



Principal's Weekly Update

Friday 21st May 2021

A Thousand Smiles...

This week it has been such a pleasure to see smiles returning to the classrooms. Students and staff have enjoyed the freedom of learning 'mask free' and it has been a delight to see smiles once again back in the classrooms. Some students have chosen to continue wearing their masks or protective face coverings. This has been seen as personal preference and students have been free to make their own decisions around this.

As measures are beginning to ease across the UK, we are able to start thinking about and planning events and opportunities to engage in person rather than virtually. We cannot wait to welcome parents back in to the Academy as soon as it is safe to do so and one of the events that have started to plan for is a Parent/Tutor Evening.

We will obviously wait for further national announcements surrounding the lifting of social distancing measures but all being well we are hoping to welcome you once more back into the Academy in July.

Unfortunately, it will not be possible to run full Parents' Evenings for all year groups due to timings, however, we have provisionally planned the following and will confirm once we know which measures will or will not be lifted on June 21st.

- We are hoping to host a Tutor Evening for Years 7, 8 and 9 on Thursday 8th July from 3.00pm to 7.30pm in classrooms.
- A Parents' Evening for Year 10 on Tuesday 13th July from 3.30pm to 7.00pm in the Theatre.
- A Parents' Evening for Year 12 on Thursday 15th July from 3.30pm to 7.00pm in the Theatre.

If these events are able to go ahead as planned we will send out further information to parents on 21st June on how to book appointments and how the evenings will run.

As mentioned earlier, all of these plans are provisional. We will continue to listen to the scientific and government advice. In all decisions, we are keeping the safety of pupils, students and their families a priority.

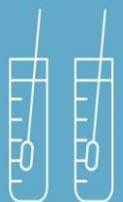
Have a great weekend, let's hope for the sun to make an appearance next week.

Damian McBeath, Principal



**Get tested twice a week.
Every week.**

Stay COVID-safe. Keep protecting the community.



Protect our community. **Protect** the vulnerable. **Protect** yourself.

A Message from The Chaplain

Next week, on May 26th, the Church remembers Saint Augustine who one of our Academy houses is named after. Saint Augustine of Canterbury (not to be confused with Augustine of Hippo) was the first Archbishop of Canterbury. Augustine was chosen by Pope Gregory I to lead a mission of about 40 monks to the then largely pagan England. Augustine and the monks arrived in 597AD and were given a warm welcome by King Ethelbert I. The king gave them a place to live and preach in Canterbury and thousands of people were reportedly baptized on Christmas Day 597. The rest, as they say, is history.

A prayer attributed to of Saint Augustine:

Breathe in me O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy. Act in me O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy. Draw my heart O Holy Spirit, that I love but what is holy. Strengthen me O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy. Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy. Amen.

Mr Rich, Academy Chaplain (lrich@thejohnwallisacademy.org).

Nine Days of Prayer

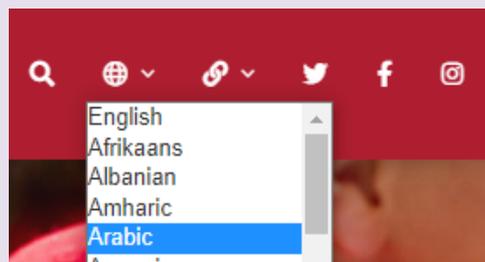
On Thursday, Mr Rich, Academy Lay Chaplain, and a group of students led a short prayer service for the Diocese of Canterbury's Nine Days of Prayer between Ascension and Pentecost. In previous years a prayer booklet has been produced, sometimes with some art work to reflect on and this is distributed around the Diocese for people's personal use. This year with the discovery of Zoom a decision was taken to hold a daily online service for each of the nine days.

The Academy was invited to lead one of these services. Please see the link to [Chaplaincy page](#) of the website to view a recording of the service.

Thank you to the wonderful students who took part for their contribution and Mr Parrish for his musical expertise.

Academy website and Social Media

Keep an eye on the Academy website and Social Media for news and announcements. Content on the Academy website can be translated into over 100 languages using the globe icon in the top left hand corner of the [home page](#).



Student Cookbook



Local Update COVID-19

Ashford

6 cases per 100,000 people in the week 10th May – 16th May 2021. The average area in England had 13.
(source Department of Health and Social Care, via BBC.co.uk)