La Sainte Union Catholic School

Family Bulletin

3rd March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we move into this busy half-term, I am continually inspired by the enthusiasm and commitment of our students. This newsletter is a celebration of their hard work and achievements across many areas of school life.

Firstly, a huge congratulations to our Year 11 students for completing their final mock exams. Their dedication and resilience have been impressive, and I know they will continue to build on this as they prepare for their summer exams. Well done!

For our Sixth Formers, exciting opportunities are on the horizon. This edition includes important information about university application programmes, including Oxbridge workshops, and information about apprenticeships. I encourage all students considering competitive courses to make the most of these valuable experiences.

We are also looking forward to celebrating **World Book Day**, where we celebrate the love of reading that exists across the school. Stories have the power to inspire, challenge, and connect us, and students will take part in a range of exciting activities on the day.

Finally, as you read about the remarkable work of our students—from thought-provoking theatre performances to insightful Geography projects—I hope you share my pride in their creativity, curiosity, and ambition.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Important Dates:

Friday 14th March- Year 9 Td/IPV and Meningitis ACWY Vaccinations

PHSE Topics

Year 7: Puberty: introduction to periods

Year 8: Alcohol and smoking/vaping / Period Workshops (delivered by Period & Pause)

Year 9: Camden Choices

Year 10: First Give

Year 11: Parenthood and fertility

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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Visit to Belsize Square Synagogue

On Monday, our Year 9 students visited Belsize Square Synagogue as part of their Judaism studies. The morning began with an insightful session on Jewish practice in Britain today, where students had the opportunity to explore artefacts used in both communal worship and home rituals.

The second half of the visit focused on the Holocaust, encouraging students to reflect on the prejudices and fear that enabled such atrocities to occur. We were deeply honoured to hear from Mr. Peter Summerfield, a Holocaust survivor born in Berlin in 1933. Mr. Summerfield shared his powerful testimony, reminding us of the importance of remembering the past to ensure that the horrors of the 20th century are never repeated.

This visit was an invaluable experience, deepening students' understanding of both Jewish faith and history.

Year 7 Geographers Explore Tropical Rainforests

Our Year 7 Geography students have been immersing themselves in the wonders of the natural world, with a focus on Tropical Rainforests. Over half-term, 7ADE took their learning a step further by creating impressive 3D models, showcasing the unique layers and biodiversity of these vital ecosystems.

All students worked incredibly hard on their projects, demonstrating both creativity and a deep understanding of the topic. One student reflected on the experience, saying, *"I have really enjoyed this topic as I've had the opportunity to learn about animal adaptations, indigenous tribes, and the threats to tropical rainforests. It has made me more aware of what is happening in the world and what we can do to help."*

Well done to all of 7ADE for their fantastic work and thoughtful engagement with this important topic!

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Year 8 shine in theatre workshops

This week, our Year 8 students took part in a dynamic devised theatre workshop, culminating in 12 truly remarkable performances. Their passion and creativity were on full display as they transformed everyday objects—lip balms, hair combs, teddy bears, scarves, and mirrors—into powerful symbols woven into original and thought-provoking pieces.

With remarkable maturity and insight, students explored complex themes, including bullying, the pressures of conformity, a lack of empathy, and the often-overlooked privilege of education and work. Their honesty and courage in expressing these issues were deeply moving, leaving a lasting impact on all who watched.

We are incredibly proud of their achievements. This workshop was a testament to their talent, dedication, and willingness to use theatre as a means of self-expression and social commentary. A huge thank you to Mrs. Langa, our latest Jack Petchey Leader Award winner, for making this invaluable experience possible!

Fencing Workshop

La Sainte Union School is delighted to offer our students the opportunity to participate in fencing programme run by Camden Fencing Club. This programme normally costs £250 per student; however we are able to offer limited students a fully funded place.

This exciting programme will take place every Tuesday from 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM in the Copin Hall at La Sainte Union School.

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Fencing is a dynamic and rewarding sport that offers numerous benefits for young people, including:

- Improved physical fitness. Enhanced mental focus. Increased self-confidence. Improved social skills

We believe your child will thoroughly enjoy this unique opportunity to learn a new skill, develop valuable life skills, and have fun!
If you would like your child to participate in this activity please register your interest promptly, by clicking on the link below, as places are limited

https://forms.office.com/e/3g6yDyBjqa?origin=lprLink

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News From Careers

Year 10 Work Experience

Thank you for all your hard work in sourcing placements for your child and well done to students who are applying for school placements in a variety of exciting organisations, such as the Royal College of Music Museum, Fitzrovia Youth in Action and HS2!

We would like to remind you that the 'Own Find' work experience deadline has now passed.

There are some school sourced placements that students have been invited to apply for – the deadline for this is Friday 28th February.

Important information:

If your child does not have an Own Find placement or a school-sourced placement by next Monday 3rd March, they will need to organise a work experience placement at their old primary school (or another primary school in your local area).

This is because we will not have sufficient time to process any further health and safety checks of placements.

If they need support with doing this, please ask them to come and see Ms Ali in the Careers Centre at a lunch or breaktime and she will help.

Year 10 Employability Masterclass & Dress for an Interview Day – Tuesday 4th March

To prepare Year 10 for work experience, and as part of our enhanced focus on employability skills, we are partnering with Young Enterprise this Tuesday 4th March. The Employability Masterclass provides an opportunity for students to learn from local employers and employees about the skills and qualities that are required to be successful in the workplace and to build a broader understanding of the routes to employment.

To make the most of this opportunity, we have decided to combine the event with a 'Dress for an Interview' day. This will be valuable experience for pupils to learn how to dress professionally for their work experience. We know, and very much appreciate, how supportive you will be of their efforts.

For clarity, here are some guidelines for the dress code.

Acceptable	Unacceptable
Smart trousers, dress or skirt in a dark or neutral colour	Denim jeans/jackets or any jeans with holes
Blouse or smart top	Trainers or high heels (over 4cm)
A jacket or blazer	Any type of sportswear (hoodies, tracksuit bottoms)
Formal, low-heeled shoes	Clothes with obvious slogans, logos or branding
Minimal make-up	Leather trousers or jackets
Tasteful jewellery	Leggings or clinging tops
Black jeans/jeggings if smart and paired with a blouse and formal shoes	Revealing or cropped tops
	Large items of jewellery (e.g. hoop earrings)
Cardigans/ jumpers if very smart	Nail varnish or nail art
School blouse / School shoes if clean and not scuffed	Obvious make-up

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Year 12 Introduction to Oxbridge

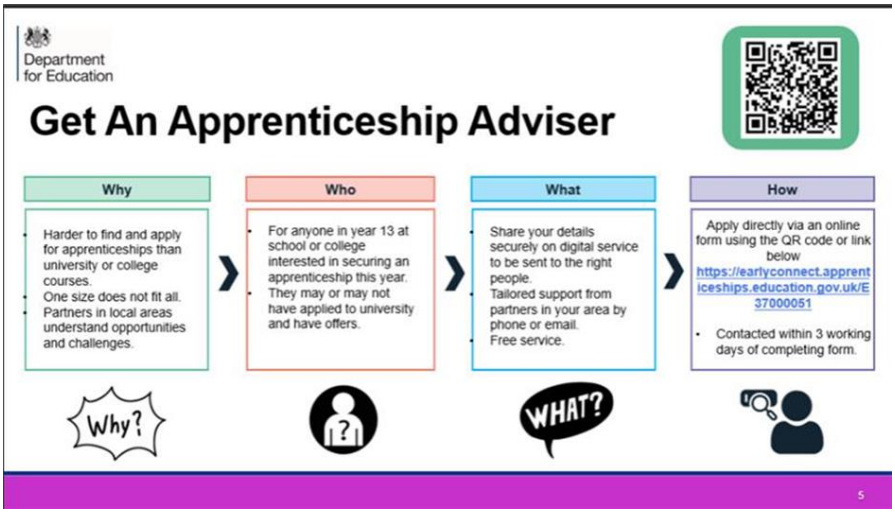
Mon 3rd March, PHS/WES Building, 3.30pm
Are you considering applying to Oxford or Cambridge universities? Want to find out more about what admissions tutors are looking for & how to prepare? This introduction will give you an overview of the application process and what your next steps are.
Oxbridge applications have a different deadline and different requirements to other universities, so it's key you know these extra steps & are fully prepared.
We will also plan further support at this session, so please make sure you attend if you are considering Oxbridge!
You don't need to sign up in advance – just come along.

Early Connect Launch for Apprenticeships

The much awaited 'Get an Apprenticeship Advisor' through Early Connect has been launched by the DfE. This service provides 1:1 support for those wishing to pursue the apprenticeship route.
Students can sign up here:
https://earlyconnect.apprenticeships.education.gov.uk/E37000051
Students will be contacted by the apprenticeship adviser service within three working days by telephone or email to help:

- Understand the apprenticeship system and find vacancies
- Book on to group sessions to support with CVs, covering letters, applications and interviews
- Connect to employers and universities advertising live vacancies

Some students will be able to access one-to-one advice sessions. These will be offered throughout the year.
Don't delay – sign up today!



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UCAS Discovery – Year 12

LaSWAP

The Sixth Form of Choice

UCAS Discovery 2025

24 March 12.30pm, Excel London

You are invited to the biggest university & apprenticeship event in the UK!

- **Go to https://www.ucas.com/events/ucas-discovery-london-2025-455711 or scan the QR code.**
- **Select JOIN GROUP BOOKING**
- **Use the reference UCASBKN136447**
- **Follow the instructions**

More details from your tutor

laswapcamden laswapconsortium

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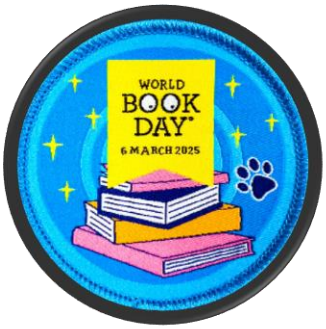
World Book Day

Attention all students struggling for costume ideas: a costume swapping/making session will be held in the Library on Monday and Tuesday lunchtimes next week. If you have an old costume or materials from a previous World Book Day at home that you won't be making use of this year, it would be great if you could bring it in so that someone else could have it for the day, plus you will get a chance to pick up something new yourself! We want everyone to feel like they have the opportunity to be involved in this day of celebration, and your help will go a long way to achieving this!

World Book Day 2025 is coming to LSU on Thursday 6th March! Below you can find information about the fun activities and prizes that will be on offer during the day.

We are excited to announce that **students are again invited to come dressed as a favourite character from a book, play or other work of literature!** If you want to take part, you'll need to bring £1 into your form tutor on the day. This money will go towards:



- New books for the library (50%)
- A first (35%), second (10%) and third (5%) place prize for best costume in your year group.

Therefore, if everyone in the year takes part, you could win a very valuable prize! Note: we are aware there are still prizes to hand out from last year – these will be announced in the run up to this year's event!

- **TREASURE HUNT**

Most (if not all!) teachers will have the name of one of their favourite fictional items (e.g. Hermione's wand) on their badge. At break and lunchtime, try to find as many as you can and make a note of the item they have. Keep these details safe because there will be a quiz to take on a brand new World Book Day 2025 Teams page after school where the student with the most answers will win a special prize!

- **GREAT BOOKISH BAKEOFF**

Get your flour and apron ready – the Library will be hosting a competition for the best cake based on a work of literature, whatever it may be - from Gruffalo cupcakes to Oliver Twist

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"Please Sir I Want More Cake" cakes. A valuable voucher is promised to the winner! Please bring your creations to the Library– the judging will take place during lunchtime in the Library – winner to be announced at the end of the day!

THE MASKED READER IS BACK!

Some of LSU's coolest teachers will be reading passages from Boxer's favourite book in disguise – listen closely and try to guess who it is before the big reveal at the end of the day!

We hope you really get into the spirit of the day and that it inspires you to read even more! Be on the lookout for a certain literary horse who might just make one more reappearance before he is sent off to pasture!

PS: World Book Day Tokens.

Each year on World Book Day every student can collect a £1 book token to spend in a book shop. There are books specifically published for WBD that you can exchange for your token, or you can put the token towards any other book. Come to the Library after school with your phone and scan the QR code to get your token.

- Click here to check to see the WBD books for 2024: https://www.worldbookday.com/books-and-tokens/books/
- To find your nearest bookshop click here: Participating retailers - World Book Day

Update on supermarket vouchers

Camden Council is changing the way we send eligible parents and carers supermarket vouchers. You will now receive them once a term (three times per year), instead of once every half term (six times per year). You will still receive the same amount of financial support, but we hope that this change will give you more freedom in how you spend these vouchers. If you remain eligible, you can expect to receive the following:

- Spring term: February half-term and Easter holidays – £45 per child
- Summer term: May half-term and summer holidays – £60 per child
- Autumn term: October half-term and Christmas holidays – £45 per child.

If you have any questions, email MoneyAdvice@camden.gov.uk or call us on 020 7974 4444. Read more information.

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Community News & Opportunities

Making & Tinkering Workshops for Camden teachers, children and families at ShiftED with Author Ryan Jenkins - March 6th (Richard Donnelly, Richard.Donnelly@camdenlearning.org.uk)

exciting hands-on making workshops at ShiftED Makerspace Camden:

- FREE Family Making Workshop (4:30pm, ages 7+) - Children and parents create moving sculptures and wobblers using everyday materials [Register here]

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London AI Campus Opportunity Centre launching from 25 February 2025 (Laura Flynn-Coley, Laura.Flynn-Coley@camdenlearning.org.uk)

Hosted at London AI Campus for all Camden sixth-form students

Dates: Starting from 25th February, with activities on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4-5pm

The London AI Campus is expanding opportunities for all Camden sixth-form students in its new after-school programme, which aims to inspire and educate students in the rapidly evolving field of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Students will be able to meet pioneering industry experts from across STEAM sectors who are driving AI adoption and innovation, participate in hands-on activities and explore real-world AI tools in action.

Initial sessions will include **talks** from inspiring speakers working in AI across tech, health and science sectors; **AI Skills sessions** to explore and learn the basics of AI and **drop-in skills-boosting sessions** where students can explore AI tools, apps, and technology while sharpening their digital skills at their own pace. See here for more information: London AI Campus Opportunity Centre - Camden Learning. The programme will grow throughout this year with a range of world-leading and outstanding speakers and partners lined up. Year 7-11 students will also be invited to join later this year.

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