

Dear Parents and Carers,

A warm welcome to my first newsletter of 2026. I hope that you enjoy reading what follows. There is lots of good news to share.

## THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

The RE and wider St Anne's team continue to provide a range of formation opportunities for students...

### Fr Mark Staff Inset Training

During January, Fr Mark led staff training focused on the structure and meaning of the Catholic Mass. This session supported all staff in understanding the key stages of the Mass and their significance, helping to build confidence and shared understanding. This work will eventually lead to the celebration of a staff Mass, before progressing to Masses celebrated with students.



### Wellspring Advent Appeal

Our Advent Appeal in support of The Wellspring was a great success, with students and families donating generously. A significant amount of money and goods were raised, including pantry items, which will directly support those experiencing homelessness and hardship within the local community.

### CARITAS Update

Following a highly successful Advent fundraising season, students involved in Caritas have now turned their focus to planning fundraising activities for our Lent Appeal. Their continued commitment to service and social justice is a wonderful example of faith in action.



### GIFT Update

The GIFT team continues to provide high-quality prayer resources for both staff and students. Miss Coyne and the GIFT team meet every Wednesday lunchtime to prepare thoughtful and relevant prayers linked to the liturgical calendar. Recent prayers have included reflections on the Baptism of the Lord, celebrated on 15th January.

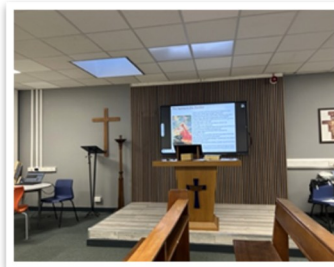
### Lighthouse Group

The Lighthouse Group continues to meet after school every Tuesday, offering students a welcoming space to explore their faith. Working alongside Beth and Andy from Coachhouse Church and the Christians in Schools charity, students take part in engaging activities designed to support spiritual development while building friendships and confidence. Over the season of advent they made hampers for the Olive Branch!



## Staff and Student Rosary

Each Thursday morning, Mr Browne leads staff and students in a decade of the Rosary in the chapel at 8.20am. This calm and reflective start to the day provides a valuable opportunity for shared prayer, and students are warmly encouraged to attend.



## Caritas award for sacred enrichment

Congratulations to 9C (Miss Airey's form), who were presented with the Sacred Enrichment Caritas Award. Through their efforts, the form raised over 800 cans and pantry items, providing vital support for those in need within our local community. As you can see from the image shown, we had to fill quite a few shopping trolleys for their cans!



## Form time chapel meditation

Every day, a Key Stage 3 form group visits the chapel to take part in a period of guided meditation. These sessions allow students to reflect quietly on key moments from the Gospels, encouraging stillness, prayer and deeper spiritual awareness during the school day.



## Caritas Team

The Caritas Team will be busy raising money for the Lent appeal by selling sweets and snacks on Friday lunchtimes up to the end of term. Students can buy their treats knowing the money is going to a good cause!

## Lent appeal

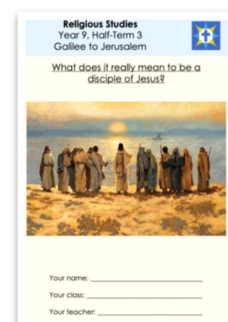
Fundraising activities this term will contribute to our Lent Appeal, which will support **The Christie Charity**. The Christie is one of Europe's leading cancer centres, providing specialist care, research and support for patients and families. Through this appeal, our school community will continue its commitment to compassion, service and solidarity with those in need.



**The  
Christie  
Charity**

## Implementation of the new RED

Key Stage 3 is now fully aligned with the new Catholic Religious Education Directory (RED). Year 7 are exploring the importance of Jesus and Catholic beliefs about his nature; Year 8 are studying the ministry of Jesus and the Kingdom of God; and Year 9 are focusing on discipleship in the Gospel of Mark and how they can live as disciples in today's world.





## CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT



Last term, on Thursday 18th December, St Anne's proudly hosted our annual Christmas Carol Concert in collaboration with St Winifred's RC Primary School. The evening was a truly heart-warming celebration, showcasing an abundance of talent, enthusiasm, and festive spirit.

The St Anne's Choir joined with Year 5 pupils to perform a selection of traditional Christmas hymns, alongside a moving rendition of *Somewhere Only We Know* by the St Anne's Choir. The programme also featured impressive piano solos, including *Für Elise* performed by Ben C and *Carol of the Bells* by Ronan M, both delivered with remarkable confidence and musical maturity. Hollie L and Erin W further demonstrated exceptional musicianship with their expressive rendition of *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*.

A special highlight of the evening was Ella W's performance of *Joy to the World* on the cornet, marking a first for St Anne's. The concert was further elevated by a beautiful vocal solo of *Away in a Manger* by Aimee Faye F, before Leila M brought the evening to an unforgettable conclusion with her powerful rendition of *O Holy Night*.

We are so proud of all the students and staff who were involved in making this festive celebration such a memorable success.



## SAFEGUARDING

Miss Baird, our Mental Health Lead, recently completed the St John Ambulance's Mental Health First Aid course, strengthening our school's commitment to student wellbeing. The training has equipped Miss Baird with practical skills to recognise early signs of mental health concerns, respond confidently and appropriately, and offer timely support or signposting where needed. This will help ensure that students feel listened to, supported and safe, while also reinforcing a whole school culture that prioritises mental health alongside academic success. If you have any concerns around your child's mental health and wellbeing, please contact their Head of Year or Miss Baird, who will be able to make appropriate referrals or signpost to services.



## SACRED DAY: Friday 13th February

Our next SACRED day on Friday 13th February 2026, will focus on a theme inspired by the Bible verse Proverbs 16:3: *“Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans”*. With this message at its heart, the day promises to be full of creativity, challenge, and opportunities to grow.

Year 7 will step into the world of politics as they create their own political parties. After developing campaign ideas and policies, students will take part in a general election to discover who will become the Year’s Prime Minister.

Year 8 will be diving into the world of business through a RISE workshop that challenges them to think like entrepreneurs. They will explore how to run a business, to recognise and challenge AI-generated fake news, as well as how to manage a budget effectively. Alongside this, students will spend time in their form groups preparing for the Easter Fair, developing their own business ideas and products. Creativity and teamwork will be key as they work towards producing items to sell.

Year 9 will start the day with a Barclays LifeSkills session focused on making thoughtful choices and understanding how decisions can shape their future - perfectly timed as they begin thinking about their GCSE options. Later, they too will join the business and enterprise challenge, using form time to design and create products for the Easter Fair as part of their SACRED enrichment project.

For Year 10, the focus is all about future readiness. Students will take part in sessions led by The Money Charity, learning about taxes and pensions, as well as lessons looking at budgeting and financial planning and the dangers of online gambling. They will also begin preparing for their upcoming work experience by writing and refining their CVs - an essential skill for their next steps.

Finally, Year 11 will spend the morning completing a Maths and English mock exam. After lunch, they will attend a special assembly led by Joel Foster, who will speak about resilience, mental health, and stress management. Joel will also be treating students to a song or two, bringing encouragement and energy to end their SACRED Day experience on a high note.

It’s set to be a **great day!**

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## ESSAY COMPETITION

Students are being invited to enter an essay competition in partnership with the Schools Bible Project, to write a first-person account of being present at an event in one of the Gospels. As well as showcasing their amazing imaginations and talent, there are some fantastic prizes to be won. The main prize winner will be invited to London with their family and teachers for a memorable visit to Westminster Abbey, followed by tea at Westminster to receive their prize. The deadline for entries is 30th June and students are encouraged to speak to Mr Williams in RE if they want any more information.

We are looking forward to reading their submissions for this fantastic competition and we wish them all good luck.



## TEACHING AND LEARNING

### Staff INSET

The spring term began with a purposeful and collaborative INSET day focused on what matters most: improving outcomes for our students.

The day centred on strengthening support for disadvantaged students through our **CARE strategy - Curriculum, Attendance, Resilience and Educational Outcomes**. This clear framework guided all sessions and gave staff the opportunity to develop plans to embed CARE further across the school. Staff worked enthusiastically in a range of sessions, reflecting on current practice and exploring new ideas. Through discussion, group work and data analysis, colleagues considered how to make the curriculum more inclusive, improve attendance, and support students to build resilience.



A real highlight of the day was the strong sense of teamwork. Staff shared ideas and practical strategies, demonstrating a collective commitment to ensuring every child at St Anne's is supported to thrive.

We also welcomed **Fr Mark**, who led a session exploring the symbolism of the Catholic Mass. This built on previous training we have completed, and supported our commitment to the Catholic ethos of our school.

### Adaptive Teaching CPD

Recently, staff took part in professional development focused on adaptive teaching and supporting students to write independently. Engagement throughout the session was extremely strong, with staff actively discussing classroom practice and proactively suggesting how the strategies could be embedded within their departments. The training focused on helping teachers make learning processes more explicit, so students better understand how to plan, organise, and apply their knowledge when working independently. This work will strengthen students' metacognitive skills, helping them to think more carefully about their learning, become more confident writers, and to apply what they know more successfully across subjects.

### Safeguarding CPD

On Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January, the Director of Safeguarding from Emmaus Trust, Alison Bolton, delivered a training session to the whole staff on Prevent. This is a national programme aimed at safeguarding people and communities from the threat of terrorism. The aim of this training session was to reinforce the role of each person in recognising and reporting any concerns about a child or adult, as per our school policy.

### Twilight INSET

On Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January our Twilight training session was delivered by our Executive Headteacher, Mr Logue. As an Ofsted inspector, Mr Logue is well positioned to share with us the changes recently made to the Government's Ofsted framework and his experiences of evaluating a school through this lens. The second hour of this staff training session focused on the impact of high-quality teaching on student outcomes, to support our vision to be 'Outstanding in All We Do'.



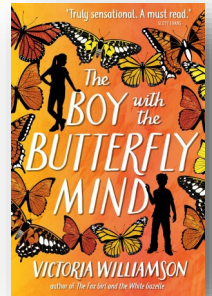


## READING GROUPS

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 is involved in weekly reading groups with the aim to improve students' comprehension skills. Below is an overview of some of these reading groups.

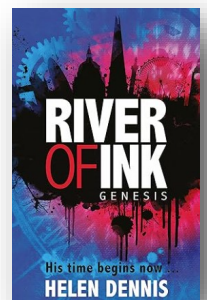
### Mrs Simmons

We are reading '*The Boy With a Butterfly Mind*' by Victoria Williamson in my Year 7 group. So far, we have learnt that Jamie is easily distracted, especially during a spelling test, and that Elin has to be 'perfect' in every way so that her dad will come back. At the moment, we are not too sure where her dad has gone; we have some ideas but are looking forward to reading more to find out. We are enjoying our time reading together and improving our vocabulary each week as we discover more about the characters in the story.



### Mrs Sutcliffe

We are now three weeks into reading our new novel with a group of Year 9 boys. The book, '*River of Ink*' by Helen Dennis, follows a teenage boy who washes up on the banks of the River Thames with no memory of who he is, where he comes from, or how he ended up in the water. The only clue to his identity is a strange, twisted symbol he repeatedly sketches. The group is thoroughly enjoying the book, which encourages thoughtful discussion and speculation about the mystery boy and how he managed to survive such an ordeal. There are subtle links to the *Stranger Things* feel, particularly in the eerie ink blots that form the dragon-like symbol. Watch this space to find out what happens next.



### Mr Ostmeier

Our Year 8 readers have started an enthralling book about a boy (Tyrese) from Manchester who goes to see family in Jamaica, following a shocking event that leaves him struggling with grief. In '*The Haunting of Tyrese Walker*', from the first night strange things start to happen, and Tyrese starts to lose his grip on reality as he can't understand what is going on. We are excited to see how this story develops and learn more about the mysterious 'Shadow Man'. The group is enjoying the book, and we have had some good discussions about key words used in the book.



### Mrs McGloin

Mrs McGloin has been reading '*A Jigsaw of Fire and Stars*' by Yaba Badoe with her Year 8 Reading Group. The novel uses clear, well-structured language that is accessible, while still introducing rich vocabulary and figurative language to establish a clear backdrop upon which this story is unfolding. The fast-moving plot and sense of mystery has the group hooked, with twists and turns well situated to keep readers engaged and motivated to complete the story. Throughout their session, pupils analyse the words used in the text to establish clear meaning and also to explore the reasons behind the author's choice of words.



## YEAR 11

### Y11 Mocks

On Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January, Year 11 students received their mock results during period 5. Following an assembly by Mr Ostmeier and Miss Waghorn, students received their results as if it were the actual results day. There was a mixture of emotions on the day, but students should now have a clear strategy for their final weeks at St Anne's. A reminder: on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February, Year 11 students will be sitting further mocks in English and Maths.



### Y11 Intervention

Targeted interventions continue to take place. Students are fully engaged during form time and are benefiting from the extra time being spent on these subjects. Students required to attend these sessions have been informed. This is an excellent opportunity for your child to boost their GCSE grade.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week A	Maths	Spanish	English	RE	Options
Week B	Maths	Science	English	Geog/History	Options

### Key to Success (K2S) Groups

Form groups have been refigured to ensure targeted intervention for students to achieve better grades in English and Maths. During form time, students will be doing extra English and Maths four times a week. There is also a Science intervention form led by Ms Poscha.

### Y11 Key Dates

5 <sup>th</sup> February:	Yr 11 Parents' Evening (4pm – 7pm)
13 <sup>th</sup> February:	Mock English and Maths exams in Sports Hall
6 <sup>th</sup> March:	Final school report sent home
Easter Holidays:	Revision sessions held in school (TBC)
Week beginning 4 <sup>th</sup> May:	GCSE exams begin
Week beginning 25 <sup>th</sup> May:	Half-term revision sessions for various subjects will be held in school
17 <sup>th</sup> June:	Final GCSE exam
24 <sup>th</sup> June	Contingency date: In the event of national or significant disruption in the UK, all students must keep this date available in case of re-scheduled examinations. This date is <b>not</b> used for re-sitting exams.
26 <sup>th</sup> June:	Y11 Prom (invite only)
20 <sup>th</sup> August:	GCSE Results Day



## SPORT AT ST ANNE'S

Happy New Year and a huge welcome back from the PE department.

### Basketball

We have hit the ground running this term with a busy and successful start. Our Year 10 Basketball team opened the year in style with a dominant 55-12 win against Werneth. The Year 11s continued their impressive form in the Stockport League, remaining undefeated after a convincing 78-12 victory over the same opponents.



The St Anne's basketball derby saw Year 10 take on Year 11 in a highly competitive and entertaining fixture, played in front of a fantastic turnout of around 60 students who created a great atmosphere in the Sports Hall. Year 11 eventually came out on top, but the game was played at a relentless pace throughout, with Mr Williams describing himself as being out of breath just from watching. Both teams showed excellent effort, sportsmanship and resilience, clearly demonstrating the strong values of St Anne's in a competitive match-up. A special mention goes to Kian S, who captured some fantastic photographs for his portfolio, all of which can be viewed on the St Anne's PE Instagram page, [@stannespe](#).

### Football

Football has also kept us busy. The Year 8 team cemented their place at the top of the league with an excellent 4-1 win against Hazel Grove High School. They've now reached both the league semi-final and the cup semi-final and are awaiting confirmation of their next fixture against either Cheadle Hulme High or Cheadle Hulme High School. A win could even see them playing at Edgeley Park, as long as Stockport County don't make the play-offs (apologies to any County fans!).



The Year 7 team have also finished their season, showing massive improvement away at Hazel Grove High School. Although they narrowly lost 2-0, their progress throughout the season has been great to see.

### Boccia

Finally, a group of our students took part in a Boccia tournament at Stockport School. The students were fantastic throughout, with Lily P, Annalise W and Leah H going on to win the competition. The girls will now represent Stockport at the Greater Manchester Schools event, a brilliant achievement and one we're incredibly proud of.



### Netball

Our Year 7 netball team kicked off their season with their first fixture against Stockport School. They delivered a fantastic performance, securing two wins and a hard-fought loss against a strong Year 9 Stockport team – an impressive effort all round!



### Table Tennis

Students from Years 7–10 showcased their skills at the table tennis tournament held at Harrytown recently, demonstrating great sportsmanship and competitive spirit.





## SPARX ACHIEVEMENTS

### Sparx Maths

Well done to the following students who are top of the Sparx Maths Leaderboard in their year group this month:

Position	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
1	Orla S	Dominion I	Khalida S	Sheran P	Orla-Kate M
2	Madison-Mai C-W	Hanar A	Liana M	Ire A	Leslie B
3	Florence M	Rayhan A	Stella-Maris A	Ava S-B	Fatima S
4	Anaya A	Puneeth V	Zehra O	Emily G	Jorja M-M
5	Nanda A	Weziwane C	Giles G	Teijsha K	Praise I

As a reminder, this Sparx Maths homework is set on Wednesdays and due in the following Wednesday.

### Sparx Reader

Congratulations also go to the following students who are top of the Sparx Reader Leaderboard in their year group this month:

Position	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
1	Nanda A	Dominion I	Kananis D
2	Zimal R	Hanar A	Ava B
3	Grace T	Aahil I	Heide N
4	Muhammad K	Humaira S	Daisy H
5	La'Mayah Naomi G	Ellie A	Róisín O

As a reminder, this Sparx Reader homework is set on Thursdays and due in the following Thursday.

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## PARENT VOICE

Thank you to all families who shared their views during the Year 9 Parents' Evening on **11th December 2025**. Your feedback is invaluable in helping us celebrate what is working well and identifying areas where we can strengthen our support for students and families.

Overall, feedback was very positive, with 97% of parents telling us their child is **happy** and **feels safe** at school. Parents praised the school's **high expectations**, good behaviour systems and the wide range of extracurricular activities available. It was also pleasing to hear that our communication about concerns relating to students was described as timely and supportive.

Your feedback has led directly to a number of actions. We have now extended our breakfast provision until 8.25am and next half term will be introducing a Pastoral Team **Drop-In**, giving families a regular opportunity to speak to pastoral staff in person. A few parents commented that they didn't know how to find out what their child was learning and so communication was sent home highlighting where this can be found on our website.

We are grateful for your honest feedback and your continued support. Working together helps us ensure that every student feels supported, challenged and cared for. If you have further thoughts or suggestions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.



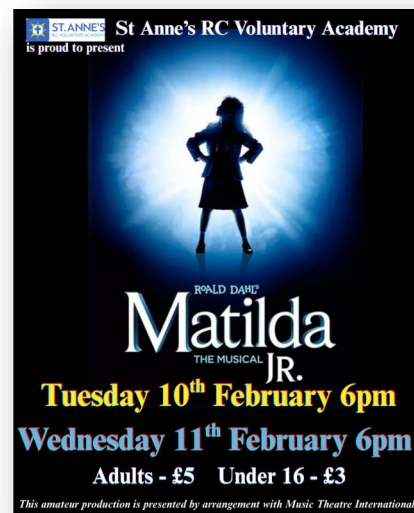
## MATILDA!

Excitement is building as our school prepares to present this year's musical, **Matilda!** Featuring a talented cast of students from Years 7–10, this lively production brings Roald Dahl's much-loved story to life through energetic songs, engaging performances, and plenty of humour.

Over many weeks of rehearsals, students have shown incredible dedication, teamwork, and creativity both on stage and behind the scenes. From bold choreography and memorable characters to imaginative sets and costumes, *Matilda* celebrates the power of courage, kindness, and standing up for what is right. The musical will be performed on **Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th February**, and promises to be an entertaining experience for audiences of all ages.

Families, friends, and members of our school community are warmly invited to come along and support our performers on stage with tickets priced at **£5 for adults and £3 for children**.

Don't miss this fantastic showcase of student talent!



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## AND FINALLY...

I am delighted to report that St Anne's, for the first time in many years, is going to be full in the Year 7 cohort in September. This reflects the confidence in the local community that their child will receive a good Catholic education in a safe environment that is underpinned by high standards and expectations. Long may this continue. The staff and I don't take this support for granted and will continue to work hard for all the great children here.

*Sheldon Laque*

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