St Augustine's Gazette

Friday 13th November 2026

Taught by Jesus Christ, faith, hope and love inspire everything we do. We aim for the highest standards of learning, and we look for the development of wisdom. In this way the gifts possessed by every individual can be valued.



CALENDAR

16th -20th November: Year 13 Mock Exams
19th November: Geography Fieldwork Trip
3rd December: Sixth Form Open Evening
15th - 18th December: Christmas lunches
21st December - 2nd January: Half term

Pastoral & Well-being Notices

Designated Safeguarding Lead:
Mr J Mockett
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead:
Mrs L Penny
Pastoral Team 01225 350001 Ext 224.
(We have streamlined our systems and now have one dedicated email address.)
Safeguarding email:
safeguarding@st-augustines.wilts.sch.uk
SEND Team Email address:
sendco@st-augustines.wilts.sch.uk

Headteacher's message

This has been a week of remembrance at St Augustine's. On Wednesday, staff and pupils joined millions across the nation in standing silently to remember those who gave their lives so that we might have a future. Each tutor group prepared a wreath, with poppies bearing the names of loved ones from our families whom we wished to remember. As we reflected in our assemblies, without memory we cannot learn, and it is our duty to keep alive the memories of those who have gone before us. In this week's Gazette, you will also find a tribute to Cyril Kinsky, our former Chair of Governors, who sadly died following a long illness. His contribution to our College was considerable, and his legacy will be remembered with great affection and gratitude. Our Year 11 pupils have been busy with their mock examinations this week, and next week it is the turn of Year 13. We wish them all well. As Advent approaches, we will once again be asking for your support with our Share Bank collections of food and essential items for local families this Christmas. Thank you in anticipation of your generosity. Finally, this week's Microsoft outage has reminded us how dependent we have become on electronic communication and perhaps of the importance of simply talking to one another. Something for us all to reflect upon!

Mr Dowle

In Memory of Cyril Kinsky (KC) – 8 October 2026



I had the privilege of representing St Augustine's at the funeral last week of Cyril Kinsky, who was our Chair of Governors for many years before retiring in 2022.

For all those who knew Cyril and had the opportunity to work with him, his memory will remain with us. He was a man of great integrity, whose generosity and warmth of character made everyone he met feel welcome and valued. He brought to St Augustine's a wealth of experience and a genuine passion for education.

As Chair of Governors, so much of Cyril's work took place quietly behind the scenes, often unseen by the wider school community. Yet his legacy is clear in the contribution he made to the life and future of St Augustine's. His dedication, wisdom and commitment helped to ensure that the school would continue to thrive long after his time as Chair had come to an end. Our thoughts and prayers remain with his wife Natasha and all the family at this sad time. We remember Cyril with great affection and gratitude for all that he gave to our school community.

Mr Dowle



Important Notices

CAR PARKING

A polite reminder to parents to please not park in Garston Vets car park or our car park during school drop off or pick up.



SCHOOL NURSE

Our Specialist School Nurse is:

Emily Davies

Providing information and support on a variety of health and wellbeing issues.

A confidential drop in clinic is held during break and lunchtime every Wednesday in the Wellbeing Room.

1:1 appointments are available for drop ins. These appointments last 30 minutes and are given to pupils that we have received referrals for either from the school; parents or the young person themselves. We can offer 6 1:1 sessions for a range of health reasons – Emotional Wellbeing; healthy eating; suspected eating disorders; self-harm; hygiene, healthy relationships, sexual health STI and pregnancy testing and safe sex.

For an appointment:

Ask your Tutor

Parents can contact the service by using the single point of access (SPA) on 0300 247 0090

SPA email address: bswchildrens.enquiries@hcrgcaregroup.com

Website: wiltschildandfamily.co.uk

Support Helpline

Following the troubling testimonies of sexual harassment and abuse documented on the Everyone's Invited website, the **NSPCC** can help on 0800 136 663 or emailing help@nspcc.org.uk

When looking to make a payment in Parent Mail please check both 'Payments – To Pay' and 'Payments – Shop' (the trolley icon). Dinner Accounts can be topped up through 'Accounts'. Stationery orders should be collected from the finance office (next to the conference room)

REMEMBERING TOGETHER

On Wednesday, our college community came together to remember those who have lost their lives in conflict, marking 11am with a two minute silence. Students had personalised their own poppies and created tutor group wreaths. Representatives from each tutor group attended a short reflection and prayer in the Chapel before laying their wreaths in front of the altar. A meaningful moment, bringing our college community together in remembrance. We will remember them.



Foodbank Collection

This Advent, we're once again coming together to make a difference in our local community through our annual campaign for Storehouse Foodbank in Trowbridge. Each year, our school community generously donates essential items to help local families experiencing short term hardship. We're delighted to continue this tradition of kindness, particularly at a time when we know many families are facing challenges. Please see the list of suggested items that the Foodbank is currently collecting. If you are able to contribute, students can bring donations to morning Tutor Form time and add them to their class collection. We will be collecting donations from now until Friday 4th December, giving the Storehouse team plenty of time to organise and distribute everything before Christmas. All long-life food items and toiletries are particularly welcome and very much appreciated. Thank you, as always, for your kindness and generosity in supporting our local community this Christmas.

<u>Everyday Items That Make a Difference</u>

Tinned stews/meatballs/curries Tins of macaroni cheese/ravioli
Tinned ham/corned beef Pasta sauces
Rice Curry sauces
Coffee Tinned/jar hot dogs
Tea Tinned veg, beans, pulses
Sugar Crisps/savoury snacks
UHT Milk Peanut butter
Biscuits Jam/chocolate spread
Tinned desserts Toilet rolls
Squash Shampoo/conditioner
Cooking oil Deodorant/soap







CHAPLAINCY NEWS



CONFIRMATION 2027 ENROLMENT

St John's, Trowbridge Parish next Confirmation preparation programme will start on the 13th April 2027 and run every Tuesday evening at St. John's Parish Centre for 7 weeks (not including half term). If your child is in school Year 9 or above and has taken their First Holy Communion you can enrol them by filling in the online form (Please note a copy of your child's Baptism Certificate needs to be emailed/given to Eve along with the registration form in order for your child to be allocated a place on the programme). The Confirmation 2027 enrolment form can be found on the parish website: https://www.stjohnthebaptisttrowbridge.co.uk

Deadline for registration is 12th February 2027. No registrations will be taken after this date.

Library News

Discover what's growing in the library this week with our new farming and agriculture display! We are hosting this special showcase to mark the harvest season and celebrate the incredible farming community that surrounds our school. We have a fantastic fresh crop of books ready for students to borrow, ranging from laugh-out-loud rural adventures to practical smallholding guides. Dig into hilarious farm life with the Diddly Squat series, learn the ropes of poultry care with Chicken Keeping and A Practical Manual of Beekeeping, or explore heartwarming real-life stories in For the Love of Farming and Tales from the Farm. Swing by the library today to harvest a great new read!

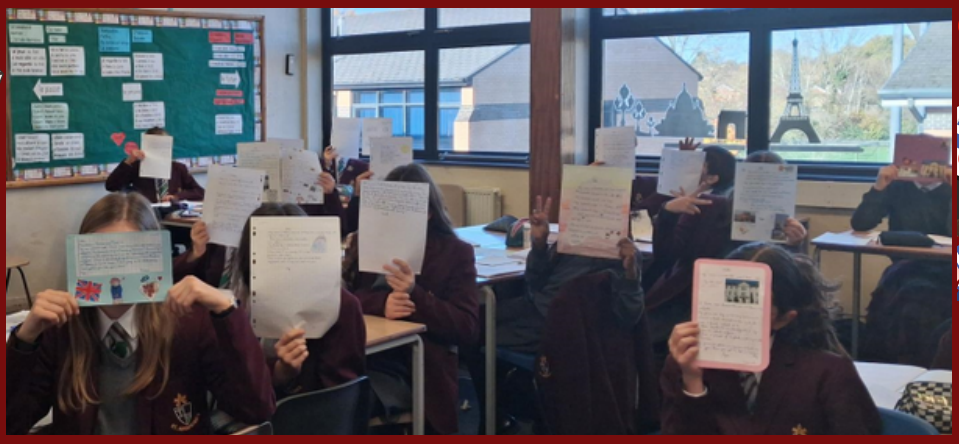




Tower poetry competition

Open to UK-based poets aged 16-18, deadline 18 February 2027. The Tower Poetry Competition is now open to students aged 16-18 who are in secondary education (eg. school/sixth form/college) in the UK. The competition is seeking entries on the theme of 'The Deep', which entrants are invited to interpret freely, and will be judged by poets Liz Berry and Vona Groarke. The competition is free to enter and has a top prize of £5,000, with second, third, and commended poets also winning cash prizes. Visit https://www.chch.ox.ac.uk/tower-poetry/enter-tower-poetry-competition for more details- and ask Mrs Ellis for any more information.

MODERN LANGUAGES

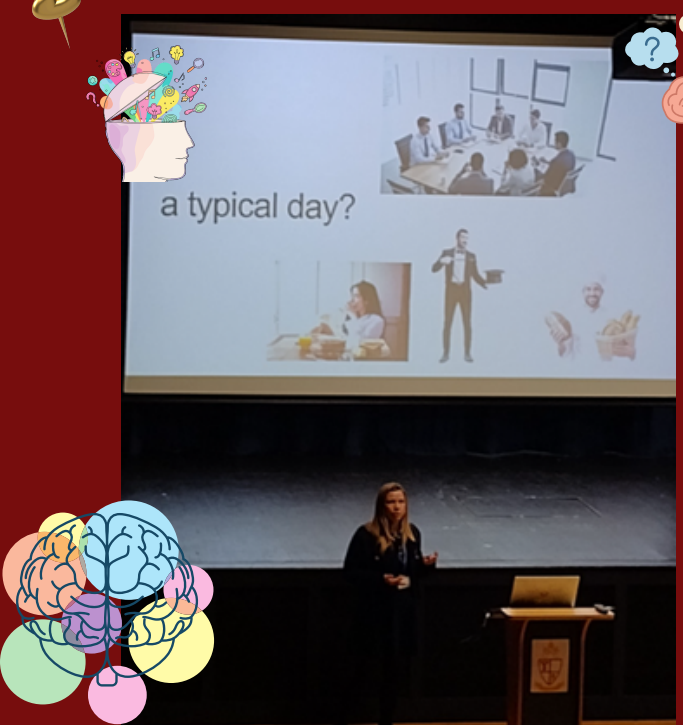


We are so excited that our Year 7 students will soon be sending their very own letters to a Lasallian primary school in Nantes, France! A wonderful opportunity to put their French into practice, connect with pupils from another Lasallian school and share a little about their lives here in England. We can't wait to start this international exchange and build new connections across the Lasallian community!

Psychology Beyond the Classroom: Careers in Product Development

Last week, we were delighted to welcome Sara Weitenberg to St Augustine's Catholic College to deliver an inspiring careers talk, first to our Year 11 students during assembly and then to our A Level Psychology students. Sara shared fascinating insights into how psychology can be applied in the world of product development, demonstrating how understanding human behaviour, thoughts and decision-making can help businesses design products that meet people's needs. For our A Level Psychology students, the session was a valuable opportunity to see how the theories and concepts they study in the classroom can be applied in real-world settings. It also highlighted the wide range of career opportunities available to those who study psychology, extending far beyond the more traditional roles of psychologist or therapist.

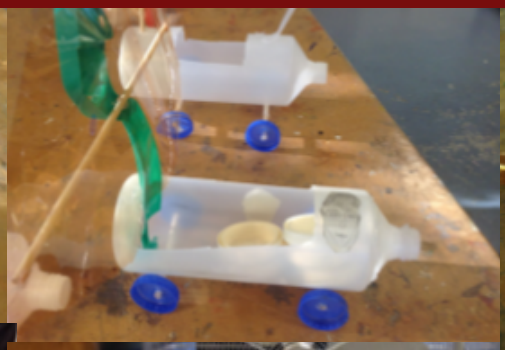
We would like to thank Sara for taking the time to share her professional experiences and for encouraging our students to think about how their understanding of human behaviour could shape their future careers.

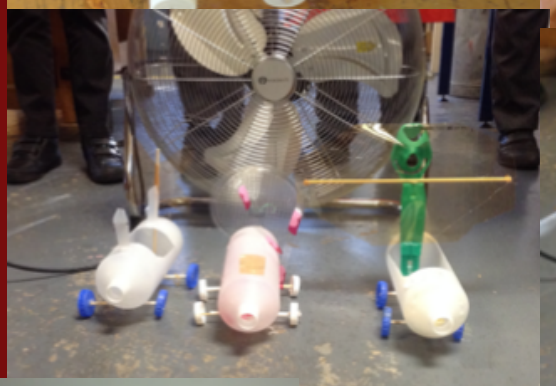


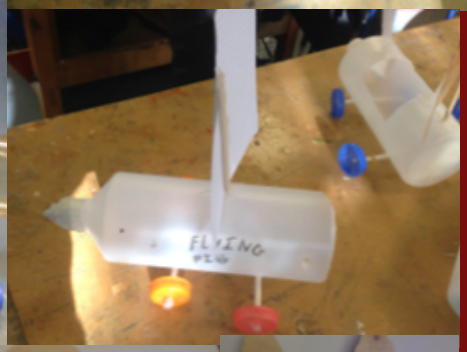
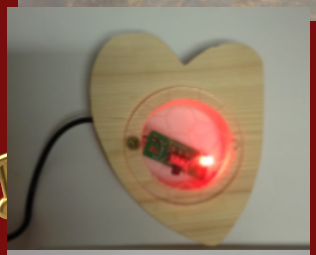


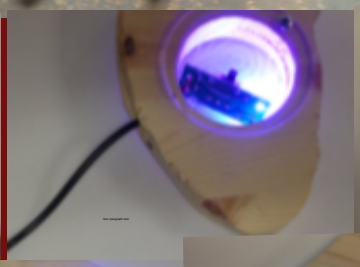
DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

This week Mrs Mays DT classes created a number of different creations. Below are some pictures of Year 8 'wacky racers' made from recycleable items. Students have been learning about renewable and non-renewable energy and designing in groups a wind racer. There are also pictures below of Year 7 Mood lights and Year 9 angle poise lamps all also completed within Mrs Mays DT classes this week.

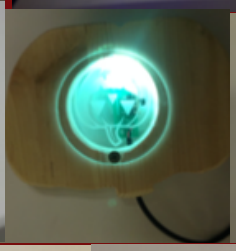
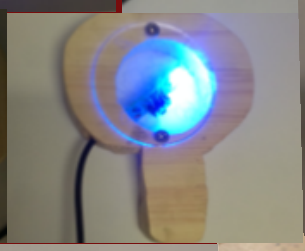
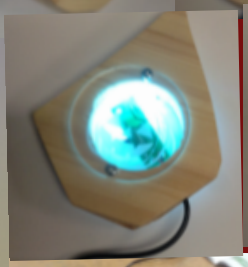



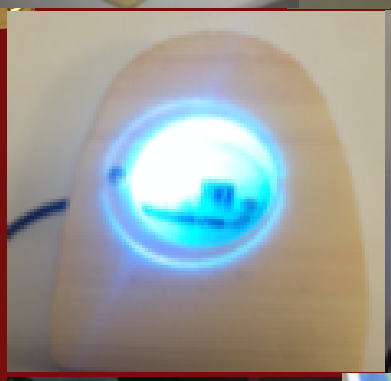
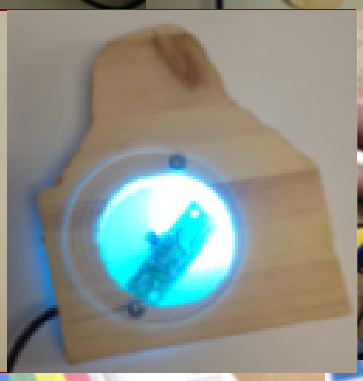












FOOD TECH

YEAR 9 - READY, STEADY, COOK!

Students were given a challenge to create something from limited ingredients in the food room. The brief was to create a hand held snack that contained at least 2 vegetables. In teams they set off to prepare and cook. Well done to Poppy, Mia, Iga, Daisy, Kyle, Albie, Lara, Emilia, Lucy, Hania, Kittie, Marcelina, Oli, Victor, Filip, Amari and Dominic. Mrs Harding and Mr Bennett were the judges and came up with the overall winners.

THE WINNERS WERE: Lucy, Lara and Hania with some sweet potato snackws cooked 5 ways!

Well done to everyone who took part!

















FOOD TECH CONTINUED...

Year 10-Tarte Au Soleil

Whilst our year 9 students were experimenting with vegetables this week our year 10 students were making these masterpieces complete with homemade pastry! All of which was completed in just one kesson, impressive work all around!













PE NEWS

A Big Thank You to FOSTA!

The PE Department would like to say a huge thank you to FOSTA for their generous contribution towards the purchase of a brand-new table tennis table! The table is already proving extremely popular and getting plenty of use in lessons. It is a fantastic addition to our facilities, helping us accommodate the growing number of students choosing GCSE Sport Studies (PE), whilst also enhancing the opportunities available to students in our Key Stage 3 and 4 core PE lessons. We are incredibly grateful for FOSTA's continued support in helping us improve our facilities and provide enjoyable, high-quality sporting opportunities for our students.





St Augustine's Shine at the West Wiltshire Cross Country Trials

St Augustine's took an impressive team of 31 students to the West Wiltshire Cross Country Trials at Stonar and, once again, punched well above our weight. The team enjoyed an outstanding day of running, securing two race victories, two second-place finishes, and several other runners finishing inside the top 12 to qualify for the County Trials at Sheldon next year. Conditions were good for running, although perhaps not quite the traditional cross-country weather! The course had also been altered since last year, providing an extra challenge, particularly for those runners who had become familiar with the previous route. Despite this, our students rose to the challenge and produced some excellent performances. As impressive as the results were, the support shown throughout the day was equally pleasing. There was a fantastic sense of togetherness, with solidarity demonstrated in abundance as students encouraged and supported their fellow St A's runners, regardless of the race or result. The students were also a real credit to the college away from the course. Behaviour was excellent, despite some lengthy gaps between races, and the St A's area was once again left spotless at the end of the event. The coach was left just as tidy, and it was particularly noticeable how many students independently thanked the coach driver both on the journey to and from Stonar. It was an absolute pleasure to take the team. The performances were excellent, but the attitude, support for one another and pride shown in representing St Augustine's were just as rewarding. A special thanks goes to Mrs Portch, and Mr Holbrook, who gave up their time to help support the PE dept and runners on the day. Well, done to all 31 students who represented St A's so brilliantly!



Qualifiers…

Year 7 & 8 Girls:
Freya. W 2nd place finish
Year 7 & 8 Boys:
Krystian K
Leon. S
Year 9 & 10 Girls:
Kittie. E
Year 9 & 10 Boys:
Charles. B 1st place finish
Henry. B 2nd place finish
Miller. H 5th place finish
Year 11 & 12 Girls: No qualifiers
Year 11 & 12 Boys:
Conal. K 1st place finish



DRAMA NEWS

Romeo and Juliet

Each week our 'journalist in residence' Alma-Ayre W in Year 7 will be interviewing members of the cast. Her first interview is with Dr. Barnsley, one of the play's two directors. Alma reports: Dr. Barnsley's vision for the play includes having an ensemble that is very heavily involved, creating a great deal of imagery, for example in the street brawls and the Capulet party at which Romeo and Juliet meet. In some ways the directors' ideas will part with the original Shakespeare text on which this adaptation is based, although the language is (whilst edited) completely Shakespeare's! In this new way, the Friar may become something of a medicine woman, who offers Juliet the potion which will give her a way out of an arranged marriage with Paris. A shout out to the play's directors, Dr. Barnsley and Mr. Flowerdew, who make sure that cast are always fully present at rehearsal, having made the commitment to the rehearsal process. For everyone participating in the 35-strong ensemble 'commitment is key' as the directors start to weave the dramatic action. That's all for now, but look out for my next interview!









Family and Community Learning

Adult Literacy: Enhance Your English

Improve your English skills - The course is suitable for learners who want to improve their English language skills

Studley Green Community Centre
Lambrok Road, Trowbridge,
Wiltshire, BA14 9HA

ENGLISH

Welcome meeting
Wednesday 2 December @ 1pm

Course dates

Wednesdays - 1pm -3pm
9, 16 December, 6, 13, 20, 27 January,
3, 10, 17, 24 February

Book your place by Tuesday 1 December 2026

Contact familyandcommunitylearning@wiltshire.gov.uk
or call the FaCL team on 01225 770478
Visit https://workwiltshire.co.uk/family-and-community-learning/
or scan the QR code

Courses are no cost to learners who meet our eligibility criteria. Learners must be aged 19+ years, have a Wiltshire postcode, and meet residency requirements. Learners must also be able to tick one of the following criteria: individual income less than £26,800 a year; in receipt of benefits (other than child benefit); be a care leaver, foster carer or carer; be a military family or ex-armed forces personnel; have refugee or asylum seeker status; have a learning difficulty or disability; be looking to work, now or in the future.

Wiltshire Council

Within our community

Family and Community Learning
Discover Opportunities - Develop Skills - Achieve Ambitions

Online Course
Supporting My Teen with Study and Revision

Friday 4 December 10am - 12pm



- Understand how to create a calm and productive study environment
- Discover tips and techniques to make revision less stressful and more effective
- Find ways to support your teen that builds confidence and reduces pressure

For bookings scan the QR code or contact: 01225 770478
familyandcommunitylearning@wiltshire.gov.uk
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Ofsted

Wiltshire Council

Family and Community Learning
Discover Opportunities - Develop Skills - Achieve Ambitions

Online Course
Supporting My Teen with Anxiety

Friday 18 December 10:00 - 12:00



- Understand the challenges teens face and how anxiety affects them
- Learn practical ways to boost your teen's emotional wellbeing at home
- Discover strategies to help your teen manage anxiety in everyday life

For bookings scan the QR code or contact: 01225 770478
familyandcommunitylearning@wiltshire.gov.uk
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Wiltshire Council

Family and Community Learning
Discover Opportunities - Develop Skills - Achieve Ambitions

Online Course
Supporting My Teen with Wellbeing

Friday 11 December 10am - 12pm



- Understand the changes in a teenage brain
- Learn techniques to promote wellbeing
- Explore positive psychology

For bookings scan the QR code or contact: 01225 770478
familyandcommunitylearning@wiltshire.gov.uk
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Ofsted

Wiltshire Council

Family and Community Learning
Discover Opportunities - Develop Skills - Achieve Ambitions

Confidence and New Directions

Mondays, 2, 9, 16, 23, 20 Nov
10:00am-12:00pm



Make small changes for a brighter future

- Feel more confident in your daily life
- Manage stress and boost wellbeing
- Set SMART targets to achieve your goals

For bookings scan the QR code or contact: 01225 770478
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Wiltshire Council

Within our community







Wiltshire Family and Community Learning

Discover Opportunities - Develop Skills - Achieve Ambitions

The Achieve Programme

King's Trust

Dream of a brighter future with the Achieve Programme for young people aged 16 to 25.

- discover your strengths
- develop resilience
- gain qualifications
- build valuable skills
- meet new people
- create a plan for your future



At The Old Town Hall, Trowbridge
Market Street
Trowbridge
Wiltshire

Every Monday 10am - 3pm for 12 weeks starting 4 January 2027

Information sessions: Monday 7 or Monday 14 December at 10am

Request a place on the Achieve Programme via the QR code:

01225 770478
familyandcommunitylearning@wiltshire.gov.uk

Funded by UK Government

Wiltshire Council

Family and Community Learning

Discover Opportunities - Develop Skills - Achieve Ambitions

Free online course

Supporting My Teen to Understand Their Skills

Friday 27 November 10am - 12pm



Support your teenager to recognise their unique contribution

- Encourage your teenager to recognise their skills and qualities
- Explore how to nurture resilience and independence
- Support your teenager to plan for their future

For bookings scan the QR code or contact: 01225 770478
familyandcommunitylearning@wiltshire.gov.uk
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