

# NEWSLETTER

May 2015

## Letter from the Interim Principal

Dear Parent/Carer

The Academic Year is passing very quickly. I would like to take the opportunity to update you about a number of important developments which will lead us to be well-placed for the Academic Year 2015-2016.

### Ofsted Visit

We were pleased to welcome Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI) Simon Mosely to St Peter's on 7<sup>th</sup> May for our first monitoring visit. This visit is to make sure that the Academy has made short-term and strategic plans to make rapid and sustained improvements against the key issues identified in the report from the full inspection. I am very pleased to inform you that the visit went very well in that it identified that the Academy has already moved on in a number of ways, and that the plans of both the school and the co-sponsors, are 'fit for purpose'. Although we accept a number of our strategies take time to implement and consequently have immediate impact, the judgements and commentary are most promising and reassuring. The report from the monitoring visit will be published on the Ofsted website on 27<sup>th</sup> May. We will publish it on the Academy website early in June. Please accept my thanks to all of the Academy community through this period of transition.

### Leadership

I am delighted to advise you that two key appointments have been made for September. Following an appointment process on Monday and Tuesday this week, Mr Michael Astley has been appointed as substantive Principal (*see copy of press release below on behalf of the Academy sponsors*).

The Joint Sponsors of St Peter's Academy, namely the Woodard Academies Trust and Diocese of Lichfield are pleased to announce that they have appointed Michael Astley as substantive Principal.

Michael is currently a Head teacher in a Staffordshire secondary school and he will take up his new role on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015. During the academic year 2015-16, additional part-time leadership capacity will also be provided by a Consultant Principal, Dewi Phillips.

The sponsors are confident that in appointing Michael they have appointed a Principal with the vision, aspiration, experience and skills to lead the Academy forward in the next phase of its improvement.

Michael, as our new Principal, will build on the considerable progress already being made by staff and students under the leadership of Interim Principal, Richard Butler and he will continue to focus on actions set out in the Academy Improvement Plan.

I know that you will be reassured by these appointments and will not only welcome our new colleagues, but offer your support as you have afforded me since joining the Academy in January 2015.

You may also be interested to learn that the Academy is currently progressing through a leadership re-structure. This is in response to some of the observations made at our Ofsted inspection, so as to support us in raising standards for students and working with greater efficiency. The new structure will be implemented before the end of this term. I will write to you again in due course to advise further. This process is not considering any teacher or support staff redundancies but will simplify our current structure which has grown unwieldy over time.

### **Year System - June 2nd**

As I indicated in my letter to you last month, we have made the important decision to move from the Vertical Tutoring System to a Year System. This means that students will be grouped by age at tutor time and for most assemblies. Having made the decision earlier in the Spring, we are now keen to move to this system as soon as we are able to so that we can be familiar with the arrangements prior to the start of the new term in September. We will be adopting the revised structure from June 2<sup>nd</sup> immediately after the term break. With this letter, you will receive a communication confirming who your daughter's/son's new tutor is. Inevitably there will be some minor amendments when we restart again in September due to staff who are moving on and new staff arriving.

Please note that the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June will start as usual in that students will arrive and move straight to Lesson 1. Arrangements for Assemblies and tutor time will be slightly different during the week but the students will be advised of minor changes during the day.

### **Organisation of the Day - September**

Thinking again for September, I am able to confirm that we will move into a different configuration (see below). This is to reduce the movement around the Academy and to extend the lesson length which will be helpful in areas where there is a practical aspect. At both breaks in the day, the caterers will provide hot and cold meals and snacks so that students can decide on their individualised approach to refreshments. . We are also moving to a two week cycle, this will enable more timetable flexibility to accommodate student's preferences at Key Stage 4, and to support more precise groupings across all year groups. The 5 period day over a 2 week cycle is the most commonly used format across secondary schools

<b>0840</b>	Period 1
<b>0940</b>	Period 2
<b>1040</b>	School Assembly (Tuesday)   Tutor Time/Year Assemblies
<b>1100</b>	Break
<b>1125</b>	Period 3
<b>1225</b>	Period 4
<b>1325</b>	Lunch
<b>1400</b>	Period 5
<b>1500</b>	End of Student Formal Day

### **Timetable Trial from July 6th**

So as to be well organised for September, we will be trialling the new timetable from July 6<sup>th</sup>. This will allow staff and students to experience the new timetable prior to the break. This will mean that time is not lost in September resolving snagging type difficulties. There will be the compromise that a small number of classes will have current staff substituting for staff who will be arriving in September.

### **Sports Day – June 30th**

As you might be aware, although we have good facilities at the school site, we do not have a purpose built all-weather track, nor any protection from the sun or rain for spectating students. Consequently, we have decided to make use of the excellent athletics facilities at Northwood stadium.

We are hoping that, with the support of their parents/carers and family, most students will be able to make their own way to the venue where we can meet and register them. For students/families unable to arrange transportation, we will provide a shuttle service from and returning to the St Peter's site. At the stadium we will have catering and other welfare arrangements in place during the day, and there will be a viewing area for families who wish to support the event.

We will be writing to you with the details of our Sports Day towards the end of June.

Many thanks for your ongoing support for your child(ren) at the Academy, and for supporting us on our current improvement journey.

### **Reminder of Key Dates**

Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2015	INSET Day
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2015	Academy reopens for students
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2015	Academy Sports Day at Northwood Stadium
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> July 2015	Year 6 Transition Day
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> July 2015	Uniform Sale at SPA 16:30 – 19:00
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2015	Last day of Summer Term for students and staff
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September 2015	INSET Day
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> September 2015	Academy reopens for students

**Richard Butler**  
Interim Principal

## **UKMT Maths Challenge**



We are all wishing Thomas Hollins, Lucy Brough, Olivia Jackson and John Baber good luck as they prepare for the UKMT Maths Challenge National Finals in London on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June. We wish them every success and know that they will be excellent ambassadors for St Peter's Academy.

## Term dates 2015/2016

Please note on the last day of the Summer Term, Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July, there will be a phased dismissal from 12:00. The last opportunity for students to purchase food will be at break time.

Autumn Term 2015	Students Year	Teachers Year
<b>Academy Opens</b>	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> September	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September
<b>Half Term</b>	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> to Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> October	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> October
<b>Academy Closes</b>	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December
<b>Spring Term 2016</b>		
<b>Academy Opens</b>	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> January
<b>Half Term</b>	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> February to Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> February
<b>Academy Closes</b>	Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Summer Term 2016</b>		
<b>Academy Opens</b>	Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> April	Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> April
<b>May Day</b>	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May (3 <sup>rd</sup> May is INSET day)	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May
<b>Half Term</b>	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> May to Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> May to Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June
<b>Academy Closes</b>	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July

Staff INSET Training Days
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September 2015
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2015
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2016
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> March 2016
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2016

## Travel Information

As you are already aware, Stanton's of Stoke have taken the decision not to operate the 599 bus service after Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May.

Alternative routes can be found on [www.potteriesbuses.co.uk](http://www.potteriesbuses.co.uk)

## Uniform

Date for your diaries – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July - Uniform Sale at the Academy with SMART School Uniform. 16:30 until 19:00. Further details to follow.

## 2015 – 2016 Prefect Team



A huge congratulations to the new team of Prefects who were appointed after an application and competitive interview process.

**Head Girl**

**Deputy Head Girl**

**Senior Prefect Team**

Phoebe Petehrick  
Tia Hall & Sophia Lin  
Lucinda Ball  
Jordan Copestake  
Mujaba Hachim  
Iqra Hussain  
Anita Kocsis  
Amy Reant



**Prefect Team**

Wajid Ahmed  
Bethany Fernyhough  
Fayed Ghori  
Carly Gibson  
Oliver Gibson  
Courtney Johnson  
Misbah Mahmood  
Vongai Mhembere  
Zani Ntalengwa  
Ray Pamungkas  
Rukhsaar Shakoor  
Rebecca Wright

We are confident that you will continue to provide support and guidance to the students at the Academy and we wish you every success as you undertake your new roles.

## Attendance

Students who have achieved 100% attendance from 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2014 to 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2015

St Matthew	St John	St Luke	St Mark
24 Students	32 Students	27 Students	28 Students

**Remember Attendance Matters**

## Young Photographers Competition



In March the St Peter's Academy Photography Club entered the Stoke-on-Trent Rotary Club's Young Photographer competition.

With a month to take the photographs they experimented with different techniques and styles including using a green screen, macro and black and white photography.

The competition was judged by photographers and members of the Rotary Club and a presentation evening was held on the 18<sup>th</sup> May at Stoke Sixth Form College. The evening was a great chance to see the other photographs entered and to meet other young photographers.

We are delighted to say that Gursharan Singh (Year 9) and former pupil Emma Kenyon both received awards, whilst Emily Mill's photographs also received high praise on the night.



**Reading on a Rock**  
By Gursharan Singh (Year 9)  
Awarded second place in the colour category.



**A feather in Black and White**  
By Emily Mills (Year 9)



**A Splash of Colour**  
By Emma Kenyon  
Awarded first place in the black and white category.

**Congratulations to everyone involved.**

## St Matthew's Chapter News

### Charity Bake Sale for 'Help the Heroes'



On the 1<sup>st</sup> May, Caitlyn Sims with the help of her friend Gemma Cowie held a cake sale to raise money for 'Help the Heroes'.

Together they raised a total of £83 for the Charity.

Well done to you both and a special thank you to Caitlyn and her Mum for providing delicious homemade cakes!



# St Luke's Chapter News

As another half term draws to a close, I'd like to take this opportunity on behalf of all the St Luke's Chapter team to wish all the year 11 Students good luck in their final examinations and wish them success and happiness for whatever the future may hold for them.

**Mrs Bolla** - Strategic Lead for St Luke's Chapter

## Achievement Merit Awards

### Bronze

We have continued to acknowledge students who have been rewarded achievement points on a weekly basis. Since our last newsletter in April, a further 21 students have received a bronze merit badge for earning 100 achievement points since the start of this academic year.

Aiden Campbell Aliyah Riaz Maryam Ahmed Olivia Chadwick Aysha Gulfam	Caitlin Grocott Bethany Richards Aaminah Akhtar Lucinda Ball	Haroon Saghir Owen Watkin Cameron Barker Drew Meredith	Joseph Brough Alex Beverstock Aneesah Imtiaz Lewis Wilkinson	Lauren Taylor Hudzayfah Bukhari Gorkem Anik Connor Reeves
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### Silver

The challenge to become the first student in St Luke's to achieve over 200 points and be awarded the Silver Merit badge was won by Lori Jones Pullin in year 7 with George Myatt in year 8 a very close second. Well done to you both, receiving over 200 achievement points in one academic year does not happen very often and is a fantastic achievement.



### Star of the Week

The student or students who achieve the most achievement points from the previous week are awarded with recognition during assembly as well as a stamp in their planner. Students who have been awarded Star of the Week so far this term are:

<b>Week Beginning 16/03/2015</b>	Isobel Bowdery Noor-UI-Aine Khan	<b>Week Beginning 27/04/2016</b>	Lewis Wilkinson Lee Mellor
<b>Week Beginning 23/03/2015</b>	Aysha Gulfam Oliver Teague Owen Watkin	<b>Week Beginning 04/05/2017</b>	Reece Baugh Adam Higgs Tayyeb Majeed George Myatt Jamie Price-Grundy Aiza-Laweeza Shahab
<b>Week Beginning 30/03/2016</b>	Lori Jones-Pullin	<b>Week Beginning 11/05/2018</b>	George Myatt
<b>Week Beginning 20/04/2015</b>	George Myatt Jamie Price-Grundy		

## St Mark's Chapter News

As usual at this time of year, as we look for signs of improving weather, our thoughts and prayers are with all our students sitting external examinations this summer. We hope that they do themselves justice, achieve excellent results and be well prepared for the next stage of their education.

As you may be aware St Peter's is making changes to its pastoral structures and I would like to thank everybody – Students, Parents/Carers and Staff for their support and encouragement over the last few years that has helped St Mark's Chapter achieve so much.

There are too many success stories to list here but I will mention winning the Academy Attendance trophy two years running as a particular highlight.

Please be reassured that St Mark's staff will still be available, if needed, in caring for students across the Academy.

I will leave my final word to Melanie Mahdi-Ahmed (St Mark 7)

“This half term I went to Keele University along with other members of the Sure Start Program and took part in the Salter's Chemistry Festival. On the day we took part in many different experiments and challenges including a murder mystery where we explored DNA fingerprinting. A technique that lets us see a person's unique DNA profile. One of our challenges was to mix different chemicals together to try and make all of the colours of the rainbow. It was a great experience and I really enjoyed myself.”

Thank you from the St Mark's Chapter team.

God Bless

**Mr Rubin** (Strategic Lead for St Mark's Chapter)    **Mr Thompson** (St Mark's Chapter Manager)  
**Mrs Hammersley** (St Mark's Chapter Assistant)    **Mrs Topping** (St Marks Chapter Administrator)

Remember we **ARE** St Mark's

## KMF Young Engineer of the Year

We are proud to be sending Zakariya Zaheen, Aris Akhtar and Irsfan Hussain to the finals of the KMF Young Engineer of the Year competition. The team will be competing at the event at the Britannia Stadium on the 18<sup>th</sup> June, we wish them all good luck and every success.

## 500 Words Competition

A huge congratulations to Choi-Yun Yu whose short story 'An Apple and A Worm' has made it through to the second round of the 500 Words competition held by the Chris Evans Breakfast Show on BBC Radio 2. Of over 12000 entries, 'An Apple and A Worm' was one of only 3000 others to make it through to the second round where it will be judged by the Reading Agency. Well Done!

## Creative And Performing Arts

### Staffordshire FA Girls Football Festival – Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2015



The girls had an amazing experience at the festival and got the chance to meet Karen Carney who is one of the English International women's footballers.



### Primary School 'Fitzy' Festival held at Fenton Manor on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2015

The aim of the festival was to build some fundamental key skills into PE lessons by promoting skills such as how to throw, catch and run, alongside skills which will also stretch into other areas of the curriculum. Five to seven year olds across the feeder Primary Schools were given a health boost after the fitness sessions that were delivered by some of our more experienced sports leaders within the Academy.

#### Young Leaders in St Peter's Academy



#### The roles and responsibilities of a Young Leader are:

- \* To increase participation and healthy lifestyles in our Academy
- \* To promote the positive values of sport in and through sport.
- \* To be an ambassador and role model advocating PE and sport within the Academy.
- \* To be the young people's voice on PE and Academy sport, both in the Academy and the Community.



### Athletics Combined Events Championships Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2015

A number of our pupils competed in the Staffordshire Combined Events Championships held at Northwood Stadium. A high quality competition pentathlon saw many athletes complete the 5 events Long Jump, Shot, High Jump, Hurdles, and either 800m or 1500m.

Competing in a combined events competition is the ultimate challenge for athletes. The competition is against oneself and the scoring tables and the aim is to score more points than anyone else does. It is the supreme test of mind and body, challenging a person's character, attitude and determination, and their physical abilities. It is impossible to 'tame' the event because nobody has ever achieved the perfect score (although some have got close) - there is always room for improvement and progress.

A massive congratulations to our Junior Girls Team who came 4<sup>th</sup>, Inter boys who came 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Inter Girls who came 1<sup>st</sup>

## Chaplaincy

*'There is a time for everything, and everything on earth has its special season.'*  
(Ecclesiastes 3:1 NCV)

This half term we have begun to say “good-bye” to students in Year 11. In the final week before the official start of GCSE exams, two significant spiritual events involving year 11 took place.

On the Tuesday of that week a group Year 11 students prepared and led our Whole Academy Assembly. Joshua Porter began by welcoming us all with our usual greeting of “peace be with you” and explained the significance of the assembly being led by Year 11 students. Hardeep Kaur, Sagar Shah, and Domitila Mwikali reflected on their time in Secondary Education and inspired us with words of gratitude, encouragement, and wisdom. We were also very blessed by the musical performance given by Rachel Skerratt, Michaela Stephens, and Kitty Tinsley, who have been faithful members of the Worship Team and Coir. The assembly closed with a prayer written and led by Michaela Stephens before Joshua sent us out into the rest of the day with the words of dismissal.

The content and delivery of the assembly made me feel very proud, and I know these young people are just a small part of a larger group of students who have grown as people during their time at St Peter’s Academy and its predecessor schools.

### **Celebrating their Journey**

On the 8th May, the last day that Year 11 would all be together before the start of their GCSE examinations, our Year 11 students gathered in the hall to celebrate how they have grown as individuals in the last five years.



Though we as staff, Parents, and Carers can see how far they have come, often our Young People are less aware of their achievements and personal development. The “Celebrating our Journey” event is an opportunity for them to reflect on their time in Secondary Education by visiting a series of prayer activity stations.



They were able to lay down stones to let go of a regret or unpleasant memory, write the things they were thankful for on paper bunting, light candles to pray for a person or situation, and blowing

bubbles to express their hopes and dreams for the future. While students took part in the various activities, a slideshow was displayed, showing of some of their exploits over the last five years. As you can see from the photographs, a good time was had by all as staff and students relived memories and celebrated the journey so far.



I would like to echo the sentiments Year 11 Leavers every blessing over into the next stage in their lives. Many thanks too to all the staff who helped with the practicalities of the event and shared with Year 11 at this special time.

of other staff in wishing our the examination period and

**Reverend Vivienne Flanagan** - Academy Chaplain

**CHOIR & WORSHIP NEWS**

**Stoke Minster 10<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary**



On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May St Peter's Academy Worship Team were invited to lead a service of prayer and celebration to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary of Stoke Minster. The service was recorded by George Barbrook from the Diocesan Digest Sound Magazine of Lichfield Cathedral.



**Choir Cinema Rewards Trip 'Pitch Perfect 2'**



'Amazing. Got a chance to be together and have fun outside of school'. -Megan Lee

'Cool but sad because it's the last trip with my Y11 friends'. - Sarah Porter



'A chance to get to know each other better'.- Charlotte Rogers



'Nice to be out in a big group together as one big happy family'. - Caitlin & Lily

'Really nice to be with friends outside of school'. - Hope Skerratt



'Great film, funny too'. - Connie Jandles

'It was a perfect trip for choir because Pitch Perfect relates to singing'. -Danika Maddox & Nicola Smith

## Fond Farewell



May I bid a fond farewell to a very special and unique group of Young People. For the past 5 years Rachel Skerratt, Michaela Stevens, Kitty Tinsley, Rebecca Poole, Domitila Mwikali, Aaron Stevens, Sam Critchley and Josh Porter have all been loyal members of St Peter's 'Worship Team' and 'Choir'. I have valued their enthusiasm, commitment and integrity and will miss them, more than words can say!



Each individual is a superb ambassador for the Academy and an exemplary example to younger students. They have represented the Academy

and performed in a variety of events in and outside of school. Their open declaration of faith and participation in collective worship only goes to demonstrate further a great strength of character and willingness to stand out from the crowd.

### *Student Quotes:*

*Kitty Tinsley - 'The choir and worship team has been the most influential part of my school life'.*

*'There have been times when the only reason I have wanted to come into school is because of choir'.  
- Michaela Stevens*

*'I appreciate the opportunity of being able to share my poetry in assemblies and feel that as a result I have grown in confidence'. Domitila Mwikali*

*Rachel Skerratt – 'It's scary. I refuse to believe that we will be leaving, the choir has been the best part of my schooling. Once I had a family emergency but still insisted that I come into school because the choir were performing and I didn't want to let Mrs Rubin down'.*

Thank you again for your tireless giving and support, to not only myself but the life of our Academy. I am extremely proud of you all and pray that God will keep you and bless you always.

**Mrs Rubin - Choir & Worship Coordinator**

## Forthcoming Events

### Stoke School s Music Festival

Stafford Sports and Performance Academy are hosting the first Stoke Schools Celebration of Music event on Monday 29th June at the Mitchell Arts Centre in Broad Street, Hanley, ST1 4HG. St Peter's Academy, will be participating along with a number of other local schools in the area. Tickets will be on sale direct from the Mitchell Arts Centre costing £10. Tel: 01782 409307.

**Praise & Prayer – Thursday 2nd July 2015**

There will be a Prayer & Praise Event on Thursday 2nd July in the Drama Studio. Details to follow

## Year 11 Revision Timetable

Below is a timetable of the revision sessions available to Year 11 Students for last minute preparation for their examinations.

	08:00 – 08:30	12:45 – 13:15
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	English Literature In the English teaching area Led by the English teaching team	
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June	History In the Humanities teaching area Led by the History teaching team	
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	English In the English teaching area Led by the English teaching team	
	Triple Scientists only Period 3/4/5/6 Led by the Science teaching team	
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June		Geography In the Humanities teaching area Led by the Humanities teaching team
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Maths In the Maths teaching area Led by the Maths teaching team	
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> June		Science both Core and Chemistry Led by the Science teaching team
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> June	Maths In the Maths teaching area Led by the Maths teaching team	
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> June		Science both Additional and Physics Led by the Science teaching team
	Triple Scientists only Period 3/4/5/6 Led by the Science teaching team	
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	History In the Humanities teaching area Led by the History teaching team	
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> June		Science both Additional and Biology Led by the Science teaching team
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> June	Further Maths In the Maths teaching area Led by the Maths Teaching team	Chemistry Led by the Science teaching team
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> June	History In the Humanities teaching area led by the History teaching team	Business and Communication Systems In D22 Led by J Malbon
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	Physics Led by Science teaching team	
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> June	Further Maths In the Maths area	

	Led by the Maths teaching team	
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