

# Newsletter

## Greek School of Ayia Triada Birmingham

Strive, Learn, Grow in our Community



# March

### Message from our teachers



Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians,

Welcome to our March Newsletter. This month has been full of activities and full of work.

We had the great opportunity to participate in the annual celebration of Common Wealth in Westminster Abbey. It was a remarkable experience for the students and teachers who attended, offering them a unique opportunity to witness and engage with the rich cultural diversity of the Commonwealth community.

Additionally, we honoured the mothers of our school by organising an afternoon tea party at Belfry Hotel in Sutton Coldfield. It is worth mentioning that part of the earnings were donated to Birmingham's Children Hospital for the Children Brain Surgery.

We also celebrated 'Clean Monday' at school as the beginning of the Christian Orthodox Fasting. Through various activities, we embraced the cultural and religious significance of this occasion.

Last but not least, we celebrated two significant events: the 25th of March, 1821 - Greek Independence Day, and the 1st of April - the memorial for Pallikarides G. and Afxendiou G.

On behalf of the Greek school of Holy Trinity and Saint Luke

Warm regards,  
Evangelia Bakola



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WHAT'S ON



## ΤΟ ΠΟΙΗΜΑ ΤΟΥ ΜΗΝΑ

Φούντωσε η Άνοιξη και δω δε  
κάθε δέντρου κλώνο.

Τα πάρκα λουλουδίβανε και κείνα  
Μα δε μου λέει η χιορτερή χαρά  
τους, παρά μόνο  
πως λείπω μακριά 'πο βέν' Αθήνα.

Κώστας Καρυωτάκης  
'Άνοιξη, 1927



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- CATHOLIC EASTER: 29/3 - 12/4
- GREEK ORTHODOX EASTER: 3/5 - 6/5
- MAY DAY FESTIVAL: 6/5

## EXAM DATES

### ELLINOMATHEIA EXAMS LEVELS

- A1-C2: 14/5, 15/5, 16/5

### A LEVEL

- PAPER 1: 20/5
- PAPER 2: 3/6
- PAPER 3: 11/6

### GCSE

- UNIT 1 & 3: 10/6
- UNIT 4: 17/7



# STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

## NURS. & REC.

Eleni Z.  
Seraphim K.

## YEAR 1

Anastasia A.  
Iliana H.  
Antonia C.  
Thaleia N.  
Christina Dem.

## YEAR 1 ADV. & 2

Margarita K.  
Anthi Maria K.  
Theodoros N.  
Thea G.

## YEAR 3 & ADV.

Alexandros S.  
Pavlos Z.  
Rafaella S.  
Zoe K.  
Theodore G.  
Christos K.

## YEAR 4/5

Alexandros Ch.  
Heraclia P.  
Anna Maria K.

## YEAR 6 & GCSE

Anastasis D.  
\* ✨ Nicolas N.  
Kiki P.  
Christos S.  
Eleni K.

## A LEVELS & ELLINOMATHEIA

Nestoras P. ✨  
Christina D.  
Alexandros M.



well done!





# SCHOOL ACTIVITIES



# Mother's Day Afternoon Tea

March

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On Saturday, March 9th, an afternoon tea party was organized in honour of all the mothers of our school at the famous 'The Belfry Hotel and Resort' in Sutton Coldfield. Additionally, the event had a charitable aspect, and within this framework, funds were raised for the Birmingham Children's Hospital, amounting to £200. Specifically, this amount was allocated for children's brain surgery.





# Annual Memorial

**Grigoris Afxentiou &  
Evagoras Pallikarides**

This month we celebrated the memorial of Grigoris Afxentiou and Evagoras Pallikarides. Both heroes who died for the freedom of their country. Grigoris Afxentiou was second in command of EOKA and led many campaigns against the British colonial government. He ultimately sacrificed himself for the freedom of his country, famously saying 'Μόλων Λαβέ' 'Come and get me' when surrounded and asked to surrender. Evagoras Pallikarides was a revolutionary who was also a member of EOKA between 1955-59. His bravery and thirst for freedom led him away from school and eventually led to his death. He was the youngest person to be hanged, but also the last. He is remembered for saying 'I know you will sentence me to death but whatever I did, I did as a Greek Cypriot who wants his liberty.' We remember the brave soldiers with sadness but most of all we remember them with great pride.





...Εμείς πουρνό μεσάνυχτα θάψαν τον Ευαγόρα.  
 Σήμερα Σάββατο ταχιά όλη η ζωή σαν πρώτα.  
 Ετούτος πάει στο μαγαζί, εκείνος πάει στον κάμπο,  
 ψηλώνει ο χρίστης εκκλησιά, πανί απλώνει ο ναύτης,  
 και στο σκολειόν ο μαθητής συλλογισμένος πάει.

Χτυπά κουδούνι, μπαίνουνε στην τάξη του ο καθένας.  
 Μπαίνει κι η πρώτη η άταχτη κι η Τρίτη που διαβάζει,  
 μπαίνει κι η Πέμπτη αμίλητη, η τάξη του Ευαγόρα. –  
 Παρόντες όλοι; –  
 Κύριε, ο Ευαγόρας λείπει. –  
 Παρόντες, λέει ο δάσκαλος· και με φωνή που τρέμει: –

Σήκω Ευαγόρα, να μας πεις ελληνική ιστορία.  
 Ο δίπλα, ο πίσω, ο μπροστά, βουβόι και δακρυσμένοι,  
 αναρτωνούνται στην αρχή, ώσπου η σιωπή τους κάμνει  
 να πέσουν μ' αναφιλητά ετούτοι κι όλη η τάξη. –

Παλληκαρίδη, άριστα, Βαγόρα, πάντα πρώτος,  
 στους πρώτους πρώτους, άγγελε πατρίδας δοξασμένης,  
 συ μέχρι χθες της μάνας σου ελπίδα κι αποκούμπι,  
 και του σχολειού μας σήμερα Δευτέρα Παρουσία.

Τα 'πε κι απλώθηκε σιωπή πα' σα κλαμένα νιάτα,  
 που μπρούμυτα γειμίζανε της τάξης τα θρανία,  
 έξω απ' εκείνο τ' αδειανό, παντοτινά γεμάτο».



March

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# Westminster Abbey

## Annual Celebration for Commonwealth

The Commonwealth Day  
Service of Celebration



COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY



For another year, the Greek school of Agia Triada in Birmingham had the honour of receiving an invitation to attend the annual celebration event for the Member States of the Commonwealth, which took place on Monday, March 11th, at Westminster Abbey in London.

At this year's event, marking 75 years since the establishment of the organization of Commonwealth Day, the headteacher of Agia Triada Greek school, Dr. Stella Tryfonos, accompanied by two teachers, Ms. Evi Platsi and Ms. Evangelia Souza, and seven distinguished students from our school: Maria Sophia Apostolaki, Angeliki Neophytou, Georgios Daniels, Alexandros Agapakis, Yiannis Christofi, Antonis Diakos, and Elina Kalispera.

It is a great honor for our school to once again enjoy the utmost joy of representing Cyprus as a school of diaspora in such a special ceremony attended by prominent figures, including Her Majesty Queen Camilla, the Prince of Wales, William, and other members of the British royal family, Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, with his wife Sophie, Countess of Wessex, and Princess Anne.

The involvement of Agia Triada school, and particularly Dr. Tryfonos, in Commonwealth programs concerning youth, remains one of our main objectives every new school year, aiming for our students to understand the value of the Commonwealth as a multicultural organization encompassing peoples with different cultures, including Cyprus.



παιδεία news

www.paideia-news.com



Το ελληνικό σχολείο της Αγίας Τριάδας του Μείζονος, στην επίσημη εκδήλωση στην

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# Westminster Abbey Annual Celebration for Commonwealth



## 2024 Student Participants

Anthony Diakos

Elina Kalisperas

Maria Sofia Apostolaki

Alex Agapakis

Yiannis Christophi

George Danniels

Angeliki Neofytou

### ΠΑΡΟΙΚΙΑ

#### Το ΕΠΣ της Αγίας Τριάδας του Μπέρμιγχαμ συμμετέχει στο Commonwealth Day

Επί της γενιάς που γεννήθηκε, οι αλλαγές στην Αγγλία, για την τιμή της ΜΜΕ, παραμένουν αυτές οι παραδοσιακές εθιμικές εκδηλώσεις που το Royal Commonwealth Day είναι η καλύτερη ευκαιρία για να δείξουμε τον Διεθνή Ημερήσιο στο Ηνωμένο Βασίλειο και στην Ελλάδα.

Επί της γενιάς γεννήθηκε, στην πιο συμπεριλαμβανόμενη 75 χρόνια από τη δημιουργία της κοινότητας της Αγίας Τριάδας, που αποτελείται από τους μαθητές της Αγίας Τριάδας, του Στάιελ Τρυφωτικής, του Κολλεγίου της Αγίας Βαρβάρας και του Αγίου Πλάτωνος και του Αγίου Γεωργίου. Ο στόχος είναι να οργανωθεί μια εκδήλωση που θα είναι διαφορετική από τις προηγούμενες, με τη βοήθεια της κοινότητας της Αγίας Τριάδας, του Στάιελ Τρυφωτικής, του Κολλεγίου της Αγίας Βαρβάρας και του Αγίου Πλάτωνος.

Από την αρχή της γενιάς, οι αλλαγές στην Αγγλία, για την τιμή της ΜΜΕ, παραμένουν αυτές οι παραδοσιακές εθιμικές εκδηλώσεις που το Royal Commonwealth Day είναι η καλύτερη ευκαιρία για να δείξουμε τον Διεθνή Ημερήσιο στο Ηνωμένο Βασίλειο και στην Ελλάδα. Ο στόχος είναι να οργανωθεί μια εκδήλωση που θα είναι διαφορετική από τις προηγούμενες, με τη βοήθεια της κοινότητας της Αγίας Τριάδας, του Στάιελ Τρυφωτικής, του Κολλεγίου της Αγίας Βαρβάρας και του Αγίου Πλάτωνος.



# Ζήτω η 25<sup>η</sup> Μαρτίου 1821



On Saturday, March 16th, we had our annual celebration for the Greek Independence Day which is celebrated across Greece, Cyprus and the Greek diaspora centres on 25th of March.

All our classes, from nursery/reception to GCSE, performed and the children did an amazing job honouring our nation's history. The children read poems praising the heroes of the Greek Revolution and the importance of freedom.

Our pupils danced traditional Greek dances and at the end of the celebration sang Greek songs and of course, the Greek National Anthem.

Alongside this double celebration of the 25th of March, our school honoured the Ethniki Organosi Kypriou Agoniston (EOKA), which was founded on April 1st 1955. EOKA aimed to fight for Cyprus' independence against the British colonies and its union with Greece. On April 1, Cyprus commemorates the start of the insurgence against the British in 1955.



Ζήτω οι Έλληνες  
του 1821!

ΧΡΟΝΙΑ ΠΟΛΛΑ  
ΕΛΛΑΔΑ!  
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# Καθαρά Δευτέρα - Clean Monday

On Monday 18th our school organised a nice event to celebrate 'Clean Monday' which marks the beginning of the lent. Teachers and students ate 'νηστίσιμα-fasting' food and danced traditional Greek dances.

March

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Καθαρά Δευτέρα -  
Clean Monday





# Our Spelling Bee Winners!



As part of our Year 3 termly motivational activities, we had on Saturday 23rd March, 2024, our second term Spelling Bee Challenge! During the first term we had the spelling Bee challenge on Saturday, 13th January 2024 and during the first challenge Y3 student had to say and write numbers to 100 hundred. During this recent second one they had to find and spell words relating to spring and time!

We are thrilled to announce the winners of our recent Spelling Bee Challenges! Congratulations to all the children who have taken part! We are honestly proud of all the children of Year 3 for their efforts. They truly tried hard and the outcomes of all children were outstanding!



second term

Spelling Bee

**CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT**  
This certificate is presented to

**ZACHARIAS WESTWOOD**

for the outstanding participation in the Spelling Bee competition held in March 23rd, 2024

26/33 score

*Dr Stella Tryfonos*  
Dr Stella Tryfonos  
Headteacher

second term

Spelling Bee

**CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT**  
This certificate is presented to

**MELANIA SYMEONIDOU**

for the outstanding participation in the Spelling Bee competition held in March 23rd, 2024

25/33 score

*Dr Stella Tryfonos*  
Dr Stella Tryfonos  
Headteacher

first term

Spelling Bee

**CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT**  
This certificate is presented to

**ANGELOS GJEKAS**

for the outstanding participation in the Spelling Bee competition held in January, 12th 2024

67/100 score

*Dr Stella Tryfonos*  
Dr Stella Tryfonos  
Headteacher

first term

Spelling Bee

**CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT**  
This certificate is presented to

**STEFANOS PSYCHOGIOS**

for the outstanding participation in the Spelling Bee competition held in January, 12th 2024

87/100 score

*Dr Stella Tryfonos*  
Dr Stella Tryfonos  
Headteacher

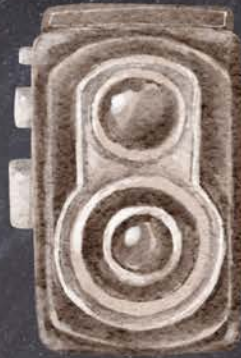




# OUR SCHOOL LIFE



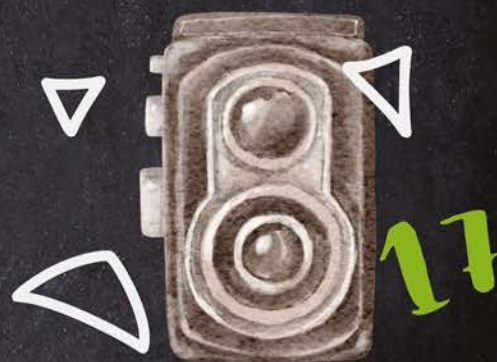
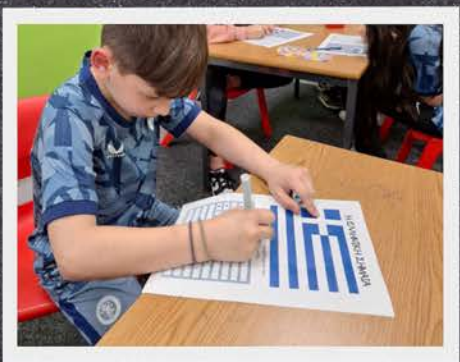


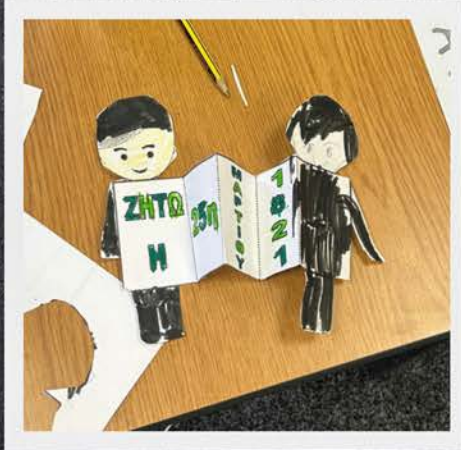


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# Dance Groups

This year our school has been running dance classes led by our Dance Teachers Mrs Sotiria Karafillides and Mr Dimitris Themistokleous.

Dance classes are on Monday 19:30-20:30 for our students, Tuesdays from 18:30-19:00 for the children and then 19:00-20:00 for adults, and on Saturday we also run two groups: one for the school children from 14:00-15:00 (which is for two different age groups) and then from 15:00-16:00 for adults dance group.

It's amazing to see that this year our dance classes are flourishing and both children and adults are enjoying them.

Anyone interested in dance classes can contact our school directly or the class teachers. We are always happy to welcome new students






# HISTORY & CULTURE




# Greek Independence Day


## 25th March



The Greek Revolution of 1821 was a big moment in Greek history when the Greek people fought to break free from the rule of the Ottoman Empire, which had controlled them for centuries. This wasn't just about fighting - it was also about Greeks coming together to reclaim their language, culture, and identity. It showed that when people unite for a common cause, they can overcome even the toughest challenges.




The Filiki Eteria, also known as the Society of Friends, was a secret organization founded in 1814 with the aim of liberating Greece from Ottoman rule. It played a significant role in laying the groundwork for the Greek Revolution of 1821. The Filiki Eteria was founded by three Greek merchants: Nikolaos Skoufas, Emmanuel Xanthos, and Athanasios Tsakalof.



The heroes and heroines of the Greek War of Independence are immortalized not only for their valour on the battlefield but also for their unwavering commitment to the ideals of freedom and justice.

Among them stand iconic figures such as Alexandros Ypsilantis, Andreas Miaoulis, Manto Mavroyenous and Theodoros Kolokotronis, whose strategic brilliance and fearless leadership inspired countless others to join the fight for independence. Laskarina Bou Boulina, a legendary naval commander, symbolizes the indomitable spirit of the Greek people, leading her fleet against the Ottoman forces with unmatched courage and determination. Athanasios Diakos, revered as a martyr of the revolution, embodies the selflessness and sacrifice of those who laid down their lives in the pursuit of liberty.



# Ο ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΣΜΟΣ ΤΗΣ ΘΕΟΤΟΚΟΥ

25 MARCH

ΑΠΟΛΥΤΙΚΙΟΝ

Ὁ μέγας Στρατηγός, τῶν ἀύλων ταγμάτων, εἰς πόλιν Ναζαρέτ,  
ἐπιστὰς Βασιλέα, μνηύει σοι Ἄχραντε, τῶν αἰώνων καὶ Κύριον·  
Χαῖρε, λέγων σοι, Εὐλογημένη Μαρία, ἀκατάληπτον, καὶ  
ἀνερμήνευτον θαῦμα, βροτῶν ἢ ἀνάκλησις.

Τῇ ὑπερμάχῳ στρατηγῷ τὰ  
νικητήρια, ὡς λυτρωθεῖσα τῶν  
δεινῶν εὐχαριστήρια, ἀναγράψω  
σοι ἡ Πόλις σου Θεοτόκε. Ἄλλ' ὡς  
ἔχουσα τό κράτος ἀπροσμάχητον,  
ἐκ παντοίων με κινδύνων  
ἐλευθέρωσον, ἵνα κράζω σοι·  
Χαῖρε νύμφη ἀνύμφευτε.

«Χαῖρε κεχαριτωμένη, ὁ κύριος μετά σου».

«Μη φοβοῦ Μαριάμ, εὖρες γαρ χάριν  
παρά τῷ Θεῷ. Καὶ ἰδοὺ συλλήψῃ ἐν γαστρὶ  
καὶ τέξῃ υἱόν καὶ καλέσεις τὸ ὄνομα  
αυτοῦ Ἰησοῦν».

“Evangelismos tis Theotokou”, is a special celebration in the  
Orthodox Christian tradition. It commemorates the moment  
when the angel Gabriel appeared to the Virgin Mary to  
announce that she would conceive and give birth to Jesus,  
the Son of God.

This joyful event is celebrated on March 25th each year and  
serves as a reminder of the importance of faith, obedience,  
and humility, as demonstrated by the Virgin Mary. Her  
willingness to accept God's plan with trust and devotion is  
celebrated as an example for all believers to follow.

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Greek School of Ayia Triada  
Birmingham is proudly a Rights Respecting School.

After eight long months of hard work across school we are finally pleased to announce that our school has achieved the Bronze Award from UNICEF as a Rights Respecting School. Now our school is working towards the SILVER AWARD which the plan is to achieve by next March 2025. This means from now till then a considerable amount of work alongside language will be in raising awareness across school towards children's rights and respect and about the embracing difference and caring and respecting ethos. We are hoping that this process will bring new opportunities in our school and develop a deeper understanding on the rights of children



#### Articles 37-40:

Kids should never be treated badly or put in danger, like going to war or being in jail with adults.

If kids are in trouble, they should be treated nicely, with respect, have a lawyer and helped to be part of the society again.

Governments need to make sure that kids stay safe during tough times and that they get the help they need to be healthy and happy.

Kids who have been hurt, treated badly, or affected by war should get special help to feel better. They deserve to be healthy, respected, and have friends.



# WE LOVE EUROPE

By our Tuesday Tamworth Students: Yiannis Christophi, George Danniels, Kiki Panayi, Zacharias Glover



## Bringing Europe into our school



Across an expansive island archipelago, traditional whitewashed villages, azure seas and waterfront tavernas enchant visitors. Greece's mountainous mainland, rich in UNESCO World Heritage. Wherever you walk in Greece's storied capital, the ancients have walked before – whether you see the evidence or not. From the Acropolis (whose jewel in the crown is the fifth-century BCE Parthenon) to the underground metro (where some stations feature archaic finds), Athens is teeming with historical sites, monuments and museums. Easy to tackle on foot, Athens is also one of Europe's liveliest metropolises – and strolls through neighbourhoods like old-town Plaka, the famous Monastiraki and hip Pangrati are highlights.

A few facts about GREECE:

- Greece: 131,957 km<sup>2</sup>
- Population: 10 413 392 -2023 census
- Capital City: Athens
- Currency: Euro since 2001
- Join EU: 1981
- Famous for: Food, Islands, Music and Dance
- Greek People are: Generous, outgoing, very welcoming, friendly

**25th March 1821**  
**203 Years from the Greek Revolution which led to the first form of Government of the Greek Democracy of the modern history of Greece**

THE COLOURS OF THE FLAG ARE BLUE AND WHITE



The Greek Flag has blue and white colours and nine blue and white stripes. These stripes represent the syllables of the phrase: Eleutheria i Thanatos- which means Freedom or Death- which dates back to the Greek Revolution



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