



The Feast of The Presentation of the Lord



- Human Dignity
- Common Good
- Solidarity
- Subsidiarity
- Participation
- Stewardship
- Preferential Option for the Poor

"Christ be our light, shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness, Christ be our light, shine in your church gathered today", the chorus of this popular hymn has become our theme since Candlemas Day. The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord is always an important one at St Peter's. The day Mary and Joseph presented Jesus as a gift from God in the temple reminds us that what comes from God should be given back to God. In essence, the blessings, talents, and gifts that God has given us, we should use for the service of others. Assemblies invited pupils to reflect on how the best things in life are free, we even had the old Bing Crosby song to remind us. Love, faith, wisdom, loyalty, friendship to name but a few are all things we can't buy in the supermarket or even order on-line but are what comes as a gift from God. Pupils reflected that if we truly live as Jesus taught us and look after our brothers and sisters, these gifts will come in abundance.

The Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, whom we know many in our St Peter's community have a particular devotion to, is a time when we always reflect on the sick and those who care for them. In assemblies we have reflected on the devoted service of those who look after the most vulnerable in society and we pray and thank God for their work.

During half term, the season of Lent began which is always a special time when we traditionally 'give up' and 'do extra'. The Catholic Pupil Profile values we will be particularly focusing on are being Compassionate and Loving as we journey through lent towards remembering Christ's death on the cross: the ultimate sign of God's love.



Parent Questionnaire



Parent Questionnaire

As part of our ongoing ambition to improve our school community we would like to invite you to share your opinions on a variety of aspects within St Peter's Catholic School. Collaboration is important to us as we are committed to improving the experiences your son(s)/daughter(s) has at school. There are 14 questions and it should not take any longer than 5 minutes to complete. The questionnaire closes on the 23rd February 2024. Thank you for taking the time to answer the questions; we value your views.

<https://forms.office.com/e/kehkW1kp9W>

Faith is Our Foundation

Maths Curriculum Review

Mrs Keane, Deputy Headteacher

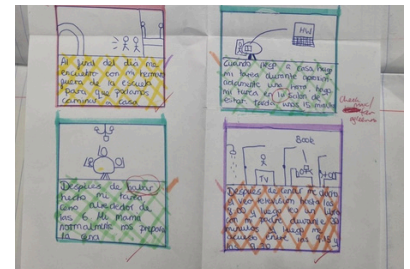
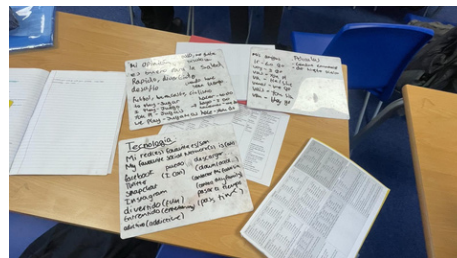
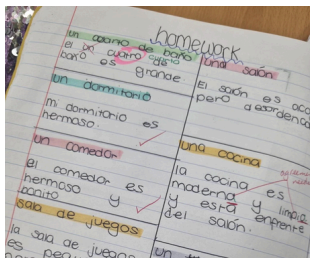
It was an absolute pleasure to explore the maths curriculum here at St Peter's last week. We visited a range of lessons from KS5- KS3, looked at pupils' work and spoke with our articulate pupils who were very positive about their maths provision. We really value our pupils' voice and opinions; it's great that they give us an honest, reflective account of their experience here at St Peter's. Our maths department consistently secure the highest of outcomes for our pupils at GCSE and A-Level often outperforming other schools locally and nationally. The maths department is led effectively by Miss Parton and her team who insist on the highest standards and expectations of all pupils where they stretch and challenge all pupils to reach their potential. We were delighted to welcome expert colleagues from Archbishop Ilsey Catholic School who supported us on the day and we thank them for their insightful comments and feedback. Well done to the maths department and to all our mathematicians here at St Peter's.

Choosing to study languages for your GCSE can open up a world of opportunities and personal growth. Learning a new language is like unlocking a door to a broader perspective, allowing you to connect with different cultures, people, and ideas. It not only enhances your communication skills but also boosts cognitive abilities, problem-solving, and creativity. In today's globalized world, being multilingual is a valuable asset that can set you apart in various fields, as picking a language will provide you with Ebacc that is very much treasured by many Universities.

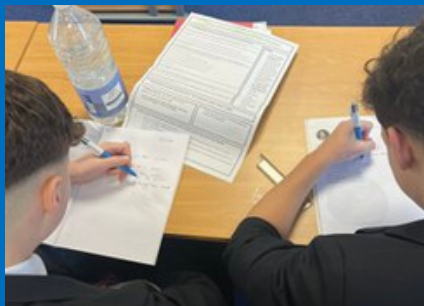
Subject Focus: Modern Foreign Languages

Mrs Mateos, Director of Learning: MFL

Embrace the challenge of learning a new language, as it not only equips you with practical skills but also fosters a sense of curiosity and adaptability. Remember, the journey of mastering a language is not just about exams; it's about expanding your horizons and becoming a more well-rounded and culturally aware individual. So, take the leap, embrace the beauty of linguistic diversity, and watch how it transforms not just your academic path but also your life.



Attendance



W/B	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13
05/02	92.3%	91.9%	91.7%	90.6%	90.7%	92.2%	86.7%
29/01	92%	93.4%	91.1%	91.5%	92.4%	91.3%	85.7%

'We Will Rock You'

Director's Notes

Mr Newbold, Director of Learning: Performing Arts

I am writing this while sat at the back of one of our rehearsals and am blown away by the talent of our young people. This, as you may be aware, is the first large-scale school show in a generation of pupils. Alongside learning lines, working out where to stand, when and how to move, singing and dancing, our company were also learning how to put on a school show and navigate the expectations of school-life and this huge project.

When I speak with staff in the staffroom about their own experiences of school, so often they speak of sports clubs and school shows. I know that from my childhood, some of my favourite times were standing backstage with my friends, waiting for the curtains to open and for the show to begin. We hope that this experience for the pupils is as meaningful for our cast as it was for us.

I would like to thank everyone involved in putting the show together. I am a firm believer that a good school show is not something done to the school, but done by the school – the entire school community. Therefore our year 7s designed the tickets, our year 8s designed the programme cover, tutor groups from across the school have participated in competitions to win tickets to the show. To everyone who has helped engage the community, thank you.

A special thank you and congratulations must go to the creative team involved in the show. Our Musical Director, Mrs Carroll, has led everything that sounds good. Our Stage Manager, Miss Palfrey, has helped 'run' the show – ensuring the pupils are lit, can be heard, and have the props they need – a huge, organisational task. Thank you, also to Mrs Wolfe for her support to jump in throughout the process whenever needed. Thank you also to the team from Production LX for their technical expertise.

Finally thank you to Mr Shelton and the Senior Leadership Team for their support. A lot of trust has been placed on our young people's shoulders to rise to the challenge and I hope you agree with me that the pupils involved have done themselves and St Peter's proud.

Thank you for coming. I hope you enjoyed our show.



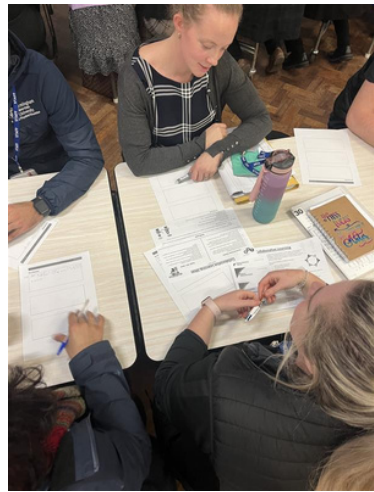
Human Dignity

Bring & Brag, Teaching & Learning Event

Mrs Keane, Deputy Headteacher

It was such a pleasure to host our first 'Bring & Brag' event at St Peter's this week where staff shared tips, advice and strategies on a range of topics from assessment for learning, literacy, behaviour management and subject pedagogy. There was such a buzz and great atmosphere created in the hall where staff shared and listened to each other in a speed dating fashion! Staff came away with a plethora of tried and tested and research informed ideas. At the end, each member of staff nominated who they felt shared the best strategy. There were over 22 different staff nominated which is superb and shows the range of ideas shared and how valuable they were.

Our overall winners were Mr Branson and Mrs Morton with incredible artificial intelligence and ICT tips. Thanks to all staff for their contributions.



On Saturday 27th January 27 pupils from Year 7 to 10 attended the Basketball National Trophy Finals at the Utilita Arena, Birmingham, to watch the best teams in the country battle it out to become National Champions. The event was a superb spectacle and our pupils got to watch and cheer on both the Women's and Men's Finals as well as a great interval 'Slam-Dunk' competition.

Basketball National Trophy Finals

Mr Seickell, Lead Tutor:
Year 10



Duty Pupil

We are always impressed by how willing our pupils are to help out and contribute to the school and the community. Recently, we have restored the role of having a Duty Pupil. One day in the year, pupils in Year 8 will take on leadership responsibilities around school, helping to welcome visitors, supporting visiting staff and undertaking responsibilities to help the school to keep running. We have always found it is a really good experience. Should you not wish your son/daughter to be involved, simply let Miss Shiner know.

Prophetic

Year 12: House of Parliament trip

Mr Court, Teacher of History & Politics



Our year 12 Politics cohort headed down to London on 29th January to have a guided tour around the Houses of Parliament. After parking at All Saints Catholic College in North Kensington, we hopped onto the tube to Westminster. The Palace of Westminster served as the royal residence of Edward the Confessor – a site close to his beloved Westminster Abbey. We visited both Houses of Parliament. Many of the pupils enjoyed the grandeur of the Lords and Mr. Court is always mesmerised by the simplicity and gravitas of the House of Commons. Our tour guide was excellent and was able to probe questions and answers out of the pupils.

Afterwards, we headed over to Parliament Square to see the place where laws of the land are judged to be compatible or incompatible with the European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR): the Supreme Court. Finally, Mr. Court led a self-guided tour down Whitehall, before filling our bellies and heading back towards B91.



Pupils have been getting involved in learning about different types of apprenticeships and T-levels in form time, PSHE and in their lessons. We have had speakers in from different industries speaking to Year 11 and Sixth Form about apprenticeships and really shedding a light on the importance of them as an alternative to other education pathways. Have a look at this parent guide and information regarding T-Levels ([amazingapprenticeships.com](https://www.amazingapprenticeships.com)) and apprenticeships Parent Zone - Amazing Apprenticeships.

The Careers Convention is shaping up to be the best yet, with over 40 different companies attending, open to all pupils from **Year 8-13 on 21st March** from 6pm-7.45pm.

The launch of **Unifrog** continues to be a success. Please encourage your son/daughter to log on at home and complete the quizzes and explore their future options. As it is apprenticeship week they could consider: what apprenticeships are available in our local area?

Work Experience for Year 12 has been launched this week. Make sure to download the Connect-Ed app and get pupil details ready to start finding placements. For Year 10 parents please continue to encourage pupils to find their own placement, and make sure that they log them onto the placement tool on the app, so that their placements can be verified.

KS3 pupils have been finding out about the future of Artificial Intelligence in a live assembly this week and considering what the future holds in various career industries? Keep checking out the updates on X (@StPCareers) for any further information and updates regarding all things careers

Careers Update

Mrs Cross

Faith-filled & Hopeful

On Thursday 1st February, year 11 had the opportunity to go to Poetry Live! at Symphony Hall, Birmingham. At this event, we were able to see many of the poets who we are studying for GCSE and ask questions which helped to expand our contextual knowledge and analysis of the poem. There were also examiner's sessions, where we found out how to tackle the unseen poems question and get in the mindset of how a marker would comment on the different responses to the question without falling into the familiar trap which they discover. We were able to fully understand the poem from the poet's point of view and understand fully the significance of the language within the poems. Overall, the trip was a huge success as it showed us how to approach the questions and understand the poems on a deeper level.

Poetry Live, Symphony Hall

Ava C, Year 11

'Metamorphosis, Belgrade Theatre

Mr Newbold, Director of
Learning: Performing
Arts

On the evening of Thursday 25th January we took a group of 27 KS4 and 5 pupils to Coventry's Belgrade Theatre to watch a production of 'Metamorphosis'. The show was produced by Frantic Assembly, a world-renowned physical theatre company and was an adaptation of the famous Franz Kafka novella of the same name. We took the opportunity to see a challenging piece of theatre, highly stylised, very physical and without a happy ending, to widen the experience of our pupils' theatre knowledge. They loved it. They were enthralled, excited, and intrigued in equal measure. Well done to all who attended, and I'm looking forward to our next theatre experience in March.

Over 80 year 9 pupils went to see 'The Woman in Black' at the Alexandra Theatre on Tuesday 6th February. It was wonderful to see so many pupils willing to give up their evenings (some coming right from winning a football fixture!) to enjoy a night at the theatre with their friends.

'Woman in Black', Alexandra Theatre

Mrs Hutchings, Teacher
of English

It was a wonderfully spooky production, and our pupils contributed to the overall experience for everyone in attendance by ensuring they screamed in all the right places, though we think Miss Woodall probably wins the award for the most 'active' audience member in the scary parts. Our pupils were a credit to the school and ensured that everyone had a lovely evening. Huge thanks to all staff who accompanied the pupils - without this generous gift of their time we would not be able to provide these opportunities.

