

## Dear Parents and Carers

Apologies for the slightly late welcome to December but as you will know we have been subject to both an Ofsted inspection and a SIAMS inspection during the second half of November.

We cannot say much about the SIAMS report until it has been through quality assurance so I will focus this message on the wonderful Ofsted report that has been long awaited. I have now been the substantive Principal for 8 years and in 2017 we got off to a flying start being raised out of a category to Requires Improvement. In 2019 we remained Requires improvement but were awarded three Good judgements (Leadership and Management, Personal development and Sixth form.)

Alas COVID struck in 2020 and since 2022 we have had two years battling Ofsted. To anyone who thinks losing the court case means it was a waste of time then I would say that without this battle Ofsted would not have shown us the respect we deserve over the last two years and sent in one of their best teams of inspectors who have worked with us closely and followed our progress.

So enough of the history lesson – now to the report!

What a pleasure to read that Personal development is OUTSTANDING! The report opens with this amazing paragraph:

*'Pupils enjoy attending All Saints Academy Dunstable. It provides an exceptional range of opportunities that raise pupils' aspirations, develop their character, and broaden their interests. The highly active student parliament helped design the school's behaviour policy. Pupils take part in a broad range of 'elective' clubs, from knitting to forensics. Pupils learn first-hand about the world of work when they meet a wide range of employers, take part in enterprise competitions, and undertake work experience.'*

Later in the report it talks more about our wonderful students and how kind they are to each other:

*'The school's ethos is at the heart of its exemplary approach to developing pupils' personal qualities and their sense of right and wrong. Pupils fully understand the importance of diversity and respect for all. They embody this in how they treat each other around school. Pupils look out for and help one another. This is because the school is exceptionally inclusive in its culture and approach to teaching difference.'*

We know exam results are important but what can be more important than turning out kind and respectful young people with a strong moral compass?

As you will know we have been working hard on raising our expectations of behaviour so it was rewarding to read the following section of the report:

*'Behaviour in school has improved substantially since the previous inspection. The school is a safe, inclusive, and positive place to be. Most pupils now behave very well in and out of lessons,' and 'The school has high expectations of pupils' conduct. Pupils are clear about how they should behave...The school's pastoral team work exceptionally well to help pupils to attend and behave well.'*

The Academy's small sixth form was praised:

*'Students in the school's small sixth form are well cared for. They are supported to do well. They learn how to manage their time and study effectively. Students are very well prepared for adulthood when they learn about personal finance and higher education and employment.'*

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And finally to Quality of Education! This area was awarded a Requires Improvement judgement however there were mostly positive comments made:

*'The well-designed curriculum identifies precisely the important knowledge that pupils need to learn. There are now regular opportunities for pupils to revisit prior learning in lessons and 'revision weeks'. In many subjects, this helps pupils know more and remember more.'*

The only negative that was discussed was that where they had seen teachers out of their specialism secure subject knowledge was not always demonstrated:

*"However, some staff teach subjects outside their specialism. They do not always have the secure subject knowledge that they need to explain concepts clearly and to teach the curriculum well."*

This is very understandable as it is difficult to be an expert in all areas. This year we will be focussing on ensuring all staff feel prepared to teach out of their subject area, but a priority is to employ specialist staff to eliminate this need. It is very difficult to employ good staff with an Inadequate Ofsted judgement so with this fabulous report I hope that recruitment issues will be left in the past!

Ofsted also linked the non-specialist teachers to a potential reason for the results not yet being consistently good:

*"Consequently, pupils do not yet consistently gain the depth and breadth of knowledge that they need to achieve highly. This is reflected in the school's published test results."*

This is not an accurate conclusion of where we are currently as Ofsted were only able to look at the data for summer 2023 as validated summer 2024 data has not been released yet.

Finally, we must offer our sincere thanks to the governing body, especially David Fraser—our Chair of Governors, for their relentless support and unwavering faith that we would eventually achieve this fulfilling judgement. The governors are on site weekly dedicating many hours to improving the futures of our staff and students with both Ofsted and SIAMS being very impressed with their level of commitment.

I hope you will join me in congratulating the students, staff and you, the parents and carers, on this wonderful team effort. The future is certainly very bright for All Saints Academy and I will be writing in the New Year about the SIAMS report.

With much pride for our community.

Best wishes

**Liz Furber**  
Executive Principal

## Looking Ahead

**10th December**  
Year 8 Panto Trip

**11th December**  
Year 11 Parents' Evening

**11th December**  
Year 7 Panto Trip

**12th December**  
Year 12/13  
Christmas Market Trip

**16th December**  
Year 8 Whipsnade Trip

**16th December**  
Year 10 Bowling Trip

**17th December**  
Year 9 Orbital Trip

**20th December**  
Last Day of Term

## Do we have up to date contact details for you?

If you change your contact information, it is important that you let us know straight away.

To update your information, you can call reception on 01582 619700, use the 'Update Information' icon in the Edulink app or email [office@asadunstable.org](mailto:office@asadunstable.org)

## Dear Parents and Carers

You will be reading this piece having received a copy of our latest Ofsted report. There are so many positives in what has been written, aside from the headline judgements which, in themselves, are amazingly positive.

However, there is one section that stands out, which is an absolute credit to the students and, by implication, to you as parents and carers:

*‘Pupils fully understand the importance of diversity and respect for all. They embody this in how they treat each other around school. Pupils look out for and help one another. This is because the school is exceptionally inclusive in its culture and approach to teaching difference.’* And another sentence notes, *‘Pupils are clear about how they should behave.’*

These attributes are not only an excellent foundation for our students becoming good citizens, but they are equally a firm base for effective learning. Alongside learning sits teaching - one follows the other. At this point, I want to express the sincere thanks of the governors to Liz Furber, her senior leaders and all the Academy staff who work so hard to ensure the best possible outcomes for your child/ren. Our staff always go the extra mile to ensure ‘pupils enjoy attending All Saints Academy’.

The last two years, as many of you know, have been particularly challenging, but the same leaders and teachers, working in the same context have achieved outcomes of which we can be justly proud. We are not, and never have been in governors’ view, an inadequate school. We are a school where, to quote Ofsted, ‘the ... ethos is at the heart of its exemplary approach to developing pupils’ personal qualities and their sense of right and wrong’.


Sincere thanks to you all for your support, and continuing belief, during some turbulent times; it is very much appreciated.

With all good wishes

**David Fraser**

Chair of Governors

**Academic Calendar - 2024/2025**



School Holiday <span style="color: blue;">■</span>	Bank Holiday <span style="color: orange;">■</span>	Pupil Day <span style="color: green;">■</span>	Training Day <span style="color: pink;">■</span>
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September 2024		October 2024		November 2024		December 2024	
Mon	2 9 16 23 30	Mon	7 14 21 28	Mon	4 11 18 25	Mon	2 9 16 23 30
Tue	3 10 17 24	Tue	1 8 15 22 29	Tue	5 12 19 26	Tue	3 10 17 24 31
Wed	4 11 18 25	Wed	2 9 16 23 30	Wed	6 13 20 27	Wed	4 11 18 25
Thu	5 12 19 26	Thu	3 10 17 24 31	Thu	7 14 21 28	Thu	5 12 19 26
Fri	6 13 20 27	Fri	4 11 18 25	Fri	1 8 15 22 29	Fri	6 13 20 27
Sat	7 14 21 28	Sat	5 12 19 26	Sat	2 9 16 23 30	Sat	7 14 21 28
Sun	1 8 15 22 29	Sun	6 13 20 27	Sun	3 10 17 24	Sun	1 8 15 22 29

January 2025		February 2025		March 2025		April 2025	
Mon	6 13 20 27	Mon	3 10 17 24	Mon	3 10 17 24 31	Mon	7 14 21 28
Tue	7 14 21 28	Tue	4 11 18 25	Tue	4 11 18 25	Tue	1 8 15 22 29
Wed	1 8 15 22 29	Wed	5 12 19 26	Wed	5 12 19 26	Wed	2 9 16 23 30
Thu	2 9 16 23 30	Thu	6 13 20 27	Thu	6 13 20 27	Thu	3 10 17 24
Fri	3 10 17 24 31	Fri	7 14 21 28	Fri	7 14 21 28	Fri	4 11 18 25
Sat	4 11 18 25	Sat	1 8 15 22	Sat	1 8 15 22 29	Sat	5 12 19 26
Sun	5 12 19 26	Sun	2 9 26 23	Sun	2 9 16 23 30	Sun	6 13 20 27

May 2025		June 2025		July 2025		August 2025	
Mon	5 12 19 26	Mon	2 9 16 23 30	Mon	7 14 21 28	Mon	4 11 18 25
Tue	6 13 20 27	Tue	3 10 17 24	Tue	1 8 15 22 29	Tue	5 12 19 26
Wed	7 14 21 28	Wed	4 11 18 25	Wed	2 9 16 23 30	Wed	6 13 20 27
Thu	1 8 15 22 29	Thu	5 12 19 26	Thu	3 10 17 24 31	Thu	7 14 21 28
Fri	2 9 16 23 30	Fri	6 13 20 27	Fri	4 11 18 25	Fri	1 8 15 22 29
Sat	3 10 17 24 31	Sat	7 14 21 28	Sat	5 12 19 26	Sat	2 9 16 23 30
Sun	4 11 18 25	Sun	1 8 15 22 29	Sun	6 13 20 27	Sun	3 10 17 24 31