

September 2023

Dear parents/carers

It has been a great, but busy, start to the term. The vast majority of our students have come back from the break with a great attitude, ready to learn and be ambassadors for the school community. A great example of this was when a photographer visited school and commented that he hadn't been to St Anne's before, but it was one of the nicest schools he had visited. He said the students were great and the staff were very friendly and helpful. This bodes well for the future. I am really excited about the year ahead where the staff and governors are united in realising our vision, 'to be outstanding in all we do'.

Catholic Life of the school update

I am pleased that Mr Regan and Mrs Hanley Hanley-Parchment have planned opportunities to ensure that the Catholic Life continues to flourish at St Anne's. A new form time chapel rota is established where all KS3 students will go to the chapel to take part in meditation, led by their form tutor, once a month. This will allow students the opportunity to reflect, pray and mediate in a calm and peaceful environment. Our beautiful school chapel will now be used every single school day! The new Yr7 retreat days led by 'Good News' ministries are taking place over the next few weeks. This is a day to get to know what it means to be part of St Anne's, to build friendships, to learn to better pray and reflect together to, to get to know their form tutor and to have fun! Students will know which day they are on retreat. Finally, planning for the Yr7 Welcome Mass which will be celebrated on the Friday 13th of October at 2.15pm by Fr Damien from St Joseph's Reddish is well underway. Parents and carers of Yr7 please do come and join us for the celebration, more details will be shared with you closer to the time.

Safeguarding update

- All staff have received their safeguarding Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023 training, including a focus on online safety and technical concerns that may arise within a school. Our safeguarding Mantra: 4Rs will continue to be our way to effectively safeguard students; **Recognise, Respond, Record, Refer**.
- Children absent from school has a huge impact on **their safeguarding and well-being**. St Annes expects children in every day unless there is a genuine reason for absence. St Annes recognises barriers to learning, and the team are here to help, support and reduce any barriers. Staff have received training on how to recognise and quickly respond to early signs of students raised anxiety, dips in progress, attendance, or engagement in learning.
- St Annes will not tolerate **any bullying**. We have a clear Anti-Bullying policy. Child on Child abuse can be online or in person. School will deal with incidences that we are made aware of with the support of parents and external agencies if required. I ask that parents monitor social media platforms. Sexual harassment will be challenged and will not be tolerated; this includes "banter" and any sexual comments or jokes. St Annes is committed to ensuring your child is safe and happy in school, creating a safe and secure environment.

Attendance

Overall, we have had a fantastic start to the new academic year and have really enjoyed welcoming our students returning and new. Prior to their return, staff completed wellbeing calls to a large number of our students to ensure good attendance. To promote attendance, we have introduced a 'House Cup', to reward the House with the best attendance. Well done to Mother Teresa for their win last week! At the end of this half-term, we will be celebrating those who achieves 100% attendance with a free breakfast together and certificates. Rewards trips will take place at intervals through the year and students must have excellent attendance to be eligible for these trips. Our attendance officer completes daily home visits to support students who are absent, and we encourage parents and carers to contact your child's Form Tutor or Head of House to address any barriers to attendance.

Last year, students who attended 95% or above achieved a Progress score of **1.62**, while those students whose attendance was below 95% was **-0.78**. These figures show, beyond any reasonable doubt, that good attendance equates to good achievement. I ask that parents support us as we continue to promote high attendance.

Staff profiles

- *Mrs Sterling, English teacher and second in SEND.* I grew up in Tameside and always knew I wanted my career to be based in English in some way. After gaining my degree, I studied for my Masters at King's College London. Once completed, I felt it was time for me to be on the other side of education and, while waiting for my PGCE to start, began working as a Teaching Assistant in Rochdale. This is now my tenth-year teaching and I love inspiring students to see the importance of reading and communication skills. I'm particularly happy to be working in a SEND role at St. Anne's as this is where my career in education started and it is such an important role in ensuring all students are able to fulfil their potential. In my free time, I enjoy (unsurprisingly) reading, going on walks with my Golden Retriever, Paddington, and going to the cinema.
- *Mrs Rogerson, Head of Science.* I was born in Liverpool but spent most of my childhood growing up in Heywood, North Manchester. I didn't always enjoy Science at school, I preferred Geography and History, but I excelled at Science and achieved A*A* in my Science Double Award. I attended Holy Cross 6th Form College studying Chemistry, Biology and Geography. Teaching was in my family – both my mum and grandad were primary school deputy headteachers, but I had no intention of being a teacher, until I was fortunate enough to have the most fantastic, kind, caring and knowledgeable Chemistry teacher at college. She instilled in me a love of Chemistry that I never had, made me believe in myself and showed me that learning can be fun! Through my volunteer work as part of the Salford Diocese Pilgrimage to Lourdes I enjoyed leading teams of young people, so I embarked on a PGCE course in Science. For the last 16 years I have worked as a Science teacher in Salford. It has been a pleasure to teach so many young people to enjoy Science. However, with a desire to challenge myself it was time for a change so in September I joined the St Anne's community as Head of Science. I have really enjoyed my time here so far; I feel very welcome and am really looking forward to serving the community and developing the St Anne's Scientists of the future! I love to watch and play football and tennis. I also love to spend time with my family and travel to explore new countries with my husband and 3-year-old son.

Curriculum overviews

Our curriculum continues to go from strength to strength. In July each department had a curriculum planning day to ensure our students access a knowledge rich and robust curriculum in all subjects. Each

subject has a curriculum overview for each term, so students know what will be taught each half term. These can also be found on our school website. The Ofsted report referred to our curriculum, for example, “*The strengthened curriculum means that pupils build their knowledge over time*” which is a testament to the substantial work which has taken place over the past two academic years.

PE department update

It has been a busy start for the new year for our PE department. Our Yr7 students were impressive at a recent football trial, with lots of talent on show. Congratulations to the students that did make the initial squad, but for those that were disappointed, there will be other chances to get involved. All training sessions after school are open to everyone and I would encourage your child to attend. The Yr8 football team showed a fantastic attitude in their recent cup match against Hazel Grove and were unlucky to lose narrowly 1-0. The boys, as all parents agreed on the sideline, have made a huge amount of progress. Long may this continue! There are lots of fixtures coming up in the next few weeks, please keep an eye on the fixture board and messages sent out on ClassCharts. I am also pleased to announce we have secured the services of a dance teacher for our extracurricular program. Francesca, a former St Anne's student, will start a dance club for all years on Mondays after-school.

Open Evening

I am extremely excited and looking forward to show-casing our school and students at our annual Open Evening on **12th October from 4pm until 7pm**. School will close at 12.30pm on this day, with grab bags available for students if they are on free school meals. I will also be visiting our local primary schools, along with Mrs Simmons, to meet the Yr6 and invite them to see what a great learning community we are.

Headteacher's Surgery

As part of maintaining our excellent relationships with parents I am holding a Headteacher's 'surgery' on **Tuesday 10th October**. The purpose of this is to give parents an opportunity for a face-to-face meeting with myself and discuss any issues. If you would like to meet me, please contact Mrs Bentley at fiona.bentley@stannesrcvoluntaryacademy.com for an appointment. St Anne's success are due to the positive relationships with parents.

Personal Development updates

- *Student council*: This met for the first time this year last week and it is now ready to start back to 'work'. Over the next few weeks, they will be organising a coffee morning to raise funds for MacMillan Cancer Research [**29th September**] and working alongside the site team and Laudato Bee Gardening Club to improve our environment. Please pop along on the coffee morning and meet some of our students and staff.
- *Yr7 Concert*: On 19th October Yr7 pupils will all be taking part in a celebration evening called Proud. The students are already preparing for this in their lessons, learning songs, producing artwork and learning slam poetry. Parents are invited to join us at **6pm on 19th October** to celebrate and see their amazing achievements since starting at St Anne's
- *SACRED day*: Our first SACRED Day is on **20th October**. This is an excellent opportunity to enrich our taught formal PSHE curriculum. For Yr11 and Yr10 the day focuses on careers with over 30 educational providers and businesses joining us for a careers fair and mock interviews. Yr7 will learn about Healthy Body and Healthy Minds, Yr8 will focus on Wellbeing and Yr9 are deepening their knowledge of finances through working with 'The Money Charity' and Barclays Life Skills.

- *Barcelona Trip update:* Excitement continues to build as we approach the date for our next international trip from **24th October - 27th October**. This follows on from our highly successful trip to Amsterdam last year. 72 lucky students will be practising their Spanish and seeing the amazing sights of the city with Miss Todd, Miss Zakaraite, Mr Byrne, Miss Lee, Miss Baird, Miss Waghorn and Mr Gallagher. We have plans for an immersive football stadium experience, seeing the famous Sagrada Familia Cathedral, playing beach games, and sampling the Spanish cuisine. It really is going to be a trip to remember!
- *Duke of Edinburgh [DoE] update:* 18 of our Yr9 students who are completing their Bronze DoE award, were invited to become the 'face' of DoE for JD/Go outdoors, Duke of Edinburgh and NikWax. Students went to Linnet Clough campsite and took part in activities and were filmed and photographed for promotional material. Students also produced voice overs, filmed interviews, and posed for photographs. This opportunity gave the students confidence, allowed them to develop team building and communication skills. It will be fantastic seeing out students faces and voices out there across the country, advertising these products as well as the DoE award programme. Well done!
- *Maths Olympiad Club:* Some of our gifted mathematicians from Yr7 & Yr8 will be given the opportunity to enter the Junior Maths Challenge in January. If we are successful in and get through this round, then we may get some of our great students to the Junior Maths Olympiad in April. Mr Browne is running a lunchtime club so that these students can develop their problem-solving skills and train for this event. We will keep you posted with their progress!

Building work updates

We are delighted that our £3M improvement projects are now finished and have vastly improved the learning environment of the school. I would like to thank the students for being patient in accommodating the works and should be commended. In summary, over the last 18 months we have replaced:

- Flat roofs to prevent leaks and improved insulation.
- Modern double-glazed installation across the school.
- A new heating management system and radiators installed across the school.
- Over 140 new fire doors that has substantially improved the appearance of the school.
- LED lights improve the light quality in both classrooms and corridors, whilst reducing energy bills.

Additionally, we are upgrading our sports hall with the most up to date flooring and basketball and netball equipment. Then, following this, we are upgrading the changing rooms. This will not only benefit our students but will allow us to forge close links with local youth sports organisations who are already arranging to make St Anne's their home base, bringing in further income to allow additional upgrades to our sports offer in future. I hope that you agree that these are exciting times for the school physical environment.

Yr11: Key Messages

A massive thank you to all the parents who attended the parental information evening last Thursday. Turn-out was much better than previous years and this bodes well for the future. I cannot stress the importance of parental support for your child's success. I reiterate key messages here for your perusal.

- *Attendance.* There is a strong correlation between **achievement and attendance**. Please ensure that your child has great attendance. Students rarely 'catch-up' on work missed.

- *Hard work.* There is **no substitute for hard work**. From experience, students that work hard achieve well. I expect students to be doing at least 2 hours a night including weekends.
- *Mock exams:* These start on the 27th November. Students should be revising for these. Having **routines and a revision timetable** is vital. I ask that parents support and encourage your child by, for example, ensuring a quiet place to study.
- *Yr11 Prom:* This is a key event in the St Anne’s calendar. However, it is **not an automatic right** as it is not a curriculum entitlement. In essence it is an invite and reserved for students who work hard, attend school regularly and follow our simple rules. If a child is excluded twice, the invite is automatically withdrawn.
- *Subject update:* Following a successful Yr11 parental information evening, parents requested additional information on subject exam boards and specific strategies to help students with each of their subjects. As a result, each subject lead has put together this information and this will be shared on our school website and sent to parents through class charts.
- *Period 6 intervention.* This is an **excellent opportunity** for ‘extra’ revision that you will help your child achieve. Below is the schedule which has been shared with students.

Week A		
Monday	Wednesday	Thursday
Maths	RE	Science
Week B		
Monday	Wednesday	Thursday
English	History/Geography	Option subjects

The teachers are working very hard on behalf of your children. It is important that students realise that there is **no substitute for hard work**. This is a critical factor in their success next August.

Revamped St Anne’s website

We hope that you have had a chance to visit our new look website. Our website now reflects the high expectations we have for our wonderful and vibrant community. Currently, we are still updating some sections so that the website is used as a first point of call whenever you have a query. We would greatly appreciate your feedback on the website, along with any suggestions for information you would like to have included. You can email suggestions to admin@stannesvoluntaryacademy.com. Also follow us on our Facebook and Twitter social media accounts for daily updates about the St Anne’s community.

Our great children...

Finally, I want to finish this letter with some great news regarding our great students. As Executive Headteacher, I am very pleased of the vast majority of our students conduct, behaviour and aspirations and I would like to share an email I received on last week from Paul Griffiths, Operation manager for the Duke of Edinburgh award in England.

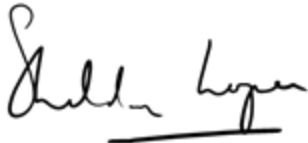
I want to express my gratitude for allowing your students to experience what it's like to be part of a professional photography shoot for a leading outdoor wear and equipment brand and work with

our national commercial team. Despite the challenging weather conditions, the students from St. Anne's were simply outstanding. They worked together as a team with a large group of media professionals and took it all in their stride. Their resilience and ability to handle any situation will strengthen their learning pathway.

I also want to thank you for releasing your staff and the time Claire spent on preparation. It was evident that your staff team is fully dedicated to the students. This was one of the most significant photography shoots the DofE has ever done, and I am so pleased. We put our trust in you, your staff, and your outstanding students.

It makes me very proud that external 'bodies' also recognise the character of the St Anne's students!

As always, your support is very much appreciated.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sheldon Logue', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Mr Logue
Executive Headteacher