



ST. ANNE'S
R.C. VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

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Executive Headteacher
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Dear parents/carers

Welcome to my latest newsletter on all things St Anne's. We are now technically half-way through the academic year. At the time of writing, Covid restrictions have been removed and, hopefully, a sense of normality will return. However, we must not become complacent, and we must remember in our prayers all those who have lost friends or loved ones over the past few years.

Covid and face coverings update

Last half term saw pupils wearing masks in communal areas to reduce the spread of infection. I have been informed that the local levels of infection are reducing and therefore, in line with national guidance, pupils are no longer required to wear face coverings. This will take place with immediate effect. However, if pupils want to wear them, we will not discourage.

The Catholic life at St Anne's

- St Anne's *Caritas Ambassadors* have started the school's Lent Appeal by raising money for the charity Mary's Meals, a charity which aims to encourage children into schools by providing a hot meal. Our target is to raise enough money to feed and send 50 children to school for a year. We are already at the halfway mark before Lent has even started! Well done to all the Ambassadors' hard work in raising money through cake sales, sponsored reads and walks, and the creation of resources to help raise the profile of Mary's Meals around the school.
- The *MET (Mission & Ethos Team)* will meet next on 14th March where our focus will be on putting our new mission statement into practice and preparing for our Section 48 inspection.
- Our *GIFT [Growing in Faith Together]* team this term has been focusing on creating Friday afternoon prayers to coincide with national events, such as Children's Mental Health Week and Race Equality Week. Each week, members will work together to create a prayer that is meaningful to themselves and the wider school community which is read by all classes on Fridays at 3pm.
- We welcomed Fr John Daly, the new parish priest at St Joseph's Reddish, to school last week and he will begin his work in school by celebrating Ash Wednesday at 8am in our school chapel. We are looking forward to starting Lent in prayer and reflection together as a school community and working with Fr John to ensure that prayers and liturgies are central to our community.

Safeguarding Updates

- ✓ *Senior Safeguarding Lead [SSL]*. Miss Rees has recently joined our Safeguarding Team as our Senior Safeguarding Lead [SSL]. Miss Rees has over 15 years' experience in safeguarding and a degree specialising in child protection. She will be working with some of our most vulnerable pupils as well as supporting the Heads of Year in their day to day safeguarding role. Miss Rees is an excellent addition to our committed Safeguarding Team.





ST. ANNE'S
R.C. VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

- ✓ *Vapes/E-cigarettes.* Since my last newsletter, vapes still appear to be popular with young people who seem to be under the false impression that they are not dangerous. This term we will continue to educate our pupils about the dangers of 'vapes' and I ask that you also speak to your children about vapes. Vapes are not allowed in school and any pupil who brings them into school is likely to be issued with a fixed term exclusion.
- ✓ *Bullying via Social Media Apps.* Sadly, following a period away from school we often see an increase in reports of online bullying. During Anti Bullying Week, pupils discussed the impact of bullying and the suicide of 14-year-old Megan Evans following online abuse. There is no excuse for sending unkind and unpleasant messages; it is not banter. More advice and guidance can be found on our Safeguarding Padlet https://www.bit.ly/stannes_safeguarding For the avoidance of doubt, St Anne's wants to be a thriving, safe, Catholic community and bullying of any sort is not acceptable.

SACRED Day Number 2, February 21st

Our second SACRED day was a great success! The theme of the day was 'Ambition for the Future'. The day was jam-packed with activities that involved both Form Tutors and external guests. All years attended a careers fair and had the opportunity to talk to different employers. Another focus of the day was pupils' well-being and the benefits of having a positive mental attitude. During the day, we also relaunched the School Council and participated in the UK Youth Parliament 'Make your Mark Campaign'. Below are examples of some bespoke activities for each Year.

- Year 7 explored healthy eating and had an anti-racism session giving them an increased awareness of our responsibility to challenge stereotypes and racism
- Year 8 had sessions from 'Tough Cookies', a sex and relationships education company who work to ensure pupils have a better understanding of consent. They also had an inspiring talk, promoting peace, positivity and forgiveness, from the parent of one of the victims of the Manchester Arena bombing attack
- Year 9 explored what constitutes 'sexual harassment' and why this is always unacceptable. Additionally, typical stereotypes based on sex, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation and disability were covered. I am pleased to report that Tough Cookies noted that our pupils were mature and thoughtful
- Year 10 did all of the above and also had a Knife Crime Awareness session from local police and Stockport Youth Offending Service

Overall, it was a great start to the half-term. At St Anne's, we believe that educating pupils on such pertinent issues is part of our vision to ensure an outstanding education! Already, Mrs Harris is planning for SACRED day three and will use pupil feedback to plan for this! #excited!

Teaching and Learning Update

- Pupil Voice: Improving the quality of teaching and learning at St Anne's continues to be a high priority. An aspect of our strategy is asking pupils each half term about their learning. The most recent survey showed 94% of pupils asked said that their teachers help them to do their best and 100% of the pupils asked told us that teachers give them work which challenges them. This is very encouraging and bodes well for the future.



ST. ANNE'S
R.C. VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

- Curriculum Operational Meetings [COMs]: Last half term we introduced COMs. These are weekly meetings with our middle leaders and are a great opportunity to share best practice on curriculum development and teaching and learning. They also build the confidence of middle leaders and provide an environment where leaders can hold each other to account.

Literacy and Reading

Reading is one of the most important aspects of education. In essence, if you can't read and understand then you can't access the knowledge-rich curriculum at St Anne's. We have a number of reading interventions in place, including Accelerated Reader and Form Time 'readers' sessions when form tutors are leading guided reading on novels from a diverse range of cultures. Furthermore, to develop the 'culture' of reading, all Senior Leaders, myself included, read with a targeted cohort each week. This exposes pupils to new vocabulary, promotes greater understanding and builds their confidence, all of which is part of the improved offer at St Anne's. As Dr Seuss said: *"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."*

SEND Update

Our pupils with SEND continue to be a priority at St Anne's. Miss Morgan, the SENDCo is committed to ensuring the provision for SEND is at least good. Over the past few months, she has been visiting lessons and said, "It was wonderful to see some excellent work." This was reflected in the number of SEND pupils being rewarded in the recent assemblies. The SEND team have also been working closely with teachers to establish 'protocols' based on quality teaching and high expectations. Our Learning Support Assistants are improving relationships with parents and carers through regular communication around the progress of their pupils and the support that they are providing in lessons and outside of the classroom.

Update on rewards

In September we launched a new rewards campaign that is underpinned by Class Charts. Pupils are rewarded in lessons against our SACRED Values. I am delighted to report that there have been many rewards points issued to our pupils for displaying *Service, Ambition, Compassion, Respect, Equality and Determination*. Furthermore, pupils are able to earn badges for reaching specific milestones and to date many pupils have achieved the Bronze badge, 375 have achieved the Silver Badge and an incredible 14 have achieved their Gold Badges. This demonstrates their hard work in every lesson, every day. The final badge, yet to be achieved, is the Platinum badge that is awarded when pupils reach 850 achievement points. Rewarding success and celebrating pupils' achievements are part of the St Anne's Way.

Communication with parents

To improve and streamline communication with parents, we use Class Charts. It is imperative ALL parents log onto the Class Charts app/website in order to receive information about your child's achievements, rewards, homework, detentions and behaviour. Thank you to those parents who are engaging positively with this platform. We have just over 100 parents still to log in who are being contacted by the school to provide support in accessing the system.

Yr9 Parents' Evenings and Options

Yr9 Parents' Evening and Options Evening will take place on **3rd March from 4pm to 7pm**. During the evening, you will have the opportunity to meet your child's teachers as well as hear a presentation about the options process. **There will be 2 presentations at 4.30pm and 6pm**. These are very important decisions for your child



ST. ANNE'S
R.C. VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

as they embark on their GCSEs. In order to support your child as much as possible, please ensure you attend on the evening. Please refer to a letter sent by Mr Ostmeier on Class Charts for further information.

Headteacher Surgery

As mentioned in my January letter, I am holding another Headteacher's surgery on Thursday 10th March. I will be available from 7am until 3pm to meet parents on an individual basis. This will be my second surgery and is an excellent opportunity to not only build relationships with parents but also a forum to raise concerns in an open environment. In my last Headteacher's surgery, several issues were raised that I was quickly able to address. As I said in the letter in January, I am hoping for better engagement from parents. As we strive to make St Anne's a strong school community that we are all be proud of, it is important that parents engage with and support the school.

Yr11 Update

- Year 11 pupils completed extra Mock exams in English and Maths on Monday 21st February. I await to see the results of these, but I cannot stress enough the importance of **hard work both in school and at home**. This will be the single biggest factor in determining pupils' grades this summer. As parents, I ask that you ensure your child is doing at least 2 hours revision every night.
- Intervention is continuing to take place after school. It is important that, if your child has been identified by their teacher to attend, they do so. This is an excellent opportunity and gives pupils a structured approach to learning content and developing key examination skills. Well done to those pupils who attended intervention before the half-term! I pray that their determination will ensure they achieve the grades they want this summer.
- We continue to investigate a venue for the Prom but as yet, nothing has been decided. This is a great evening that celebrates your child's time at St Anne's. However, it is important that both parents and pupils know that this evening is by **invite only**; it is not an entitlement. Sadly, a few pupils have had warning letters that their places are at risk. Any pupil who misbehaves repeatedly in school will not be invited to the Prom. I will personally correspond with parents if this is the case. This message has been conveyed to all pupils several times.

General News

We have been successful in a bid from Active Travel Transport for Greater Manchester to build a brand new, fully enclosed bike shelter. We hope this encourages more staff and pupils to travel to and from school by bike. Furthermore, the school garden has been awarded £500 funding from Stockport Council, allowing us to recover the polytunnel and begin work on the composting area.

Our Yr10 girls football team played brilliantly in a recent tournament at Cheadle Hulme School. Two wins and a draw mean the girls are positioned well for the next round of matches this term. Well done, girls! I look forward to hearing more good news from the PE department over the next few months.

Finally,

Can I, on behalf of the St Anne's staff, take this opportunity to thank two groups of stakeholders. Firstly, can I thank parents who overwhelmingly support the school. I appreciate the many positive comments I receive from parents. Secondly, can I ask parents to pass on our thanks to the vast majority of pupils who come to



ST. ANNE'S
R.C. VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

school to learn. Since September [and before] their education has been consistently disrupted by Covid, but they have proved to be resilient. For this they deserve credit!

As always, thanks for your support!

Yours

Mr Logue
Executive Headteacher