



Welcome

I want to start this Newsletter by taking the time to reflect on the past academic year and, in particular, taking the opportunity to pay my sincerest thanks to the staff of St Luke's who worked so tirelessly to ensure that our students continued to thrive in what were very difficult, and often changing circumstances.

On August 12th, this effort and commitment was certainly rewarded when we had the pleasure of welcoming our Year 11 students back to receive their GCSE/Vocational results. It was such an uplifting day where students and staff were able to celebrate the wonderful successes of so many students together as a community. I am so incredibly proud of the Year 11 students who, after considerable disruption for not one, but two years of their education, achieved such amazing results that have enabled them to move on to their next step. We all wish them the very best and look forward to being able to welcome them back for our planned Graduation ceremony later in the Autumn term.

As for this forthcoming academic year, we are really excited to have welcomed students back and in particular would like to extend the warmest of wishes to the families of our new year 7 students. We are delighted that you have chosen to join our community and look forward to working together with you all over this next five years.

As many of you will know, I have been at St Luke's for a long time, fourteen years to be exact and I can hand on heart say that I have never felt as excited about our future as I do at this current time. The school has improved so much over this past two years which has been highlighted so clearly through our external school review process and also through our most recent set of results. Being part of the Ted Wragg Trust over this past two years has provided such great expertise and we have benefited enormously from their support, guidance and care. We are now in a place where we can continue to grow and develop having put in place great foundations for a high-quality education for every student.

I am so incredibly proud of our curriculum developments, our reading and homework programmes and the quality of our teaching but, my biggest sense of pride, comes from the response we have seen from our students who have met every one of our expectations so wonderfully well. The culture they have helped us to create is one of respect, kindness and hope; a culture we want to continue to develop over this next academic year.

A significant priority for us this year will be centred on personal development and how we enrich our students' lives through extra-curricular opportunities, careers education, volunteering, leadership and charity. Some of these activities were the hardest hit during the past two years due to CV-19 but we are absolutely committed to re-invigorating our personal development offer so do please look out for our clubs, events and activities which will include Duke of Edinburgh, Ten Tors, Drama Productions, Enrichment Week, Student Leadership, Charity Days and Work Experience alongside other trips and activities.

Finally, whilst we will take the opportunity to introduce new staff within this newsletter, I do want to update you on Governance and in particular the appointment of our new Chair of Governors, Mr. Ben Slater. Ben comes with a wealth of experience in education and we are so blessed to have his support, guidance and challenge as we move forward in to our next phase. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing Chairs, Mrs Hilary Jones and Mr Laurie Burbridge who dedicated so much of their valuable time to St Luke's over the past two years. Their energy, commitment and dedication to helping us improve was invaluable and we all pass on our sincerest thanks and best wishes to them both.

I hope you enjoy reading this first edition of our school newsletter and I look forward to working with you all over this next academic year.

Miss Sherwood
Headteacher

Welcome to our new staff

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new staff who have joined us since September and wish them all the very best as they start their time with us here at St Luke's:

- Victoria Griffin, Senior Deputy Headteacher (Quality of Education)
- Ellie Cox-Davies, Assistant Headteacher (English & Literacy)
- Sarah Norcliffe, Assistant Headteacher (Science and STEM)
- Hazel Norman, Teacher of MFL
- Gemma Thornhill, Teacher of Maths
- William Denbow, Teacher of Science
- Katie Williams, Teacher of Science
- Liisbet Saareoks, Teacher of Science
- Alice Parsons, Teacher of English
- Millie Barnes, Teacher of English
- Julian Fawkes, Teacher of PE, Health and Nutrition

Below, some of these new staff have taken the opportunity to introduce themselves;

Victoria Griffin

Senior Deputy Headteacher
(Quality of Education)

It is with pride and excitement that I have joined the St Luke's School community. When I first visited the School back in March, I knew that this would be the place that would inspire me to make the leap and move from London to Devon with my family. The St Luke's community is incredibly special and the warmth, hope and commitment of the staff and students are what drew me here.

I have been teaching English for 16 years in west London, having spent the last two terms as Acting Principal in a 14-19 school in Feltham, having been part of its founding team 5 years ago. I am passionate about my subject, about education and about ensuring every young person has a positive experience of school so they can live happy and fulfilled lives.

I am delighted to be taking the role of Senior Deputy Head at St Luke's and look forward to working with and developing our talented staff to be the best they can be and provide an outstanding education to our young people. I hope that over the next year I can be in as many classrooms as possible, meeting as many students as possible and always thinking about how we can make our curriculum engaging and thought provoking. Working in partnership with other schools in the Trust is also a real opportunity to take the School into the next stage of its journey and make it one we can all be extremely proud of.

Mark Cahill

Deputy Headteacher (Personal
Development, Behaviour & Welfare)

I have been in teaching now for well over 20 years and still have a real passion for high quality teaching and learning especially in my specialism of Sport and PE. For the majority of my career I have worked in Devon across 7 schools with the last 14 as a Senior Leader.

In my early career I was an athlete playing for the Plymouth Raiders basketball team just as they came into the professional era and winning numerous National league and cup titles. This developed a meticulous nature in my personality in preparing both physically and mentally for the challenges of each game and season but also an understanding of the responsibility of wearing the team shirt and being a role model for others.

I have a huge passion for pastoral care and each role I have undertaken in previous schools it has always revolved around this area. St Luke's is a really exciting place and I have had the joy to meet some of the most polite and motivated young people I have ever worked with. I am proud to be part of the team and to continue to improve the life chances of those in our School.



Governance

A welcome from our new Chair, Mr Ben Slater

Welcome to this first newsletter of an exciting new year. It is a privilege for me to start the year as Chair of St Luke's Local Governing Board. What this means is that I help organise support for the School and the Trust in certain key areas. All the members of the Board are unpaid volunteers from a range of professions who want to use their skills and experience to help the students of St Luke's reach even greater heights.

The school has come a long way in a short amount of time, listening, learning and improving at each stage. You can hear the pride with which students, parents and staff talk about the school and its journey. You can see how each of the adults in school is striving to provide each child with the keys to living life to the full.

It is an exciting time to be a part of this school. My hope for the students is that each day will provide a firm foothold towards a full life and a bright future. My hope for you is that you find your part to play in this best of endeavours.



Achieving your best

Congratulations to Blue Boy Award Winner Georgia Howell

When teenager Georgia Howell wanted to be part of creating change in the world she took steps to ensure that she would be able to get her voice, and those of the young people around her, heard.

She knew she felt passionately about issues like climate change, so decided to make a difference – by standing successfully for election as a youth MP.

It was this, coupled with her wonderful contribution to the St Luke's community as one of four Head Students and amazing academic success (10 x Grade 9 GCSEs), that contributed to Georgia being the worthy winner of the Blue Boy Award. The St John's Hospital Educational Foundation 'Blue Boy Award' is awarded annually to a St Luke's pupil by the St John's Foundation in recognition of their work and achievements.

Miss Sherwood, Headteacher at St Luke's, added: "Georgia is an amazing young person and has been a fantastic ambassador for many other young people, both here at St Luke's and of course, on a wider scale through her role as Youth MP. I have always been so incredibly impressed by her dedication and absolute commitment to everything she does. I have no doubt that Georgia will continue to make a difference in the world as she moves on to her next chapter."

Georgia will now continue her studies at the World School in New Mexico, USA having secured a prestigious scholarship.

Articulate

Some of our year 9 students took part in the 5 day communication skills programme called Articulate.

The aim of the course was to inspire the young people to become confident and articulate individuals in their school lives and beyond. During the course students developed the essential skills of speaking, listening, discussion and debate. Some of the workshops also helped to raise aspirations of the students whilst introducing higher education. The students who took part did really well and were awarded with an accredited English Speaking Board qualification. Articulate forms part of our Pupil Premium intervention strategy.

St Luke's to drive girls' football forward

St Luke's Church of England School has been selected to be a Barclays Girls Football Association School Partner for 21/22 academic year. The school was invited to put an application into the Youth Sport Trust (YST) to become a partner school and was informed of its success last week.

Kealey Sherwood, Headteacher at St Luke's, said this is fantastic news for our school and the wider community. We are very much looking forward to the opportunities this will provide our young people along with supporting the aims of the FA Girls' Football School Partnerships in creating an active and confident generation.

The Football Association supported by Barclays and the Youth Sport Trust have recruited a network of education-based partnerships with schools throughout England. Known as FA Girls' Football School Partnerships - supported by Barclays, they are strategic partnerships with families of schools that are committed to the growth and development of girls' football.

The role of St Luke's is to build with the local community of schools and providers, opportunities for girls to play football, during the curriculum, in social times, extracurricular and outside of school. Through these outcomes set by the YST, Football Association and Barclays, we will build to the collective vision of every girl having equal access to football by 2024.

Mr Gillard, who put the application on behalf of St Luke's, said: "this is a great opportunity for all the schools across Exeter and Mid Devon to be a part of a growing movement which means every girl in the wider school community will have access to playing football. This is such a powerful tool for teaching staff to use to strengthen the links between being active, living a healthy lifestyle and academic achievement. I am really looking forward to getting started!"

For any more information about how to get involved in the programme, visit [St Luke's website](#)

Coachbright

Last academic year, we had 16 Year 10 students taking part in a programme called Coachbright utilising funding from our Pupil Premium grant.

Usually, university students will visit the school to coach and tutor our students on subjects that they are finding difficult. As a result of COVID-19, these sessions were moved online. Despite the obvious challenges of more screen time, our students still made excellent progress through active participation in the programme. One of the key aims of Coachbright is to open students' eyes to the possibility of university study once they have left school and college, including helping them to understand what life at university is like. The data collected by Coachbright showed that students had a much better understanding of what university was and who they could come and ask if they had any questions about higher education.

In their final report to the school, the following statements from Coachbright really stood out:

"Pupils shared that they felt more confident over the course of the programme, and coach feedback reflected them feeling more able to succeed, both in their coached subjects and in school in general."

"Pupils' independence noticeably improved over the course of coaching, with pupils sharing that they feel more motivated to engage in their lessons."

Many of the individual comments to students from their coaches and tutors talked about how engaged St Luke's students were and how they worked hard throughout all of the sessions.

St Luke's Summer school – Taking the 'big step'

St Luke's hosted 73 of its new year 7s on site during the summer holidays from Monday 23rd – Friday 27th August. The Big Step company delivered a summer school programme of amazing opportunities for our students to enjoy.

The summer school was designed to help young people get to know the school site, get to know their peers and help them in making the transition from primary school into St Luke's as easy as possible.

Activities included Taskmaster (like the TV show), Rock Steady, dance, scavenger hunt, anxiety and bullying workshop, team building, capture the flag and drama.

Matilda, coming to St Luke's from Ladysmith Junior school, said that her favourite part of the week was the scavenger hunt as she was able to find all the different corridors of the new school.

Edith, also from Ladysmith Junior School, said she has really enjoyed making friends during the week and is looking forward to learning a lot more subjects in school in September.

A big thank you to Tom, Gemma, Chloe, Lauren and Neil from Big Step for putting on such an incredible week.



Community Clubs available at St Luke's

After 6pm, the school hosts a number of opportunities on the site including sports clubs and other community organisations.

Below are all the clubs happening on site this term. If you would like to attend one of these clubs or find out more details, please contact Mr Gillard in the outdoor PE office or email nick.gillard@stlukescofe.school

Monday

- **Wipton Youth FC** Junior Football
- **Ranchocka** Adults Football
- **Taekwondo Exeter** Martial Arts
- **Exeter Roller Derby** Roller skating

Tuesday

- **ECFC Academy**

Wednesday

- **City Raiders YFC** Junior Football
- **St Martins FC** Junior Football
- **Stoke Hill AFC** Junior Football
- **Budleigh Salterton FC** Ladies football
- **Back to Netball** Adult Netball
- **Kenn Valley FC** Adults football

Thursday

- **Taekwondo Exeter** Martial Arts
- **ECFC Academy**

Friday

- **Wipton Youth FC** Junior Football
- **Ashbeck FC** Adult football

Enrichment – Living life to the full

We are delighted to be able to expand our enrichment opportunities for students at St Luke's this year. We are moving away from calling it 'extra-curricular' clubs and activities, as we see these not as a nice add on to school life, but rather as an integral part of a young person's journey through education: there are many things that cannot be learnt in a classroom.

On Mondays, our Year 7s and 8s will have their compulsory enrichment from 3:10-4:10pm, a programme which will include a vast range of different clubs and societies. Last year, we had the playwright's workshop, drama club and some wonderful eco work going on during period 6 on Mondays – we cannot wait to see what happens this year!

In addition to our Monday clubs, we are offering further activities on Wednesdays and Thursdays during period 6 for all year groups. Further details of these are to follow early in the term, but they are likely to include the Duke of Edinburgh's award, Ten Tors and even our very own Latin club!

We are also on the lookout for any community clubs that would like the opportunity to run in one of our period 6 enrichment slots giving our students more opportunities that they can pay to attend. If you, or someone you know, runs any exciting clubs or activities and would like to offer them to our students, please get in touch with the school office via office@stlukescofe.school

Looking ahead to the summer term, we are planning a full enrichment week with a variety of different trips and visits. Some of these will be overseas, others will be residential or day visits within the UK and some will be based in school. We will be in touch shortly after half term with the details and how to book your son/daughter onto the trip of their choice.