



St Ursula's Convent School

The Weekly

Week Ending
2nd July 2021
Issue Number 036



Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you and your families remain safe and well.

You will know from the news that the number of positive Covid cases is rising. Thankfully as yet we have had relatively few cases but it is important that we all continue to test twice weekly in order to keep everyone in our community safe. We had given out 2 boxes of test kits to all students today. These test should last well into the summer holidays.

Our year 10 students finish their exams today – well done to them and I hope they have a relaxing weekend.

This week we celebrated the feast of St Peter and St Paul. Each class had a liturgy as well as time for activities with their tutors in the afternoon.

Finally, our school governing board have emailed you today regarding a change in leadership at St Ursula's.

I wish you all a restful weekend.

Catrina Hamilton
Headteacher



IMPORTANT NOTICE

If at any point in the future your child tests positive for Covid, it is essential that you inform the school as soon as possible, even if it is after school hours or at the weekend. In the event that your child does test positive, please email: **covid@stursulas.com**

This email will be checked regularly and a member of the Senior Leadership Team will contact you as soon as the email is picked up. We will have to gather information from your child about who they have been in contact with. This information is required by Public Health England, they will then advise us on the next steps.



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On Tuesday we celebrated the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles. Sadly the extension of Covid-19 restrictions meant that we were not able to have the Mass we had planned but we took the opportunity to come together in form group clusters for a shared liturgy, led by members of the Chaplaincy Team. We continue to pray for the grace to grow strong in faith and to be authentic witnesses to Christ in our world today.



If you're a EU national, have you applied for 'Settled Status'?



This is required to ensure that EU nationals can continue to work, rent accommodation and access healthcare here. Individuals who hold permanent residence or a European Residence card as an EU national or a family member must also register for settled status (or to naturalise as British Citizens). You can [find out more on the Government website](#).

*O God, who gave one origin to all peoples
and willed to gather from them one family for
yourself,
fill all hearts, we pray, with the fire of your love
and kindle in them a desire
for the just advancement of their neighbour,
that, through the good things
which you richly bestow upon all,
each human person
may be brought to perfection,
every division may be removed,
and equity and justice may be established in
human society.
(Roman Missal)*



3rd July is the feast day of St. Thomas the Apostle. Often referred to as 'Doubting Thomas', he was also the first apostle to call Jesus God. We ask the intercession of St. Thomas that we too can make a similar leap of faith.
"Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe." (John 20:29)



Notices



During the hot weather, it is important that we all stay hydrated.

Please ensure your child has a water bottle with them every day.



Attendance Reminder

Please ensure that holidays are not booked during term time.

Attendance Officer



Please remember that your child needs to have **two face masks** with them **every day**.

As a school we are **spending £ per week** giving out face masks to students who , for whatever reason, do not have a face covering. **This is money that should be spent on your child's education.**



Holiday Activities & Food Programme

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We hope you are well and that your child/ren is enjoying the summer term and the warm weather!



Ahead of the summer holidays, we wanted to let you know about the brilliant new Holiday Activities and Food programme which is operating in your local area. We are helping to launch a new film to promote the programme so parents know that their children can get involved in a local holiday club when the school term ends this July.

We know that the holidays can be a really difficult time for families who are struggling to make ends meet or who are juggling work and childcare. The holidays should be a time for every child to enjoy themselves rather than worrying about having enough to eat or how they can spend their free time.

That's why we're really excited about the summer holiday programmes that are being funded by the Government and will take place across the whole of England. This was recommended by the National Food Strategy when it was published last year. A petition supporting the recommendation was signed by over 1 million people.

Places on the holiday schemes are available for free to children who receive free school meals, but children and young people of all ages and backgrounds are welcome to attend. Each local programme will provide delicious, healthy meals, allow kids to get active, help them learn new things, make friends and have fun. And that is what the holidays are all about!

You can find out more by watching this new film that we've made: <https://youtu.be/KDgm8KpXAXE>

The holiday programmes are open to children of any age and are free for children eligible for free school meals. They will:

- Provide a safe and supportive environment for children
- Be led by experienced local coordinators teaming up with a range of different partners in their communities
- Serve children tasty and nutritious food and opportunities to learn about food and nutrition
- Organise lots of activities so every child can find something they enjoy - from Kung Fu and cooking to bushcraft.
- Keep children and young people happy, healthy and active
- Offer a flexible childcare option for busy parents

You can find out exactly what's available in your local area either by visiting your council's website or by searching online for HAF (that stands for Holiday Activity and Food).

We hope you and your family have a great summer with the Holiday Activities and Food programme!

Yours sincerely,

Marcus Rashford MBE

Henry Dimpleby MBE (Founder of Leon, Independent Lead of the National Food Strategy)



PAYING FOR LOST OR DAMAGED LIBRARY BOOKS

A new 'Library Fee' section has been added to ParentPay to make paying for lost or damaged library books easier for parents and pupils. This will show as "£1-£75" on your ParentPay account, this is not a charge, but simply a facility for you to enter your own amount should you be contacted by email or letter about outstanding library fees. You do not need to pay anything until you are contacted with an itemisation of the books and what is owed.

Miss Deegan is recalling all library books that are overdue. Some books have been overdue for more than one year. There are currently over 1,000 overdue books and this is hampering the running of the library. Miss Deegan will be conducting an audit of library stock over the summer holidays and if a book is overdue by more than 6 months it will be marked as lost and a charge will be issued for a replacement. Please remind and encourage your daughters to check their Oliver library loan section and return any overdue books to the designated library boxes at school.

If pupils have lost their login details they need to contact Miss Deegan on Google Classroom.



Carnegie Shadowing Book Club 2021



Thursday 1st July was the first meeting of Year 9 Carnegie Prize shadowing group, organised by Miss Deegan and Ms Cahalane, with 9F students Nesia, Nora and Jennifer. Year 9 particularly enjoyed talking about the form of the novel, the two different narrators and settings with a brilliant ending! They were reading 'Clap When You Land' by Elizabeth Acevedo.

There will be a whole KS3 Book Club on Thursday 8th July where pupils from different years will tell each other about their book!

Library Poster Competition!

Miss Deegan would like new posters to advertise reading and the library!

The poster must be hand-drawn – no printing!

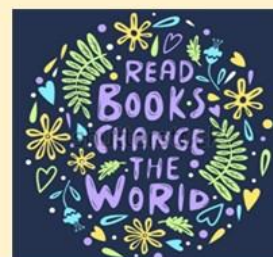
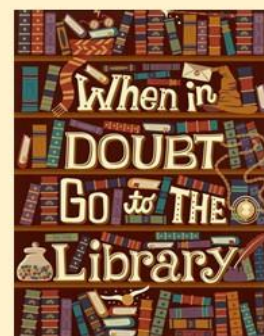
You must include 'St Ursula's Library' somewhere in your poster. You must use the whole page for your artwork!

You have the option of:

- Illustrating a catchy reading slogan for the library (see example)
- Illustrating a quote from a book (see example)
- Using different art styles and referencing your favourite books!

Be as creative as you want! It can be any art medium (felt tip, pencil, paint, collage etc.) The best designs will be used around the school and in the newsletter. There will be prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place!

DEADLINE: Monday 6th September 2021 – hand in to Miss Deegan in the library!





Year 11 Book Returns 2021

On Wednesday 16th June 2021 Year 11 visited school in order to return textbooks and donate revision guides and uniform. Thank you to all the pupils that did so! The final date for returning all school property and making donations will be on results day on **12th August**. Payments for lost school items can be made on ParentPay under the 'Library Fee' section. If this is not possible other arrangements can be made with prior notification with the finance department.

Flash Fiction Competition!

'This is not what I expected...'

- Words: 600 max.
- Submission on Google Classroom in the Miss Deegan and Ms Cahalane by Fri 16th July 2021
- Feedback on all submissions that follow the brief correctly!

Requirements:

- An original piece of flash fiction writing no longer than 600 words inspired by the sentence 'this is not what I expected' which **MUST** be included somewhere in your piece.
- Do not cheat! Copied entries will be thrown in the bin!
- Be concise and descriptive
- Use sensory language
- Use Literary devices
- Pay attention to Structure, Spelling, Grammar & Punctuation!

Top tips:

- Have your description move
- Choose one image to elaborately describe.
- Aim to have an ending - which can be symbolic or open.

PRIZES:

- Prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place and names/work in the weekly newsletter!



Literary Device Ideas!

Metaphor
Simile
Rule of three
Repetition
Alliteration
Sibilance
Assonance
Oxymoron
Structure
Sensory language
And many more...



Read eBooks online!

While pupils are at home or on the move they can still access hundreds of eBooks online with our ePlatform! They can search them easily through our Oliver Library System and then be redirected to ePlatform to login and read!

Oliver Library System

<https://stursulas.oliverasp.co.uk/library/home/news>



ePlatform Ebooks

<https://stursulascs.eplatform.co/>



An instruction manual on how pupils can access the eBooks through Oliver, or just login to the ePlatform directly is in their Library Google Classroom. Pupils can obtain lost login details by messaging Miss Deegan in Google Classroom. There are over 1,000 eBooks to choose from!

All the links needed are here!:

<https://padlet.com/stulibrary/klnusczmsjdv3qta>

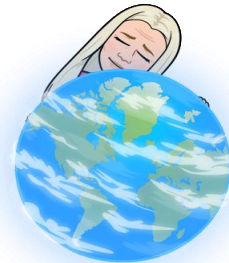
DOWNLOAD THE EPLATFORM APP FOR MOBILE READING!

In addition to the ePlatform website, pupils can download the ePlatform eBook reader as an app to their device and read on a tablet, smartphone or mobile computer! There are even options to download and read offline!

<https://stursulascs.eplatform.co/help/apps/eplatform-app>



MFL COMPETITION TIME!



The MFL department has just registered with the Stephen Spender Trust for a new exciting competition.

'SST is inspired by the cultural activism of Stephen Spender, poet and champion of international literature. We celebrate multilingualism and literary translation through a range of initiatives, including our Poetry in Translation Prize and Creative Translation in the Classroom programmes.'

This new competition involves poetry once again but in a different format. This time the focus is on translation. Students get to pick a poem in a foreign language, ANY LANGUAGE, and have to translate it into English. They also need to write up a 300 word annotation to explain how they translated it and what obstacles they had.

There are cash prizes of up to £100 for each successful candidate (3 will be chosen by the judges in charge of this competition) as well as being an excellent opportunity for students to look at other languages apart from French and Spanish.

Please refer to the website for more details :

<https://www.stephen-spender.org/stephen-spender-prize/>

A google classroom announcement has gone out for students to register their interest. Closing date for all submissions is 16th July 2021.



MFL HELPFUL LINKS TO GAIN CONFIDENCE AND IMPROVE YOUR SKILLS FOR THE SUMMER EXAMS.

Home learning during the lockdown has made us all feel a little bit less confident in certain subjects. It has however also made us realise how many online tools we can use to help us with revision and to improve our skills.

Over the last couple of weeks we have been advising students to use numerous different websites to help them gain some confidence in languages. The feedback has been really positive so we wanted to make sure everyone had links to try them out.

Language learning APP's.

<https://www.duolingo.com/>

<https://www.busuu.com/en>

<https://uk.babbel.com/>

<https://www.lingq.com/en/>

Translation APP's

<https://readlang.com/>

Reading APP's

<https://www.clozemaster.com/>

Culture learning websites

<https://newsinfrench.org/>

<https://polyglotclub.com/>

Music APP's

<https://lyricstraining.com/es>

Phonics assistance

<https://forvo.com/>

All these websites are free to use.