

BartholoNews



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HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE



Dear Parents/Carers,

As we enter the last week of what has been another unusual year, I would like to thank everyone for their support, resilience and hard work. As we look back, it is hard to summarise how much has been achieved.

Throughout the year, we have operated in year group bubbles with many restrictions, delivered education remotely throughout a second lockdown, and in February set up testing for all our students, but most of all our students' safety, wellbeing and progress have stayed at the forefront of our decisions, and have remained our priority. We are very pleased with the students' success and progress over this difficult year and they should all be congratulated. The success of this is a testament to our students' and staff's continued hard work and commitment, of which we are very proud, and I cannot thank them enough. We hope that the students now enjoy the Celebration Days we have put in place for each year group over the next week, as they are very well deserved.

It is now a time to look forward to the summer holidays, and September, when we anticipate that we will be able to ease the restrictions in school and offer a range of enrichment and co-curricular opportunities to our students, which are an important part of St Bart's and I hope you will encourage your child to fully participate in them.

We are currently planning the arrangements for the beginning of term, as the Government has asked that all schools are set up to be able to test all students twice on their return to school. As before, this will have to be phased, so we will write to you with further details before the end of term.

Can we ask that whilst students are on their summer break, that your son/daughter has the required equipment for school and correct uniform ready to be worn appropriately in September, so that high standards can be set from the beginning of term and we can focus all our energy on learning. Please follow these links: [Equipment](#) & [Uniform](#).

We are sadly saying farewell to several members of staff at the end of term.

Mr Sharpe, Senior Deputy Headteacher, has been here for 37 years, and I am sure you will want to join me in thanking him for his outstanding commitment to St Bart's in this time from starting as a teacher of History to becoming a Deputy Headteacher. Mr Sharpe is known by so many in the community and has given so much to the students of St Bart's over the last 37 years. There is no doubt that he will leave a huge gap and the whole school will miss him.

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END OF TERM /NEW TERM

Tues 20 July - End of Term.
School day finishes at 12.30pm

Weds 1 & Thurs 2 September
Staff Training Days

Fri 3 September - Student Term Begins
Further details to follow before the end of term.

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Mrs Grant, Head of Vocational & Technical Qualifications, and Mr Armitstead, Leader: Classical Civilisation & Latin, are also retiring.

Mrs Allen, Head of Sixth Form, Mrs Moss, Sixth Form House Leader, Mr Matthias, Teacher of English, and Mrs Yates, Teacher of Travel & Tourism, are all taking up new posts; Mrs Austin-Smith, Sixth Form House Leader and Mrs Johnson, House Achievement/Progress Leader and Miss Savage, Leader: KS4 Science are all moving from the area.

We thank them all for everything they have contributed in their time at St Bartholomew's School and wish them well for the future.

Lastly, I would like to wish you all an enjoyable and safe summer break.

*Ms Mortimore
Headteacher*

BARTS GOT TALENT COMPETITION

For Years 7 - 9

Run by the St Bart's Arts Council, this event saw a great variety of talents entered. A video has been put together to showcase some of the amazing talent from the students at St Bart's.

[You can view the video here on the website.](#) Thank you to everyone that entered this year. We hope to run this as an annual event in the future.



CONGRATULATIONS ON COMPLETING DofE

It's been a tough year so congratulations to the following students on completing their DofE: Charlotte Arnold, Taylor Brereton, Harriet Cratchley, Amelia Crouch, Toby Davis, Abigail Doney, Marcie Essex-Copresti, Aadi Kamath, Renudi Kolugala, Ruby Lochhead, Hannah Millar, Fred Parker, Andrew Points, and Alex Scourfield.

Calendar



Year 9 Separate Science Day	Weds 14 July	
Y7 Celebration Day - pm	Weds 14 July	
Y10 Separate Science Day	Thurs 15 July	
Y10 Reports issued	Fri 16 July	
Y8 Celebration Day	Mon 19 July	P1&2
Y10 Celebration Day	Mon 19 July	P3 & PDP
Y9 Celebration Day	Mon 19 July	P4&5
Tuesday 20 July - END OF TERM school day finishes 12.30pm		
Y6 Summer School	Mon 26 – Fri 30 July	
A Level Results	Tues 10 Aug	
GCSE Results	Thurs 12 Aug	
View all school events in our online calendar, click here to go straight there		

FEEDBACK FROM ANNUAL PARENTAL SURVEY FOR BARTHOLONEWS

We would like to thank all the parents who responded to our biennial parental survey in the Spring term. We had a record 550 responses, which represents over a third of all the families in the school. We apologise that it has taken until the end of the school year to be able to provide parents and carers with the feedback from the survey. With the help of the analysis completed by Kirkland Rowell, who manage the survey for us, we would like now to give you the main findings from both the quantitative data which the survey provided and also from the qualitative comments

received. We can also provide some comments on the actions which we have already taken and those which we intend to take to address issues raised.

Not only did we get a record number of parents completing the survey this year, we also had a much more even spread of responses from across the year groups. This was the first year in which parents were able to complete the survey on-line and it was really good to see far more responses from parents of students in Years 10 and 11 than we have seen in the past.

In terms of overall rating of the school, there was a very small fall compared with the last survey completed in 2019. It was still the case, however, that 85.4% of parents rated the school as 'good' or 'very good', with only 2.2% putting the school in the 'poor' or 'very poor' category. There wasn't a great deal of variation across different year groups, although Year 7 parents gave the highest rating and Year 8 parents the lowest overall scores.

In looking at the specific questions, Year 8 parents gave particularly low scores for 'Parent Evenings', 'Access to Staff' and 'Explaining to parents how to help their child'. These responses, we feel, were largely down to the unique circumstances of the last eighteen months, with the Year 7 parents' evening last year cancelled due to the 2020 lockdown and the Year 8 evening this year being held just after the survey was completed. We have since held both the parents evening and the curriculum evening covering choices for Year 9. The anecdotal evidence which we received from Year 8 parents after these events was positive and responses to the focused survey on parents evenings was also very good. We do hope, therefore, that without further interruptions to our normal practices, this cohort of parents will feel better supported in terms of feedback about their children and apologise that we were not able to address this issue earlier.

Kirkland Rowell use a benchmarking approach to compare our parents' responses with those from parents in the large number of other schools where the same questions are asked.

This analysis showed that St Bart's parents give extremely high scores to areas such as school facilities, school communication, choice of subjects, teaching quality and school discipline. The only area that fell just below the Kirkland Rowell 'Good' category was written reports. Our reporting was another area which was affected by the lockdown and we will continue to work with parents to ensure they receive the feedback that they are looking for on their children's progress.

The survey was completed during the lockdown period and not surprisingly a very high proportion of the comments added at the end of the survey were focused on remote learning. The main consensus from parents was that the provision during the second lockdown period at the start of this calendar year was far superior to what we had been able to do during the lockdown from the previous academic year. This reflects the fact that, having had to close the school at such short notice in March 2020, we had no real experience of remote learning. We were able to build this expertise and were much better prepared when, again at very short notice, we had to close again in January. We have taken full note of the comments about our more recent provision and as some more focused surveys recently have shown, we aim to build on the most positive aspects of this to improve our support for and communication with parents.

*Mr Sharpe
Senior Deputy Head*

EMOTIONAL WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

With the end of term approaching, we wanted to remind parents and carers of the support available to our young people over the summer holidays.

Kooth is a free online counselling and emotional well-being support service providing young people aged 11-18 years (up to 19th birthday) in Berkshire West with a safe and secure means of accessing support with their emotional health and wellbeing needs from a professional team of qualified

counsellors. To use the service or find out more visit www.Kooth.com. You can also view a short video about the service by following this link: [Kooth Video](#)

This term, students in Years 7-10 were given physical copies of the [Little Blue Book of Sunshine](#), a local mental health booklet aimed at teenagers. The book offers practical and useful advice and aims to help young people by sharing many tips on how to deal with many problems, such as anxiety, stress, body image, relationships and anger. It also includes information about where to get help when they need it. The booklet is also now available in [Apple Books](#) and [Google Play Books](#).

Finally, on the Berkshire West Safeguarding Children Partnership website there is a page with information for parents and carers to support their children with emotional wellbeing and mental health. Please use this link to access this support: [BWSCP EW&MH page](#).

OXWELL STUDENT SURVEY

Our school has signed up to take part in the 'OxWell Student Survey', which aims to help

schools to support their students' mental wellbeing. Details have been sent via InTouch and for more information about the OxWell project see the [research team's webpage](#) and answers to [frequently asked questions](#).

All students will be invited to complete the survey.

NINE STUDENTS SET TO STUDY MEDICINE AT UNIVERSITY

St Bartholomew's School is delighted to announce that nine of its students have received offers to study medicine or veterinary science at University. This follows months of hard work and study to complete entry tests and interviews remotely for their chosen Universities.

Five of these students have been offered a place at Birmingham University; Sadie Dillon, Will Freer, Jess Henry, Izzy Hole and Sanskriti Sahoo.

Harry Clarkson is set to take a place at Oxford University. Toby Thomas and Franky Tyler are planning to join Sheffield and Manchester universities respectively. St Andrews University has made offers to Jess Henry and Alex Jordan. Alex, Will Freer and Sanskriti Sahoo all received additional offers from Bristol, Leicester and Edinburgh. Finally Jess Henry was also offered a place at Southampton University which means she was offered a remarkable total of three places. In total this is the most medical places offered to St Bart's students for many years.



We offer a programme of support and advice to all our students applying to University; but of course, these offers are largely down to the hard work and attitude of the students. We look forward to hearing about their future successes.

This year, St Bartholomew's Sixth Form team supported 218 students in applying to university, including 14 ex-students. Despite the small matter of the global pandemic, this represents a 7% year-on-year increase in UCAS applications. 170 of our students have accepted a place from one of the 116 different institutions who made offers to our students this year, with The University of Winchester, The University of Southampton and The University of Bristol appearing in the top three. Over 70 students have chosen to study either Mathematics, Criminology or Mechanical Engineering, but a notable mention must go to Hannah Pollard, who is hoping to read Medieval Studies at Lancaster University.

Several of our Performing Arts students are going on to study Drama and Musical Theatre at institutions such as the National Youth

Theatre and The University of Versailles. Beyond further study, Amelia Harfitt will be joining the RAF shortly, while Harry Brooker has been awarded a much sought-after Sales Apprenticeship placement at Microsoft.

These impressive academic and vocational placements are testament to the remarkable commitment, hard work and resilience this cohort has demonstrated over the last two years, and we are all extremely proud of their achievements.

SCHOOL UNIFORM



The summer is usually the time when parents/carers replace any outgrown or worn out items of school uniform. There are two school suppliers for the purchase of St Bart's

uniform. All items, uniform and PE kit, are available from Skoolkit. In addition, West Berkshire Clothing sells items of St Bart's PE kit. Uniform details are in the Parents' Handbook on the Parent Portal of the website [here](#).

Skoolkit is running a promotion week for St Bart's families from Saturday 24 July to Friday 30 July giving 10% off for all St Bart's school uniform purchased from their Newbury shop in the Kennet Centre. They are also offering free delivery on all online orders placed between Saturday 31 July and Saturday 7 August. Use the code SUMMER2021 at the checkout.

West Berkshire Clothing is opening a pop-up shop in the Kennet Centre from Monday 26 July to Monday 6 September. All PE items will be in stock in the pop-up shop, or you can choose to purchase online.

Website links are [Skoolkit](#) and [West Berkshire Clothing Company](#).

PARENT HANDBOOK

We have updated our Parent Handbook on the Parent Portal section of our website. It contains everything you need to know about...

- starting St Bart's (uniform, equipment, catering)
- school life (rewards, sanctions, homework, SEN)
- additional information (PA, dates, BartholoNews)

[You can view the handbook here.](#)

PARENT'S ASSOCIATION

PA Raffle Winners

A very BIG thank you to all parents and staff who supported the PA raffle this weekend. You raised an impressive £679 for our students.

The Raffle was drawn on Saturday 10 July. Winners were announced on our Facebook page and will also receive an email this week. Prizes are ready to be collected from our school reception. Well done to you all and have a lovely and well deserved summer break!

What Your Fundraising Efforts Mean For Our Students

Despite a tough fundraising year due to Covid restrictions, the PA still managed to donate £7000 towards equipment for our students.

This year your money bought our students:

- New headphones for Business and Economics
- Dance and Drama workshops for 2021/2022
- Theatre trips for all year groups in 2021/2022
- 4 Food processors for Food Science and Nutrition lessons and club
- A Weather station for KS3 Geography lessons and club
- Recording equipment for PE
- Photography equipment
- Guest speakers and resources for RE
- New Planispheres for the Astronomy Club
- Funds towards all reward schemes across school and Houses including breakfast for brilliance, badges, Kudos prizes, etc.

These purchases enhance the positive learning experience of all our children and would not

be possible without your ongoing support. We thank you all so very much and look forward to raising even more next year!



Our PA AGM is scheduled for 29 September and will see some of our long standing members leave the

team to go off to pastures new. We will therefore be looking for new members and officers **without whom the PA can not exist.**

Being a member is a great way to make new friends, help raise funds to buy equipment that will directly benefit your child and keep a general finger on the pulse on all things Bart's. You can make as little or as big a commitment as you can manage. Meetings are held once every half term with no expectation for anyone to attend them all. If you think you may be interested in joining us and/or would like more information about what is involved, please contact us for a friendly chat via stbartspa@gmail.com or message us on our Facebook page @stbartspa. Many thanks to you all.

GOVERNOR RAISING FUNDS FOR TIME TO TALK

When Governor, Catie Colston, fractured her elbow at Easter she decided that a great way to recuperate was to set herself a cycling challenge to raise money for Time to Talk!

This is a great local charity that provides free counselling for 11-25 year-olds, and the need for this is becoming ever greater. St Bart's students have benefited and will benefit from the support they offer, so Catie is keen to help them provide increased support.



Catie will attempt to cycle 300 miles during July, that's 75 miles a week! But she's

managed a quarter of the miles in a quarter of the month already, so it's looking good. If you would like to sponsor Catie you can do so [here](#). Any donation will be very much appreciated.

DARCY SWIMS THE CHANNEL

Almost 2 years ago, Darcy (9P2) and 5 of her friends from Winchester City Swimming Club had a 'crazy idea' to swim the English Channel. We are very proud to tell you that they completed their challenge this weekend.



Team Sea6 left Dover at 00:01 on Saturday morning and completed their swim in an awesome time of 10 hours 18 minutes. The girls are all 14-15 years old and not only did they defy the cold water, rain and their fears of swimming in the dark, but they also conquered a huge bloom of jellyfish and overcame sea sickness. They narrowly missed the World Record for a junior team by 18 minutes. However, they are the 2nd fastest relay team to have completed the challenge this year. A total of 22 relays have taken place, and they were only narrowly beaten by Cambridge University who achieved a time of 9.58hrs



The girls have just exceeded the target that they set themselves of raising £10,000 for mental health charity, Solent Mind.

If you would like to read their story or make a donation [you can do so here.](#)

WELL DONE LOUIS!

Whilst training with London Irish Academy, Louis (10E1) was selected for the 'London Irish Academy' pre season summer training and has completed all the sessions just outside Hampton Court, at the London Metropolitan Police Rugby ground. Louis was one of only a small number of boys from Newbury.



VIRTUAL CAREERS EVENTS

Routes into STEM course

15 July – 5 August. For Year 9&10.

[Find more information and book here.](#)

The Apprenticeship Webinar 2021

22 July 2021, 3pm.

For Year 10, 11, 12 and 13. [Register here.](#)

Visit our [Y7-11 Virtual Careers Events webpage](#) for more events. And a more comprehensive listing for older students is also available on the Sixth Form Hub: [Careers and Study Opportunities page.](#)

CRITICAL THINKING AND LATIN WORKSHOP

Well done to Ben Lawson (7D2) and Charlie Fox (8C1) for their winning entries. Both students wrote reviews on the Critical Thinking and Latin Workshop that they attended. Their prize was a £5 Amazon Voucher.

Critical Thinking Workshop Review By Ben Lawson (7D2)

On Tuesday 15 June, a group of Year 7 students took part in a Critical Thinking Review Workshop. We learnt about

recognising arguments, some Latin and had a Q and A with some sixth formers.

It was a fun and interesting opportunity to expand our knowledge and learn new skills.

My favourite part of the Critical Thinking Workshop was learning Latin. I didn't know any Latin before, but I was surprised by how many of the words link to English and other European languages. For example, snake is serpens – similar to serpent.

Talking to the sixth formers was a good opportunity because they gave us good advice especially on revision techniques.

I really liked it when we made our own Harry Potter spells. My spell was: 'Permuto Nasus Colliculus Digitus' which translates in English as, 'I swap your nose with a warty finger'!

Critical Thinking Workshop Review By Charlie Fox 8C1

I really enjoyed the critical thinking workshop as it was really engaging. We did a review on what we had covered so far in our Critical Thinking work to solidify our learning.

We learned about Socrates and the Socratic way of thinking, which helped me to challenge my thinking and question things much more deeply.

We also had an opportunity to spend time with sixth formers. They gave us useful tips to help revise for exams effectively (don't procrastinate was one of them) and they also mentored us about GCSEs and A Levels so that we felt a bit more prepared about what to expect.

The workshop left me feeling inspired to work as hard; I am going to do well in my exams and I will be the best version of myself.

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