



ST. ANNE'S
R.C. VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

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Executive Headteacher
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Dear parents/carers

Welcome to the latest letter updating all that's happening at St Anne's. I have been in post for a few weeks now and I am starting to know the school more including meeting many pupils and parents. At this point I have to state that the vast majority of pupils are delightful, and this gives me added impetus to ensure they get at least a good quality of education: simply put, it is what they deserve! Furthermore, I have spoke to many parents too and they are united in supporting the school in the journey to become outstanding. From experience, working together is the best, and only, way to improve the education of your children.

Covid update

As you are aware, Covid numbers in Stockport are rapidly rising and the St Anne's community is not immune to disruption caused by this. Sadly, a significant number of pupils and staff are self-isolating and, unfortunately, I had to make the difficult decision to send home Year 10 due to an outbreak. This is not a decision that I took lightly but was done in consultation with the local Public Health Authority. This is not ideal and is disrupting the learning of our pupils in an academic year that has already seen massive disruption. For isolating pupils, work is uploaded every week by every department on to Microsoft Teams. In school we are insisting that all pupils practice social distancing and wear masks in both classrooms and also in communal areas where social distancing is not possible. I ask that parents ensure that pupils arrive at school each day with a mask. This is for the safety of both pupils and staff.

NB: If your child tests positive for Covid, please go to the school website 'Parents' tab and click on the Covid section and complete the form. This will provide school with the necessary information to complete contact tracing. If your child has Covid symptoms, please keep them off school and arrange for a PCR test before they return.

Expectations

As I spend more time in the school, it is obvious that a significant number of pupils have low expectations towards their education. For example, some pupils do not bring schools bags to school or have no basic equipment, for example a pen. This sends out the message that they 'don't care'. However, at St Anne's **we do** care, and the expectation is that pupils attend school with the right equipment and attitude to learn. I ask parents to ensure that their children have the correct equipment ready to start learning.

Pupil Leadership Team

Towards the end of last half term, a number of our Year 10 students applied for positions on the school's Pupil Leadership Team. The quality of the application letters was incredibly high. A massive well done to all the pupils who were successful, and they will now be presented with their leadership ties in a special assembly and have will take up their positions. Pupils discussed their vision for working on the Student Leadership Team, what they believe makes them a good leader and their hopes and ambitions for the future. All pupils performed exceptionally well and conducted themselves with great maturity, thoughtfulness and clarity. The next step now is to appoint Head and Deputy Head pupils. Mrs Harris and I will shortlist the candidates and interview them. Again, congratulations to all our pupil leaders and I look forward to them being positive role models for the St Anne's community!





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Rewards

Since September pupils have been awarded 168,225 e-praise points. These points reflect the pupil's commitment to St Anne's SACRED values. Pupils have been able to spend their points throughout the year in the e-praise shop on items such as basic equipment kit or high street gift vouchers. As we enter the final half term of the year, pupils will need to think about their final purchases as their points will not be carried over next year. In addition, we will also be identifying the *top five pupils from each year group* with the most e-praise points. We will then enter these pupils into a draw where the winner will win one of two mountain bikes, air pods or an i-pad. This draw will be conducted with Mrs Hibbert and Mr Logue in a special assembly on the last day of the term.

Safeguarding – chatting to people online

Chatting and meeting new people on the internet can be fun and appealing for children. However, no matter how young your child is, if they are using a device that has the internet it is important to talk to them about people who contact them online. Remind your child to be wary of people who want to chat to them privately. Unfortunately, when things go wrong, some children may be reluctant to tell an adult because they worry their parent will 'overreact' and take their technology away. Rather than confiscating the technology indefinitely, it may help to suggest taking a break from an app for a period of time. This can help them learn from what happened, rather than banning them from the internet altogether. You can also find information on parental controls via the St Anne's Safeguarding Padlet - http://bit.ly/stannes_safeguarding.

Importantly, if you need more advice or information, please contact our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mrs Hibbert.

Standards letter

Next week I will write to all parents outlining some general rules and updates from September. This should provide clarity with some of the changes with regards to our rules in schools. These 'rules' will underpin the culture of St Anne's and I am sharing with parents now so that our pupils and parents know the expectations for September.

Governors

I am delighted to report that we have now established a Local Governing Body at St Anne's. I have worked with many of these governors before and I can state, with good authority, that they are another great addition to the St Anne's team. I know that they will support and challenge the leadership team in equal measure as we move the school forward to achieving its vision which is to become an '*Outstanding Catholic school in all we do*'.

A message from our new SENCo

Miss Morgan was appointed as St Anne's new SENCo. I have no doubt she will excel in leading this important area of St Anne's. She has the following message to relay to parents;

"I am delighted to be appointed as the new SENCo from September. I am privileged to be in a position to champion our SEN pupils and to continue to ensure that SEN pupils are supported in their learning. The SEN team will strive to maximise outcomes for your child through our bespoke vision, which aligns itself with the overarching vision of St Anne's. My priority will be to ensure SEN pupils are able to access a full, knowledge rich curriculum, participate in all aspects of school life and be challenged to have high expectations for themselves. It is the belief that with these three components, your child will leave St Anne's in year 11 with



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the knowledge, skills, and behaviours to lead enriched and fulfilled lives. I will be proactive in working closely with parents to enable your child to achieve their full potential".

Mrs Keary is leaving the school for pastures new, and I wish her all the best in her future.

Finally...

As said in previous correspondence I hope to have a parents' evening in early September. The purpose of this evening is to outline the vision of St Anne's and secondly, to have a Q&A session with all parents of Years 8-11. I plan to have an evening with the new Year 7 parents separately. I had hoped that this meeting would take place now but due to Covid restrictions, this has not been possible.

Yours faithfully

Mr Logue
Executive Headteacher