



St Anne's RC Voluntary Academy

NEWSletter

May Issue 2023



Amsterdam Trip April 2023



ST. ANNE'S
R.C. VOLUNTARY ACADEMY



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Executive Headteachers Welcome

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

A warm welcome to the latest edition of the 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.

Update on the Catholic Life of St Anne's

It was great to welcome Fr Damien from St Joseph's Reddish to St Anne's to take part in Q&A sessions with students from Yr 7 and Yr 10. He then proceeded to tour the school and introduced himself to staff and pupils. He also celebrated the Yr11 pre-exam mass where students were respectful and reverent and listened to words of encouragement, had time to reflect and pray that they will be successful. Over the next few months, Fr Damien will be warmly welcomed to our community where he will work with Mr Regan and his team to ensure that our community is rich in opportunities to develop our faith.

A massive thanks to the RE Team who led a marathon three-hour morning final GCSE Revision Session, the day before the first RE GCSE. The sessions were led by Mr Regan and Mrs Hanley Parchment and we were very grateful to Mrs Harris who also returned to help out! Over 70 students attended and they were incredibly focused and we hope it will improve their performance in their RE GCSE.

The RE department is working closely with St Damian's to prepare for the new KS3 national Catholic RE curriculum. A lot of work is involved but the schemes of work, lessons and assessments being put together for September already look both exciting and more challenging! Its great to see two fantastic RE departments working closely together!



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



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Caritas



The Caritas Team have been extremely busy. Muiread, a student in Yr10 our prefect lead for Caritas has decided to lead a group to help raise money and awareness of mental health by supporting the charity 'Mind'. A number of exciting activities are planned to educate students on the work of Mind. We kicked off our campaign the week of 15th - 19th May which is mental health awareness week. The Caritas Ambassadors are already hard at work preparing resources that will be used school wide to raise awareness. Each Friday from now until the end of the summer term we will be sending out our "Mindful Minute" where students and staff will get the opportunity to end their school week by taking a moment to clear their mind and reflect.

On a further note, as a Catholic school can I state that I am really proud of the work that the St Anne's community is doing to support all our families, not just the vulnerable. This Yr we have absorbed two school dinner food price increases, supported families to purchase school uniform and shoes, absorbed costs of food technology ingredients for those that could not afford to buy for their practical lessons, supplemented cost of school visits to reduce burden on families and paid for transport to/from school and alternative education providers. This list is indicative only and is not exhaustive.



Amsterdam Trip

Forty Yr9 and Yr10 students headed to Amsterdam at the start of the Easter holiday. This was a much-anticipated trip and the 2.30am meet time did little to dampen the enthusiasm of the students! We consider ourselves lucky to have only waited for 4 hours at Dover and we arrived tired but ready for the weekend ahead. The students were fantastic throughout and it was a pleasure to see our students immerse themselves in the experience. The students were appreciative of the opportunity they had been given. Mr Andrews was very grateful to the staff who supported this, the parents and the great students themselves.



"To me Amsterdam was more than just a sports trip with school. It was a brilliant chance to build relationships with teachers, students that I don't normally spend time with and to explore an entirely new country with some of my closest friends. I truly believe that I came back a different person, with more life experiences and so many more amazing memories that live with me forever".

Ruby Moore, Yr10.

"It started on a Friday morning at half 2. Upon arriving to the hostel, we were greeted in a friendly manner, showed to our rooms which was then followed by our evening meal. Saturday morning, we went to an football activities centre.

Following that we went on a river cruise, exploring the rivers of Amsterdam. On Sunday we toured the famous Johan Cruyff Arena. Then we had a footballing session by FC Utrecht, followed by a match by local opposition in which our team won 1-0. Overall, I rate it a ten out of ten, and would definitely visit again". Dan was extremely grateful to the staff for 'making this a once in a life-time experience'.

Dan Carling, Yr 10.





Amsterdam Trip Photos



Can I take this opportunity to thank Mr Andrews, Mr Wroe, Mr Gallagher and Mrs Caldecott whose efforts, determination and perseverance was great to see, ensuring that the trip was a great success! I look forward to the next International Trip organised by the PE Department.

To know, love and serve God



Mayor of Manchester, Andy Burnham

Last month we welcomed the Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, to St Anne's. This followed a meeting with Mrs Bowden at the Duke of Edinburgh conference earlier this Yr. We were delighted to showcase our wonderful school to him. He met with our Head Boy and Girl who discussed their ambitions with him. He outlined his



view of the future of Greater Manchester and the amazing opportunities there are for our students. He then hosted a Q&A session with Yr10 students who asked really pertinent questions on a variety of topics. Mr Burnham was presented with some artwork from one of our students which he commented on as being impressive and showed off her amazing talent! This was a great experience for our students which they fully embraced! We hope to welcome Mr Burnham back to St Anne's in the near future.





The University of Salford Visit

On Friday 21st April, Yr10 Health and Social Care students experienced life as a university student after visiting the University of Salford where they embarked on a tour of the University campus. Through simulations, they were immersed in a typical emergency on a hospital ward and engaged with practitioners in the medical



field. In essence, they had the opportunity to 'put into practice', elements they learnt on the Health and Social course and applied it to real life scenarios. Our students fully emerged themselves in the activities and engaged with staff asking questions



and seeing what opportunities there are for the future. Staff at the University complimented our students on their behaviour, their ambition and enthusiasm.

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Raising Aspirations

Yr10 will be visiting Aquinas College on 30th June for a taster day learning about college life. They will have the chance to trial a range of lessons, eat in the canteen and mix with other students from Stockport. More information coming about this to parents soon. However, this is an excellent opportunity to raise their aspirations and to think about their futures.



Future Trips

As part of our educational offer at St Anne's, we believe school trips help students gain real-world experiences that cannot be taught in the classroom, opening their minds to different cultures and strengthening their knowledge of the world around them. Therefore, I am delighted to announce two further trip opportunities for our students next academic Yr.

A Geography trip to the Bay of Naples which will provide a great opportunity for our GCSE students to see key aspects of the syllabus come to life including volcanic activity, coastal processes and the resulting formations which provide excellent case studies to aid classroom learning. Local farming, fishing, and tourist industries provide the human geography element (as well as plenty of gastronomic and leisure time benefits). This is a fantastic geography tour option for our GCSE students.

A Spanish trip to the capital of Catalonia, Barcelona, a city that offers a fusion of art, architecture, fashion, and business making it a perfect destination for our Spanish students. They will have an opportunity to improve Spanish subject knowledge, their listening, speaking, and reading skills. They will be able to immerse themselves in Spanish culture, experience their traditional cuisine as well as seeing some of the top sites including Nou Camp, the Olympic Stadium and a wander down Las Ramblas.

Remember that these trips are subject to student 'good' behaviour, attendance, and attitude to their learning. I retain the right to withdraw any student who does not conform to the high expectations at St Anne's.



Yr 11 Update

Yr11 students have now had several weeks of exams. For the majority of the exams, students have been working exceptionally hard - attending revision at the weekends and before and after school. *As a reminder, students should continue to work hard, be in full uniform and follow the high expectations at St Anne's.* For example, when not in exams or specific revision sessions, students must attend their 'normal' timetabled lessons up to 14th June. After the Maths exam on 14th June, students are able to study at home and only come into school for specific revision sessions and exams. Revision and exam weekly timetables will be shared on class charts throughout the exam series. A reminder that the date of the Prom is Thursday 29th June, but this is by invitation only.

Yr 10 Work Experience

Yr10 students will be embarking on their work experience from 10th to 14th July. This is an invaluable opportunity for students to experience the world of work, interact with professionals and gain exposure to working life. For those unable to find a placement, we have an amazing World Of Work week planned from visits from Apple or an engineering firm to working at a gym or recycling plant as well as a morning at a top university. If you are able to support any of our Yr10 students during this week, with a placement or a talk about your profession please contact Mrs Simmons at school.

Fundraising at St Anne's

I am delighted to share with you the fantastic fund-raising activities of one of our great students, Skye Baxendale-Burch. Skye has raised £500 pounds by reading many books. The money raised will go towards a charity called 'Crohn's and Colitis'. Skye is doing this to help people like her mum, who has Crohn's, which is an inflammatory bowel disease.

I am inspired by our students who go the extra mile outside of school to demonstrate their drive to support charitable causes.



Parental Feedback

Since the last letter, there have been two further Parents' Evenings, Yr9 and Yr10. Thanks to all the parents that have attended these. It really is an excellent opportunity for you to hear how your child is doing at St Anne's. The outcomes of these were overall positive, but in some questionnaire returns, parents raised justified issues. I ask that in the future parents write their names on these so that we can follow up in a timely manner. I have followed up all issues raised where parents put their names on the returns. St Anne's is rapidly improving, and further improvements can't be sustained without the support of parents. It is crucial that all parents embrace the positive changes and engage with the school. I add a few comments, one positive and one an issue from each Yr group below for your perusal.

Yr10 comments;

Positive: School is unrecognisable from when *my daughter* started. So happy! The improvement, commitment and dedication of ALL staff, helpers, pupils, our whole school family is palpable and continues to grow from strength to strength. Thank you!

Issue raised: The school team have listened to our concerns and responded re poor attainment although we do not agree with the statement 'my child does well as this school'.

Yr9 comments;

Positive: Last Yr I would not have agreed with any of overleaf however my son seems much happier and is also doing well at school. He is highly thought of and we all agree that school seems much calmer with less disruptive lessons. Thank you for the support.

Issue raised: I have sometimes felt that teachers could have higher aspirations for my child e.g. promote going to university/ Russell?? I was once told "*well this is a special measures school*" by a teacher. It has felt that educational aspirations could be higher.

The staff and I are working relentlessly to ensure that your child gets at least a 'good education'. This also includes teaching a strong academic curriculum, underpinned by high expectations. I can say with great authority that the culture of St Anne's has changed massively and that we no longer accept low expectations. Equally, I am also conscious that we are not there yet.



Safeguarding Update

Recognise, Respond, Record, Refer

Safeguarding our children continues to be our number one priority and we have comprehensive provision in place to ensure this continue to be effective.

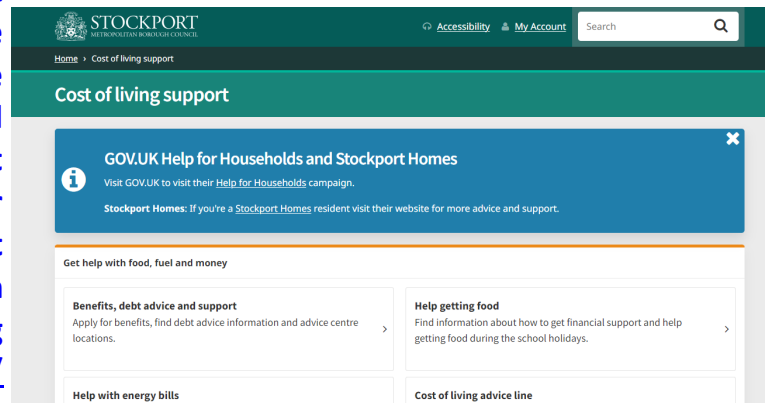
Staff training: Further training has included Prevent, FGM, and reviewing our safeguarding policies. Staff knowledge of our students is strong and therefore **RECOGNISING** and **RECORDING** any concerns. The safeguarding team **RESPOND** to all **REPORTED** concerns and referrals are subsequently made to support your child moving forward, ultimately keeping them safe.

Sextortion

This is a form of child sexual exploitation where children are threatened or blackmailed, most often with the possibility of publicly sharing nude or sexual images by a person who demands additional sexual content, sexual activity or money. Sextortion cases are increasingly common. I ask that parents speak openly to their children about the dangers of sextortion. It could happen to *YOUR* child.

Cost of Living Crisis

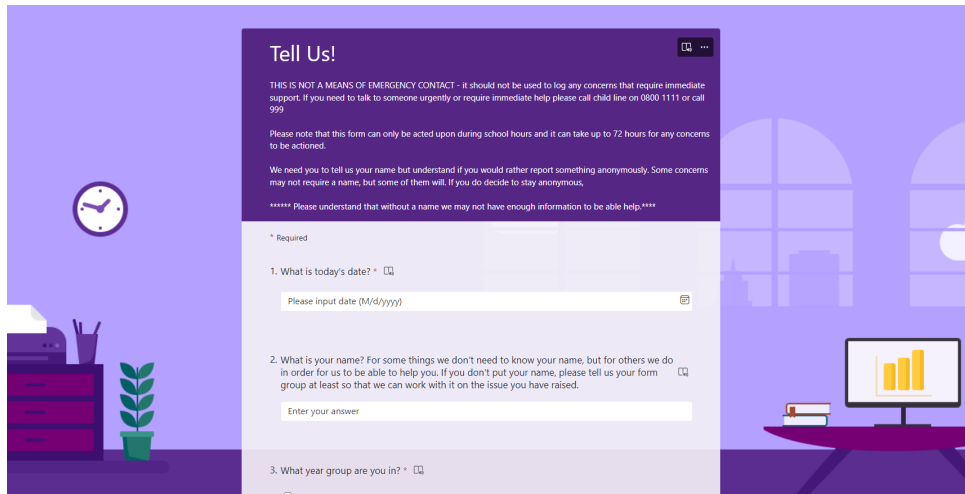
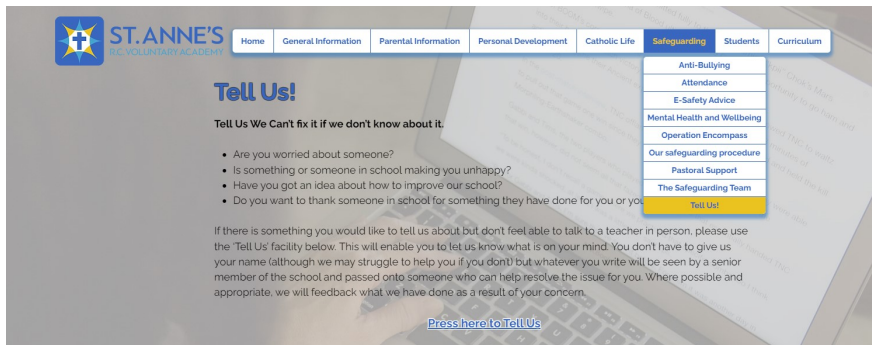
Sadly, the St Anne's community is not immune to this. Catholic schools were created to support/help the vulnerable and at St Anne's we ask that if you feel you need some support please contact Miss Rees at the school, our safeguarding lead. For more support regarding the cost-of-living crisis in Stockport click on the following link. <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/topic/cost-of-living-support#>. Please seek our support in the strictest confidence





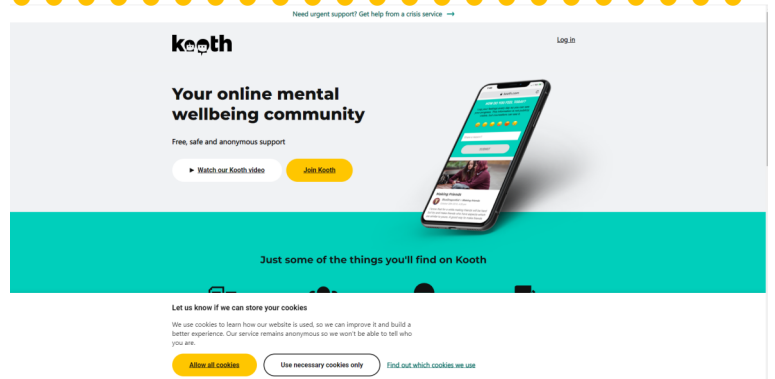
Mental Health Week

The focus was on anxiety which affects a large number of students. At St Anne’s, we are proud of increased support offered, much of which is bespoke. Our work is complemented by the excellent relationship we have with many external mental health partners who we refer students to for specialised support. Our school app, *Tell Us*, allows students to report concerns and this is monitored by our pastoral team.



Kooth

As a parent, if you are concerned please access the Kooth website, www.kooth.com . Access to Kooth is available 24/7. Alternatively, Chat Health, run by Stockport NHS supports mental health questions and concerns. The number is 07480635227.





Attendance Update

As I have said in many of my previous newsletters, attendance is a very important aspect of your child's education. There is little doubt that good attendance correlates very strongly with good academic achievement. In essence, if your child is not in school, then they can't learn. The St Anne's 'attendance' team are working extremely hard to ensure our attendance is good. Indeed, a member of the Stockport Welfare Team recently visited St Anne's to scrutinise our attendance procedures and was highly impressed with our diligence and hard work to improve attendance. In particular, she commented that how well *"staff know the students and are willing to get the actions done"*. I politely ask that you ensure that your child attends school regularly.

I am delighted to announce our summer reward trip to Blackpool Pleasure Beach. Spaces are limited and students will be selected based on excellent attendance, punctuality and behaviour. Students who make the effort and improve their overall attendance will also be eligible for this trip. More details to follow. At this stage can I say a massive thank you to all parents/carers working with their child and school to ensure excellence attendance.

Yr 9 Update

A massive thanks to the parents and students who attended the Yr9 Parents Evening/ Options Evening. It was fantastic seeing the students and parents talking to the teachers about their progress. A special thank you to the Yr10 student leadership team who did a great job helping in reception and catering for staff and parents with refreshments. Mrs Sutcliffe has been impressed with the students' engagement in the options process, including asking many pertinent questions to help them with their choices. Mrs Sutcliffe informs me that all options forms are handed in. We will share the outcomes of the options process in due course.



Duke of Edinburgh Expedition

Duke of Edinburgh update. This half term, 27 students across Yr11, Yr10 and Yr9 participated in their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award expedition. They navigated their way across the countryside of Romiley and Marple, finally arriving at Linnet Clough Scout camp. Here they



completed a range of activities, including cooking and general camping skills. After a very cold night, camp was in high spirits for the start of day two, again navigating across the countryside



to a final checkpoint. Mrs Bowden, the Duke of Edinburgh leader, said the students showed



determination, ambition, and resilience' and she was extremely proud of them adding that not only did they achieve the bronze award but developed themselves as individuals and experienced life skills that will stay with them.





Update on Prefects

I am delighted to introduce our new Head Boy, Alex McDonagh and Head Girl, Anaya Cowley. Both pupils went through a rigorous interview process and amazed both Mrs Simmons and myself with their dedication to St Anne's and their commitment to the school. Below are a few words from them both.

Head Girl, Anaya Cowley: I am extremely proud and honoured to be Head Girl at St Anne's. I have the students' best interests at heart and I want St Anne's to thrive. Through my tenure I wish to work with students and the school leaders to support mental health initiatives as this is an issue affecting so many students. What I most love about St Anne's is that it is a small school where everybody feels included and where we uphold our SACRED values. It is similar to a family where we respect and treat each other how we would want to be treated and where you feel listened to. It is a wonderful place to be and I am very proud to be the Head Girl for this school and community.

Head Boy, Alex McDonagh: I am very proud to be Head Boy at St Anne's. I strive to embody the SACRED Values and act as a role model to all students. St Anne's has given me many opportunities to better myself, such as being a part of the football and basketball team and giving me the opportunity to go to Amsterdam. I will continue to provide opportunities to others by working with Anaya, Head Girl, to improve the Mental Health of pupils. I have already begun this work through the Active in Mind project which has allowed me to build relationships and mentor Yr 7 and Yr 8 students. As Head Boy I will work with staff, students and parents to make St Anne's an outstanding school which serves our community.





Welcoming Environment

We have warmly welcomed a number of Iranian students to St Anne's, aided by Iranian students who are already established here. As part of this transition, we are fortunate to have 2 translators and I am delighted to share an email I received from one of the translators. "I have been working with St Anne's for 6 months and school has been very supportive and welcoming to students who have moved to the UK recent, especially those who need extra support in overcoming the language barrier. My job has been to help facilitate the integration of these students into high school. My experience with St Anne's has been very positive, the staff are friendly, kind and very motivated to aid these students. The teachers have also been very receptive to improvement opportunities I have raised and have communicated effectively and efficiently to implement such changes". Inclusion is part of the St Anne's culture!

Immunisation Feedback

Following the recent immunisation clinic at school we received an email from Nicola O'Neill, a Specialist Community Public Health School Nurse. It stated the following "

"Good morning. I am writing to thank you for all your support during the immunisation session. The sessions ran really well, and the students were a credit to the school. A special thanks to the office staff for organising and in particular Theresa for helping ensure the students attended on the second day. The immunisation team wanted you to know how well the sessions had been organised and the uptake of the Yr 8 and Yr 9 vaccinations noticeably increased. Once again thank you".

I share this again as yet another example of our students, YOUR children, are being ambassadors for the St Anne's community.



Staff Profile—Wayne Smith

Mr Wayne Smith, Site and Facilities Manager: I have worked as part of a maintenance team in a school environment for 10+ Yrs now and I have been at St Anne's for almost a Yr. I love the school environment and the small differences the role can make (outside of teaching) to our students. My main role is to improve the school aesthetically and to ensure Health & Safety compliance. I am also a qualified Personal Trainer and Gym instructor. I am a practicing Catholic, and I have led several church groups in the past including Alpha courses at the Wellspring here in Stockport and been team leader running 'The Gift' at Our Ladies, also in Stockport. I am also a keen guitar player and singer, a long-suffering supporter of Leeds United and I have an 11-Yr-old son who is my absolute world.



Staff Profile—Steve Cooke

Steve Cooke, Caretaker: I am an ex. St. Anne's pupil, so I am in a great position to say I have seen the school change enormously. Having spent 17 Yrs as a timber and damp specialist I was drawn to a different career in a local school in Offerton when my twin boys were little. I joined the site team here 14 Yrs ago and make a daily 102-mile round trip from Seacroft in Leeds to school. Believe me, it's an early alarm call! Along with my boys, we are unashamedly Manchester United fans and when not watching 'the reds' can be found in a camping, fishing and hiking in the Yorkshire Dales or North York Moors. I am thrilled that there is a huge investment programme across school and can honestly say St Anne's is in the best condition it has been for several Yrs.





Sports Update

Our PE department continues to get stronger. As it is now the summer term, there is a focus on athletics, cricket, softball and rounders. The extra-curricular timetable has changed to reflect this, and I would encourage all students to attend these extra



opportunities. The Yr7-Yr10 athletic team enjoyed a recent league match hosted at Stockport Grammar. There were some great

individual performances - Jesse Ofeinmu (Yr 10) and Daisy Jenkinson (Yr 7) showing they will be difficult to beat on Sports Day this Yr. Our Yr11 basketball team enjoyed a victory against Reddish Vale School with a standout performance by Alfie Arnold, showing why he is already playing senior men's basketball. Meanwhile, Yr10 football team suffered a defeat at Reddish Vale, but, as ever, a huge amount of effort was put into the performance. Our Yr10 girls



won the 400m relay; these girls are Ruby Moore, Lola Sheehan, Ellie Wright and Anais McDonald. A big well done! Jesse Ofeinmu came 2nd in 100m sprint with time of 11.2 secs. This is a great personal time and warrants recognition in this letter!

Parent Email

I received the following email from a Yr11 parent. They have asked to keep their name private, and I fully respect that decision. It was lovely to read. As I have said before, staff are working extremely hard for your children, and at this time of the Yr, on Yr11 pupils.

“Good evening, this is a quick email to all staff involved with Yr 11 at the minute, We would like to say a huge thank you to every single one of you all for your unwavering dedication to the pupils leading up to and during this exam period, the extra sessions before and after school, strike days, powerpoints and revision documents, even weekend sessions!

You have all shown real care, encouragement and lots of support to my son and all of the students, I know not all schools have gone above and beyond like this so we are very lucky to have you guiding them at this critical time of their life.

I just wanted to express our gratitude as I know behind the scenes how hard you all work and it isn't always recognised. Thank you all”.



Sports Update

On a more light-hearted note, St Anne's staff are keeping fit!

On the first week back after half term, several of St Anne's staff participated in a football fixture against Priestnall staff. This was a great opportunity for staff to bond, promote teamwork and display a dogged determination. Mr Wroe opened the scoring with a fantastic header which gave the team confidence to pursue another goal. Mr Donnelly, Mr Ostmeier and Mr Murphy kept a solid defensive shape working adjacent with each other to prevent any other scoring opportunities from Preinstall. Mr Andrews and Mr Towell worked tirelessly in midfield to ensure the team ticked. The team showed great chemistry which resulted in an 8-2 win for St Anne's. A massive thank you to Preinstall School for organising such a compelling fixture! And of course, to the St Anne's staff for such an overwhelmingly victory!

Staff members took part in a friendly match against Cheadle Laurus on Friday May 20th. This friendly St Anne's won 5-2 victory. After Mr Gallagher opened the scoring, Cheadle Laurus pulled one back from a fantastic effort. It wasn't until Mr Wroe's sublime finished put St Anne's back in the lead. St Anne's continued to dominate the ball and chances came thick and fast. The last 15 minutes were tense as Cheadle piled piling on the pressure, but good teamwork kept Cheadle's chances to a minimum. A massive thanks to Cheadle for hosting the event!





Finally...

Changes to the school day

As I said in my October and November letters, there will be changes to the school day starting from September 2023. In essence, the school day will finish 5 minutes later at 3.10pm each day. This is just a reminder.

Additionally, we are moving towards the return to having one lunch time for all pupils. This will be trialled in early June this Year in preparation for September 2023. This is for your information only.

As always, thanks very much for your support.

Mr Logue
Executive Headteacher

Important Dates for your Diary



Summer Concert.

Save the date! St Anne's presents 'Party in the Quad' on Wednesday 5th July. This evening follows on from our very successful Christmas Extravaganza and is an evening where our great Creative Arts students showcase their music, drama and art! It is a night not to be missed! Refreshments will be available for a donation and tickets will be available at the start of June. I ask that you support our



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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[@stannesrcnews](https://twitter.com/stannesrcnews)

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