

St Peter's Catholic School Newsletter

16th October 2023



Our Faith



Did your son/daughter miss out on making their First Holy Communion or Confirmation?

If so, and you would like them to receive these most precious sacraments, St Peter's may be able to run a communion/confirmation programme with Fr Andrew from Our Lady of the Wayside's loyal team of catechists. [Click this form to express your interest.](#)

Last week, our assembly theme was being Attentive in our Community. Mr Shelton led the assemblies where the pupils were reminded of the Catholic Social teachings of participation and subsidiarity. Like in the Gospel reading last Sunday, assemblies provided time to reflect on the roles we play in our local communities from school to parish and how everybody needs to play their part. As St John Henry Newman said "God has created me do him some definite service, he has not given to anybody else". We prayed that we are receptive to God's call and are able to carry out whatever mission is in store for us.

This week, our assembly theme continued to explore the Catholic Pupil Profile Values of being Attentive and Discerning, specifically being Attentive to the needs of the Wider World. Sunday's scripture readings include the Psalm 'The Lord is my Shepherd' reminding us to follow the right path. On Wednesday 25th June, we will be inviting all members of the school community to take part in 'Go Without on Wednesday'. Our Sixth Form students and staff will be invited to abstain from something and have simple soup and bread roll donating money to St Chad's

Sanctuary which looks after those most in need. Pupils are invited to go without but have a 'Porridge Pot for Poverty'. Mrs Caley, our cook will be making a huge bowl of fresh porridge for 8am on Wednesday morning. Pupils are welcome to have some in return for a donation and then go without something they usually have. Throughout this month of October, we are having a special devotion to Our Lady of the Holy Rosary. Each day a different group will gather in our school chapel to pray a decade of the Rosary. Last week, we focussed on the joyful mysteries, while this week it was the sorrowful mysteries. The reverence of the children in this most traditional of Catholic prayers has been very impressive.

Our Lady of



Your Parish Priests would love to see you at one of the Sunday masses

Olton Friary – 9am, 11am and 6pm

Our Lady of the Wayside 5.30pm (Saturday) and 10am

St Augustine's, Solihull – 12.30pm (Saturday), 9am and 11am

St Thomas More – 5.30pm (Saturday) 9am and 11am.

St George and St Theresa – 5.30pm (Saturday) 8.45am and 10.30am

Assessment Periods (week beginning)

Key Stage 3	Key Stage 4	Key Stage 5
Year 7 22nd January 2024	Year 10 22nd January 2024	Year 12 15th January 2024
Year 8 22nd January 2024	Year 11 6th November 2023	Year 13 6th November 2023
Year 9 20th November 2023		

Faith is Our Foundation



Message from Mr Shelton

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of the first half term our year 11 and 13 pupils are busy preparing for their first set of mock examinations. These are extremely important and give an early indication of progress towards the final public examinations next summer. I would urge all year 11 and 13 parents to encourage pupils revise over the half term holiday.

Our extra-curricular programme is in full swing with lunchtime clubs taking place every day. It has been brilliant to see multitude of teams representing the school in a variety of sports. In assemblies for the last two weeks, we have been talking to pupils about the importance of being attentive to the environment and attentive to the school community focusing on the Catholic Social teaching areas of participation and subsidiarity. Our form time Votes for Schools aspect of PSHE is engaging pupils in topical discussions and the results of these discussions can be seen later in the newsletter.

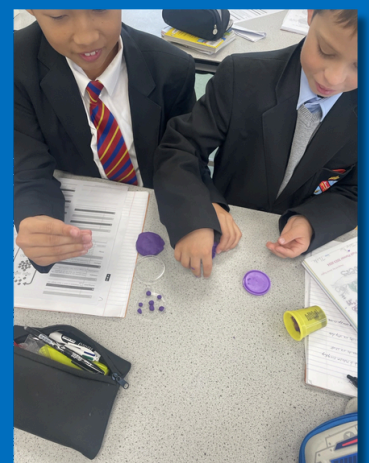
Visiting lessons these last two weeks has been enjoyable. We are working hard to ensure the highest presentation in exercise books and a major focus on literacy and reading in all subject areas. Please encourage your son/daughter to read at home, reading is suggested to have the biggest impact on accessing curriculum content and supporting learning.

As the darker nights approach, can I ask you to remind your son/daughter about the importance of safety on the way to and from school. Wherever possible please try not to travel alone and beware when travelling to keep valuable items safe and away. Pupils travelling by bike should ensure they have adequate lighting and be aware of surroundings.

We want to maintain the highest standards of conduct, uniform, attendance and punctuality right up until the end of the half term. Please do everything you can to ensure your son/daughter arrives on time and with the correct equipment everyday ready to learn.

W/B	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13
2nd Oct	95.4%	90.7%	93.4%	89.2%	93.2%	84.6%	86.9%
9th Oct	95.1%	92.3%	93.6%	91%	91.6%	96.1%	94.6%

Attendance

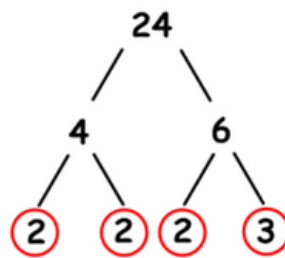


Attentive & Discerning

Year 10 have made an excellent start to their GCSE curriculum. Pupils taking the higher paper can now successfully use the Quadratic formula on their scientific calculators to help them solve Quadratic equations. These pupils will need to learn this formula for their GCSEs at the end of year 11; the more they use it the more they will remember it.

$$\frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a} \quad ax^2 + bx + c = 0$$

Pupils taking the foundation paper have also made a fantastic start to the course. They have been able to solve the highest common factor and lowest common multiple problems using a Venn Diagram. They have also become familiar with key exam style questions using 'Write as a Product of its prime factors' think trees.



The maths department have been impressed by the standard of class and homework, with almost 7000 attempted mathswatch questions! Keep up the great work Year 10.

Subject Focus:
Maths

Director of Learning:
Miss Parton



Year 8 have had an excellent start to this academic year. Standards of behaviour, attitude and punctuality have been exemplary. It has been a very busy time with many extracurricular, theatre opportunities for the year group taking place such as 'The Lion King' in September and 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' next week. This is a fantastic opportunity for many pupils, some of whom have not been to the theatre before. Alongside this, it has been delightful to see so many pupils engaging with our sports clubs. Our school teams have reaped the success of this engagement as shown with the Year 8 boys football team who started off the season with an impressive 14-3 win! This demonstrates year 8 can work collaboratively and follow the Catholic Pupil Profile values of being active and curious.

We've been keeping our students busy with a diverse range of lessons. In English, students are delving into the techniques directors use to create short animated films to achieve specific effects. Meanwhile, in D&T, they're crafting their own CAFOD money boxes and learning the art of isometric drawing. Additionally, they're honing their netball and football skills in PE; in geography, gaining an understanding of the importance of rivers; in history, beginning to explore the Tudor period and in modern foreign language lessons focussing on how to describe their house. This is all part of our broad and balanced curriculum.

This is only the beginning of what will be a wonderful year.

Year Group Focus:
Year 8

Lead Tutor:
Miss Shiner

The Year of St. Joseph

Extra-Curricular Clubs
and opportunities

[@enrichmentstp](https://www.enrichmentstp.com)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before School (8am-8.25)			Badminton (Ms Elton)		
Lunch Time (all sports clubs are in the sports hall) P4a	Badminton (Ms Lucas)		Football (Ms Elton)	Netball (Ms Lucas)	Basketball (Ms Elton)
P4b		Football (Mr Edwards)	Basketball (Mr Edwards)	Badminton (Ms Lucas)	Debate Club, F1.9 (Mrs Przyrodzki)
After School (3pm-4pm)		Netball (Ms Elton & Ms Shaw) Boys' Football (Mr Edwards & Mr Seickell)	Basketball (Mr Seickell & Ms Lucas) Rugby (Mr Edwards) Girls' Football (Ms Shaw & Ms Elton)	Boys' Football (Mr Perret) Boxing* (Mr Mallon, to begin after October half term)	
		KS3 Maths & Chess Club , G2.3 (Ms Shaw) KS4 Maths Drop-In , G2.2 (Ms Parton & Ms McNeil) Geography Club , K1.1 (Mr Hill) 'We will Rock You' rehearsals, Drama Studio (Mr Newbold)	Coding Club , B2.7 (Mr Branson) Social Science Drop In , G1.5 (Ms Hall) 'We will Rock You' rehearsals, Drama Studio (Mr Newbold)	'We will Rock You' rehearsals, Drama Studio (Mr Newbold)	
	<i>*Chargeable activity</i>				

At St Peter's, we study Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE). This is a school curriculum subject that focuses on teaching how to keep young people healthy, safe and prepare them for life and work. PSHE not only supports pupils' health, relationships and wellbeing but also their academic attainment.

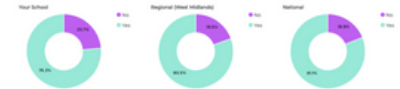
VotesforSchools is an aspect of PSHE that pupils engage in during form time. It is a weekly current affairs-based voting platform designed to engage young people in political and social issues. Through weekly discussion and voting, not only are voters learning about the world around them, but they are also becoming active citizens and preparing for participating in our democratic processes as adults.

We have had nearly 800 votes submitted weekly on a wide variety of topics so far this term, such as 'Do we need to change our attitudes towards recycling e-waste?' in which St Peter's pupils voted 79.6% in favour of. We have also voted on 'Are you scared of failure?', to which 64.1% said they were not, in comparison to 58.9% nationally. More recently we explored arguments about whether UK supermarkets should warn us about shrinkflation – a resounding 76.3% of our students said yes!

Please feel free to visit the website - www.votesforschools.com – to see what our voters will be debating in the coming school week. Ask your son/daughter to give arguments for each side of the debate to encourage critical thinking. When the new VoteTopic is available, the results of the previous topic will be too! Why not ask your son/daughter how they voted and why? Talk to your son/daughter about which issues they would like to see discussed at VotesforSchools. You can let us know their thoughts, or encourage them to reach out to us. info@votesforschools.com www.votesforschools.com.

Should UK supermarkets warn us about shrinkflation?

This week, voters explored shrinkflation during the cost of living crisis. They reflected on whether it is helpful for supermarkets to warn customers about shrinkflation, and considered other solutions.



Should artefacts be returned to where they were taken from?

Following thefts from the British Museum, voters discussed whether artefacts should be returned to the places they were taken from.



Are you scared of failure?

In light of the Lionesses' historic World Cup run, voters explored feelings that are associated with failure and success.



Do we need to change our attitudes towards recycling e-waste?

This was our first VoteTopic of this academic year, voters marked Zero Waste Week with a particular focus on e-waste. Voters considered attitudes towards e-waste, responsibilities, and methods to reduce e-waste.



Votes for Schools,
Mrs Shelton