



Our Faith

Last Sunday, the Gospel reading at Mass was about the parable of the vine and the branches thinking of God as gardener who tends the plants in the garden. Essentially, this Gospel is about 'making our homes in Jesus', bearing fruit as God tends us. So often, we 'make our home' or plant roots in poor soil focusing on superficial influences such as: materialism, addictions, poor relationships and quick wins. As we get older, we can often see that with the benefit of hindsight, what seemed like the 'end of the world' or the 'most important thing in life' when we were 13 or even 33, in the grand scheme of life doesn't actually matter. But our relationship with the God who loves us unconditionally, Christ the Saviour who provides the perfect roadmap to live by and the love that comes from those we're closest to: is what matters. Our Assembly theme focused on supporting our pupils appreciate this wisdom. Our Catholic Pupil Profile values being Learned and Wise this half term meant it was a perfect time to help provide them with the blessing of hindsight. May is always a month dedicated to Our Lady. Accordingly, our 'Time to pray' bell will change to the chorus of 'As I kneel before you', a most popular of Mariam hymns which proclaims "Ave Maria. Gratia plena, Dominus tecum Benedicta tu", of course meaning 'Hail Mary, full of grace, the lord is with thee, Blessed are you".

Thursday 9th May, Ascension Thursday, is the most magical of feasts where we celebrate Jesus ascending to heaven. The magic of the solemnity is that it provides us with directions as to the place in heaven we are destined for. As the disciples had to say goodbye to the earthly Jesus they knew and loved, the spirit of Jesus lived on in them. In the same way, our loved ones that go before us to heaven, live on in us. The hymn 'This is my body' expresses this beautifully, "Back to my father, soon I shall go, do not forget me, then you will see, I am still with you and you will know you're very close to me". And this is the faith that is foundation. Public exams prevent us from being able to have full whole school masses on this feast day, but it will be marked in school and we encourage all our community to attend mass in their parish on this Holy Day of Obligation.



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



Faith is Our Foundation

Anti-Bullying Ambassador

Amara S-H, Year 7



It was great to meet up as a Wellbeing Department to discuss our roles as anti-bullying ambassadors and Votes for Schools' ambassadors.

We are really proud of the work we've done so far this year. At first, we reviewed how our roles are going to help others, particularly children who are coming from year 6 into Saint Peter's. We have decided to take our message of support and reassurance into a number of our feeder schools in May and June.

We are going to share messages such as: when children come to Saint Peter's, they can always find us as we are recognisable by our Anti Bullying Ambassador badges. They can talk to us so should not feel afraid!

We also began to think about growing our team so we can make more of an impact in our own community here at St Peter's. We felt real pride in reviewing the new anti bullying policy which we helped to write and thinking about how we can make this easier for pupils to remember.

Our ambition is to work together as upstanders, to prevent bullying by teaching others how to spot it and how to take action against bullying behaviour.

Thank you for reading,

Last week, 50 Year 8s had the opportunity to experience the incredibly moving and thought-provoking play 'Blood Brothers' at the Hippodrome in Birmingham. Building upon their recent study of the play in English lessons, pupils got to experience the story of Mickey and Eddie unravelling in front of them.

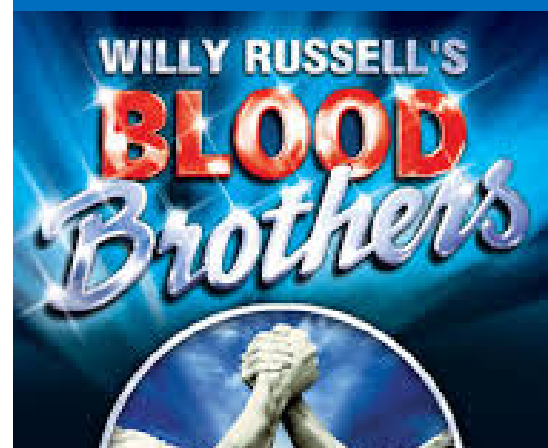
The pupils were captivated by the powerful performances on stage, as they watched the tragic story unfold with every emotion laid bare.

The music and choreography added an extra layer of depth to the production, enhancing the themes and messages of the play.

It was heart-warming to witness how the pupils engaged with the characters and themes on a personal level. This shared experience is sure to leave a lasting impression on their hearts and minds, enriching their understanding of storytelling and theatre.

'Blood Brothers' Theatre Trip

Miss Pope



Attendance



W/B	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13
22/04	94.6%	93.1%	92.7%	89.1%	92.5%	87.9%	88.5%
29/04	93.2%	91.7%	92.5%	91.2%	91.9%	Mock Exams	82.6%

Learned

SUMS, Step to University of Birmingham

Mrs McNeil



On Wednesday 24th April, I had the pleasure of accompanying a group of eight year 12 girls on a trip to the University of Birmingham. The event was run by the AMSP and aimed at encouraging female pupils to apply to university, particularly to study mathematics or other STEM subjects. At various points in the day, the group worked with pupils from other sixth forms on problem solving questions.

They were exposed to maths they would not have encountered at GCSE or A-Level including the beginnings of group theory. During a 'speed networking' session, the girls had the opportunity to talk to current undergraduate pupils about their experiences at university and ask them questions. In another session, they learnt about the university admissions tests and were given a chance to attempt some of the questions to see the differences between each of the tests. The day was top-and-tailed by two recent graduates who had studied at the University Mathematics department, who spoke about their careers and their experiences during and after university. It was great to watch the girls really get stuck in to all the activities, interact with people from different schools and backgrounds, and begin to think seriously about their future pathways.



Year 8 pupils study a varied and highly appropriate set of topics in RE throughout the academic year. For example, in the Autumn term, pupils explore the key Old Testament Covenants with Abraham, Moses and Noah and understand how these important scriptures underpin Christian beliefs today.

They also look at how the Old Testament prophecies, that foretold the coming of Jesus, are as relevant today as 2000 years ago.

In the summer term, Year 8 pupils learn about the Jewish teachings on the Messianic Age and other Jewish beliefs and make the connections with Christian beliefs and teachings.

They will finish at the end of the summer term by looking at an Eastern world religion, such as Buddhism, giving them a greater understanding of world faiths in our community.

Subject Focus: RE

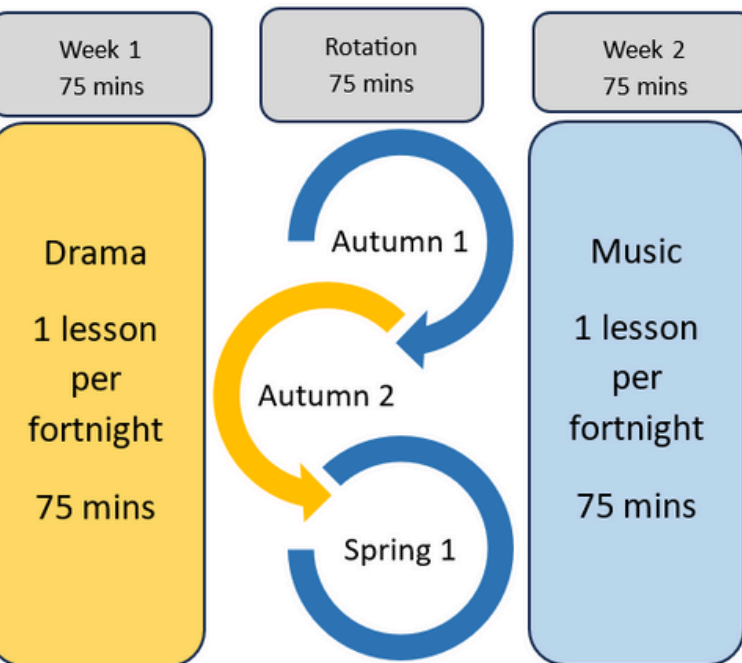
Mr Hill, Director of Learning: RE



Human Dignity

Drama Curriculum Model

Mr Newbold, Director of Learning: Performing arts



As we plan ahead to our new-look curriculum model starting in the Autumn term, our Performing Arts subjects are changing how we structure our curriculum time. To maximise our possible learning time at Key Stage 3 we are moving to a model whereby pupils study three lessons per fortnight across a faculty area in years 7&8 – one lesson per subject, with the remaining lesson rotating between the subjects half-termly.

Towards the end of Year 8, pupils will be given a Performing Arts Pathway option in which they choose which subject they would prefer to continue to study, and which they would like to stop studying. In year 9, pupils will continue to study this one option for two lessons per fortnight and then choose their options as they normally would do ready to start their GCSEs in Y10. We are very excited for the opportunities the Performing Arts Pathway will create for the pupils' learning: increased quality of curriculum time across Key Stage 3, chosen pathway to reflect interests and passions, teachers teach fewer classes and therefore know pupils better – in turn improving the quality of the lessons.

For more information, please contact Mr Newbold, Director of Learning for Performing Arts

On Monday the 29th of April, Year 8 pupils attended a trip to the Black Country Living Museum to support their current enquiry question in History – 'Why was Birmingham and the West Midlands significant to the Industrial Revolution?' Pupils had a wonderful day visiting the different exhibits, going down the mine and eating chips for lunch. They were inquisitive and excellent ambassadors for the school.

Black Country Living Museum

Mrs Kelleher, Director of Learning: History

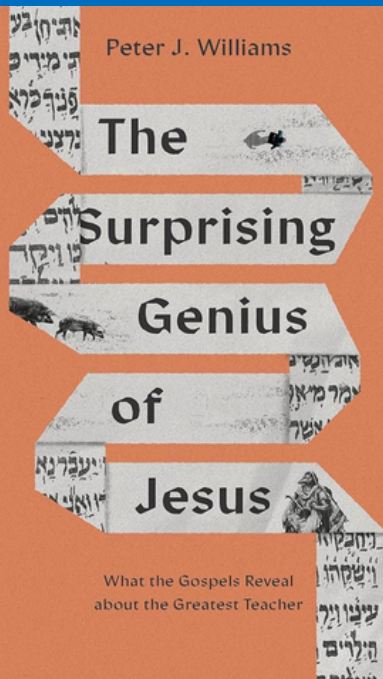


Wise

What we are reading

Mr Court, Teacher of History & Politics

'The Surprising Genius of Jesus' by Peter Williams is a wonderful exploration of not just Jesus as the Son of God but the greatest genius the world has ever seen - an insight into his utter intellectual brilliance. Williams skilfully uncovers the profound wisdom and insights found in Jesus' teachings, revealing a depth of understanding that continues to inspire and challenge readers. A captivating read for seekers and believers alike.



Plastic Bottle Drive

Miss Grace,
Sustainability Lead

In an exciting sustainability and charity collaboration, we have been collecting single-use plastic bottles to repurpose and recycle.

Soon you will be able to buy repurposed planters where all profits will be donated to the FutureSense Foundation charity. We have seen a fabulous uptake of pupils recycling their bottles, with over 500 donated in less than two weeks! All spare bottles are being diligently recycled by our amazing eco committee members, to ensure no bottles go to landfill!

Let's keep making Saint Peter's and Earth a better place, one bottle at a time!

On Friday 24th May 2024, we will be hosting a non-school uniform day in aid of the FutureSense Foundation. This is a charity dedicated to levelling up less-developed countries by working towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. This June, fourteen Year 12 pupils are fundraising for the FutureSense Foundation through an incredible trip to Nepal. The pupils will be running workshops in Shree Saraswati School near Nepal's capital, Kathmandu, working to teach local schoolchildren conversational English through exciting and engaging workshops.

The FutureSense's goals also align closely to the heart of our school's Catholic Social Teaching value of charity (preferential option for the poor) and helps ensure everyone can work towards being stewards of a sustainable Earth.

To support this, we are asking for a £2 donation made payable through ParentPay. Please note we are now a cashless school, so all donations must be made online.

We thank you in anticipation for your support!

Non-School Uniform Day

Miss Grace,
Sustainability Lead



Common Good

Geography Curriculum Review

Mrs Keane, Deputy Headteacher



Our most recent Curriculum Review was in Geography, where we saw a range of lessons across KS3, KS4 & KS5! It's no wonder it's such a popular subject at both GCSE & A-level as the curriculum is highly engaging, current and ambitious! Our pupils spoke confidently and proudly of their provision. When asked why we study Geography one pupil articulately answered, 'because it's our world, God's creation; we need to understand it and also know how to look after it'.

We were grateful for the support of Rebecca Lillington from Summit Learning Trust who joined us on the day. She was particularly impressed with the passion and commitment of our Geography teachers. What struck me the most, was the cross curricular links made in Geography lessons- we saw references to our history curriculum, maths, science and personal development.

Thank you and well done to all our pupils and staff for their on going hard work and efforts, best wishes in particular to our GCSE & Alevel pupils as they approach their examinations.

On Sunday 28th April 2024, many of the staff from St Peter's embarked on an exhilarating adventure as we tackled the Wolf Run together. Through muddy hills, cold rivers, and challenging obstacles, we started the race united as a team and ended it with the same spirit of camaraderie.

Despite the inevitable mud and chill, laughter echoed through the course as we supported each other, even calling upon God's assistance at times and pushed through every obstacle. The experience was not only physically demanding but also incredibly rewarding, as we bonded over shared challenges and triumphs. Together, we embraced the adventure, relishing every muddy step and icy plunge along the way. There are plans for a St Peter's Staff entry into the Wolf Run being organised in September and we hope even more staff join in on the adventure.

Staff Wolf Run

Mr Mallon, Associate Assistant Headteacher



Faith is Our Foundation

Creative Careers Event

Mr Newbold, Director of Learning: Performing Arts

St Peter's attended the Creative Careers Event at The Core Theatre hosted by the Solihull Cultural Education Partnership. The day consisted of a series of expert panels and performances by professionals. On the panel were representatives from a range of art forms, from visual artists, musicians, dramatists, poets as well as television producers and executives, all offering insights and advice to those looking to make their way in the industry. Pupils were also treated to performances by rapper Zimbo, Birmingham's Poet Laureate Jasmine Gardosi and ACE Dance company.



On Wednesday, May 1st, 66 enthusiastic Year 11 pupils embarked on an enriching educational journey to see 'Revision on Tour: Jekyll & Hyde' at the renowned Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham.

The event presented a prime opportunity for revision ahead of the upcoming GCSE English Literature Paper 1 exam. As the curtains rose, the timeless tale of 'Jekyll & Hyde' unfolded, captivating our pupils with its suspenseful narrative and thought-provoking themes. Pupils were not mere spectators at this event but active participants in their revision process. Engaging with the performance, they analysed character motivations, thematic elements, and narrative techniques, reinforcing their understanding of the text. The trip fostered a collaborative learning environment, allowing pupils to exchange insights and perspectives with peers and educators alike. It not only enhanced their academic knowledge but also instilled a deeper appreciation for literature and the performing arts.

'Jekyll & Hyde' Theatre Trip

Miss Woodall, Director of Learning: English





SAVE THE DATE



St. Peter's Catholic School

50th Anniversary Celebration



Saturday

October

26

7.00 PM

THERE WILL BE SCHOOL TOURS
AVAILABLE DURING THE DAY

FORMAL INVITE TO FOLLOW

