St Augustine's Gazette

Friday 20th 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

3rd December: Sixth Form Open Evening
15th - 18th December: Christmas lunches
21st December - 4th January: Half term
4th January: TD Day
5th January: Students back to school

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*

As we come to the end of another busy week, our thoughts turn towards the beginning of Advent. This marks the start of a new year in the Church's calendar and offers us an opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the birth of Jesus, whose coming brought light and hope into our world. It is a timely reminder of the importance of carrying that light and hope into our own lives and the lives of others. This week's Gazette is once again filled with a wonderful variety of activities and events. Particular congratulations go to our netball teams, who have enjoyed a fantastic week and whose achievements reflect their hard work, determination and team spirit. I would also like to draw your attention to two important forthcoming events: our Service of Light in December and our Sixth Form Open Evening. We very much hope you will be able to join us. Thank you, as always, for your continued support, and I wish you all a restful weekend.

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.

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.

Everyday Items That Make a Difference

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







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)



A LEVEL SUBJECTS FAIR



WEDNESDAY 25TH NOV 2026

Lasallian Centre
Lunch Time

- Discover the A level Subjects we offer
- Speak to current Year 12 Subject Advocates
- Buy lunch at the Sixth Form Cafe

CONTACT US

SixthFormTeam@sta.cc

A slightly belated ¡Feliz Día de los Muertos!

Some of our Year 7 Spanish students have been getting creative this term, making their own pop-up ‘altares’ to celebrate the Mexican festival Día de los Muertos (the Day of the Dead). Each year in early November, families in Mexico build colourful altars to remember and honour loved ones who have passed away, decorating them with candles, marigolds, photos, favourite foods and the famous ‘calaveras’ (decorated sugar skulls). Students learnt about the traditions and symbols behind the festival before decorating their own 3D altars, complete with crosses, flowers, skulls and ‘papel picado’ (colourful cut-paper banners). They then put their Spanish to work by answering the question ‘¿Qué hay en mi altar?’ (What is on my altar?), labelling everything from ‘las velas’ to ‘las flores’. Here are some of the colourful finished articles. ¡Muy bien hecho! There will be more opportunities for all Year 7 Spanish students to get involved in cultural projects throughout this year.









CHAPLAINCY NEWS



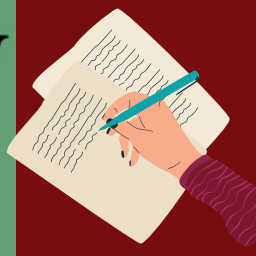
CONFIRMATION 2027 ENROLMENT

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.



The Think Student Essay Prize 2026/2027 is now open



The Royal Institute of Philosophy are holding a student essay competition for students aged 15- 18. To fill out an application form and see the full list of eligiblity and requirements please follow the link below: https://royalinstitutephilosophy.org/news/think-essay-prize/



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.







YEAR 7 & 8 NETBALL





Fantastic Start to the Season for Year 7 & 8 Netball Teams!

It was a winning start to the season for our Year 7 and 8 Netball teams last Thursday as we welcomed John of Gaunt for their first fixtures of the year. Both teams produced fantastic performances, securing two well-deserved victories!

Year 7 – A Winning Debut! (7–4)

Our Year 7 team made an impressive debut, demonstrating excellent teamwork and determination throughout. Strong links through the midcourt helped create plenty of attacking opportunities, while Ava and Dahlia worked brilliantly together in the goal circle. Agnes provided some excellent defensive play, helping the team secure a fantastic 7–4 victory. Congratulations to Ava, who was deservedly named Player of the Match!

Year 7 Team - Ava R, Dahlia C, Amy P, Amelia M, Sophia T, Alyssa T, Agnes P, Abi C and Scarlet A.

Year 8 – Starting as They Mean to Go On! (8–2)

Building on their success last season, our Year 8 team picked up right where they left off! Strong defensive play, accurate shooting and some lovely passages of teamwork saw them claim a convincing 8–2 victory. A brilliant all-round team performance and a promising start to the season. Congratulations to Jazymne who was deservedly named Player of the Match!

Year 8 Team - Jazmyne D, Persie D, Maya S, Athena T, Freya W, Laurie J, Flo L, Shannon B, Bea W and Cindy G.

A special thank you to Claudia, our Year 10 Netball Sports Leader, who generously volunteers her time to help at Netball club. Claudia was on hand to support and encourage the Year 8 team throughout their fixture and it was hugely appreciated.

To top off a wonderful afternoon of netball, we were treated to a particularly picturesque sky! Both teams were keen to make the most of the beautiful backdrop with some team photographs.

Netball continued...

Our Year 7 and 8 Netball teams continued their fantastic start to the season with two impressive victories against Clarendon on Tuesday. Year 7 produced a dominant performance from start to finish, taking control in every quarter and securing a convincing 18–1 victory. Congratulations to Ava who was nominated as Player of the Match.

Year 7 Team - Ava R, Dahlia C, Amy P, Amelia M, Sophia T, Alyssa T, Agnes P, Abi C and Scarlet A.

Year 8 faced a closer contest in the first half, leading 3–1 at half-time. However, the team really found their rhythm in the third and fourth quarters, pulling away to secure a fantastic 12–2 win. Congratulations to Freya who was nominated as Player of the Match.A special mention to our Year 8 team, who faced the same opposition last year and narrowly lost 3-2. To return a year later and achieve such a convincing victory is a wonderful reflection of their progress, commitment and hard work. They should be incredibly proud of how far they have come!

Year 8 Team - Jazmyne D, Persie D, Iyra L, Freya W, Bianca S, Flo L, Shannon B, Bea W, Cindy G and Katerina L.

Next up – St Laurence!

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
https://workwiltshire.co.uk/family-and-community-learning/

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.

Ofsted Good Provider

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
https://workwiltshire.co.uk/family-and-community-learning/

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.

Ofsted Good Provider

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
https://workwiltshire.co.uk/family-and-community-learning/

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.

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 hom
- 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
https://workwiltshire.co.uk/family-and-community-learning/

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.

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

MIGHTY GIRLS



V Code Tech Workshop

SATURDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2027

UNIVERSITY OF BATH

WHAT YOU'LL EXPERIENCE

💻 GET HANDS-ON WITH CODING

TRY YOUR HAND AT CODING IN AN INTERACTIVE SESSION.

👩‍🔬 MEET WOMEN IN STEM

HEAR INSPIRING STORIES FROM WOMEN WORKING IN STEM AND DISCOVER THEIR CAREER JOURNEYS.

🎓 TALK TO UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

ASK QUESTIONS AND FIND OUT WHAT IT'S REALLY LIKE TO STUDY AND THRIVE IN STEM.

THE SU UNIVERSITY OF BATH

VTEAM STUDENT VOLUNTEER

Learn More & Book: mightygirls.co.uk