



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

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Dear parents/carers,

Here is my latest newsletter that, again, shows off the community of St Anne's. I am very proud to read about the rich and varied experiences at the school.

### **Update on the Catholic Life of St Anne's**

Our Lenten appeal this year, led by our Caritas Ambassadors, is raising money for Mary's Meals. Last year we raised an outstanding £1700 which was the most the school had ever raised for charity. This year we are raising funds for those affected by the Syrian earthquake which hit the country last month. Mary's Meals are working hard to support children and their families. Each form was once again tasked with raising monetary donations, we also saw the return of our popular Easter Egg raffle in addition to our trusted cake sales. Again, there is an option to donate via parent pay. Throughout the appeal our ambassadors visited forms to remind them of the appeal and the amazing work Mary's Meals does in supporting those in need. We thank you for your generous donations. Every Monday morning our central form time activity is gospel-based prayer, reflection, and discussion. During lent form groups have been using the Lenten Sunday gospels as the basis of their prayer. The structure of our form prayer begins with the teacher reading and explaining the gospel followed by students discussing how we can apply its meaning to our lives and school community. This week, as lent now draws to a close, we celebrated our Lenten/Easter liturgies as year groups. Yr10 prefects led our service of gospel readings, multimedia reflections, prayers of intercession, and a final prayer of the resurrection.

### **Safeguarding update [Recognise, Respond, Record, Refer]**

- **Staff and Governors training.** This term the Local Authority Senior Safeguarding Officer delivered whole school bespoke PREVENT training. This is to remind and ensure staff that they know how to recognise behaviour of concern and how to respond to and record them accordingly. Miss Rees can then act appropriately and refer students who may be at risk of radicalisation. Earlier this half term, a number of our Governors attended broader safeguarding training to enhance their existing knowledge. Additionally, several Governors also attended our whole school PREVENT training this half term.
- **Supervision.** St Annes has bought into 'The Safeguarding network' supervision scheme. St Anne's has been accessing the DFE funded Reflective Supervision offer, which provides DSL's with the opportunity to access confidential, professional supervision from a qualified Social Worker. Having supervision provides an opportunity to reflect upon our practice and consider the needs of our most vulnerable children and families. Ultimately, ensuring that we are responding appropriately to any immediate safeguarding concerns for our children, along with identifying and responding to any emerging early help needs of that of our children and families, which in turn is hoped will lead to better outcomes for our children.
- **Social Media.** Many social media apps have an age rating of 13+. This relates to data processing policies that social media companies need to adhere to. Under the COPPA (Children's Online Privacy Protection Act) Law, social media companies are prohibited from collecting and storing any personal information about any persons under the age of 13, unless they have permission from Parents/Carers. As we are all aware, young people are spending an increased time online. Here is a reminder of legal guidelines for





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various social media sites: Facebook – 13 years old, Twitter – 13 years old, Instagram – 13 years old, Pinterest – 13 years old, Snapchat – 13 years old, LinkedIn – 14 years old, WhatsApp – 16 years old, Tinder – 17 years old, YouTube – 18 years old and Flickr – 18 years old. [Internet Matters](#) have excellent online safety guides available for Parents/Carers on popular apps, games and devices.

### **Cost of living crisis**

As you know, there is a cost-of-living crisis across the country and sadly, the St Anne's community is not immune to this. Catholic schools were created to support/help the vulnerable and at St Anne's we ask that if you feel you need some support please contact Miss Rees at the school, our safeguarding lead. For more support regarding the cost-of-living crisis in Stockport click on the following link.

<https://www.stockport.gov.uk/topic/cost-of-living-support#>

### **Head Boy and Head Girl**

Last week, Mrs Simmons and I had the honour of interviewing 7 exceptional candidates for the role of Head Boy and Head Girl. The standard was extremely high, and all the students represented themselves brilliantly. A massive well done to Alex McDonagh and Anaya Cowley who were selected to be Head Boy and Girl with David Abraham and Freya Turner their deputies. They will oversee the prefect team this year which will inspire and motivate students and work alongside Mrs Simmons and the senior leadership team to make St Anne's "*outstanding in all we do*". Mrs Simmons has plans for the prefects including raising awareness of mental and physical health, leading the school council, literacy leaders and sports ambassadors. Watch this space!

### **Positive feedback from SACRED Day**

A significant part of our last SACRED day was inviting in external speakers and guests. This enriches our students' holistic education. The feedback was very positive, and I would like to share one with you. This was from a Public Health Nurse who delivered a session on Relationship and Sex Education [RSE] to our Yr9 students. This can be an embarrassing topic for some of our students, but I was proud that they asked appropriate questions and took the session seriously. The email said:

"I just wanted to congratulate all the year 9 students who attended the RSE lessons on Sacred Day last term. The subject can be quite embarrassing and cringe worthy however the students engaged really well. Appropriate questions were asked and there was no silliness or disruptive behaviour. Both my colleagues commented on how well behaved and interested the students were. Hopefully the students found it interesting too".

I ask that parents pass on to their children that Mrs Simmons and Mrs Rees were 2 very proud members of staff. Well done Yr9. Great ambassadors for St Anne's.





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### The culture at St Anne's

I am delighted to report that our culture, the 'way we do things' at St Anne's has improved considerably over the past 12+ months. There is now, for example, more focus on academic achievement, increased accountability and pride among our community which includes students, staff and parents. The St Anne's Way, or 'SAW', is as follows. This was the result of speaking to both students and staff.

**StudentS at the heart of all we do**  
**High expectTations are the 'norm'**  
**Strong united teAm with a shared vision**  
**Inclusive learniNg community based on faith**  
**Safe eNvironment underpinned by quality pastoral care**  
**Unashamedly acadEmically ambitious for all**  
**Where studentS flourish as part of OUR family**

As we continue to ensure that St Anne's is a great place to learn and a great place to work, the above statements will underpin the 'way we do things'. I hope that all stakeholders; students, staff, parents, and governors embrace the 'St Anne's Way' as it encapsulates what we want to achieve as a school community!

### Yr11 update

The majority of Yr11 students are working really hard *in* school. However, not all students are working equally hard at home. I ask that parents ensure that they are working hard at home too. This is what they have to do to fulfil their potential. I repeat that there is **no substitute for hard work** but the rewards, great GCSE outcomes, are worth it! *However, sadly, a significant number of Yr11 students are not focused as much as they should be.*

- **Drama Exam.** On 28<sup>th</sup> March Yr11 performed a series of extracts from Bouncers and Shakers by John Godber and Two by Jim Cartwright for a visiting examiner as part of their GCSE exam. The pupils were prepared for this evening, entertaining the audience with their performances and characterisation taking the audience to night clubs and bars across the North West! A superb evening was had by all!
- **Geography:** Yr11 have been out conducting two fieldwork investigations, as part of their paper 3 requirements for their GCSE exam. They were investigating the environmental quality of the local area, along with how the characteristics of the River Tame change as it flows downstream.
- **Intervention.** This continues as Period 6 after school. This builds confidence, ensures students get into habits/routines as well as exam practice. I ask that parents ensure that they support this initiative. Your child will know what intervention to attend.
- **Days left.** When your child comes back after the Easter break, there will be **18** school days before their first exam which is Religious Studies on the 15<sup>th</sup> May. The exam timetable will be posted on the school website over the Easter holidays.





- *Easter Revision:* I am delighted to say that there is a comprehensive revision schedule in place for the Easter break. Your child will be asked to attend these. I ask that you support by ensuring that not only does your child attend, but also works hard.

|              | Monday 3rd       | Tuesday 4th             | Weds 5th       | Thurs 6th | Friday 7th | Monday 10th | Tues 11th    | Weds 12th | Thurs 13th | Friday 14th |
|--------------|------------------|-------------------------|----------------|-----------|------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| 9 - 11       | Science<br>Maths | Science<br>Maths<br>MFL | Art            | Geography | GOOD FRI   | EASTER MON  | Art<br>Maths | Maths     | English    | History     |
| 11.30 - 1.30 | Science          | Science<br>MFL          | English<br>Art | Geography | GOOD FRI   | EASTER MON  | Art          |           | English    | History     |

### Coffee Mornings

Our new Yr7 pupils were allocated to us on 1<sup>st</sup> March and to support this transition to St Anne's we hosted 2 coffee mornings. Parents were listened to a talk from myself and Mrs Simmons, a tour of a focused, calm, and purposeful school and some superb biscuits! The feedback from all parents were all overwhelmingly positive with parents commenting how they had never imagined the school to be so focused. Comments included *"my eldest child came to this school a few years ago now, and it was nothing like this! I can't believe that I'm walking around the same school"*. I was emailed a lovely comment from a grandparent of a child in Yr9 who spoke to reception when she left which simply said, *"I've been a few times now and it (the school) just gets better every time"*. As I have repeatedly said, it is nice to receive warm and uplifting comments like these so that I can pass on your appreciation to the hard-working staff here. These comments are a real testament to the positive changes and improvements that both staff and students are working tirelessly for.

Mrs Simmons visited St Mary's Primary School in Levenshulme as part of our transition programme and spoke to parents, along with some of our wonderful Yr7 pupils about life at St Anne's. It was a lovely, warm welcome and we were thrilled to hear parents telling Mrs Simmons how they only hear positive news and about the improvements being made here at St Anne's.

### Modern Foreign Languages update

This month, students have worked with really positive attitudes to learning the curriculum, and students have been awarded a massive total of 2027 points! Our highest scoring pupil is Tina Abazari in Yr8 who has shown excellent ambition and determination! Our Yr9 students have wowed teachers with their GCSE style speaking assessments. Riley Figueras showed particular strength, and we are excited to see the students develop their Spanish Skills. Yr10 are creating longer paragraphs with 4 tenses and will soon be describing their town, compared to Barcelona! Good luck to Yr11 who are working hard preparing for their speaking exams – *Bonne chance la classe!* The response to the Barcelona trip has been amazing, and we are really



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excited for the trip! Watch this space for more details if you are already booked on. *Merci, gracias, au revoir, adiós!*

### **Brief Sports update**

Our Yr7 boys basketball team participated in a Stockport schools tournament at Reddish Vale High School. Throughout the tournament the team shown great sportsmanship and togetherness in each match. This resulted in the group playing a game against St James High School in the semi-final. St James had not been beat throughout the whole tournament, and after being 2-0 down, the team showed great resilience to come back and win 4-2. The final was then played against Cheadle Hulme High School. Unfortunately, we lost the final. However, Mr Gallagher said the boys showed great determination and resilience throughout the match, with sublime sportsmanship by congratulating their opponents. A massive well done to the Yr7 boys for representing St Anne's to the fullest. I am proud of you all. Next time we will go one better!

### **Personal Development updates**

St Anne's continues to ensure a holistic education for the great children here. The following gives a flavour of our enhanced extra-curricular activities that develop our students character.

- 24 Yr10 students attended a 3D printing taster day at **Manchester Metropolitan University**. They were instructed on using 3D printing software, listened to information lectures on the additive manufacturing technologies and had a tour of the extensive digital manufacturing facility. They were challenged to design a drinking cup using the 3D design software with a 'Box of Maltesers' and a 'Mine Craft' cup gaining the winning spots.
- St. Anne's hosted the University of Manchester's Chemistry Institute during **National Careers week** where over 200 students experienced their famous 'Flash Bang' Show, a visually and aurally exciting demonstration lecture revealing the joys of chemistry and the explosions and noise that comes with certain chemical combinations. The lecturer also demystified the possible career pathways that Chemistry can provide.
- On **International Women's Day**, St Annes invited STEM ambassador, Erusa, currently engaged in a project to make TARMAC, a leader in the construction sector, carbon neutral by 2035 spoke to students across the science department, explaining her role, why she loved science at GCSE and the many STEM career opportunities and pathways. The University of Manchester's Physics Institute also delivered a talk to KS4 students on famous, pioneering women in science.
- On 21<sup>st</sup> March 20 students had an unbelievable opportunity to speak to Baroness Harris of Richmond, from the **House of Lords**. The hour-long Q&A session was led by the students who had prepared a series of questions about general politics, the Baronesses' political decisions and the House of Lords. The Baroness commented that the student's questions were "*some of the most insightful ever asked*". She was quite overwhelmed when asked about political decisions she had supported which she later regretted and spoke openly with students about the war in Iraq. She also told the students stories about 'Boris' and 'Dave', 2 previous Prime ministers complaining that they weren't doing enough to diversify politics, and that they need to get out of the way and let women take over, a statement which 50% of



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the pupils agreed with at least! Can I take the opportunity to thank Mrs Simmons for organising this amazing experience for some of our students.

- **World Book Day** was a chance to celebrate the pleasure of reading and staff at St. Anne's threw themselves into the event with gusto. Departments were temporarily themed around different books; English followed the yellow brick road to Oz; Humanities had a 'scrumpalicious' Roald Dahl theme, but the prize went to the Creative Arts department for falling down the rabbit hole with Alice in Wonderland, complete with a Mad Hatter's tea party in the library! Students were impressed with the Maths staff disguising themselves as 'Where's Wally' characters. Activities for the children provided fantastic opportunities to focus on reading for pleasure, supporting our student's autonomy in book choice and embedding a habit of reading that brings a plethora of benefits. The ability to read is one of the single biggest indicators of a child's future success and our teaching and support staff teams will continue to actively encourage our students to have a life-long habit of reading for pleasure reinforcing the improved life chances this brings them.
- Last week marked the beginning of **Autism Awareness Week**. Our amazing autistic students used their creative talents to produce and perform a short video promoting autism and neurodiversity. They were keen to explore and inform everyone what autism means to them. One of the students explained that "autistic people are all different and we should embrace our differences as this is what makes us unique". They shared that autism is not a disability, it's a different ability. At St Anne's we are a fully inclusive school and recognise and celebrate that we are all different!

### Staff profiles

In this month's letter I have St. Anne's Head of Creative Technology, Mrs McGloin and Mrs Bowden who is our Health and Social Care Teacher and our Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator. I hope you enjoyed reading these as much as I did.

- *Mrs Bowden, Health and Social Care Teacher:* I grew up in Stockport but attended boarding school in Hertfordshire. It was studying here which made me realise that my career goal was to be a teacher. I returned home to Cheshire and studied Television and Radio at Salford University, which led me to do my teacher training as an English Teacher at MMU whilst also working at St Anne's. I have been at St Annes for 16 years and I can honestly say that it's a pleasure to be able to teach these children every day and watch them develop into fantastic individuals and members of our community. As well as teaching a variety of subjects over the years, I also lead the Duke of Edinburgh Award, getting to see the students in a different way, facing and overcoming many challenges to achieve the end result. As a Mum of two children, life is hectic in the Bowden household - with a springer spaniel named Baxter thrown into the mix! However, in my free time I enjoy walking, spending time as a family and camping. I love my job and being part of the St Anne's community and being affectionately referred to as 'Mrs Pink' makes me smile everyday! As I always say to the students 'Never let anyone dull your sparkle' and 'Shine like the star you are'.
- *Mrs McGloin, Subject Leader for Creative Technologies:* I knew at an early age that teaching was my vocation! While studying for my A-Levels at Xaverian College I volunteered at a local music club where I found working with teenagers extremely rewarding. This led me to pursue a career in teaching. I gained my degree in Business Information Technology and after gaining some experience working as an event





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manager in London and Manchester, I completed my PGCE in Secondary ICT. I have been a teacher in East Manchester for the past 16 years, covering a range of IT, Media, Computing and Business subjects. Since joining St Anne's in January this year, I have felt extremely welcomed by the whole school community, but most importantly I have felt privileged to meet so many aspirational students. As a local resident and parent to children attending one of our feeder Primary schools, I also have a personal interest in the future success of St Anne's. As such I am committed to raising attainment in all of the subjects I teach and lead. I am passionate about Creative Technologies and with the support of my fantastic team we aim to provide a high-quality education, creating clear pathways for our students to go on to further study and employment in the many creative industries that are based in and around Greater Manchester.

### **Finally...**

I will end this month's letter with a report on a recent Yr8 football game. This was penned by a Yr8 student called Conor Dolan.

*"The game kicked off and we were all up for it. We were first to every ball, and it looked promising! Bramhall scored but we kept our heads up and continued to win every first ball. Eventually we played a ball over the top and Maison was in a race with the centre back, which he won and slotted the ball in the bottom corner. 1-1. The game continued end-to-end and we continued to fight for every loose ball. We were 3-2 down at halftime but we knew Maison's pace was causing them problems. The second half, up the hill, saw us start on the front foot and we never looked back. 3 further goals from Maison and 1 from Cairo sealed a deserved 5-3 win"*

**It is great to see** students like Conor showcase their budding young sports journalistic skills. Look out for more published extra-curricular reports in my future letters. Furthermore, our **extra-curricular activities are growing in numbers for both girls and boys. Getting the best from school is about embracing these opportunities, for example**, joining a football team, learning to cheerlead, or playing the drums. All these activities and more are on offer at St. Anne's. These allow our students to have access to a holistic education that builds confidence and resilience, skills that are so important to life.

As always, thanks very much for your support.

I hope that you have a happy and Holy Easter.

Mr Logue  
Executive Headteacher