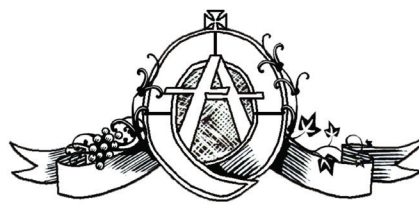




Spirituality
Staff and students
fundraise for trip to
Tanzania in 2024.

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Open Evening
Come along and take a tour on
Tuesday 26th September,
6pm.

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ASA TODAY

Issue 55, Term 6, 2023

The All Saints' Academy Newspaper

www.asachelt.org

A Fulfilling Year



By Mr McNiffe
Principal

It is my pleasure to welcome you to our end of year edition of 'ASA Today' for the academic year of 2022 – 2023. What a brilliant year it has been, with so much to celebrate and remember from a year that has shown us just how brilliant our students and staff are. Our vision, "Where every member of our extended family realises their God-given potential, inspired by John 10:10. Jesus said, 'I have come so you may have life in all its fullness', always sets out our daily purpose and it is this Gospel challenge by which we measure our success.

In this edition, you will read about our students fulfilling their potential in so many different ways - the pictures show how happy they are when they challenge themselves and strive to have a life in all its fullness. The thing that is so inspiring to me is watching our students getting involved in so many activities to serve and help others, whether it is raising money for charity, supporting the primary aged students with literacy in our local primary schools or acting on our Christian values of Love, Respect, Service, Peace, Justice and Reconciliation.

This year, our students have had lots of opportunities to prepare for their futures with a plenty of enrichment activities through our newly updated careers programme. Most of which, is supported by business and industry including some large organisations such as, Deloitte, GCHQ, the NHS and the universities of Oxford, Bath and Gloucestershire. A sample list of careers provision below just shows how wide ranging and comprehensive



it has been for all our year groups:

- Year 10 and 12 Drama - University of Portsmouth 'shaping your future' workshop
- Year 7, UCAS Filming for UCAS is 30 years old!
- Year 12, University of Cardiff Trip
- Deloitte Creativity and Innovation Workshop
- Sixth Form University of Gloucestershire Trip - Production Futures on Tour
- Year 11 Oxford University Trip
- Year 9, Cheltenham Education Partnership Careers in Construction
- Year 12, Wiggin Law Work Experience Insight Day
- Year 9, Careers in Politics, Max Wilkinson Talk
- Year 8, My Big Career 1:1 Careers Advice sessions
- Year 12, Work Experience Day with Move More
- Year 12 Deloitte Work Experience Day

We also had the privilege of a visit by Professor Sir Chris Whitty, who talked about careers in medicine and the NHS. He fielded so many great questions from our students and everyone really enjoyed his brilliant insights into preparing for a career in medicine. The Arts, Sport and Cyber Technology always provide a wide range of opportunities for our students to flourish. In the Performing Arts we saw our students perform in the Shakespeare Schools Festival at the Roses Theatre in Tewkesbury; we also provided trips such as the Year 7 Pantomime Trip, an A Level Theatre Trip to see Heathers, the Musical, and the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama provided a Scenic Design workshop. However, the highlight has to be our brilliant production of Ben Elton's We Will Rock You, which was a complete sell out over three nights. All the per-

formances by our students were just fantastic, they culminated in an emotional end when the cast and crew took their final bow on a very warm Saturday night in June. Bravo to them all. Being a Cyber Gold Academy means so much to us. We are committed to the future of Cyber in Cheltenham, working closely with Microsoft, Hub 8, Cynam and the Golden Valley Project. The future is so exciting in this sector because it will provide so many career opportunities for our students and families. Mr Samrai has been instrumental in the enrichment of computing by getting our Year 9 girls involved in the Empower Cyber Trip, and leading the Data Face Computer Science Project. Our links with GCHQ have also supported our development and enrichment in computer coding. To be an influential educational hub for Cyber in our local area, so that we can inspire and pro-

mote the future skills needed for local computing industries, is such a brilliant accolade.

The personal development of all our students is an important aspect of our Academy's work in developing the whole child. Academic progress is important, but the development of confidence and character is equally important. This enables our students to have the courage and belief to go out there and make a difference to the lives of others as well as themselves. Our annual Bishop's Award Service, in Tewkesbury Abbey, is one event that celebrates the contribution each of our students make through our Christian values. It has been a delight and immense privilege to have Bishop Rachel Treweek of Gloucester present to celebrate our awards this summer. She is such a champion of young people and the contribution they make in society. We were delighted that a number of our students went with her to the House of Lords, in Westminster, to discuss the impact of social media through her #Liedentity campaign.

A large number of our students have participated in the Duke of Edinburgh Award at bronze, silver and gold levels. We hope to see a number of our students go to the palace in London to receive their gold award soon.

On my final week of term, I had the privilege and joy to reconnect with some of our alumni when they came to sing, 'One Day More' from 'Les Misérables' at my leaving dinner. It was a joyous surprise and very emotional moment for me to see them again, and to hear them perform so brilliantly. It is wonderful to see our students continuing to flourish in their adult lives as they journey on following the inspirational experiences they have had at the Academy, and it is a testament to the hard work of our excellent staff. No matter what the future holds for any of us in this world, it can only be brighter because of the young people in it.

What a Transition!



By Miss Baynham-Williams
Primary Liaison Lead

I want to say a heartfelt congratulations to each and every one of our wonderful Year 6 students that impressed us so much during their transition events. As an academy, we are absolutely delighted with the passion and pride that West Cheltenham and our surrounding community has for our wonderful provision and this year, we prepare to welcome the highest number of new Year 7 students that we've had in the last five years. This is a reflection of the love and dedication that our teachers have for their subjects, but most importantly mirrors the meaningful friendships and gusto that our students have for their academy family. Year 6 students showed bravery, resilience and endless kindness and care as they came to experience the love of learn-

ing our academy has to offer. The students completed a wide range of taster lessons including dice making, trampolining, mini quiche making, Musical Theatre staging with 'revolting children' from Matilda and cyborg robot making too. Students were then treated to being the first live audience to preview our annual whole academy production of 'We Will Rock You' where some of our Year 6 cohort got the chance to take to the stage and interview some of our cast members on the microphone too. Our new Principal Mr Wilkinson welcomed over 200 family members to our transition Q&A evening where all questions were answered and transition parents and cared nerves were put to ease. We are already exceptionally proud of the outstanding attitude to learning that our new students have shown and we can't wait for them to embrace their new beginning in September.

Speak up



Congratulations to Jed, Margaret, and Jorja, Year 10 students, for their outstanding achievement in winning the public speaking competition held at Cheltenham College. Three teams from our Academy's Year 10 also participated and showcased re-

markable composure and confidence throughout the event. The competition was fierce, with nine teams from Cheltenham College delivering commendable performances. We take immense pride in all our students who took part.

Duke of Edinburgh Success

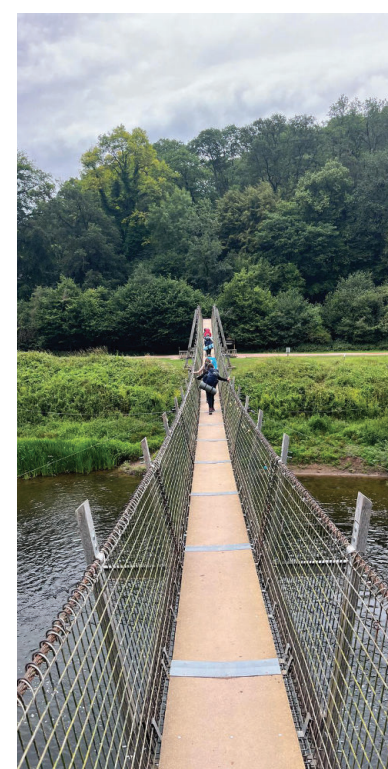


By Mr E Rollason
Deputy Head of PE

The Duke of Edinburgh expedition in the Forest of Dean was carefully planned to encompass a variety of outdoor activities. The participants embarked on a challenging and rewarding journey, consisting of many components: The group established a base camp at Biblins, Forest of Dean, this provided participants with an opportunity to learn essential camping skills, such as tent pitching, campfire building, and campsite maintenance. The expedition involved traversing scenic trails within the Forest of Dean and participants engaged in multiple hikes, exploring the diverse terrain, woodlands, and natural landmarks. The walks were designed to develop navigation, map-reading, and teamwork skills. As part of the expedition, participants were responsible for preparing their own meals using camping stoves and limited supplies. This aspect aimed to enhance their self-sufficiency, planning abilities, and culinary skills in an outdoor setting.



The Forest of Dean terrain proved demanding, requiring stamina and endurance from the participants. Long hikes and carrying camping equipment challenged their physical capabilities, but also fostered resilience and determination. Navigating through unfamiliar trails tested participants' map-reading skills, compass usage, and ability to work together as a team. The dense woodland and varied topography added an extra layer of complexity to the



navigation process. Unpredictable weather, including rain and occasional strong winds, posed additional difficulties. Participants had to adapt to changing conditions and ensure their safety, all while continuing with the expedition. Despite the challenges faced, the participants of the Duke of Edinburgh expedition in the Forest of Dean achieved numerous accomplishments, both as individuals and as a cohesive group.



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Team Tanzania



By Mr Round
Chaplain

After a few months of applications, interviews and skills testing, A team of 12 students and 5 staff have been selected to form ASA's Tanzania 2024 Team.

The trip will take place in July 2024, where the team of Staff and students will head out to Western Tanganyika to visit our partner school, Archbishop Kanagura

School, as well as engage in local community projects and the local church.

The trip is designed to provide a once in a lifetime opportunity for our students at All Saints' and our hope is that their eyes are opened, hearts are connected and inspiration is instilled from the culture, the communities and the individuals of Tanzania.

We intend to continue the great partnership work already established by the Diocese of Gloucester, and bring back to the Academy a wealth of stories and experiences, to inspire the next generation.



By Mr Eglin
Head of Mathematics
and Computer Science

Four staff and eighteen students headed up to the Bannau Brycheiniog (Brecon Beacons) at the end of the Half Term break for our Tanzania Team Selection and Skills weekend. The students were put through their paces to assess their suitability for our two-week outreach trip to Tanzania in July 2024 with the weekend also serving as an opportunity to bond with teammates.

The students camped out under canvas and had the use of an old shepherd's bothy situated right under the gaze of the highest peak, Pen-y-fan. The 24-hour period was packed with activities. On the first afternoon, having set up camp, we headed out on a walk to find Cwm Llwhc lake and some nearby waterfalls. Many of the team took the opportunity to cool off with a paddle in the lake but the resident leaches soon put them off!

Evening meal was a barbecue courtesy of the staff and there was time either side to try out some student-led activities, including balloon relays and piggy in the middle!



With the Tanzania trip to be fully funded by fundraising activities, the students were split into small groups and given time to plan the details of a fundraising event. They then presented their ideas to the staff and other students while sat around the campfire. This also presented the opportunity to enjoy S'mores and Cocoa before bedtime!

On day two, we were up early for breakfast prepared by the students – bacon baps and Corn-

flakes was the order of the day! The day then continued with more student-led activities, including various command task style activities and the odd magic trick thrown in for good measure. At the end of the weekend, the students reflected on a very positive weekend in which they had all made new friends and all put themselves outside their comfort zone, learning a great deal about themselves in the process.



Liedentity



By Mrs Cain
Assistant Vice Principal

Back in 2016, students across all years took part in the start of the Liedentity campaign run by Bishop Rachel Treweek, Bishop of Gloucester. We were very privileged and honoured to be asked to be involved in the finale of this campaign. Earlier this year, six students from Years 9-12 worked with others from The Cotswold School, sharing their views on the topics raised in the Liedentity campaign. All of the students were invited to the House of Lords on July to see

the launch of this campaign. They spoke with members of the House of Lords and other dignitaries. Bishop Rachel said, "Over the last couple of years I have been speaking publicly about this issue and promoting the message that who you are, is more than how you look. I launched a social media campaign #liedentity with pupils from All Saints' Academy in Cheltenham, challenging negative body image and encouraging young people to look within to discover true value and beauty. This has given me a great opportunity to speak with young people about my own identity in Christ and my desire for every person to discover their worth and potential as a unique individual created in the image of God."



By Mrs Spence
Chaplain

Once again, our annual Bishop's Awards Ceremony was held at Tewkesbury Abbey. The Bishop of Gloucester, The Rt Revd Rachel Treweek was in attendance as well as many parents and friends of the Academy. The ceremony began with a welcome from Mr McNiffe, Principal of All Saints' and the saying together of the Academy Prayer which was led by Isla, a Year 7 student. Mrs S Fox, Senior Leader of Spirituality and Ethos introduced the Awards which are achieved through the students' demonstration during the year, of our Academy values, which are based on the Gospel values of, Respect, Love, Service, Reconciliation, Justice and Peace. The Awards, a certificate and a badge were presented by Bishop Rachel as the students' names were read out in year groups by their Progress Leaders. The students proudly came forward to col-

Bishop Awards



lect their well-deserved awards. The bible passage chosen was Colossians 3:12-17 and was read by Charlie a Year 11 student. Bishop Rachel's address included congratulating the students on their achievements and speaking on the importance of what is inside of us, our character, as opposed to what our appearance shows. During the ceremony we were treated to two pieces by the choir led by Miss Harbour and accompanied by Mr Sheppee on the pi-

ano. The final prayer was composed and read by Amy a Year 9 student. A special award was then presented by Bishop Rachel to Mr McNiffe on his retirement, for his inspiring leadership and dedication to the life of the Academy during his time as Principal. Bishop Rachel then gave a special blessing for all present which concluded yet another successful Bishop's Award Ceremony.

The Art of Performing



By Shannon Cairns
Sixth Form student

On July 6th the Cotswold Hall stage lit up again, you may be interested in participating in future Performing Arts events, whether it be the Academy musical, Shakespeare Schools Festival or even just joining

the drama club when the new school year begins; Here is how the department runs and what you can do to get involved!

When a show is announced, you will be asked to audition with a small bit of script and sometimes a song, although this seems daunting there is nothing to fear, everyone is in the same boat as you and will

appreciate whatever your talent is that you bring to the department. If auditioning is not your cup of tea, and you are more interested in the design of sets or working backstage, you can also apply to be a Backstage Manager, Set Designer or a member of Backstage Crew meaning you still get to be a part of the performance without actually performing!

Performing Arts at All Saints' Academy aims to promote a sense of unity and inclusion. Anyone from Years 7-13 can perform within the department, I have been performing within the school shows for the last six years and I can whole-heartedly say that everyone can perform, and everyone is welcome.



'This year's whole academy production well and truly ROCKED as over 120 cast and crew students pulled together to present Ben Elton's 'We Will Rock You' to a completely sold out auditorium night after night.

This year was a remarkably special production for us as an academy as it was our last one under the outstanding leadership of our retiring Principal Mr McNiffe. As a testament and tribute to the outpouring of love and support that he has shown the Performing Arts, our students felt it was only right to dedicate this last one to him in his honour.'

Miss Baynham-Williams,
Director of Performing Arts

A Sporting Moment



By Mrs Minto
Head of PE

It was amazing to be back at the Prince of Wales stadium for our annual Sports Day. Four hundred students represented their teaching groups and competed in a competitive setting to show off their amazing sporting talents, this was shown by 12 Academy records being broken on the day. There was great leadership, communication skills and encouragement

from the Sports Captains, who motivated their teaching groups throughout the whole competition. Thank you to the amazing team of helpers, Sixth Form students, Year 11 students and staff to allow the day to run so smoothly.



Name	School record event	Time / Distance
Lewis	Boys 800m	2:43
Isla	Girls 100m	13.2 seconds
Elsie Mae	Shot Put	6m56
Nicky	Boys 200m	24 seconds
Nicky	Boys 800m	2:45
Alan	Boys 200m	25 seconds (Joint Record)
Charlie	Boys 800m	2:23
Scarlet	Girls 100m	13.03
Scarlet	Girls 400m	44.16
Scarlet	Girls Long Jump	3.9m
Marcus	Boys Long Jump	4.9m
Sophie	Girls High Jump	1.6m

CLASS of 2023

Year 11 Prom



Year 13 Ball



Always a Part of our Family



By Miss Baynham-Williams
Director of Performing Arts

This year, to thank our outstanding Principal for almost a decade of service, leading our Academy and the community of West Cheltenham from strength to strength, we hosted a farewell party for Mr McNiffe to show our endless gratitude.

The evening was filled

had 'One Day More', the stage curtains opened to the introductory melody from Victor Hugo's infamous musical 'Les Miserables'. The audience were shocked as one by one, alumni student after alumni student stepped through the curtains and onto the stage to perform a powerful and heartwarming rendition of 'One day more' five years on from our academy production of #ASALesMis.

It was an emotional

Portsmouth to make the special effort to get to say goodbye to Mr McNiffe.

It was a magical moment and we would like to thank Iwan White, Oliver Ray, Olivia Fewings, Jose Lumacod, Owain Newman, Harvey White, Chantae Sellers, Freddie Bradshaw, Natalie Hodzheva and Lottie Farmer for bringing such a joyous and poignant moment to life. A special thanks to our Performing Arts advocates Shannon Cairns and Charlie Simmons too.

Their opening performance received a standing ovation from guests, staff, governors and family and it was a proud day for the Performing Arts.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr McNiffe for empowering the arts and would like to wish him the best of luck in his next venture. He will always be at the beating heart of our academy and it's been a pleasure to serve under his leadership.

To our alumni students - you will always remain a vital part of our academy family and the bellowing tones your angelic harmonies from that night will echo through the academy forever. Well done on giving Mr McNiffe a far from 'Les Miserable' send off!



with moving speeches and video montages that reflected years of laughter, joy and leadership. The real surprise of the evening however was the drop in West End opening at the start. To pay homage to the fact that our wonderful Principal only

moment as returning alumni returned to light up the All Saints' stage for one final time, reflecting on their fond memories of their time at the academy. We had students from all over the UK returning travelling from Liverpool, Cardiff, London and



CyberFirst



By Mr Samrai
Head of Computer Science

One of the most exciting and sought-after programs is the Cyber Explorers & Adventurers initiative. In collaboration with industry experts from QA & CyberFirst, students delve into the world of cybersecurity, gaining hands-on experience in cyber analytical awareness, penetration testing, and manipulation of data on a larger scale. This program equips students with invaluable skills and knowledge that are highly relevant in today's digital age.

Through strategic partnerships with the local community, All Saints' Academy actively engages in various cybersecurity endeavours. The Data Face collaboration is another exciting scheme that we run yearly in partnership with the Cheltenham Festival and local schools. Having a tangible cyber incentive encourages students to analyse data and identify patterns, contributing to a deeper understanding of cybersecurity challenges and solutions and creating marvellous visual representations of data.

Cheltenham-4-Change is another inspiring enrichment activity where students get involved in real world, debatable projects to create positive impact and change in society. Emphasising the importance of social responsibility, this program nurtures empathetic leaders who are dedicated to making the world a better place. As part of the Cyberterrorism debate at Cheltenham College, our KS5, Computer Science students engaged in thought-provoking discussions on cybersecurity and its implications on all of us as digital citizens. These intellectual discussions help students critically analyse complex issues and develop informed opinions, whilst also providing them with real-world examples of legal, ethical, environment and cultural factors, that effect computer use and more importantly, vital for their wider

understanding of the OCR, A-Level Computer Science qualification.

The girls in cyber event at Gloucestershire College is another empowering initiative and yearly event, aimed at promoting gender diversity in the cybersecurity field. By encouraging more girls to pursue careers in this male-dominated industry, All Saints' Academy is breaking stereotypes and promoting equality.

The Coding Club every Thursday provides students with another exciting opportu-



nity to explore the world of coding and programming, nurturing their problem-solving and logical thinking skills. This is supported by leading experts in the industry and push students to think beyond the learning in the classroom, using trinkets, real-time data and APIs to scrape information from the internet. This initiative plays a crucial role in encouraging a passion for technology and innovation among the students.

Collaboration with our partnership schools is something that rings very true and is deeply embedded in our Academy values. It enhances the scope of these enrichment activities, allowing students to learn from and with their peers from different educational backgrounds. The focus on AI, cyber awareness, and how to be good digital citizens further reinforces the academy's commitment to nurturing responsible and ethical digital behaviour.



Success is Sweet



By Mrs Edgar
Marketing and Communications Manager

We love hearing from our alumni and seeing what their next steps have been since leaving All Saints'.

Alumna Libbie studied Health and Social Care, Creative Media, Dance and Applied Science at All Saints' Academy Sixth Form. She then graduated from the University of Northampton with a 2:1 in Primary Education BA (Hons). We caught up with Libbie to talk to us about her journey to become an entrepreneur.



Libbie says, "I started all of this in a field at a Car Boot selling on a Saturday and Sunday. I realised I really enjoyed it, loved every aspect of it and started doing bigger events like markets and food and drink festivals. I then decided I wanted to do this full-

time We opened in January 2022, it's been going very well, there are a lot of challenges with owning your own business, but I take them day by day. The support you get for owning your own business is amazing."

A Provision to be Proud of



By Mrs
Newtstead
Head of Careers

This year, we have seen a significant increase in our Careers activities, with a focus on exploring pathways, labour market information and work experience. We have expanded our provision to all year groups to ensure they are all aware of the future opportunities available to them. We work in line with the Gatsby benchmarks to fulfil each one to the highest possible specification.

Our students have experienced talks, workshops, site visits and many more exciting events. A highlight was Sir Professor Chris Whitty visiting us for a talk on careers in medicine and the NHS. Our students asked challenging and insightful questions, and Sir Chris answered with thought and care. More excellent opportunities saw some of our Year 12 students venture out for work experience at one of Deloitte's many offices and



The Gatsby benchmarks are:

- 1. A stable careers programme
- 2. Learning from career and labour market information
- 3. Addressing the needs of each pupil
- 4. Linking curriculum learning to careers
- 5. Encounters with employers and employees
- 6. Experiences of workplaces
- 7. Encounters with further and higher education
- 8. Personal guidance



an exciting insight day at Wiggin Law. We have welcomed talks from the Army and had a workshop from a Forensic Psychologist who works for HMPS (His Majesty's Prison Service). Students interested in sport have been working closely with Move More to spend time with their experienced coaches and have supported many

of their primary school events. Many of our students have had the opportunity to visit universities including Oxford, Cardiff, Bath and Gloucestershire. Students have undertaken tasks in tutor time to further develop their knowledge of the labour market. To support students with their future pathways we held a very busy Careers Fes-

tival where we invited further and higher education institutions as well as businesses, local, national and international offering apprenticeships and other roles.

We want all of our students to reach their full potential

and are proud of the Careers provision we have in place to ensure they can strive to be the very best they can. It has been a very busy and exciting year and we can't wait for the next one.

Below: Highlights of the Academy's Careers Programme

Year 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assemblies/presentation about our local labour market • UCAS Aspirations discussions
Year 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1:1 Careers advice discussions with professionals • Presentation from Armed forces
Year 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1:1 meetings about KS4 subject choices • Presentations from local Entrepreneurs and Alumni
Year 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations about apprenticeships • Presentation from Armed Forces • 1:1 Careers advice meeting • Work experience placement
Year 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1:1 advice meeting about KS5 options • Sixth Form taster experience • Sixth Form open evening
Year 12 and 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'What's your future?' Activity • Work taster event • External speakers: apprenticeships, university, employment • Personal development program • Work experience placement • UCAS application process support • Subject-linked careers opportunities

A Strong Partnership



By Mr C Wands
U19 Development
Manager
Cheltenham Town

All Saints' Academy Sixth Form works in partnership with Cheltenham Town Football Club. Students join the Sixth form as full-time students, studying 3 qualifications. Outside of their studies, players benefit from up to 10 hours of additional football a week.

The U19 Development and Education Programme is an established and professionally organised initiative that enables students to develop their footballing abilities whilst representing a professional club, alongside completing their education at a high performing Sixth Form.

Our main aim is to de-

velop students individually so they can play at their highest level possible, whilst continuing their studies and be in an environment that allows each player to be challenged and to enjoy playing football.

Due to having a direct link with the official CTFC Academy, the U19 Development team have access to a number of components such as elite training and match facilities, video analysis, constant Academy standard coaching and other tools to support in individual player development.

Our training schedule typically consists of 2-3 training sessions a week, plus a midweek fixture against other professional development teams. Following from this, the training topics and session designs run in line with the Academy coaching curriculum.

Players will also receive Individual Development Plans (IDPs) and regular feedback from coaches to ensure that each individual is supported in their footballing journey.

Our programme is a proven success which is highlighted with a number of alumni having received professional contracts.



My Big Dream



UCAS is at the heart of helping students to make choices about their future, and it's clear from their data that student confidence this year remains high.

Looking to the future with optimism is an important part of the journey, not just for this year's students receiving exam results, but also for the class of 2030.

UCAS spoke to Year 7s

from All Saints' Academy about their hopes and dreams for the future - and they shared their optimism for university, apprenticeships, and their careers. Their aspirations really highlight the importance of ensuring that UK higher education remains accessible to all students, including the next generation.



Open Evening
Tuesday 26th September
6pm



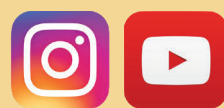
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