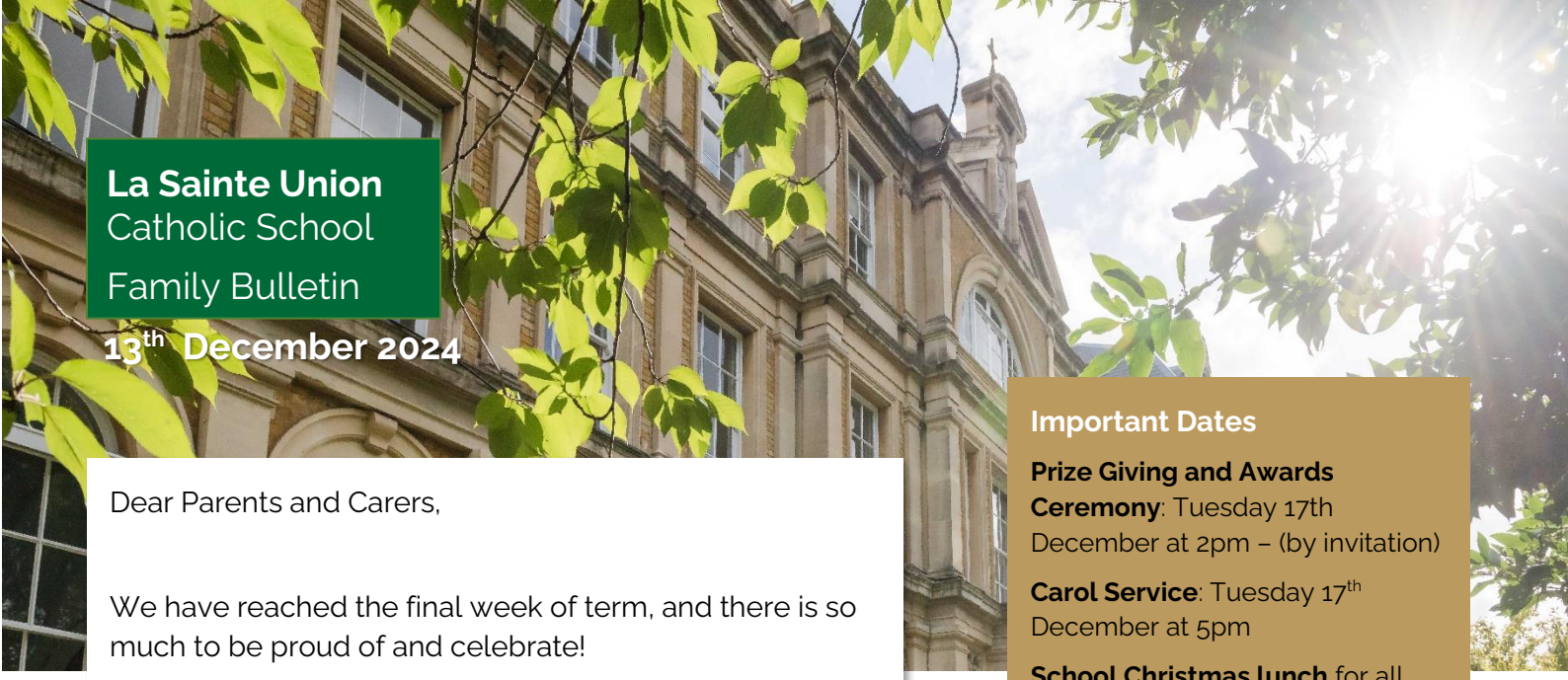

La Sainte Union Catholic School

Family Bulletin

13th December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have reached the final week of term, and there is so much to be proud of and celebrate!

The national Progress 8 measures were published last week. It is a complex measure which shows how a school's results compare to national expectations, measuring progress from KS2 to GCSE in 8 key subjects. La Sainte Union's progress continues to buck the trend: our Progress 8 score has gone up, as expected, and we are proud of the fact that it has always been positive.

Our results are tantamount to the culture of excellence that exists in our school: the magic formula of expert teachers, committed students, and supportive parents under the auspices of an ethos of care for others (Each for All and All for God!).

Our students' care for others was in full action these last few days, with Year 12 and 13 running a Christmas lunch last week for the elderly in our school gym, complete with bingo and carol singing, and our GCSE vocal group attended another community lunch today, entertaining the guests with their beautiful carolling.

You will be able to enjoy more of our Music this coming Tuesday at our annual Carol Service held in our Chapel. Places are limited, so do please book a space on the link provided: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/la-sainte-union-catholic-school-carol-service-tickets-1110235898459?aff=oddtdtcreator

Best wishes,

Mrs Fegan

Headteacher

Important Dates

Prize Giving and Awards Ceremony: Tuesday 17th December at 2pm – (by invitation)

Carol Service: Tuesday 17th December at 5pm

School Christmas lunch for all students: Wed 18th December

Last Day of Term – Early closure: Friday 20th December

PHSE Topics

Year 7 - Identifying and challenging bullying

Year 8 - Knowing your rights (UDHR)

Year 9 - Careers 2

Year 10 - Abusive relationships

Year 11 - Exploring identities deeper (identity and mental health)

Contact form for any PSHE related queries: https://forms.office.com/e/GY4SBrwbNW

Latest editions of the LaSWAP newsletter can be found here: LaSWAP Sixth Form Consortium - Newsletters

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Celebrating Black History Season at LSU : Reclaiming Narratives

This autumn, students participated in a vibrant array of activities to mark Camden Black History Season (September to November 2024), themed *Reclaiming Narratives*. These enriching events celebrated the stories and contributions of Black individuals throughout history, both globally and locally. The Sixth Formers kicked off the season with a visit to SOAS for an inspiring exhibition on Black Abolitionists in Camden, which illuminated the vital role of local figures in the fight against slavery. Meanwhile, Year 9 and Year 10 pupils undertook in-depth research projects on their Black heroes, showcasing creative and thoughtful presentations on figures who have shaped our world.

The Black History Society for Years 9 and 10 took a trip to Swiss Cottage library for a thought-provoking lecture on the Anti-Apartheid Movement, which was followed by a dynamic protest art workshop. Students channelled their reflections into bold and powerful pieces of artwork. Across Key Stage 3, English lessons centred on Jackie Kay's poignant poem *In My Country*, sparking discussions on belonging and identity, while other classes delved into the works of influential Black poets. The Drama department added a creative flair to the season by inviting acclaimed author Patrice Lawrence on 22nd October. Lawrence delivered engaging talks to pupils in Years 7, 8, and 9, sharing her journey as a writer and her commitment to storytelling as a tool for empowerment.

PSHE lessons also played a significant role in the celebrations, drawing on resources from the National Black History Society to foster thoughtful discussions on history, culture, and equality. Together, these activities highlighted the importance of reclaiming narratives, empowering our students to explore and honour the diverse voices that have shaped history. It was a season to remember, leaving everyone inspired to continue learning, creating, and advocating for change.

Left: Art work made by students from the Black History Society at Swiss Cottage

Above: Kierah and Elaine making artwork for Black History Season

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A message for our Year 11 students and their families

Transition to Sixth Form Study

It is our pleasure to outline the events that will be taking place to support students during the application process to the Sixth Form. It was lovely to see so many of you at the LaSWAP Open Evening on Thursday November 28th. This was only the first event designed to support student transition to Sixth Form study!

Individual Progression Interviews

In January, all students in Year 11 at La Sainte Union will receive an invitation to attend an individual meeting about their planned courses – these meetings will be held with a member of staff who is knowledgeable about the sixth form and post 16/18 progression routes. This invitation will be sent via e-mail to parents / carers using the contact details that we have on our system. These progression meetings will help each student identify their most appropriate pathway – it will also be an opportunity to compare predicted grades to entry criteria for the courses of interest.

When? Monday 20th January – Thursday 23rd January

These meetings will take place during the week beginning Monday 20th January and appointments will be scheduled between 3.30pm and 5.15pm.

You will receive a personal invitation with the time slot after the Christmas break and all meetings will take place in the Sixth Form at La Sainte Union.

How and when to apply for LaSWAP? Internal applicants that attend on of our consortium schools will be guided through the application process in January.

Students will be issued with their log in details at their individual progression interview (week beginning January 20th) and will have the opportunity to complete their applications **directly after their guidance interview**. This is just the starting point for a conversation about post 16 study and **does not** have to represent final choices. Please note that entry on to any of our courses cannot be confirmed until GCSE grades are known in August, as entry criteria for each course must be met.

Further details about our pathways, courses and entry criteria and the *LaSWAP Admissions Policy* can be found on the LaSWAP website: www.LaSWAP.camden.sch.uk

Please click here for an overview of the GCSE qualifications needed to access each A Level subject offered at LaSWAP in 2024 *(these may be updated for 2025 entry)*

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Please click here for an overview of the GCSE qualifications needed to access each Vocational qualification offered at LaSWAP in 2024 *(these may be updated for 2025 entry)*

We look forward to seeing you all soon.

The Sixth Form pastoral team

Congratulations Wynter!

We were delighted to award Wynter McNamee the Richard Reeves Foundation award for £2000. Wynter worked incredibly hard during her time at LSU and LaSWAP, securing excellent grades and is now studying Psychology at university. In her free time Wynter volunteers at her local church as children's liturgy teacher, as well as being a Community Champion for Save the Children and UNICEF. We are so proud of you Wynter, well done!

Year 8 Art Workshops

On 25th of November, Kelly Frank from the October Gallery came to run workshops with Year 8 students. They learned about the mixed media portraits of Afro-Brasilian artist Alexis Peskine. He makes portraits of people using natural materials, like leaves and metal nails!

Laura said: I really enjoyed the workshop because it was very interesting especially the part where we found out that Alexis

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Peskine uses natural resources for the background and that he uses nails for it as well! I would really like to do more of the clay work.

Jasmine said: I learned about Alexis Peskine's art and how he incorporates nails, leaves and shells into his work. I found the way he includes materials in his art interesting and special. I would like to know more about why he chose certain materials and the meaning behind his art.

Danilyne said: I liked how we did a range of activities, for example drawing the person opposite us, drawing the item we brought in and using clay.

Courtney said: When Kelly Frank ran to the workshop, I learnt about people's cultures and how they express culture and rituals in their everyday life.

Elianna said: What I found interesting was looking at different artists with different backgrounds, cultural traditions, many unique ways to present their works. Also Kelly talked to us about the October Gallery which mainly looks into artists with diverse backgrounds.

Myeisha said: I think what was interesting was the drawing of our journey going from our bed to school and I noticed some unique and different patterns in each student's drawings. In our clay work, we made portraits of the people opposite us and we drew the objects that we brought to the workshop. We used techniques such as using a design to merge into the other, making it look detailed and mesmerizing.

Here are some of the finished pieces!

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BTEC Exam Timetable January 2025

Date	Time	Duration	Component
08/01/2025	9:00	180 mins	Enquiries Into Current Research in Health and Social Care
	13:30	120 mins	Developing A Marketing Campaign (A)
09/01/2025	9:00	180 mins	Developing A Marketing Campaign (B)
13/01/2025	9:00	90 mins	Working In Health and Social Care
	9:00	120 mins	Personal And Business Finance
16/01/2025	9:00	90 mins	Anatomy & Physiology for Health and Social Care
17/01/2025	9:00	180 min	Principles Of Management
20/01/2025	9:00	90 mins	Business Decision Making

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