



Welcome Message



I hope this message finds you and your family well at this time.

Although school has been relatively empty, the conscientiousness of pupils and staff has been most impressive. A wide variety of lessons and activities have taken place remotely; assemblies have been streamed and watched live, and pupils are keeping in touch with their teachers and peers through the innovative use of technology.

Year 11 and Year 13 have embarked on their Certificates and Diplomas with great enthusiasm. The whole school has embraced a range of fitness activities which are evidenced in our **PE Gallery**. I would like to thank everyone for their part in making our education and community continue in the way that it has.

As time passes and we have the opportunity to look back at this period of our lives, of course, we will recall the separation and the different way that things have had to be done. However, to me, it has been so

important that we have still found time to come together to celebrate. I, for one, will always recall the VE75 celebrations of this year, not least because of the way that it inspired so many of our families to connect and mark the occasion albeit in a variety of socially distanced ways.

We have all been inspired by the fundraising effort of the newly knighted 100 year old veteran Sir Captain Tom. His achievement has had a positive impact on all of us. The nation got behind him, and raised over a staggering £32 million to support the NHS, because of this we have become closer to each other.

My hope is that when things do return to something relatively normal, we do not lose touch of the strong inter-generational connections that have been made remotely. We have this chance to recalibrate, and I have been so impressed with the way that the pupils in all settings here at St Gabriel's have been able to do this.

As ever, thank you for all your support and understanding at this time, and I look forward to seeing some of you back in school on 1 June.

Ricki Smith, Principal

VE Day 75 Year Celebration



On Friday, 8 May, the sun shone brightly for families and pupils as the nation recognised the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe.

Year 7 historians took an active part in celebrations over the long weekend by baking, crafting, making commemorative posters and bunting and dancing as part of their studies of the Second World War. **View Post**

Year 11 Certificate

The St Gabriel's Certificate was launched this term to enable Year 11 students to delve a little deeper into topics of interest. They have been working hard on their independent study for their certificates.

Classics



In Classics and Latin, pupils have been widening their knowledge through research topics such as Roman art and architecture, goats in Greece, and the relationship between the ancient and modern Olympic games. These personal projects are being conducted alongside their continuing structured study of topics such as Roman poetry and case studies of women in the ancient world. **View Post**

Business Studies



In Business Studies students independently explored a topic of their choice. These included an investigation of the 10 Multinational Corporations (MNCs) that control the food industry across the world, motivation theory in practice, entrepreneur comparisons and whether Amazon are heroes or villains.

Year 9 Pupil Feedback

*"I wanted to say thank you to Mrs Chapman and all our teachers. They have worked so hard to give us the right amount of work each lesson, making sure we are doing ok during this tough time. I really appreciate everything you are all doing for me and everyone else."*

Current Pupil

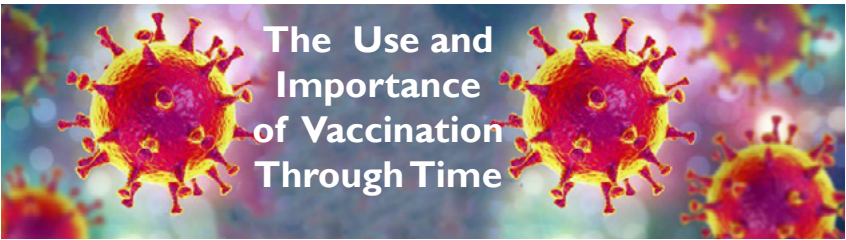
Year 13 Diploma

The St Gabriel's Diploma, was launched this term to encourage Year 13 students to extend their learning beyond the curriculum and to broaden their horizons.

*"The Sixth Form Diploma has been a great success. It has enabled students to research and explore topics around subjects that interest or intrigue them and to develop skills, such as independence, research and communication, in readiness for their university courses."*

Mrs Reseigh  
Head of Sixth Form

Head Girl, Ellie, focused her Diploma on Vaccinations



*"I already knew a bit about Edward Jenner from when I studied him in our History GCSE topic 'Medicine Through Time'. When learning about him I found it fascinating that he saw the relationship between Smallpox and Cowpox and then went on to influence so many other great scientists, like Louis Pasteur. I thought it would be a good idea to try and link early vaccination to the current topic of Coronavirus. The presentation went well on the whole, although it felt quite odd presenting over the internet rather than in person!"*

Ellie, Head Girl



Remote Learning

Year 9 Mandarin Lesson



Congratulations to Mei, Zara and Megan who created exceptional pieces of work that showcased their language skills as well as their music and ICT skills.

Learning languages remotely is by no means boring. The first week back after the Easter holiday, Year 9 Mandarin Beginners performed an online concert in Mandarin.

Ms Zhang was impressed by the creativity and originality of the girls’ work. Some worked independently and others collaboratively, using their subject knowledge to produce wonderful songs, which they performed virtually.

Scholastic Essay



Our annual scholastic essay presentation was rearranged as a series of virtual presentations spread over a number of lunchtime sessions. Staff, pupils and parents tuned in to hear the presentations.

To coincide with the school’s 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday, the theme of ‘Celebration’ had been set in the Autumn Term, allowing pupils to explore the topic in a direction that intrigued them. From an argument as to why Rosa Parks should be celebrated to an awareness of the environmental cost of some celebrations, our pupils certainly covered the theme from many angles.

We also learned about how Americans celebrate Thanksgiving, the Day of the Dead in Mexico, the US town of Celebration, St David’s Day, VE Day, Space Landings and the Dutch tradition of Sinterklaas as well as the origins of Christmas.

Read More

“It was great to hear all of the girls speak so articulately and it was clear that they had thoroughly researched their topics. I certainly learnt a lot from it and I was also very impressed with how well they responded to a range of different questions from the audience. Well done to all involved!”

Mrs Chicken  
Director of Curriculum

Music

It has been fantastic to see remote music lessons continuing this term, with teachers and students embracing the technology with enthusiasm and good humour. At least there is a bit more time to practise at the moment! We are hoping to run some lunchtime concerts after half term, and the singing teachers are already working on a virtual choir performance for their students, so watch this space.

The first of our Lunchtime Lockdown Listening Club sessions took place on Monday, 11 May, with two wonderful performances of original music. Elizabeth E, Year 12, played her latest composition, an ambitious Spanish-style piece for two classical guitars, and Laura P, Year 9, gave us two of her latest songs - well done, both. We even managed to unmute our microphones so the audience could show their appreciation with a remote round of applause! Laura also won Mrs Chapman’s song competition with another new song, ‘Bluebells’, on the theme of friendship in lockdown.



In the virtual classroom, Year 7, 8 and 9 students have been working on composing their own songs, writing music for film and studying a wide range of music from Disney songs to the classical pieces in the BBC Ten Pieces collection. This resource is not only fantastic for teachers but is also a great way for anybody to learn about some wonderful new music and some old favourites. It is freely available.

Visit: [bbctenpieces](#)  
Dr Tebbs, Director of Music

Head of Department Spotlight

Dr Philip Tebbs - Music



Encouraged by his parents, Dr Tebbs developed a passion for music at a young age and learnt to play the piano. Alongside developing his musical talent, he found great pleasure in encouraging others to play, which meant becoming a music teacher was a perfect career.

We asked Dr Tebbs if you are born with musical ability or if it can be learnt? Wasn’t is a famous golfer who said “The more I practise, the luckier I get”? It is a bit like that, yes. There is an element of what you might call the god-given gift, but practise, practise, practise, is what makes the difference!

Dr Tebbs has had many proud musical moments whilst teaching. Most recently, the entire cast’s team effort to put on The Addams Family was a triumph. Outstanding examination results and amazing concert performances are fond memories too.

Asked about students pursuing a career in music, he recalls, in recent years, some have gone on to become, for example, a secondary school music teacher, a freelance performer and instrumental teacher, a sound recording (acoustics) specialist, a professional vocalist and songwriter; and some have studied music and then gone on to have successful non-musical careers, but have kept their musical interests going by leading choirs, playing in bands etc.

Dr Tebbs has this advice for pupils interested in pursuing music:

“Work hard, love your subject, and turn up on time to rehearsals. Many people cannot do those simple things, but actually they will get you a long way. Genius is an added bonus, but do not sit there waiting for it!”



Ms Sarah Ferretti - Modern Foreign Languages



Ms Ferretti was born in Reggio Emilia, Italy, and was always fascinated with modern foreign languages and literature. Thanks to her secondary school English teacher and a trip to Cambridge, she knew she was destined to teach in England. After graduating in French and English from the University of Bologna she moved to Swansea University, and qualified to teach in Britain.

At St Gabriel’s, students can learn French, Spanish, and Mandarin, with Italian as a legacy language. Students’ results in languages, both at GCSE and A level, have been consistently excellent over the years. Many of last year’s Sixth Form linguists are now studying Mandarin, French, Spanish, Italian and Russian at prestigious universities.

Universities offer a wide range of courses to suit all needs and interests. It is, therefore, important that pupils understand in which direction they want to take their linguistic experience in order to make the most of it.

Language learning involves different skills. Communication, for example, is key and is definitely a transferable skill, and not only to other languages. Being able to recognise and analyse grammar, vocabulary and radical patterns in a language, is common to all languages and will develop high order thinking skills.

Mrs Ferretti is fully aware how frustrating learning a language can be at the start, but slowly, with perseverance, progress will come, which is hugely rewarding!

“I personally feel that you can only really become fluent in a foreign language if you fully embrace its culture with an open mind and an open heart... if you do that the language will follow.”



Read More

Read More



Remote Physical Education



During this half term lots of PE has happened remotely. Mrs Brazendale and the PE Team have set weekly timetables to provide recommended structure and focus to daily activity.

To demonstrate how to perform the different exercise techniques safely, Mrs Brazendale and Neve and Mia in Year 7, created YouTube videos. These are hosted on the Concilium page of our website. **View posts**

This half term has seen St Gabriel's Running Club out in full super hero force, with students completing training runs individually and socially distanced. Gymnastic Club has also been very popular with pupils and many shared videos and pictures showing their talents and great flexibility.

If you want to revisit any of the exercises view the posts and YouTube videos below.



 YouTube

Commit to Core  
Tuesday

Workout  
Wednesday

Week 1	Week 1
Week 2	Week 2
Week 3	Week 3
Week 4	Week 4
Week 5	Week 5

Mrs Brazendale asked pupils to share their stories and pictures of what they have achieved in PE and generally to keep active and fit during lockdown. We have seen some excellent examples, including sailing, horse riding, trampoline jumps, lovely family walks, golf, weight training, running, swimming, tennis, gymnastics and much more. **View Gallery**

A Day in the Life of a Show Jumper



Year 13 student, Izzi, has combined her academic studies with competing at a high level in show jumping across the UK and in Europe. Last August, at the age of 17, Izzi and her horse, In The Mood VHK, came third in the Under 21 National Finals.

Izzi has combined her sports and science disciplines for her Year 13 Diploma and produced an informative and entertaining video about the life of a show jumper, called Adventures with Izzi, which will inspire other pupils in school.

**Read more and watch video**

Nature's Playground



Mrs Brazendale challenged pupils to find a cool place to hang out in nature, here is Ella, Year 8, delighted to oblige.



Keeping Active

Enjoy keeping fit over half term. The PE Department will continue to create weekly timetables to inspire pupils to keep active at home. Look out for more ideas and website links. If you want to join Gymnastics or Running Club please contact [vbrazendale@stgabriels.co.uk](mailto:vbrazendale@stgabriels.co.uk) and your name will be added to the Teams groups.





## PPE Production



With the increase in demand for PPE, Mrs Knott, Head of Design Technology, has been using the laser printer and the Technology Rooms to produce visors, which have now been distributed to West Berkshire and North Hampshire hospitals and care providers.

Ms Hunter, who teaches Textiles and Art, has been busy making scrubs to the NHS specifications. [Read More](#)

## Thinkuknow



Thinkuknow is the education programme from the National Crime Agency's CEOP command. It aims to empower young people to identify the risks they may face online and know where they can turn to for support. [Read more](#)

## Mental Health Awareness



Mental Health Awareness Week reminds us how important it is to be kind to ourselves and one another in the current environment. With that in mind visit our Concilium page for a host of useful resource links and videos, including Mrs Hammons A-Z slideshow guide on maintaining mental health in lockdown, using the words that girls came up with in PSHE. [Read More](#)

## Art & Textiles

### 3D Tonal Scale



Year 7 were set a challenge to create a 3D tonal scale using ordinary household objects. They achieved a full complement of grey tones as well as black and white. Elsy and Eleanor created these very skilful scales.

### Frozen Art



Year 10 Textiles pupils were asked to find and freeze a range of materials relating to their GCSE theme and used Photoshop to creatively edit their outcomes. This is a wonderful effort and beautiful response from Natalie, Year 10, who is investigating 'Natural Form' for her coursework project.

### Re-enactment Challenge



Pupils had fun creating re-enactment pictures. Tabitha, Year 7, created a wonderful, skilful response. The choice of objects, composition and photographic skills were superb. To view all pupils re-enactment images [View Gallery](#).

### Weaving Textile Project



Above are two beautiful natural weaving responses from Zofia and Moggy, Year 9. As part of their Weaving Textiles project pupils chose materials and skilfully constructed pieces into these wonderful visual displays. Well done girls.

[View Gallery](#)

### Origami



Mrs Archer challenged her Year 9 class to create origami daffodils after studying Wordsworth as part of their new topic on poems from around the world. The results are beautiful!

[View Daffodils](#)

## Art in Isolation

Our pupils are creating all kinds of wonderful art whilst working at home. We have created a gallery that will be updated regularly to share some of their work. [Visit Gallery](#)





Isolation Poetry

During the current situation, where we are socially isolated and remote learning, studying and writing poetry has been a lovely way for students to explore their feelings and to process the experience. Year 8 have spent time in their gardens and going on walks to inspire some Spring poems. Year 9 have been studying 'Poetry From Around the World', and reading poems by a



range of poets from different cultures and places to provide inspiration for their own poems on a diverse range of topics from animal encounters to counting their blessings.

The English Department has been so impressed by the creativity and enthusiasm the girls have shown in their study of poetry. All pupils' poetry is available to view on our website. **Read poems**

**Ithaka**

When you make your way to Ithaca,  
Hope that it will be lasting  
For the journey should be cherished  
And full of precious moments  
But, do not fear the Dark and unknown  
When you can fill the light with joy  
Do not worry about the Formidable  
If you can ride on the crest of waves  
And fill the way with laughs and colour  
Yet still carrying the bad in your journey  
So that they cannot harm you  
And then you can relish a happy journey  
Fill the journey with memories to be grateful  
of cherry blossom trees like clouds  
Earthly smells like fresh cut grass Summer days  
you wish to last forever  
Sounds of the sea and washing tides  
Let your eyes drink the milky sky  
Keep the destination in your mind  
But not hurrying or rushing to get there  
Make your goals to get there with no haste  
Don't follow Ithaca like a pebble in the gloom  
You may do this but when you find Ithaca is poor  
She hasn't deceived you,  
so you must find wealth in the journey

**Poppy, Year 9**

**Memory**

A handful of fluffy clouds peacefully pass by,  
The sun sparkles sweetly in the soft, cerulean sky.  
I feel the bliss of the beautiful bay,  
The shade of the trees is where I'll forever stay.  
Icy, foaming waves crash against the damp sand,  
A peacock waits gracefully, its feathers elegantly fanned.  
I spot the yellow and black stripes of a buzzing bee,  
That flies towards the horizon, out to sea.  
Secret coves call out menacingly to me,  
Huge boats prepare to leave the quay.  
And soon I know that I'll leave too,  
But for now I'll swim between the blue.

**Zara W, Year 9**

**Animal Encounter**

Light filters through the trees,  
Burnished orange against fallen leaves.  
A tranquil evening, then  
Crunching leaves, my head twists round:  
A fox stands, stares, muscles tensed.  
Ready to run.  
We lock eyes. Fox and human.  
I hold my breath, chills on my neck.  
The fox blinks once and bolts,  
Vanishing among the trees. I stand alone,  
the fox has slunk away into the shadows.  
Sunset falls on my face. Alone again.

**Lucy, Year 9**

**Blessing**

Ballet can sometimes be challenging,  
Leaping around the room as flamingo.  
Everything won't be simple at first,  
Spotting isn't always easy, Sickling your foot is bad,  
In class we climb up mountains as we learn,  
Never forgetting about arabesques,  
Grande bachments and pirouettes to  
end the hectic lesson.

**Selina, Year 9**

**Spring**

Season of blossom and flowering buds,  
Whose birds sing merry in the trees so green.  
A memory distant is snow and mud,  
Hibernation for animals has long been.  
Birds search for worms, through the soil they tear,  
Through the leaves and grass and earth and grit.  
A slight smell of pollen fills the air,  
And bees buzz busy to collect it.

**Elsbeth, Year 8**

[Read all poems](#)

Drama

Mrs Chaplin, Head of Drama, tasked Year 9 pupils with a challenge of making their own 3D model of a theatre production. Pupils chose a theme, developed a plot and structure and designed a set using items from around the house. Their designs were amazing. **View Gallery**



In Performing Arts Club, a scavenger hunt task saw pupils recreate their own jazz hand poses. **View twitter**



Other resources drama pupils have enjoyed exploring include The Watermill Theatre online events, where pupils have learnt about costume design and directing.

Alumnae News

Congratulations to Anisa, who has been accepted to the National Youth Theatre.

Anisa, left St Gabriel's in the summer of 2019 and is studying Human Sciences at UCL in London. During her time at St Gabriel's Anisa developed a love of acting. It is wonderful that she is able to continue to pursue her passion.



Physics

Just before the school closed in March, Year 9 pupils learnt about energy resources in Physics. Some students were challenged to decide how St Gabriel's could generate its own energy from a mixture of solar energy, ground source heating and wind power. Others were asked to come up with an idea for a new way of generating energy.



There were some great ideas, from umbrellas which capture the kinetic energy of raindrops, through thermoelectric generators in cinema seats, to office chairs with integrated bicycle pedals (which keep you fit too!).

Amy C, Year 9, went a little further by constructing her idea, a dog harness attached to a small trailer on wheels. As the dog goes for its daily walk, the turning wheels on the trailer run a small generator which can be used to charge a battery, for instance for a mobile phone.

Well done to all of Year 9 for their brilliant ideas - the UK's future energy supply is safe in your hands!

**Story Wall**

**Featured Twitter Account**

**@StGabrielsDrama**

Follow us for the latest news from the Drama Department



“ **A huge thank you to management and all the teachers at St Gabriel's for everything you are doing to keep the girls going during this very challenging time.** ”

**Current Parent**





Diary of a Head



Principal, Mr Ricki Smith, has put pen to paper during the lockdown, producing his very own Diary of a Head. All four blog posts are available on Consilium.  
**View Posts**

Virtual Visit



As prospective parents are unable to visit the school currently, we have set up a Virtual Visit on our website. There are presentations from the leadership team and videos of the different areas of the school, giving visitors a great feel for the balanced education we provide.  
**View Videos**

**“** I wanted to say that we greatly appreciate what the school is doing in keeping lessons going and the use of Teams! Compared to many of my daughter’s non-St Gabriel’s friends the provision provided is exceptional. I think all the parents need to say a big thank you to all the St Gabriel’s staff. **”**

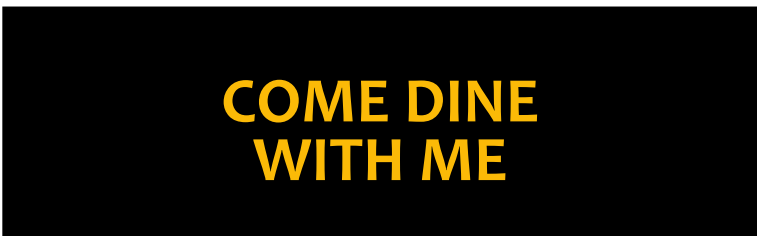
**Current Parent**

Half Term Activities

Below are some fun activities for lockdown.



Make a video diary of life during lockdown. You are living in an extraordinary period of time and this is something you might like to share in the future with your children and grandchildren.



Watch an episode of 'Come Dine with Me' to understand the format of the programme and then have a family competition. Either individually or in teams (parents vs children for example) cook a three course meal with entertainment (you could even dress for dinner). Score the meal out of 10 (video or record your marks and feedback) and have a prize for the winner(s).



Get creative with a range of online drawing tools such as Snapseed, VSCO, Pixlr, Over, Sketch-club, Brushes, Reduce, Magic Eraser, Pics Art, Repix, Green Screen, PS Express, iMovie, Cute Cut and Procreate.



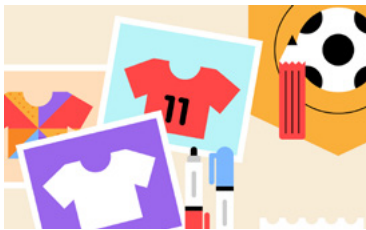
Take a virtual gallery tour and view artefacts online.  
Visit: [British Museum](#)



Go on a country walk and take some artistic photographs.



Design your own lockdown meme.



Scouts have collated a variety of great indoor activities. [View Post](#)



Enter the Historical Fiction Competition. Visit: [history.org.uk](#)



Coming up during the summer, from the 3 July Disney+ are live streaming Hamilton.



Virgin Limited Edition has launched an online weekly safari for you to join on social media. Visit: [Safari](#)



Try an online Escape Room. Visit: [escapefromhome.co.uk](#)



Listen to live music. Many bands and orchestras are making their performances available for free.  
Visit: [digitalconcerthall.com](#)  
[classicfm.com](#)



Practise a musical instrument. With lots of free online learning resources available and songs via YouTube, it is a great time to practise together and can be fun and therapeutic.



Create your own music. A free digital audio workstation, which we use in school, is an easy way of creating music without ever practising a single scale. Visit: [lmms](#)



Access a range of shows.  
Visit: [digital theatre](#)  
Username and password have been included in email home last term.



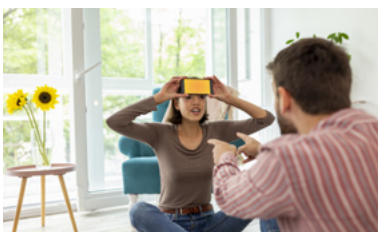
Mute your favourite television programme and add your own story line by reading facial expressions and body language. Can you guess the correct emotion in the scene?



Spend time in your garden, get active, play sport and even have a go at growing your own plants, flowers or vegetables.



Enter a film competition by showcasing the natural surroundings in your local area: [View Competition](#)



Turn family charades into a game show by making your own score boards and theme music.