



**ST ANDREW'S**  
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



## **WELCOME BACK NEWSLETTER**

### **AUGUST 2024**



## **HIGHLIGHTS**

- **From The Principal**
- **Our Guiding Statements**
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**INTERNATIONAL**  
& PROUDLY **BAHAMIAN**

Diversity

Community

Lifelong Learning

Ethics

Excellence



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Students, Parents and Guardians,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you back to another highly-anticipated school year at St Andrew's! I write this fresh from welcoming many of our new families to our orientation day and this year we are delighted to meet more than fifty new students and their families. Our enrolment therefore remains steady and consistent with recent years. There are seven new members of our faculty and staff team for you to get to know and I introduce them later in this newsletter. Along with the rest of my team, they have been working hard over the last week or two to ensure everything is ready to give students the best possible start.

Our five school values, which are listed at the bottom of each page of all of our newsletters, are the guiding lights which direct our actions and decision making in school. This year we will give particular focus to the idea of 'Excellence' and you can see no better example of this than our top performers in this year's IGCSE, BGCSE and IB Diploma examinations. We are all so very proud of their success and I have listed their fantastic achievements later in this newsletter.

As a staff, there are a number of developments through which we will be pursuing excellence this year. Several key areas from our Strategic Plan have been identified as priorities to be addressed in the coming months. These include enhancing our school-wide "Parent Partnership" ethos. As well as the information sessions we'll be offering to parents, I am extending an invitation to you to get involved with the school community. It might be through the PTA, helping with fundraising or volunteering as a class parent, or perhaps you have coaching skills which would benefit our students as they compete athletically against our rival schools. If there's any way that you feel you could lend a hand and make our community stronger, please get in touch.

We will also be bringing more of a through-school approach to our work with students on Digital Literacy this year, and introducing improved support for those students who use English as an additional language. I am also delighted to see the launch of our new Functional Life Skills programme 'THRIVE' and the long-awaited reintroduction of the Governor General's Youth Award at St Andrew's.



One of the ways a school displays its excellence, not only on campus, but also in the wider community and even internationally through visits and online communication is its school uniform. I ask for the cooperation of all parents this year in ensuring students' uniforms are correct, but also smart, clean, and well-fitting. I'm sure you'll agree that our new Secondary School blazers, as modelled on the front cover by three of our prefects, are a striking addition to our uniform options. Our blazers, with the school crest, can be purchased using [this link](#) and I will be sure to continue sending on any discount codes as we receive them.

We now have new dri-fit style house and PE shirts available for purchase. Unfortunately we do not yet have dri-fit shirts available for our smallest learners, but we hope to have these in stock midway through the school year. Where we have a new dri-fit option available, cotton house and PE shirts will now be sold at a discounted price while stocks last, should you still prefer those.

These are uniform developments which our students have been requesting. In the first months of this term, we will conduct a community-wide consultation about our uniform, from PreSchool - Grade 12, to see which improvements, if any, we should make for next school year.

Parents who drop off via the back entrance will notice shipping containers beside the changing rooms and that there has been some demolition work. These are for our exciting solar project and work will be going on throughout this semester. This will not interfere with lessons or student life. A separate portable bathroom has been placed on the job site for the workers to use and this should not be used by students.

Speaking of bathrooms... the renovation work on four of our Secondary bathrooms has turned out to be a far more extensive project than we originally anticipated. Challenges associated with a 50 year old building mean that completion is still a few weeks away. To keep the site safe and secure, we have installed new doors which will be kept locked during the school day and any remaining noisy work will be carried out after school hours. I am indebted to former SAIS Board Chairman Bruce Stewart for his oversight of this project. Mr Stewart has been on campus almost every day during the break, making sure that any problems we discovered were solved and to a high standard. I hope that the first set of new bathrooms will be available to students before midterm.

I hope you find this newsletter informative and helpful and I wish you all the very best for an excellent new school year at St Andrew's.



G McKenzie  
Principal

# ST ANDREW'S GUIDING STATEMENTS

## Our Vision

Building a diverse community of lifelong learners to be a force for positive change through ethics and excellence.

## Our Mission

As the pioneering International Baccalaureate school in The Bahamas dedicated to achieving excellence in education, and in partnership with our families, our mission is to:

- Challenge our students to develop a lifelong love of learning that extends beyond the classroom
- Inspire curiosity, open-mindedness and a commitment to personal excellence
- Foster a community of confident, creative and critical learners in an inclusive, respectful and safe environment
- Nurture in our students a sound ethical foundation that will inspire positive action, service and leadership
- Develop culturally confident global citizens who are able to succeed in any context
- Build a student-centred and family-oriented community

## Our Motto

"Ethics and Excellence"

## Our Unique Identity

International and Proudly Bahamian

## Eco Mission Statement

Our mission is to inspire everyone in the St Andrew's community to make our school environmentally friendly, to working together as a team to act and promote being clean, green and pristine in The Bahamas

## St Andrew's School Expectations

Honesty in all Interactions

Respect for Others

Responsibility for our Actions

## Definition of High-Quality Learning:

St Andrew's International School is dedicated to achieving excellence in education. Teachers set the highest expectations in order to encourage a lifelong love of learning which will equip our students to succeed in any context. We define high-quality learning as that which:

- Enables students to inquire, question and think critically as they learn
- Is student-centred, planned and differentiated to provide necessary support and challenge
- Gives all students the opportunity to reflect on their individual progress, success and next steps

## SAIS definition of Internationalism/ Interculturalism:

We define our international/ intercultural approach as one which:

- Is inclusive in order to promote the value of diversity
- Is service-minded in order to develop sensitivity to inequality and the desire to be a force for positive change
- Champions and explores ethics and excellence in all that we do
- Encourages interdependence in order to inspire culturally confident global citizens
- Embeds the IB Learner Profile in planning, lessons and procedures
- Challenges stereotypes and assumptions



# MEET ALL OF OUR NEW TEACHERS!

We have six new members of the faculty this year. I know that you'll give them all a warm Bahamian and St Andrew's welcome!

Say hello to the newest members of our team and community...



## TAINO House

<b>Name</b>	<b>Mrs Burrows</b>
<b>Role</b>	Grade 2 Teacher
<b>About me</b>	I was born and raised in Nassau, and have lived here most of my life except for the time I spent at university in Florida. I recently got married to my husband Brent, who is a St Andrew's alum, and we have a cat named Cow! On weekends, we enjoy boating and beaching. I am a PADI certified freediver and I try to dive as often as I can. Exuma is my favourite place and holds a special spot in my heart for its breathtaking beauty both under and above the water. I am so excited to be a part of the St Andrew's community, and I look forward to a fantastic year of learning and discovery!



## ARAWAK House

<b>Name</b>	<b>Mrs Mallard</b>
<b>Role</b>	English Teacher English as an Additional Language (EAL) Coordinator
<b>About me</b>	I am from York, UK and have moved here with my family who are all excited to be a part of the SAIS community. I have been teaching since 2002, holding a variety of pastoral and academic roles. Since 2007 I taught at a large independent boarding school in York where I held a senior leadership position of Head of Sixth Form. I am really looking forward to taking on my new position at SAIS as EAL Coordinator & teacher of English. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here already in The Bahamas; my favourite thing so far has definitely been the warm and friendly welcome we have received from everyone!



## LUCAYAN House

Name	Dr Johnson-Nixon
Role	Learning Support Teacher
About me	<p>My name is Althea Johnson-Nixon, and I grew up with a passion for education, exploring new cultures, which fostered my deep appreciation for travel and adventure. Although I'm Jamaican, one of my favorite places is The Bahamas, where my mother lived. It offers the perfect combination of relaxation and excitement. Whenever I visit, I love spending time on the pristine beaches, soaking in the crystal-clear waters. I wish I could snorkel in the vibrant coral reefs, but can't swim. I began my college education in The Bahamas, earning a BA in Primary Education, and later completed my doctoral degree in Education. With over 10 years of teaching experience, I'm passionate about working with children. My motto is 'Every child can be reached'. I love singing and having fun with students in classrooms as I allow them to be themselves.</p> <p>The beauty of the islands, along with the warmth of the local culture, makes The Bahamas my ideal destination for unwinding and connecting with nature.</p>



## Carib House

Name	Mrs Lewis
Role	Learning Support Teacher
About me	<p>After beginning my teaching career in Ohio then moving to Seattle where I taught for almost six years, I decided to return home. I have taught every age from 2.5 year olds through six year olds in a Montessori preschool setting; to students in Elementary whose first Language was not English; to Middle School in a Learning Support role; to co-teaching Language Arts in grades seven through nine; to Case Managing Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) all the way through 12th grade.</p> <p>I am excited now to be back home and integrated into this great Hurricane Community in a Learning Support role and as an advisor for grades 6th-8th. My favourite thing about being back home is being able to offer my unique perspective, feeling a great sense of belonging through community, and definitely the food!</p>





## Carib House

Name	Mr Mallard
Role	Science Teacher
About me	My name is Edd Mallard and I have moved to the beautiful island of New Providence with my wife, Ella, and our three boys. I have already experienced the warm welcome everybody at St Andrew's has extended, going hand in hand with the warmth of the stunning blue sea. We have already loved exploring the beaches and Jaws Beach is a favourite so far. I have been teaching for nearly twenty years (most recently as Head of Biology at St Peter's in York, UK) and relish the exuberance that young people bring to our doors everyday . In my spare time I love going to the gym , something that focuses the body and mind.



## TAINO House

Name	Miss Carswell
Role	PE Teacher and GGYA Coordinator
About me	This is my first year living in the Bahamas and before coming to St Andrew's I was teaching for 16 years in London, UK. I am very much looking forward to getting to know all of the students here and settling into life as part of the St Andrew's community. I love most sports, especially soccer and my favourite thing about the Bahamas so far is how wonderful and friendly everyone is.

# NEW ROLES FOR 2024/25:

Building on the efforts we have made in recent years to celebrate our alumni and thank our supporters, we have now established a department to focus solely on this work. Who better to lead this work than a proud St Andrew’s alumna and parent:



CARIB House	
Name	Mrs Keisha Ingraham
Role	Alumni & Development Officer
About me	I was born and raised here in Nassau and I have been a member of the St. Andrew’s community for many years as a student, parent and alumni; this year will be my first as an employee. I obtained my BS in Communication from Boston University and have been working in communication, development and marketing for more than 15 years. I look forward to meeting new members of this St. Andrew’s community and catching up with old friends. In my spare time I write and paint. I love to cook and I love to listen to live music and my favourite food is conch.

## FAMILIAR FACES WITH NEW ROLES:



**Congratulations!**

**Head of Carib House: Kayleigh Sturrup**



**Congratulations!**

**Functional Life Skills Coordinator: Keva Bain**



# BACK TO SCHOOL REMINDERS

Full details on procedures for each school are shared with parents. Here are a few of the key points:

## School Shop Hours

The school shop will be open from 8am - 9am and 2.30pm -3.30pm each day.

## Swimming

You'll be happy to know that swimming will begin on Monday 2nd September. A plain navy blue swimsuit is required. Full details in each school's uniform guidelines.

## Primary Reminders:

Click for [Back to School Information for Infants.](#)

Click for [Back to School Information for Juniors.](#)

Click for [Primary Supply List.](#)

Click for [Mrs Azikiwe's Welcome to School Letter](#)

School will officially start for students on Tuesday, August 27th. The school day for Infant students starts at 8:30 am and ends at 3:00 pm. The school day for Junior Students starts at 8:20 am and finishes at 3:00 pm.

There will be a split entry start for students in Preschool, PK1 and PK2

All students in Preschool, PreKindergarten 1 and PreKindergarten 2 with last names starting with A-L will report to school on Tuesday, August 27. (These students will stay at home on Wednesday, August 28.)

All students in Preschool, PreKindergarten 1 and PreKindergarten 2 with last names starting with M to Z will report to school on Wednesday, August 28. (These students will stay at home on Tuesday, August 27.)

All Early Learning Center students will then return to school on a normal schedule on Thursday, August 29.

Swimming Lessons begin the Week of September 2nd.

# BACK TO SCHOOL REMINDERS

Full details on procedures for each school are shared with parents. Here are a few of the key points:

## Secondary Reminders:

### Uniform

Students are expected to wear full school uniform everyday (House uniform on the last Friday of every month).

On PE days, all students must come dressed in regular uniform and bring their PE kits to change into at the beginning of the lesson.

Here are the [Secondary uniform guidelines](#) and the [Secondary supply list](#).

All students returning for the new academic year will begin school on Tuesday 27th August. School begins at 8:15am and ends at 3:10pm. All students should be in proper, full uniform.

Secondary students should assemble in the cafeteria area at the beginning of day to enter the hall for assembly. They will enter in advisory groups. Learning advisory teachers will have signs with their names so that new students are able to identify them. Teachers will also have advisory lists to help those students, who may not yet know who is their learning advisor.

### Devices

Cell phones, smartwatches and hand-held electronic devices other than laptops (such as portable game systems, ereaders etc.) must not be used or in sight between 8.15am and 3:10 pm unless permission is granted by a teacher. If any of these items are seen during the school day it will be confiscated and a parent will have to collect it from the office. Such devices will not be available for collection until the following day. Additionally, students may not wear earphones or earpods/airpods between 8.15am and 3.10pm except with the permission of a teacher.

### Student Drop Off

Students dropped off before 8:00 am must remain at the picnic tables at the back drop off point until 8:00 am.

Secondary students should be dropped off at the roundabout at the back of the library. If students have their learning advisory in the drama room, they may be dropped off and picked up in the parking lot near the drama room.

Parents coming through the front gate should not drive up the incline to the second level to drop off secondary students. Students may proceed directly to their advisory room after 8:00 am, but should not enter advisory rooms if the teacher is not there.



# BACK TO SCHOOL REMINDERS

Full details on procedures for each school are shared with parents. Here are a few of the key points:

## Secondary Reminders Continued:

### Student Pick Up

School is dismissed at 3:10 pm and secondary students should be picked up via the back gate if they do not have siblings in Primary.

### Late Arrival

Secondary students arriving late should report to the nurse before going to class so that they may be marked present for the school day.

### PE

This year the Health and Well-being course has been joined with Physical Education for grades 6 through 8 students. The Health component of the course will be taught in the forty minute block of time on their timetables.

PE classes begin this week. On Tuesday 27th August, grades 7 and 9 students should bring their PE kits. The forty minute PE lesson scheduled for grade 8 is the health and well-being section of the course ,therefore they are not required to change into PE uniforms.

Swimming for all secondary students begins the week of 2nd September.

### Student Drivers

Student drivers need to present this completed form, a copy of their driver's licence and the insurance certificate of the vehicle they will be driving to school, with them on the first day of their return to campus.

Please note that the student's name must be on the vehicle's insurance certificate as one of the insured designated drivers. All documents must be given to Mrs Bowen, the IB Coordinator or Mrs Adderley in the Secondary Office.

### Attendance

Students are expected to attend all lessons, on time and in proper uniform.

The attendance excusal feature in ManageBac lets us know that you are aware of your child's absence and helps us better monitor his or her progress in lessons. Any notification of a child's absence or late arrival to lessons, whether via ManageBac or email, should be sent to Advisors or the relevant subject teacher(s) by parents and not students.

Please be aware that submission of the attendance excusal is not an indication that your child will be marked present in his or her absence.

9 = A++

8 = A+

7 = A

6 = B+

# IGCSE AND BGCSE TOP PERFORMERS 2024

Well done to all of last year's Grade 10 students on thier fantastic results!



## Giada Bertoldo

IGCSE English Language	9 (A++)	IGCSE Mathematics	9 (A++)
IGCSE English Literature	9 (A++)	IGCSE Physics	9 (A++)
IGSCE French	9 (A++)	IGSCE Chemistry	8 (A+)
IGCSE History	9 (A++)	BGCSE Music	A



## Georgia Saddleton

IGCSE Biology	9 (A++)	IGCSE Geography	9 (A++)
IGCSE Chemistry	9 (A++)	IGCSE Mathematics	8 (A+)
IGCSE English Language	9 (A++)	IGSCE Spanish	8 (A+)
IGCSE English Literature	9 (A++)	BGCSE Art & Design	A



## Ariana Watson

IGCSE Physics	9 (A++)	IGCSE Spanish	8 (A+)
IGCSE Chemistry	8 (A+)	IGCSE Business	7 (A)
IGCSE English Language	8 (A+)	IGSCE English Literature	7 (A)
IGCSE Mathematics	8 (A+)	BGCSE Music	A



## Natessa Heastie

IGCSE History	9 (A++)	IGCSE Chemistry	7 (A)
IGCSE English Language	8 (A+)	IGCSE Mathematics	7 (A)
IGCSE English Literature	8 (A+)	BGCSE Music	A
IGCSE Mathematics	8 (A+)	IGCSE Spanish	7 (A)





## Elle Theberge

IGCSE Chemistry	8 (A+)	IGCSE French	7 (A)
IGCSE Biology	7 (A)	IGCSE Geography	7 (A)
IGCSE English Language	7 (A)	IGCSE Mathematics	7 (A)
IGCSE English Literature	7 (A)	BGCSE Music	A



## Dexter Jones

IGCSE English Language	9 (A++)	IGCSE Business	7 (A)
IGCSE English Literature	8 (A+)	IGCSE Chemistry	6 (B+)
IGCSE Mathematics	8 (A+)	IGCSE PE	TBC*
IGCSE Physics	8 (A+)		



## Jaxon Bethel

IGCSE English Literature	8 (A+)	IGCSE Chemistry	7 (A)
IGCSE Mathematics	8 (A+)	IGCSE English Language	6 (B+)
IGCSE Physics	8 (A+)	IGCSE French	7 (B+)
IGCSE Business	7 (A)	IGCSE PE	TBC*



## Antonio Lam

IGCSE Mathematics	8 (A+)	IGCSE English Literature	7 (A)
IGCSE Physics	8 (A+)	IGCSE Business	6 (B+)
IGCSE Chemistry	7 (A)	IGCSE Spanish	6 (B+)
IGCSE English Language	7 (A)	IGCSE PE	TBC*



## Toby Cartwright

IGCSE English Language	7 (A)	IGCSE Mathematics	6 (B+)
IGCSE History	7 (A)	IGCSE Physics	6 (B+)
IGCSE Spanish	7 (A)	IGCSE Chemistry	5 (B)
IGCSE English Literature	6 (B+)	IGCSE Drama	*TBC

\* IGCSE PE and DRAMA results (Cambridge) have not yet been released

# IB DIPLOMA RESULTS 2023/24

Well done to all of our International Baccalaureate Diploma students this year!



## Vivan Nagrath: The Best in 19 Years!

In this year's International Baccalaureate Diploma examinations, Grade 12 student and former St Andrew's Head Boy and Valedictorian Vivan Nagrath attained a score of 43 points from a possible maximum of 45. This puts him in the top 5% of IB students worldwide and is the highest points total achieved at St Andrew's since 2005 when Alanna Rogers was awarded the same total in the school's first year of IB Diploma presentation.

We are all so very proud of the hard work and dedication that Vivan has demonstrated throughout his studies. He will now study Engineering at Purdue University in Indiana. Vivan was offered over \$300,000 in four year scholarships and was also accepted to numerous selective universities including University of Toronto, University of Virginia and University of Florida. Well done Vivan!



Vivan is settling in nicely at Purdue, where he already has a familiar role model.

Mr Traven Cargill, former St Andrew's Science teacher, is pursuing a Doctorate there and has been keeping an eye on his former student!

# IB DIPLOMA RESULTS 2023/24

Well done to all of our International Baccalaureate Diploma students this year!



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR TOP SCORERS!

Student	Total Points
Vivan Nagrath	43
Shanon Wilson	36
Kirsten Burrows	34
Mathias Butler	33
Ray Brown	32
Monica Pelluz	31
Addison Dorsett	31









# WELCOME BACK!

Counselor's Corner 2024-2025

Miss Pippa Sands



## CHEERS TO A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

As we embrace our pillar of "Excellence" this school year, I'm eager to continue working with all my K-12 students to create an environment where they can thrive. School counselors play an instrumental role in helping students develop essential skills for academic and personal success. According to the American School Counselor Association, students who receive counseling support show higher academic achievement and improved behavior (ASCA, 2021).

We will continue to support our students academically, socially, and emotionally here at St Andrew's as we uphold and promote excellence within our students.

## 2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS

Social Emotional Lessons (SEL) Weekly:

- Topics included Making Friends, Playing With Others, Managing Emotions, Being an Upstander, Growth Mindset, The Power of Yet, Empathy, Grit, Having Boundaries, Bullying, Respect, SMART Goals, Coping Skills, Dealing with Stress, Reframing Your Thoughts etc.

60+ Individual Counseling Sessions

5+ Group Sessions

Several Parent Visits ( I love meeting you all! Come and say Hello)



## HOW TO CONNECT


I'm always available to assist with any concerns you may have.

- [pippa.sands@st-andrews.com](mailto:pippa.sands@st-andrews.com)
- 242-677-7815
- Feel free to scan the link to book an appointment with me.



SCAN ME

# HOW WE SHARE INFORMATION WITH PARENTS



Of course we're only ever a phone call or email away, but we prefer to see you and chat in person. Please make an appointment if you'd like to talk to a member of staff: all contact details are on our website. As a proud Green Flag school, we try to avoid using paper to communicate where possible and instead make use of the following:

## Website

Our website is mostly for visitors, but you will find useful info there such as staff pictures and contact details, as well as access to our Parent Information Portals:

## Parent Portals

The portals for both Primary and Secondary can be accessed via the 'Our Community' tab on our website, but I've added a link via each picture below. The portals are packed full of essential information on our procedures, curriculums and policies. If there's something you'd like us to add, let us know. These will be constantly updated with new information.

### Primary Portal:



### Secondary Portal:



## Managebac

As a St Andrew's parent you really must ensure you're signed up to Managebac. Our online learning management system is used more widely the older a student grows. In Primary grades, teachers share curriculum information, helpful learning or inquiry links, the PYP Focus newsletter, class updates, schedule changes, homework, specialist information, and photographs. In the Secondary school each Advisory Group has its own page and subject pages feature course information and gradebooks with real-time reporting for students and parents. Managebac will also host our full suite of policy documents. Contact Mr Strachan if you're having trouble signing up.

## Hurricane Forecast

Our weekly update bulletin for parents is sent each weekend.

## Phone calls

If we call, we're hoping for a conversation, but we understand you may be working or busy when the phone rings. If it's not a convenient time, please let us know and we'll arrange another time to talk.

## Email

We will use email to communicate on individual issues, confirm the details or follow-up to a discussion or perhaps to let a whole grade level or indeed all parents know about something important. Please ensure the email contact details we have for you are up to date so that you don't miss anything. We aim to respond to all emails within 48 hours and usually do so sooner.

## Facebook

We realise not everyone uses Facebook, so we avoid using this medium for sharing key information. We mostly use this medium to celebrate student and staff successes, share images and stories of school life and perhaps reinforce messages that have been emailed to all parents. Information of interest to alums goes here.

## Instagram

Our school Instagram account is there to give a visual representation of life at St Andrew's. Follow us at @standrews\_school

## Newsletters

Newsletters and letters feature news from key areas of the school. A chance to hear from various school leaders and read about in-school developments.

## Face to Face Events

We prefer the chance to discuss school issues and individual student progress rather than simply broadcast information to you.