

August 2023

Dear Parents & Carers,

A very warm welcome to my first monthly newsletter of the academic year. We start the school year with positive energy, great confidence and high expectations after our **very positive Ofsted** report that reflects the St Anne's community. Rest assured that the leadership and staff of St Anne's will be building upon this report and are absolutely committed to ensuring that your child gets at least a good education!

New Staff September 2023

I would like to introduce you to several new staff as well as update you on those staff whose job roles have changed. Our new leaders are Mrs Rogerson, Head of Science and Mrs Stirling, our new deputy SENDCO and Ms. Burton, a new PE Teacher. Our new support staff includes Mrs Potts, HLTA, Ms Hartley, Science Technician and Mr Arayakandi, our new Finance Officer. We have also expanded our Learning Support Department with Miss Blackmore, Miss Brumby and Mrs Davies. Lastly, Ms Sutcliffe has been promoted from Deputy Headteacher to become the new Head of School. I know that you will wish them all well in their new roles. I also, wish them every success, and I have no doubt that they will be great additions to the great staff at St Anne's

The class of 2023: GCSE results

Congratulations to the class of 2023 for their results this year. It was great to see many students on results day. Their determination and hard work paid off. From initial indications, St Anne's has secured the **best Progress 8 measure** ever. This indicator is a measurement of value added across 8 different subjects. This outcome reflects the high-quality teaching and dedication from both students and staff. However, as a proud catholic school we also believe that these results are also due to the excellent pastoral care and the growing of positive relationships between parents. It is the intention of everyone at St Annes that these results will continue to be strong. I especially would like to congratulate the following; Saoirse Murphy, Noor Nadeem, Lola Dennehy and Kian Bazrafkan who all achieved **four or more grade 9's**. This is a remarkable achievement. I must take this opportunity to also thank all the staff, including support staff, for their hard work in supporting our students.

Yr11 and meeting parents over the next few weeks

Over the next few weeks senior leaders and I will be meeting the parents of students in Yr11 who are underachieving and/or are not working hard enough in school or at home. It is crucial that students and parents understand that success, as measured by GCSE outcomes, will depend on the hard work and effort that is put in from the beginning of September. In essence, there is no substitute for hard work throughout the year. Starting off with a hard-working and positive attitude also ensures that students are less stressed as they will be more prepared for the exam season next May/June. Furthermore, if any Yr11 parent wants to meet me, please contact the school. It is better to raise issues early so that they can be addressed. Finally, Yr11 students will not be allowed to disrupt the learning of other students; this is neither acceptable or fair.

Yr10 work experience

Last year St Anne's had our inaugural Yr10 Work experience. Our aim is for this to be embedded within the curriculum and is part of the entitlement of our Yr10 students. This provides invaluable experiences of the world of work, builds confidence and raises aspirations to achieve. I received several emails from employers, and it included these comments; Students were *"diligent, respectful and worked well with all our staff. They are a credit to St Anne's"*. Another said that they were *"so impressed with our children, they used their initiative and worked independently"*.

I am extremely proud of the manner in which St Anne's students conducted themselves! A big thanks to Mrs Simmons who organised this week. The date for Yr10 work experience next year is week beginning 15th July. Further details will follow in due course.

Building Work

The unprecedented building work has continued throughout the summer. During the summer break new doors, windows a new heating system have all been installed. In total nearly £3Million has been invested in the building to ensure that the building is conducive to a learning environment. The work does not stop here though, as we look at improving our data network, stairwells, sports hall and repainting much of the school internal walls.

Rules

At St Anne's we have **6 [SIX] simple rules** that we expect every student to follow. These rules are fair, accepted and well known. A reminder of these are below;

- Engage in active learning in all lessons
- Having the correct uniform which includes no jewellery and an appropriate hair-style
- No phones out on the school premises
- No eating or drinking on the corridors
- Having a basic kit every day to school, e.g. school bag and pens
- Be punctual to both school and lessons

These rules ensure that St Anne's is an efficient, calm learning environment where your child will thrive. The rules will be enforced by all staff, and I ask that parents support us in ensuring that these rules are followed. Students who repeatedly undermine these rules will put their place at St Anne's at risk.

Dates for your diary

The following are key dates for the half term. I ask that parents make a note of these and make every effort to attend the meetings that apply to your child. For example, the information parental evenings impart important knowledge for your child's future.

- 28th Sept: Yr7 Parental Information Evening
- 5th Oct: Yr11 Parental Information Evening
- 12th Oct: Open Evening 5:30pm – 8:00pm. **NB: School closes early at 1.30**
- 13th Oct: Yr7 Welcome Mass. Parents are invited to attend
- 19th Oct: Yr7 Proud Concert 6pm-7pm
- 20th Oct: SACRED Day. Timetable collapses for all students. Details to follow.
- 2nd Nov: Yr9 Parental Information Evening
- 9th Nov: Yr11 Parents' Evening
- 23rd Nov: Yr10 Parental Information Evening
- 24th Nov: INSET Day **NB: School Closed for students**
- 14th Dec: Yr8 Parents' Evening
- 19th Dec: Christmas Concert
- 21st Dec: Last day of Term for Christmas

Furthermore, I intend to have a Headteachers surgery on the **Tuesday 26th September, 7am until 3pm**. This is an opportunity for parents to speak directly to me about any issue with their child's education.

Responsible Use of ICT Systems

Respectful and responsible use of our ICT equipment and software is an expectation at St Anne's RC. We have recently invested a significant amount of money on ICT equipment with the aim of ensuring ICT contributes to enhanced facilities and learning opportunities. In September all students will be reminded of the expectation that they respect their school environment, including use of ICT. Students causing wilful damage to equipment will be sanctioned, which may include suspension. Your support to reinforce these expectations will be appreciated.

A message from the Chair of Governors, Mr Thorpe

There are many reasons to be optimistic as the new school year begins. Our recent Ofsted report and GCSE outcomes, demonstrates how far St Anne's has progressed in the past couple of years, thanks to the combined efforts of staff, students and their families working extremely hard towards shared goals. Our GCSE outcomes demonstrate that by setting high standards of behaviour and a focus on quality teaching of a challenging curriculum, then our students can achieve their full potential. Just as important, the students of St Anne's will enjoy a broad range of opportunities for personal and spiritual growth in a nurturing and safe environment. All this is of course dependent on a continuing and relentless focus on further improvement. We have set high standards and we will stick to them. A school at its best is a community where all parties pull together. As parents and carers your support is essential in ensuring our children have a fantastic education at St Anne's. That means making sure they attend school and arrive on time, fully equipped and well presented. It means making sure homework and revision is done well. It means that if you are at all worried, or are not happy about anything, you

should raise it with school without delay. Let me assure you that a 'Good' Ofsted report does NOT mean we have taken the foot off the pedal. The leadership of St Anne's are determined to sustain and build upon the improvements made, so that your children receive the very best catholic education which is what they deserve.

Press release

We are pleased to announce that we will be working with our local community newspaper, *Heaton's Post*, over the next 12 months. This paper is published monthly, and we will be sharing St Anne's good news to keep you informed of all our excellent work that happens each month so we can share good news, inspire and connect. Feel free to pick up your free copy from reception each month.

Finally, I am really looking forward to working with parents this year to ensure another successful year at for the St Anne's community.

Mr Logue
Executive Headteacher