

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER

ALL SAINTS
ACADEMY

Issue 1—October 2024



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the first Personal Development newsletter of the academic year. Our new parents/carers may not be familiar with the scope of personal development which covers all of the following: Careers, Collective Worship programme, Relationships and Sex Education, Citizenship, Educational visits and reward trips, external visits and workshops, Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural education (SMSC), charity work, SkillsBuilder, Rights Respecting School Award, and optional activities such as Duke of Edinburgh or the National Citizenship Scheme.

In a nut shell, personal development is Character Education - educating to build character. It focuses on the wider development of our students to make them into kind, respectful and resilient young people. It is perhaps one of the most rewarding areas in a school as it contributes to the bigger picture beyond academic success –though that is important too!

I hope you enjoy reading about the wonderful personal development opportunities our students have already experienced during September and October.

Liz Furber
Executive Principal

Charity Work

One of our most shared biblical teachings is that, 'Faith without actions is dead'. This means that to bring faith to life, we must act to spread our faith and help others less fortunate.

This year, each of the houses, Determination, Inspiration, Respect, Courage and Excellence, are taking turns to each lead two charity events. This is a part of our personal development curriculum (PD) and links closely to what students are learning in their assemblies, collective worship services and their character education lessons.

On Friday 4th October, house Courage went first and raised £167 for the Macmillan Support Fund by having a cake sale at break and lunch. Macmillan Support helps over 3 million people and their families in the UK who are living with cancer. There was a house assembly that morning that focused on justice and truthfulness, which linked to charity giving. In the assembly we asked for students to help - we were very proud of our students in Years 7 and 8 who volunteered and helped to run the cake stall in the canteen. Courage students demonstrated humility, a good work ethic and an awareness of those less fortunate than themselves as well as, we think, enjoying themselves.



Liam Morgan
Assistant Principal

~ Reminder ~

**Friday 25th
October**

INSET Day

**(Academy closed
to students)**

~

**Monday 28th
October**

to

**Friday 1st
November**

Half Term

Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA)

Having previously achieved the UNICEF Rights Respecting School's Bronze Award, we are excited to inform you that we are now working towards achieving the Silver Award and hope to be accredited before Christmas. This prestigious award reflects our commitment to creating a safe, inclusive and respectful learning environment that upholds the rights of every child.

The Rights Respecting Schools Award is based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), which outlines the fundamental rights that all children are entitled to, such as the right to education, safety and freedom of expression. By integrating these principles into our school's ethos, we aim to empower children to understand their rights, respect the rights of others and contribute positively to their community.

The Silver Award represents the second level in our RRSA journey. At this stage, our focus is on ensuring that children not only know their rights, but actively take part in a culture of respect and inclusion. We encourage students to make informed decisions, voice their opinions and play a role in the development of our school community.

As parents and carers, your involvement and support are crucial to the success of this. You can help by reinforcing these values at home, discussing your child's rights, and encouraging conversations about how they can respect the rights of others.

We will keep you updated with our progress towards achieving the Silver Award, but if you have any questions or suggestions please get in touch with us at the Academy.

Andy Reavell
Assistant Principal

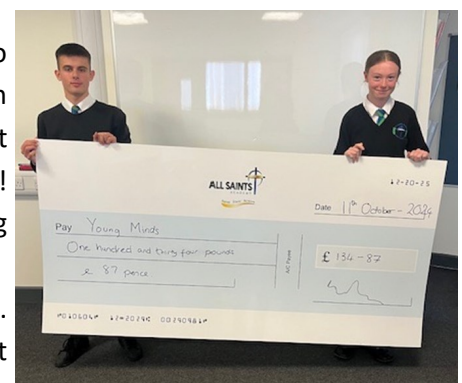
World Mental Health Day – Thursday 10th October

World Mental Health Day is a day where people come together to talk about mental health and to show everyone that mental health matters. Talking about our mental health can help us cope better with life's ups and downs.

Students and staff at All Saints Academy celebrated this day by raising the awareness of mental health and by encouraging our students to be confident enough to be able to seek support to improve either their own, or someone else's, mental health.

To coincide with World Mental Health Day, fundraising events were held to raise money for the mental health charity, Young Minds. Students from Determination house sold "It's ok to not be ok" charity wristbands throughout the week. A cake sale was also held on the day, which was very popular! Alongside this, students were encouraged to "Wear Yellow", which is a Young Minds initiative to raise mental health awareness.

An impressive £134.87 was raised, with all proceeds going to Young Minds. Well done to everyone who supported with the fundraising and to anyone that donated. It will be going to a fantastic cause.



Andrew Minns
Assistant Principal

Skills Builder

At All Saints Academy, we value our students non-academic education extremely highly. Our aim is to educate our students to become well-rounded and positive citizens within our community. As part of this, our students are taught various “skills” to support them through their journey in education and beyond. To achieve this, our students cover a programme known as “Skills Builder” and the skills that are covered are outlined below;



The Skills Builder programme offers young people a common approach to develop and describe the transferable essential skills which ‘almost everyone needs to do almost any job’. It enables employers to identify these skills in candidates and employees and supports individuals to build them in incremental steps from Year 7 to Year 13.

The teaching of the eight different skills has been fully embedded across all aspects of the curriculum – it is evident in all lessons, during all assembly and collective worship occasions, with the “skill of the month” also being explicitly covered during our Character Education lessons. You can find out more information by following this link : [The Skills Builder Partnership](#)

Andrew Minns
Assistant Principal

Next Charity Event—The Trussell Trust Foodbank—Dunstable—Helping Local People in Crisis

As we give thanks for the food we have during our Harvest Thanksgiving Service, we are reminded of those who do not have access to sufficient food. This week students have been learning about the Harvest Festival and its equivalent in the Jewish Calendar—Sukkot—or the Feast of the Tabernacles.

This week and next, we will be asking students to bring in one item of food that is non-perishable. This means it needs to be in a jar, tin or packet. Every tutor group will have a list of items so please support your child by helping them purchase an item as close to what has been requested as possible.

Thank you for your kindness as we consider others at this time.

Liz Furber
Executive Principal

Consent and Payment for Trips

We use Edulink to collect consent for trips and the form that you need to complete can be found through the ‘Forms’ icon in your Edulink parent/carer login. The form is quick to complete and provides all the information we need for the trip.

Payments for trips can be made through ParentPay or in cash at Student Reception.

In order to finalise numbers with venues and prepare the necessary paperwork for the trip, we have to set a deadline for consent and payment to be made and, as the deadline approaches, we will send reminder texts to anyone who has not completed the consent form or made their payment.

If you do not have your Edulink or ParentPay login details, or are having difficulty accessing the systems, please contact the Academy.



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Educational Visits

Educational trips are an important part of the learning experience. At All Saints we organise a wide range of visits for our students across all departments: Arts, Languages, STEM and Social sciences. There are educational visits coming up before Christmas—see the table to the right.

With all of our visits we aim to include all students. We will try to keep costs to a minimum by taking advantage of free opportunities but should you need help with the cost of any trip, please contact the Academy and we will see how we can support you.

On top of these visits there will be the usual reward trips that all students will be encouraged to attend as long as their behaviour meets the expectations of staff. In the next edition, I hope to share photos of these exciting experiences that our students have enjoyed.

Liz Furber
Executive Principal

	Oct	Nov	Dec
Year 7		Cinema visit -The Eagle Huntress	SkyHawk -Tring Natural History Museum
Year 8		Cinema Visit -If only I could hibernate	Whipsnade -Variation
Year 9	ZSL project -Whipsnade zoo	Cinema Visit -200% Wolf	Whipsnade -Evolution
Year 10	Hair and Beauty London exhibition	Design Trip	
Year 11			
Year 12			
Year 13		Psychology in action London	

Upcoming External Visitors/Visits

Tuesday 5th November—50 Year 8 students undertaking M&G Enterprise Challenge

Wednesday 6th November—Indian Dance to celebrate Diwali—whole school

Friday 8th November—Year 9 Dell Challenge, 'The Big Idea.'

Friday 29th November—Live Performance & Healthy Relationships, Bullying & Mental Health Message—whole school

Monday 2nd December—Barclays Life Skills—whole School

Tuesday 3rd December—72 Year 11 students to visit KPMG offices in Birmingham

Friday 6th December—Network Rail Careers Advice—whole School

Collective Worship Themes for October

Month	Virtue	Skill	Big Question	Collective Worship						
				WC	Events	Charity Opportunities	SLT Assembly	House Assembly	HoY Assembly	Service
October	Justice and Truthfulness	Leadership	Is life fair?	30-Sep	Black History Month /Rosh Hashanah		Racial Prejudice suffered by Jewish people	How have people of colour faced discrimination?	Anti-Racism within year group	Focus on Jesus' teachings Yr11 Harvest - Thankfulness and gratitude
				07-Oct	World Space week/Ada Lovelace Day/Mental Health Day/homeless day/Yom Kippur	Mental Health Day Determination	Racial Prejudice: In religion and belief, status and treatment of women and homosexuals -link to Ada Lovelace/female astronauts and status of homeless people	Can you help who you fall in love with?	World space week	Jesus' teachings Yr 7 John Spurgeon from Good News For Everyone (Gideons)
				14-Oct	Sukkot/World Food Day/Eradication of Poverty/anti-slavery	Food Bank Excellence	Sukkot -Jewish festival -Feast of the Tabernacles to celebrate gathering of crops. Tie in with Harvest festival and Food bank collection	How important is money? (link to compassion and charity)	Anti- Slavery/modern day slavery	Yr 8 Harvest and thankfulness
				21-Oct	International Stuttering Day		Positive Discrimination, equality and justice. Moses was a great leader even though he had a speech impediment.	What is positive discrimination?	Clarity of public speaking -students to participate	Moses Yr9 Equality; All equal in the eyes of God and have intrinsic worth