

# St Peter's Catholic School Newsletter

June 2025



## Our Faith



Faith-filled  
Attentive  
Intentionally loving  
Truthful  
Hopeful

There have been several important feast days over the last few weeks: Ascension Thursday fell during half term and was our theme during the first week back remembering how Jesus was taken up to heaven to be seated at the right hand of God; Pentecost soon followed, the birthday of the church remembering the gifts of the Holy Spirit; then Trinity Sunday celebrated Father, Son and Holy Spirit as God in three persons while this week we have been reflecting on the gift of the Eucharist following the Feast of Corpus Christi. All these feasts celebrate Jesus' presence in our lives and how we are all invited to have a close relationship with Jesus as the Holy Spirit works amongst us, helping us to fulfil our school mission to work hard to build a better world where Faith is our Foundation.

This coming Sunday is the Feast of St Peter and St Paul and therefore our patronal feasts. There will be special masses celebrated next week. On Monday, it is our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary thanksgiving mass at 6pm in the evening. All are welcome to celebrate five decades of Catholic Education at St Peter's. On Tuesday and Thursday, all pupils will attend a mass either in school or at St Augustine's, Solihull to reflect on our patron who has been a good example of faith and courage for all of the thousands of children over the last 50 years. We will give thanks for presence of Jesus in the Eucharist and Holy Spirit who always keeps his promise to always be there for us no matter what.

## In thanksgiving for 50 years of St Peter's Catholic School



**Holy Mass celebrated by His Lordship  
Bishop David Evans  
Monday 30th June at 6pm  
Followed by refreshments**



All are welcome

6pm, St Peter's Hall

Let us know you are coming

[Click here](#) or call our office

St Peter's 50 Years Celebration  
Mass



# Faith-filled

## Girls Football Team Celebrate an Incredible Season!

A huge congratulations to our amazing year 7 and 8 girls football team for an outstanding year of achievements on the pitch!

This academic year, the team made it into two major cup finals, showcasing their skill and determination. They were victorious in the Solihull Cup, bringing the trophy back to St Peter's, and also finished as runners-up in the Birmingham Cup—an incredible achievement in two highly competitive tournaments.

Their success didn't stop there. The girls also won the 6-a-side Satellite Girls Tournament for South Solihull Schools, earning a place in the prestigious County Finals, held at Rugby Town Football Club.

We took two teams to the County Finals, where they competed in both the development and competitive leagues against schools from across the local counties. Our Competitive Team secured 3rd place winning the play off match on penalties, and the Development Team achieved a brilliant 2nd place finish.

We are incredibly proud of all the girls involved. Your hard work, dedication, and team spirit have been inspirational. Well done on a fantastic season!



## Year 7 & 8 Northern Games

Our pupils showed incredible talent and determination at this year's Northern Games! The Year 7 & 8 boys and girls teams made it all the way to the Cup Final, securing an impressive 2nd place finish. Meanwhile, our Year 9 & 10 girls fought hard through tough competition to reach the Shield Final, where they placed 4th overall. We saw outstanding teamwork, resilience, and sportsmanship across all year groups—every pupil represented our school with pride. A huge congratulations to all involved!



## A-level Chemistry at UoB

We were delighted to visit the University of Birmingham for an engaging STEM enrichment session tailored for our Year 12 A Level Chemistry students. This visit was thoughtfully organised to broaden their scientific skill set and offer a valuable insight into university life, particularly within STEM disciplines.

Our students had the privilege of attending an inspiring talk delivered by Dr Patricia Esteban, Assistant Professor at the School of Chemical Engineering and the Healthcare Technologies Institute (HTI) at the University of Birmingham. Dr Esteban shared her expertise and experiences, providing a fascinating glimpse into the world of academic research and innovation.

In addition to the lecture, students had the exciting opportunity to explore cutting-edge virtual reality technology developed by RESILIENCE, further enhancing their understanding of how immersive tools are shaping the future of science and healthcare.



# Human Dignity

## Year 10 River Study Trip to Carding Mill Valley

As part of their Geography fieldwork for GCSE, Year 10 pupils recently visited Carding Mill Valley to carry out a detailed river study focusing on the upper, middle, and lower courses of a river. This valuable field trip not only brought classroom learning to life but also fulfilled the compulsory fieldwork element required for their exam.

Throughout the day, pupils worked in groups to collect primary data at three different sites along the river. They measured the width, depth, and velocity of the river, enabling them to explore how a river's characteristics change along its course. These measurements gave pupils first-hand insight into fluvial processes, helping them apply their theoretical understanding in a real-world context.

A highlight of the day was the opportunity to observe and study meander landforms. Pupils examined features such as the river cliff on the outside bend, formed by erosion, and the slip-off slope on the inside bend, where deposition occurs. Seeing these features up close brought key geographical concepts to life and deepened their understanding of how rivers shape the landscape over time.

The group also investigated hard engineering strategies used to reduce flood risk in Church Stretton, including the reservoir, reinforced riverbanks, and drainage controls. They evaluated the effectiveness of these strategies and considered their environmental and social impacts, linking human and physical geography in a meaningful way. All pupils were fully engaged, demonstrating exemplary behaviour, teamwork, and enthusiasm throughout the day. Their curiosity and dedication impressed staff and supported their learning in a practical, memorable way. The trip to Carding Mill Valley was a huge success, enhancing pupils' knowledge of river systems and human management strategies. Well done Year 10 geographers!



# Attentive

## Year 13 Prom – A Night to Remember!

We are excited to announce that the Year 13 Prom will take place on **Monday 1st September** at the Inspiration Suite at The Village Hotel, Dogkennel Lane, Solihull. This special evening promises to be a fantastic celebration of everything Year 13 has achieved throughout their time at school.

Tickets are now available via ParentPay for £40. Please note that payments must be made by the end of June to secure a place. Unfortunately, no payments can be accepted on the evening of the event, so we kindly ask all pupils and families to ensure payments are completed in advance.

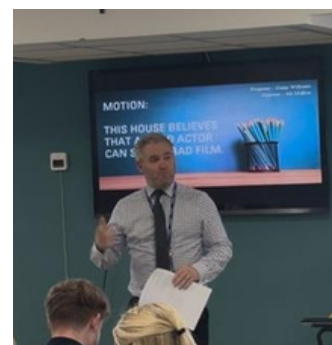
The prom is a wonderful opportunity for pupils to dress up, relax, and enjoy an evening of music, dancing, and memories with friends and staff, a fitting way to mark the end of an important chapter. We look forward to celebrating all of your hard work, and achievements together in style!



## Lunchtime Debate Sparks Buzz Among Pupils and Staff

Lunchtime was far from ordinary as the school community gathered in the Sixth Form common room for a spirited pupil-teacher debate that truly ignited interest and conversation. In the first round, Mr Mallon and Daisy explored the question, “Can a good actor save a bad film?” The discussion was both entertaining and insightful, drawing on examples and sparking a lively exchange of views. In the second round, Mr Court and Rory tackled the issue of whether the UK should rejoin the EU. Their passionate and well-reasoned arguments kept the audience fully engaged, with many pupils and staff eager to weigh in on the topic themselves.

Both debates were engaging, topical, and showcased the impressive critical thinking and public speaking skills of our pupils and staff. The atmosphere was electric, so we’re already looking forward to the next debate as it promises to be another exciting and memorable event!



## UCAS Launch Evening for Year 12 and parents

We recently hosted our UCAS launch event, inviting Year 12 pupils and their parents to learn more about the university application process. The evening included a detailed talk on how to apply through UCAS, as well as essential information on pupil finance. It was a great opportunity for families to begin planning for the next stage in their educational journey. Thanks to Mr T Grice and to Mrs L Przyrodzki for hosting the evening.



# Care for God's Creation

## Year 10 Geography Pupils Explore Birmingham's Big City Plan

Year 10 Geography pupils recently embarked on a fascinating fieldwork trip to Birmingham City Centre as part of their human geography enquiry for GCSE. The visit focused on the Big City Plan, a £10 billion regeneration strategy set to transform the city over a 20-year period.

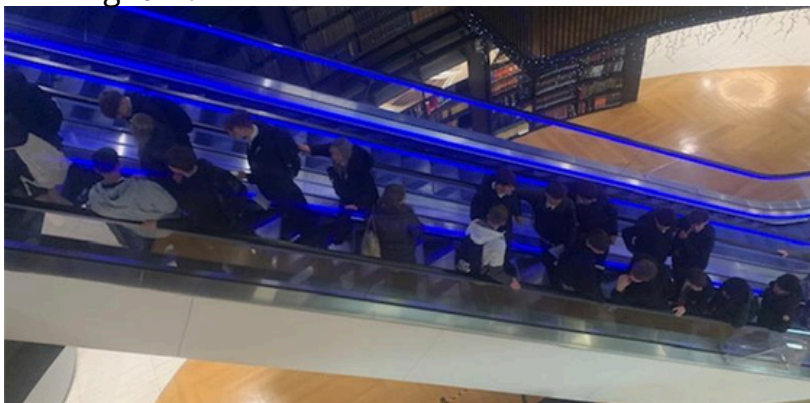
The day provided pupils with a first-hand look at how urban regeneration reshapes a city and improves quality of life. They explored key sites including the Mailbox, The Cube, Gas Street Basin, Brindley Place, Centenary Square, the International Convention Centre (ICC), and the stunning New Birmingham Library, where they enjoyed panoramic views from the sixth floor Secret Garden. The trip concluded at Grand Central, a prime example of modern redevelopment and integrated transport planning.

Throughout the day, pupils were actively involved in a range of fieldwork techniques. They conducted questionnaires, carried out urban decay indexes, and completed environmental quality surveys to evaluate the success and impact of the regeneration projects. These tasks helped pupils gather primary data that they will now analyse and evaluate in preparation for their Paper 3 exam.

Pupils were truly exemplary in both attitude and behaviour. They showed genuine interest, asked thoughtful questions, and engaged positively with members of the public. A security guard at the ICC even commented that they were the 'most well-behaved and polite group of pupils he had seen in a long time,' a sentiment echoed by the staff accompanying the trip.

Seeing regeneration and redevelopment up close brought the Big City Plan to life for pupils, providing an invaluable experience that deepened their understanding of urban change, sustainable development, and the challenges facing modern cities.

This enriching trip not only supported their academic progress but also gave pupils a meaningful insight into the power of urban planning and regeneration to shape the future of cities like Birmingham.



# Intentionally Loving

## Year 12 Psychology Phobia Workshop

Last week, our Year 12 pupils embarked on an exciting and educational trip to the West Midlands Safari Park. Alongside the thrill of seeing exotic animals up close, pupils took part in a unique Phobia Workshop designed to challenge fears and build resilience.

The workshop offered hands-on experiences with creatures that often trigger common phobias—creepy crawlies and rats. With guidance from trained facilitators, pupils bravely held these animals while engaging in discussions about the psychology of fear and strategies to overcome it.

Two key techniques explored were flooding—where individuals confront their fears directly in a controlled environment—and systematic desensitisation, which involves gradual exposure paired with relaxation techniques. These methods helped pupils understand how phobias can be managed and even overcome with the right approach.

The day was a memorable blend of adventure, personal growth, and psychological insight. Well done to all who took part and faced their fears head-on!



## Year 8 Girls Shine at Women in Engineering Event

On Friday 20th June 2025, a group of our Year 8 girls took part in an exciting Women in Engineering event at Birmingham City University's Millennium Point. The day focused on sustainability, challenging pupils to work in teams to design and build models of sustainable houses capable of withstanding flooding.

Using their creativity and coding skills, the girls programmed BBC micro:bits to test their models under simulated flood conditions. Alongside the hands-on challenge, they met inspiring female engineering academics and students, gaining valuable insight into careers in engineering.

The girls worked incredibly hard and showed great teamwork, innovation, and problem-solving — making us very proud! Local press were also present to capture the event, highlighting the fantastic achievements of our students.

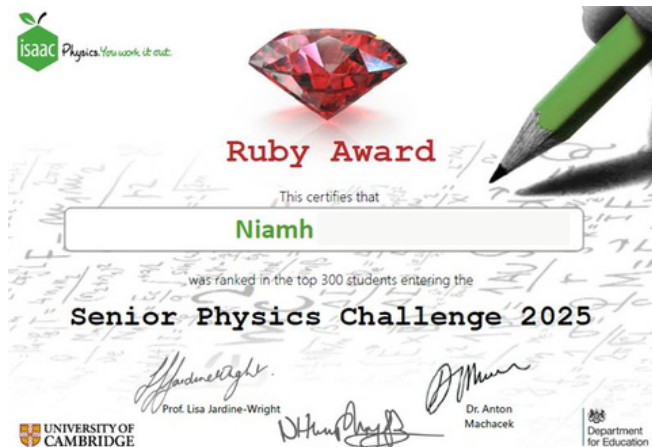
This was a brilliant opportunity to inspire the next generation of female engineers and showcase the incredible talent within our school community.



# Family Community

## Outstanding Achievement in Senior Physics Challenge

We are delighted to announce that Niamh L, a Year 12 pupil, has been awarded a prestigious Ruby Award certificate by the University of Cambridge for her exceptional performance in the 2025 Senior Physics Challenge. This accolade places Niamh among the top 300 highest-scoring participants nationwide, a remarkable accomplishment that reflects her dedication, talent, and passion for physics. We extend our warmest congratulations to Niamh on this significant achievement. Her success is a great pride for our school community.



## Year 12s meet Jess Phillips MP

A group of our Year 12 politics pupils had the exciting opportunity to attend a live panel event featuring MP for Yardley, Jess Phillips. Held at Archbishop Ilsey, the event mirrored the style of BBC's Question Time, offering a platform for panellists to tackle some of the most pressing issues facing the UK today.

The panel covered a wide range of topics—from the troubles in the Middle East and climate change to education reform and how to tackle knife crime. Jess Phillips was joined by counsellors from across the political spectrum. The panel engaged in thoughtful (and at times fiery) debate, giving pupils a front-row seat to the complexities of real-world politics.

For many of our pupils, this was their first time witnessing political debate in person, and the experience sparked lively discussion on the minibus journey home.

## Year 12 University Preparation Talk

We were delighted to welcome Ester Hill from the University of Gloucestershire, who delivered an engaging and informative session to our Year 12 pupils. The talk focused on how to effectively research and choose the right university course, offering valuable insights into decision-making, course content, and future career pathways. It was a fantastic opportunity for pupils to start thinking ahead and feel more confident about their next steps.



# Truthful

## Pop-Up University Fair Inspires Year 12 Pupils

As part of our ongoing support for pupils exploring their future pathways, a Pop-Up University Fair was held on Monday 16th June in the Sixth Form Common Room during lunch and Period 4. This exciting event was aimed at both Year 10 pupils, to provide inspiration, and Year 12 pupils, many of whom have recently begun their UCAS journey.

Pupils had the opportunity to engage directly with representatives from a range of prestigious universities, including Warwick, Bangor, Lancaster, Newman, UCB, BCU, and Aston. It was a fantastic chance to ask questions, gather course information, and gain insights into university life and application tips, all helping to shape informed decisions about their next steps.

The event perfectly coincided with the half term focus on future planning and the launch of UCAS, offering timely and relevant guidance to support pupils at this crucial stage. A huge thank you to the Careers Department for organising such a valuable and inspiring event.

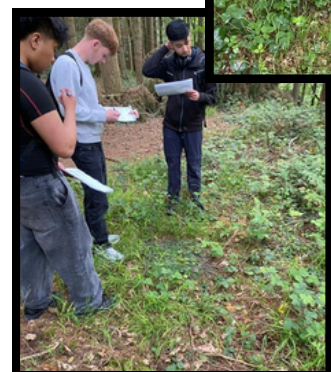
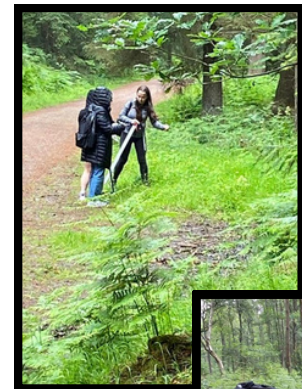


## Year 12 Geographers Embark on Action-Packed Week of Fieldwork

Year 12 Geography pupils have had a particularly busy and enriching week, taking part in four days of intensive fieldwork designed to support both the physical and human elements of their A-Level course. To explore Physical Geography, pupils ventured into the Wyre Forest, where they investigated soil profiles and considered factors influencing soil formation and ecosystem development. They then travelled to Porthcawl, studying coastal processes and management, observing first-hand the impacts of erosion, as well as the application of soft and hard engineering defences protecting the coastline.

On the Human Geography front, pupils completed a transect through Birmingham city centre, applying theoretical models like the Burgess Model to understand patterns of land use and urban change. Their exploration continued with a detailed study of urban regeneration in Birmingham City Centre, visiting sites including the developing Curzon Street station (home to HS2), The Custard Factory, Brindley Place, The Mailbox, and Centenary Square.

The breadth of activities gave pupils a vivid, real world context to many of the key concepts studied in class. By the end of the week, pupils were inspired and enriched by the geographical knowledge they had gained outside of the classroom. A huge well done to all involved for their exemplary behaviour, positive attitude, and academic focus throughout the week.



# Take care of the poor

FRIDAY  
4TH JULY  
2025 4-7PM

COME AND CELEBRATE OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

# FIFTY-FEST

ST. PETER'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

HOOK A DUCK	HUMAN FRUIT MACHINE	MOCKTAIL/COCKTAIL STAND
COCONUT	SPLAT A TEACHER	PIN THE TIE ON THE PUPIL
TOMBOLA	CRAFT STALL	FACE PAINTING
RING TOSS	CAKE STALL	HENNA TATOOS

CAN YOU HELP?  
WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS  
TO RUN THE FOLLOWING STALLS (OR  
ONE OF YOUR OWN CREATION)  
IF YOU OR DEPARTMENT WOULD LIKE  
TO RUN ONE LET ME KNOW



## Midlands Air Ambulance receives our donation!

We were honoured to welcome Kay from the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity to school, where she was presented with an incredible £1,715.46 raised through the Easter fundraising efforts by both Year 8 and the Sixth Form. Kay was deeply moved by the generosity of our school community and expressed her sincere thanks. The funds raised will go directly towards supporting the life-saving work carried out daily by the Midlands Air Ambulance crews across our region.



This year's fundraising also held a special meaning. As part of Kay's visit, we were proud to organise for Raphael Lee's name to be placed on the vector design of the charity's new H145 helicopter. This lasting tribute ensures that Raphael's memory will fly with the crew as they carry out their vital missions. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all pupils, and families who contributed to this meaningful cause.

# Hopeful

## St Peter's Patch - Growing Together as a Community

We are delighted to share the progress of St Peter's Patch, our flourishing school garden. A heartfelt thank you goes out to our wonderful PTA, parents, teachers, and pupils who generously volunteered their time and energy to bring this project to life.

We are especially grateful to Notcutts Solihull for their incredibly generous donation of compost, vegetables, and herbs, which gave the garden a fantastic boost. Our wider school community has also amazed us with generous contributions of tools—thank you for your continued support!

This collective effort is a vital part of our journey towards achieving the CAFOD LiveSimply Award. The whole St Peter's community has come together with enthusiasm and purpose, and while we have just a few more events to go, we're thoroughly enjoying the journey

## PC Andy Visits Year 12: Staying Safe and Informed

This week, we were pleased to welcome PC Andy from West Midlands Police into school to speak with our Year 12 female pupils about the importance of personal safety and awareness when out and about.

PC Andy delivered an informative and practical session, introducing pupils to two free and highly useful safety apps: Ask for Angela and Hollie Guard. These tools are designed to help individuals discreetly signal for help or alert trusted contacts if they ever feel unsafe.



The Ask for Angela initiative was a key focus of the talk. Pupils learned that many bars, restaurants, and public venues now participate in this scheme. If someone finds themselves in an uncomfortable or threatening situation, they can ask staff for "Angela", a discreet codeword that alerts staff to step in and provide support, including helping them leave the situation safely.

PC Andy also offered valuable advice on how to handle challenging or unsafe situations, trust instincts, and look out for one another when out in social settings. The session served as an important reminder that being aware and prepared can make all the difference. Equipping pupils with this knowledge is vital in empowering them to make safe choices and seek help when needed. We thank PC Andy for taking the time to share such important information and for his continued support in helping keep our young people safe.

# Participate

## Year 7 Explore the Wonders of STEM at the Big Bang Fair

Year 7 pupils had an inspiring and action-packed day at the Big Bang Fair held at the NEC, where they represented the school with enthusiasm, curiosity, and maturity. Their engagement with the wide array of interactive exhibits was truly commendable—they asked insightful questions, eagerly participated in hands-on activities, and embraced every opportunity to learn.

The fair featured a diverse range of STEM experiences, including virtual reality simulations, insect handling, and the chance to observe a robotic dog in action. Pupils also explored the world of computer programming and were particularly inspired by sixth formers from across the Midlands who showcased an AI-powered sustainable farming project.

In addition to the exhibits, pupils attended captivating live shows that brought science to life—one exploring the explosive history of scientific discovery, and another on biomimicry, demonstrating how nature inspires innovative design.

By the end of the afternoon, our pupils were buzzing with excitement—tired, perhaps, but filled with new ideas and questions about the future of science and the many career paths it offers. It was a day of discovery, inspiration, and imagination.



## Vote for St Peter's Allotment in the Tesco Blue Token Scheme!

We're thrilled to announce that St Peter's Allotment has been selected for the Tesco Blue Token Community Grant Scheme, running from 1st July to September 2025!

This is a fantastic opportunity for our school to receive funding to further develop St Peter's Patch, and we need your help. Parents, parishioners, staff, and pupils can support us by collecting a blue token when shopping at participating Tesco stores and placing it in the St Peter's Allotment box.

You can vote for us at the following Tesco locations:

- Hall Green Express – B28 8AB
- Hall Green Superstore – B90 3LU
- Kings Heath Express – B14 6EB
- Robin Hood Express – B28 0LG
- Birmingham Alcester Express – B47 5PN

Every token counts, so please spread the word and encourage friends and family to support our project. Thank you for helping us grow something special!



# Faith is Our Foundation

## EPQ Update – Independent Research in Action

Our Year 12 pupils are now reaching the final stages of their Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) – an impressive undertaking that allows pupils to explore a topic of personal interest in depth. The EPQ is an A-level standard qualification that requires independent learning, critical thinking, and academic research – skills highly valued by universities and employers alike.

Over the past few months, pupils have been working hard to finalise their projects, which may be a 5,000-word academic essays or creative artefacts supported by research. We've seen an inspiring variety of topics this year, including "How does your socioeconomic status impact your dental health?", "Could following a Keto diet help to fight cancer?", "The impact of pollution on deepwater coral", and "How Bollywood has influenced South Asian fashion".

Pupils have spent many weeks researching, drafting, and refining their work, developing resilience and independence throughout the process. The final component has been the Viva – a short presentation and discussion of their project with a panel, which this year included members of the Senior Leadership Team and school governors. All pupils presented with confidence, insight, and enthusiasm, and we look forward to reading the final versions of their completed projects in the coming weeks.



## Pupil-Led Radio Show "Teen Talks" Makes Waves on Brumside Radio

This term, a group of enterprising Sixth Form pupils launched their very own radio show, Teen Talks, on Brumside Radio. Airing fortnightly, each episode is developed and presented by different Year 12 pupils, who take full creative control—writing their own run sheets, selecting discussion topics that matter to them, and curating the music they want to share.

The show has quickly become a hit with listeners, and the pupils have gained valuable experience in both oracy and journalism. Their enthusiasm and natural talent have shone through, making the project a resounding success.

Stay tuned—there's much more to come next year! <https://brumsideradio.com/>

