

St Peter's Catholic School Newsletter

3rd October 2023



Our Faith



This half term's Catholic Pupil Profile theme focuses us on being attentive to God's will and making good choices. The recent assembly message was being **Attentive to Learning**, inspired by the parable of the workers in the vineyard. This story teaches inclusivity and not comparing oneself to others, with Jesus' message for all regardless of creed or colour. Being truly attentive to God's calling in learning means focusing on the present and not worrying about past failings. This message was celebrated and praised during the week.

Our next assembly theme, **Attentive to the Environment**, will be taking place next week. This event is especially significant as it coincides with the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi on 4th October. St. Francis, known as the patron saint of the environment, has inspired generations to care for our planet through his famous prayer, Laudato Si.

The Gospel this Sunday will feature a comparison between two sons, one who made many promises but little action and the other who did the work dutifully despite his lack of words. In caring for our common home, we believe that actions speak louder than words. While individual steps may seem small, our collective efforts can make a significant impact when put in the Lord's hands.

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 here to express your interest.](#)



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

Parents' Evenings

Key Stage 3	Key Stage 4	Key Stage 5
Year 7 26th October 2023 11th April 2024	Year 10 7th March 2024	Year 12 8th February 2024
Year 8 9th November 2023	Year 11 14th December 2023	Year 13 5th October 2023 14th March 2024
Year 9 1st February 2024		

Faith is Our Foundation



Message from Mr Shelton

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the first edition of the 2023/2024 St Peter's newsletter. Throughout the newsletter we will celebrate the numerous successes achieved by our fantastic pupils and highlight areas of subject and pastoral focus. The pupils have returned from the summer holidays well rested, and I have enjoyed visiting lessons and seeing the levels of engagement and excitement displayed by all classes.

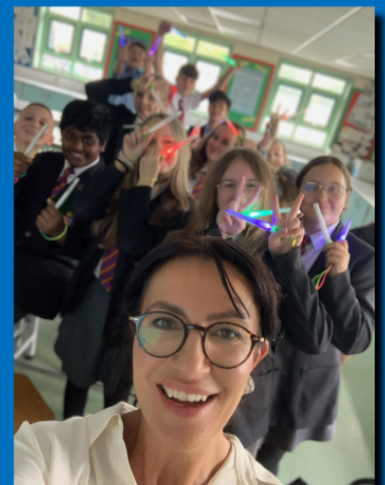
Our new Year 7 pupils have settled in extremely well and have taken every extracurricular opportunity available to them. Our Open School events were a tremendous success. Thank you to all the tour guides, in particular our new year 7s, who did such a brilliant job a couple of weeks ago showing our prospective parents around school. The evening was a wonderful opportunity to meet new and existing families with so many lovely comments back about the pupils and staff.

As well as the Open Evening, we have held an information evening for Year 7 parents focusing on the important areas of literacy, numeracy and e-safety. On Thursday last week, we held our first 'Class of 2023' Year 11 Awards Evening, welcoming pupils and parents to a celebration of academic and personal achievements. One of the many awards was named after Mr Mullen, a former Deputy Headteacher of the school and a prominent figure in the Our Lady of the Wayside Parish in the Solihull and Shirley area. Mr Mullen was renowned for his caring nature, his commitment to the school and the relationships he formed with pupils and families. His memory remains with us as he displayed a sincere care for the pupils at St Peter's. His award was presented to Daniel J (Year 12) for services to the school community.

Following the improvements to the site over the summer, the pupils have responded positively to the environment. The new toilet blocks, classrooms and corridors have made a significant difference to the learning experience. Our standards and expectations of behaviour, conduct, attendance and punctuality remain high and we expect the very best from all of our pupils everyday.

W/B	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13
25th Sept	96.9%	93.5%	92.8%	88.4%	93.1%	90.4%	88.5%
18th Sept	96.5%	94.3%	92.5%	91.7%	92.2%	86.6%	89.8%

Attendance



Attentive & Discerning

We've had an excellent start to the academic year, with our pupils returning well-prepared, focused, and eager for the year ahead. We've emphasised the importance of being fully equipped and ready to learn, with planners and necessary materials on desks at the beginning of each lesson. Every lesson begins with a "DO NOW" activity, designed to help pupils quickly engage with the material, reinforce prior knowledge, and enhance their long-term memory. These activities are intentionally challenging but create a supportive environment where making mistakes is encouraged to foster resilience.

Our Year 7 pupils have adapted impressively to learning at St Peter's, tackling a broad curriculum with enthusiasm. To further develop literacy skills and promote pupil responsibility for learning, we've introduced a literacy strategy called 'Pink for Think.' Teachers will use highlighters to identify common literacy mistakes, including spelling errors, which pupils will then correct and learn from.

We're grateful to our dedicated staff and motivated pupils for the strong start to the term.

To stay updated on the exceptional learning experiences at St. Peter's, please follow us on Twitter/X at [@VPStPeters](https://twitter.com/VPStPeters), where we regularly share highlights from our classrooms.

Teaching and Learning:
What to expect in our
classrooms

Mrs Keane, Deputy
Headteacher



Behaviour &
Expectations

Mr Stanton, Assistant
Headteacher

At St Peter's, we aim for the highest possible standards in behaviour for all of our pupils to ensure we have an effective learning environment and to achieve the best possible outcomes for all of our pupils.

During the first week of term, I shared with pupils the school's expectations during a week of assemblies and I would like to convey these to our families and ask for your continued support with upholding these:

- to attend school on time, everyday;
- to be respectful to all members of the school and wider community at all times;
- to work to the best of our abilities in all subjects;
- to follow any instructions which are given, first time, every time.

Thank you to all the pupils and families who have offered such a warm welcome since my arrival at St Peter's, I look forward to working alongside everyone to continue to uphold the high standards that have already been established.

The Year of St Joseph

Extra-Curricular Clubs and opportunities



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before School (8am-8.25)			Badminton (Ms Elton)		
Lunch Time (all sports clubs are in the sports hall)	Badminton (Ms Lucas)		Football (Ms Elton)	Netball (Ms Lucas)	Basketball (Ms Elton)
P4a		Football (Mr Edwards)	Basketball (Mr Edwards)	Badminton (Ms Lucas)	Debate Club, F1.9 (Mrs Przyrodzki)
P4b		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)	
After School (3pm-4pm)		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)

Our pupils are on fire this academic year! The stage was set for an unforgettable start, with 300 pupils spellbound by the magic of 'The Lion King', and 200 more eagerly awaiting 'Macbeth' at the RSC Theatre. Spirituality is also on the agenda, with some of our pupils attending the OLAAS MAC Annual Mass at Olton Friary and others paying their respects to the memory of Mr Mullen on Whitefields Road.

Following a wonderful European Day of Languages, two of our pupils have also received the St Jerome award for their involvement in the day. Huge congratulations to Freddie H (year 7) and Tyler H (year 10) for their commitment, work and effort.

We have also seen the introduction of a Key Stage 5 Debate club which saw Mr Court and Mr Mallon, and Joe B and Finbar C debate the very serious topic of AI in our society. With an excellent turnout from pupils and staff, this is a club which already shows we are a place for friendly, competitive exchanges of opinions and ideas.

But that's not all, because we have some thrilling trips planned! From Harry Potter Exhibition day trips to Poetry and Science Live!, UCAS career events, apprenticeship fairs, and even residential and overseas adventures to France, Spain, and The Briars retreat. We can't wait to see your son or daughter join us on our various escapades.



Enrichment & Trips

Mr Mallon, Associate Assistant Headteacher