



## Our Faith The Season of Advent

The Feast of Christ the King was our assembly theme during the last week of November which concludes the liturgical year of the church. This is always Youth Sunday in the church where young people are celebrated. The point of the feast is that Jesus came to talk about a different kind of Kingdom than we are used to in the history books. A Kingdom where swords are turned into ploughshares, where tolerance and respect of difference is celebrated, where the least fortunate are supported by those who have plenty and where peace reigns. Our young people are the future of the church and have the greatest role to play in building this Kingdom. In the words of the last line of I vow to thee my country says "And there's another country ... And her ways are ways of gentleness, And all her paths are peace". This was about celebrating and encouraging all our young people to work towards this. We are now in the season of Advent, a precious time of preparation. The opening hymn at Sunday Mass in one of our local parishes was 'Stay awake, be ready, you do not know the hour when the Lord is coming, Stay awake, be ready, the Lord is coming soon' an invitation to us all to be ready. It is an ideal time to do something extra, consider how we can help others and spend more time in prayer. Opportunity for the sacrament of reconciliation will be available this week in school and we will be getting ready for our Carol Service on Tuesday 19th December and Advent Masses for all year groups before the end of term.

Hope

Peace



Joy

Love

Year 11 inspired to 'be ready' during Mr Palin's Advent Assembly



Parents' Evenings		
Key Stage 3	Key Stage 4	Key Stage 5
Year 7 11th April 2024	Year 10 7th March 2024	Year 12 15th January 2024
Year 8 9th November 2023	Year 11 14th December 2023	Year 13 14th March 2024
Year 9 1st February 2024		

# Faith is Our Foundation

## Personal Development- Choices & impact of social media

Mrs Keane, Deputy Headteacher



As part of our PSHE Curriculum, pupils in Year 8 and Year 9 had an extended presentation on Friday 1st December to illustrate to them the dangers of social media, joint enterprise and knife crime. We had the privilege of welcoming anti violence campaigner Alison Cope to talk to our pupils.

Alison Cope is the mother of Joshua Ribera who was murdered in 2013. She now works tirelessly to help prevent youth violence by sharing her son's unique life and death story to help educate young people on the realities and consequences of youth violence.

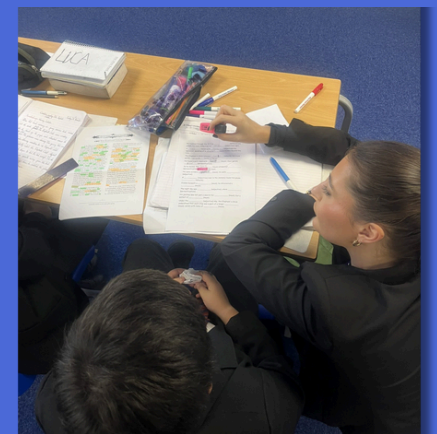
Her story was one of empowerment to make positive choices, despite challenges. We thank Alison for her time and her powerful message and to our pupils who responded so well to the presentation. We know and hope the message received will have a lasting impression on our young people who will continue to make the right choices.

Pupils in Year 7 are really benefiting from the new implementation of the RED curriculum. They are working on a unit of work surrounding creation and covenant which is both engaging and challenging. We have been investigating the creation stories within the Bible and have also been looking at other scientific theories for how the world began. We have developed this by exploring different interpretations of how the theories can be applied by literalist and symbolic Christians. This not only shows pupils the different ideas of how the world came to be, but also about everyone's duty of care for the environment and caring for our planet.

On a similar theme, pupils in Key Stage 5 Core RE have also been investigating the theme of biodiversity during the season of creation. This half term pupils have been encouraged to participate with an entry that is in the form of a written piece or creative piece on biodiversity as part of the Colomban's competition. Pupils who do enter their work are in with a chance of winning £500 which is an opportunity not to be missed! We wish all pupils who the enter the competition our best of luck. We will keep you posted!

## Subject Focus: RE

Mrs Everson, Deputy Director of Learning for RE



## Attendance



W/B	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13
20th Nov	95.2%	92.6%	95.7%	90.4%	91.8%	92.9%	91.7%
27th Nov	95.4%	91.8%	92.1%	88.5%	91.5%	93.9%	91.7%

# Faith-filled & Hopeful

On the 23rd November, a group of Year 11,12 & 13 English Literature and Drama pupils took a trip to watch Shakespeare's tragedy 'Othello'. This experience was unique as we were in a studio environment which seats just 120 members of the public. We surrounded the stage on all sides and the cast appeared right next to and around us. This intimate experience meant that the pupils were drawn effortlessly into the performance and any challenges the younger pupils faced with the Shakespearean language proved irrelevant with such superb acting and presence created. The pupils loved the sheer audaciousness of Iago's villainy, plotting and manipulation and this has since proven a great source of debate in lessons.

'Othello', Crescent Theatre

Mrs Przyrodzkzi



## Catholic Schools KS5 Debate Competition

Mrs Przyrodzkzi



On the 24th November, we hosted the KS5 Catholic Schools Debate Competition here at St Peter's. With six schools represented with a total of eight teams it was a highly competitive competition. Each school picked a motion out of a hat and were given an hour and a half to research, prepare and learn a speech for both a proposer/opposer and research and prepare a strategy for the seconder.

Our Year 12 team of Joe B, Christi U, Sean K and Brent F worked well together and created an excellent and articulate response to their motion. They represented us wonderfully.

Sincere thank you to the judges for giving up their time and for the guidance, insight and feedback given to each team.

On the 23rd November, pupils in Year 12 were invited to watch an online nationwide broadcast which delved into the latest trends and innovations within selected industries which are shaping the future of the job market. They were able to choose from one of the following eight parallel industry-specific streams:

- Trends in Electrical Engineering
- Trends in Information Technology
- Trends in Civil Engineering
- Trends in Mechanical Engineering
- Trends in Marketing & Management
- Trends in Trade & Services
- Trends in Healthcare
- Trends in Finance

This resulted in a personal, appealing, and compelling viewing experience for all pupils. All pupils received a complimentary worksheet, along with an educational e-book about trends in their industry field and other useful career development topics, together with tips for super-curricular activities.

This is just one example of how we are enhancing our pupil's understanding of the world post-A-level.

## READYCON 2023

Mrs Przyrodzkzi



# Solidarity

## Solihull St. Alphege Rotary – Youth Speaks Competition

Mrs Przyrodzkzi



St Peter's were again invited to attend a debate organised and promoted by Solihull St. Alphege Rotary. We entered two senior teams who enjoyed the experience of speaking on a public platform. Each team consisted of three members with each taking a specific role: a Chairperson, a Proposer (speaking for the motion) and an Opposer (speaking against the motion). They formulated their own ideas on a pertinent topic and excelled at the opportunity to learn and practise high standards of expression, presentation and appearance. They received feedback and assessment for their performance by experienced adjudicators and although we did not win – it was exceptionally close!

They did St Peter's, their families and themselves proud. Well done Isabella C, John D, Francesca F, Christie U, Brent F and Joe B.

In an empowering full-day workshop, our Year 10 pupils honed invaluable life skills through an oracy program led by the esteemed Speaker's Trust. The event, expertly spearheaded by our speaker Jenny Stewart-Cosgrove, immersed pupils in practical exercises aimed at enhancing their ability to articulate ideas confidently in public.

The journey began with a universal sense of anxiety among participants when faced with public speaking. Throughout the day, however, every pupil exhibited commendable growth in their self-assurance. The workshop not only dismantled initial apprehensions but also provided a safe space for fostering newfound confidence.

The impact goes beyond the classroom, as some pupils are now inspired to participate in regional oratory competitions. This offers them a chance to not only showcase their newfound skills but also opens doors to potential cash prizes. The workshop stands as a testament to our commitment to nurturing holistic development, preparing our pupils for a future where effective communication is an indispensable asset.

Speak Out, Speaker's  
Trust

Mr Mallon, Associate  
Assistant  
Headteacher



## NEC Good Food Show

Mrs Morris-Walcott



30 Year 10 and 11 pupils had an amazing time at the Winter Good Show NEC on the 23rd November. They had the opportunity to watch Nadia Hussain making egg curry and semi frozen Kulfi (ice cream), which was later enjoyed by both staff and pupils.

Our pupils were given the freedom to explore and taste the range of foods on offer from the different stalls. By far the most popular food items with pupils was the wagyu beef, honey, biltong, noodles, and spicy pepper sauce (Grim Reaper). We are lucky we were able to bring Mr Seickell back as the sauce blew his head off! Throughout the day pupils won prizes including table towels and wooden spoons when they played Tomato Mutti. A great, food-filled day had by all.