

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm St Anne's welcome to my latest newsletter that showcases our great community. I can't believe that it is the end of half term 1 already. Doesn't time fly when you are having fun? 😊

Enjoy reading about all the different opportunities and experiences that are open to your child.

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

Bishop John Arnold Visits St Anne's for a Very Special Planting

We have been honoured to welcome Bishop John Arnold to St Anne's on the last day of term for a very special occasion. During his visit, Bishop John blessed and helped to plant our new Ginkgo biloba sapling, kindly organised by Mr Swift, as part of the Hiroshima Green Legacy Project. This international initiative preserves and shares saplings from trees that survived the atomic bombing of Hiroshima in 1945 - known as hibakujumoku - as powerful symbols of peace, hope, and resilience.

We are incredibly proud to be part of this global movement for peace; St Anne's will be the only location in Stockport to receive such a sapling. The Bishop's visit and the planting of this remarkable tree remind us of our call to nurture faith, peace, and care for creation in our community and beyond.

In our November newsletter edition we will share some photos from this special visit.

Anchor of Hope – St. Mary on the Hill

At the end of September, our school passed on the Anchor of Hope to St Mary's Primary School, Stockport, continuing its journey around the Emmaus Trust. Five members of our GIFT Team represented St Anne's, joining St Mary's for a special assembly to celebrate faith and unity across our schools.



During the service, Fatoumata shared a heartfelt prayer on behalf of our community, reminding everyone of the strength and hope we find when we place our trust in God.

Caritas update

So far this term, students have been introduced to what being 'caritas' means, and how we can serve our community. We have begun making advent fundraising plans to contribute to the Advent Appeal. This term, students are making environment-related Christmas cards to go in these Advent Appeal hampers. They are basing them on the environment, linking them to the Bishop's visit to plant the sapling in our prayer garden. Next term we will begin fundraisings for the Advent hampers.

GIFT update

Our GIFT Team (Growing in Faith Together) has continued to grow rapidly this term, and we are delighted to share that it has now been divided into three dedicated groups, each with a special focus.

1. The GIFT Prayer Writing Team is creating beautiful prayers inspired by our school's values and faith.
2. These prayers will be collected by the GIFT Book Making Team, who are designing a unique Book of Prayers, complete with illustrations, reflections, and descriptions. Once complete, a digital version will be available for everyone to enjoy, and physical copies will be available to purchase for your homes, a wonderful resource for prayer and reflection.
3. We are also excited to introduce our new Liturgy Leaders, who will help select themes for liturgies, write bidding prayers for assemblies, and support the spiritual life of our school.

Together, these teams are helping St Anne's community continue to grow in faith, creativity, and prayer.

Castlerigg

We are pleased to announce that students in Year 8 have been invited to take part in our residential retreat at Castlerigg Manor in Keswick from Friday 6th to Sunday 8th March 2026. This special weekend offers students the chance to step away from the busyness of daily life, reflect, pray, and to enjoy time together through a range of activities including team challenges, creative workshops, and walks in the stunning Lake District.

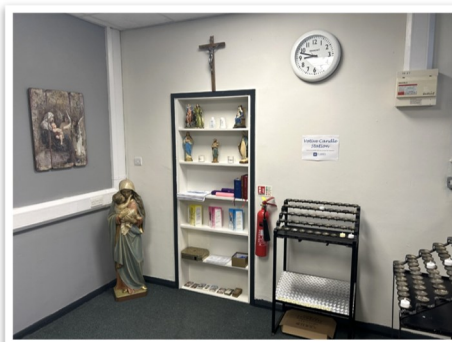
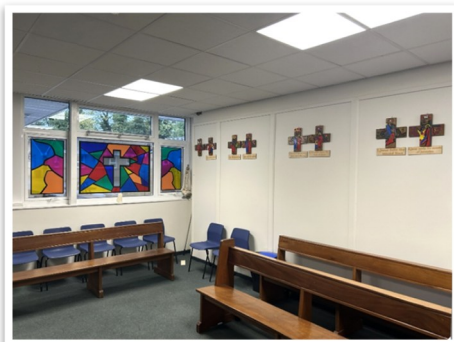
A letter with full details, including cost and payment information, has been sent home with students - please check that you have received this. Scan this QR code to go to the Castlerigg website; here you will find more information on the location and links to their social media pages.



St. Joachim's Chapel

We are delighted to share that our newly renovated school chapel has been named St Joachim's Chapel. St Joachim, the husband of St Anne and the grandfather of Jesus, is remembered for his deep faith, devotion, and love for his family.

Naming our chapel after St Joachim beautifully complements our school's dedication to St Anne, reflecting the values of family, nurture, and faith that lie at the heart of our community. We look forward to this sacred space becoming a place of prayer, reflection, and unity for all.



Year 7 Welcome Liturgy

We recently gathered with our new Year 7 students, their families, staff and Fr. Mark to celebrate our Year 7 Welcome Liturgy. It was a wonderful occasion to officially welcome the newest members of our St Anne's community as they begin their journey through the school. Students led prayers, readings, and reflections on our SACRED Values: Service, Ambition, Compassion, Respect, Equality, and Determination.

The liturgy reminded us all of the importance of faith, friendship, and community as we start this new school year together.



Year 7 Retreat Days

Throughout September and October, all our Year 7 forms have taken part in their retreat days at Coach House Church, marking a special start to their St Anne's journey. These retreats gave students a chance to pause, reflect, and grow closer as a form community, setting the tone for a positive and faith-filled year ahead.

Students have spoken warmly about the experience:

- *"The retreat was really peaceful, and I liked that we could talk about what's important to us."*
- *"I enjoyed the activities because they helped us work together and make new friends."*

Form tutors also reflected on the value of the day:

- *"The retreat gave students time to slow down and connect, not just with faith, but with one another. It was lovely to see new friendships forming and confidence growing."*



We are so proud of how our Year 7 students embraced these special days with enthusiasm and openness. The retreat experience has helped them begin their time at St Anne's.

St Vincent De Paul's (SVP) – Uniform Collection

Do you have school uniforms that your child has outgrown but is still in good condition? The SVP (St Vincent de Paul Society) is collecting gently used uniforms to support families who may need them.

How to donate:

Parents can donate in either of the following ways:

- Directly to the SVP: Contact us at SVP_HeatonMersey@outlook.com to arrange a drop-off.
- Via school: Uniforms can also be left at school if that's more convenient — the SVP will collect them as soon as they are informed of the drop-off.

All donated items are washed, ironed, and stored by SVP members at the parish centre before being distributed.

Requesting uniforms:

If you or someone you know needs school uniform items, requests can be made by emailing SVP_HeatonMersey@outlook.com. Requests are welcome throughout the year, but especially around the start of the new academic year.

Let's work together to make sure every child has what they need for school — thank you for your generosity and support!



OPEN EVENING

We opened our doors to over 250 families for a spectacular Open Evening on Thursday 9th October, proudly celebrating the theme: **"Twice Recognised as a Good Catholic School"**. The event was a vibrant showcase of everything that makes St Anne's a place of excellence, faith, and community.

From the moment families arrived, they were warmly welcomed by our senior prefects, whose professionalism and enthusiasm set the tone for the evening. Families were invited to explore the school's departments, each offering a unique and engaging experience that brought learning to life.

In Science, visitors were treated to thrilling experiments - including dramatic explosions that had everyone talking. History took a bold step into the past with a hands-on activity testing urine as part of a medieval medicine demonstration. Food Technology offered a sensory delight with jellybean taste tests and cake decorating, while Design Technology invited guests to craft their own wooden keyrings. PE kept the energy high with interactive games and challenges and RE transformed into a welcoming RE Café, where families explored world religions through displays and tasted traditional foods from different cultures. This was an inspiring celebration of diversity and understanding.

During the course of the evening, I delivered a speech to families to share with them the heart of our school's mission. I introduced them to St Anne's Way and our SACRED Values, and spoke about the deep-rooted ethos that guides our community. The atmosphere was electric, filled with laughter, curiosity, and pride. Parents and students alike left with a clear sense of what makes St Anne's so special, not just our academic excellence, but our commitment to nurturing the whole child.

This Open Evening wasn't just an event, it was a celebration of St Anne's commitment to achievement, and faith. Twice recognised, and truly deserving.



YEAR 11 MOCK EXAMS

Year 11 mock exams start on 1st December and last for two weeks. Miss Tomlinson, our exams officer, will lead an assembly to outline expectations and rules. Students should have already started their revision, aiming for two hours each night, with breaks spaced in between. Treating these mocks as if they were real exams will provide valuable insights into areas for improvement. The timetable is below, and I would encourage parents / carers to go through this with your child.

Year 11 Mock Exams - December 2025					
	MONDAY 1ST DECEMBER	TUESDAY 2ND DECEMBER	WEDNESDAY 3RD DECEMBER	THURSDAY 4TH DECEMBER	FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER
P1 & P2	English Language Paper 1 1hr 45m	English Literature Paper 1 1hr 45m	Combined / Triple Biology 1hr 15 / 45m	Combined / Triple Chemistry 1hr 15 / 45m	Mathematics Paper 3 1hr 30m
BREAK					
P3 & P4	Mathematics Paper 1 1hr 30m	Religious Studies Paper 1 1hr 45m	Mathematics Paper 2 1hr 30m	Religious Studies Paper 2 50m	Combined / Triple Physics 1hr 15 / 45m
LUNCH					
P5	Geography Paper 2 1hr	Spanish Writing	Spanish Reading	Spanish Listening	
	MONDAY 8TH DECEMBER	TUESDAY 9TH DECEMBER	WEDNESDAY 10TH DECEMBER	THURSDAY 11TH DECEMBER	FRIDAY 12TH DECEMBER
P1 & P2	Geography Paper 1 1hr 30m	History Paper 1 2hrs	Physical Education Paper 2 1hr 15m	Food Prep & Nutrition 1hr 45m	
BREAK					
P3 & P4	Physical Education Paper 1 1hr 15m	Construction / Computer Science 1hr 30 / 90m	Music Listening (small room) Health & Social Care 1hr 15m	Business Studies 1hr 45m	
LUNCH					
P5					

Performance and Practical Exams	
Music	Monday 15th December
Art	Monday 15th and Tuesday 16th December
Spanish Speaking - FT	To be confirmed
Spanish Speaking - HT	To be confirmed



YEAR 11 ATTENDANCE

As of the time of writing, Year 11 attendance stands at 88.9%. This is well below what I would expect in a year group that is going to be sitting their GCSE exams in a few months time! I ask that parents/carers support the school and their child in ensuring that attendance is the highest priority. For avoidance of doubt, students that attend, achieve. On a positive note, 48 students have 100% attendance.

YEAR 11 INTERVENTION

Targeted intervention takes place 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. On the whole, attendance to these intervention sessions has been good. I would, however, like to remind students and parents that if your child is invited to intervention, it is imperative that they attend. These sessions are targeted and therefore it can only support them in their studies. There have been some students that have missed sessions in the past couple of weeks without a reasonable excuse. Feedback from the intervention sessions is very positive, and those attending regularly are working hard during the sessions.

KEY 2 SUCCESS: Thursday 2nd October

Year 9: Miss Morgan delivered an engaging Key 2 Success presentation to Year 9 parents and carers recently, centred on maintaining high expectations for student achievement and how parents can play an active role in supporting learning at home. She highlighted the importance of good attendance, following school rules, making informed choices for GCSE options, and getting involved in the wider life of the school. Key dates were also shared, including those for the upcoming Options Evening and the release of assessment reports.

Year 8: Mrs McGloin delivered the Key 2 Success presentation focusing on the importance of excellent attendance and students having a positive attitude to learning. The priorities for this year group are; attend school (97% or higher attendance), to leave each lesson having learnt the key information, complete homework to secure their knowledge and prepare fully for assessments, so that the students can see the progress they are making over time. Mrs McGloin also spoke about the importance of being a positive member of our school community; demonstrating our SACRED values, attending extra-curricular activities and students upholding high standards for themselves at all times. Mrs McGloin expressed her hope that this year group maximises their time and potential whilst they are part of the St Anne's community and shared with parents the positive impression that the majority of Year 8 students have made since returning to school in September. Key dates for the year were shared, including the dates for the Castlerigg retreat taking place in March 2026.



YEAR 10 TARGETS

This half term, we have been reviewing how we set academic targets for students as they begin their chosen GCSE courses. While strong results in English and mathematics remain important, we also want our students to feel motivated to aim high across all their subjects and to take pride in their progress.

After the half-term break, we will be sharing these new targets with your child. You will also receive a short report outlining their effort and engagement so far. We encourage you to talk with your child about their targets and how they can continue to build good study habits. As they begin their two-year GCSE journey, developing consistent routines and a positive attitude to learning now will set the foundation for success in Year 11 and beyond.

YEAR 7: MEET THE FORM TUTOR EVENING

Last month, we were delighted to welcome Year 7 parents and carers to our 'Meet the Form Tutor' evening. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with 100% of parents agreeing that their child had settled well into secondary school life, that any issues were handled effectively, and that they felt well supported during the transition from primary school.

We also appreciated the thoughtful comments and suggestions shared by parents. Where concerns were raised, we acted promptly:

- One parent experienced difficulty accessing Arbor; we contacted them the following day and resolved the issue.
- Some parents were unsure about the Extra-Curricular timetable. We responded by sharing it via Arbor and clearly signposting its location on the school website.
- A few parents mentioned uncertainty around homework. At the time, homework was not yet visible on Arbor, but this has now been addressed - homework is now shared with both students and parents/carers through the app.

For those seeking curriculum information, we directed all Year 7 families to the relevant documents on our website.

We are grateful for the open communication and continued partnership with our families as we work together to support our students' success.

YEAR 7 PROUD EVENING

On Wednesday, 22nd October, Year 7 students presented their showcase event, *Proud*. The evening was a resounding success, offering parents/carers, staff and students an engaging and enjoyable experience. Designed as a journey through the Year 7 curriculum, the event highlighted the students' learning and personal achievements.

The showcase opened with a beautiful rendition of *Sing It in the Valleys*, performed by the entire year group, setting a vibrant and uplifting tone for the night. Each class performed their chosen song, including popular hits such as '*I Want It That Way*', '*Unwritten*', and '*Firework*'. Interwoven throughout the evening were moments where students shared what made them feel "proud," with presentations ranging from acrobatics and fishing to heartfelt accounts of 10K memory walks in honour of cancer victims.

Two stunning solo vocal performances captivated the audience - Tamera D's powerful delivery of '*Could Have Been Me*' from Sing 2 and Aimee-Faye F's moving performance of '*Electricity*' from Billy Elliot.

The evening was a celebration of talent, dedication, and community spirit, leaving parents and staff immensely proud of the Year 7 cohort's achievements and enthusiasm.



TEACHING AND LEARNING

On 1st October, we hosted the inaugural breakfast meeting of our newly established Professional Learning Group (PLG). The PLG aims to foster meaningful professional dialogue around the key aspects of teaching and learning that directly impact our student outcomes. It also reflects our ongoing commitment to maintaining a dynamic, reflective teaching and learning culture that puts students at the heart of all we do.

The focus of our first meeting was the question: *"What makes assessment effective?"* Colleagues engaged in thoughtful discussion, sharing insights and experiences on how assessment can serve as a powerful tool for learning - encouraging students to take greater responsibility for their academic progress and setting high expectations for them at both KS3 and KS4.

At our next meeting, the group will turn its attention to a timely and important topic: the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education - exploring its potential, limitations, and the ways it might meaningfully support both teaching and learning. Thanks to all the teachers who came in to work earlier than usual to take part in the PLG.



ART AT ST ANNE'S

Art Club

We are very excited to announce that Art Club is up and running again! All students are welcome to join us as we explore creativity through painting, drawing, sculpture, and more. Whether you're an experienced artist or just love to experiment with colours and ideas, Art Club is the perfect place to express yourself and learn new techniques. Art Club is held on **Wednesdays** after school until **4:15pm**. Come along, make some new friends, and let your imagination shine — we can't wait to see what you create!



Extra Art Support for GCSE Students

For GCSE Art students seeking additional support or looking to strengthen their portfolios, extra Art sessions are available every **Monday** and **Friday**. Students are encouraged to use this time to develop projects, complete research, and refine work - giving themselves the best chance to achieve their top grade!

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

At the beginning of October, our Culture Leaders presented assemblies to mark the start of Black History Month, reminding us why it is so important.

The theme this year is 'Standing Firm in Power and Pride', which recognises the strength and resilience of black communities worldwide. Additionally, 2025 marks 60 years since the UK's first Race Relations Act, highlighting the ongoing journey towards racial justice and equality.



TEACHING AND LEARNING

Following last month's welcome to our new staff members, please see below for short introductions to some more of these teachers:

Miss Tyler, History Teacher

"Hello, I'm Miss Tyler, a new History teacher at St Anne's RC Voluntary Academy. I'm from Manchester, and I love to read and go for long hikes on the weekend. I'm looking forward to working here and teaching some amazing History units, especially the Norman Conquest and World War Two!"



Miss Short, Geography Teacher

"I am so excited to have joined the Geography department here at St Anne's. My love for geography has grown as I've travelled and explored different parts of the world. Some of my favourite places include New Zealand, Japan, and Hong Kong. In my spare time, I love hiking, swimming, and running - I'm currently training for my first marathon. I can't wait to get to know you all throughout the year and learn about the places you'd like to travel to as well!"



Miss Airey, RE Teacher

"I grew up in the Lake District National Park and moved to Manchester for university. I fell in love with the city, so I decided to stay and continue my career here! I studied Religion, Philosophy, and Ethics at Manchester Metropolitan University, then continued to complete a PGCE qualification in Religious Education Secondary teaching. RE was always my favourite subject in school so it felt only right to dedicate my career to it. In my personal time, I enjoy exercising, seeing live music, and spending time with friends and family. I spend school holidays trying to visit as many new cities and countries as possible. My dream travel destinations are India, Australia, and Bali. My top bucket list goal is to travel to all 7 continents."



Ms Cook, Head of English

"I'm Ms Cook, Head of English. I have been teaching for 9 years and have always loved how stories help us see the world through different eyes, and I'm passionate about helping students find both their voice and their confidence through English. I'm also excited to be working with such a talented team of English teachers, and, when I'm not talking about books, I'm usually talking about football!"



Mrs Panini, Maths Teacher

"I am originally from Lincoln. My undergraduate degree is in Mathematical Statistics from the University of Liverpool. Originally I came to Manchester to study for a PGCE via Leicester, Athens and London. I loved it so much I settled in Stockport."

I have previously worked in the state and independent sector, a pupil referral unit and as an intervention teacher. I have been a GCSE examiner for over 25 years. In my spare time I walk my cockapoo, Chester. He was the PRU therapy dog and came to work with me. (I'm sure he would love a job at St Anne's too!)

I am learning to play the piano and hoping to be allowed to practice on the grand piano arriving in school soon. I also love to travel and my recent trips have been to Jordan, Morocco and The Basque country. Last summer I volunteered at a language school in Germany giving English lessons to refugees."



YEAR 7 LIBRARIANS OFF TO A FLYING START!

Our new Year 7 student librarians have hit the ground running this term, bringing energy, enthusiasm, and a real sense of responsibility to their roles. From shelving books with care to helping classmates find their next great read, they've shown maturity beyond their years.

It's been wonderful to see the librarians embracing the library as a space for learning and community. Their eagerness to learn the ropes and support others has already made a positive impact - and we can't wait to see how they grow in confidence and skill over the coming months.

Well done, Year 7 - you're already proving to be a brilliant addition to the library team!



NATIONAL THANK A TEACHING ASSISTANT DAY

At St Anne's, every member of staff plays a vital role in supporting your child's education. On National Thank a Teaching Assistant Day, Friday 26th September, we took the opportunity to celebrate the incredible work of our Teaching Assistants.

Often working quietly behind the scenes, they go above and beyond to ensure all students can access their learning. To show our appreciation, we surprised them with a special breakfast in the staff room. Other staff kindly covered their break duties so our teaching assistants could enjoy a well-earned cup of tea and a delicious breakfast, generously prepared by our school kitchen team.

TEACHING
assistant

teaching assistants
(also known as T.As)
are **supportive** multi-
tasking superheroes
who help to motivate,
guide and **inspire!** we
would be lost without
you! **thank you!**

SUPPORTING STAFF WELLBEING

At St Anne's, we firmly believe that happy staff create a positive environment where happy children can thrive. That's why we are excited to launch a new Staff Wellbeing Strategy aimed at supporting the wellbeing of all our team members.

Eight dedicated volunteers from across teaching, leadership, and support staff have come together to lead this initiative. During our first breakfast meeting, we explored a variety of ideas including access to health services, recognising special dates in our school calendar, celebrating achievements, and signposting wellbeing resources.

We have decided to align this strategy with *The St Anne's Way*, focusing on our core values to Support, Achieve, and look out for each other's wellbeing.

Stay tuned for updates as this important work develops and grows within our school community.



SPORT AT ST ANNE'S

It's been a brilliant start to the year for St Anne's PE department!

Our Year 8 boys football team kicked off their cup campaign in style with an impressive win against St James', showing great teamwork, determination and skill throughout.

Not to be outdone, our Year 7 girls football team secured a fantastic cup victory over Werneth, demonstrating real energy and enthusiasm in their first competitive outing for the school.

A special mention also goes to the students who represented St Anne's at the Heaton School Cross Country event. They not only performed brilliantly but were praised for their kindness and sportsmanship, going out of their way to support other competitors; a true reflection of our school values. Lee Sanders from Stockport SHAPES Alliance, took the time to email me directly and said, *"The students had a superb attitude and were a credit to themselves and the school. This included being very helpful and considerate towards the Heaton students, some who had some very severe needs. A couple of your students even ran with them to help support them which was delightful."*

On 16th October, our Year 8 and Year 9 football teams travelled to Harrytown for their fixtures and delivered outstanding performances. The Year 8s dominated their game with an impressive 8–1 victory, while the Year 9s showed great determination to win 4–1 in their cup match, securing their place in the quarter finals. A brilliant effort from both teams!

Looking ahead, we've got dodgeball fixtures coming up and our basketball teams are set to begin their Stockport League campaigns after half term. Plenty more to look forward to as we continue a busy and exciting sporting term!



SACRED ENRICHMENT:

Form 9C have been busy collecting canned food for Christmas hampers which St Anne's charity club Caritas create for families in need in our community. 9C believe that we should start in our own community and hope to expand our donations from there!

Like Jesus in the New Testament performing the miracle of feeding five thousand people with five loaves of bread and two fish, we wanted to help ensure no one in our St Annes community is without.

We set the goal of collecting enough cans to fit around the RE building which, with a bit of help from our site team, was estimated that 774 cans were needed. An astounding 879 tins have been donated to this amazing appeal—well done and thank you to all who contributed.



YEAR 11 PROM

Again, we are rewarding deserving students with a free ticket to the Year 11 Prom which will take place next summer. Each month, members of staff are nominating Year 11 students who have gone above and beyond - working hard, showing dedication, and living out our SACRED values in everything they do. The winners are announced at the end of every month during assembly and receive a free prom ticket as a reward for their outstanding effort.

For September and October, we are proud to announce the following exceptional students as winners and share with you what their teachers said about them:

Raha N: *Consistently demonstrates excellence in all she does. In every Maths lesson, she works attentively, completing all classwork and homework with care, detail, and full explanations. Her drive to excel shines through in her attitude and effort. Beyond her academic commitment, Raha is also thoughtful, polite, and deeply respectful - a true reflection of our school's values. A perfect example of her kindness came when she offered her coat to a teacher on duty who was feeling cold. Such selfless gestures embody the spirit of compassion and generosity that we celebrate at St Anne's.*



Praise I: *Praise is an exemplary student whose conduct, attitude, and values make him a true role model within our school community. He approaches every aspect of school life with maturity, dedication, and kindness. Each morning, he quietly takes it upon himself to pick up litter around the playground - an act of service that reflects his deep sense of care for our environment and community. Praise lives out Christian values daily, showing humility, respect, and compassion in every interaction. His quiet leadership and unwavering integrity inspire those around him to do better and be better.*

We are incredibly proud of both students for embodying the spirit of St Anne's and setting such a positive example for others. Congratulations to Raha and Praise on their well-deserved recognition and free prom tickets!

YEAR 11 PARENTS' EVENING

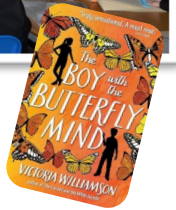
Year 11 Parents' Evening took place on Thursday 23rd October. This was an opportunity for parents/carers to speak to teachers about their child's effort and engagement so far in Year 11, and what preparation is required for the mock exams that start in December.

There was a great atmosphere in the room and lots of positivity about how hard the vast majority of students are working towards their exams. I would like to thank all the parents/carers that attended and for the feedback that was provided on the parental questionnaires. As a leadership team, we will be analysing this data and contacting any parents that raised a concern so that it can be resolved.

READING GROUPS

At St Anne's, we proudly deliver a robust academic curriculum. This opens up more opportunities for our students post-16. However, all students need to be able to access the curriculum through reading and understanding. As part of this process, the senior leadership team are involved in weekly 'reading groups' with the aim to improve students' comprehension skills. Below is an overview of these reading groups.

Mrs Simmons: Year 7 have been thoroughly enjoying their weekly reading sessions with the captivating novel *'The Boy with a Butterfly Mind'* by Victoria Williamson. The story follows Elin and Jamie - two very different characters whose lives unexpectedly intertwine. As we read, we've been exploring their personalities, emotions, and challenges, and it's sparked some brilliant discussions in class. We've made predictions about what might happen next, and we're eagerly turning each page to see if we're right!



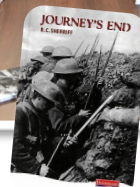
One of the highlights has been discovering new vocabulary. Each week, we collect unfamiliar words, discuss their meanings, and challenge ourselves to use them during our lessons. The book has opened up conversations about friendship, family, and understanding others, and we're excited to see how Elin and Jamie's journey unfolds.

Mr Ostmeier: Mr Ostmeier and the Year 8 group are currently reading *'Trash'* by Andy Mulligan. This book focuses on three boys (Raphael, Gardo and Rat) who live on a heap of trash, sifting through rubbish to make a living. One day they find something extraordinary and from that moment they are hunted without mercy. But they can't run for ever - they need a miracle!



The students in the reading group are enjoying the book and asking lots of questions. We have spoken about the contrast between the rich and the poor in the book, and the fact that the book is loosely based on a place the author visited in Manila.

Mrs Sutcliffe: Mrs Sutcliffe is currently reading *'Journey's End'* by R.C. Sherriff, with a group of Year 9 boys. This powerful play, which was later successfully adapted into a film, is set on the front line during the First World War and explores the horror and futility of trench warfare. As it's a play rather than a novel, our reading sessions are a little different; each of us takes on a character and brings the dialogue to life. The boys are really engaging with the text and are enjoying the challenge of reading aloud using the soldiers' authentic dialect. We can't wait to get to the end of the scenes to find out what happens to Captain Stanhope and his officers who spend three cruel years on the front line.



WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

School was a vibrant sea of yellow on 10th October as we came together to mark World Mental Health Day. From yellow socks and bows to cheerful headbands and coats worn proudly over uniforms, students and staff alike showed their support for this important cause with colour and spirit.

This year's theme - *"Mental health in a world of constant crisis"* - encouraged reflection on how we care for ourselves amid ongoing global challenges. Form-time activities focused on recognising what we can and can't control, using a bright yellow sun to reflect on this, helping students build emotional resilience. Our Mental Health Ambassadors led assemblies across year groups, sharing practical advice on managing wellbeing, avoiding doomscrolling, and staying hopeful in the face of constant news.

In a world where bad news often feels constant and overwhelming, our Mental Health Ambassadors delivered powerful assemblies that offered both understanding and practical advice. They addressed the growing habit of 'doomscrolling', the endless consumption of negative news online, and encouraged students to set healthy boundaries with media, take breaks from screens, and seek out positive stories and real-life connection. Most importantly, they reminded us that even in uncertain times, hope is a choice we can keep making.

It was a powerful reminder that mental health matters every day - and that together, we can support each other through anything.



YOUNG CARERS

We are thrilled to share that St Anne's has been awarded the **Young Carers in Schools Award**, a prestigious award that celebrates our commitment to identifying and supporting young carers in our community.

The award is part of the Young Carers in Schools programme, run by national charities The Children's Society and Carers Trust. It helps schools across England improve outcomes for young carers by providing clear, practical guidance for teachers, support staff and leaders - ensuring no young carer is left to struggle alone.

To achieve this award, we demonstrated how St Anne's champions young carers, offering support that makes a real difference. We've built strong links with local organisations, including Stockport Signpost for Young Carers, to make sure students who help care for a family member are recognised, understood, and supported, both in school and beyond.

This award shows our staff are alert to the needs of young carers and prepared to offer early help in line with national guidance. We will continue working hard to ensure every young carer feels seen, valued, and supported to succeed.

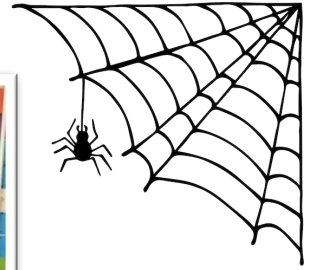


SPOOKY WRITING COMPETITION

Our librarian, Mrs Denton challenged Year 7 and Year 8 students to write their own spooky story this term. The calibre of writing was fantastic, and each entry sent shivers down our spines and summoned shadows from the corners of our imaginations. But the winners' tales stood out; haunting and so masterfully woven, leaving us breathless.

Congratulations to the winners of this year's Spooky Writing Contest, which in Year 7 is Francesca B and in Year 8 Divine I. Both tales were a masterclass in suspense, atmosphere, and spine-tingling brilliance.

And to all our runners up, may your pen never run dry, and may your nightmares continue to inspire! Well done to Jayda R, Orla S, Jayce M, Lily P, and Bruce S.



AND FINALLY...

This week alone has been a GREAT week. On Wednesday we had the Year 7 PROUD evening. This is an annual event that is now embedded within our calendar and showcases our GREAT Year 7 students.

This was followed by the special visit of Bishop John, who was very complementary about both the school and our students. I would also just like to say that listening to the children read during this services has been my favourite moment at St Anne's. I was extremely proud of these great students.

I hope that staff and students have a well- deserved October half-term break.

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