



Panathlon Challenge - see page 3

Dear Parents and Carers

Home Secretary visits St Paul's

A very important element of our school community is the Metropolitan Police. The Cadets, the Junior Cadets and the Drum Corps all meet on a weekly basis at St Paul's. In the middle of January, we were delighted to welcome the Home Secretary, Rt Hon. Amber Rudd MP, to St Paul's Academy. During the evening Ms Rudd reviewed a parade, met with a small group of the Cadets, took part in a Q & A session that was facilitated by Kaitlyn Hurdwell, a former student of St Paul's and listened to a performance by the Drumming Corps. At the end of the evening presentations were made to the Cadets including Lily Towner (Year 10) who received a 'Jack Petchey' Award

that recognises her valuable work on the Greenwich Young Peoples' Council. Tope Olusegun (Year 11) received the coveted 'Greenwich Cadet of the Year' Shield in recognition of his prodigious volunteering.



Teacher retiring

At the end of the autumn term it was with sadness that we said goodbye to Tony Ring, Assistant Principal who retired after eleven years at St Paul's.

We are delighted to welcome our new staff who have already commenced their roles at St Paul's, Balvinder Assi, Isobel Clarke, Sam Lingwood and Alfie Munday.

Best Wishes
Patrick Winston
Principal



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Awards for individual cadets

It was a privilege to receive the Home Secretary at St. Pauls Academy this week to meet our Volunteer Police Cadets and discuss the contribution and successes they have had in supporting local communities. The evening included individual celebrations, with the Home Secretary presenting awards to individual cadets. The enthusiasm and pride shown by our cadets was humbling to see and I am sure they will remember the occasion in years to come. I would like to thank the Home Secretary for her time and support, along with the Principal, Patrick Winston and his staff and PC Andy Harris and our adult volunteers who provide the critical support needed to enable the Volunteer Police Cadets to continue to flourish. Lastly, I would like to thank the Cadets themselves for the work they do and the difference they make.



The visit was reported in the local press:

"Amber Rudd visited Greenwich Volunteer Police Cadets VPC at St Paul's Academy in Abbey Wood on Wednesday night (18). The visitor was treated to a marching routine from the 40 young cadets, aged between 11 and 18, in addition to a rendition of a drumming composition by them called 'Home Secretary'.

She also chatted with the cadets about the work they have been doing to help prevent crime and her role in the Government.

She said: "I was delighted to visit and personally thank the cadets in Greenwich for their great voluntary work. They are a credit to their unit and are real role models in their local communities giving up their time to help others.

"The Metropolitan Police Service, like every force in the country, wants to reflect the communities they serve and I am very pleased that so many young men and women – particularly those from black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds – are choosing to take part in the cadets and helping their local forces deliver effective policing for young people. I hope that they may also be inspired to take up a future career in policing."

The VPC Programme runs across every borough in London and is aimed at young people aged between 10-24 years old."



Panathlon Challenge Event

Tuesday 17th January saw students from across the London Boroughs of Bexley, Greenwich, Lewisham and Kensington & Chelsea come together to compete in the annual Panathlon Challenge Event at St Paul's Academy. This sporting event, which caters for students with a special educational need, was a fantastic opportunity for pupils to engage in a range of new sports, learn new skills, make friends and have fun representing their borough.

Students participated in a range of sports such as Boccia, New Age Curling, Polybat as well as a number of athletics events. Students were forthcoming in expressing their opinion on how the day went, highlighting the wonderful time they had as well as the many new skills and lessons they learnt along the way.

Michael from Team Bromley said, 'At first I was feeling quite nervous but now I'm really excited. My favourite event is New Age Curling and I can't wait to do it again next year!'

Mo from St Paul's Academy, representing Team Greenwich explained how 'It's not about winning it's about having fun and trying your best. Sport is really important to me because it helps me make new friends'. While Robbie from Greenwich expressed how he would 'like to do the Paralympics when I'm older!'

Teaching staff and carers accompanying students on the day were equally as positive and enthusiastic about the merits of such an event for the holistic development of pupils. Debbie Raines, a teacher accompanying Team Bexley said, 'I think these events are great. Good for their morale and helps them work in teams. Whether they win or lose they learn.'

The successful delivery of this event would not have been possible if it wasn't for the help and assistance provided on the day by 23 of our Year 11 Sports Leaders. Throughout the day students delivered a range of sporting activities designed specifically to meet the needs of the participants. Not only did our students do a fantastic job but they also gained immensely from their experiences, developing a range of new skills as well as knowledge and understanding of working with students with special educational needs in a sporting context.



Year 11 students, reflecting on their experiences commented:

'At first I thought it was going to be simple and easy to interact with the kids. I realised that it was harder than I thought but I am having a really great time.'

(Ping Cabanas – Year 11 Student).

'Today was enriching, the children's commitment was outstanding.'

(Aaron Innocent-Hill – Year 11 Student).

'Today was a successful day through which I acquired many new skills. I am grateful for this opportunity and happy that it's one of the many successful events I have had the opportunity to participate in at SPA.'

(Micky Ashong – Year 11 Sports Leader).

'The Panathlon was a fantastic experience for me! It was great to see everybody smiling and having a good time. I learnt a lot from the event and acquired new skills such as non-verbal communication. I really enjoyed myself and would definitely do it again!'

(Lora Umelue – Year 11 Sports Leader).

Our students were once again fantastic ambassadors for our school with many visitors commenting on the wonderful job they did in facilitating the delivery of the event. Mr Akif, who was responsible for managing our Sports Leaders on the day said, 'Our Year 11 Sports Leaders are a credit to the school, themselves, their parents/guardians and teachers. They remained committed to each activity they were designated to during the event which aided the consistent flow of events throughout the duration of the day.'

Occasions of this type show our students, staff and facilities at their very best. It is also a huge reflection of our school ethos and values, whereby we at St Paul's Academy believe in providing students with opportunities which reach far beyond that of the taught curriculum. We believe in providing qualities beyond qualifications and the Panathlon is one example of how we achieve this.





SPA Geography African Adventure Challenge with Year 10

Within the Geography department we welcome students who are assets to their year group. These students are the first to become Ambassadors of Geography in Year 10 and are shining role models to younger year groups. I have no doubt the three students who have entered the African Adventures will aspire to top grades in the new curriculum at GCSE Geography and hopefully make it to the finals of the competition they have entered.



Year 10 students Yetunde (far left), Princess and Precious have entered the African Adventures competition to win a trip to Kenya.

The aim of the **African Adventures' School Geography Challenge** is to increase awareness and understanding of the challenges facing many of the world's LIDCs (Low Income Developing Countries). Our three students took part in a decision-making exercise, which focused on the impacts of El Nino flooding in Kenya. They first identified the impacts of flooding that they believed to be most significant, before deciding how they would spend an allocated budget on emergency aid to the region. They then completed an Aid Action Plan which justified their decisions and spending, making implicit links between the impacts and the aid they chose (please see the photo below). These resources were focused around one of our Kenyan partner projects, The Walk Centre; a community-based NGO located in Nakuru.

The African Adventures' School Geography Challenge is providing the opportunity for schools from around the UK to showcase their motivated Geography students. The ten best entries will be shortlisted and those students will be invited to attend a final, as part of a team of four, to undertake a live challenge and compete for the incredible prize of a trip to Kenya in June/July 2017 with two staff members! As part of the trip, the group will visit The Walk Centre and see first-hand the work being done there, with the support of African Adventures, to overcome development challenges and improve the lives of many. Our students will find out whether they have been successful in their bid to make the finals in February.



Increasing understanding of development challenges in Africa

DECISION-MAKING EXERCISE:
HOW WOULD YOU DISTRIBUTE
AID TO FLOODED COMMUNITIES
IN NAKURU, KENYA?

What does the trip mean to St Paul's Academy?

"In Geography we have worked hard to inspire the students that the subject is not defined by studying theory in the classroom. Through our slogan 'Where's your next Geography classroom?' it challenges this notion and aims to provide the students with a wealth of experience studying 'Geography in reality'. Winning the trip with African Adventures would provide the school with a once in a lifetime opportunity to experience a classroom, that for many of our students, is beyond their reach. It provides an international platform to our established volunteering initiative and takes the students a world away from the confines of a seat in classroom." (Mr Davis)

"It would mean that we would have an opportunity to influence someone else's life positively. To show them that someone cares for them and that every life is worth living, no matter what age you are.

We choose to get involved because we believe that we, as young people, can be empowered to do something remarkable; not only for ourselves, but for someone else too.

We spent our free time after school, empathising with the Kenyan People of Nakuru, prioritising not only emergency aid, but also long term aid to further develop the country. Using the given resources as guidelines, we also used them to consider the social, economic and environmental impacts of a flood and the aid needed to counteract it. We hope to win the prize of a trip to Kenya because it is once in a lifetime opportunity to contribute by being a helping hand.

We have recently been successful in becoming Geography Ambassadors. This trip would be a prime example of Geography in reality, taking our knowledge and applying it outside of the classroom. **Where Is Your Next Geography Classroom?** (Hopefully, an African Adventure!)" (Princess, Precious and Yetunde).

Below is a link to the company we are very grateful for giving us the chance of a life changing opportunity to Kenya!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gj7Vw9ecyi0>

Please see the Geography Blog and St Paul's Academy website for more details of events within Geography, including pictures, especially of students' REWARD trips and outside learning experiences. Please congratulate your child or those of you who teach these students! Let us hope we receive good news in February!

Where is your next Geography classroom? (as the Year 10s say, "Hopefully, an African Adventure!")



Please see the link below for an explanation of this project
<https://vimeo.com/171902126>



SPA Geog and the Choir Fundraise for the Advent Charity

First and foremost we wish all our readers a very Merry Christmas and the best wishes for 2017. Before the Christmas break the newly appointed Year 11 SPA Geog Ambassadors combined with some with the School's Choir went to Morrisons in Erith to raise money for the Advent Charity appeal. Under the expert tutelage of Ms Viner the Choir produced amazing vocals on various hymns and festive songs to the public and staff alike. The students – under the lead of the chocolate selling duo Mr Davis and Mr O'Connell – packed bags at the till for customers. Both the public and Morrisons' staff commented of the fabulous singing of our choir and the politeness of the Ambassadors at the till. The fundraising co-ordinator from Morrisons commented that the Choir from St Paul's Academy were 'the best we have had this Christmas season!'. All students were a credit to the school and represented themselves as assets.



Year 7-11 members of the Choir sing hymns and Christmas songs at the entrance to Morrisons Erith.

We celebrate the achievements of our Ambassadors and Choir on doing their bit to help raise money for the various charities support by the school. Please congratulate your child or those you teach if you see them. This year the students at St Paul's Academy were raising money for:

- St Ann's Education Project in Kenya;
- The Royal Marsden Hospital, Sutton;
- CAFOD;
- Thamesmead Food Bank'
- Anerley Across: a charity which takes disabled people to Lourdes on an annual pilgrimage (www.anerleyacross.org.uk)'
- The Christmas Tree Project;
- King's College Hospital: Haematology Department;
- Cancer Research UK;
- Weybourne Care Home.



The Year 11 Ambassadors of Geography and Choir raised an amazing £368 for charity in four hours. A tremendous achievement by all.

Please see the Geography Blog and St Paul's Academy website for more details of events within Geography.

Where is your next Geography classroom?

Kevin was an expert at talking to customers.

St Paul's Year 11

Great Christmas Bake Off



Students from Year 11 in groups of two or three, designed and baked cakes in an after school session in order to raise money for the school Advent Appeal. The evening was fun and entertaining, and with a diverse mix of students a great range of cakes were baked.

Cakes were judged the next morning with prizes and a certificate awarded for first, second and third. Klaudia and Eljay won first prize on this occasion and the cakes were sold with all proceeds going to the Academy's nominated charities.



CHRISTMAS

Volunteering at St. Paul's Academy

Whilst many adults and children around Greenwich were sleeping and dreaming of Santa and presents, five Year 11 students and some Year 12 students, who returned from college to experience Christmas volunteering for a second year, volunteered to help deliver presents to Ronald McDonald House in Camberwell. All of the volunteers were dressed in various different types of Christmas attire and we even had a guest appearance from Patrick Winston, Principal of St Paul's Academy, and his wife Carmilita, who were welcome additions!



However, what made this trip so special this year was the generosity of students, staff, friends and families. This meant that we were able to deliver presents, not just to Ronald McDonald House, but also Lion Ward at St Thomas's Hospital, which looks after sick children with head injuries, and the Liver Ward (Ray of Sunshine). Martin Shittu – who was a patient of Lion Ward for a lengthy period – was able to hand-deliver presents to children that are now in a similar position, and give back to the staff who were so kind and caring towards him. Donating to these children was the main reason that students and staff were motivated to get out at bed at 5am!



The many faces of Christmas at Ronald McDonald House – centre is the train map donated by money from St Paul's Academy last year.

Ronald McDonald House in Camberwell is run by the independent charity, Ronald McDonald House Charities, and is one of 14 Houses which provide free, 'home away from home' accommodation for families who have children being treated at specialist hospitals across the UK. In this case, it supports King's College Hospital London. This hospital has treated two former St Paul's Academy students.

The students helped allocate 400+ gifts to 24 different families and 26 children in Ronald McDonald House, many of whom were seriously ill, or were the siblings of these children that were away from home, and were therefore unable to celebrate the festive season at home, in the usual way. In addition, the students were able to walk to King's College Hospital and hand-deliver presents to the Lion and Liver Wards unlike last year. The Year 11 and 12 students helped allocate presents to each family with individual gift bags or wrapped presents, with personalised cards and these were placed under the tree or placed into Santa sacks. The students also had time to give gifts personally to siblings in the house and create snow for a Winter Wonderland inside the dining area.

These students are truly a fantastic testament to the charitable work being completed by St Paul's Academy and are an asset to the school community. An amazing day was had which truly reflects the Christmas spirit of giving to others during the festive season, and underpins the activities that contribute to the £10,400 raised for the advent charities in the Advent season 2016.

These students really are fantastic ambassadors of the commendable work that the school does to support local communities and raise money for different charities. Well done to all the students involved (Kwabena, Stephen, Gareth, Klaudia and Lateef) and the Year 12 students returning from college (Martin, Miles, Eric, Kiara, Maroulla and Habeeb). Check out the rest of the pictures on the photo album on the school TVs, St Paul's website and the Geography Blog.

<http://www.stpaulsacademy.org.uk/>

<http://mrgdavis.blogspot.co.uk/>

We have also been nominated for the Galaxy Hot Chocolate fund worth £300. Please vote for us at the link below for our chance to win!

<http://www.galaxyhotchocolate.com/fund/profiles/st-paul-s-academy>

From the front- Gareth (Year 11), Habeeb, Maroulla, Kiara, Melissa (RMHC), Mr Davis, Miles, Klaudia (Year 11) Kwabena (Year 11), Lateef (Year 11) Eric, Stephen (Year 11) and Martin.



Santa's little helpers delivering gifts to King's College Hospital London.



Year 11 and 12 students with Melissa RMC staff from the house at King's College Hospital.



Organising gifts in age groups- all hands on deck for the students.





ST PAUL'S ACADEMY

ENTERPRISE SPECIALISM

**Advent Appeal 2016
WE RAISED IN EXCESS OF**

£10,500.00

Charities and local organisations supported

- Ronald McDonald House Charities
- Weybourne Care Home
- Anerley Across
- Thamesmead Food Bank
- The Christmas Tree Campaign
- King's College Hospital
- Sr. Ann's Education Project in Kenya
- Dorothy Leper
- Cancer Research UK
- The Royal Marsden Hospital
- CAFOD
- Save The Children

Since becoming an Academy we have raised for Charity in excess of

£166,000.00



ST PAUL'S
ACADEMY

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TERM & HOLIDAY DATES 2017

Spring Half Term
Monday, 13th February
Friday, 17th February

Summer Term
Monday, 24th April
Friday, 21st July

Summer Half Term
Monday, 29th May
Friday, 2nd June

Autumn Term
Tuesday, 5th September
(Year 7 only return)
Wednesday, 6th September
(Year 8 – 11 return)
Friday, 22nd December

Autumn Half Term
Monday, 24th October
Friday, 28th October



Ditch it & Donate it Day 8th March



All students and staff are asked to donate items of clothing, boots, & shoes, coats, handbags, bedsheets and duvet covers for our recycle bin.

Items will be collected from students as they come into school, outside the Restaurant Area.

Please ensure that your items are in good repair and clean.



The Salvation Army

