



CONTACT



The Newsletter of St Alban's Catholic High School

December 2018
Edition No. 4

Comments from Headteacher

Matt Baker

Our liturgical year has begun again in Advent. The themes of preparation, reflection, hope and expectation have mirrored themselves in our day-to-day efforts, and in our great works of charity, such as 'Love Ipswich' and our foodbank collection.

Congratulations to all students for another great term of hard work and positive attitudes. Great credit must go to Year 11 in particular, who worked professionally and maturely through their mocks, in what was a time of some pressure. Our thoughts turn to Year 13, with the Sixth Form mock exams taking place directly after the Christmas break.

In the midst of the hustle and bustle of presents, food, and Christmas TV, I would encourage you all to take time for yourselves to find space to relax, be still, and pray. May the simplicity of the birth of Christ remind us that, however busy and burdened we feel in our daily lives, we can readily discover and reconnect with His light, peace, joy hope and love.

In the words of Tiny Tim – “*God bless us, everyone!*”

Farewells

At the end of this term, we say farewell to four members of staff: Melody Bradley, our KS3 Student Support Manager, who is retiring after twelve years at St Alban's; Emma Day, who has been teaching languages at the School for the last twelve years, Susie Stafford who leaves her post as Maths Teacher after ten years and our Administrative Assistant, Jane Woolnough, who retires after an impressive twenty-four years of service.

We are very appreciative of all that these individuals have contributed to the school community and wish them the very best for the future.

End of Term Arrangements

Wednesday 19 December is the final day of term and Advent Services will be held for Years 7, 9 and 11 during Period 2, and for Years 8, 10 and 6th Form during Period 3. Students will be dismissed at 2.00pm on the last day of term (unfortunately, service buses will not be available at this earlier time).

The Spring Term 2018 begins on Thursday 03 January; this will be Week 2 of the timetable.



Key Diary Dates

Wednesday 19 December	End of Term (students dismissed at 2.00pm)
Wednesday 02 January	Staff Professional Development Day
Thursday 03 January	Start of Spring Term – all students return
Week Commencing 07 January	Year 13 Mock Exams
Wednesday 09 January	Year 11 Consultation Evening

Senior Maths Challenge

Mr Silk, Teacher of Maths

Four students from St Alban's Catholic High School Sixth form took part in the UKMTs Senior Team Maths Challenge at Northgate High School on Thursday 29th November. The competition comprises of three hours of fast-paced mathematical challenges against other schools in the region.

Congratulations to Isabella 13NI, Joss 13TS, Thomas 12MT and Marnie 12WE who performed very well in a competitive regional final against some top independent and grammar schools.

Creative Writing Competition

Miss Sturman, Teacher of English

This term, the English Ambassadors hosted a 'Creative Writing Competition' for all year groups. The task was to write a 300-word story in any genre and was judged on 'imagination'.

The winners, judged by: the Ambassadors, Miss Sturman (English) and Mrs Payne (Library Manager) are:

- 1st place – Oliver (7MF) Wins 5 'Power of 5' book set
- 2nd place – Tatyana (10SR) Wins a copy of 'The Book Thief'
- 3rd place – Cathi (11CD) Wins a notebook

Well done to all the winners!

A-Level Computer Science Visit

Mr I Robinson



On Wednesday 5th December Mr Robinson took 23 GCSE and A-level Computer Science students to BT Adastral Park to the Christmas Lecture.

The event was based around the themes of Cyber security and Artificial Intelligence, with visiting lecturers from Universities talking about their specialism. The students also got chance to try new technologies such as 3D mice with force feedback and augmented reality glasses.

Students were inspired by the trip and no doubt some will consider BT when choosing their next steps.

Chaplaincy Update

Miss Edwards, Chaplain

In the past week, Year 7 students have been visiting the Chapel during their RE lessons to reflect and pray about finding Jesus in a secular world.

At the centre of the Chapel was our crib – Jesus had not yet arrived. At each prayer station students were invited to reflect on their own circumstances and faith and to grow in their relationship with God and the world.

Many students commented that they found it helpful to 'Be Still' and liked the opportunity to ask the 'Big Question'. Students enjoyed praying for the world and lighting candles for those situations and areas of the world where there is hunger, hatred or conflict. However, students recognised that they were blessed by God in so many ways.



Joy to the World



Praying for the World



Giving Thanks



Be Still

Year 9 Reflection Days

Year 9 students will have their Reflection Days on Thursday 17 and 24 January. The theme for each day is 'Mission Impossible' which will help students reflect on their own purpose and how to make choices to fulfil this purpose. More details will follow in January on our return to school.

Year 8 Briars Trip

There will be a meeting concerning the Briars Trip on Monday 14 January at 6:30pm to provide final instructions to parents/carers and students together with a list of appropriate clothes.

News from Miss Bright

Well done to all Year 9 students who during their Physics lessons this half term took part in the 'I'm a Scientist, get me out of here!' online activity!



The X-factor style competition where the scientists are battling it off to win £500 and the students are the judges!

All students engaged in a 30-minute live chat with the scientists, having the opportunity to ask them the questions that they have always wanted to know the answers to! St Alban's students were praised for their thoughtful and detailed questions. Enthused by the competition, we decided to host one of our own! The students wrote a newspaper article about the experience and the winning article for each class were awarded 5 house points!

Congratulations to Sophia (9WS/9X1) who won the competition for the whole year group and has won an additional 5 house points and a £20 Amazon voucher!

The winning article can be read at the end of this newsletter.

BOOST!

'Boost' is a new and exciting programme launching in January 2019 to promote all the amazing clubs and activities we have on offer here at St Alban's.

Students will be rewarded for BOOSTING their St Alban's experience with specific 'Boost' house points.

One boost point will be awarded for attendance at lunch time activities and two for after school clubs. Once students accumulate 25 boost points they will be awarded with their 'Bronze Boost' badge. 50 boost points will earn them their 'Silver' badge and 75 points their 'Gold' badge. With every badge they will get entered into a prize draw!

At the end of the Spring term one student from each activity will be selected by the activity co-ordinator to become a 'Boost Champion'. Check out the BOOST timetable at the end of the newsletter!

Year 11 Geography Trip

Mrs Welbourne, Head of Geography

On Friday 30 November, Year 11 geographers spent the day at Stratford, London. We had a tour around the Olympic park looking at how the area was used during the Olympics and how it is being developed now.

The Olympic park is an excellent example of a sustainable urban environment.

We were lucky enough to visit the Aquatic centre and the Velodrome both amazing buildings. After the Learning part of the day, students did a little shopping in Westfield Shopping Centre.



Love Ipswich Update

Mrs Marcus

On behalf of the team at Love Ipswich I would like to say a big 'Thank You' to all the students, parents and staff who contributed to this year's 'Hamper Appeal'. It has been our most successful year yet, and we really couldn't have done it without your support.

Due to your immense generosity 181 hampers will be delivered to the most vulnerable and deprived families in Ipswich, helping them to enjoy a really special lunch and have a Christmas to remember.

This year we were really pleased to partner with organisations such as Social Services, East Anglia's Children's Hospice (EACH), Headway, Suffolk Mind, Icenis and lots of local schools. We know from speaking to our partner agencies that the Christmas Hampers we prepare very year meet a very real and current need for the people of Ipswich. Food poverty is a huge problem in our town and is increasing year on year. We want our hampers to provide so much more than a Christmas lunch, we want them to communicate value, concern and love.

We were overwhelmed by the amount of items that were brought in and by the wonderful enthusiasm shown by all our students. Each form group aimed to provide one Christmas hamper, and this target was 'smashed' by some tutor groups who made over 5.

Again we thank you for your support and will update you regarding the journey of our hampers.



I'm a Scientist Get me out of here



A horse lover, a pizza craver and a blood hater. These people are some of the world's most influential scientists, and just some of the ones who were part of this year's line-up. Do you have unanswered questions? Have you ever thought about being a laser gun operator? Or are you just interested in what jobs involve science and what science is all about. Whatever your interests are, I'm A Scientist Get Me Out Of Here is the thing for you!

On 05/11/2018 year 9 had the fantastic opportunity to talk to 6 leading scientists via a live chat room. They were given the opportunity to ask them any questions they wanted ranging from "when does the sky become space" and "what exactly is the field of astrophysics". The 6 scientists answered their questions as best as they could. After, Year 9 had a vote on which scientist they wanted to win. Whoever won would receive £500 pounds to spend on promoting science in different ways. The image below shows what a basic scientist profile looks like.



“ They actually **feel** like they have a say in things”

- Teacher



The site provides different 'zones' on which you can talk to different scientists. Each scientist creates a profile on which they put their qualifications, favourite food, what their job consists of and what they would do with the prize money. Year 9 was in the 'einsteinium zone'.

Thanks to this once in a life time experience, Year 9 have developed their interest and curiosity about science.

BOOST your St Alban's experience & earn house points!

1 BOOST point for attending a lunchtime activity.
2 BOOST points for attending an after school activity.

BOOST!

Week 1

25 BOOST points = **Bronze** badge
50 BOOST points = **Silver** badge
75 BOOST points = **Gold** badge
All points contribute towards the house cup!

	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
<i>Lunch</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∞ Art Club (A2 & A3) All years – HM & WR ∞ Wind/Jazz band (A8) All woodwind/brass players – AL/RB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∞ Art Club (A2 & A3) All years – HM & WR ∞ Card Club (A6) All years – WS ∞ Boys Vocal Group (A8) Year 7-9 BOYS – AL/RB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∞ Art Club (A2 & A3) All years – HM & WR ∞ English Ambassadors (Library) All years – SR ∞ LEGO club (T3) Year 7-9 – BX & JON ∞ String Orchestra (A8) All string players – AL/RB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∞ Maths club (R15) Year 8&9 – SI ∞ Collective (A9) All Years – Beth ∞ Choir (A8) All years – AL/RB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∞ Chess Club (R14) All years - TOD
<i>After School</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∞ Advanced Skills Club (T3) Year 7&8 – KE ∞ Netball Year 7&8 – LW/SE ∞ Basketball (Boys & Girls) Year 9-11 - RC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∞ Art Club (A2 & A3) All years – HM & WR ∞ GCSE PE theory & PEP Year 10&11 – DE/RC ∞ Study zone Years 7&8 – R21 Years 9-11 – A6 ∞ Grade V Music Theory AL/RB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∞ Football (Boys & Girls) Year 7&8 – DE/RC ∞ Music Coursework Catch up & Revision Years 10,11,13 – AL/RB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∞ Art Club (A2 & A3) All years – HM & WR ∞ STEM club (SC7) All years – CD & BR ∞ Creative Writing (R23) All years - SR ∞ PE matches & Fixtures TBC. ∞ Study zone Years 7&8 – R21 Years 9-11 – A6 ∞ Music Coursework Catch up/Revision Years 10,11,13 – AL/RB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∞ Ukooles (R15) All years - SI

BOOST your St Alban's experience & earn house points!

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BOOST!

Week 2

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<i>After School</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∞ Advanced Skills Club (T3) Year 7&8 – KE ∞ Open Photography Studio (S13) Year 7&8 – NE ∞ Netball Year 9-11 – LW/SE ∞ Basketball (Boys & Girls) Year 7&8 - RC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∞ Art Club (A2 & A3) All years – HM & WR ∞ A Level PE Revision – Year 12 & 13 - DE/RC ∞ Study zone Years 7&8 – R21 Years 9-11 – A6 ∞ Grade V Music Theory AL/RB ∞ Netball Fixtures TBC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∞ Football (Boys & Girls) Year 9-11 – DE/RC ∞ Music Coursework Catch up & Revision Years 10,11,13 – AL/RB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∞ Art Club (A2 & A3) All years – HM & WR ∞ STEM club (SC7) All years – CD & BR ∞ Creative Writing (R23) All years - SR ∞ PE matches & Fixtures TBC. ∞ Study zone Years 7&8 – R21 Years 9-11 – A6 ∞ Music Coursework Catch up/Revision Years 10,11,13 – AL/RB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∞ Ukooles (R15) All years - SI