



ST. ANNE'S
R.C. VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

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March 2022

Dear parents/carers

Welcome to my latest newsletter on all things St Anne's. As usual, the past month has been very busy, and I hope that you enjoy reading about the range of activities and opportunities that occur here at St Anne's.

School Leadership

As part of St Anne's journey to become an outstanding Catholic school the Governors have recognised that there has to be 'stability' at Senior Leadership. Consequently, the Governors have appointed a Head of School to ensure robust and accountable leadership. Mrs Critchlow, the Senior Deputy Headteacher was successful. I wish her all the best for the future! This will no doubt further strengthen the senior leadership at St Anne's which since September 2021 has been completely transformed. May I add that all leaders at St Anne's are determined to ensure that your child gets a great education and are committed to their well-being and safety.

Update on the Catholic life of St Anne's

- Lenten/Easter Liturgies: Mr Regan, Mrs Harris and members of the Caritas Team led our Lenten liturgies this Thursday. The theme of our prayerful end to this term was -'Carrying one's cross while looking forward to Easter'. All year groups participated in a spirit of prayer and reflection. The Caritas Team concluded our liturgy by sharing the great news of monies that had been raised by St Anne's for our Lenten charity 'Mary's Meals'.
- St. Joseph's Primary School Visit: Mrs Hanley-Parchment and Sister Silvia visited St Joseph's on Friday 11th March with two former St Joseph's pupils from Year 7 to teach a lesson on St Anne's SACRED Values to years 4 and 5. Both our Yr7 pupils wore their St Anne's uniforms with pride and did a tremendous job of exhibiting our SACRED Values of **S**ervice, **A**mbition, **C**ompassion, **R**espect, **E**quality and **D**etermination. These 2 pupils are Kian Sachar and Ruby Wilson, and I am delighted to say that they are great ambassadors for our community.
- Confirmation at St. Joseph's Reddish: If anyone would like to begin a course towards the Sacrament of Confirmation, then please let Fr John know as soon as possible. The age range is from Yr8 upwards. Alternatively speak with Mr. Regan, who will be able to direct them to the Parish for the information.

Thoughts from an ex-St Anne's pupil...

Mr Regan, Head of RE, has reflected on his time as a past pupil and allowed me to share with you. Mr Regan attended St Anne's from 1991-1996 and was a governor from 2016 to 2020. He returned to teach RE in 2008 and he recalls the school he returned to was very different to the school he left. Importantly he told me that some things have not changed. He says with pride that St Anne's has "fantastic pupils who are the spirit of the school, committed teachers who do their very best for our pupils' day in and day out and deeply supportive parents who want the very best for their children". However, Mr Regan was frank and acknowledged that St Anne's has been through a difficult few years. However, as a past pupil and a local 'lad', he remains positive and optimistic about the St Anne's community. Reflecting on his own leadership, he states that the RE department are ambitious for every one of our pupils, without exception. The RE departmental code is simple: 'Love your learning, do your best, expect to do well'. From my perspective, it is a pleasure working with Mr Regan as he epitomises what St Anne's is all about!





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#BeeWell Survey

The recent #BeeWellGreater Manchester survey that was completed by our Yr8 and Yr10 pupils, showed that, on average, pupils at St Anne's get less sleep than their peers. The recommended amount of nightly sleep for teenagers is between 8 and 10 continuous hours, yet many of our pupils report getting less than 6. Pupils not getting enough sleep are more likely to suffer from low motivation, depression, anxiety and mood swings. They are also less likely to do as well at school compared to those pupils who are getting enough sleep. When asked most pupils say they go to bed late because they 'are on their phone,'. I recommend that parents ensure that phones are not allowed in their bedrooms at night to aid 'good' sleep.

Teaching and Learning update

At St Anne's our teachers continue to teach quality lessons to ensure that pupils make good progress across our knowledge rich curriculum. As a result, this term especially, we are extremely proud of our pupils' achievements. Our Yr11 Sports Studies class received some fantastic results, following their January exam. KS3 maths classes have recently celebrate Pi Day, where some of our pupils amazingly recited Pi to over 100 decimal places! Our high expectations around our standards of uniform and basic kit remain. We expect all pupils to be in full school uniform every day. All pupils should bring with them all of their basic kit so as they are prepared for learning –every item, every lesson, every day. Please make sure, that your child comes to school with their equipment including two blue/black pens, a green pen, a pencil, ruler, calculator, reading book, pencil case and school bag. After Easter, our pupils will receive their knowledge organisers for the summer term, this also forms part of their basic kit.

Children's Mental Health Week: 13-17th February

We embraced Children's Mental Health Week earlier in the term with several daily activities designed to increase the awareness of 'proactive and positive' mental health strategies. Kooth delivered assemblies to each year group which promoted the online support available to pupils and our staff members also shared their own personal strategies for looking after their own mental health. The week concluded with a cake sale organised by the Pupil Leadership Team. The funds raised will contribute to the training of our newly recruited Mental Health Ambassadors to enable them to offer support to pupils who are in need of some peer advice or help.

Science Week –11th to 20th March

British Science Week organised by the British Science Association aims to celebrate all sciences and their importance in everyday lives. It is a great way to raise the profile of science in school and all St Anne's pupils were presented with opportunities to increase engagement, enjoyment, and motivation of science through specially designed science worksheets, activities, and games throughout the week. A 'Who Am I?' scientist quiz got the pupils moving around school, interacting with and interviewing many staff members [who represented different scientists] as well as writing descriptive and informative pieces on the scientists' famous experiments and discoveries.

Update on building works

I am both delighted and excited that building work will commence in a few weeks to improve our school environment to ensure that it is conducive to teaching and learning. This is an important investment at St. Anne's costing over £1.5M which we will follow with further improvements as funding allows. We are also changing our waste collection contract to a company that has an eco-friendly approach, supports food banks across the North-West, plants trees to be carbon neutral and takes part in the fully funded driver training programme to address the national HGV driver shortage. Our water fountains are



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also being replaced with modern technology to reduce single use plastics and uses energy saving technology to help reduce our carbon footprint. As a result we are asking that all pupils bring a reusable water bottle with them to school that they can refill at break and lunchtime. These ongoing changes are all part of making our school community a better place for our children.

Rewards and Behaviour Update

Standards at St Anne's continue to improve with the majority of pupils demonstrating our SACRED values on a daily basis; 36 pupils have now collected in excess of 600 achievement points and as a result have been awarded Gold badges. This is an outstanding achievement! However, a small minority of pupils are not following our SACRED Values. These pupils are subject to report cards, behaviour panels, days in our Romero Centre and Fixed Term Exclusions. A number have also been permanently excluded. For the avoidance of doubt, repeated disruption and/or bad behaviour isn't being tolerated at St Anne's. It simply isn't fair on the vast majority of our great pupils who come to school to learn.

Finally, as we approach the summer term, we are planning our rewards' trips and activities as well as celebration events where you, as parents, are also invited into school. These include the Yr7 and Yr8 Curriculum Showcase on 5th May and the Key Stage 3 Celebration Evening in July. More details will follow in future letters.

Transition mornings

We have now started the process of welcoming our new Yr7 cohort for September 2022. Over the past few weeks, Mrs Critchlow has hosted a series of coffee mornings where parents have been able to take a tour of the school and see St Anne's 'in action'. Feedback has been positive, specifically to the transparent and honest approach we have taken towards sharing where we are on our improvement journey so far. Future transition events are now being planned for the summer term.

Headteacher Surgery

As mentioned in my January letter, I held another Headteachers' surgery on **Thursday 10th March**. This was my second surgery and provided another excellent opportunity to not only build relationships with parents but also a forum to raise concerns in an open environment. Like I said in the letter in January, I was hoping for better engagement from parents. Nonetheless I will continue to have these surgeries as it is important that the leadership is readily accessible to meet parents. Despite the low numbers, the parents I met were overall positive about St Anne's which was nice to hear.

Reading

Pupils in Yr7-Yr9 are all enrolled on our Accelerated Reader programme. This encourages pupils to read a new book approximately every two weeks and then tracks their reading age as they progress. Pupils with large gaps between their chronological and their reading age are additionally enrolled on interventions including the Toe by Toe, Lexia and Inference. We are pleased to say that, on average, reading age gaps have closed by 8 months since October. The work on reducing these gaps is on going and supported by our Class Readers during form times and our 'Drop Everything and Read' termly events.



Yr11 update

- **Hard work:** It is now fast approaching the exams in May/June. It is vital that all Yr11 pupils are working hard at both home and school. I can't stress enough that there is **no substitute for hard work.**
- **Revision at Easter:** To help prepare for their GCSEs we have a revision schedule over Easter. Your child will have been told by their subject teacher if they need to attend. Please ensure you support this excellent opportunity. May I take this opportunity to thank all the teachers that are giving up their time in the Easter holidays to support our Yr11 pupils.
- **More exams:** As part of the national guidance to complete assessments for all Yr11 pupils in the unlikely cancellation of the exams, Yr11 pupils have recently completed another set of assessments.
- **Prom.** A great tradition and is taking place on **Thursday 30th June.** Sadly, a number of pupils will not be celebrating the Prom due to lack of work and/or exclusions. For the avoidance of doubt, this is not an entitlement of the curriculum but is invitation only. The staff at St Anne's also want too enjoy the evening and not spend their evening looking out for pupils who misbehave. Pupils who have been withdrawn have been, or will be informed, by letter.

Yr10 update

Yr10 boys attending the PIE project, which aims to boost their independent learning and confidence, continued to engage in the project actively and positively. Many members of the public commented on their exceptional behaviour on the public transport and at the venue. They are ambassadors for our school community. Well done! Pupils in Yr10 have been producing some exceptional essays on Romeo and Juliet, where they have engaged with this challenging text and pushed themselves to achieve amazing analysis!

Yr9 Parents' Evenings and Options

Yr9 Parent's Evening and Options Evening took place on 3rd March from 4pm to 7pm. It was a great turnout so a massive thank you to all the parents that supported the evening. During the evening parents had the opportunity to meet their child's teachers as well as hear a presentation about the options process. These are very important decisions for your child as they embark on their GCSE's.

Following our Yr9 Parent's Evening I must thank all the parents who completed a questionnaire on the evening. We have had our highest response to date, and I am thrilled with the increased number of positive responses which are summarised below.

My child is happy at school	89% agree or strongly agree
The school lets me know how my child is doing	93% agree or strongly agree
The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year	82% agree or strongly agree
The school has high expectations for my child	89% agree or strongly agree
I would recommend this school to another parent	93% agree or strongly agree



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Additionally, we had some great comments including “*SEND has been amazing AND English my child loves because of his teachers*”, “*I would definitely recommend this school to another parent*” and “*xx is enjoying his new school and is so happy to go to school every morning*”. Thank you for your positive feedback.

Yr7 Update

We are very much looking forward to our **Yr7 Parents Evening on 28th April** which will be the first time that many of our Year 7 parents will have been able to meet their child’s teachers. The Yr7 reports have been sent home and I strongly encourage you to attend the Yr7 and 8 ‘Curriculum Showcase’ in May where our pupils will be proudly showing off their accomplishments from their first year at St. Anne’s. There will be language and drama presentations, Math’s challenges, and an opportunity to sample food prepared in Food Technology lessons.

Celebrating World Maths Day

On Wednesday 23rd March Ms Khan and the Maths department successfully celebrated World Maths Day. Pupils in Y7-10 had the opportunity to combine their maths knowledge with both their problem-solving and artistic skills during their maths lessons. Activities were thoroughly planned, extensive and age-appropriate. Yr7 activities involved practising number skills by creating paper chains, recalling understanding of coordinates to create Mondrian art, playing a Maths version of ‘Monopoly’ and practising knowledge of fractions by sharing parts of a sandwich! Yr8 and Yr9 had the opportunity to be creative by repeatedly drawing geometric shapes in a pattern that created curves and swirls and analysing mystic rose patterns. Yr10 attempted curve stitching where they stitched straight lines in a pattern to create a curve, solved Tarsia puzzles and created Crazy Maths Clock problems. The maths department thoroughly enjoyed World Maths Day and it was wonderful to see pupils embracing the day. Feedback showed that pupils really enjoyed new challenges, learning new skills, being creative and working as a team. I would like to take this opportunity to say well done to the Maths department; it brought maths to life!

Sports update

- ✓ Yr10 boys recently played Dean Trust Ardwick on Wednesday. In an entertaining encounter that resulted in a fair 2-2 draw, our pupils showed a resilient attitude and pride in their appearance. The PE departments said “they were a credit to the school”
- ✓ Our Yr11 Sports Studies pupils braved the waters of Salford Quays as part of their Outdoor Education unit. The day did not disappoint and despite the cold weather all pupils got stuck in and were strangely keen to 'fall in' or capsize. Pupils had the opportunity to take part in kayaking, paddleboarding, giant paddleboarding, sailing and catamaran kayaking. Please look at our Twitter page for some of the action @StAnnesPE1. Fantastic to see pupils enjoying trips again post-Covid.

Cycling to School Safely

Following my previous communication on the securing of funds to deliver a brand new and bigger bike shed for our pupils I wanted to reinforce that biking to school has significant positive advantages for our pupils but it important they stay safe on our roads. Please check your child’s bike to ensure that it is the right fit and that all parts are working. Your children should be encouraged to use the designated cycle paths when available and to wear a helmet. It is essential that pupils learn and embrace safety steps to ensure a lifetime of safe cycling behaviour.



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The Laudato Bee Gardening Club

The club have been busy in the school garden. They have dismantled the old, raised beds and have been marking out the new beds and laying chipped wood (which we got from shredding the cut down overhanging trees near the garden) to make paths. We have 4 large beds ready to go. We plan on using the no-dig method to support the structure of the soil. Next job is to finish planting the blackcurrants and raspberry bushes in our new "Food Forest" and start planting seeds to fill the new beds with vegetables after Easter.

Finally...

Let me end the letter with some great news! Last week I was contacted by one of our neighbours who wanted to share how three of our pupils, in full uniform, stopped to help an elderly lady with Dementia on Brackley Road. They were described as "wonderful with her, helping her to get home, and making phone calls to try and help" as she was very confused. They stayed with her, and only left when they knew she was safe. These pupils are a credit to the St. Anne's community, and I am so proud of their actions.

Have a great Easter, and as always, thanks for your support!

Yours

Mr Logue
Executive Headteacher

