

Welcome Message



The flowering of the St Gabriel's daffodils is always a marker of better things to come. The winter is ending (though there have been flurries of snow in recent days!) and we can look forward to warmer days and the hope of greater liberty to get on

with our lives.

The Spring Term has been a tough one for all. The unexpected closure of schools in January, lasting until 8 March, while clearly the right decision, has meant that there is some rebuilding of the community to do. Not so much of the learning of the amazing young people we have at St Gabriel's, but more the collective sense of wellbeing.

Whilst we enjoyed the full return to school last month, and the opportunity to reconnect with our pupils, we are aware of the need to make sure that the impact of the last few months is openly talked about. This will ensure that academic and pastoral restoration can take place accordingly.

However, in some ways, as the pages of this newsletter show, things have quickly got back to normal – British Science Week, HPQ, EPQ, charity events, boot camps and even a letter from the Queen(!).

It has been a whirlwind of activities leading up to the Easter break. I hope you enjoy reading about them as much as those involved enjoyed participating in them!

Finally, at the end of term we said goodbye to Mrs Evans, Head of Business Studies. In her six years at St Gabriel's, she has not only been Head of Department and a form tutor, but she also introduced the school to Twitter and was instrumental in updating our website. We wish her well in her move to Trinity School.

I wish you all a good start to the summer... the daffodils are waving in better times for us all.

Mr Ricki Smith, Principal

Back In School

The second half of the Spring Term arrived and on 8 March pupils enjoyed reconnecting with friends and teachers; Sixth Form students took a moment to gather together outside the Farmhouse. The term ended with Easter fun activities outside, including a joint History and Geography infoquest around the grounds; while Year 11 enjoyed a traditional egg and spoon race before heading out for the Easter holidays.



British Science Week

British Science Week 2021 provided a fantastic welcome back to the classroom for pupils. From growing seedlings, designing smashing stereotype posters to Year 9 creating their own periodic table outside. Pupils embraced a host of fun activities in celebration of STEM. [Read More](#)



Winner of the Sweet Treats Competition

Congratulations to Pollyanna, Year 12, who is our Senior School Sweet Treat Competition winner with her amazing culinary creation of a bumblebee hive cake, complete with decorative honey-comb.

Well done to all pupils who entered our Sweet Treat Competition, you showed real culinary flair. See all entries: [Sweet Treats](#)



Highly Commended

Daisy, Year 8, Ellen, Year 11, Imogen, Year 9 and Anneliese, Year 11, were highly commended for their fabulous entries in the Senior School category. Well done to all pupils who entered.

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St Gabriel's
NEWBURY



World Book Day



See the fabulous characters that came into the Senior School to celebrate World Book Day. [Read More](#)

Red Nose Day



Thank you to families who supported one of the biggest charity fundraising events of the year in the UK, Red Nose Day, by wearing a variety of red clothes on Friday 19 March.

[View Gallery](#)

Purple 4 Polio



Thank you to families who supported Purple4Polio on Friday 26 March.

[View Gallery](#)



Alzheimer's Society Walk



After researching into how music helps dementia sufferers, Imogen decided to take action and, along with her sister Anneliese (Year 11) and her family, they completed a 20 mile walk for the Alzheimer's Society. Imogen is delighted that they have raised over £1,000 as people have been so supportive and generous. [Read More](#)

Othello



Congratulations to Rhiannon, Year 12, who recently produced a stunning display piece of scholarly work celebrating the significance of the handkerchief in Othello.

Sophie, Year 10, is studying GCSE PE, where she is currently learning about the components of fitness.

“I like learning about the components of sport, especially flexibility because it helps me understand and improve my main sport which is gymnastics.”

Sophie, Year 10

GCSE PE



SPORT



PE Lessons



Mrs Brazendale and the PE Department were thrilled to welcome pupils back to PE lessons. The sun came out to shine for [long jump](#) and the return to play on the netball courts. Our gymnasts were also happy practicing their back flips, front flips and many other gymnastic skills. [Watch video](#)

Half Term Fitness

Well done to all our families who participated in the 2 hour and 15 minute Paula Radcliffe Challenge over half term.



Hockey



At the beginning of the Spring Term, Senior and Sixth Form pupils met Team GB Hockey star, Anna Toman, online. They asked her questions to learn more about life as an elite athlete. [Read More](#)

Another fabulous talk for our A Level students was from Ash Hover from the Premier League. Ash studied Multimedia Journalism at Bournemouth University, and shared his experience of sports journalism, which students found very insightful.

Boot Camp



The Spring Term turned into "Sprint Term" for pupils, as they participated in Mrs Brazendale and Mrs Joseph's 6-week Boot Camp Challenge. This involved many long runs, often in brutal conditions, athletics and HITT sessions. Congratulations to our students who reached their goals and achieved platinum awards with some excellent results. We are super proud of you all.

In the Summer Term, the Sixth Form running group have set new targets to keep boosting their physical fitness. We will update you on their progress.



ART



The Fauves



A Level Art students have been looking at Fauvism and the study of colour theory.

Our students also looked at the typical subject matter painted by the Fauves, with Rachel's soothing response, a still life on a table backed by the view from a window - simply stunning!

Artist - Samuel Palmer



Artist - Lukas Scriven



What a lovely illustration by Rachel in response to the work of Lukas Scriven.

He thought so too as he liked her artwork on Instagram. If you visit @Lukas_scriven88 you can see how Rachel has captured elements of his creative style in her own design.

Phoebe, Year 12, has created this fantastic response to the work of Samuel Palmer. She painted a landscape using gouache, adding detail over the top using fine liner. Well done Phoebe! [View Year 12 Gallery](#)

Wool Animals



Artist - Vince Ray



A healthy start to the day was Olivia's response to the work of illustrator, Vince Ray. A Level graphics students have been looking at different styles of illustration and have produced responses that focus on key elements, such as colour, style, text font, message and subject matter.

Congratulations to our Year 8 pupils, who created their own colourful wool animal design pieces in Art. [View Full Gallery](#)

International Women's Day



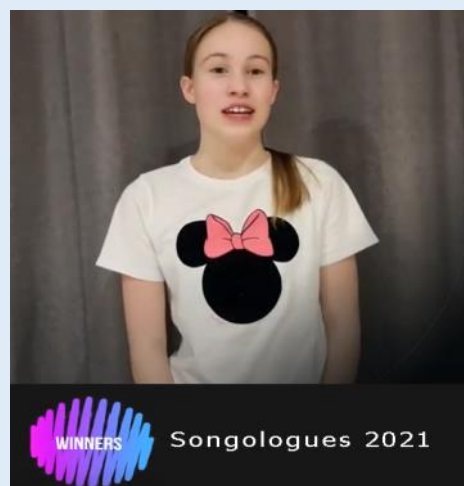
Although lessons have never stopped during lockdown, the return to school coincided with International Women's Day. This excellent graphics work from Amy, Year 12, is her response to the work of illustrator Ella Tjader. It captures the feminine yet elegant and modern style she uses.

No Darkroom / No Problem



Find out how A Level photography student, Betty, managed very successfully with no dark room during remote learning. [Read More](#)

Drama - Songologue



The Drama Department ran its first ever Songologue Competition in the Spring Term. Participants took a song of their choice and spoke the lyrics in their own style as a monologue. Well done to all pupils and staff who took part; there were so many fantastic entries. Congratulations to our winners: Years 7 & 8, Issy; Years 9 & 10, Katherine and her father, and staff winner, the creative talents of Mr Ives (AKA Boris) who liked to party.

[View Songologue Winner Entries](#)

Theatre in School



Why is theatre in schools important? Rachel, Year 11, shares her view on why it is important to her. [Watch Video](#) and Year 7 pupils tell us their view too [Watch video](#)

POETRY



Poetry by Josie

Josie, Year 8, has a passion for writing poetry and has written a lot recently. She likes to write poems anywhere and everywhere. She keeps a notebook with her at all times to capture any burst of inspiration, which can come from a variety of sources, including the weather, dreams and sometimes ideas just pop into her head.

For some of Josie's poetry - [Read More](#)

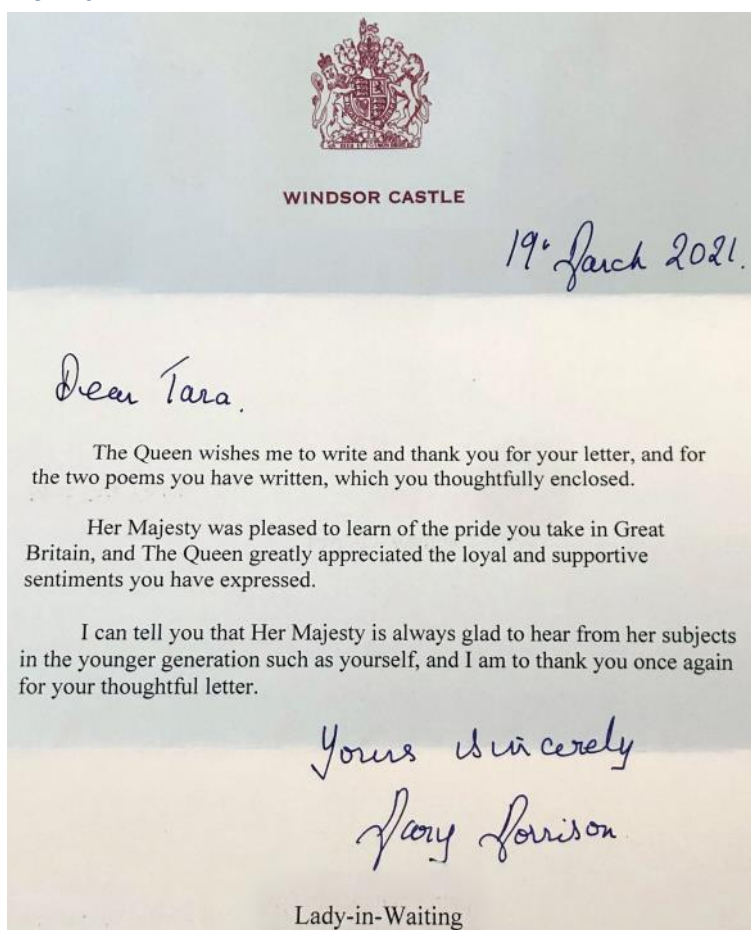


*“ A poet that inspires me is Benjamin Zephaniah. I like his work because he uses humour to get a point across. **Talking Turkeys** is absolutely hilarious and draws you in instantly because of the language style he uses. ”*

JOSIE, YEAR 8

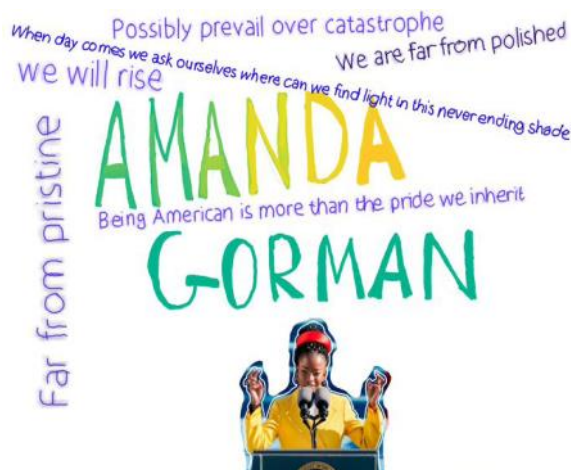
Tara's Letter from the Queen

Tara, Year 12, wrote two patriotic poems to the Queen and was delighted to receive this letter back in recognition of her work.



Identity Poetry

Year 8 have been studying poetry about identity. They listened to Amanda Gorman deliver her poem, 'The Hill We Climb', at President Joe Biden's inauguration. Pupils then wrote their responses. [Read Essays](#)



Year 7 Detective Mode



Pupils in Year 7 have been delving into detective mode in recent English lessons, getting to grips with the thrills, chills and spills of the detective genre. [Read More](#)



Mrs Chapman - Remote Teaching

Mrs Chapman, Vice-Principal, contributed her view on remote teaching to Leader Magazine, part of the Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL), recently. Leading the Way was published in March and gave viewpoints on how we have all changed the way we work during lockdown. To read the full article [Read More](#)

“I feel exceptionally proud that schools have led the way through a lot of this pandemic, and with professional resilience, they have continued to provide a future for young people.”

**MRS CHAPMAN
VICE-PRINCIPAL**

Mrs Archer took advantage of the fair weather and read the story of Beowulf to Year 7 and on the last day of term.

EPQ/HPQ Essay Success

Congratulations to our Sixth Form students, who had 100% success in passing their Extended Project Qualifications, and to Year 11 students, who all passed their Higher Project Qualification, with 11 of their projects receiving A/A* grades. Well done to all our essay writers.

EPQ Topics explored by the students included:

- To what extent does Tsar Alexander II merit the title of 'Tsar Liberator'?
- Is there enough evidence to suggest there is a link between food and our dreams?
- How has Westernisation influenced Japanese literature?

[EPQ News - Read More](#)

HPQ Topics explored by the students included:

- Why are there fewer women than men in the engineering profession?
- Is Mars a suitable planet for human life?
- Fast Fashion - Is the price more important than the cost?

[HPQ News - Read More](#)



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Spring Term 2021

St Gabriel's

NEWBURY



**Wishing you a relaxing
Easter Holidays**

Summer Term 2021

Staff INSET	Monday 19 April
Term Begins	Tuesday 20 April
May Bank Holiday	Monday 3 May (school closed)
Half Term	Monday 31 May - Friday 4 June
Term Ends	Wednesday 7 July
Sandleford Nursery	Monday 2 August - Friday 6 August
Summer Closure	

Autumn Term 2021

Management Meeting	Wednesday 1 September
Staff INSET	Thursday 2 & Friday 3 September
Term Begins	Monday 6 September
Half Term	Thursday 21 – Friday 29 October
Dame Betty Day	Friday 26 November
Term Ends	Friday 10 December
Sandleford Nursery	Friday 24 December - Monday 3 January
Christmas Closure	

Spring Term 2022

Staff INSET	Tuesday 4 January
Term Begins	Wednesday 5 January
Half Term	Monday 21 February - Friday 25 February
Term Ends	Friday 1 April

See you on Social



Join our Instagram Community
for the latest news from School.

This term our most popular
hashtags were:

#WorldBookDay
#BritishScienceWeek
#TheTimesNow

@stgabrielnews

Open Morning

**Saturday
8 May 2021**

admissions@stgabriels.co.uk

