

Keynotes

January to February 2024



Dear Parents and Carers

As we embark on the sacred season of Lent, we come together as St Peter's community to reflect, renew and deepen our spiritual journey. Lent is a time of self-examination, repentance and preparation, mirroring the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness. During this period, we are called to prayer, fasting, almsgiving, embracing a spirit of sacrifice and self-discipline. As we engage in these practices, let us open our hearts to grow in love and compassion for one another, mirroring the teachings of Jesus. After half term, we will mark the start of Lent with Masses for each year group and take the opportunity that is unique to faith schools - the time to stop, pause and reflect on our own place in God's kingdom.

Although this half term has been very short, it has been very busy with Year 11 and Year 13 emerging



from their mock exams with renewed focus on their goals for the summer term. Other year groups have enjoyed visits to Paris, St Ives, London theatres and a local Synagogue as part of the RE curriculum. This half term holiday, there are ski trips to Austria and the USA, as well as a languages trip to Granada. I am always amazed how our school community manages to offer so many extracurricular opportunities for your children but still delivers high quality learning every lesson, every day. Just this week, we have had several visitors to the school, all of them commenting on the calm, purposeful atmosphere they have witnessed.

I hope you enjoy this edition of Keynotes and please, if you have not had an opportunity to complete our Parent Survey, use the following link [HERE](#) should you wish to do so.



Mr T Miller, Headteacher

Winner of the St Peter's Keys

Over the last four years, Karissa has been an ambassador of St Peter's representing the school at the Surrey Children's Business Fair. Not only has she been one of the most successful entrepreneurs, with sales revenue of over £7,000 she also supports our youngest entrepreneurs each week in the Build a Business



Club. She mentored 12 Year 7 students during the autumn term and is now supporting 12 Year 8 students during the spring term.

Karissa has all the key skills to represent the school and achieve personal success, but she also has the 'Christ to all' spirit in sharing her experience, successes and failures with others.

Headteacher's Open Door Dates

This is an opportunity for parents and carers to drop in to meet with Mr Miller between 3:30pm and 5.30pm on the following dates:

- Monday 4th March 2024
- Monday 15th April 2024
- Monday 13th May 2024
- Monday 3rd June 2024
- Monday 1st July 2024

There is no need to book in advance.

Holocaust Memorial Day Talk

On 18th January, our school organised an unforgettable event featuring Beatrice, a survivor of the Holocaust, who generously shared her impactful life story with us. We learned about her challenging journey, from authorities attempting to send her back to Poland to the unsettling encounter with SS officers who gave her family a mere week to vacate. Beatrice vividly described their subsequent escape to Naples and eventual refuge in England, braving the dangers of the Blitz and finding shelter in underground spaces.



Despite numerous setbacks and rejections throughout her life, Beatrice and her family displayed incredible resilience, triumphing over formidable challenges. The event offered our school community a unique chance to interact directly with Beatrice,

enabling us to pose questions that delved into the profound depths of her experiences. Personally, I inquired about her faith, wondering if it had ever wavered after enduring such hardships. Her resolute response to the negative was inspiring. The privilege of shaking hands with Beatrice

was a powerful moment, a tangible link to history that dispelled any doubts about the Holocaust's reality. Her presence underscored the strength of the human spirit and emphasised the importance of preserving and learning from the lessons of the past.

Constance 9BA



disappoint with all three places from the age 12-17 category being from our school:

- **1st prize:** Rebecca 10JP - Parasitic - £100 Amazon gift card
- **2nd prize:** Patrick 8ST - Long Forgotten Lingers - £30 Amazon gift card
- **3rd prize:** James 8TE - Biofilm Monster - £20 Amazon gift card

The winners will also be presented in the May 2024 issue of Microbiology Today, the magazine of the Microbiology Society, which has at least 6,000 subscribers.

2022 winning stories can be found here including Miffia's story: <https://biofilms.ac.uk/coccus-pocus-2022-winning-stories/>

2023 winning stories will be posted soon.

We look forward to having more submissions next Halloween from our budding scientists for Coccus Pocus 2024!

'Coccus Pocus' 2023 Clean Sweep!

After last year's success with a winner of the 'Coccus Pocus' Science Creative Writing competition coming from St Peter's, once again, our students took the opportunity to impress a panel of judges. The level of creativity in our students' writing has been outstanding. We have been very proud to see the enthusiasm towards this competition and hopefully as a result this may pique their interest in 'bigger picture' science and careers, in this case specifically, Microbiology.

The contestants were encouraged to write a short horror or sci-fi story between 500 and 2,000 words, including themes of antimicrobial resistance and/or microbial biofilms (bacterial layers). The evaluation committee ranked stories blindly according to the intrigue of their plot, use of language, character description and scientific soundness.

Despite there being more entrants every year, our students did not

Year 8 Food Club

The Year 8 Food Club commenced in the autumn term and is run by Miss Hayward and Mrs Ridgers. Here's a quick round up of the student feedback!

How would you rate your experience at Year 8 Food Club? From our personal experience, Food Club is a very welcoming environment. You can make your own food while laughing through all your mistakes with your friends. The staff are also very helpful if you make any error while following the recipes. Bottom line, it's enjoyable for anyone.

Which dishes did you cook? A variety of delicious foods, the majority of which are recipes by Jamie Oliver. This included Thai green curry, simple pizza dish and even salmon teriyaki. It's a blast cooking and then enjoying a well prepared dish courtesy of you.

What skills have you learnt?

Basic cooking skills. From learning how to peel ginger to knowing if your vegetables are cooked properly by checking if they're soft. These are all incredibly useful tips for beginners who want to get into cooking and because of this, people learn a valuable skill which is important to maintain a healthy diet.

Would you recommend it to other Year 8 students? 100%. Anyone wanting



fantastic experience, full of great food, spending quality time with friends and most importantly an opportunity to improve on an essential life ability. **Gabriel 8TE and Dominic 8ST**

to make a start in their cooking journey or expand their horizons should give it a chance. They're bound to develop their skills in baking and/or cooking.

Did your parent enjoy the dishes you made? Yes! When asking which was their favourite dish, they chose the salmon teriyaki because of the exotic taste!

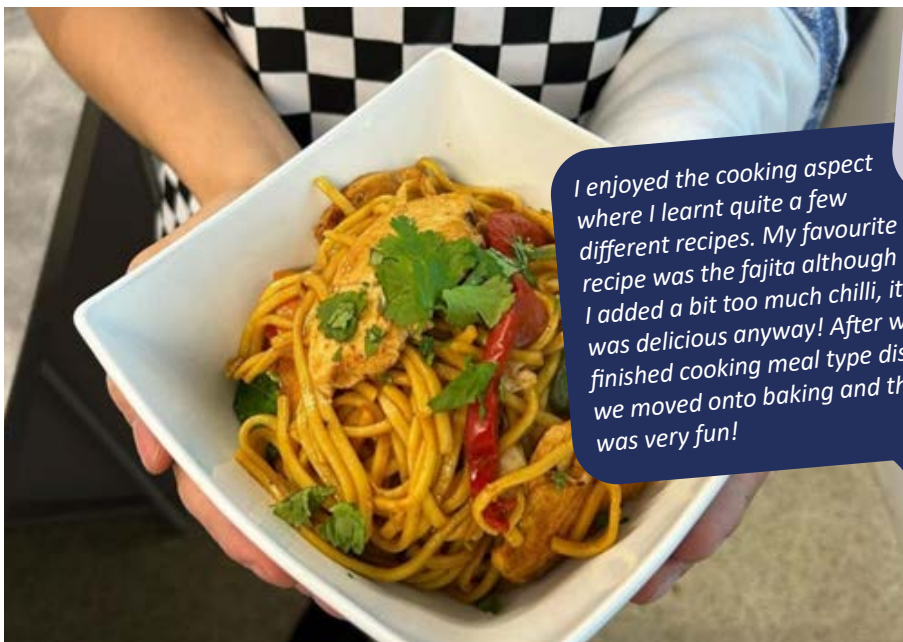
What do you think overall? Overall, it's a

Other testimonials:

It was a truly fun experience and I learned a lot about cooking and different types of dishes. It also taught me how to manage time more effectively and organise myself better. I really enjoyed making the chocolate Swiss roll cake, it was interesting putting the double cream onto the cake. All the dishes I learned in Food Club tasted so good, particularly the salmon in my opinion. It was so good I made it again. I hope that there can be Food Club again!

I enjoyed the cooking aspect where I learnt quite a few different recipes. My favourite recipe was the fajita although I added a bit too much chilli, it was delicious anyway! After we finished cooking meal type dishes, we moved onto baking and this was very fun!

My favourite recipe from baking was definitely the Swiss roll. Mine turned out really well and after learning this recipe, I have cooked this dish at home at least five times now and my whole family enjoyed it on Christmas Day! Overall, I really enjoyed Food Club and would like to do it again as I have learnt so many new recipes, and I am very grateful for the opportunity!



Year 9 Food Club

How would you rate your experience at Year 9 Food Club? Really interesting! Food Club teaches you how to prepare food and make different dishes which tests your skills that you may not learn until GCSE. An example of this is making the pastry for mince pies.

Which dishes did you cook? We made a range of dishes but one of my favourites was the cinnamon buns. The recipe involved different skills including kneading and proving, which are both hard skills but easy to pick up after a while. Another good dish was the chicken enchiladas, which were a delicious family dinner.

What skills did you learn throughout the club? One of the skills I learnt was kneading. This skill is difficult because you do not want to overwork the dough for too long, but you do need to do it enough. Another skill I learnt was steaming, this one is difficult because if it starts to bubble up, the product (milk in my case) is unusable for the recipe.



Would you recommend this to other Year 9 students? Yes, I would

recommend it to anyone who enjoys cooking. It is a good experience where there will be other people interested in cooking. It is a good place to learn new skills and recipes to show off to friends and family.



Have you made any recipes at home since joining the club? Yes, I have made lots of the recipes at home including the cinnamon buns and other great dishes loved by my family and eaten in a short space of time! **Huw 9JP**

Other testimonials:

I liked it because it was fun to do with friends and it was something different. I also enjoyed making the blueberry cupcakes, they were probably the best thing I made. I also cooked the chilli con carne for dinner. I enjoyed the club a lot thank you.

I enjoyed making the cinnamon buns.

I enjoyed cooking things I haven't made before.

I really enjoyed going to Food Club and cooking with my friends because it's more relaxed than in school time. I enjoyed making the cinnamon rolls because for some reason they never taste nice at home but it did in school! My favourite dish was the chilli con carne and it was very delicious, I've remade the yule log cake a few times and also the paella.

I loved the chilli con carne with garlic bread.

Year 12 Art Project

Year 12 has been working on a casting project. This has involved responding to the work of the Boyle family who are known for their large scale casts of pathways, kerb stones and other textural surfaces.

The process has involved rolling slabs of clay and taking them outside, laying them flat on drain covers or paving to take an impression. The slabs were then cut into triangles and joined to create large hollow three dimensional shards, we then filled these with plaster. Once dry the clay was removed to reveal solid plaster

shards, decorated with the impressions taken from our immediate environment.

The shards have now been planted around the school and as spring erupts the shrubbery will embed these sculptural pieces into the garden. As the elements take hold, the work will decay and colour.



Year 9 Update

In September, we welcomed back our lively, energetic, and full of character Year 9 students, who already have embraced many new challenges and exciting opportunities. As we have reached the halfway point of the term, it is an opportune moment to reflect on their progress and achievements.

This cohort has shown commendable dedication to their academic pursuits. Across various subjects, they have engaged with challenging curriculum content and demonstrated a growing depth of understanding. Actively contributing to classroom discussions, asking insightful questions and collaborating effectively with their peers. With ample opportunities for personal growth and development they have navigated challenges with resilience, dedication, embraced feedback constructively and demonstrated a willingness to step out of their comfort zones.

From September to January, Year 9 has been a thrilling journey filled with enriching experiences. They kicked off with Online Safety Day, delving into the digital world's complexities. A visit to the Mosque in Woking offered a glimpse into cultural

diversity. The English Department treated them to "Life of Pi: The Musical," igniting their passion for storytelling. Acting as Open Evening tour guides and helpers in a range of departments showcased great leadership skills. Music concerts filled the air with melodious tunes, while a geography field trip to West Wittering sparked their curiosity about the natural world despite the horrific weather. They dazzled audiences with their performances in "Midsummer Night's Dream", the Christmas Concert and Carol Service and many students

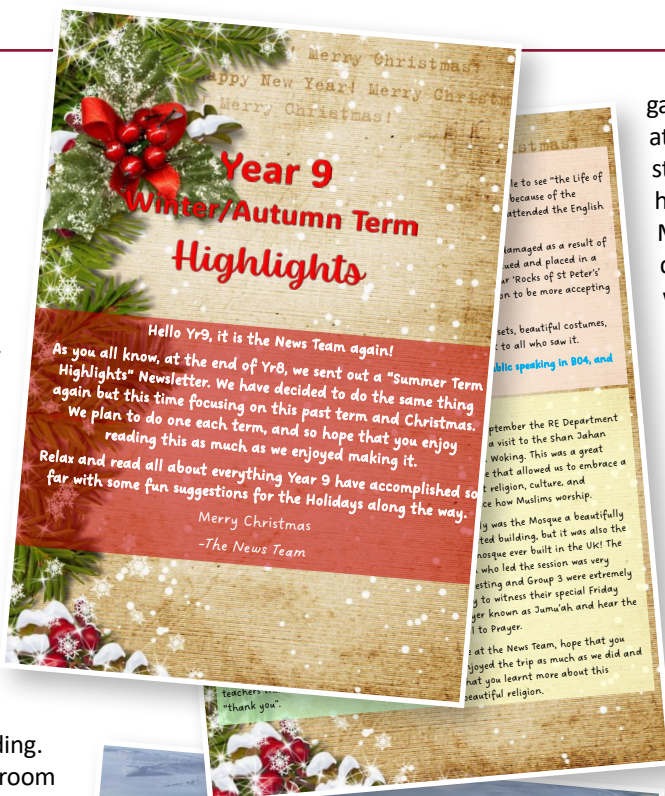
gave up their weekend to run stalls at the Christmas Fair. Most recently students received an insightful and heart wrenching talk on Holocaust Memorial Day from a survivor, and during Citizenship Day a health and wellbeing speaker enriched their understanding of good mental health and a healthy lifestyle. The journey has been nothing short of exhilarating, nurturing both their intellect and empathy.

We also have an amazing Year 9 Student Newsletter Team who at the end of every term put together their own newsletters which are sent out to students to reminisce on all the highlights of the term and provide new goals and activities to partake in. Here is a snippet of last term's newsletter:

"Beyond the confines of the classroom, many students have enthusiastically participated in clubs, sports teams, and community projects, showcasing their leadership potential and commitment to personal development. From sports to music, to Food Tech Club or leading the KS3 Debate Club, it is heartwarming to see our Year 9 students in their elements displaying passion for their interests and being enriched with a sense of belonging and community among students and staff within St Peter's. Through these various academic and extracurricular pursuits, students have honed essential skills such as communication, teamwork and time management, laying a strong foundation for their future endeavours."

As we look towards the remainder of the term and beyond, there is much optimism and excitement to be shared. With GCSE options and parents' evening approaching and the continued support and encouragement from teachers, parents/carers and peers, our Year 9 students are well-positioned to overcome challenges and seize opportunities. By nurturing a growth

continued...



mindset and fostering a culture of curiosity, independence, initiative, and resilience, we can empower them to take ownership of their learning journey, pursue their interests and thrive academically, socially and emotionally, promising a year filled with achievements, camaraderie and memorable experiences.

Our Year 9s are an incredible cohort whom we are all very proud of. Here are a few comments the students have said about the year so far:

Year 9 has been exciting with lots of new experiences, particularly in preparation for GCSEs. I've enjoyed learning about different careers over the course of the last few months, and I loved when we had the opportunity to speak to lots of people with a variety of jobs. This year, I'm looking forward to focussing specifically on my chosen subjects and developing my abilities in those areas. **Freya 9BA**

Year 9 is a great year! It is full of different opportunities like picking our options and chances to go on various trips throughout the year. Currently my favourite subject is history as we are learning about World War II and different factors that lead up to what happened at the time. This year I am most looking forward to the language trips, particularly the Spanish trip as we get to go to Malaga where we will learn about Spanish culture and practise using the Spanish language which will help me in GCSE. **Huw 9JP**



Successes outside the classroom:

- **Tia** - Won first place in a Figure Skating Competition
- **Daniel** - Current British Speed Skating Champion and broke a British record over a 500m distance
- **Finn** - Best Opposer at the Rotary's Public Speaking Competition
- **Alistair and Rebecca** - Third place in Top of the Beach competition run by the Royal Society of Chemistry

St Peter's PTA

We would like to take this opportunity to look back at 2023 with a big smile and a great sense of accomplishment.

The PTA was able to bring back a much loved event, the Christmas Fair, with a fantastic raffle and auction, a vibrant marketplace including the favourite chocolate and bottle tombola stalls, BBQ and more. In addition, the PTA organised a Second Hand Uniform Sale and supported many school events:

- **75th School Anniversary**
- **Annual Presentation Evening**
- **School productions of "A Night at the Musicals" and "A Midsummer Night's Dream"**
- **Annual Spring Concert, Christmas**



Concert and Carol Service

All these activities yielded an excellent profit of £12,000, including match funding from Vodafone and Barclays. As per previous years, the PTA will donate these funds to the school to provide much needed supplies for our students.

Naturally, all these events could not be possible without an incredible team, as well as the generosity of the local community. To date the PTA counts on the support of about 140 St Peter's parents, who contribute to the success in various ways: from volunteering to help at an event, to raising funds through matched funding, Guildford Community Lottery, Easyfundraising or donating services

and prizes for the raffles and auction. We would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your invaluable support and encourage more people to come and join us.

If you have any ideas for our school community and/or would like to join the team, please contact the **PTA at pta@st-peters.surrey.sch.uk**. Alternatively, look at our pages on the school website: St Peter's Catholic School - PTA. Other events for 2024 will be coming soon!



Second Hand Uniform Sale
Sat 23rd March 2024, from 2pm to 4pm in the Dining Hall.

School Trips...



Photography A Level Trip to London

Tuesday 16th January was a crisp, incredibly cold but sunny day.

Miss Cox and Mrs Jones took the Year 13 Photography A Level students to visit the Tate Modern. The group attended one of their latest exhibitions called 'Capturing the Moment'. The exhibition explores the interrelationship between painting and photography. Increasingly photography and other digital media is utilised in the making of art. The students really enjoyed the exhibition which will inform their upcoming exam unit. They were able to view original paintings by Pablo Picasso, Francis

Bacon and Lucien Freud alongside photographic silk screen work by Andy Warhol. Contemporary artists Njideka Akunyili Crosby and Andrea Gursky proved very popular.

After the gallery, we walked along the Thames Embankment and took photographs of the brutalist architecture around the Southbank Centre, the city skyline as well as graffiti details in the skate park.

You can see some of the photographs on our Instagram page: [@stpetersphotography1](https://www.instagram.com/stpetersphotography1)



Students learn about Judaism

This term all of Year 8 had the opportunity to visit Kingston's Liberal Synagogue. The visit was organised by the RE Department to enhance the learning of Judaism, which is currently being studied.

Learning about other world faiths is a requirement of the Catholic Bishops' curriculum for Religious Education and it helps prepare students for life in a multi-faith Britain.



During the visit, students were able to explore and develop their understanding of the key features of the Synagogue and they also had the chance to attempt to read Hebrew from the Torah scrolls and prayer books.

The guides spoke in detail about Jewish beliefs and practices and gave personal insights on what it is like to be a Jewish believer today, how they worship and what is involved in a Synagogue service.

Students also had the opportunity to ask many questions about Judaism and our guides helped students to appreciate connections between Judaism and Christianity, and they were able to dispel some common misunderstandings about the religion.

School Trips...

Tess of the D'Urbervilles

On 31st January, the Year 13 English Literature classes went to see Ockham Razor's production of Tess of the D'Urbervilles in London. We loved the unique adaptation using physical theatre to dramatise Hardy's novel. It introduced a different perspective to our favourite scenes through their use of circus, backdrop of projections, and their wielding of wooden planks to evoke the vast landscapes and interior worlds of Hardy's Wessex. We were mesmerised with the fluidity of the actors' movements to encapsulate Tess's tragedy and her strong, heroic and powerful story. **Phoebe and Ania Y13**



Hamnet

Drama students in Years 10, 12 and 13 went to see Lolita Chakrabarti's staging of Maggie O'Farrell's book, Hamnet, which is about the loss of Shakespeare's son and his resurrection in Hamlet.

The trip on a cold January night took us to the beautiful Garrick Theatre, London. Before the performance, we had some time to have dinner and explore Trafalgar Square.

Directed by Erica Whyman, the play itself is about love, trust, loss and all the aspects that make up humanity. It initially focusses on Shakespeare falling in love with his new bride Agnes who is sweet, light-hearted and comedic in many moments. The picturesque



romance of the first half changes dramatically as Agnes goes into a paralysing state of depression and William becomes almost emotionless, as they handle the grief of the death of

their young son Hamnet.

William departs from Stratford-upon-Avon to immerse himself in his creative work in London, leaving Agnes and the family in grief. The play climaxes with Agnes movingly discovering that William has written a play to honour their son, Hamlet. As the play progressed, the simple wooden set gradually developed until it resembled the original Globe Theatre where Shakespeare's plays were first performed.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the play and found the actors' performance extremely energetic and inspiring. We are now looking forward to planning our Year 10 and 12 live evaluation question for our mocks in the coming weeks.

Student Success Outside the Classroom

In December, Heidi participated in the International Hockey Tournament of the Inmaculada at Real Club de Polo in Barcelona, playing against teams from Spain, England, Italy and Belgium. In total, there were 18 teams in the U12 age group and the Guildford GU12 'Eagles' team came third overall. The girls were delighted to earn medals and to bring a trophy back to the Guildford Hockey Club.

In the photo, Heidi is on the ball and this was seconds before she used some 3D skills to lift the ball into the goal!

Heidi 7BA



Sporting Choices

All clubs Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday will run from 3:30-4:40pm. Apart from on Tuesday where clubs run from 3-4pm. There is no need to sign up, just turn up and play!

Please check the whiteboard outside the Gym and the noticeboard outside the Sports Hall at the end of the week to check what clubs are on for the following week!

After School Clubs

Monday

- Year 9 - Sixth Form boys' rugby
- Cheerleading - sign up only (please speak to Miss Palmer if you are interested in participating)
- Years 7-9 boys' football
- KS3 girls' and boys' badminton

Tuesday

- Multi sports activity (invite only)
- Years 7-8 boys' and girls' rugby

Wednesday

- Years 7-9 indoor cricket
- All girls' football
- Years 9-10 trampolining

Thursday

- Years 7-8 boys' and girls' volleyball

Friday

- All girls' strength and conditioning (starting after February half term, please speak to Mrs Occomore for further details)



Lunchtime Clubs

Monday

- Years 9 - Sixth Form volleyball
- All girls' gym and fitness

Tuesday

- Years 10 - 13 girls' and boys' badminton
- All boys' gym and fitness

Wednesday

- Years 10 - 13 boys' basketball
- Years 9 - Sixth Form table tennis

Rainbows Bereavement Support Group

Rainbows provide a safe setting in school in which young people can talk through their feelings of loss through a death, divorce, separation or any other painful transition in their lives with their peers who are experiencing similar situations. The groups are run by two facilitators to enable the students to express their feelings. There will be two groups running throughout



the school year. These will be for KS3 and KS4/5. The course runs over 12-14 weeks and runs for one hour each week and the group will have 6-8 students in

it. If you feel your child would benefit from joining this group, please email fblackett@st-peters.surrey.sch.uk for further information.



The spring term is packed full of food theme days for St Peter's students!

It started with Veganuary which is a nationwide campaign to eat less meat. The menus were packed full of vegetables and plant-based food for students to try.

I really enjoyed trying Veganuary as I haven't tried plant-based food before.

This was followed by celebrating the Year of the Dragon with a range of authentic and delicious Chinese food.

I really enjoy the theme days food but this was definitely my favourite so far!

The menu choices included:

- Vegan sweet chilli noodles and soya bean salad
- Chinese sticky and crispy chicken wings
- Hoi sin chicken pizza
- Char sui chicken with egg fried rice and crunchy stir fried vegetables
- Stir fried vegetables in black bean sauce with egg fried rice
- Banana fritters with toffee sauce

I love Chinese food, the noodles were really tasty and the banana fritters and toffee sauce were amazing!... I can't wait for Pancake Day next!



Valentine's and Shrove Tuesday theme days coming after half term!

