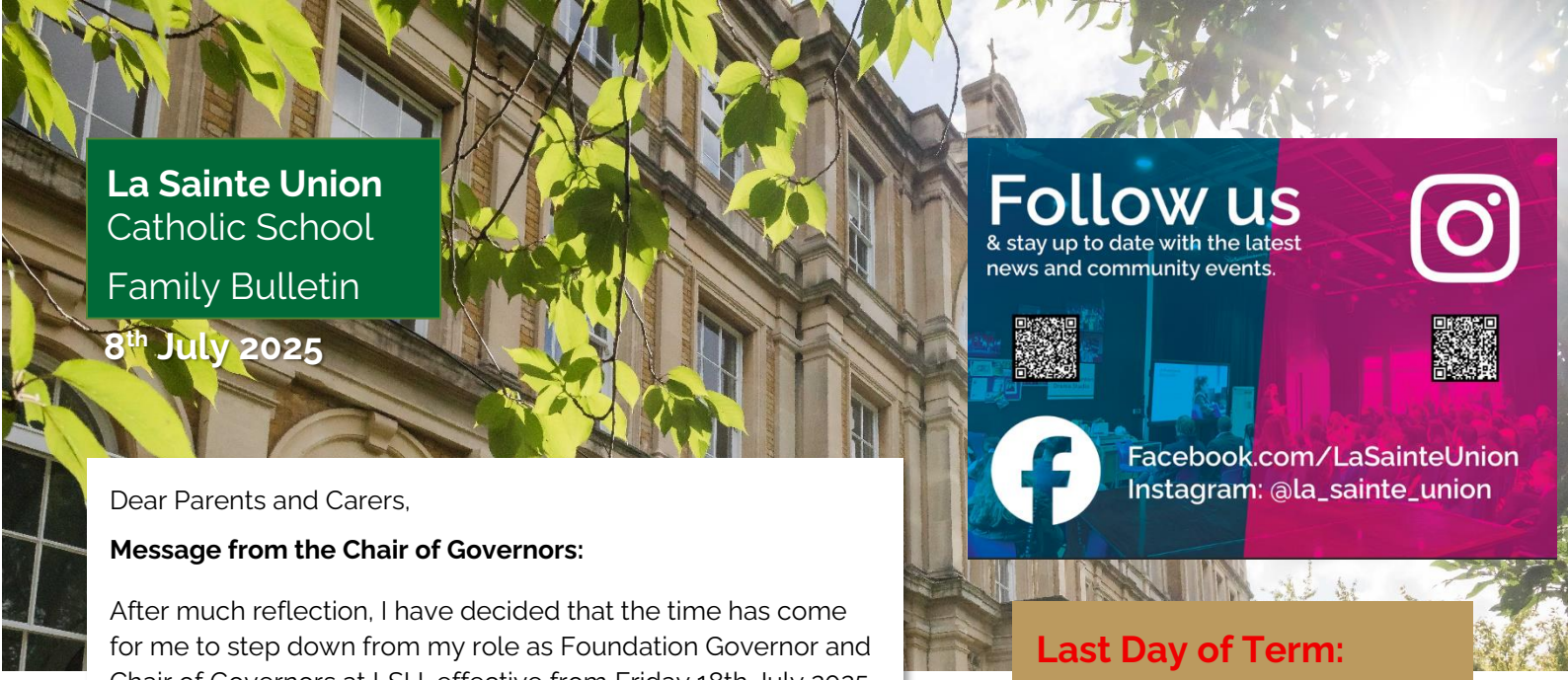


La Sainte Union Catholic School

Family Bulletin

8th July 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Message from the Chair of Governors:

After much reflection, I have decided that the time has come for me to step down from my role as Foundation Governor and Chair of Governors at LSU, effective from Friday 18th July 2025.

It has been an immense privilege to serve this wonderful Catholic community over the past nine years. During this time, I have witnessed first-hand the dedication, faith and resilience of our staff, the enthusiasm and spirit of our students, and the unwavering support of our families and parish. Working alongside such a committed governing body, a forward looking and very capable Head Teacher and her senior management team, has been both inspiring and deeply rewarding.

As Chair, I have been proud to support the school's mission to nurture the academic, personal and spiritual growth of every young person in our care. We have celebrated many successes together, overcome challenges with unity and compassion and remained faithful to the values that define our school's Catholic identity.

While it is not easy to say goodbye to a role I have cherished, I believe that leadership renewal is healthy and important. I have every confidence that the governing body will continue to thrive and I remain committed to supporting the school community in other ways where possible.

I wish the entire school - staff, governors, students and families - continued success and God's abundant blessings for the future.

With sincere thanks and every good wish,

Susan Macqueen

Chair of Governors

Foundation Governor

Last Day of Term:

Friday 18th July, students will be dismissed from 12.15pm

PHSE Topics

Year 7 - Compassion-based wellbeing programme

Years 8 / 9 - Class presentations

Year 10 - organ donation, vaccines, and health clinics

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

La Sainte Union
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Year 7 & 8 Brussels Trip

We are excited to share highlights from our recent Year 7 and 8 trip to Brussels—a journey full of discovery, culture, and unforgettable memories!

Day One: History and Heritage
Our adventure began with a visit to the majestic Cathedral of St. Michael and St. Gudula, an awe-inspiring example of Brabantine Gothic architecture and a treasured historic site in central Brussels. From there, we strolled through the Royal Galleries of Saint Hubert, one of Europe's oldest covered arcades, where students were captivated by its elegant architecture and timeless charm. A visit to the Botanical Gardens rounded off the day, with pupils exploring exotic plant species from around the world, set amongst serene ponds and striking sculptures.

Day Two: Innovation and Inspiration
We kicked off the day at the iconic Atomium, where students were amazed by the panoramic city views and interactive light and sound exhibitions inside the spheres. Next, we explored Mini-Europe, a charming park filled with detailed miniature models of famous European landmarks. In the evening, spirits were high as we supported our Sixth Form basketball team at a local match—an exciting and proud moment for all! We ended the day in the breathtaking Grand Place, taking in the stunning guildhalls and rich history of this UNESCO World Heritage site.

Day Three: A Sweet Farewell
Our final day brought a delicious conclusion to the trip with a visit to the Chocolate Museum, where students learned about the history and craft of Belgian chocolate-making—and enjoyed a few treats, of course! The day wrapped up with some relaxed souvenir shopping before heading home.

Throughout the trip, our pupils were exemplary ambassadors for the school, showing curiosity, respect, and enthusiasm at every turn. We hope they've returned with not only lasting memories but also a deeper appreciation for European history and culture.

La Sainte Union
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

History Holocaust talk

Last week, pupils from Years 9, 10, and 12 had the honour of attending a powerful and deeply moving Holocaust education talk by **Hephzibah Rudofsky,** hosted at La Sainte Union.

A long-time friend of our school, Hephzibah is an inspiring speaker and the daughter and granddaughter of Holocaust survivors. For over 20 years, she has devoted herself to Holocaust education. Alongside her mother, **Lady Zahava Kohn**, she developed *Surviving the Holocaust*—an impactful educational programme that shares Zahava's remarkable wartime journey and her family's survival against unimaginable odds.

The session was not only informative but emotionally resonant, with pupils engaging thoughtfully and sharing reflections on what they had learned:

"Something new I learned was that different groups of Jews were sent to different types of camps—for example, Dutch Jews were sent to different concentration camps compared to others." – *Year 9 pupil*

"I didn't realise that people continued to send letters during the Holocaust, even though it was extremely risky." – *Year 9 pupil*

"I loved seeing and holding the artefacts. We were literally holding pieces of history. I felt like I was somehow in contact with all the experiences those artefacts brought." – *Year 12 pupil*

"The talk has made me think differently about the Holocaust. It helped me realise how some people survived and overcame unimaginable struggles and are now helping to educate future generations." – *Year 10 pupil*

We are immensely grateful to Hephzibah for sharing her family's story with such compassion and clarity. Her visit was a profound reminder of the importance of remembrance, and of continuing to pass on these vital lessons to future generations.

Here is Year 9 student Maria's article about the talk:

Belsen survivor Lady Zahava Kohn MBE

Zahava Kanarek was born on 5th August 1935 in Ramat Gan,Her parents were Dutch Jews who had emigrated temporarily to Palestine. When Zahava was around 2 years old, the family moved back to Amsterdam, Netherlands.

She described her earliest memories as happy, living in a close-knit Jewish community with a peaceful home life before Nazi occupation.
In 1940, Nazi Germany invaded the Netherlands when Zahava was 5 years old.

As the Nazis implemented anti-Jewish laws, Zahava and her family began to experience increasing restrictions:
Jews were banned from parks, schools, and public transport.
Jewish children were removed from regular schools.

Zahava remembered seeing her father wearing a yellow star, and later having to wear one herself.
In 1943, the Kohn family was arrested and deported to Westerbork Transit Camp in the Netherlands.From Westerbork, many families were sent to death camps like Auschwitz. Zahava's family narrowly avoided this fate due to her father's Palestinian certificate, which put them on a "special list" of Jews who might be exchanged for German prisoners.Instead of Auschwitz, the family was sent to Bergen-Belsen, a concentration camp in northern Germany.

Zahava was still a young child (around 8–9 years old). She witnessed starvation, overcrowding, and death on a massive scale.She remembered being constantly hungry, ill, and emotionally scarred by what she saw. Despite the horror, Zahava survived along with her parents one of the most notorious Nazi camps.After the war, Zahava described her early years as "shattered fragments", which she tried to piece together as an adult through photos, letters, and stories her parents had saved. She wrote a book called *Fragments of a Lost Childhood* where she shares her personal journey.

Lady Zahava Kohn's story matters because it is a deeply human, personal reminder of one of the darkest chapters in history. Her memories, experiences, and words help people today understand what fear, loss, and survival truly meant during the Holocaust.

Summer Art Assessments

La Sainte Union
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Year 9 & 10 Take Part in Project Adder Workshops with the Metropolitan Police

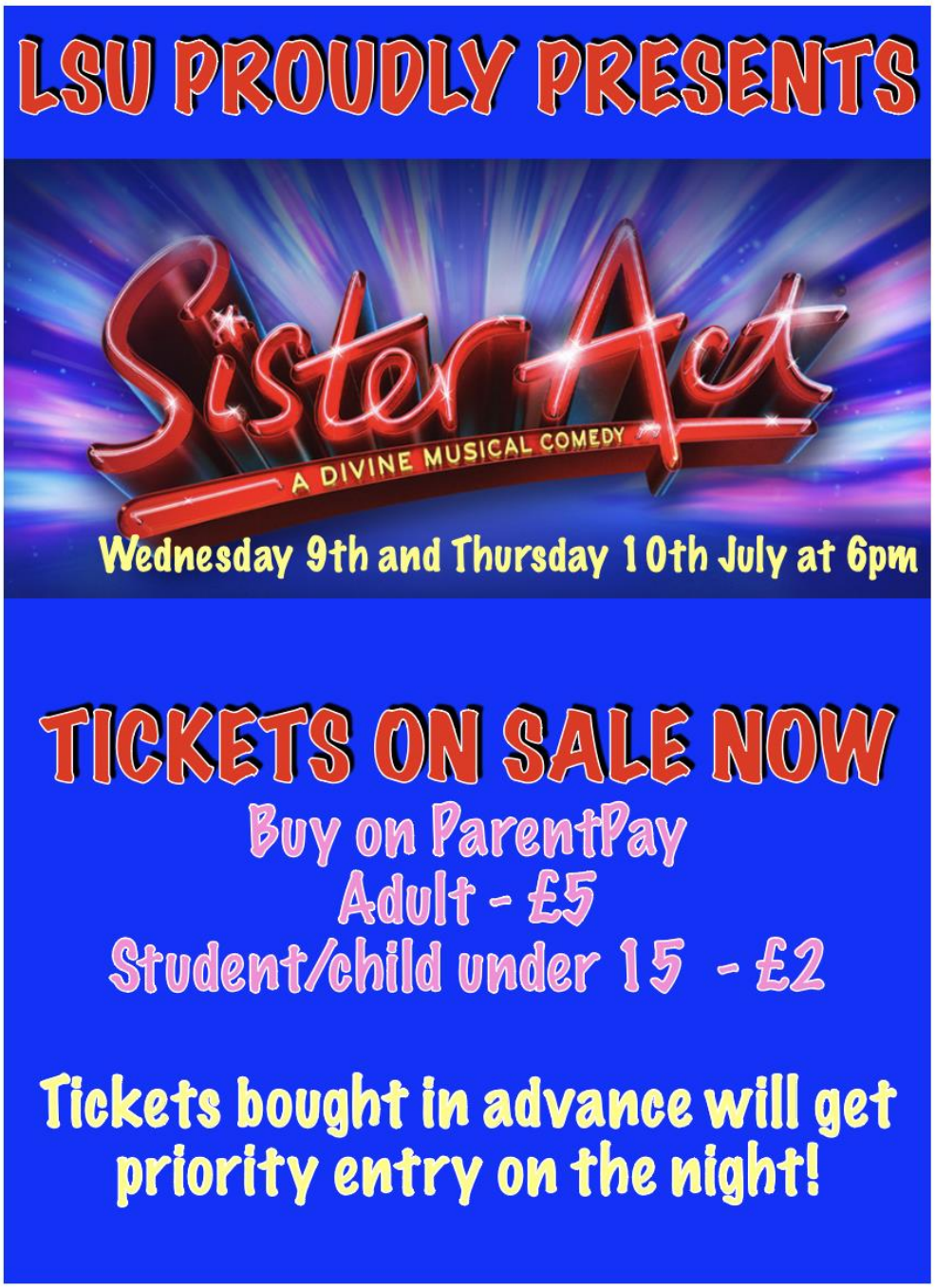
Year 9 and 10 students recently participated in impactful workshops delivered by the **Metropolitan Police** as part of **Project Adder**, a national initiative focused on tackling drug use and exploitation through education, prevention, and support.

The sessions explored the many ways young people can become vulnerable to gang involvement, drug misuse, knife crime, and **county lines** activity—often through subtle forms of manipulation. A key focus was on **cuckooing**, a form of exploitation where criminals take over someone's home to facilitate illegal activity. Students learned how to recognise the warning signs and what steps to take to stay safe.

These workshops were delivered as part of our **PSHE curriculum**, supporting our ongoing commitment to empowering students with the knowledge and confidence to make informed, responsible choices.

We are thankful to the Metropolitan Police for their continued support and for helping equip our students with the tools to navigate these complex issues.

La Sainte Union
CATHOLIC SCHOOL



Link to buy tickets (no log in required):
https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Uniform/Default.aspx?shopid=3719

La Sainte Union
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Report card for La Sainte Union can be accessed here:

https://camden.schoolreport.org.uk/school/index.html?schoolId=2025401

Alternatively, you can scan this QR code with your phone's camera:

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