



Ref: General Update

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to provide a general update regarding a number of activities, opportunities and future plans at St Alban's.

### **Thank you**

First of all, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support over the last term. With various disruptions, including snow and national industrial action to name two, you have been both supportive and patient with the adaptations that we have had to make as a school.

A number of parents informed us that the letters uploaded to the website were not opening on some devices. We have now resolved this issue and you should be able to read all the letters now.

In addition, I'd like to extend special thanks to two key groups, the Parent, Parishioner and Staff Association (PPSA) and the Parent, Staff and Governor working party (PSG), who have been incredibly helpful in supporting the school to move forward at pace with different aspects of school life. You can get involved in either of these groups by contacting Mr Brogan [via the school office](#).

### **Parent Governor Vacancies**

Yesterday, I released a letter inviting parents of pupils from FSI to Year 6 to put themselves forward as a parent governor on our local governing body. If you are interested and feel you have the skills required to support the school as a governor, [put yourself forward using this form](#) or speak to Mr Brogan or Stuart Olivier, our Chair of Governors, if you have any questions. [Click here to read the full letter](#).

### **Volunteers**

You will all be aware, from previous newsletters, information in the media and part of the reasons for national industrial action by teachers, of the financial pressures schools are under in order to deliver a high-quality education. Volunteers provide additional help to our pupils to continue making good progress. We are really grateful to all of our volunteers who work throughout the school.

If you (or someone you know) are interested in volunteering at St Alban's, please let us know [by contacting the school office](#) and a member of staff will be in touch.

### **Response to the Advent Parent Survey**

Following the Advent Parent Survey, where 98% of parents agreed or strongly agreed that their child is happy at St Alban's, 99% of parents agreed or strongly agreed that their child is safe at St Alban's and 110/112 parents said would recommend our school to another parent, we wanted to update you on some of the work we have been doing to improve the areas that you said need development.

Subject leaders have been working hard to put our curriculum into very clear curriculum maps that will be uploaded to our website so that all stakeholders will be able to see exactly what we teach in each term, in each class, in each subject. We know that many of you will use these to enhance and support your child's learning away from school.



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NOTTINGHAM

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Newstead Avenue, Chaddesden, Derby, DE216NU  
[Enquiries@dsa.srscmat.co.uk](mailto:Enquiries@dsa.srscmat.co.uk)  
Company Number 7937154



**St Ralph  
Sherwin**  
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



Leaders, supported by the PSG working party, have discussed the ways we let you know how your child is doing throughout the year. This includes not only your child's academic progress, but also their attendance and behaviour. One of the key changes we introduced this year was to change our reporting from once per year to three times per year. Progress reports are now issued at three points in the year to ensure you know how your child is getting on. We'll be sharing our full response to this area of development after Easter so that you know exactly what you can expect for 2023/24.

Since covid, we have gradually increased our extra-curricular offer for more and more pupils to attend after school provision. This year, we have already offered a range of sports, craft and tutoring. We spoke with our pupils and the PSG working party to find out what pupils would want from our extra curriculum offer. As a result, we are introducing more activities, resources, responsibilities, clubs and games at lunchtimes, and reaching out to staff and external providers, to enrich our offer to include dance, drama, computing, gardening and other opportunities for our pupils outside of school hours. We work closely with [First Friends](#), who provide wraparound care during term time and in the school holidays too.

### **Anti-Bullying**

Another area for development from the Advent Parent Survey was to raise awareness of anti-bullying. Bullying is very rare at St Alban's and we want to keep it that way. The low rates of bullying does not happen by accident. We teach about anti-bullying in our curriculum, take part in events like Anti-Bullying Week, have a team of Anti-bullying Ambassadors led by our Assistant Headteacher for Behaviour, Attitudes and Character, Mrs Ruston-Donald, and we have well-trained staff who identify and support when a child needs help.

Since the Advent Parent Survey, our Anti-bullying Ambassadors have been trained further in anti-racism and [we have revised our Anti-Bullying policy, which you can read here](#). The Anti-bullying Ambassadors are currently developing a pupil-friendly, one page infographic, which will be shared online and around the school so that the profile remains high.

### **Open Classroom//Book Look, Progress Reports and Pupil Progress Consultations**

We have changed the dates and times of our Open Classroom//Book Look, reports to parents and pupil progress consultations for this term.

You are invited into school between 3:15 and 4:15 pm on Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023 for an Open Classroom//Book Look. This is an informal event where your child can show you the work they are most proud of and show you the curriculum they are studying. It is important to note that, because of the number of pupils and parents who will attend, your child's class teacher will struggle to talk to you about your child's progress at this event. If you have any concerns about your child, please make contact with your child's class teacher through Class Dojo as soon as possible and they will arrange time to contact you. If you are unable to make this event, please speak with your child's class teacher who will be more than happy to arrange for you to take a look at your child's work at another suitable time.

Your child's second pupil progress report of the year will be sent out on Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> April for you to read before a face-to-face pupil progress consultation on Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> April from 3-6:30 pm or a remote pupil progress consultation on Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May. We listened to the views of our PSG working party to offer a blended approach to pupil progress consultations so that parents who wanted a face-to-face meeting could book an in-person meeting, and parents who wanted the option to meet online, could book a remote meeting. Details on how to book will be sent in the first week back after the Easter break.



## Easter Reflection

You are invited to join us for an Easter Reflection led by our Year 5 pupils on Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 2 pm. Year 5 will guide you through the Passion, retelling the story and bringing it alive with their response and singing. We hope you can join us.

Finally, one of our pupils has cut her hair short and donated it to the Little Princess Trust, which supplies the best real-hair wigs available, free of charge, to children and young people up to the age of 24, who have lost their hair through cancer treatment or other illnesses. [Click here if you'd like to show your support for Isabella.](#)

As ever, if you have any questions or comments for us, please reach out on the gate or by email and we'll do what we can to help.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T Brogan'.

Mr T Brogan

Headteacher