



**ST. ANNE'S**  
R.C. VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

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**Executive Headteacher**  
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**July 2022**

Dear parents/carers

Welcome to the last letter of the academic year. I trust that you are well and enjoying the sunshine of the past few weeks. This year has been a very busy year for the St Anne's community as we strive towards ensuring that your child receives at least a good education. This year has seen many positive changes and I look forward to working with you next year as we see the impact of these changes. I would like to take this opportunity to say a genuine thanks to the many parents who are supporting the school. It really is appreciated. I hope you enjoy reading!

### **Catholicity update**

The MET (Mission and Ethos Team) met on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July to review and evaluate our catholicity and Mission and to ensure appropriate plans are in place for next year. In attendance was Mrs Hanson, our link governor for Catholicity, Fr John from St Joseph's Reddish and the RE Team. Our three SACRED ambassador groups (Gift Team, Cartas Team and the Laudato Bee's) all presented their vision for the next academic year, including growing the numbers of pupils participating.

Importantly, Fr John has agreed to work with the St Anne's RE team to ensure we have a systematic and planned schedule to celebrate our catholicity. This has included monthly voluntary masses, feast day masses and visiting school regularly at key events such as celebration evening, parents evening and INSET days. I am both delighted and highly grateful. Additionally, Mr Browne and a small group of pupils, representing St Anne's, attended Fr Moss's funeral at St Joseph's. Fr Moss was known to many of our pupils and parents because of his many years of service at St Joseph's Reddish.

### **A message from the Chair of Governors, Mr Thorpe**

St Anne's has experienced a lot of instability in leadership over the past few years which has contributed to some of the challenges faced by the school. One of the key areas of improvement has therefore been an endeavour to create capacity and stability in the senior leadership team. At Easter we appointed Mrs Critchlow as Head of School. This is to ensure continuity and operational focus is maintained in the school whilst enabling Mr Logue as Executive Headteacher to prioritise the strategic improvements that are required. It is planned that Mr Logue will remain as Executive Headteacher for the school year 2022-23 and we are grateful to the community at St Damian's in Ashton for agreeing to this extension in recognition of the vital work he is undertaking. This arrangement will be reviewed again in 12 months.

### **Safeguarding over the summer**

I know that our children are looking forward to the summer holidays but once they start, some pupils begin to feel lonely and isolated as school support network is temporarily unavailable. To help young people understand that a feeling of isolation can be quite normal, **Childline** have put together a summer survival kit. It is well worth a read as it covers topics such as coping with the break from school, staying safe and signposting for support. The website link can be found here. [www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/home-families/seasonal-events/summer-holidays/](http://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/home-families/seasonal-events/summer-holidays/)





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### **Parental Meeting in June**

A big thanks for all those parents who attended the Parents' Evening on the 9<sup>th</sup> June. I outlined our strategy and gave an update on St Anne's. It was obvious from the parental questioning we have a long way to go. I listened to the parents and took on board all the comments. Rest assured that the leadership of the school is working very hard to address all the issues that were raised and are relishing the challenges ahead. Having said that, I am proud of the changes that have been put in place. I plan to do another evening like this in January 2023.

### **Anti-ambassador Bullies**

Earlier this term, Mrs Critchlow and I presented our Anti-Bullying ambassadors with their well-deserved Diana Award badges and certificates. Since they completed their training in May, the ambassadors have been meeting weekly to plan how they will work to reduce bullying at St Anne's. Having organised a pupil voice activity for all pupils, they are now working on a new Anti-Bullying policy ready to be launched in September 2022. They have also delivered assemblies to ensure all our pupils know how to report bullying and who they can go to for help. As a school, we have a zero-tolerance towards any type of bullying.

### **Teaching & Learning update**

There have been significant improvements in teaching this academic year. Over the year our teachers have improved their practice by focusing on effective teaching strategies such as questioning, ensuring knowledge learnt in lessons is connected and closing gaps. Our recent lesson observations have shown improvements in all areas. This has been a result of the commitment from our teachers and in particular our Teaching and Learning Group, whose commitment to developing staff expertise and sharing good practice should be commended. They are the 'driving force' for school improvement. Finally, in our last pupil voice of the academic year, 83% of our pupils enjoyed their learning which has seen an increase of 30% compared with the Autumn Term last year. Although we are still improving, this bodes well for the future.

### **Yr 10 summer to help prepare for Yr11**

Following on from the Parents' Information Evening in June when I was asked about extra provision for the current Yr10. I outline work that your child should endeavour to study over the break. I ask that all Yr10 parents support this independent study over the summer. Below is a short description of work being set from each subject. This will be uploaded onto class charts.

- *English:* A booklet of quotations and key words to learn. These have been distributed to pupils.
- *Maths:* Pupils have been equipped with bespoke Hegarty QLA Intervention based on their gaps.
- *Science:* Exam questions that pupils have been given. Handed to Year 10 this morning
- *RE:* Revise the topic of Catholic Christianity
- *PE:* Coursework preparation to do linked into the unit they are currently completing
- *Geography:* Guided revision booklet on rivers, an area to improve from end of year assessment
- *History:* Revise the 3 Germany booklets and the 2 Power and the People booklets
- *MFL:* Reading, Listening and Vocabulary on My town in Active Learn
- *Technology:* A set of practical activities that are linked to the project studied this year





### Updates on recent school events

- ✓ *Celebration Evening.* On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July we hosted our annual Celebration Evening. This recognises pupils' effort, attainment and attendance. It also rewarded pupils who displayed outstanding traits in line with our SACRED Values: **S**ervice, **A**mbition, **C**ompassion, **R**espect, **E**quality and **D**etermination. Alisse R received the Award for Excellence. Well done! Over 200 pupils were nominated across the categories. Well done to all the winners, all of whom are absolute credit to not only you as parents but to the wider St Anne's community. Again, well done, be proud of your achievements! I was really pleased with the positivity and energy and speaking to the parents afterwards it was a successful evening. Next year will be bigger and better!
- ✓ *Induction for new Yr6.* This half term we have been meeting our new Yr7 pupils. Transition Information Evening on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July was followed by the pupils spending a full day at St Anne's on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July. Additionally, we have hosted a series of morning sessions for our more vulnerable new Yr7 pupils led by the SEND department. The feedback from the pupils has been fantastic and reflects how our school community continues to get stronger. The new cohort have now been set their first homework task to keep them focussed over the summer, ready to join us in September.
- ✓ *Yr11, the class of 2022.* Yr11 celebrated their five years at St Anne's with a leavers' assembly and Prom. We congratulated those pupils who achieved 100% attendance this academic year and the pupils enjoyed reminiscing with a video prepared by Ms Gawne and Ms Caldecott, which included messages from teachers both past and present. Pupils received their hoodies and were able to celebrate the end of their exams with shirt signing and cakes! Pupils behaved admirably at our Prom at Cheadle Village Hotel and had a wonderful evening. Everyone looked fantastic and had an excellent time receiving awards, dancing and posing in the photo booth! Our Head Boy and Head Girl made a brilliant speech, showcasing their leadership skills. We are looking forward to seeing our Year 11 pupils on results day. We are so proud of them and can't wait to see what they go on to achieve.
- ✓ *Staff induction Day.* The 1<sup>st</sup> of July saw the induction of new teachers to prepare for starting St Anne's in September. All staff received their statutory training on safeguarding, had the opportunity get to know their departmental teams and familiarise themselves with the school in general. It was a positive day and evaluations were positive and comments included "*Can't wait to start in September*" and "*I am really excited about starting at St Anne's in September*".
- ✓ *SACRED day:* The last SACRED Day of the year took place on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July. The focus was 'Service'. The day was supported by brilliant presenters; Lee Mason delivered excellent sessions on '*Finance and Your Future*', staff delivered presentations on what is Service and why it matters, the RE department explored the work of Mary's Meals and in English pupils wrote letters to those in care homes. PE held inter-form competitions and raised money for charity. There was also a coffee and cake community event for local residents. The day really showcased our values and true faith in Action! One pupil in Yr9 said "*I'm not going to lie, it was great!*". High praise indeed! Thanks to all the staff who made the day a great success.
- ✓ *Sports Day.* The atmosphere at our annual Sports Day was calm but excitable as the pupils thoroughly enjoyed giving their best for their form. There were some outstanding individual performances and



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many school records broken, but this was a day that focused on the team element and having fun. After a quiet two years for sport, it was nice to get back to normality. Congratulations to all the pupils for making it a great day.

### **Rules from September 2022**

Over the past year our rules have been in place, and these have been changed and adapted for next year. These rules, alongside our SACRED values, are going to underpin how the school is run on a daily basis. Rules are needed to ensure a calm, safe and purposeful learning environment. Importantly, these rules are *fair, transparent and will be consistently enforced*. These rules are as follows:

1. **Engage** in learning in lessons
2. Correct **uniform** which includes appropriate hair style and no jewellery/piercing
3. No phones out in school at anytime: if **seen/heard** they will be confiscated
4. No **eating/drinking** on corridor or classrooms other than water
5. **Basic Kit**: every item, every lesson, every day
6. Be **punctual** to school and to lessons
7. **Underpinned by our SACRED values**

These rules will be clearly displayed around school and repeatedly referred to throughout the year. I ask that parents support the school in upholding these. Thanks in advance for your support.

Sadly, a small number of pupils did not follow the rules this year, and as a consequence, are no longer part of the St Anne's community. I reiterate my previous messages that if your child consistently does not follow these rules their place at St Anne's is at risk. It is not fair that a small number of pupils are allowed to disrupt the learning of others. And for the avoidance of doubt, the majority of pupils at St Anne's are great and, hence, deserve a great education.

### **Trip to Old Trafford**

Old Trafford hosted the opening game of the Women's Euro 2022 tournament on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July at 8pm. Mrs Gawne and Mr Wroe accompanied a group of very excited and enthusiastic football supporters from St. Anne's to the venue to see England's Lionesses start their campaign to become European Champions. They were a credit to St. Anne's sitting side by side with a group of students from Austria, there to see their team take on England. The opening ceremony elicited many wows from the children, and they were particularly impressed by the open ceremony that featured pyrotechnics displays. It is great to see our great pupils being ambassadors for our school!

### **Update on the extensive building work**

The £2.8 million investment has been gathering pace and will greatly benefit pupils by ensuring that the building and facilities are modern and meet health and safety standards, keeping your children happy and safe. Your children have been outstanding in their patience whilst works continue and are a credit to you all. The roof replacement scheme is almost finished and all single glazed windows and external doors will be replaced before we return in September. We are arranging for all fire doors and the heating system to be



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fully replaced, costing around £1.3 million. In addition to these major works we are replacing lights with modern LED panels which not only provide a better quality of light, but also help us to reduce our energy consumption, reducing our carbon footprint and allowing us to reinvest savings directly into teaching and learning. We will be relentless in continuing to invest and improve all aspects of school for your children.

### **Alton Towers - Summer rewards trip**

Almost 300 pupils were rewarded for demonstrating excellent behaviour, attendance, punctuality and working hard in lessons by a trip to Alton Towers on the 4<sup>th</sup> July. The weather was favourable, and the pupils were outstanding ambassadors for St Anne's. Part of the St Anne's way is to recognise and celebrate the achievements of our great children.

### **Prefect update**

Currently, we have not appointed a Head Boy or Head Girl [HB/HG]. We would like to challenge our senior prefects in the Autumn term and to raise their game in order to be promoted to these prestigious positions. The HB/HG will be responsible for delivering speeches to parents, supporting members of staff, promoting the SACRED values, organising duties and attendance at Parents' Evenings. They will also oversee intervention sessions for younger pupils such as Numeracy, Literacy and Science. Prefects will be split into two teams. Team A will be on active duty during week A and Team B during Week B. Remember that prefects must work hard in all lessons and be ambassadors for the St Anne's community.

### **House System**

From September we are introducing a House system. There will be three houses that represent our school motto '*To KNOW, LOVE and SERVE God*'. Forms will remain in single year groups but placed into a House and have a Head of House as opposed to a Head of Year. Further details will be sent home over the summer ready for our return in September. The aim is to further strengthen our Catholic community and distinct identity.

### **Quick reminder**

Yr7 and Yr11 pupils will commence the academic year on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September and all pupils will return on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September. I hope that they have a great summer and are ready to come back, engage in lessons and learn.

### **Finally...**

As I have already said, this year has seen many positive changes at our school. From a personal point of view, as Executive Headteacher it is always a privilege to lead any school and at St Anne's this is no exception. Mrs Critchlow, the Senior Leadership and the Extended Leadership Teams clearly understand the strengths and weaknesses of the school. Next year, I will be again working alongside this leadership to ensure that your child gets at least a 'good' education. I ask for your full support in our vision to make St Anne's outstanding and a school that we are all be proud to be part of!

Yours

Mr Logue  
Executive Headteacher