



St Katherine's School

Term 1 Newsletter

October 2017

Term 1 has finished already giving us all a chance to recharge during a well deserved half term break. The term has been very successful with students returning after the holidays with a positive approach to their learning.

On our first day back in our whole assembly, I shared our great summer results at both GCSE and A Level. Students continue to enjoy much success and it was a delight on results day to watch so many young people celebrating their individual achievements with their teachers. Each year there are always tremendous individual success stories which reflect dedication, commitment along with plenty of resilience. I am very proud of all our hard working young people and committed staff who share these record results. We continue to climb.

I introduced the students to the idea of wanting to be the best they can be and shared the success of the British 4x100m relay team collecting Gold at the World Athletics Championships in the summer. Each member of the team had to be the best they could be to win gold - along with a bit luck! In order to reach new personal heights, we must all go through personal struggles as this is essential to support our growth. I shared the Struggle Of A Butterfly with the students.

Once a little boy was playing outdoors and found a fascinating caterpillar. He carefully picked it up and took it home to show his mother. He asked his mother if he could keep it, and she said he could if he would take good care of it. The little boy got a large jar from his mother and put plants to eat, and a stick to climb on, in the jar. Every day he watched the caterpillar and brought it new plants to eat.

One day the caterpillar climbed up the stick and started acting strangely. The boy worriedly called his mother who came and understood that the caterpillar was creating a cocoon. The mother explained to the boy how the caterpillar was going to go through a metamorphosis and become a butterfly.

The little boy was thrilled to hear about the changes his caterpillar would go through. He watched every day, waiting for the butterfly to emerge. One day it happened, a small hole appeared in the cocoon and the butterfly started to struggle to come out.

At first the boy was excited, but soon he became concerned. The butterfly was struggling so hard to get out! It looked like it couldn't break free! It looked desperate! It looked like it was making no progress!

The boy was so concerned he decided to help. He ran to get scissors, and then walked back (because he had learned not to run with scissors...). He snipped the cocoon to make the hole bigger and the butterfly quickly emerged!

As the butterfly came out the boy was surprised. It had a swollen body and small, shriveled wings. He continued to watch the butterfly expecting that, at any moment, the wings would dry out, enlarge and

expand to support the swollen body. He knew that in time the body would shrink and the butterfly's wings would expand.

But neither happened!

The butterfly spent the rest of its life crawling around with a swollen body and shriveled wings.

It never was able to fly...

*As the boy tried to figure out what had gone wrong his mother took him to talk to a scientist from a local college. He learned that the butterfly was **SUPPOSED** to struggle. In fact, the butterfly's struggle to push its way through the tiny opening of the cocoon pushes the fluid out of its body and into its wings. Without the struggle, the butterfly would never, ever fly. The boy's good intentions hurt the butterfly.*

As you go through school, and life, keep in mind that struggling is an important part of any growth experience. In fact, it is the struggle that causes you to develop your ability to fly.

Year 7 have settled into their new environment with ease. They are engaging well with their learning and enjoying the variety of lessons and new equipment - the bunsen burners never fail to impress.

Each year it is a pleasure to listen to our new Year 7 students as they start their journey with us as well as our head students who are coming to the end of their time at St Katherine's. It was moving to hear our head students talk so passionately at our open evening and mornings about their journeys through St Katherine's and how much they have enjoyed every minute. Our incredible young people and a credit to our school and community.

We have been focusing on accentuating the positives this year and to date have amassed no less than 15,368 praise points across the school. The house points are being calculated and will be shared with students during the first week back.

Can I draw two important pieces of information to your attention:

- **Student Support Office**

Student Support offers students a place to go during the day if they require any support or need to hand in any letters or reply slips. If you are visiting us, collecting or dropping your child off, please use the Main Visitor Reception at all times, unless a specific arrangement is in place.

- **Road safety**

The entrance to the school is clearly marked with a yellow grid indicating no parking, along with double yellow lines running alongside the pavement by the scooter parking bay and in front of The Leaf restaurant. **In the interests of safety, can I ask all parents/carers to use the overflow car park at the far end of the car park as a safe place to collect your child/children from school.** Please do not park on the double yellow lines.



It's been a busy term and hard to pick out the highlights but here are a few:

Mendip Trip : As part of our Year 7 induction programme, the whole year group enjoyed adventure days with Mendip Outdoor Pursuits. The days were a great way for Year 7 students to develop self-confidence and get to know and trust each other by tackling challenges that challenged them as individuals and teams. With tasks designed to promote self-reliance students came away thinking 'I can do this' which will give them confidence for future challenges.



Spanish Exchange: Our Year 10 and 11 Spanish students hosted 13 students from Colegio San Francisco Javier in Ciudad Real for a busy week of lessons and exploring the area. The visiting students quickly became part of our school community by taking part in lessons and forming firm friendships with their counterparts. The Modern Foreign Language department are already planning February's return visit to Ciudad Real.

Army Outreach event: Twenty-nine Year 12 and 13 Business students were put through their paces by the Army Outreach team in day design to develop their communication, teamwork and leadership skills. Puzzles, problems and physical tasks were met with determination, perseverance, healthy competition and a sense of humour.

Table Tennis Tables - thanks to generous donations from Ashton Rose Estate Agents, Serous Homes, Mark Humphreys, Masonic Lodge and Tom Harper we installed two outdoor table tennis tables over the summer. They were an instant hit, quickly becoming a meeting point for our school community with students of all ages



stepping up for a game or coming along to watch. We intend to grow this facility for the students and would welcome any donations to support this work. Students will also be organising events through the student leadership team and school council to provide further resources for our community.

What can you achieve in 20 minutes?

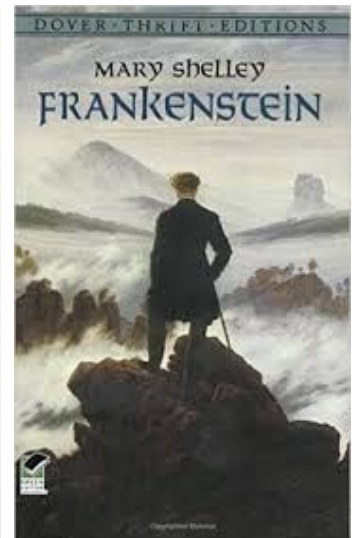
Watch half an episode of Hollyoaks (with the adverts)?
Paint every finger and toe nail a different colour?
Replace every lightbulb in the house?

Or, you could Drop Everything and Read!

Across year groups and classes students are taking part in Drop Everything and Read sessions.

There is widespread academic research to prove that **reading is the single most effective skill that students can develop to help them achieve success across the curriculum.** At St Katherine's we believe in the power of reading and we are committed to enthusing all of our learners and helping them to become lifelong readers.

Many students are choosing exciting and challenging texts to read. Jazper Peacey, of 9B, has been swapping his football boots for books and taking on Mary Shelley's famous gothic novel Frankenstein.



REMINDER FOR ALL PARENTS AND CARERS

The school's homework policy stipulates that all students should read for at least twenty minutes every day.

Did you know that if your child does read for twenty minutes every day they will read over two million words in a year?

Students are encouraged to read independently but it can also be very useful for them to read with a friend or family member.

SKAMPS (St Katherine's Parents Music Supporters)

SKAMPS is a registered charity which supports music at St Katherine's. Over the years we have raised thousands of pounds for musical instruments, equipment and workshops to give St Katherine's students the opportunity to get more involved in music

There are two events coming up which all parents are warmly invited to:

- The SKAMPS Annual General Meeting, Thursday 2 November at 7pm in the Music Department.
- The next SKAMPS fundraiser, carol singing around the pubs of Clifton: Friday, 8 December, meeting at 6.45 at the Portcullis, Clifton. This is always good fun and last year raised £253 in a couple of hours. Please let Abi Adams or Mary Donaldson know if you'd like to come along (contact details below)

For more information please contact Abi Adams, Head of Music or Mary Donaldson, SKAMPS Secretary - donaldson.mary@googlemail.com.

Part-time job opportunity

Magazine Deliverers required for a monthly community magazine (Pill area) Good rates of pay and a trolley is provided. Deliverers must be 14 years of age or over. For more information contact 01275 849369 or info@gordanomedia.co.uk

There isn't enough space here to showcase the huge variety of student experiences and achievements this term. Keep up to date by visiting the 'News and Events' section on the school website, check the school [Facebook](#) page or follow us on Twitter [@stkathsschool](#).

Wishing everyone a safe and restful half term and we look forward to welcoming everyone back on **Tuesday 31 October**.

Justin Humphreys
Head of School

Students nominated by their teachers and commended for their effort by the Head of School during Term 1.

Aziz Ullah	Army Day	Brandon Geater	Rugby
Isabella Johnson	Art	Ruffin Bunkete	Rugby
Rosie Baker	Art	Kanye Christie	Highest praise points in Year 7
Laila Schlaadt Goode	Art	Elana Titcombe	Art
Becky Bleaden	Art	Ayaan Hassan	Art
Charlton Milligan	Rugby	Mel Heath	Art
Max Andrews	Rugby	Tom Windsor	DAT
George Turner	Rugby		