



Welcome Message

I am once again amazed at all the activities and learning our pupils have crammed into the last six weeks. These pages provide a glimpse of the rich learning experiences that have been enjoyed at St Gabriel's during this period.

Congratulations must go to all pupils who sat mock examinations in the first few weeks of January. These assessments are a necessary evil, that give us, and the girls a good idea of their strengths and areas to work on over the coming weeks.

One of the highlights this half term was talking with the Ocean 5 team in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean (from my mobile phone!) as they neared the end of their world record breaking row. What an inspiration they have been to us all. We applaud their efforts in

making us more aware of the plastics that are in our oceans, through their support of the Plastic Soup Foundation.

It was also wonderful to see the cross-curricular collaborations between Drama, Mandarin, Art and Food Technology, to celebrate the Chinese New Year.

As ever the PTA have been busy and their Winter Quiz was as challenging and fun as ever. Looking ahead, I would like to draw your attention to the St Gabriel's 90th Birthday Ball, which the PTA are organising on Saturday 20 June. There are still some tickets available, so please get in touch with the office or directly with the PTA if you would like more details. It is bound to be a truly memorable night.

Ricki Smith, Principal



Ocean 5 Call Update in Assembly



Wednesday 15 January was special for pupils and teachers as the dulcet tones of Kevin Gaskell, from the Ocean 5 team, rang out loud and clear live from the Atlantic Ocean at 5am their time, in our morning assembly.

[Read more](#)



Chinese New Year Celebrations

Cross-Curricular Activities

Pupils throughout the school enjoyed cross-curricular activities tied in to the celebrations of the Chinese Year of the Rat, these included a themed lunch on Monday 27 January, dumpling making in Food Technology; Year 9 enjoyed ink blowing stunning tree designs, and Year 7 made colourful collages using Chinese characters.

Mandarin Drama Workshop

Year 8 and Year 9 also took part in a Mandarin beginners Drama Workshop, to support their learning of the language.

A collaboration between Mrs Chaplin and Ms Zhang resulted in students putting on a show from start to finish, in the short time-span of just two hours, which they performed to a captivated Year 3 audience.

[Read more](#)
[View Gallery](#)





Rotary Young Chef Competition



On Saturday 1 February St Gabriel's hosted the district heat of the Rotary Young Chef Competition.

Both the judges and spectators were in awe of the exceptional talent displayed by all of the young chefs who participated. We are hugely proud of Selina, Year 9, who was declared winner for her outstanding cookery.

Well done, Selina, and good luck in the next round. **Read more**

“ I am extremely happy to have won the district heat of the Rotary Chef. It has boosted my confidence and I am excited for the next round in March! ”

Selina

Bristol Geography Trip



Year 11 Geography pupils enjoyed a day out in Bristol on 6 February looking at urban regeneration in the morning and took part in a rainforest session at Bristol Zoo in the afternoon. **View Tweet**

Sixth Form Visit Parliament

As part of their PSHE programme, a group of Sixth Form students visited the Houses of Parliament on Monday 27 January to learn more about how the government works and to experience the chambers firsthand.

During their visit, Newbury MP, Laura Farris, met with our students to answer their questions. The students gained a great insight into the world of politics.

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Head of Department Spotlight

Paul Spurrett - Art



Paul has always been fascinated by graphic design and after qualifying as a snowboarding instructor he gained his PGCE at Oxford Brookes University.

“ I always found it easy to pick up a pencil and draw or colour things. I believe art is similar to sport in that you have to practise in order to become better. Having natural talent can help things develop a lot easier but with the right mindset, anyone is able to learn new skills. ”

Our GCSE artists are brilliant at coming up with their own ideas for projects. This year they are exploring all kinds of interesting themes such as Black History, Feminism, Skateboarding, Conspiracy Theories, Beauty, Pollution, World Culture, Fantasy, Surrealism etc. Come exhibition time, during the Summer Term, every student's work will look amazing. **Read More**



Diana Evans - Business Studies



After many years working in the corporate world in HR and Operations Management, Mrs Evans gained here PGCE and spent 10 years at Downe House School teaching ICT and Business before joining St Gabriel's in 2014.

Mrs Evans enjoys reading business biographies and travelling to less developed countries. She is also passionate about helping young students make sense of the world of work and the economic climate as well as developing their understanding of personal finance.

“ Since I joined St Gabriel's, several pupils have gone on to read Business and Management at universities including Loughborough, Reading and the Royal Agricultural University. One student secured a coveted Wealth Management Banking Apprenticeship at Barclays. ”

For pupils interested in working in business, I would say do it! You will not regret it, you will learn useful skills for life as well as widening your understanding of the world we live in and it is fun too! **Read More**



U13 Netball Team



Monday 30 January provided a proud teacher moment when both our Fast Track teams, A and B, took a win against St Bartholomew’s School.

U18 Netball Team



Another amazing win for our Sixth Form super squad on Wednesday 22 January against Willink School.

Hockey



Both U12 A and B Hockey teams played brilliantly in the first tournament of the season on 27 January at Trinity; taking third and fourth place in their groups.

Sailing to Success



Congratulations to Erin, Year 10, who is busy training for the UK girls sailing squad in preparation for the next round of GB team selection. Go Erin!

Read more



Sports Scholars

On Tuesday 14 January the sports scholars had a special visitor, Emma Edmonds, from the University Campus of Football Business (UCFB). She came in to school to talk to them about different career pathways and opportunities in sport.



“It was very cool. Emma Edmonds explained what they study at university and talked about the different guest speakers they have, who share their journey and life leading to their success. In class at the moment we are taking part in hockey, netball, badminton and gymnastics, which are lots of fun for all abilities. I am very into my sport and the teachers arrange a lot of fixtures, which I enjoy playing with the team. Talking about sports, there are also lots of clubs on offer before and after school and even at lunch times. The teachers are amazing and make our lessons so much fun, I do not think sport would be the same without them.”

Neve, Year 7

January & February Match Results

Date	Sport	Age Group	Details	Result
15 January	Netball	U18	Park House	Won 29 - 8
16 January	Netball	U15 and U16	St Bartholomew’s	Cancelled
22 January	Netball	U18	Willink	Won 25 - 6
23 January	Netball	U15 and U16	Theale	Cancelled
27 January	Hockey	U12 A	Trinity Tournament	Third in group
27 January	Hockey	U12 B	Trinity Tournament	Fourth in group
29 January	Netball	U18	Kennet	Won 17 - 11
29 January	Netball	U12 A	St Hugh’s Tournament	Third in group
29 January	Netball	U12 B	St Hugh’s Tournament	Fourth in group
30 January	Netball	U15 and U16	Park House	Lost 11 - 9
30 January	Netball	Fast Track A	St Bartholomew’s	Won 24 - 3
30 January	Netball	Fast Track B	St Bartholomew’s	Won 30 - 0
4 February	Hockey	U12 A	Trinity	Lost 1 - 4
4 February	Hockey	U12 B	Trinity	Won 6 - 1
5 February	Netball	U18	Little Heath	Won 17 - 8
6 February	Netball	U15 and U16	Kennet	Lost 24 - 6
12 February	Netball	U18	Kennet	Cancelled
13 February	Netball	U15	Kennet	Cancelled



Future Fixtures (Parents will be notified immediately of any changes or cancellation to matches).

Date	Time	Sport	Age Group	Details	Location
26 February	3.45pm - 5.30pm	Netball	U18	Theale	Kennet
27 February	3.45pm - 5.30pm	Netball	U15 and Fast Track	The Downs	Park House
4 March	3.45pm - 5.30pm	Netball	U18	St Bartholomew's	Kennet
5 March	3.45pm - 5.30pm	Netball	U15 and Fast Track	Little Heath	Kennet
10 March	3.45pm - 5.30pm	Hockey	U12 & U13	Kennet	Park House
10 March	3.45pm - 5.30pm	Hockey	U14	Kennet	Park House
11 March	3.45pm - 5.30pm	Netball	U18	Tournament	Kennet
12 March	3.45pm - 5.30pm	Netball	U15 and Fast Track	Willink	Kennet
19 March	3.45pm - 5.30pm	Netball	U15 and Fast Track	Trinity	Park House
24 March	3.45pm - 5.30pm	Hockey	U12 & U13	The Downs	Away
25 March	3.45pm - 5.30pm	Netball	U15	Tournament	Trinity
26 March	3.45pm - 5.30pm	Netball	Fast Track	Tournament	St Bartholomew's
31 March	3.45pm - 5.30pm	Hockey	U14	Trinity	Away

Land Owners



Congratulations to Year 11S for officially becoming land owners. They hosted a charity cake sale to raise money for the World Land Trust for their 'Buy An Acre' campaign. For each £100 donation to World Land Trust's 'Buy An Acre' project, one acre of threatened habitat is purchased and protected for wildlife in perpetuity, saving endangered species from extinction, tackling climate change and safeguarding some of the world's last remaining wilderness.

The project is endorsed by Sir David Attenborough and is crucial in saving tropical forest and other vital habitats from destruction. Year 11S raised over £134 and are now the proud owners of one and a quarter acres of threatened habitats and their wildlife.

Mrs Hastings, Head of Dance

Year 7 Clay Pots



Art Scholars Workshop with Daisy Freestone

On Tuesday 4 February the Art Scholars had a special visitor, Daisy Freestone, a local artist who came in to school to spend time sharing her work with Jesmonite, which has similar properties to plaster of Paris, to create intriguing vessels inspired by natural compounds.

Each of the scholars successfully created a decorative dish and key-ring for their own personal use.

Read more



“ I really enjoyed the workshop it was so much fun and the pots that we made looked so amazing. ”

Elsy, Year 7

Year 10 Pattern Work



Year 8 Sculptures



Pupils in the Senior School have been busy on a range of different projects. Year 7 have created clay vessels decorated with incised and modelled map designs, based upon their journeys theme.

Year 8 pupils created cultural artefact sculptures, based upon their visit to the Pitt Rivers Museum, in Oxford. It was fun to see the bright designs and encouraging that they are learning to use recycled, rather than new, materials in their work.

As part of their Art Textiles coursework project, Year 10 have been creating multi-colour patterns and prints, based upon their own firsthand photographs and drawings.

Ms Hunter, Art Textiles Teacher



Could your Bookmark Design be a Winner?



The Library is requesting pupils design a St Gabriel's bookmark! A selection of them will be printed and used as promotional items for the school. Your design could be based on a favourite book, author or story character; you may also choose to follow the theme of World Book Day, which this year is 'Share a Million Stories'.

Please collect a bookmark template from the Library and submit your entry by 2 March. Best of luck everyone, let's have some dazzling designs!

Mrs Borzoni, Librarian

Shakespeare Conference



Our English Literature A level students enjoyed a trip to Stratford Upon Avon on Monday 10 February to participate in a Shakespeare Conference on Othello.

It was a great opportunity to discuss and listen to Shakespeare's text, deepening their understanding of how the play works both on the page and on the stage in preparation for their examinations later in the year.

Olivia, Year 12 took the time to write about her experience.

[Read more](#)

Enterprise Challenge



Year 9 enjoyed a taste of business in a recent PSHE lesson with an enterprise challenge based around recycling and reusing waste left behind at music festivals. From designing a waterproof all-weather poncho for festival goers to umbrellas and tents from waste packaging, ideas were abundant.

“I loved the creativity shown by all the teams and was particularly impressed by the smartphone speaker made from an old Pringles tube and an apron from leftover materials.”

Mrs Evans, Head of Business

Preparing for World Challenge

On 6 July a group of nine sixth formers are travelling to Vietnam and Laos as part of their exciting World Challenge expedition. Over the course of the trip they will trek through paddy fields and waterfalls, explore different cultures and help local communities. They will also visit areas such as Luang Prabang and take part in cookery and yoga classes by the waterfalls.

“Overall as a group we are looking forward to learning more about each other and the valuable life skills we will pick up along the way. We are very fortunate to be given this opportunity, so we want to make the most of it and gain as much from the experience as possible.”

Throughout the month we are all going to be pushed out of our comfort zones and have to overcome situations that we may not come across if we were not going on the trip. For example, we will be responsible for looking after our own money as well as booking our travel and accommodation whilst out there.



We are looking forward to meeting our expedition leader shortly who has been on over 33 World Challenge expeditions. We hope his experience will be a valuable asset helping us reach our full potential as a team.

We are all excited for this trip and cannot wait to learn more about Vietnam and Laos and their people. We look forward to sharing our experience on our return.

Jess and Natalie, Year 13

LGBT History Month

In celebration of LGBT History Month events have been held across the school, raising awareness and showing support to the LGBT community.

On Wednesday 5 February an assembly by members of the Diversity Club highlighted important figures from history and their contributions to society. The assembly ended with a spirited rendition of 'Born This Way', with dance moves led by Mr Ives, Mr May, and Mr Spurrett.

Thursday 6 February was Rainbow Accessory Day in school where students wore scrunchies, bracelets, and wristbands in rainbow colours, echoing the LGBT pride flag.



Good luck to Pippa, Year 10, who is travelling to St Hilda's on the Gold Coast for her six week Australian Exchange in March.

Classics on Twitter



Follow our Classics Department to see their tweets on lesson activities and scholarship from the Classics community around the world.

Featured Twitter Account

@StGabsClassics

Follow us for the latest Classic news from around school.

Recent Tweet
Year 7 Roman Masks



Student Business Challenge



Our Year 12 Student Business Challenge company, Soykind, have just launched their eco-friendly reusable food wrap business.

They will be selling wraps and encouraging us to cutback on single use plastics such as cling film, in a pop-up shop in the Kennet Centre, Newbury, on Saturday 22 February. They welcome friends from the St Gabriel's community to visit them on their stand.

Colour Changing LED Lights



Year 7 students recently unveiled their Colour Changing LED lights. They created these stunning illuminations as part of a Design Technology project in the Autumn Term. They used CAD software and learned to use a soldering iron.

[View Gallery](#)

The Heart of the School



“The Square Hall had a beguiling atmosphere; the warmth of the fire could be felt throughout the room; it crackled and popped like the sound of crackers being pulled on Christmas Day. The view from the window was magical; the horizon smiled back at me fondly, as I stood gazing at it.”

Catherine, Year 12

Dates for your calendar

Term Dates 2020

Spring Term 2020

Staff Inset	Monday 6 January
Term Begins	Tuesday 7 January
Half Term	Monday 17 February - Friday 21 February
Term Ends	Friday 3 April (12.30pm finish)

Summer Term 2020

Staff Inset	Tuesday 21 April
Term Begins	Wednesday 22 April
May Bank Holiday	Friday 8 May (school closed)
Half Term	Monday 25 May - Friday 29 May
Term Ends	Friday 3 July (12.30pm finish)

Autumn Term 2020

Staff Inset	Thursday 3 - Friday 4 September
Term Begins	Monday 7 September
Half Term	Thursday 22 October - Friday 30 October
Dame Betty Day	Friday 27 November (school closed)
Term Ends	Friday 11 December (12.30pm finish)



Wednesday 3 March
Thursday 4 March

Join us as we take to the stage at Arlington Arts in the Senior School performance of the highly entertaining comedy drama, The Addams Family, on Tuesday 3 and Wednesday 4 March.

For tickets visit Arlington Arts website: [Addams Family](#)

Parents' Association Events



1920s Ball

Saturday 20 June 2020

St Gabriel's

90
Years

Tickets: ball@stgabrielspta.co.uk



Alumnae Reunion
Saturday 13 June 2020

Open Morning

Senior School & Sixth Form
Friday 13 March 2020
Email: admissions@stgabriels.co.uk