

ST AUGUSTINE'S FEDERATED SCHOOLS

MICHAELMAS
Newsletter



We want all of our community to have equal opportunities to experience life in all its fulness (John 10: 10). We encourage all community members to “be the best we can be” in every aspect of their lives as we grow in, and reflect on, the Christian virtues of Faith, Hope and Love (1Corinthians 13).

A GREAT TERM

Dear Parents, Carers & Friends of St Augustine's

It has been a great term at St Augustine's Federated Schools. The Primary and High schools have shared many experiences which we hope to have captured in our termly newsletter. The High School has a new website and the new primary website should be ready in the new year, so please look out for these for further news and celebrations.

We continue to pray for Peace around the world and pray particularly for any members of our community affected by the current conflicts.

Thank you for your continued support and interest in what our community does.

Eugene Moriarty
Head of Federation

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SECONDARY

Dear Parents/Carers

As the end of term approaches and we celebrate the festive season, I wanted to express my gratitude for your continued support this term. It was pleasing to see the attendance of our parents/carers to our Year 8 Expectations Evening and our Year 9, 12 and 13 Parents Evening that we have held this half term. We continue to work with all of our community members to ensure that our students have access to high quality teaching and learning and additional opportunities to support our outstanding personal development offer.

We have continued to have a variety of speakers and visitors to the school this half term, such as the Paddington Arts Project for Year 9 and Year 12 students, presentations from our NHS Partners and Mind, Humankind Charity and Oddballs presentations, Year 12 Work Experience with the Society of Antiqua-



ries, Year 10 GCSE Geography students completing their GCSE Fieldwork, theatre workshops for the 6th Form and a Dream Arts Project with some Year 8 students. Some of our staff and 6th Form students also completed a 10km walk around London to support the charity 'Shelter' and we also had a staff and student fitness challenge last week to raise money for UNICEF and Children in Need. We are also very pleased with our Year 13 and Year 11 students who completed their UCAS and Mock exams this half term too.

I wish you all a peaceful holiday with your families.

Rachel Kelly
Head of Secondary

APPOINTMENTS WITH STAFF

APPOINTMENTS	
Parent/Carer Name:	_____
Student Name:	_____
Year:	Form: _____
Phone Number:	_____
Email:	_____
Reason:	_____

To better serve you and your child's needs, we ask that any parent or carer who would like to speak to a member of staff should first make an appointment to do so. Parents/carers can come in to the school reception and complete the above appointment card, or they can make an appointment by emailing mail@stahigh.org with your child's name, the reason for the appointment and the best contact number to reach you.

If you have a safeguarding concern, you can ring the school or come in to the school and speak to a member of the safeguarding team at any time.

CHILDREN IN NEED

To celebrate and raise money for Children in Need this year, pupils came to school dressed in their brightest outfits and donated at the school gate. To assist in raising even more money for Children in Need, the Charity committee from the high school ran a competition for Year 4-6 pupils. Pupils were asked to re-create Pudsey Bear in any way they would like. Most creative wins! Thank you so much to all of the wonderful entries. I know it was extremely hard for the committee to decide a winner. Well done to Raffif in Year 6 and Fatima P in Year 5 for your wonderful creations. Both pupils received a £10 Amazon voucher for winning. Thank you to the high school for such a brilliant idea.

Miss Bettoni
Assistant Headteacher - Primary School



DAY AT THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES

Twenty year 12 students took part in a two-day work experience at the Society of Antiquaries on 16th and 17th November. This amazing opportunity was jointly organised by the school in partnership with City Lions and the Society of Antiquaries.

The scheme consisted of sixth formers "taking over" some of the jobs, following a training period with support from the Society's team, to develop vital skills and insight in preparation for the world of work. Students had a tour of the building, explored their Library and Museum, collaborated with a wide range of staff and will receive both a certificate of participation



and a reference afterwards.

The activities undertaken by students with different departments included:

- Communications – researching, writing and posting social media content for different platforms.
- Museums & Collection – exploring their Library and Museum collections, research objects, writing labels for different audiences, brainstorming exhibition ideas.
- Fundraising – writing and delivering a fundraising pitch for a potential project.
- Learning – planning an event for young people to be held at the Society and writing a pitch for it.
- Front of House – undertaking visitor welcome training and writing a mini-script about an object/painting currently on displays



Feedback from the Society of Antiquaries:

'Dear Year 12 students,

Thank you so very much for visiting us and contributing so successfully to our very first 'Takeover Day'. As you know I was personally so impressed, and touched, how quickly you became part of our family at Burlington House and how you were able to translate what we do so effectively. Your energy really made the place come alive! I will be sharing the essence of your pitches with our Council in a couple of weeks. I have no doubt that they will be inspired by your ideas as much as me and

my colleagues were.

It is my hope that this is the beginning of a longer and deeper relationship between St. Augustine's and the Society of Antiquaries. There is so much potential to support each other moving into the future in celebration of the past!

Finally, I must also say that you are all very lucky to have such a thoughtful and kind teacher in Mr Ydri. He said to me how impressed he was by all of you and what you achieved!

You have my details, so if you have any questions, or require any help, please do let me know.'

Memoria Lewis

General Secretary and Chief Executive Officer

'I have learnt more about the society of antiquaries and my communication skills have improved significantly thanks to the tours we were allowed to give to visitors (which I enjoyed a lot). I felt that giving the students an opportunity to make up what to post on social media about the museum made us feel more included and when Ms Lewis - the CEO - talked to us, I felt that we weren't treated just as students but were and have always been part of the Society of Antiquaries community. When we were working with the blocks and took pictures of them, the experience felt realistic and as if we actually work there. When we were told that they could publish our work online on their website with our name besides it, I felt really included. Thank you for the opportunity.' Inas – Year 12 student





POSITIVE REWARDS AT ST AUGUSTINE'S - TERM 1!



We introduced a new rewards programme this term to ensure that we can celebrate and recognise all of the fantastic work that our students do every day at school. We wanted to celebrate when students show growth in our virtues of Faith, Hope and Love, and when they demonstrate our school values. Our students have so far been awarded 38,534 positive praise this term which is fantastic! This term we have also introduced the following:

- Positive emails home to parents/carers each week their child is awarded a positive point.
- Student of the Fortnight
- 'Be the Best that we can be' Achievement certificates
- Student of the Half Term
- Tutor Group of the Half Term

During the Reward Assemblies that have been completed during the last week of term, the following rewards were also given out to our students across Year 7-13:

- Ethos and Values Badge which is awarded to students who receive all 9 positive behaviour points during the term
- Head Teacher's Commendation which is awarded to one male and female student in each year group who have stood out and contributed to school life
- Attendance and Punctuality awards for students who have an outstanding attendance record are entered into a draw for a prize
- Mr Hatch Community Award which is awarded to one student in each year group who has contribu-

ted to school life

- We also have a new reward launching in 2024 which is the Zuhair Hassan Creative and Performing Arts Award which will be awarded to one student in each year group who has contributed to creative and performing arts.

SIXTH FORM BOYS FOOTBALL

This term, Mr Onabanjo and the sixth form team, alongside a group of Year 12 and 13 footballers, decided to re-form the football team. Since leaving Year 11, none of the players had played organised football together, so it took some time to adjust! However, after a humiliation at the hands of Southbank School, and plenty of hard work and training, we became a team. We have followed this up with some hard-fought performances and 2 wins out of 4. Our most recent 2-1 win was against KSA. This was hugely enjoyable, especially having been one-nil down.

We must not forget that none of this would be possible without the unwavering dedication of Mr Onabanjo and the amazing support of Mr Amos, Miss Carney and Rob, as well as the students that come to watch our games. A massive thank you to all that believed in us. We hope to keep our upwards trajectory and hope your support continues into the new year.

-Jerves, Year 13 Sports Council Prefect

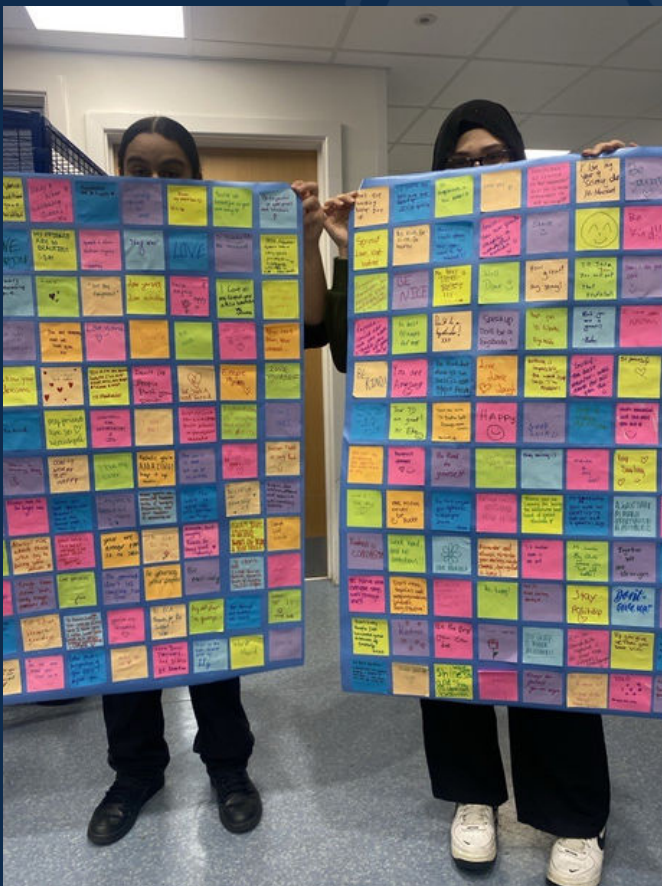




ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

During Anti-Bullying week, the Wellbeing Committee did an excellent job at organising powerful activities around the entire school to help spread kindness and positivity. Most students engaged in writing down lovely messages on 'positive post-it notes' during their lunch times, spreading kindness and writing up-lifting messages to their peers and teachers. Engaging assemblies led by the committee raised awareness,, emphasizing the importance of empathy and understanding. Additionally, our amazing 6th form students showcased their support of Anti-Bullying through impactful posters, promoting a culture of inclusivity and standing against any sort of hate, as well as wearing Oddsocks to support Young Minds. I am proud to be the Prefect in charge of Wellbeing and we look forward to wellbeing fortnight in the new year.

-Noor Le Hussein, Year 13 - Prefect for Kindness



IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM

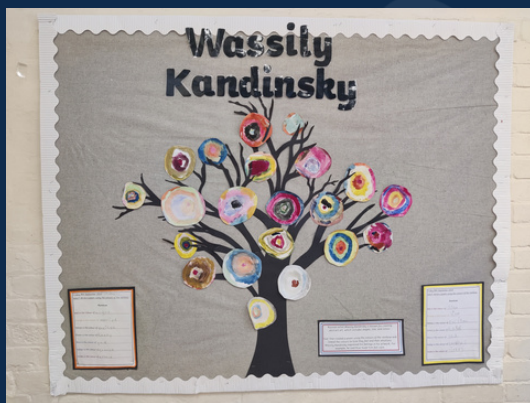


To conclude the teaching part of this year's A level History coursework, we wanted to take our students to the fantastic Imperial War Museum to study in the Holocaust Galleries, an incredibly moving exhibition curated by Professor James Bulgin, an expert in this field. The students have read 8 different historian's works, focusing on how far the Holocaust was a long-term plan, and examining the workings of Hitler's Third Reich. Such has been their intellectual curiosity, the students were able to fully immerse themselves in the exhibition, working together to discuss their findings and challenge some of the theories we have studied. They are a wonderful group and we fully enjoyed this opportunity to be out of the classroom, studying photos, film, artefacts and documents, all of which serve to bring history alive.



TAKE ONE ARTIST

During the first week of the autumn term, all primary school children took part in Take One Artist Art Week. Every class had the opportunity to study the work of an artist and to produce their own artwork, which is on display around the school. The children enjoyed learning about the work of some of the world's most influential artists and produced some wonderful work.



INTERNATIONAL EVENING

It was wonderful to celebrate the brilliant diversity of our primary school community on Tuesday 3rd October during our International Evening. Those children who wanted to, came in to school wearing traditional dress. During the day, every class made time to consider all the different heritages/cultures we have and what that brings to our wonderful school community.

After school, the day was topped off with the most amazing food during our International Evening! The range of foods that were on offer for all to try was truly fantastic. A huge thank you to all our parents who contributed food and time to making this an occasion to remember.

-Mrs Cunnington



READING CHAMPIONS

This half term, every Thursday morning, Year 7 pupils from the high school are visiting the Year 1 class. The Year 7s are our Reading Champions and read with the same Year 1 buddies every Thursday. All of the pupils really enjoy their time together and look forward to this every week! We would like to say a big thank you to the Year 7s for helping us to become even better at reading, and for sharing such wonderful exciting stories!



FITNESS CHALLENGE & CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

On December 15th, the Sixth Formers and some members of the teaching community took part in a Fitness Challenge to raise money for UNICEF and Children in Need. The challenge involved 8 teams of 5 teachers and students, competing in a range of challenges (including squats, push ups, sit ups, burpees and a baton relay), all in aid of these two amazing charities. Much fun was had, with an incredibly fierce spirit of competition throughout! We look forward to the next staff v student event, perhaps a plank challenge, Benchball...or even a dance off!

To ensure the rest of the school did not miss out on any festive fun, we also encouraged everyone to come in wearing Christmas Jumpers or Santa Hats, again in aid of UNICEF and Children in Need. We always want to do our best to be charitable, and support those in need, both in our community and beyond. We hope to continue our fundraising events into the new year and thank everyone for their generosity and support.



OPEN-SOURCE INTELLIGENCE

A group of sixth formers took part in an Open-Source Intelligence work experience day at King's College.

The day's programme included investigation-based careers, including national security, law enforcement, cybersecurity, human rights monitoring, and journalism.

In addition to a series of presentations and panels, students completed a practical open-source investigation activity with the support of lecturers, social science researchers and professional open-source analysts.

Students tried out the tools used by experts in the field, grapple with the ethical dilemmas that arise when exploiting information from open sources and learnt about the social science foundations of designing and implementing effective open-source investigations.

"I essentially discovered a whole new branch within law studies. It was a lovely insight into the job sector, pathway into it, as well as the fact that it enriched my knowledge of Open-Source intelligence. It was explained to an intricate level of detail which made understanding it simpler. I enjoyed the practical tasks, and the experience in itself was definitely what I would define as a once in a lifetime opportunity. I would definitely engage in a similar opportunity in future. Thank you." Miriam – Year 12 student





YEAR 11 ENTERPRISE PROJECT

Year 11 students on the Prince's Trust course embarked on an enterprise project that saw them develop a business idea. They called their company 'Tote Oasis' and their aim was to create uniquely designed tote bags. They conducted their market research and then decided on the design, style and price of their bags. Members of staff were their targeted clientele, and they have managed to sell a good number of their products.

"This project made me feel so confident. I learnt to present to people about my work and have developed important communication skills. Now, I know the tasks to follow to start an enterprise." Daniel – Year 11 student



All of these designs are the original work of our year 11 students!

WALK FOR SHELTER UK

The cold is starting to settle in, and we huddle indoors to seek comfort and escape the bite of the frost outside. For many of us, we are able to take refuge in a place we call home, but for 271,000 people in England alone, do not share that basic human right. Of these, 2,400 people are sleeping rough on any given night, 15,000 people are in hostels or supported accommodation and nearly 250,000 are living in temporary accommodation – most of whom are families.

Shelter UK is a charity that offers many services in order to help people get back on their feet and escape

homelessness. They work through a multitude of ways: locally with one-to-one support, over the phone by running a free emergency hotline, online through their website that offers expert information on things like reclaiming a deposit or applying as homeless. They also offer legal aid, through providing solicitors who offer free legal advice and attend court to help those who have lost their home or are facing eviction. They campaign for housing justice by working in communities to understand the problem and change the system and running national campaigns to fight for change at the top. They describe their existence to defend the right to a safe home.

Our school felt compelled to help this cause, and did so by running the Walk for Shelter UK, which consisted of a three-hour walk from London Bridge to Westminster, down the Embankment and all the way to Tower Bridge. 27 students and 10 members of staff partook in this event. We were able to raise over £700 for this cause!

Students described this as an eye-opening experience, revealing the true extent of homelessness present within London. It can be expected that the three-hour long journey was tiring to say the least, but students found motivation to keep going upon seeing the true extent of homelessness firsthand.

Zeinab (Yr12) describes the experience as a means to remember how lucky we are to still have a home to return to, whereas those on the street remain in the cold, and it pushed people to stop complaining about the strenuous nature of the walk.

It is the time of gratitude, and one thing we can be grateful for is the simple fact that we have a place we can find shelter in and truly call home is a blessing in itself.





CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY - PRIMARY SCHOOL

We celebrated Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 15th December. Everyone came to school looking very colourful and festive! We had a competition for the best homemade Christmas jumpers.

Congratulations to Mahsa (Reception), Jad (Year 1), Ahmed (Year 3) and Almas (Year 4) for winning first prize! Well done to Malek (Year 3), Casalina (Year 4) and Lea (Year 6) for winning a prize as runners up. It is lovely to see how creative our pupils can be!

-Ms Bettoni



GROWING HOPE

This term at the primary school we have officially started our 'Growing Hope' group. Pupils have been working closely with Miss Bettoni to plan a wonderful display of herbs, vegetables and flowers that represent loved ones in their lives. The Year 6 pupils made an excellent start to their garden by planting a mixture of herbs and we are really looking forward to seeing them begin to grow. Next time the children meet, we will be choosing a flower to plant that makes us think of our special people.



ACTIVE WESTMINSTER

The High School PE Department finished runners up at the Active Westminster Sports Awards in the Category of PE and School Sport. This award recognised the contribution that the PE Department makes towards providing opportunities for students to take part in a range of sports both in and outside of school. St Augustine's were the only state secondary school that made the shortlist - a huge achievement.



KEW GARDENS

On a sunny Tuesday in September, Year 13 Biologists and BTEC Applied Scientists, joined by Ms Bosso and Ms Clostre, took a trip to Kew Gardens, where they engaged in two Field Studies sessions, comparing the biodiversity of different areas of Kew, guided by the Kew team of educators. After a successful day of sampling plant species, there was an opportunity for students to visit the "Plants of the Qur'an" and "All the flowers are for me" exhibitions at the Shirley Sherwood Gallery of Botanical Art ; finally, students who wanted could stay and explore the Gardens, including the Temperate and Palm House.

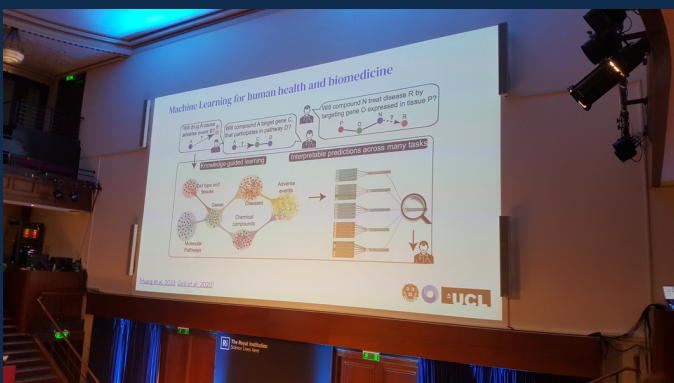




ROYAL INSTITUTION YOUTH SUMMIT

On Monday 18th September, a group of Year 13 students of IT, Biology, and Chemistry attended the Royal Institution Youth Summit on Artificial Intelligence, where they heard from experts and academics working on AI about the current state of Artificial Intelligence, and its potential limitations and ethical issues.

Our Sixth Formers were then able to join other students in shaping the RI' Christmas Lectures on the topic by taking part in round tables and sharing their ideas, hopes and concerns with the members of the AI panel. Some impressive discussions happened, and Mohammed Karim showed no little bravery in presenting his table's ideas to the entire audience in the Faraday Lecture Theatre! Thank you to Mr Barrell for joining the trip !



UNIFORM UPDATE

Between now and July 2024, we will be phasing out our current royal blue school jumper. Due to the introduction of our new school badge and school ties, we are now making a change to the school jumper.

From January, if you need to buy a new school jumper for your child(ren) then please ensure it is either a Plain Navy-Blue V-Neck Jumper or Plain Navy-Blue V-Neck cardigan with buttons, not zips (Please see examples opposite).

These items can be purchased from any retailer and must ensure they have no logos or badges, collars, embellishments or patterns. Students are able to wear the royal blue school jumper for the rest of this academic year if they wish, but from September 2024, the royal blue jumper will no longer be part of our school uniform.



TERM DATES - 2024-25

Please find a link to our school website where parents/carers can see the school term dates for 2024-25. <https://www.stahigh.org/school-life/term-dates/>