



ST. ANNE'S
R.C. VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

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Executive Headteacher
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Welcome to my latest correspondence that outlines all the wonderful things that are happening at St Anne's.

Covid Updates

As you are aware, the levels of Covid throughout our school community are ongoing. It is important that we do not become complacent, and I ask that all parents ensure that their children complete LFT tests twice a week [Sunday evening and Wednesday evening] to minimise the risk of transmission. Sadly, even though there has been less 'mass' isolating of pupils, there is still substantial disruption to pupils' education. Furthermore, an increasing number of staff have caught Covid and/or have to self-isolate. This puts extra burden on our school as it reduces capacity, so I ask that parents please remember this and don't underestimate the impact it has on the efficiency and the daily running of the school.

INSET Day

This will take place on Friday 26th November. The focus of this INSET day is to review our Mission as a Catholic Community and importantly look at our Mantra, which is 'to serve the pupils of St Anne's' and provide an opportunity for staff to reaffirm their commitment to this vital mission. During the day Fr Tony McGrath will celebrate mass with us and give our keynote address on the purpose of Catholic education. Staff will also develop plans on how we can live out more fully our SCARED Values across ALL areas of school life. Finally, we will launch our new school mission statement and commit ourselves to putting it into practice, day by day, at St Anne's.

Year 7 Mass

Year 7 pupils and their parents were given a warm welcome to St Anne's in our 'Year 7 Welcome Mass' on the Thursday before Half Term. Fr Philip from St Joseph's Reddish celebrated the Mass which centred on welcoming our new pupils to St Anne's and spoke about the recent retreats and how the visits helped pupils form positive relationships and become part of our community. Our GIFT team delivered the readings and bidding prayers, and it was a great end to a great first half term.

Year 11 Update

I sent a Year 11 letter a few weeks ago but the following reiterates key messages from that communication:

- *Mock exams.* These will begin on 22nd November running until 3rd December. In order for your child to be adequately prepared for these it is important that they have a good study routine at home and are doing at least 2 hours revision each night. As I keep stating, **there is no substitute for hard work.** From experience, pupils who achieve well are those that have been thoroughly prepared throughout the whole of Year 11. The nature of linear exams means that cramming it all in near the end only leads to stress and, sadly, pupils not achieving their potential.
- *Year 11 end of school prom.* This is a magnificent occasion for Year 11 leavers and is about celebrating 5 years at St Anne's. However, it is important to know that only pupils who have behaved correctly, contributed to school life and who have excellent attendance and punctuality will be invited. It is a privilege, not a right, to attend this joyous occasion. And after the date on this letter, **it is highly likely that any Year 11 pupil who has been excluded from school will not be permitted to attend.** I have conveyed this message to Year 11 pupils in a recent assembly.





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- *Covid and exams.* I understand and appreciate that your child has not had the best experiences over the past few years. However, **they must look forward and not back.** There are high expectations throughout the school, including many intervention/revision sessions. It is vital that you encourage your child to attend these as required.

Finally, on Thursday 11th November there was the last Parents' Evening for our current Year 11 pupils. This provided a great opportunity for honest, constructive dialogue to ensure that pupils know how to improve and prepare properly for the mock examinations. It is crucial that pupils act on the advice of their teachers. I would like to say a genuine thanks for the feedback from the parents who completed the questionnaire. Although there were concerns raised, most of the comments and feedback was positive. Be assured that, teachers, leaders and governors are working very hard to ensure that **all children at St Anne's** get at least a good education. It is the very least that they deserve! Below are some of the comments from parents:

- ✓ *Thank you for all your hard work during the disruption of Covid*
- ✓ *Any teachers I've met are approachable, encouraging, keen to ensure my child's learning and is developing personally. Thank you*
- ✓ *Wonderful staff. They are very helpful. A big thank you!*

As is usual, if there are any issues with your child in Year 11, please contact your child's form tutor in the first instance.

Teaching and Learning Update

Teaching and Learning continues to be our core purpose. The teaching staff continue to work hard to ensure your child are closing any gaps in their knowledge. We regularly ask the pupils about their learning and in our 2nd survey, pupils said they enjoyed learning at St Annes and teachers give them work which challenges them. The Teaching and Learning group [TLG] has now launched and work has begun on developing and coaching our teachers in all aspects of their work. The TLG will be pivotal in helping our school to improve its standards further in teaching and learning by sharing good practice, collaborating on ideas, and ensuring all teachers have exposure to quality teaching.

St Anne's Expectations

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the vast majority of St Anne's pupils for being excellent ambassadors for our school and its community. Although I have only been in the school for a few months it is obvious that the majority love coming to school and want to learn. I have recently toured the school with prospective parents and with potential candidates for jobs and they have all, *without exception*, been surprised at how calm the school environment has been during the working day. These rules, which I highlight below for your perusal are simple, and crucially, enforced. There are only four rules at St Annes' which are as follows:

1. Mobile phones must NOT be out in school until the pupils leave the gate on Glenfield Road
2. Uniform must be correct, including appropriate hair styles and no wearing of any jewellery
3. Coats must be taken off when inside the building
4. Be respectful to peers, teachers, support staff and the environment



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These rules, alongside our SACRED values and standards are to ensure that your child attends a school where they can learn in a conducive environment, be safe, enjoy their learning and build their confidence.

However, as I have said before, I will not tolerate repeated poor behaviour by any pupil. It simply is not fair for a few pupils to 'ruin' the education of others. Sadly, a small number of pupils are unwilling and/or unable to conform to our simple, accepted, and transparent rules and their place at St Anne's is at risk.

TikTok and Online behaviours

There is a national trend currently with teenagers using the TikTok app inappropriately. In some cases, hate-based or sexual narratives are being attached to these videos. It is essential that parents discuss their child's online activity with them and ensure that they are not engaging in this behaviour. Any St Anne's pupils who do produce or share these videos and images are highly likely to be excluded from school and police reports made for those with any homophobic, prejudice or racist themes.

Social Media Posts

It has been brought to my attention that incorrect and malicious accusations with regards to St Anne's and its staff have been discussed on social media over the weekend. We have contacted the police over the posting of this false information which unfairly detracts from the hard work of everyone who works in our school. I politely ask that parents, if they post on social media, do so with respect as this is one of our school's SACRED values. As always, if there is an issue, my staff and I will always meet parents. As Executive Headteacher I don't take parental support for granted. I am delighted to report that the vast majority of the dealings we have with parents are overwhelmingly positive. Thank you!

SACRED Day

On the 30th November we are having our first of three SACRED days of the academic year. This is a new initiative at St Anne's and on these days we 'collapse' the normal school timetable to educate our pupils on a range of pertinent issues that are invaluable. This includes Mental Health awareness, what are healthy relationships and keeping safe-online. We will also have many external guests and speakers in school to enrich the opportunities and experiences of our pupils.

Anti-Bullying Week

To mark anti-bullying week, we will be recruiting for Anti-Bullying Ambassadors in assemblies. This will be a fantastic opportunity for pupils to play a pivotal role in our school community and help shape our new Anti-Bullying policy. In addition, all pupils will take part in daily activities in school designed to raise the profile of anti-bullying and the importance of spreading kindness and being a positive community. Focus will be on educating pupils about what constitutes bullying and the impact it has on mental health, including the devastating effects of online bullying and the consequences of unwanted 'banter.' St Anne's has a zero-tolerance approach to bullying and pupils can report any concerns they have about others or themselves to the Safeguarding Team by visiting [www.bit.ly/ tell us](http://www.bit.ly/tell_us)

Anti-Social Behaviour [ASB]

Our pupils are ambassadors for St Anne's and as such we expect them to behave in a way that is reflective of our SACRED values. However, we also know that when young people socialise with their peers in the local community, they may behave differently to how they would if they were with their teachers or parents. ASB is an incident that falls short of a crime, but where the behaviour and actions of an individual or group causes,



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or is likely to cause, alarm, distress, or harassment. We respectfully ask that you talk to your child about ASB in just the same way you would talk to them about staying safe when they are out alone with their friends. Explain how their behaviour will affect others and how it can be perceived, encouraging them to be mindful and considerate. It is also important to make them aware of the consequences for them and the family if they became involved in causing ASB.

Careers Update

As in previous years we will be continuing to provide all pupils with essential careers guidance. As part of our careers provision pupils learn about the labour market in the local area and experience encounters with employers, colleges, and universities both in and out of the school setting. Each year we have our annual Careers Fair which enables us to introduce our students to an array of providers. Within the classroom staff make links with curriculum learning and employability skills. This year we are excited to announce that Year 10 pupils will have the opportunity to do work experience at the end of the academic year. Further details will follow in due course. All our pupils can meet our independent Careers Adviser, Rachel Townley, who is also happy to meet with parents/carers after school to support their child.

#BeeWell Survey

Last week we participated in the first survey for the Greater Manchester #BeeWell Project. The aim of the survey is to build up an in-depth and accurate picture of the wellbeing of young people in Greater Manchester. The results will be used to provide participating schools with information that will lead to lasting improvements for their students. A report on the findings of the survey will be sent to school in February and we will of course share with you any interesting or important insights we receive.

Attendance News

As our School continues to rapidly improve, I am delighted to report improvements in attendance this year. Before half term, we ran an *'It's an Attendance League Knockout'* competition where the forms in each year group with the best attendance across the week are rewarded with a free breakfast. Our Attendance Lottery also rewards good attendance each week by selecting one pupil at random to receive £10 if they attend every day. However, there are still some pupils whose attendance is low, and we will continue to challenge parents whose children have attendance below 96%. Remember that there is a strong correlation between attendance and pupils' achievement.

Staffing Updates

As we work tirelessly to build capacity at Leadership level and rapidly improve the quality of Teaching & Learning, I am delighted to announce the following new appointments to St Anne's. I know that you will warmly welcome Laura Riley, Head of Geography, Martyn Andrews, Head of Physical Education and Ruth Murray, a new teacher and leader to complement our Maths department and finally Josh Wroe our new temporary Teacher of Art.



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Tours of St Anne's

Finally, if you would like a tour of St Anne's during the working day, please contact the school and I will happily show you round and you can see for yourself the positive and calm learning environment. I am confident that you will be pleasantly surprised by what you see!

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Mr Logue
Executive Headteacher