

Keynotes

April to May 2024



Dear Parents and Carers

As you read this newsletter, we will have completed three weeks of public exams so far this term at both GCSE and A Level. Students have worked incredibly hard to get to this point and have been very well supported by our teachers and support staff. If you have a child in Year 11 or 13, I am sure you have felt the pressure too but please keep up the love, nurture and cajoling for another few weeks. During this half term break they will have a small respite, but I am sure they will continue to follow their revision timetables.

As you know, we had our Ofsted inspection last week which consisted of two full days of lesson visits, meetings, questions and a deep dive into how well supported your children are taught, supported and cared for. We do not receive a formal outcome for a few weeks, but I am delighted with the feedback from the inspection team. The Catholic ethos, the values of the St Peter's Rocks and the high quality of relationships shone through in all the activities they engaged with. Inspectors were incredibly complimentary about our students whose behaviour and attitudes over the two days were exceptional. They also paid tribute to the quality of experience our students received in their lessons and could clearly see why St Peter's has produced such great academic outcomes over the last few years.

One specific aspect of school life they highlighted was attendance which is amongst the best in the country for state secondary schools. Like us, Ofsted see attendance as one of the most significant factors

impacting a child's potential and I hope you will continue to support your child and the school by ensuring they attend every single day and do not have any unnecessary absences. Our last inspection was in 2013, so the wait has been long and the preparations lengthy but now it is finished, we are very proud of what the school has achieved. Thank you for completing the Ofsted questionnaire in support of the school and I will write again as soon as we have a formal outcome.



In addition to celebrating the completion of an Ofsted inspection, you may like to see the article written this week on 'Surrey Live', that features the top state secondary schools in Surrey ([click here](#)). Another reason to be proud of our community!

I hope you enjoy this edition of Keynotes which features

several activities that have taken place in and out of school as well as the significant effort to prepare students for exams. This includes students celebrating the completion of their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award by attending an event at Buckingham Palace hosted by Prince Edward. Congratulations to them but also to the 110 students in Year 10 who started their DofE journey with their Bronze practice expedition last weekend.

Enjoy your half term break and we look forward to another exciting term in the approach to summer.

God bless.



Mr T Miller, Headteacher



St Peter's Keys

Congratulations to Josh, Darron, Freya and Grace who were the captains from the Malaga Sports Tour, who led by example throughout the trip. Their own sporting conduct was exceptional throughout, demonstrating sportsmanship at all given opportunities. No matter the opposition pressure, all encouraged respect and class from their teammates creating an extremely determined but friendly environment.

Darron led a mixed team of Years 9 and 10 who were not familiar with playing together but managed to develop a close team bond and achieved many successes.

Josh built motivation and cohesion within an experienced team, but also put the needs of his team above his own health when struggling with illness.

Grace led the Year 10 netball team into the highest level of competitive play and gained a runner up position in a tough standard of netball. She also listened to our requests for even playing time and mapped out positions in a way that meant all her teammates had equal opportunity on court.



Freya led the Year 9 team to a whole tournament win and some of the best team netball witnessed by Miss Palmer. Her kind and nurturing attitude reflected in all the Year 9 students, creating a hugely positive team environment which ultimately led to success.

Congratulations to India who was also a recipient of the St Peter's Keys this half term.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, a student did not have their partner in school for their GCSE Drama exam. India stood in at very short notice and performed in the exam as a non-examined candidate.

This meant that India had to familiarise herself very quickly with the script, the plot and the context, and had to perform in a public exam. This would be very nerve-wracking anyway, but she had to perform in front of the Chief Examiner!

India was reassuring, kind and supportive when working with the student. She put herself last – her own feelings, her nerves and the Sixth Form work she needed to be focusing on – and instead did something selfless to benefit somebody else. Her performance was superb and really supported the student to show what they could do, too.





Spanish Year 13 Cinema Club Review

¡Viva el Cine! Year 13 Spanish Film Club delivers laughter, suspense and language skills!



Lights, camera, ¡acción!
At the heart of Year 13s extracurricular scene lies a hidden gem – the Spanish Film Club.

Led by Mrs Mortimer, this club isn't just about popcorn and flicks; it's a journey through the vibrant tapestry of Spanish cinema. And oh, what a journey it's been!

In their latest cinematic escapades, the club embarked on a whirlwind adventure, diving into the enchanting world of Latin America with

“Motorcycle Diaries,” the real motorcycle journey of Che Guevara, frolicking in the magical realms of “Encanto,” chuckling away with the Netflix comedy “Honeymoon with Your Mother” and unravelling the mysteries in the suspenseful thriller “The Ice Girl.”

For Tom, the club isn't just about entertainment, it is a ticket to enhancing his Spanish listening skills. “¡Fantástico!”

But it's not all about academics; Anais, another enthusiastic member said “It's like a cosy Spanish family gathering,” she beams, “except with subtitles!” Anais is not only

enjoying the camaraderie but also picking up Spanish phrases left, right and centre. ¡Increíble!

So, whether you are in it for the language practice, the thrill of suspense, or simply the joy of good company, Year 13s Spanish Film Club is the place to be. Gracias to Mrs Mortimer for opening the doors to this cinematic fiesta, where every frame brings us closer to the rich tapestry of Spanish-speaking worlds. ¡Viva el cine español!

Good luck to our Year 11s...

As the Year 11 cohort go on study leave today, having already begun their GCSEs in earnest, I would like to take this opportunity to wish my lovely year group all the very best of luck in their forthcoming exams. I hope we do not need to rely upon luck though to be successful, as all the hard work from students, teachers and families alike is about to pay off.

Our Year 11 motto has been ‘effort is everything’ and students know they will get the exam results they deserve. Results day is Thursday 22nd August and I cannot wait to enjoy watching the celebrations.

I am immensely proud of our Year 11s and it has been an absolute privilege to be their Head of Year for the last four years. There have been

moments of high drama, for sure! But what has impressed me most is how polite, pleasant and balanced our students are, despite challenges such as the pandemic thrown their way.

Many students are staying on to join our Sixth Form and I am really looking forward to continue working with them as they further develop into confident and competent adults. To those students who are moving on to pastures new, I wish you every continued success. Remember all you have learnt at St Peter's and please continue to strive to be ‘Christ to all’ throughout life. Please keep in touch and let me know how you are doing!

Finally, I am looking forward to seeing you all at the Prom on Thursday 4th July at Horsley Towers. Let's make it a celebration to remember!

Love and best wishes to you all,
Mrs Hegg, Head of Year 11





Catering Update

There is nothing quite as comforting as a hearty pie, whether it is sweet or savoury. British Pie Week celebrates this quintessential dish, honouring the rich history of pie making in Britain and the endless varieties that warm our hearts and plates. Our students were lucky enough to sample a range of pies, freshly made in the school kitchen. The pies included apple lattice pie, cottage pie, curried cauliflower cheese filo pie and a chicken and mushroom pie.



"I loved trying out all the pies and my favourite was the apple pie with the custard!"

"It was so great to try a different pie each day."

Just before we broke up for Easter, students were treated to a host of new sweet and savoury Easter treats including Easter flower chocolate orange muffins, Easter filled nests, sweet chilli chicken crunch wraps and watermelon, feta and minted pea salad.

"My favourite was the filled nests as they had chocolate eggs on top."

"I tried the salad it was so tasty, I never would have thought of putting those ingredients together."

Student Success

Congratulations to Orla 12ST who has achieved the following accolades and is now:

- The Impact Open Champion
- The London Open Champion
- The AETA Open Champion
- The ITF Open England Champion

In March, Orla represented England against Norway, Spain and Scotland and is now the Warrior Open Champion. **Stop press:** Orla is now the Scottish Open Champion!



From the peaks to the palace

Our warmest congratulations go to Eleanor, Amy, Daisy, James, Meg and Melani who received their Gold Duke of Edinburgh awards at a prestigious ceremony held at Buckingham Palace this May. The event was hosted by the Duke of Edinburgh in the gardens of the royal palace bathed in the glorious spring sunshine.

This was in stark contrast to the 70 miles per hour winds and horizontal rain that these ex-St Peter's students endured whilst battling to the summit of Pen-y-Fan the previous July. It is, of course, the expedition that first comes to mind when one thinks of the DofE award scheme. However, the expedition is only one part of the commitment these impressive young people showed on their journey to Gold. Each student volunteered for



at least an hour a week for a whole year; in local junior schools, with the Brownies, nursing homes and community cafes. They also demonstrated a similar

commitment, week in and week out, learning a new skill and taking on a physical challenge. All this effort was carried out at the same time as they were studying for their A Levels, with which they all did fantastically well.

We are immensely proud of these dedicated young people and wish them well for the next exciting chapter of their lives after St Peter's.



Rockets away!

On Saturday 4th May, we took nine keen scientists from Years 10 and 12 to Abbeyfield School, Chippenham. This was to take part in the UKROC South West Regional Competition, battling against 25 other teams. Both teams managed to successfully launch their

rocket over 200m in the air. The parachutes then split in two, coming down under a parachute and safely bringing an egg back to the ground. The teams had a brilliant day and represented the school immensely well.





Tortilla de Patatas

The Year 11 Spanish class recently embarked on a gastronomic adventure by cooking traditional Spanish omelettes for their last lesson. Led by their passionate Spanish teachers, Mrs Mortimer and Miss León, the students dove into the vibrant world of Spanish cuisine, discovering the rich flavours and cultural significance of this iconic dish.

The classroom buzzed with excitement as students, armed with aprons and spatulas, gathered around the cooking stations. Under the expert guidance of Mrs Mortimer and Miss León, the students skilfully sliced the ingredients, carefully sautéed the potatoes and expertly flipped the omelettes. As they worked together, their Spanish

I never thought learning Spanish could be this enjoyable. Cooking the Spanish omelette was like embarking on a culinary journey through Spain. I can't wait to try more traditional recipes! Roksana

language skills also came alive, with conversations flowing effortlessly in Spanish. It was a truly immersive experience, where the language and culture intertwined seamlessly.



The Spanish omelette was absolutely delicious! I loved how it showcased simple ingredients that, when combined, created a masterpiece. It was a fantastic way to practice our language skills while enjoying a tasty dish. Isa

Cooking the Spanish omelette was not only a fun activity, but it also allowed us to connect with the Spanish culture on a deeper level. It made me appreciate the importance of food in different societies and how it brings people together. Fintan



The Year 11 Spanish class demonstrated the power of combining language learning with practical experiences. Cooking the Spanish omelette not only tantalised their taste buds but also expanded their cultural horizons, fostering a love for language and a deeper understanding of Spanish traditions.

Year 8 - The Stars of the Show

As we reach the end of Year 8 test weeks, it is worth reflecting on the hard work, determination and dedication that many of our students have demonstrated, both in the preparation and during their assessments (even during an Ofsted inspection!). The commitment and efforts we have seen from our Year 8s, making valuable use of their revision resources and engaging with the interventions provided by their teachers to prepare them, will be

a testament to their successes. Their next and final report of the academic year will be distributed home digitally on Friday 14th June. They will spend a tutor time morning reviewing these reports the following week. I hope this provides the students with an opportunity to celebrate their many successes, but also time to reflect and set targets for how they intend to start Year 9.



Alexandros 8KO

"I've been swimming since the age of five and it is one of my favourite sports. I am lucky to belong to an amazing, friendly, local club where we compete as individuals and as a team. I train four times a week (six hours) - three pool sessions and one land training session. This year I qualified for eight races at the County Championships and reached the South East Regionals Championships. My biggest achievement is going sub 27 seconds on the 50m Freestyle!"

I am looking forward to the next season and training at the Lido over the summer to get ready for the County Relay Championships in September at the London Aquatic Centre!"

Recent Year 8 Successes



Chess competition win

The following students Keith (8ST), Nathan (8TE), Alex (8FR), James (8TE) and Leroy (8TE) recently attended a Junior Chess Tournament in Birmingham, for Years 7 and 8 students

across England. They played six matches each and successfully came in 11th place out of all the schools. All students commented on how it was a "fun experience, to go to a new place and meet fellow chess players."

Toby 8RO

I was one of 11 people selected to represent Surrey at the Regional Sportshall Indoor Athletics event held in Burgess Hill in February. I competed in the two lap race, four lap relay for the track events and I did the long jump for the field event. It was a fun day and Surrey came in second to Kent, who performed really well and have the fastest athletes in the country in their team.

U13 Chobham Rugby Tour to Wales: On the 12th March, my team mates and I embarked on a rugby tour leaving our Clubhouse in Chobham and arriving in Bath around 4pm that

day. We played two teams that evening and we won the first game and drew the second game. I managed to score two tries for the team. On the Saturday, we had a day off and got to spend it rafting. It was great fun. Sunday was the real highlight for me as we were given the privilege of playing at Cardiff Arms Park. We played two games and we won both, and I scored one try. Unfortunately, my hand was kicked by one of the opponents during the last match and I had to come off and ended up with a broken metacarpal bone! Despite that, I had a really great weekend.



Suhansh 8ST

He has been awarded Grade 1 Distinction in his 'Theory of Music' and Grade 1 Merit Piano Practical, conducted by Trinity College, London. Suhansh says he has learnt a lot in his music classes at school and that this has contributed to the success in his exams.

Continued...

District Sports

A few words from Mr Richards:

The Year 8s represented the school tremendously in their performance, sportsmanship and conduct during the event. They were able to manage themselves brilliantly, getting to their events in good time to do a great warm up without any prompting from me, which made my life very easy!

They put 100% effort into every event

even when winning looked off the cards, giving themselves the best place possible.

A particular shout out to the following achievements:

- **Finn (KO):** third place in both the Discus and 800m event.
- **Elodie (BA):** third place in the 800m event.
- **Gabes (FR):** second place in the Shotput event and third place in the Javelin event.

• **Callum (KO):** second place in both the 100m and 200m events.

• **Toby (RO):** first place in the 400m event

• **Alexander (KO):** second place in the High Jump event.

The Year 8 boys below came first overall for their year group: Left to right: Jack (BA), Finn (KO), Alexandros (KO), Toby (RO), Alexander (KO), Callum (KO), Gabes (FR) and Dexter (BA).



What Year 8 have to look forward to:

• **Wednesday June 12th (Population A) & Thursday 13th June (Population B)**
Geography Field Trip to the Queen Elizabeth Country Park

• **Friday 14th to 16th June**
Retreat to Alton Castle

• **Thursday 27th June** Sports Day

• **Friday 28th June** Feast Day
- fancy dress theme for the Sponsored Walk to be decided...



If your child is in Year 8 and would like to appear in our next newsletter, please get in touch with their tutor, Mrs Campbell (HOY) or Mr Ebbs (AHOY).

PE Round Up



A huge congratulations to our Year 9 and 10 football and netball teams that participated in tournaments in Costa del Sol, Malaga for our reprised Easter sports tour trip.

The students had a wonderful week developing their skills using local facilities and professional coaching. They were able to experience new drills and gain expert performance feedback. They also had various trips including beautiful sunset trips to local beaches.

Our football teams took part in local matches against Spanish sides – both St Peter's teams came out successful with the support of the netballers on the sidelines. They also had some winning moments in their tournament day, battling the hot conditions.

Both netball teams returned to England with trophies for their success in the tournament. The Year 10s brought home the silver in a very competitive pool after developing their team cohesion. The Year 9s brought home the gold in their age category, reflecting the hugely positive week they had as a team.



All four teams played some of the best performances we have witnessed from them during their time at St Peter's. A special shoutout to the four captains who led their teams to success and subsequently won the St Peter's Keys: Josh, Darron, Freya and Grace.

A massive thank you from the PE Department for your attitudes and sportsmanship throughout the trip. We are so proud to see such strong individual performers and teams grow.

A huge well done to our Year 9 netball team who won the Surrey Netball Finals on Friday 19th April 2024. After a last-minute call up due to a cancelled tournament, the girls brought the success of tour back to Surrey Sports Park. The team – captained by Freya – won four games and drew one. This led them to gold medal position. Miss Palmer is hugely proud of the development of this particular netball team and the success they have had this year – they deserve every moment of it! A special shoutout to Emily and Naomi from Year 8 who stepped up to help the team out.

More recently the Year 9 and 10 football teams have managed to continue their success and win both of their semi-final games in the Guildford cup. The Year 9s won their game 7-1 and the Year 10s won their game 5-0. Both teams will now progress into the final, wishing these students all the best of luck!



District Sports Competition

On Wednesday 8th May, Mr Richards and Miss Palmer took a number of students (across all year groups) to District Sports at the Spectrum. All students showed brilliant enthusiasm, resilience, determination and sportsmanship levels throughout the day. Overall there were eight schools who competed against each other in a range of track and field events. All year groups and students performed brilliantly especially in the blazing sun with everyone cheering each other on. A special mention to the Year 8 boys who came first overall in their competition, the Year 10/11 boys who came second and the Year 10/11 girls who came third.

