

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to my first newsletter of the academic year. Following on from the highly successful Catholic inspection last year, we look forward with confidence for the year ahead. I am delighted to report that the vast majority of children have returned with a positive attitude to learning, ready to embrace the St Anne's Way. This bodes well for the rest of the year.

I hope that you enjoy reading about all things St Anne's!

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

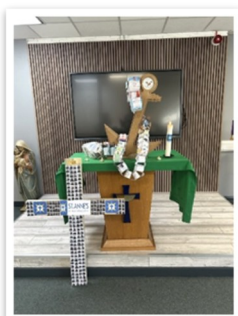
We start the new academic year with a new RE team. Mr Williams is the new Head of RE, Miss Scott is second in RE, Miss Coyne is in her second year and we welcome Miss Airey as a new ECT. Thus far I have been extremely impressed with their dedication and commitment to St Anne's. Additionally, I can say, with great confidence, that this department can be one of the best in the Diocese. Watch this space!

Opening staff Liturgy

Mr Williams opened the new school year with a staff liturgy, inviting us to pause, give thanks, and place the year ahead into God's hands. Through readings from Isaiah, the Psalms, and the Gospel of Luke, we reflected on God's promise of new beginnings, the importance of offering our work to Him, and the call to "put out into deep water" with faith and courage. Staff were encouraged to see each day as an opportunity to serve with love, patience, and hope. Together, we prayed for our pupils, families, and colleagues, asking God to bless the work of our hands and guide our school community throughout the year.

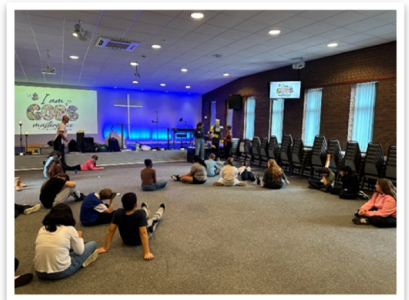
Anchor of Hope

Last week, our school community was delighted to receive the **Anchor of Hope** as part of its journey around the Emmaus Trust. The anchor is a symbol of faith, strength, and hope, reminding us to stay rooted in God's love. Our students will be writing their own prayers, which will be linked together to form a prayer chain. This will be displayed as a sign of our shared trust in God and our commitment to supporting one another throughout the year.



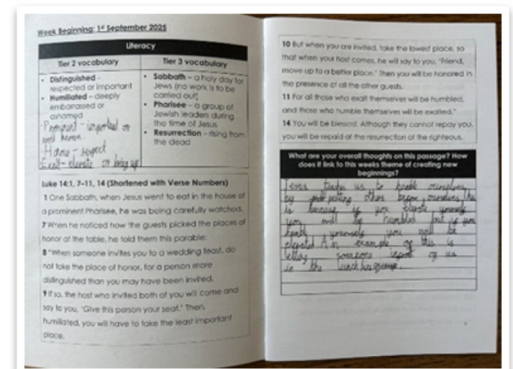
Retreat Days

This month, our Year 7 students have been taking part in retreat days at Coach House Church. These days are a wonderful opportunity for students to step away from the 'busyness' of school life and spend time reflecting, praying, and deepening their faith. Each retreat centres on community and belonging, encouraging students to see the importance of kindness, respect, and supporting one another in their journey through school. A key part of the retreat experience is relationship-building. Students spend the day with their form peers and their form tutor, taking part in activities designed to strengthen friendships, encourage teamwork, and build trust. These shared experiences help to lay the foundations for a positive and supportive year ahead. Stay tuned in October for a more detailed feature, where we will share the highlights and reflections from each form group's retreat.



Form Time Act of Worship Booklets

This year, we have introduced Gospel Study booklets for all year groups, helping students to engage more deeply with the Sunday Gospel. Each week, students reflect on the Gospel reading and are given the opportunity to respond creatively in their booklets. These responses include written reflections, prayers, and artwork, showing how our young people connect the Word of God to their own lives.



GIFT Update

The GIFT team recently had the privilege of writing a prayer about the canonisation of Blessed Carlo Acutis, which was celebrated on Sunday 7th September. Carlo was a teenager known for his deep Catholic faith and passion for technology, using his IT skills to create a website about Eucharistic miracles around the world; hence, he is the patron saint of the IT department at St Anne's. Sadly, he was diagnosed with leukaemia at just age 15 but was not fearful about dying as he believed he would be united with God in Heaven. His work reminds young people that holiness is possible in everyday life and doesn't require giving up their passions, talents or technology - faith can be lived through them!

Here is the prayer they created:



Blessed Carlo Acutis



Dear Lord,

As Carlo did, give us the strength to live as modern witnesses of Christ. Inspired by the legacy of Blessed Carlo Acutis - his kindness, generosity and creativity - help us to emulate these qualities in our own lives.

Grant us the courage to guide the students of St. Anne's in their learning, especially in Computing, so they may use technology wisely and continue to grow together.

May we use Carlo's devotion as an inspiration to love more deeply and to become more faithful in the Eucharist, for it is in the Eucharist that Your Son is truly present.

St. Anne - pray for us.
Amen.





Residential Retreat

I am delighted to report that we are again planning to take a group of Year 8 students to Castlerigg Manor Residential Retreat Centre. This is a Catholic Youth Retreat Centre in Keswick in the Lake District. Young people's lives are busier and more hectic than ever and many face challenges. This retreat will be an opportunity to take 'time out', get away from the stress of everyday life and, most importantly, to reflect and pray together. It will involve team building challenges, creative workshops, reflection and prayer and a walk into Keswick. This will be launched to Year 8 students week beginning 6th October 2025. The Retreat will take place between Friday 6th March – Sunday 8th March 2026.



Sacred Enrichment – Advent Appeal

Miss Airey, one of our new RE teachers, and her form group 9C have set themselves an amazing challenge – they are trying to collect enough canned food to stretch all the way around the RE block (that's roughly 774 cans!). The food will go towards Christmas hampers to support families in both our school and the wider St Anne's community. If you have any canned food at home with a good date, 9C would really appreciate your donations. Every single donation makes a difference, and we are really grateful for the support – it's a wonderful way to help those in our own community this Christmas.



Year 7 Welcome Liturgy

This will be celebrated on **Friday 17th October** at 2.15pm by Fr Mark from St Winifred's. Parents and carers of Year 7, please do come and join us for the celebration. More details will be shared with you closer to the time. I ask that parents/carers make every effort to attend this Welcome Liturgy.

Caritas

Miss Scott is relaunching Caritas, a wonderful opportunity for students to get involved in charitable works. This links directly to our Advent Appeal, supporting families in our local community. It's a fantastic way for your child to live out the values of service and compassion this Christmas.



A special visit....

On 24th October, our school's Sacred Day, we will be honoured by the presence of His Excellency Bishop John, who will plant and bless a Ginkgo Biloba sapling in our grounds. This is no ordinary tree—it is part of the Hiroshima Green Legacy Project, an initiative dedicated to safeguarding the A-bomb survivor trees of Hiroshima, known as Hibakujumoku. By planting this sapling, our school becomes part of a worldwide symbol of peace, resilience, and hope. This living tree will stand as a reminder to future generations that even in the face of destruction, life and peace can flourish.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW YEAR 7 STUDENTS!

The Year 7s have settled in amazingly at St Anne's. The enthusiasm and energy they have brought is brilliant to see. The Meet the Form Tutor evening was a real success; it was great to hear such positive news from parents and form tutors about how well the students have settled. To quote a parent "Very happy with how he has settled in and how much I am kept informed and up to date on his progress". We hope Year 7 continue to thrive on their journey at St Anne's.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Our student leadership programme is back in full swing, with all eight teams launching into the new school year with energy and purpose. These teams play a vital role in shaping our school culture and supporting their peers. The leadership groups include:

- **GIFT (Growing in Faith Together)**
- **CARITAS**
- **Culture Leaders**
- **Mental Health Ambassadors**
- **Anti-Bullying Ambassadors**
- **Student Council**
- **Sports Leaders**
- **Prefects**



Already, our GIFT team has begun sharing a weekly prayer to help us reflect and close the week with intention.



The Student Council successfully organised our Macmillan Coffee Morning, raising awareness and funds for a great cause. Our Prefects have taken up their lunchtime duties and reopened *The Hive*, a welcoming space designed to support new students. Meanwhile, our Culture Leaders—formerly known as Young Interpreters—are busy planning a vibrant programme of activities for Black History Month.

We are incredibly proud of these dedicated students. Their leadership, compassion, and creativity continue to make a meaningful impact on our school community. We look forward to seeing all they will accomplish this year.

MATILDA AUDITIONS

The creative Arts team were blown away by the incredibly talented students who attended the Matilda auditions recently. There were over 60 students who attended the auditions which shows the dedication of all involved. The students really brought their best performances, and it was clear to see the enthusiasm and dedication from the students. It was fantastic to see the support and compassion shown by everybody which helped all to reach their potential. The Creative Arts team had a difficult decision deciding on roles as there was an abundance of talent. A massive well done to everyone that auditioned.



PARENTAL INFORMATION EVENINGS

Over the past few weeks we have held a series of parental information evenings. These are 'extra' and different from parents' evenings and are to impart key information and messages. Below are some of these key messages.

- *Year 11.* I delivered this presentation that focused on maximising Year 11 student achievements. Key messages included the importance of good attendance, how can parents support their child, how to revise, coping with stress and I highlighted St Anne's high standards and expectations. I would have liked better parent attendance as I have to stress that parents have a major role to play in ensuring their child achieves their potential next August.
- *Year 10.* Mr Ostmeier delivered this presentation focusing on forming good routines in Year 10 in order for students to be successful in their GCSE examinations in Year 11. This includes good attendance (97% or better), completing homework to the best of their ability, and revising for examinations. Mr Ostmeier also spoke about the importance of following simple rules to uphold our high standards and expectations. Key dates were shared, including the dates for work experience which will take place from 13th to 17th July 2026.

BLOOD BROTHERS

On Thursday 4th September, Year 10 drama students, accompanied by Mrs Simmons, went on an inspiring trip to Buxton to watch the iconic production of *Blood Brothers*.

The play, which has been running for an impressive 39 years, tells the powerful story of twin brothers separated at birth in Liverpool, explores how class and society shape opportunities and life chances.

In an unexpected twist, students had the rare opportunity to meet Bob Tomson, the director who has overseen every production of *Blood Brothers* since its opening in 1983! During the train journey home, Mr Tomson kindly shared his insights into the production and exchanged contact details with Mrs Simmons as he has also agreed to take part in a Q&A session with the students in the near future - an exciting chance to gain first-hand knowledge from a leading figure in the theatre world.

The group's conduct was widely praised by both theatre staff and fellow audience members, who commended the students for their exemplary behaviour and enthusiasm.

Reflecting on the experience, Mrs Simmons said that the trip had not only been an enjoyable day out, but also an invaluable learning opportunity. The students are now eager to begin studying *Blood Brothers* in greater depth as part of their drama course.



EXPECTATIONS/RULES

Behaviour systems at St Anne's are underpinned by our school rules.

All students are expected to follow these six rules:

1. Engage in learning in lessons: Students are expected to engage in learning at all times. This includes taking part in class discussions and completing all work to the best of their ability.
2. Correct uniform: This includes no jewellery (including plastic studs), appropriate hair styles that is natural looking, no make up or fake tan and no false nails or nail varnish. Tights should be worn by all female students and skirts should be an appropriate length.
3. No phones: Phones are not permitted to be used at anytime while on the school premises. If they are seen/heard they will be confiscated until an adult can come and collect from reception. This rule includes smart watches, which are also not permitted.
4. No eating/drinking on corridors or in classrooms: The only exception to this is water. Energy drinks are banned and will be confiscated.
5. Basic kit: Students are expected to have basic kit for every lesson of every day. This will be checked each day during form time.
6. Be punctual to school and lessons: Students are expected to be ready to learn and arrive to school on time. For each lesson, students are expected to be in class before the second bell.

If any student brings an offensive weapon or drugs into school, it is highly likely that the police will be informed as well as any student concerned risking permanent exclusion; this is non-negotiable.

Our behaviour expectations are rooted in our SACRED values which are Service, Ambition, Compassion, Respect, Equality and Determination. I believe each student that displays these values will be successful and happy at St Anne's.

Key to Success Groups

Key to Success groups take place during form time in Years 10 and 11 focussing on Maths, English or Science. There has been an encouraging start to the year, and students are focussed and working hard during these sessions, which is a positive sign for their GCSEs. Some of the feedback from the form tutors includes: *"My group of students are determined to succeed and their attitude to intervention is positive with them understanding the purpose and grateful for the support"*, *"Students have shown exceptional commitment to their grade 7, 8 and 9 intervention, offering insightful answers very early in the morning!"*. This is great to hear and I look forward to updating you on their progress throughout the year.



Y11 Intervention

Targeted intervention has started for Year 11 during period 6 from 3.10-4.10pm. Staff are using this time to work with students to improve their grades - particularly at grades 4 and 5. Attendance to these sessions is compulsory for those students that are selected to attend. As mentioned in my talk to Year 11 parents in September, this can form part of their independent study, which they should be doing for at least 2 hours each evening.

OPEN EVENING

On **Thursday 9th October**, we will be hosting our annual Open Evening. This event provides an excellent opportunity to showcase the wonderful learning environment we have here at St Anne's to prospective pupils and their families.

Our dedicated staff are preparing a wide range of engaging activities that not only capture the enthusiasm of our visitors but also reflect the academic rigour and high standards we uphold across the school.

This year, our theme is ***"Where Education Meets Faith: Twice Recognised as a Good Catholic School"***. For the first time in St Anne's history, we are delighted to celebrate achieving a 'double' — receiving a 'Good' judgement both from Ofsted and from the Catholic Schools Inspection. This has given us the confidence to further improve the education and provision that we provide.

We look forward to welcoming families to share in our success and to experience first-hand what makes St Anne's such a special place to learn and grow.

ST. ANNE'S
Catholic Learning Community
Proud to be a Professional
Catholic Learning Community

Open Evening

Thursday 9th October 4pm-7pm

*Where education meets Faith:
Twice recognised as a Good Catholic School*

Executive Headteacher's Address: 5.15pm & 6.00pm

St Anne's is a community that is based on core Catholic values, delivering an all-round holistic education with extensive extra-curricular activities and high academic expectations for all.

Catholic Schools Inspection Report 2025 said:	Ofsted Report 2023 said:
★ A welcoming, safe & inclusive community built securely on gospel values	★ Pupils feel valued within the school community
★ Exceptionally calm, learning environment that is ambitious	★ Pupils benefited from substantial improvements leaders have made
★ Students firmly understand their distinctive Catholic identity	★ The atmosphere in the school, including during lessons, is calm and orderly
★ Children are at the heart of the school	★ Pupils feel happy and safe
★ Staff say that the school is a joyous place to work	★ Teachers demonstrate increasing ambition for all

ST. ANNE'S
Catholic Learning Community
To Know, Love and Serve God

FEEDER SCHOOL VISITS

Mrs Sutcliffe and Mrs Simmons have had the pleasure of visiting many of our feeder and non-feeder primary schools over the past two weeks, and reported how wonderful it was to meet the enthusiastic Year 5 and Year 6 students to share all the exciting opportunities they can experience at St Anne's. They said their visits to St Joseph's in Reddish, St Mary's in Heaton Norris, and St Winifred's in Heaton Moor were especially enjoyable, and the children represented their schools with pride. They were particularly impressed by the thoughtful questions pupils asked about life at St Anne's, demonstrating real insight and curiosity about their future success. We very much look forward to welcoming these students and their families to our planned Open Evening on Thursday 9th October.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance continues to be a focus at St Anne's. There is a direct correlation between attendance and outcomes. It is statistically proven that students that attend more, achieve more. It is also true that higher levels of attendance increase students' resilience. It is therefore imperative that you encourage your child to come to school every day, even if they do not feel 100%. Missed lessons means missed learning, and this is very hard to catch up, if at all. At the time of writing, 64% of students have attendance over 97%, which is what we would class as good attendance. Unfortunately, this number is too low and is not conducive to good outcomes. I must remind you that fines will be issued for holidays taken during term time. Please continue to support your child by supporting them with their attendance, for example by making medical appointments outside school hours.

STAR LITERACY

We're excited to share the launch of our STAR Literacy Strategy at St Anne's!

STAR stands for **S**peak Confidently, **T**hink Critically, **A**rticulate Through Writing, and **R**ead with Purpose - four key skills that will help every student shine both in and beyond the classroom. Literacy is at the heart of everything we do because strong reading, writing, and communication skills open doors to success in every subject and beyond school. With your support at home, we can help students see how vital these skills are for their learning, future opportunities, and confidence in the wider world. Our vision is simple: every child can be a STAR through literacy.

St Anne's
Literacy STARS
"Every child is a STAR through literacy"

- ★ **S**peak confidently
- ★ **T**hink critically
- ★ **A**rticulate through writing
- ★ **R**ead with purpose



READING GROUPS

I am pleased to announce the return of our SLT Reading Groups this term. These groups offer students the chance to engage critically with a diverse range of texts, each carefully chosen to spark thoughtful discussion and inspire a genuine love of reading. By reading aloud to students, they are encouraged to think deeply, question assumptions, and reflect meaningfully on their own experiences and the viewpoints of others, cultivating empathy and a richer understanding of the world around them. In doing so, they develop vital skills of reading, critical thinking and consider their role and purpose within their communities. The SLT Reading Groups stand as a powerful reminder of how reading can connect us to ideas, to each other, and to the responsibilities we share as members of society.



SACRED ENRICHMENT PROJECTS

Autumn Term

This term, our SACRED enrichment form-time projects will focus on two key Catholic Social Teachings: *solidarity* and the *preferential option for the poor*.

In Years 7 and 8, during the first half of the term, students will explore the life and work of one of our subject saints. Working collaboratively, they will prepare a stall for our SACRED Day Marketplace, which will take place on **Friday 24th October**.

Meanwhile, Year 9 students will begin preparations for our Advent Fundraising Appeal. They will work together to design and organise activities aimed at raising funds in support of local charities.

After the half-term break, the projects will rotate: Year 9 will research and present on a subject saint, while Years 7 and 8 will take the lead in planning and running fundraising activities as part of our Advent Appeal in the lead-up to Christmas.



YEAR 11: POST-16 PREPARATION

To support our Year 11 students in preparing for the next stage of their education, Mrs Simmons has organised a comprehensive programme of activities designed to help them make informed decisions about their future pathways. Throughout the Autumn Term, a variety of local colleges will deliver presentations during weekly assemblies. Students will also receive information regarding college Open Evenings and will take part in Stockport Post-16 Week at the end of September, which includes further guidance and resources.

On **Friday 24th October**, as part of our SACRED Day, Year 11 students will have access to a careers fair and will participate in sessions focussed on writing personal statements and CVs. They will also take part in mock interviews and receive support with online applications for colleges and apprenticeships. We are confident that these opportunities will provide valuable insight and preparation for our students as they consider their next steps.



SPORT: EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Extra-curricular activities are now taking place in the PE department. It is great to see so many students taking part. Please encourage your child to come along and join in the fun!

LUNCHTIME ACTIVITY	DAY	CLUB
Please note: <i>no food allowed in the Sports Hall</i> <i>trainers must be worn - no school shoes permitted during these sessions</i> <i>first come - first served; unfortunately if the Sports Hall is full, students will be turned away</i>	Monday	Badminton - Yr 7 & 8
	Tuesday	Basketball - Yr 7, 8 & 9
	Wednesday	Badminton - Yr 9, 10 & 11
	Thursday	Badminton - All Years

AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITY	DAY	CLUB
Please note: <i>After-school clubs take place 3.10-4.00pm</i> <i>Full PE kit must be worn at all after-school clubs</i>	Monday	Basketball (boys) Football (girls)
	Wednesday	Football (boys) Netball
	Thursday	Basketball (girls)



YOUNG CARERS

We are pleased to have launched our weekly Young Carers drop in, which takes place on Wednesday lunchtimes in the room behind music. This is an opportunity for our Young Carers to check in with our Young Carers Lead Miss Baird and access needed support. We have also updated our website with Information on the role of Young Carers and the support available to them through school. Please contact Miss Baird or your child's Head of Year via admin@stannes.academy if you or your child would like to speak to someone about being a Young Carer.



MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Our Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 26th September, proudly organised by the Student Council, was a heartwarming triumph. We were delighted to welcome so many parents and carers into school to enjoy a cup of tea and a delicious array of cakes lovingly donated and baked by our talented staff and students.

The generosity shown through donations was truly overwhelming, and the atmosphere was buzzing with community spirit. This year's **Great St Anne's Bake Off** reached new heights, showcasing the incredible creativity and skill of our young bakers.

Congratulations to Madison-Mai Carrick-Wood, who took the top prize with her stunning heart-shaped sponge cake, beautifully decorated with a cross and pink icing.

Our three runners-up also wowed the judges with their creations:

- **Lola C (Y9)**: for her sensational Biscoff cake
- **Sienna M (Y9)**: for crafting the most irresistible cornflake cakes we've ever tasted
- **Cameron T (Y10)**: for his mouthwatering rocky road Oreo cakes

The bake sale during break and lunch proved hugely popular with students, adding to the excitement and fundraising efforts.

Thanks to everyone's support, we raised an incredible **£460 for Macmillan Cancer Support**—a contribution that will make a real difference to those in need.

A huge thank you to all who baked, donated, attended, and helped make this event so special. We couldn't have done it without you!



NEW STAFF AT ST ANNE'S

As St Anne's continues on its journey to be outstanding in all we do, we have successfully been able to appoint additional staff as well as replace staff who have left our team. This is an exciting time as we have increased our teachers in our core subjects by appointing additional core teachers; we welcome **Mr Wright** in Maths, **Miss Atherton** in English, **Mr Hill** in Science and **Ms Airey** in RE.

We also welcome:

English: **Ms Cook**, Head of English
Ms Hitchen
Miss Howes
Geography: **Miss Short**

Art: **Ms Bennett**
Maths: **Mrs Panini** (maternity cover)
RE: **Miss Scott**
History: **Miss Tyler**

We are also pleased to welcome back to St Annes **Mr Gallagher** as Acting Head of PE.

We have also been busy strengthening our support team with additional appointments, so we welcome the following to the team:

Reprographics/Art Technician: **Mrs Barnett**
Learning Support Assistant: **Miss Coyne**

We wish them all a successful time at St Annes through our journey to be outstanding in all we do.

Over the next few newsletters, our recent additions will introduce themselves to you in a little paragraph...

Mr Gallagher, Head of PE

"I'm delighted to be returning to St Anne's as Head of PE. After spending time teaching in Dubai, which was a fantastic experience, I'm excited to step back into the school community in this new role. Sport plays such an important part in the holistic development of our students, and, as the school continues to grow, so too will the opportunities we can offer. I'm really looking forward to the year ahead and to supporting our students as they develop their skills, confidence, and passion for sport."



Mr Wright, Maths

"Hello everyone. I have been teaching secondary mathematics for 12 years, and I am looking forward to making an impact on St Anne's students in their mathematical progress over the coming years. Outside of school, I am keen to keep fit by as many sports as I can play, as well as many leisurely pursuits such as reading, walking and DIY projects."



Miss Scott, RE

I'm originally from a town called Darlington in the northeast. At 18 I moved to Edge Hill University, near Liverpool, to study my secondary religious education with QTS degree. After university, I moved to Manchester where I have been living for 3 years now, whilst being a full time teacher and part time Masters student, studying my research degree titled 'Teachers' perceptions of GCSE learning: a study into how best to support the learning of GCSE RE students'. I always was interested in RE; at school and A-levels I was inspired by so many teachers who helped me understand this was the career for me. On a personal note, my favourite things are anything pink (you should see my classroom), coffee, pandas and reading - anything from romance to crime. When I'm not at work, my dream weekend day is reading in a coffee shop whilst it rains!



TEACHING AND LEARNING

At the end of the last academic year, our curriculum leaders and teachers spent a significant amount of time reflecting on our curriculum and making improvements ahead of this academic year. Now that we are back in the classroom, these changes are in place and already having a positive impact. During regular lesson visits, it is lovely to hear the teachers complimenting the students for their ambition and determination. It is especially lovely to see our new Year 7 cohort producing high quality work in their lessons.

Later this half term, teachers will be giving our students subject specific revision lists to help them prepare for assessments which will take place after Oct half term holiday. Pupil voice activity last year disappointingly revealed that the majority of students do not prepare for their assessments. Learning extends beyond the classroom, and it is vital students are spending time out of school revisiting topics and securing the key concepts that have been taught by their teachers. BBC Bitesize is an excellent free revision tool that students can use, alongside the revision list, to make sure the work they do at home has a positive impact on their outcomes.



As you will be aware, Class Charts is no longer available for students. All communications have now moved to Arbor. All KS3 students, and KS4 Computing or Business students will have set up their account during their timetabled lessons. All students can download the Arbor for Students app on their mobile device, or access it on the internet at Arbor for students.

Students who do not study Computing or Business at KS4 will need to visit Arbor for Students and click 'Forgot my password' to activate their account. They should enter their school email address (username@stannes.academy) and request a new password. A link will be sent to their Outlook account, which they can access by logging into the One Drive and from there they can set a password to access Arbor. It is advisable to use the password used to log in to the school computer systems.

Students who work with our team in the St Joseph's Centre will also be given support to get logged in during the school day. Using Arbor, students will be able to see their timetable, homework activities, achievement points and upcoming events.

Homework for English and Maths will continue to be set on Sparx, Science will continue to use Kerboodle. Logins for these systems are available from class teachers. Any students struggling to log in to Arbor should see Mrs McGloin for support.

Teaching & Learning Twilight

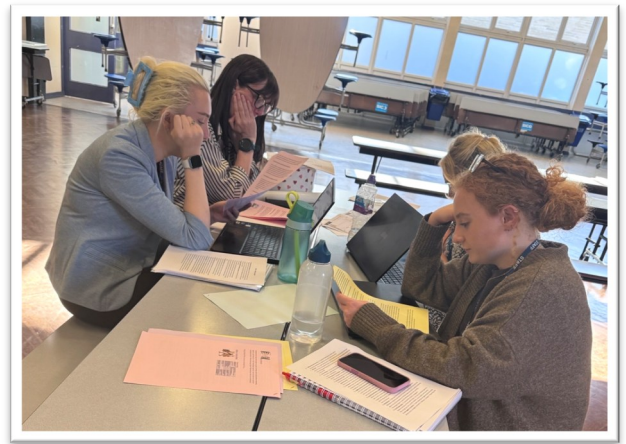
At our recent Teaching and Learning Twilight, teachers engaged in a session designed to strengthen lesson planning and delivery with a clear goal: ensuring students are accessing the key content required for them to be successful in each lesson.

The focus of the session was twofold - first, to explore strategies that maximise student engagement and active participation, particularly at the start of each lesson, and second, to deepen understanding of how memory works to better support long-term learning and academic success.



Throughout the session, staff engaged in practical discussions about the theories of cognitive science. Teachers discussed ways to embed retrieval practice, spaced learning, and effective questioning into their daily routines, all aimed at helping students commit knowledge to long-term memory.

By concentrating on how students learn most effectively—and what makes learning "stick"—we are able to continually improve the lessons we deliver so that students are not only engaging in the moment but are then able to use methods that lead to sustained understanding and progress over time.



SAFEGUARDING

At St Anne's the use of the 4R's (Recognise, Respond, Record, Refer) is embedded amongst our staff. This ensures that your child is safe at school, and any safeguarding concerns are immediately reported to the safeguarding team. Mr Ostmeier is our DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead) and Miss Baird/Miss Rees are our DDSL's (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads). Safeguarding remains the highest priority at St Anne's. Mr Ostmeier has spoken to students in assembly about the importance of letting staff know if there are any issues, so they can be resolved at an early stage. One way to do this is by using the TellUs button on the school website. Students are able to access this via the school website, to inform the safeguarding team of a concern about themselves, or someone else. This will be treated with the highest confidentiality and is checked daily to ensure all student concerns are dealt with efficiently.

Keeping Our Children Safe: The Four Rs



GCSE RESULTS 2025

Congratulations to the class of 2025 for all their hard work and dedication towards their exams. There was a great atmosphere on results day, and we were particularly happy with the proportion of grades between 9 to 7 that our students achieved - almost one fifth of grades were at this standard. This is testament to the hard work of the students, and also their teachers. There were so many students that achieved outstanding results, but I would like to specifically mention Robbie O, Ayaan H, Sama J, Edison W and Sofia B who all achieved an average of grade 8 or more, across all their subjects. This is an outstanding achievement, and I look forward to celebrating with them at **Presentation Evening on Thursday 27th November from 6.00pm.**



UPCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

As we begin the new academic year, we encourage parents to stay organised so you don't miss any key meetings or events. These occasions are a valuable way to support your child's journey and to stay connected with school life. Please make a note of the following important dates for this half term:

Open Evening

Thursday 9th October: If you know families with children in Years 5 or 6, please encourage them to come along and explore all that our school has to offer.

Year 7

Wednesday 22nd October, 5.00pm – Parental Information Evening, followed at **6.00pm** by our **Year 7 Proud Evening**, where students will showcase their learning and experiences from this half term.

Years 8 & 9

Thursday 2nd October, 6.00pm – Parental Information Evening: a chance to work with the school to ensure your child is fully supported in their studies.

Year 10

Week beginning Monday 20th October – Parental reports will be sent home. We encourage you to take time to read these carefully and discuss them with your child.

Year 11

Thursday 23rd October, 4.00–7.00pm – Parents' Evening: an opportunity to meet with subject teachers to review progress and discuss next steps in preparation for exams.

TOUR OF SCHOOL

At St Anne's we are incredibly proud of our learning environment. Each Friday morning at 9.30am, I will be doing tours of the school during the working day. This is for parents of children currently in school and for other parents that want to view the school 'in action'. Please contact reception to confirm attendance.

AND FINALLY...

The month of September is always a busy, yet exciting, time of the year. This is another important year in our journey to become the best Catholic school in Stockport and beyond. By working in partnership with our parents I believe that we are in a great position to do so.

Sheldon Logue

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