



Greek School of Coventry



ANNUAL REPORT

2015-2016

By
Eleni Tsilipira

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Message from the Chairman of the Geek School of Coventry

We welcome you to share with us the 2015/16 Annual Report of the Greek School of Coventry. Our aim is to inform the friends and members of the Greek Community, but also the wider community of the aspirations and achievements of our school and to establish a vehicle to regularly map and record the achievements and milestones of our community.



I have been fortunate enough to preside over the School Management Committee since 1994 when the new school premises were built and have worked with many enthusiastic head teachers, teachers and committee members. We have been blessed to be situated in a very attractive part of rural Coventry, very close to Warwick University, from where we have drawn most of our qualified Greek teachers. This has made the task of ensuring a consistent supply of high caliber teachers much easier.

The success of any school is very much dependent not only on the head teacher, school staff and pupils but also on the active support of parents and friends of the school and we thank them greatly for this. We must of course pay tribute to the authorities that take it upon themselves to ensure the survival and progress of Greek schools throughout Great Britain and throughout the generations. For this we are very grateful for the continued support and guidance received from His Eminence, The Archbishop of Thyateira and GB, Mr Gregorios, and the enormous support received from the Cyprus Educational Mission and its Head in this country, for supplying us with books, teaching material and allocating to us and paying the costs for the majority of our teachers .

I would also like, on behalf of the Management Committee to thank our head teacher Mrs Eleni Tsilipira for her relentless efforts to raise the standards of our school and to thank all the teachers for supporting her in this role.

We hope that you find this publication of interest and welcome any comments for improving the presentation and content of the report.

Andrew Papageorgi

Message from the Head of the Geek School of Coventry

The Annual Report for the academic year 2015-2016 is provided to the community of the Greek School of Coventry as an account of the school's operations and achievements throughout the year. It provides a detailed account of the progress the school has made to provide high quality educational opportunities for all students, as set out in the school plan. It outlines the findings from self-assessment that reflect the impact of key school strategies for improved learning and the benefit to all students from the expenditure of resources, including equity funding.



Thanks to all who have contributed to our essential enterprise; students, community members, parents and guardians, teachers and volunteers.

We are a small school and that's what makes us great! We work closely with our parents and community to make this a family school. There are many factors that make the Greek School of Coventry a unique place, in particular the warm and welcoming tone of our school that the students, staff and community work so hard to promote.

We believe that at the Greek School of Coventry we have created a friendly, caring and supportive environment that encourages our pupils to fully learn and develop as well as a safe environment where every child is valued as an individual.

We are very fortunate to have exceptionally talented, hardworking and committed teachers. As a team we constantly strive to achieve the very best for our students to create happy children.

We are proud of our students; for their achievements as we work hard and cooperatively with all members of our school community to ensure that the Greek Language, values and traditions, history and culture are taught to our children.

Eleni Tsilipira





The
Greek School
of Coventry



Contact us

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Website	www.greekschoolofcoventry.co.uk
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First point of contact:

Mr Andrew Papageorgi or Ms Eleni Tsilipira

Facebook	Ελληνικό Σχολείο Κόβεντρυ
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Hours of Operation

Wednesdays 17:30-19:30:

Adults Greek Courses-Beginners/
Post Beginners/Intermediate Level

Thursdays 17:30-19:30:

Adults Greek Courses-
Post Intermediate/Advanced Level

Fridays: 16: 00-20:30:

A2 Grade

Saturdays 10:30-15:00:

Reception – A2 Grades



Short History of the School

The Greek School of Coventry was first established in 1964 and has come along way since it was housed at Sidney Stringer School.

We trace below the history of the school since the Greek Community of Coventry was first established.

The Greek Orthodox Community of Coventry was first established in 1964 to serve the religious needs of a bout 50 families living in Coventry and the surrounding towns of Banbury, Stratford, Nuneaton and Solihull. It soon became apparent to the founding members and the church committee, who were also young parents, that whilst the church served the religious needs of the parents and grandparents, it was essential to cater for the needs of the children. The future of the Greek Community of Coventry, and in England in general, rested with the children. There was a general recognition to provide suitable accommodation for a Greek school to teach the Greek language, religion, culture and customs.

The religious and educational needs of the Greek community of Coventry were met with the very generous help of the Anglican Church and the local educational authority, by allowing the use of churches such as that in North Street, and Sidney Stringer School.

The growing number of Cypriot families moving to the Coventry area and the dedication of the founding families to have there own church led to the purchase of the current site in 1976. This was a very befitting site as the original building on the site was built in 1847 and with the generosity of Lord Leigh, established the Westwood National School, which was also used as a church, Westwood Church (St John the Baptist) and as a community centre.

By 1976 the number of families comprising the Greek community of Coventry were about 70 and the children numbered about 20 and were served by 2 teachers. The new building acquired was developed and extended to house the church, the school and a community centre. However within 10 years the number of families reached 100 and the number of children doubled, served by 5 teachers. There was a strong requirement within the community for a purpose built school.

In 1989 the Board of trustees together with the Church Committee took the decision to erect a purpose built school with all the facilities of a modern school, comprising 6 classrooms, an office, and a hall to accommodate up to 200 persons. The school was completed in early 1994. By 2000 the number of families who were members of the Greek Orthodox Community of Coventry were 150 and the number children attending the Greek School reached 93 with 8 language teachers and a dance teacher.

The curriculum covers Modern Greek language to AS Level 2, history, geography, religious education, dancing, music and theatre

Due to demographic reasons, today the number of registered children have declined to 80 (Plus 30 adults). Over 100 children have achieved their GCSE exams since 2000 and have left the school. There are currently about 10 children who will be taking their exams in May /June 2016. It is projected that within the next 2-3 years, based on the number of baptisms, the influx of young families from Greece, following the economic crisis there and the current age of children attending the school, there will be a minimum of 80 children attending the school.

Our Mission, Vision & Objectives

MISSION

We recognise that the children give up their precious spare time on Saturdays to attend the Greek School to learn the Greek language. Our Mission is to create a happy, interesting, exciting and caring environment where the children feel valued and respected, through which we encourage them to achieve their fullest potential academically, socially and culturally.

VISION

Our Vision is to establish the Greek School of Coventry as a centre of excellence in teaching of the Greek language and culture and to attract children from the age of 5 up to the age when they complete their A2 Level exams, from all backgrounds and from as wide an area as possible.

OBJECTIVES

Our major aims are to promote the Greek language, culture and heritage whilst we recognise and value the importance of living in a multicultural society. We recognise and celebrate the individuality and diverse contribution and potential of our school community and we encourage them to achieve their fullest potential in a multicultural, multi-ethnic society.

Whilst we place a strong emphasis on academic success we encourage our children to adopt Christian principles and to be proud of their background, culture and heritage and to show mutual respect and support for each other and the wider community whilst simultaneously respecting the values and beliefs of other ethnic minorities.

As a supplementary school we aim to create as broad and balanced a curriculum to excite and motivate the children, promoting their enthusiasm for learning and inspiring them to acquire and enjoy a wide range of skills and knowledge. The syllabus incorporates Modern Greek Language up to AS2 level history, religious education, theatre, singing, and dancing.

The School Management Committee is committed to adopting the highest possible standards in running the school. The school has been successful in seeking accreditation from the National Resource Centre for Supplementary Education (ContinYou) and is planning to seek revalidation of the Bronze and Gold awards over the period 2015/2016. Our next aim is to achieve the Special Distinction Award by the end of the next two academic years.



**The
Greek School
of Coventry**

Our School at a glance

School Profile

Total student enrolments for this school: 80

Year levels offered:

- 1. RECEPTION (AGE 4-5)**
- 2. YEAR 1-YEAR 6**
- 3. PRE GCSE**
- 4. GCSE**
- 5. A LEVEL (As & A2)**
- 6. ADULT GREEK LANGUAGE COURSES**

Curriculum Offerings

- 1. Greek Language in two levels: basic and advanced**
- 2. Greek-Cypriot Culture**
- 3. Greek-Cypriot History**
- 4. Greek-Cypriot Traditional Dances**
- 5. Christian customs and celebrations from our Orthodox Religion**
- 6. Greek-Cypriot music and songs**
- 7. Greek Geography**

***Greek Lessons also include poetry, literature, grammar and syntax.**



Social Climate

The Greek School of Coventry has an excellent record when it comes to student behaviour. Parents agree that the environment is a safe one, where bullying is not a common problem. Where complaints arise, the principal and the staff takes immediate action and communicates effectively with the parents of all parties concerned.

The school succeeds in instilling a high degree of Christian courtesy in the children in regard to their superiors (teachers and volunteers) and their peers.

Involving parents in their child's education

The Greek School of Coventry prides itself on its record of communication between teachers and parents. By using a weekly progress report parents can supervise their children's attendance, progress, homework and advise the teachers of any particular difficulties. Teachers are further available after school for informal meetings with individual parents to advise them of their children's progress.

The principal, moreover, has an open door policy whereby parents can drop in to see him at any time of the school day to discuss any issues that may have arisen.

School Policies and Procedures

The Greek School of Coventry has approved **Child Protection Policies** and **Health and Safety Policies**, as part of our Gold Award, which parents and students can access on our school website. We take the responsibility of childcare and protection very seriously. We believe that parents and teachers have a joint responsibility for the care of our children. We need to have a clear understanding of the expectations of our role and what we should do in different situations. This is the only way to maintain a safe environment and ensure that risks and hazards are dealt with appropriately. In brief, teachers supervise pupils whilst on school premises. They fully understand the basic safety and supervision requirements and they are aware of their supervisory responsibilities, both in lessons and when the pupils are out of class.

School Management Committee

The members of the School Committee appointed by the Community Board are:

Chairman: Andreas Papageorgi DBS

Treasurer: Michael Gabriel

Secretary: Eleni Tsilipira DBS

Michael Michaels

Harris Orthodoxou

Alex Panteli

Helen Maoudis DBS

School Contributions

School Fees

Reception-Year 6 : £ 200

Pre GCSE-A2 : £ 250

Payment timings

1½: Up to December

1½: Up to February

3rd child: half price

4th child: FREE

Methods of payment

The standard method of payment is by cash / check.

Checks made payable to Greek School of Coventry.



Our Staff Profile

Qualifications of all teachers

Highest Level of Attainment:	Masters Degree
Number of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school:	10

Average staff attendance

For permanent staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate was 99% in 2015-2016.

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year

From the end of the 2014-2015 school year, 80% of staff was retained by the school for the entire 2015-2016 school year.



Teaching Staff

**HEAD TEACHER
A LEVEL (A2) TEACHER
TSILIPIRA ELENİ**



**RECEPTION TEACHER
NIKOLAIDI AGGELIKI**



**YEAR 1 TEACHER
ATHINODOROU
ELENİ**



**YEAR 2 TEACHER
KESOGLOU
ANDROMAHI**



**YEAR 4-5 TEACHER
JACOVOU MARIA**



**YEAR 3 TEACHER
GIANNAKOU AIGLI**



**YEAR 5adv-6 TEACHER
KAKOURA KALLIOPI**



**VOLUNTEER
ANTONOPOULOU
SOFIANI**

**RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION
MUSIC TEACHER
MAOUDI ELENİ**



**GCSE-As
TEACHER
SOURLA
EFTHYMIA**



**DANCE TEACHER
ERACLEOUS STATHIS**





**The
Greek School
of Coventry**

Teaching Staff Info

POSITION	NAME	TEACHING POST	EMAIL-TELEPHONE
School Coordinator	Mr Papageorgi Andrew	-	andrew.papageorgi@btinternet.com 07775821257
Head Teacher	Ms Tsilipira Eleni	A Level (Unit2)/ School Management	elenisykies@yahoo.gr 07553593045
Teacher	Ms Nikolaidi Aggeliki	Reception	_____
Teacher	Ms Athinodorou Eleni	Year 1	
Teacher	Ms Kesoglou Andromahi	Year 2	
Teacher	Ms Giannakou Aigli	Year 3	
Teacher	Ms Jacovou Maria	Year 4-5	_____
Teacher	Ms Souza Evangelia	Year 5adv-6	
Teacher	Ms Sourla Efthymia	GCSE-As (Unit 1)	_____
Teacher	Mrs Eleni Maoudis	Religious Education- Music Teacher	
Teacher	Mr Eracleous Stathis	Dance	_____

Children's Academic Performance

Whilst the school attaches great emphasis on the children enjoying the experience of attending Greek school nevertheless we attach similar emphasis on academic achievement. It is a recognised fact that many of our children have achieved university admission based on their acquiring high grades in GCSE and A Level Unit 1 and Unit 2 Modern Greek Language.

End-of-the-Year School Tests: Performance Results

Reception	9 out 12 students achieved level Excellent 3 out of 12 students achieved Very Good
Year 1	10 out 13 students achieved level Excellent 3 out of 13 students achieved Very Good
Year 2	9 out 9 students achieved level Excellent
Year 3	6 out 8 students achieved level Excellent 2 out 8 students achieved level Very Good
Year 4	4 out 6 students achieved level Excellent 1 out 6 students achieved level Very Good 1 out 6 students achieved level Good
Year 5-6	6 out 8 students achieved level Excellent 2 out 8 students achieved level Very Good

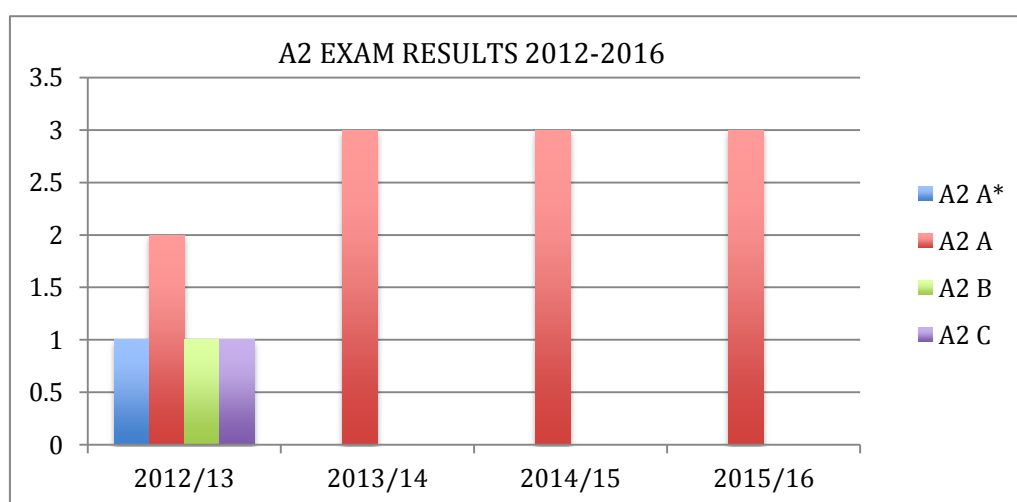
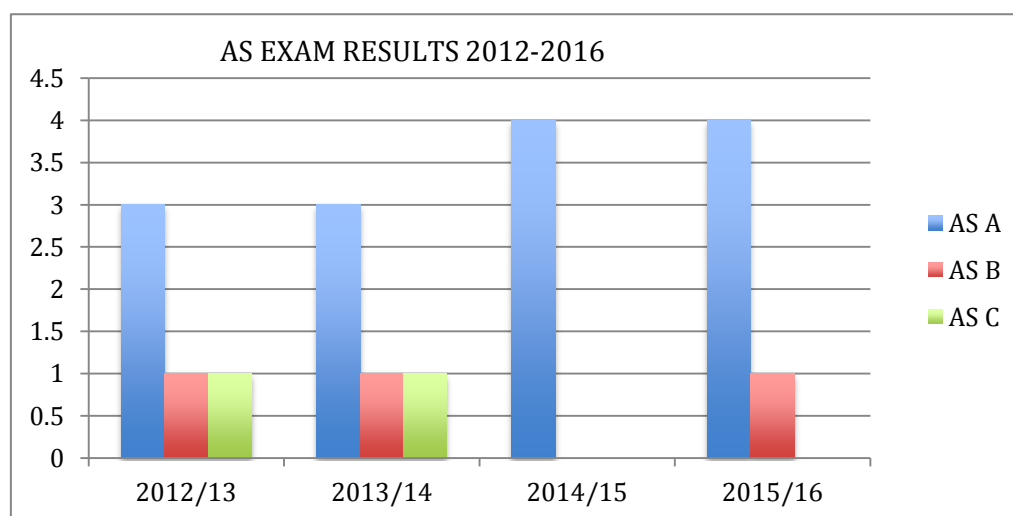
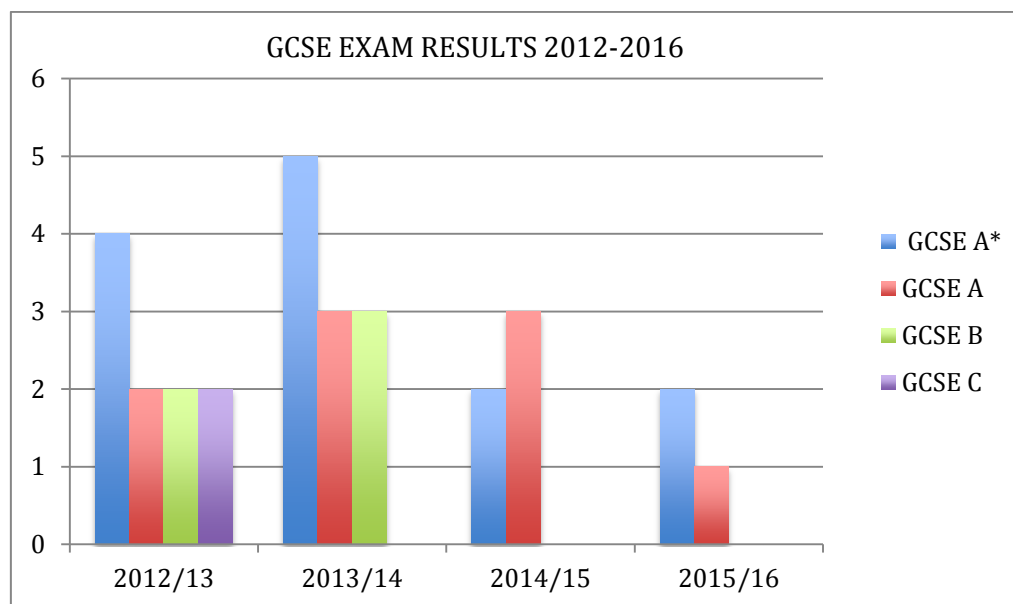
External Exam Results

Exam	No of Children Entered	Results
GCSE	Out of 3 Entries	2 A* 1 A
A Level-Unit 1(AS)	Out of 4 Entries	4 A 1B
A Level-Unit 2 (A2)	Out of 3 Entries	3 A

Admittance to universities

As Greek A Levels are recognised by many universities as one of the standards for assessing the suitability of applicants for admission in UK, all of our students manage to enter some of the top universities. Up to September 2016 we had the following success among our students.

Name of University
Coventry University
City, University of London
University of Nottingham
University of Leeds
Loughborough University



School Activities

The school has successfully organised 7 presentations/plays by children to demonstrate to parents their progress in mastering the Greek language, dancing and singing. These events are widely supported and attended by the families and friends of the children and are established as major events in the calendar of the community. The children love to take part in these events as they have the chance to demonstrate their singing, dancing and acting which they find very exciting. It is a great day for all to enjoy.

Below, you can find a detailed table of the events and a few photos capturing them:

SCHOOL EVENT CALENDAR 2015-2016			
	EVENT	TEACHER IN CHARGE-SPEECH	CONTENT OF EVENTS
Sunday 24/10/2015 Church	"OXI DAY" Celebration	Invitations-letters-programme-general responsibility Eleni Tsilipira Speech Eleni Athinodorou	Poems and songs
Saturday 12/12/2015 School Hall	Christmas Bazaar	Teachers in Charge All teachers	Christmas Crafts, Christmas deserts
Sunday 13/12/2015 School Hall	Christmas Celebration	Invitations-letters-programme-general responsibility Eleni Tsilipira Speech Andromahi Kesoglou Teachers in Charge All teachers	Drama, Christmas songs-carols, dance
Sunday 31/01/2016 School Hall	Three Hierarchs Celebration	Speech Evangelia Souza Teachers in Charge All teachers	Poems and songs
Saturday 19/03/2016 School Hall	Easter Bazaar	Teachers in Charge All teachers	Easter Crafts, easter candles, easter red eggs
Sunday 31/03/2016 School Hall	MARCH 25th, 1821 GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY- THE FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION - APRIL 1ST, 1955 EOKA GREEK CYPRIOT REVOLUTION DAY	Invitations-letters-programme-general responsibility Eleni Tsilipira Speech All teachers Teachers in Charge All teachers	Poems, songs, drama, dance
Sunday 03/07/2016 School Hall	End of School Year Celebration	Invitations-letters-programme-general responsibility Eleni Tsilipira Teachers in Charge All teachers	Poems, songs, drama, dance
Saturday 19/03/2016 School Hall	Easter Bazaar	Teachers in Charge All teachers	Easter Crafts, easter candles, easter eggs

“OXI DAY” Celebration

On the 25th of October 2015, our students narrated the shocking events of the Italian attack and German invasion that marked our country in the years 1940-1945. They commemorated those people who have offered the ultimate sacrifice to our nation and died fighting for our freedom. Our students through their songs and poems gave a great example for all the Greeks of today to face the hard times and to bring the unity and love amongst us.



On the 12th of December 2015, we organized our Christmas Bazaar. It was a wonderful opportunity to purchase Christmas hand-made decorations, gifts, toys and traditional Christmas Desserts from Greece and Cyprus and raise money for our school. On the same day we celebrated our Christmas Party for parents and friends. The greatest reward was seeing so many children and families together in the school.

We are delighted to announce this year we raised nearly £ 600!



On the 13th of December 2015, was held our Christmas Play “O Ai Vasilis syllamvanetai” and was a great success. Friends and family joined us in the school hall for this wonderful production. Well done to all of the children who took part, sang the carols and a huge thank you to the staff and volunteers who made it possible.



Three Hierarchs and Letters Day

On the 31st of January 2016, we celebrated the annual “Three Hierarchs” Day, immediately following Divine Liturgy. Students gave short presentations and said poems in Greek honoring the Three Hierarchs. We also awarded our Gcse/As/A2 students who succeeded in their exams in June 2015.





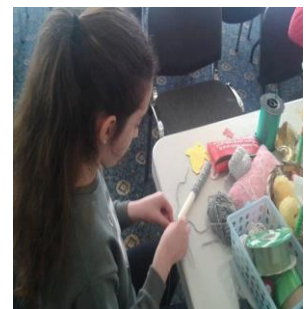
25th of March 1821-The Feast
of Annunciation-EOKA Greek
- Cypriot Revolution

On Sunday, March 20 2016, we celebrated with great honor the 25th of March 1821 Revolution against Turkish occupation, the Feast of Annunciation and the EOKA Greek - Cypriot Revolution against British rule. The day once again brought the community to participate in the annual Independence Day. After the Church Service all of our students participated in the parade dressed in traditional costumes and through the play "I mahi tou Mahaira", traditional dances and songs we commemorated the three important celebrations.



Easter Bazaar - Easter Crafts

On the 19 March 2016, our wonderful students made Easter candles and Easter crafts for our Easter Bazaar. Parents and students enjoyed our Easter desserts and danced traditional dances. We are delighted to announce this year we raised nearly £ 200!



On the 3rd of July 2016, we celebrated the end of the school year through our school Play "Gamos ala ellinika". We enjoyed a lot our students' performances. Then, a great BBQ took place with lots of food, dance, traditional games and singing! We also raised approximately £2000, thanks to all our school's friends!



Educational Trip to Black Country Living Museum

On the 21st of May 2016, we organized our School Trip to Black Country Living Museum, which gave students educational experiences away from their regular school environment. Students had the opportunity to meet costumed characters and they'll explain what it was like to live and work in one of the world's most heavily industrialised landscapes, to explore original period shops and houses and descend on foot 'into the thick' of underground drift mine and face the harsh reality of a coal miner's life in the mid 19th century. We had a great time!!



First Award in the competition for the 25th of March 1821/EOK/EOKA 1955-'59

On the 20th of March 2016, our school was awarded by the first award in the competition for the 25th of March 1821/1st April 1955-'59, organized by the Cyprus Mission of Education. It was a great opportunity for our students to learn about the important facts of the 25th of March 1821 and the 1st April 1955-'59 and build relationships. Huge congratulations to our Year 3 students for their craft "To dentro ton iron".



Other Indoor Activities through the year

Indoor Activities Schedule				
Day	Annual School Blessing	Parent's Meeting Term A	Parent's Meeting Term B	Parent's Meeting Term C
Saturday	12/09/2015	5/12/2015	19/03/2016	25/06/2016

This year, like every year, we had arranged meetings with parents, to discuss their children's progress at school. All teachers were very satisfied working with parents so well. This parent-school partnership can be seen in our pupils' performance results as well, which is a great achievement for all of us!



Summary of achievements for 2015-2016

- ❖ Cypriot Mission of Education Inspections: Successful School Performance
- ❖ Excellent end-of-the-year results, which were discussed with parents, as part of the parent-school partnership: increase in student performance
- ❖ Excellent GCSE & A' Level results: increase in student performance
- ❖ First Prize on the 25th of 1821 competition organized by the Cypriot Mission of Education
- ❖ First Aid Awareness, Teaching and Learning in Supplementary Schools Training, Safeguarding for Supplementary Schools Training, Development and Management of Supplementary Schools, Fire Extinguisher Training Course, New Teaching Techniques Training for Teachers
- ❖ Seven successful open-to-the-public school performances
- ❖ Three fundraising events: a respectable amount of money was raised for the school
- ❖ School website and Facebook pages and School – Parent communication via emails improved
- ❖ Parents'/Teacher's Handbook: an improved version
- ❖ Lesson and Activities Curriculum for every Key stage at school

Conclusion

Another school year has come to an end and it has gone so quickly! It has been a pleasure to meet, interact and work with you and with such inspiring students all this year. It has been an exciting and challenging year and I would like to thank all of you for your hard work, support and assistance in your child's education. Throughout the school year you have shown your commitment to giving your child the best possible education and support at home. I also thank you for entrusting the administration and the teaching staff of our school!

All the teachers and volunteers deserve a huge "thank you" for all they did for our students! We work as a very close team and strive to involve parents as much as possible in the learning of their children. Without their dedication and tireless efforts our aims would not come true! We are blessed to have such an innovative, hard working and passionate staff of teachers and volunteers who possess kindness, love and integrity.

We thank our Reception Teacher, Aggelina Nikolaidi for her great teaching methods and efforts to help students learn Greek. We are very happy to have her next year!

We would also like to express our appreciation to our dedicated and passionate Year 3 teacher, Aigli Giannakou and Year 5adv-6 Teacher, Eva Souza for their great and hard work. We are extremely happy to be with us next year!

We also thank Year 4-5 teacher, Maria Jacovou, Year 2 teacher Andromahi Kesoglou and our Dance Teacher Stathis Eracleous for their true love not only for our school but for our community as well! On numerous occasions they have proven through their hard work how much they love our school and community and their strong desire to become better.

We would also like to thank the GCSE-AS teacher, Efie Sourla, for her true love for her students' progress and safety! She offered focus oriented and quality education to our students! We are very happy to be with us next year!

We would also like to thank our volunteers Eleni Maoudis, Sophiani Antonopoulou and Maria Psimopoulou for their outstanding commitment and efforts towards our school. We appreciate their dedication and time. They deserve most of all our gratitude.

It is always difficult to say farewell. We thank our Year 1 teacher Eleni Athinodorou, for being so supportive and working hard with us to meet the needs of her students and provide the very best for them. We wish her all the best and we will miss her a lot.

We would also like to thank our school coordinator, Mr Andreas Papageorgi and the school committee for taking an active role in your child's education and for helping us achieve our educational goals.

Best regards
Eleni Tsilipira

PLEASE STAY IN TOUCH! YOUR COOPERATION MAKES OUR SCHOOL A SUCCESS!!!