

January 2022

Dear parents/carers

A warm welcome to the first newsletter of the year. This newsletter contains lots of important information for your perusal. As you will see it is jam-packed with positivity and good news! Before sharing all the information, I hope and pray that 2022 is going to be kind to our community, especially our great pupils and staff.

### **Covid Updates**

As you know, we had a staggered start to this term to accommodate the supervised onsite LFT testing of pupils upon their return. I am pleased to report that all ran smoothly, and I wish to thank you for your support. To reduce the possibility of transmission in school please do not send your child into school if they have covid symptoms or feel unwell, take a LFT and inform school. Also, it is important to continue to perform LFT's twice weekly at home to identify anyone who is asymptomatic.

### **Catholic Life at St. Anne's**

- Our RE Department are visiting St Joseph's primary school this term to deliver RE classes, prayers, and reflections to the Year's 4 and 5. We are delighted that Fr John, the new parish priest, will be celebrating a programme of class masses beginning with Year 7 this term. I am hoping this will be start of a great relationship to improve the Catholicity of St Anne's.
- Our Caritas group will be raising money for the Catholic Charity 'Mary's Meals' during Lent this year. <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/> and The Laudato Bees group (Environment group) have 1000 blubs they will be planting over the school grounds over the next few weeks.
- The MET (Mission & Ethos Team) will be meeting this half term with the focus of strategies to embed our new school mission statement which was launched with the staff on the inset day in December.

### **Parental Support**

As I have said in previous correspondence, St Anne's is making great progress in ensuring that your child is getting at least a good education. At this point in our journey, I would like to say a massive thanks to the parents who support the school in its quest to be a great school that pupils, staff, and parents are proud of. The following are some ways that you can support us.

- ✓ Attendance. There is a strong link between attendance and attainment in pupils. In essence if pupils attend, they are more likely to achieve and hence fulfil their potential. Please support the school in its aim to ensure at least good or better attendance.
- ✓ Take interest in your child's work. Speak to your child about what they are doing in school. Take interest in their learning and ensure that the message is school should be fun, rewarding but that they are here to learn and achieve.
- ✓ Homework/Study time. Pupils at St Anne's should be completing homework or studying each night. Ensure that they have a quiet place to do so and that they have no distractions, such as having their mobile phones.
- ✓ Behaviour and our simple rules. At St Anne's, our rules are simple and ensure a positive learning environment for your child. They are also transparent and enforced. As I have repeatedly said, pupils



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who undermine these simple transparent rules, compromise the safety of others, or disrupt other pupils' learning are putting their place at risk. St Anne's over the past few months has not been tolerating 'poor' behaviour and it is clear to see that this is having a positive impact on the community in general, and the pupils learning in particular.

As usual, communication is important to me. If there are issues, please speak to the school so that we can work together in making St Anne's the school we know that it can be!

### **Safeguarding**

In November 2021, the LA Safeguarding Lead conducted a Safeguarding Audit of St Anne's. The report was very positive, and she commented on noticing a *'real positive change since my last visit in January 2020'*. Amongst other areas of improvement, the conduct of pupils was *'noted to be good, with pupils on task in classrooms and students interacting without incident during break times.'* Whilst the audit reflects the hard work of Mrs Hibbert and the pastoral team, it is also a reflection of all staff at St Anne's however, as always, there remain areas to improve and develop over the next few months to ensure that the St Anne's culture on safeguarding is fully embedded.

### **Attendance**

Our school attendance continues to be above the current national average. That is great news! However, there are several pupils whose attendance remains a grave concern. Last half term we worked with the LA to commence the enforcement process. We don't want to take this action but will continue to do so after all avenues of support have been exhausted. Before parent's ring in to report that their child will be absent from school that day, please consider that not all illness requires a day off school and pupils with more than three broken weeks due to illness may not have their absence authorised unless proof of the illness is provided from a medical professional. Furthermore, I ask that parents contact school before 8:30am and provide a reason for the absence. This is to ensure appropriate safeguarding, which is St Anne's number one priority.

### **TikTok**

TikTok is an online platform that allows the sharing of videos. Recently a more sinister side has emerged where it has been used to spread messages of hate, including sexually explicit content and dangerous/false information on eating disorders. It is important that parents know what their children are accessing and, fortunately, TikTok has developed a 'family sharing' feature which allow parents to monitor and restrict the content their child can access. To do this, parents create their own TikTok account and click the 'three dots' icon on our Safeguarding Padlet at [http://www.bit.ly/stannes\\_safeguarding](http://www.bit.ly/stannes_safeguarding)

### **Headteacher Surgery**

As part of St Anne's strategy to ensure better communication with parents I held a Headteachers 'surgery' on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January. The purpose of this was to not only improve communication with parents but also as a forum to raise any concerns that you may also have so that we can work together and address. As Executive Headteacher I really value the support of parents to make sure that St Anne's is a real community. I met parents who asked questions and raised genuine issues. The meetings were overwhelmingly positive. My only disappointment was the lack of wider engagement with this forum. I am hoping for better engagement at the next surgery.



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I will be hosting another Headteacher surgery on **Thursday 10th March**. On this day I will be available from **7am until 3pm** to meet parents on an individual basis. This will be a ten- minute meeting and will provide you the opportunity to raise any issue that you may have. I warmly welcome the opportunity to meet as many parents as possible on the day. To book an appointment please contact Fiona Bentley on 0161 432 8162. I am looking forward to a busy day. 😊

### **New Staff**

I am delighted to announce that new leaders have joined the school. They are

- ✓ Laura Riley, Head of Geography
- ✓ Martyn Andrews, Head of Physical Education
- ✓ Ruth Murray, Maths Leader
- ✓ Gary Sugden, Business Manager

All of these appointments are 'leaders' who are committed to driving the school forward and ensuring that St Anne's pupils get at least a good education. This is the least that your pupils deserve.

### **Behaviour and Standards**

- *Uniform:* The standards of uniform at St Anne's has improved massively and is now high. It shows that the pupils are proud ambassadors for our community. It is a joy to see the pupils looking smart and ready to learn. There is no excuse for pupils not to wear full school uniform.
- *Basic kit:* This is checked every morning by form tutors. It is imperative that pupils show good attitudes towards their learning and are fully prepared for learning. Unfortunately, not all pupils are bringing the 'basics' I ask parents to support the school in ensuring they come to school prepared.
- *Class Charts:* Thank you to parents for engaging with this app. This allows parents access to school announcements and information regarding your child's achievements, homework, and behaviour.
- *Detentions:* Class Charts will notify parents of detentions in advance but as Executive Headteacher, I reserve the right to place any pupil in an after school without prior notice.
- *Behaviour panels:* In early February Mrs Critchlow and I will be meeting parents of pupils who believe the rules don't apply to them to discuss their child's future conduct. For the avoidance of doubt, I will not tolerate the disruption to the learning of others.
- *Exclusions:* These are high but necessary as we continue to embed our new high standards and expectations throughout the school. There are never any excuses for repeated disruption of learning at St Anne's.

May I outline three key messages on behaviour and standards. Firstly, I am delighted with how the vast majority of pupils at St Anne's have risen to the increased expectations, leading to improved attitudes to learning. This bodes well for their future. Secondly, a massive thanks to the overwhelming support on improving standards from parents in ensuring our environment is safe





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and conducive to quality learning. Thirdly, our simple, fair, transparent rules will be enforced. This has already created the environment where pupils succeed!

### **Teaching & Learning at St. Anne's**

It is a real privilege as a leader of St Anne's to be able to drop in to see the improved teaching and learning at St Anne's. Teaching is our core purpose and teachers work hard to ensure that a knowledge rich curriculum is being delivered through quality teaching. In each letter I will update you on some of the great practice in school. Pupil Voice in Yr10 History was positive, and they said they were grateful that teachers support learning, and are good at explaining ideas, when they are studying difficult concepts. Furthermore, in Maths, pupils have completed their summative assessment and pupils have shown some exceptional progress. I am proud of our pupils this term and of the way they continue to adapt to all expectations. I am excited to see how teaching and learning continues to improve over the rest of this academic year.

### **Update from Curriculum Areas**

Now that I have been in St Anne's for a term I want to start sharing 'good' news with parents about what is happening in a range of subject areas across school. Each letter will showcase learning and/or good practice.

- **MFL:** Yr9 completed a benchmark of brilliance project which was the equivalent of a GCSE Writing and Reading task. The project instilled confidence, pride, and belief in their work. Their results and effort were superb with pupils writing 90 words in 3 tenses. Well done Year 9! Furthermore, it has been great for the pupils to be able to speak in Spanish in the classroom again! As a result, Yr7 and Yr8 completed their first Spanish Speaking test. Bravo chicos!
- **Health & Social Care:** Yr11 pupils have worked so hard completing their first GCSE exam on day two of this half term! Additionally, they also completed their 1st piece of coursework. Mrs Bowden is extremely proud of them as they have shown resilience and determination as well as ambition to achieve. Well done!
- **English:** A fabulous effort from pupils who entered the 'Twisted Tales' creative writing competition and the 'Empowered' poetry competition. We are eagerly waiting on news to see who will get their work published. A group of Yr10 boys are involved in this year's PIE project using skills such as budgeting, marketing, and project planning. Finally, several Yr10 English pupils are taking part in an important research study with Manchester Metropolitan University where they produce a podcast reflecting on language use in teenagers and exploring some of the attitudes and ideas around the way we speak in Greater Manchester.
- **PE:** Pupils attendance at extra-curricular clubs is increasing which is fantastic! These are a great way to improve teamwork, leadership and listening skills, which translates into strengthened social skills and self-confidence. I know that Mr Andrews, our new Head of PE, is eager to build on this further. In fact, he is keen to bring back some silverware to St Anne's as we start to participate in more sporting events! Watch this space!



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### **Parent Evening Dates**

- *Yr11*: This will take place on **Thursday 10th February** between 4pm and 7pm. Pupils will need to arrange appointment times with their teachers. For obvious reasons, this is a critical Parents' Evening, and it is important that parents attend to listen to key messages from subject teachers. I look forward to a large turnout on the night. I will be available throughout the evening to speak to as many parents as possible
- *Yr9 Parents' and Options Evening*: This will take place on **Thursday 3rd March** from 4.00pm to 7.00pm. During the evening there will also be an opportunity to listen to a talk about Yr9 options. An options booklet will be sent home prior to the event so you can talk to your child about their options and the different combination of subjects they are able to choose. Option choices will need to be finalised by the end of March in preparation for Yr10. This is an important evening so again; I ask that parents make the upmost effort to attend.

### **Year 9 Curriculum Changes**

After the February half-term Yr9 will be studying Spanish as well as French with the option of doing Spanish or French at GCSE in Yr10. Further details are available in a separate letter from Mr Ostmeier.

### **Year 10 Targets**

Targets for Year 10 pupils are now available and have been shared with pupils and posted to parents. These targets are for the end of their GCSE's and are based on the progress they should make based on their KS2 data. Mr Ostmeier will deliver an assembly to explain the options process to the pupils.

### **Duke of Edinburgh [DoE] Update**

As part of The DoE Award scheme, St Anne 's has been selected by the Queen' s Green Tree Canopy Initiative to be given trees to plant in the school environment. Our DofE pupils, our Gardening Club and Mrs Bowden will plant Wild Cherry Blossom trees around school to improve our surroundings. This will then be registered on the Queens Green Canopy website so it can be tracked and updated as they grow.

### **Improving our Pupils Learning Environment**

Our investment programme continues and the next stage of the successful £ 1.6m premises bid will commence in the spring term as we see the replacement of the school's roofs and windows. This will create a significantly improved learning environment and signals the Trust's commitment to our improvement journey.



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**Finally...**

I have no doubt that you share my aspiration for St. Anne's and will be fully supportive to enable my team and I the delivery of a high-quality education for all our pupils. I very much look forward to building on the successes of the change programme over the remainder of this academic year. All decisions and change will be focused on the St Anne's mantra which is to **'serve the children'**. As Executive Headteacher I will be relentless in this task.

Yours faithfully

Mr S Logue  
Executive Headteacher