Evening

Wednesday 17 October, 5.30pm - 8.30pm

For any Year 11 students considering entry into our Sixth Form.

Further details and a prospectus
can be found on our website:

www.st-albans.suffolk.sch.uk

or by calling the school office

Tel: (01473) 726178



School Calendar and Non-Student Days

Our school dates for this academic year are as follows and can also be found on our website:

<http://www.st-albans.suffolk.sch.uk/Term-Dates-Calendar/>

Autumn Term

Half-Term Holiday: 22 – 26 October 2018
End of Term: Wednesday 19 December 2018

Spring Term

Begins: Thursday 03 January 2019
Half-Term Holiday: 18 – 22 February 2019
End of Term: Friday 05 April 2019

Summer Term

Begins: Tuesday 23 April 2019
May Bank Holiday: Monday 6 May 2019
Half-Term Holiday: 27 May – 31 May 2019
End of Term: Thursday 18 July 2019

Non-Student Days

Monday 29 October 2018

Confusion often occurs with families with students in other local schools who operate different terms dates and different non student days.

Please note that we finish this academic year on **Thursday 18 July 2019**.

Consultation Evenings

Year 7	Wednesday 27 March
Year 8	Wednesday 01 May
Year 9	Wednesday 21 November
Year 10	Wednesday 27 February
Year 11	Wednesday 09 January
Year 12	Wednesday 28 November
Year 13	Wednesday 31 October

Chaplaincy Events this Term

Miss Edwards, Chaplain

Year 7 Reflection Days

These will be taking place on 20 and 27 September at Christchurch, Felixstowe. Details of the trip were sent home via ParentMail last week. Reflection Days are a wonderful way of students getting to know and work with their form group as well as forming positive working relationships with their tutors. Confirmation of attendance, medical and contact details along with payment should be made by Monday 17 September.

Audrey House Mass and Charity Day

This will take place on Wednesday 26 September for all members of Audrey House. The day begins with the celebration of Mass and during social time money is raised for the school charities. It is a non-uniform day for members of Audrey House and students are asked to bring in a £1 as part of their fundraising activities.

Year 11 Reflection Days

These will take place on 11 and 18 October at Colchester Road Baptist Church. Parents will be notified of the details and cost of the day later on this term.

Harvest Collection

In October, as a school we support the local foodbank charity FIND. Students will be asked to bring in at least one item of food that can be donated to FIND.

How to Set Your Child up for Success in Languages

Mr Magotte, Head of MFL

The Modern Foreign Languages Department would like to invite you to attend an informal meeting which will be a valuable opportunity to find out how to support your child to succeed with their language learning.

The meeting will take place on **Monday September 24th** from 18.00 until 19.00. A ParentMail letter with a form has been sent for you to complete.

We hope to see you there. Merci et au revoir.



Attendance – Information for Parents

Mr Moulding, Attendance Officer

Attendance at St Alban's is high. We are proud of this and we work hard to maintain it. This is because generally the students who achieve their GCSE potential are those who have been rarely absent.

Low attendance is a major cause for concern that will result in intervention with parents or carers. Typical attendance here is over 96% and if your child's attendance is heading towards 90% then you can expect us to be in touch to make a plan to improve this.

Regular attendance here means attending every day, unless an absence is pre-agreed with the school. This means that term-time holidays, trips abroad to visit family, extended school holidays, etc. will not be authorised by the school. Unauthorised absences will result in fines being issued.

Please call us if your child has an urgent appointment and will be late for school or needs to leave during the day. Your child will not be permitted to sign out during the school day without the necessary consent. Non-urgent appointments should be made outside of school times or in the holidays.

Also, do inform us of changes to your details such as your address, who has parental responsibility, your phone numbers, etc.

Be wary of your child reporting minor illnesses (headache, stomach upset, etc.) on a Monday. We have up to three times as many absences on Mondays as the other days.

We expect students to be through the school gates by 8.45am.

Cyber Discover

Joss, Year 13

This school year, I participated in **Cyber Discovery**, a 4 stage program. If you completed enough of the first stage 14 security challenges you qualified for the next two stages. These were Game and Essentials. Game involving security challenges and a set of written and video lessons that explained the theory behind computer security. Each module in Essentials ended with an exam. The scores achieved in Game and Essentials went towards deciding whether you qualified for the final stage, Elite. Elite was a weekend long camp, where we listened to lectures from industry experts and participated in team based activities such as a CTF event and hacking into a server on site.

Overall I've learnt a lot over the program and found it really challenging. I'd highly recommend it to anyone with any interest in problem solving or computers. Very little, if any prior knowledge is required. It's all about your skills in analytics, logical thinking and trying stuff till it works.

Uniform and Appearance

Mr Horne, Assistant Headteacher

As we enter into the new school year a reminder to all of our expectations on student uniform and appearance:

Our school uniform is as follows:

The following items can be ordered directly from Coes:

School blazer with badge*
Striped School tie with badge*
Dark green v-necked long-sleeve jumper
Tailored mid grey school trousers*

These items can be purchased from any retail outlet:

Plain white shirt*
Black shoes*, not suede or fabric and no high boots
Black/grey socks
Waterproof coat for bad weather

For a detailed guide on which shoes are permitted at St Alban's please visit:

https://www.st-albans.suffolk.sch.uk/docs/Uniform/Shoe_Guide.pdf

Items marked with an * are compulsory.

Items that are not permitted are listed below:

- × Skirts
- × Make-up (make-up natural to the student's complexion and skin tone is acceptable. However, any make up that does not comply with this such as lipstick, eye-shadow, eye-liner and false eyelashes are not allowed).
- × Nail varnish
- × Extreme hairstyles, including brightly coloured hair
- × Nose studs
- × Eyebrow studs
- × Earrings that are not a simple gold or silver stud
- × Any jewellery that is not a cross
- × Trainers, unless for PE
- × Shoes with logos on
- × Cord or denim trousers
- × Skinny or tight trousers
- × Hoodies
- × Hats including baseball caps



LOVE IPSWICH - HELP US TO DELIVER 150 LUXURY HAMPERS FOR VULNERABLE FAMILIES IN IPSWICH.

Last year as a charity Love Ipswich was able to deliver 105 luxury hampers to vulnerable families throughout Ipswich. The St. Albans community played such a huge part in this and we were overwhelmed by the support of individual students and families. We were able to deliver hampers to families through organisations such as Social Services, the Icen project, MIND, Headway and EACH children's hospice. One family couldn't thank us enough for their Christmas hamper.

We received a card from someone who received a Christmas Hamper last year. The organisation that delivered the hamper commented on how beautiful the hamper looked and said that the family's faces lit up when it was received.

The family are refugees that have recently been housed in the town and been really worried about how they would source and fund a Christmas dinner for their three children. They were overwhelmed with the luxury products and even commented on the beautiful purple bow that was tied around their hamper. Their 6 year old daughter was delighted with the ribbon and played with it all of Christmas day to tie around her doll.

This is just one story in a 105 Christmas hampers that were delivered around our town in 2017.

This year we are aiming for 150 Christmas hampers, as the need in Ipswich is so great. Each hamper has a number of items which make up a Christmas dinner alongside a £10 meat voucher which can be redeemed at a local supermarket. Each form will be collecting items for their hampers, but we always welcome contributions from families, work places etc. All items can be delivered to the school office and packs are available for both businesses and education institutions to get them involved in the campaign.

Please email fmarcus@st-albans.suffolk.sch.uk for more information.

We really appreciate your support in this matter.



Christmas Hamper Shopping list

- Gravy Granules
- Stuffing
- Shloer / Sparkling Apple
- Custard
- Savoury Snacks
- Tin of Chocolates
- Biscuits / Shortbread Tin
- Christmas Crackers
- Christmas Cake / Chocolate Log
- Christmas Pudding
- Mince Pies
- Cranberry Sauce



Attention all parents!

We're going cashless!

"I always get a reminder when the dinner money balance is low and with the App I can top up instantly, it's so easy!"



Get started...

1. Register with ParentMail
2. Download the App & login
3. Make payments on the go



We would like to remind parents that from September our catering is now CASHLESS.

It is quick and easy to top up your cashless catering via your ParentMail account (the dinner money top up option is in the shop).

Students who still need to have their thumb print scanned should ask at reception at break or lunchtime.



Please note: You will need to register online on the ParentMail website to use the App. Please ask the school office to send you a registration message.

CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT

AT ST ALBAN'S
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
DIGBY ROAD, IPSWICH, IP4 3NJ

FRIDAY 28th SEPTEMBER 2018

7:30 PM START

£5 PER PERSON – NIBBLES PROVIDED
(You are welcome to bring your own food)

Tickets from:
St Alban's Reception
Tel: 01473 726178

Licensed Bar available
(we kindly ask that you do not
bring your own drink)
Teams of 8 max. (age 15 & over)