



Our Faith The Season of Advent

"I wish it could be Christmas everyday" is a Christmas classic which most people will have heard many times either in a shop, on the radio or on the TV. A sentiment that while farfetched, speaks of the true meaning of Christmas. As we journey through the final days of advent, it is heartening to see all the gifts that are being exchanged, some for Secret Santa's and some ready for the big day itself. But for most of us, the gift itself is secondary to the love that comes with it and we appreciate the gift as a sign that another person cares about us. Advent has permitted us to have hope in a future where peace will reign and the message of love brought by Jesus on that first Christmas will bring joy to all who embrace it. Our hearts are true cradle where Jesus lies, and as we celebrate and remember that first Christmas, we remember the time when love shone down and the baby Jesus was born to show us a new way.

Emmanuel, meaning 'God is with us', is what Jesus' birth meant, the ultimate sign of God's love for his people. And this message was for everybody, gentile and jew, the servant and the King, literally everyone. Jesus' birth in a stable showed how God works on our level and where there is pain and suffering, as may be the case for some at Christmas, our God understands and is there with us. Christmas everyday: perhaps not, but the Hope, Peace, Love and Joy of Christ is certainly something we can wish for every day.

Hope

Peace



Joy

Love



If you are concerned about someone sleeping rough, send an alert to thestreetlink.org.uk. Alternatively, call the Rough Sleeping Team during office hours on 0121 303 1116, or out of hours on 0800 8807157.



Staff Christmas Jumper Day

On Friday 8th December, St Peter's staff and Sixth Formers dusted off their best Christmas jumpers, along with extra tinsel, baubles, and flashing lights, in honour of Christmas Jumper Day.

This year's donning of festive fare was to show support and raise money for **SIFA Fireside**. SIFA's mission is to provide essential support for those who are vulnerable and looking for long-standing and sustainable routes out of homelessness.

St Peter's are proud to continue their ongoing support for SIFA and this year to help rebuild lives with safety and dignity.

Faith is Our Foundation



Message from Mr Shelton

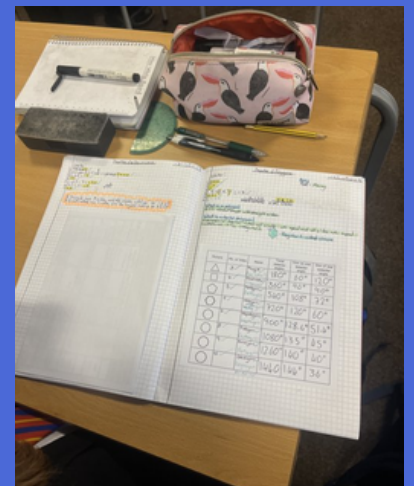
As we enter the final week of the autumn term, it is an opportunity to reflect on a busy, eventful and productive time. It seems a long time ago since we started back in September, when we welcomed our new year 7 pupils who have settled in extremely well and made a positive transition from the various primary schools. Year 11 and Year 13 have been busy preparing for their important public examinations and have recently completed their first round of mock examinations. Results have recently been returned and the subject specific interventions have started, attendance has been encouraging, we hope this level of attendance can be maintained. The build up to Christmas is always a special time and the St Peter's community do a brilliant job. The advent Masses, Christmas dinners, carol services and other activities make the final few weeks busy but a great time to bring the community together.

The next term is extremely short, two five week half terms will see us quickly approach Easter. During this half term, Year 9 will be thinking about GCSE options and Year 10 completing the first year of their GCSE courses. Our Catholic Pupil Profile will ensure we continue to develop those important whole - child aspects of Catholic Social Teaching which means all our pupils use their God-Given talents for the good of our special community. Maintaining the highest standards of attendance, punctuality, conduct and attitude to learning has been a clear message and will be expected as we enter 2024 and the Spring term. I wish you all an enjoyable and restful Christmas holidays, a joyous New Year and look forward to seeing everyone back safe and well on Tuesday 9th January 2024.



W/B	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13
4th Dec	94.4%	91.9%	90.4%	88.1%	98.4%	92.1%	91.5%
11th Dec	93%	90.1%	91.7%	88.1%	91.8%	90.9%	90.6%

Attendance



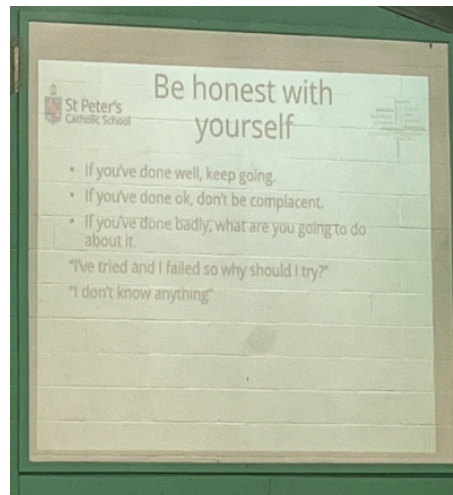
Please note our Spring term begins on Tuesday 9th January 2024 for all year groups.

Hope

Year 11 mock results morning was held on Tuesday 12th December followed by parents' evening on 14th December. This was an opportunity to celebrate with those pupils who have been working conscientiously and to recognise those efforts. It was also a time to reflect for those who know that they need to be putting more effort and work in if they are to achieve their potential in the summer exams. Thank you to parents for the role you play in supporting and encouraging your son/daughter to always do their best. The next six months will be hard work for Year 11 but it will be worth it for those celebrations on results day.

Year 11 mock results morning

Mrs Ferry, Associate Assistant Headteacher (KS4)



Year 13 mock results morning

Dr Aslam, Associate Assistant Headteacher (KS5)

Year 13 mock results morning was held on Wednesday 13th December. The culmination of months of hard work and dedication was evident on the faces of our pupils, and teachers stood ready to provide guidance and reassurance. It was a morning that showcased not only the academic achievements, but also the resilience and determination of our Year 13 cohort. With under 150 days to go till the exams begin, we have seen so many pupils focus their minds on what they need to do to achieve the grades required to go to University or to pursue the pathway of their choice. Congratulations to our pupils on their efforts, and thank you, parents, for your continued partnership.

Peace

Student COP28 Conference

Miss Grace

On Thursday 7th December, 5 climate-passionate Year 11 pupils gathered in the Solihull Civic Suite to replicate the COP28 Conference. With each of the 7 participating schools sending a team of pupils to represent one of the participating countries, we all engaged in an interesting and lively debate about the impacts of the Climate Crisis. St Peter's was assigned the UK - sounds easy in theory, but our pupils had to field a plethora of challenging climate questions!

The pupils then voted on and unanimously agreed the agenda - a task which usually takes days for the real conference! Each country then put forward their opening statements, outlining how the Climate Crisis is impacting upon their country and outlining their climate change targets. Many of the countries stressed the urgency of addressing the problems, with several highlighting the impacts of severe weather upon their countries.

The conference was opened by the Mayor of Solihull, Mrs Diana Holl-Allen MBE, joined by the Leader of Solihull Council, Councillor Ian Courts allowing pupils to engage in a Q & A about tackling climate change in the Solihull borough. Another Solihull councillor added to these comments and apologised to the pupils for his generation not acting early enough to tackle the Climate Crisis. "Your questions are much more challenging than those I get from the opposition!" He welcomed emails from pupils on ideas for tackling climate change.



We even convinced Councillor Courts, the leader of Solihull councillor, to release a press release (available here: [Solihull Council welcomes schools for model COP28 summit | solihull.gov.uk](https://www.solihull.gov.uk)) outlining what Solihull council has done to tackle climate change in recent years.

Well done to Niamh L, Finlay W, Katie H, Hemalata C and Alexis L who so passionately and articulately put forward their climate arguments.

Christmas Lunches

Nearly 500 pupils opted to have a traditional Christmas dinner last week. Our kitchen staff worked tirelessly and pulled out all the stops to put on a great feast of turkey with all the trimmings. Crackers were pulled and the atmosphere was great, including an impressive singalong to some festive favourites. Thanks to parents who supported this.



Solidarity

Ensuring our pupils have access to the resources they need both in and outside of school is of paramount importance to us which is why the school have now begun to adopt Microsoft Teams as a primary source of sharing resources and setting homework for our pupils. Our teachers will also be using Microsoft Teams to provide access to knowledge organisers, articles and post messages so that our pupils can remain informed and up to date with their learning.

Microsoft Teams

Mr Mallon, Associate Assistant Headteacher



We know this is a change to how we have operated previously and we will be providing support for pupils while they get used to this change. We will be adding in the facility for our Parents/Carers to help keep a track of their son/daughter's progress too in the coming weeks. In the meantime, please support your son/daughter by ensuring they know how to log on and navigate their way through this resource.

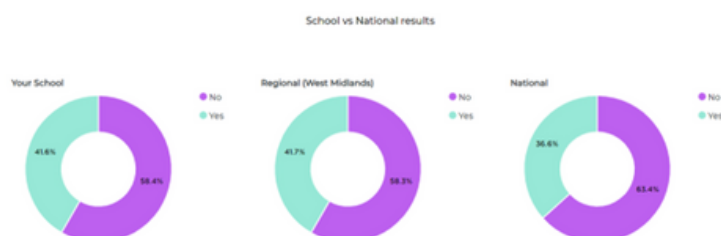
Votes for Schools is an aspect of PSHE that pupils engage in during form time. To mark Children's Grief Awareness Week, voters at St Peter's considered what peer support looks like when it comes to bereavement. They reflected on the different actions we can take to be there for our loved ones, and reflected on how confident they would feel putting these into practice should they need to, engaging in the discussion: "Would you know how to support a friend if someone important to them died?" Nationally 65% of young people said they would feel able to offer support, at St Peter's 61% of pupils said they would. Pupils who voiced finding this difficult, as very often adults do, were signposted to our DSL's at school and also to national support sites such as Grief Encounter.

Votes for Schools

Mrs Shelton, Director of Learning: PSHE

We have also explored the topic of homelessness where voters were asked to think more closely about who should be looking out for people who are homeless, debating: 'Is it everyone's responsibility to end homelessness?' We had 832 pupils vote and 58.4% voted no to this question, some suggesting it was the responsibility of government to help those most vulnerable in society.

832 VOTES FROM YOUR SCHOOL Regional results vs national results



More recently, voters at St Peter's joined in celebrating International Day of People with Disabilities (IDPWD), which took place on 3rd December. They considered the ways in which technology can improve accessibility for all and debated: "Is technology the answer to improving accessibility?"

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 info@votesforschools.com.

Joy

Subject Focus: Drama

Mr Newbold, Director of Learning: Performing Arts

This half term our year 7 pupils have been studying the Roald Dahl short story 'Lamb to the Slaughter'. Pupils have been busy learning lines and performing with large, exaggerated characters - in a 'Dahl-like' way. Pupils were given scripts and asked to learn their lines ready to perform a short extract of the story - building up to the dark twist in the middle of the story. Our year 7s have been learning about dramatic irony - where the audience knows something that the characters don't - and have been exploring ways to perform with this in mind. These two elements: dramatic irony and 'Dahl-like' characters, form the main focus of the pupils' assessments either side of the Christmas break.

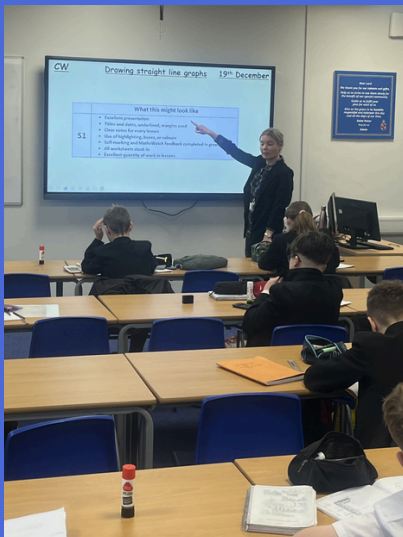
Message from the Killer Queen - As we run Headlong towards our opening night in January, the cast of 'We Will Rock You' are beginning to feel Under Pressure to learn their lines and practice their harmonies. They know that their performance will come around in a Flash, so in order to ensure they feel the opening night (A) Kind Of Magic pupils have been rehearsing three times a week. Pupils from across the school have been getting involved by designing our tickets and programme as well as participating in a competition across the Radio GaGa to win tickets in their tutor groups. Tickets for our Bohemian Rhapsody will go on general sale soon.

Thank you to our Year 10 GCSE pupils who visited Ardenlea Court Care home this week. The pupils performed a range of Christmas pieces as well as a few well-known sing alongs which the residents enjoyed. Our pupils who were an absolute credit to the school!



Year Group Focus: Year 9

Mr Stowe, Lead Tutor



Year 9 have had a fantastic start to the year. Pupils have shown great maturity and resilience this year with standards of punctuality and in particular, attendance being the best in the school. Many of our pupils have already taken advantage of extra curricular clubs and activities. Mrs Morris Walcott also took a group of Year 9s to France in half term and despite the storms the trip was a resounding success with all pupils enjoying their time abroad.

Year 9 also had the opportunity to listen to guest speaker, Alison Cope, who discussed a very personal issue of knife crime. In an emotional and inspiring talk, Alison stressed the importance of pupils keeping themselves safe on their mobile phones and when out with friends. It was a talk that both staff and pupils will remember.

We look forward to Christmas and the new year where Year 9 pupils will need to begin to think about GCSE options and their future pathways. More information will be available in the new year but until then I wish all of Year 9 a safe and restful Christmas.

Faith is Our Foundation

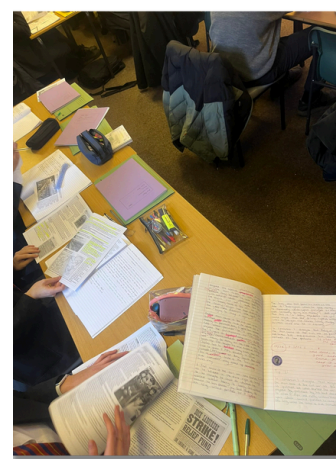
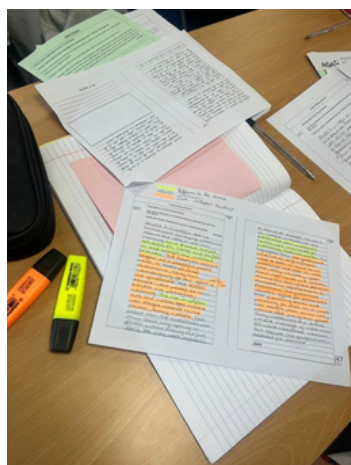
"We are not makers of history. We are made by history."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

What an absolute pleasure it was to immerse ourselves in our History Curriculum this term. We visited a range of lessons from Years 7-13 and were impressed with how articulately, passionately and positively our pupils spoke about their provision here at St Peter's. There is a clear sense of enjoyment and enthusiasm for the subject as well as many talented scholarly historians. The department is expertly led by Mrs Kelleher and together with the strong expertise of her staff, they deliver quality first teaching to our pupils; instilling a love and passion for their subject while ensuring all pupils meet our high standards and expectations. We were particularly impressed with the quality of feedback and the great pride pupils have in their exercise books. Well done to our history department and our pupils and thanks to Mr Griffiths from St Edmund Campion who joined us on the day.

Internal Subject Review:
History

Ms Keane, Deputy
Headteacher



Key Stage 3 Awards
Evening, 7th December
2023

Mr Williams, Deputy
Headteacher

A wonderful atmosphere was felt by all at the first Celebration Evening on Thursday 7th December.

Nearly 50 pupils were invited into school, with their families, to receive prizes and praise for success in the preceding academic year. Each department nominated a pupil from last year's Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 who had excelled in their subject. These awards were distributed before an excellent rendition of 'Ain't no mountain high enough', performed by some Year 10 stars.

Following the musical interlude, special awards were presented. Our St Joseph Award was presented to pupils who have worked really hard, appropriate as St Joseph is the patron saint of workers. Pupils consistently showing kindness to others received the Our Lady of Compassion Award while three pupils who totally embody the spirit of St Peter, were presented with an award named after our patron. All who attended commented on how enjoyable it was.



Love

A-Level Computing Science
Trip to Bletchley Park

Mr Branson, Director Of
Learning: Computing &
Business

Fifteen of our A Level computer science pupils recently visited Bletchley Park, the renowned site associated with code breaking and the legacy of Alan Turing during World War II. The pupils embarked on an engaging guided tour that investigated the park's historical significance, shedding light on the selection process for code breakers and offering insights into their daily lives at Bletchley. Additionally, the pupils participated in an outstanding practical workshop exploring the evolution of encryption, tracing its journey from the Second World War to contemporary applications such as WhatsApp and internet security. The day not only enriched their understanding of technological history but also provided valuable insights on the evolution of encryption methods that play a crucial role in today's digital landscape.



'A Christmas Carol' at The
Crescent Theatre,
Birmingham

Daisy W & Chloe D
(11Thomas)

On the 7th of December, we went to The Crescent Theatre in Birmingham, to see Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol'. Many of the Year 10 and 11 pupils who came along are preparing to sit their English literature exam and so this trip to the theatre to see a wonderfully crafted production was an excellent source of revision, as-well as entertainment.

The show itself consisted of a great cast, all of whom portrayed their roles well. The set and costumes were particularly creative, and the use of props was very well organised. As current year 11 pupils preparing to be able to write about literature texts, it was particularly useful in helping us prepare and was a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

Thank you to Miss Woodall and all the other teachers who helped organise this trip.



The Season of Advent

Olton Friary Christmas 2023 Service Times



The Sacred Heart
Fathers and Brothers
thank you for all your support
throughout the past year
and wish you and your family
the blessing of
Peace and Happiness
this Christmastide
and for the New Year.



Picture by
Toby Chaplin Y4
Our Lady of Compassion
Catholic Primary School

Sunday 3rd December Masses 9am, 11am and 6pm	<i>1st Sunday of Advent</i>	Monday 25th December Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord	<i>Christmas Day</i> Masses 9am. and 11 am
Thursday 7th December <i>Advent Reflections</i>	Mass 10.15am in Day Chapel 7.30pm in Day Chapel	Tuesday 26th December Mass 10.15am in Church	<i>Feast of Saint Stephen the first Martyr</i> <i>St Stephen's Guild Mass</i>
Friday 8th December <i>Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	Our Patronal Feast Masses 7am, 10.15am and 7.30pm in Church	Wednesday 27th December Mass 10.15am in Church	<i>Feast of Saint John, Apostle, Evangelist</i>
Saturday 9th December <i>Confessions 9.30 - 10.00am -and after Mass until 11.30am</i>	Mass 10.15am in Church	Thursday 28th December Mass 10.15am in Church	<i>Feast of The Holy Innocents</i> <i>Special Blessing for Infants & Children</i>
Sunday 10th December Masses 9am, 11am and 6pm	<i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>	Friday 29th December Mass 10.15am in Church	<i>Feast of Saint Thomas Becket Bishop, Martyr</i>
Wednesday 13th December <i>Welcoming the new born King</i>	Mass 10.15am in Day Chapel 7.30 pm in Various Homes	Saturday 30th December Mass 10.15am in Church	<i>Sixth Day within Octave of Christmas</i> Confessions 9.30 - 10.00.am
Thursday 14th December <i>Advent Reflections</i>	Mass 10.15am in Day Chapel 7.30 pm in Day Chapel	Sunday 31st December Masses 9am Celebration of Jubilee Anniversaries, 11am and at 6pm <i>New Year's Eve</i> Candlelit Prayer service before the Blessed Sacrament 9.00pm Followed by Mass at 10.00pm	<i>Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph</i>
Friday 15th December Saturday 16th December <i>Confessions 9.30 - 10.00am - and after Mass until 11.30am</i> <i>Parish Carol Service at 6pm</i>	Mass 10.15am in Day Chapel Mass 10.15am in Church	Monday 1st January 2024 Mass 10.15am in Church	<i>Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God</i>
Sunday 17th December Masses 9am, 11am, 6pm Children's Christmas Crafts – after 9am in Hall	<i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i> <i>Bambinelli Sunday</i>	Sunday 7th January Masses 9am, 11am and 6pm	<i>Solemnity of the Epiphany of The Lord</i>
Monday 18th December <i>Service of Reconciliation at 7-7.30pm</i>	Mass 10.15am in Day Chapel	Monday 8th January 2024 Mass 10.15am in Day Chapel	<i>Feast of the Baptism of the Lord</i>
Thursday 21st December <i>Advent Reflections</i>	Mass 10.15 am in Day Chapel 7.00 pm in Church	Friday 2nd February 2024 Mass 10.15am in Day Chapel .Confirmation 7pm in Church	<i>Feast of the Presentation of the Lord</i> <i>World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life</i>
Friday 22nd December Saturday 23rd December <i>Confessions 9.30 - 10.00am - and after Mass until 11.30am</i>	Mass 10.15 am in Day Chapel Mass 10.15am in Church	Sunday 4th February 2024 Mass 9am Mass of Engaged Couples, 11am and at 6pm.	<i>Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
Sunday 24th December Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers	<i>4th Sunday of Advent</i> Masses 9am and 11 am <i>Christmas Eve</i>		
Carols at 5pm followed by First Mass of Christmas at 5.30pm in Church Carols at 7.30pm followed by Mass at 8pm in Church			

Please check website & parish What's App for any changes to Mass times
Masses will be livestreamed – <https://www.oltonfriary.org.uk> (Church) and
<https://www.youtube.com/@oltonfriary> (Day Chapel).

The Season of Advent

CHRISTMAS AT ST AUGUSTINES

**SUNDAY 24TH DECEMBER
CHRISTMAS EVE**

4.00 PM MASS

**8.00 PM CAROLS AND
READING**

**FOLLOWED BY 'MIDNIGHT'
CHRISTMAS 8.30 PM**



MONDAY 25 TH DECEMBER CHRISTMAS DAY
9.00 AM 11.00 AM

TUESDAY 26 TH DECEMBER FEAST OF SAINT STEPHEN
10.00AM

CONFESSIONS

**PENANCE SERVICE TUESDAY 19TH DECEMBER 7PM OUR LADY
OF THE WAYSIDE CHURCH**

WEDNESDAY 20TH DECEMBER 10.45AM

SATURDAY 23RD DECEMBER 10.45AM-12.00PM

Stay in touch with the school community via X (Twitter)

Departments

School & Catholic Community

D&T and Art: @StPeters_ADT
English: @StPetersEng
History: @StPetershistory
ICT: @St-ict
Maths: @StPetersMath
MFL: @StPetersLangs
PE: @Stpeterspedept
Politics: @Stpeterspol
RE: @StPetersReEd
Science: @StPeters_Sci

Main St Peter's: @StPeterSch
Our Lady and All Saints MAC: @OurLadyandAllS1
Mrs Keane: @VPStPeters
Enrichment: @EnrichmentStP
Careers: @StPsCareers
Sixth Form: @stpeters_sixth

Catholic Education Service: @CathEdService