



St Anne's RC Voluntary Academy

NEWSletter

June Issue 2023



Leavers Prom 2023—Hotel Football



ST. ANNE'S
R.C. VOLUNTARY ACADEMY



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To know, love and serve God



Executive Headteachers Welcome

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of St Anne's,

Here is my latest newsletter. I am sure that you will agree that this is another bumper issue with a range of exciting opportunities provided for our great children here.

As usual, Mr Regan and the RE team have had a busy few weeks.



Mr S Logue ~ Executive Headteacher
BA (Hons), MEd., NPQH, NPQEL

Fr Damien from St Joseph's Reddish visited school to celebrate our Yr10 Mass of Thanksgiving on Tuesday 6th June. It was a chance for our Yr10 students to pause for reflection and prayer and give thanks for all that has been achieved this year. We are very grateful to Fr Damien for his support!

Freddy Naftal, a Jewish teacher, spoke to every Yr9 RE class on Tuesday 13th June. He gave an excellent introduction to Judaism from a lived Jewish perspective, explaining both the joys and challenges of practicing the Jewish faith. He also took the opportunity to clearly underline the dangers of anti-Semitism in contemporary society and how our students can play their part in challenging prejudice and discrimination in all its forms. We thank Freddy for giving up his time to support our students and look forward to welcoming him back to St Anne's next year.

To help staff and students cope with the recent heatwave, the Caritas Ambassadors held their first ever Ice Pop sale to raise money for the mental health charity *Mind*. The sale was very popular, raising £107.60.

Finally, in the summer term next year the RE Department will lead a weekend trip to Castlerigg Retreat Centre in the heart of the Lake District. It will be a chance to get to know each other better, enjoy the Lake District and reflect and pray together. We are aiming the trip at Year 8/9 students. We will share more details and planning early next term.

To know, love and serve God



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Yr11 Prom

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Last night we celebrated with the class of 2023 at Hotel Football in Trafford. It was a wonderful evening that our great students enjoyed. We wish them all the best for their future, and they will always be part of the St Anne's community. Behind the scenes we managed to secure donations to support several students who may have struggled financially due to the cost-of-living crisis as we did not want this to be a factor for them to not attend. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the two generous donations of £500 each from 'FK Group' and 'We are Footprint' which are two local Manchester businesses that enabled students to enjoy the evening. *FK Group's* Commercial Director, Matt Lang, an ex student of St Anne's, presented the funds to school.





Safeguarding Update

We are looking forward to celebrating students with excellent attendance, punctuality, and behaviour with the end of term rewards trip to Blackpool Pleasure Beach on Friday 7th July. Further details have been sent via ClassCharts including details of eligibility for the trip and how parents/carers will be refunded if their child has not met our fair criteria. Well done to those students who have worked hard to be eligible for the trip!

I cannot stress the importance of attendance as it has a massive impact on students' safety, social development, and their academic achievements. Where students do not have good attendance, parents/carers will receive attendance letters from school, ranging from 'letters of concern' through to being fined. The decision to fine is not taken lightly but it is paramount that your child attends school. I am pleased to state that our attendance has improved significantly this year.

E-Cigarettes and Vaping

Recently, e-cigarettes [vapes] have been in the news, from companies being fined for marketing to young people, to questions about the health risks involved to the environmental impact of disposable vapes. One of the UK's leading respiratory doctors has raised the alarm about the exploding popularity of vaping among teenagers, saying that without urgent regulation a generation could end up with long term addictions and lung damage. One e-liquid pod can contain as much nicotine as a packet of cigarettes. This can harm brain development which can impact learning, memory and attention, and increase risk for future addiction to other drugs. Lung function starts to improve 2 weeks to 3 months after quitting.

Young people start smoking or vaping for a variety of reasons; peer pressure, the belief that it relieves stress, looks cool, to lose or control weight, easy access, and role models or family members who use tobacco. If you suspect your children are vaping and would like some support, please contact your child's Head of House or Miss Rees (Safeguarding Lead). St Anne's can refer to our school Nurse for advice and other services are available including Mosaic ; Telephone - 0161 218 1100, mosaic@stockport.gov.uk



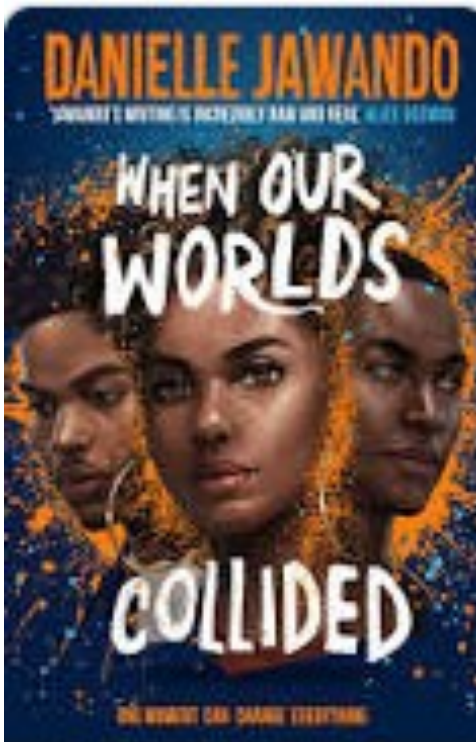


Author Danielle Jawando

Last half term we were delighted to welcome a local author, Danielle Jawando to St Anne's. A selection of Yr9 and Yr10 students were selected to take part in a *'talk and writing workshop'* which they thoroughly enjoyed. Danielle, writes books for Young Adults, has worked as a storyline writer for Coronation Street and has had several short plays performed in Manchester and London. After spending the morning with our students Danielle acknowledged their talent by saying, "I just wanted to say a huge thank you again, for inviting me to St Anne's. I had such a



wonderful time meeting all of your incredible students and I was honestly blown away by the poems that they produced in the workshops. They really are such a talented bunch!", Danielle presented three students, Josiah Okpara Yr9, Jeremy Dzvoti and Skye Baxendale-Burch Yr10 with a signed copy of one of her books *'And the Stars were Burning Brightly'* and *'When our World Collided'*. This was a great opportunity to promote a love of reading in our students and I thank Danielle for her time.





Love of Learning Day and Transition

St Anne's 'Love of Learning Day' will be taking place on 12th July with nearly 300 Yr5 primary school children coming to St Anne's for a taster day taking part in computing, music, food technology, art, and geography lessons in the morning before being wowed by a Wizz Bang chemical explosion lesson run by Manchester University. This is going to be a superb day for these children to experience life at St Anne's ahead of making their secondary school choices in September. We look forward to showcasing our great school! #excited

This day was preceded by our ongoing transition programme with students' early transition on 22nd and 29th June ahead of the main day on 6th July. We are very much looking forward to welcoming our new students and meeting their parents on 11th July for the Induction Evening.

We were thrilled to host St Joseph's RC primary school on 23rd June for a STEM Day where they built rockets in Design Technology, launched rockets in Science and programmed rockets in Computing!



New Staff Induction Day

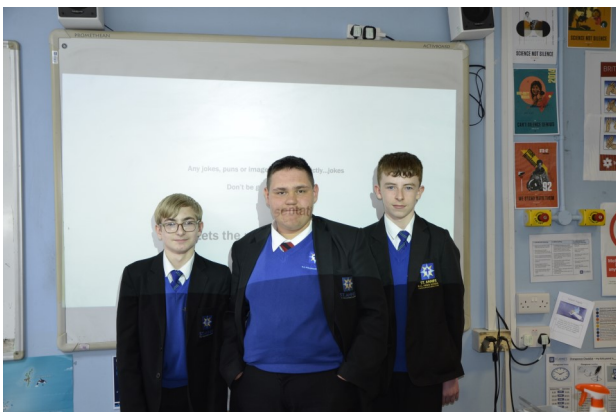
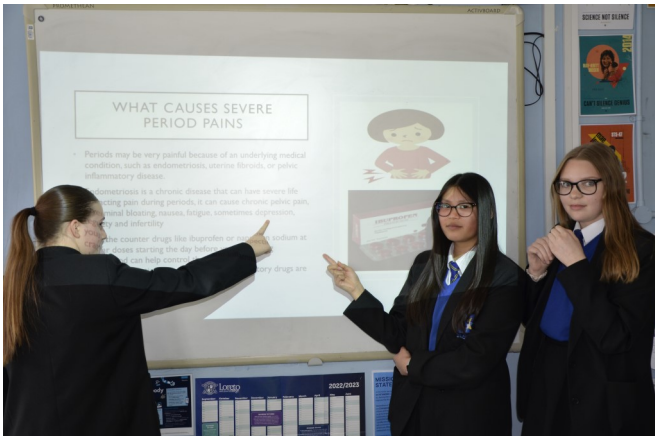
On the 19th June, we warmly welcomed four new staff to St Anne's. They are looking forward to starting at St Anne's and I have no doubt that they will soon come to embrace the *St Anne's Way* [SAW]. They all received safeguarding training and were introduced to all aspects of St Anne's teaching and learning. The new staff will complement the support staff and teaching and learning teams in English, Physical Education, Science, and the SEND department. Look out for their profiles in September!

To know, love and serve God



Crest Awards

CREST Awards are a subject specific award that students can work towards by being given a project which they independently research on their own and then present to the class. For the Bronze award in Science, students must complete a combined effort of an additional ten hours of science work. St Anne's Yr9 students have been working on project based learning this half term, This has included them researching a key aspect of science, which has involved them doing at-home research, as well as at school to produce a project on their chosen topic. St Anne's applied and was granted full awards for the whole year group. These will be kept in students' personal records of achievement and help in their college applications in the future. Some students have even requested the chance of pursuing the Silver award which would require them to complete an additional 50 hours of Science independently in 2024.





PE Update

The PE department have been busy in June across a range of activities.

Athletics has been well attended this term and thank you to all the students that have represented school with pride and determination. A special mention to our Yr10 girls' 400m relay team (Anais M, Lola S, Ruby M and Ellie W) who were *crowned Stockport Champions* at Woodbank Park. Also, congratulations to Jesse O and Jack M who both qualified to represent Stockport at the Greater Manchester Championships in the 100m and discus.



Well done to Callum D and Harry C who were both members of the Stockport Boys football squad *crowned Greater Manchester* champions. We are proud to have a number of students involved at town team level, both boys and girls.



Well done to Shay D and Ruari K who have been selected to represent Lancashire at Gaelic football at a tournament in Ireland at the end of June. Good luck and I hope to report their success in the July newsletter. As an Irishman, it is great to see GAA [Gaelic] being played by some of our students!



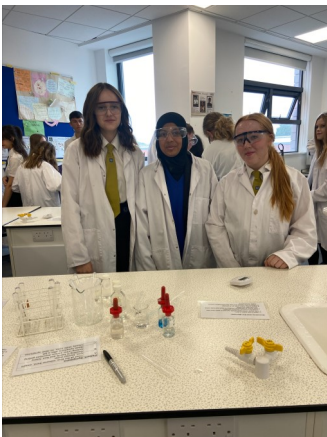
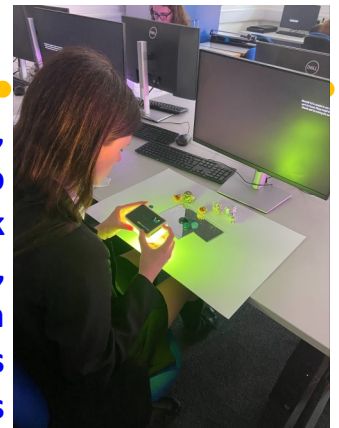
A special thank you to Heaton's Sports Club who have provided new nets and posts for us to use this term. They have also given us a steady supply of used tennis balls - great for the environment and our students. We have used their fantastic cricket wicket and hope to cultivate and continue this link with our local sports club. All the pics are on Twitter (@stannespe1). A massive thanks to Mr Andrews and the PE team!





Careers Update

Our Yr10 students enjoyed a taster day at Aquinas College, selecting 5 lessons to take part in ahead of their applications to college during Yr11. Yr10 also have work experience week beginning 10th July. Placements include local primary schools, landscape gardening, marketing firms and dentists. This is an incredible opportunity to experience the world of work. Students unable to find placements have a week of employment encounters with mornings in the Apple Store, at AECOM Engineering and Hub Marketing and we have a range of professionals visiting school to talk to students about their careers, including the Director of Stockport County and a doctor from Stepping Hill A and E. The week will be superb for raising students aspirations.



Yr10 Mock Exams

Week beginning the 21st of June, our Yr10 students had a taster of what their GCSE exams might feel like next year. They all sat several exams over the past few weeks, and I have been impressed with the commitment they have shown through attending additional revision sessions in the pursuit of excellence. We intend to issue their mock results to them before we finish for the summer. These results will be analysed by their teachers and gaps in knowledge identified in order to address future improvements. We will meet many Yr10 parents in early September. It is crucial that Yr10 students complete all work given to them to complete over the summer.



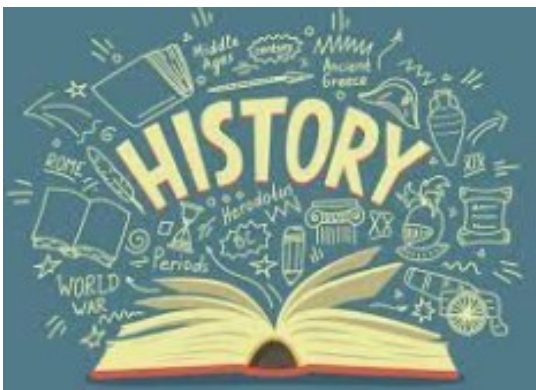
Curriculum Update—English

Mrs Vali ran a highly successful trip to the Shakespeare North Playhouse, a brand-new building which has been created to celebrate Shakespeare's work. Students benefitted from a fantastic workshop to support their understanding of the Shakespearean tragedy Othello. A great time was had by all! Sticking with all things theatrical, all students in KS3 are currently working on learning a scene from the play they are studying to compete in our 'Plays by Heart' contest. The English teachers are impressed with the fantastic talent which has been displayed in the rehearsals and can't wait for the final performances! The *Creative Writing* club has been relaunched on Monday lunchtime in En1. Any budding writers who want to see their work published should make it their mission to attend! A great opportunity to develop extended writing skills!



Curriculum Update—History

The curriculum continues to go from strength to strength and students have been studying a plethora of informing and exciting topics. Yr7 have entered the Tudor Realm and developed an understanding of the war between Lancashire and Yorkshire. Yr8 are studying the causes of WW1, considering the concepts of Patriotism, Imperialism and Alliances. They are mastering these concepts and using them, as historians, to understand why the War started. We have also been looking at disciplinary skills and honing the ability to understand why historians might have different viewpoints about past events. In History, we call this 'scholarship' and Yr8 have taken up the mantle of this – sometimes a quite difficult skill - with enthusiasm. Yr9 have been answering the question '*Why wasn't WW1 the war to end all wars?*' They've looked in depth at WW2 and are having very interesting discussions about the threat of war and the ideologies of Democracy and Communism.





Curriculum Update—MFL

The Languages Department have been busy preparing KS4 for their GCSEs. What a fantastic effort from both Yr11 and Yr10. In Languages, we are always trying to find ways to practise and remember the language which we have learnt in class. This is particularly important when we are preparing for assessments, and the KS3 students have enjoyed working on whiteboards to memorise speaking and writing assessments. We are also looking forward to ending the year with our exciting culture lessons; *Mexican Piñatas*, *La Tomatina*, and reading authentic Spanish texts. Students booked to go to Barcelona are looking forward to the trip in October; a meeting will be arranged for parents in the new



term with full details of the itinerary. Finally, the languages department awarded a massive 1700 positive behaviour points this month, with 3 Yr9 students receiving the most. Congratulations to Tiana Forrester, Blessed Mutimwii and Elen-May Kehoe. Gracias y adiós!

Building Update

We have moved onto Stage 4 of our capital investment plan and the fire doors are now being installed internally, giving a much-improved appearance and compliance rating.

Our new outdoor fitness gym has also arrived, challenging, and improving our students' (and staff) fitness levels. Mr Andrews is leading the way on the number of dips and pull-ups!!!

A member of our student leadership team helped with our choice of caterers for next year and we can't wait to see the innovation in both service and choice of food on the new menus.

Last week, we had a delivery of 200 desks and 400 chairs to improve the learning environment. These are going to History, Geography, RE and Art classrooms in phase 1 of the improvement programme. Finally, we are delighted to have seen a ten-fold increase in community use of our facilities since the start of the year with all profits being re-deployed into PE equipment for our students.



Yr11 Prom





Yr11 Prom





Yr11 Prom





Positive Comments

At St Anne's, as a community, we have all worked really hard to improve the quality of education for both our students and our reputation with parents. This is something that the staff and I relish and, although we are not perfect, I can say with great authority that confidence among both students and parents is growing stronger. It is always great to hear positive comments from parents or prospective parents. I include some of these for your perusal.

A Yr6 student and their parents visited school last week and completed a tour. On leaving they said to Miss Rees "When we were waiting for you in reception every child and staff member, we saw in the area were warm, friendly and happy. No one seemed hassled and we would love our son to come here."

Mrs Simmons, senior leader in charge of transition, received the following email from a Yr6 parent. "My son visited school yesterday from Broadstone Hall. I just wanted to say a massive thank you to yourself for being so warm and kind. He has been quite anxious with the build up to leaving primary and you really made him feel so welcome. It was just great to see him talking about it so positively. " Thank you. Nicola

Mrs Rees received the following email from a Yr6 parent. "Hi, I would like to thank you for taking the time to show us around the school today Harry is so excited. He left telling us to take him off all waiting lists as St Anne's is where he wants to go. I have changed our preferences with Manchester admissions and Harry will be there for the transition day Thursday. Fingers crossed for a quick response from Manchester council and a confirmation he has a place as we also loved the school and feel Harry will thrive there thanks again ,Lucy".

Kelly Keane parent of Yr10 student who joined us in June 2022 commented, "I think it's amazing how the school has turned around. I highly recommend the school and I do recommend it to lots of people. The best decision we ever made was to move our daughter to this school."



Finally...Ofsted visit

Ofsted visit

On 14th and 15th June, Ofsted visited St Anne's for a graded inspection. I was both delighted and proud that the whole community rose to the challenge during their visit. I will share the report and outcomes when I receive it. Can I take this opportunity to personally thank all the stakeholders: students, staff, parents, and governors for all their input into the inspection.

Mr Logue
Executive Headteacher

Important Dates for your Diary



Barcelona Parents Meeting

Parents of the Students going on the Barcelona Trip are invited to attend a meeting at 4.30 in the Drama Studio. Miss Todd will be there to talk through the arrangements for the trip and will answer any questions.



Celebration Evening

Starting at 6.30pm where we celebrate the great children of St Anne's. The theme this Yr is 'Attainment, Achievement and Ambition'. This theme was chosen as it is appropriate that we celebrate how far our students have come with their attainment in their learning, their achievements in lessons and their increased ambitions to succeed in all they do.



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Please retweet out tweets to share all our wonderful news!

St Anne's RC Voluntary Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all our students and young people. We expect all staff and volunteers to share and uphold this commitment.

To know, love and serve God