



NEWSLETTER

A monthly newsletter brought to you by Mrs Julie Sutcliffe, Headteacher

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm St Anne's welcome to my latest newsletter, which celebrates the many achievements, opportunities and experiences that make our school community so special. It is hard to believe that we have already reached the end of our first half term. Time certainly flies when we are busy learning, growing and enjoying all that school life has to offer. I hope you enjoy reading about the wide range of activities and successes featured in this edition and take pride in all that our students have accomplished over the past weeks.



St Anne's School Prayer

Lord, through the grace of the Holy Spirit, help us appreciate this day You have given us.
Guide us to become the people You created us to be, following the example of Your Son, Jesus Christ.
Allow us to lift each other up in mind, heart and spirit, uniting our St Anne's family in our mission to give glory to God and make the world a better place.

Amen

Dates for your calendar

- 2nd November – students return for half term 2
- 9th November – Anti-Bullying Week
- 10th November – Odd Socks Day
- 11th November – Remembrance Day
- 19th November – International Men's Day
- 26th November – Year 10 Parents' Evening
- 27th November – STAFF INSET: SCHOOL CLOSED

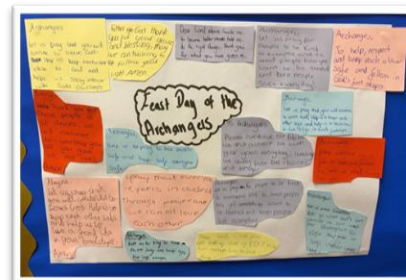


THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

Feast Days

Feast Day of the Archangels: 2nd October 2026

This Feast Day we learnt about the job of each archangel, then we wrote prayers to the archangels asking them for their support and guidance.



Feast Day of Our Lady of the Rosary: 7th October 2026

Students celebrated this day by learning about the rosary before making their own rosary beads with Mrs Ormsby-Scott. Whilst students did this, they reflected on the calming nature of praying the rosary.



Feast Day of Carlo Acutis: 12th October 2026

This feast day, staff reflected on St Carlo Acutis in staff briefing, before form tutors shared some information with students about him. We reflected on our use of technology and especially the use of AI in society today. Students had the chance to create positive and negative uses of AI.

Mass with Fr Blaise from Sacred Heart Fathers

On 6th October, we were delighted to welcome Fr Blaise to St Anne's to celebrate Mass in honour of Our Lady of the Rosary. As October is traditionally dedicated to the Holy Rosary, the celebration provided a wonderful opportunity for students and staff to reflect on the importance of Mary in our Catholic faith and the power of prayer. Thank you to Fr Blaise and everyone who joined us for this special celebration as we continue to strengthen the prayer and sacramental life of our school community.



Drop Everything and Pray (DEAP) for Our Lady of the Rosary

On Thursday 22nd October, St Anne's took part in a special whole-school prayer initiative to mark October as the Month of the Holy Rosary. Throughout the day, students and staff paused during their lessons to pray different parts of the Rosary, coming together in prayer as one school community. From the Apostles' Creed to the Hail Holy Queen, each lesson contributed towards a shared decade of the Rosary. This provided a wonderful opportunity for students to deepen their understanding of this important Catholic devotion and reflect on the life of Jesus through the eyes of Mary.



Form Time Meditation

Throughout this half-term, Mrs Ormsby-Scott has been leading meditation sessions in St Joachim's Chapel for our Key Stage 3 form groups. These sessions provide students with a valuable opportunity to step away from the busyness of the school day and spend time in quiet prayer and reflection. Through guided meditation inspired by Scripture, students are encouraged to reflect on their relationship with God, develop a sense of inner peace and deepen their spiritual understanding. These sessions form an important part of our commitment to nurturing the spiritual wellbeing of every student at St Anne's.

Year 7 Welcome Liturgy with Fr Mark

On Friday 16th October, we were delighted to welcome Fr Mark to St Anne's to lead our Year 7 Welcome Liturgy as part of our first SACRED Day of the academic year. This special celebration provided an opportunity to formally welcome our newest students into the St Anne's community and reflect on the importance of faith, friendship and belonging. Through prayer and reflection, students were reminded that they are valued members of our school family and encouraged to live out our SACRED values throughout their time with us. It was a wonderful way to celebrate the beginning of their journey at St Anne's.



Year 8 Buddhist Temple Visit

This half-term, our Year 8 students visited the Buddhist Centre in Edgeley as part of our commitment to providing enriching experiences beyond the classroom. Students had the opportunity to learn about Buddhist beliefs and practices firsthand, developing their understanding of a different religious tradition. The visit reflected the importance of *Dialogue and Encounter* within the Catholic faith, encouraging students to engage respectfully with people of other religions while deepening their understanding of their own beliefs. It was a wonderful opportunity to promote mutual respect, curiosity and understanding, reflecting the Church's call to build relationships with people of all faiths.



OPEN EVENING

We were delighted to welcome more than 250 families to our Open Evening on 8th October, for an evening that truly showcased the very best of St Anne's. The school was buzzing with excitement and energy, creating a warm, vibrant atmosphere and a wonderful sense of community. It was a fantastic opportunity for prospective students and their families to explore our school, meet our staff and students, and experience first-hand what makes St Anne's such a special place to learn and grow.

There was something for everyone to enjoy, with departments going above and beyond to bring learning to life through a wide range of engaging, interactive and memorable activities. Visitors were treated to spectacular science explosions, fascinating heart dissections in Biology and the ever-popular History challenge of guessing the contents of replica urine pots! From hands-on experiments and creative challenges to interactive lessons and subject-specific activities, every corner of the school offered something to spark curiosity, inspire learning and encourage visitors to get involved.

A particular highlight of the evening was the Headteacher's address, delivered by Mrs Sutcliffe to a packed hall. Her presentation provided families with a valuable insight into the ethos and values that underpin life at St Anne's, as well as the breadth of opportunities available to our students. She also highlighted the high aspirations we hold for every young person and our commitment to helping them flourish academically, socially and personally.

The feedback from parents was overwhelmingly positive, with many praising the warm welcome they received and describing the evening as a fantastic experience. It was wonderful to see so many families engaging with our school community and discovering the opportunities and experiences that make St Anne's such a special place.

Above all, our students were truly exceptional ambassadors for the school. Their confidence, enthusiasm, kindness and evident pride in St Anne's shone throughout the evening. Whether guiding visitors around the school, supporting departmental activities or sharing their own experiences, they represented our community with maturity and warmth. They did themselves and St Anne's proud, and we are immensely grateful for the part they played in making the evening such a success.

A huge thank you to all our staff and students who worked so hard to make the event memorable, and to every family who came along to share in the excitement. It was a wonderful celebration of our school community and a fitting reflection of the spirit, ambition and opportunities that make St Anne's such a special place.



SACRED DAY

On Friday 16th October, we celebrated our first SACRED Day of the academic year with a range of enriching activities designed to support students' personal development, wellbeing and future aspirations.

Year 7: Growing in Understanding

Year 7 students participated in a series of workshops and lessons focused on understanding the physical and emotional changes that occur during puberty. They also explored ways to maintain positive mental health and wellbeing and learned strategies to manage anxiety during times of change.

The day concluded with a special liturgy led by Fr Mark from St Winifred's Church. Students reflected on the SACRED Enrichment projects they had completed, based on our school's SACRED Values, following their retreats at Coach House Church earlier in the term.

Year 8: Looking Outwards

Year 8 spent the day broadening their understanding of the wider world. Students had the opportunity to visit a local Buddhist temple, where they learned more about Buddhism and spoke with a Buddhist monk about his faith and way of life.

Back at school, students took part in a workshop called RISE, delivered by The Talent Foundry. The session encouraged them to consider wellbeing in the workplace while developing important communication, teamwork and planning skills that will support them in their future careers.

Year 9: Exploring Careers and Financial Awareness

Year 9 students focused on careers education and preparation for the future. They learned about the labour market, financial planning through Barclays LifeSkills, and the potential dangers of AI and online fraud.

Students also attended the Careers Fair, where they had the opportunity to speak with over 25 providers about future pathways, qualifications and career opportunities.



Year 10: Planning for the Future

Year 10 continued their careers-focused learning by attending the Careers Fair and taking part in sessions exploring labour market information and future career pathways. Using the Unifrog programme, students investigated a range of educational and employment opportunities and the requirements needed to achieve their goals.

Students also enjoyed a performance from the band The Yrs. Alongside presenting an engaging musical performance, the band spoke openly about the importance of looking after mental health and managing stress during challenging situations.

Year 11: Preparing for Next Steps

Year 11 students spent the day preparing for their transition beyond school. As well as attending the Careers Fair, they worked on personal statements for college applications, took part in a CV-writing workshop, and spent time with their form tutors completing college applications and developing interview skills ahead of upcoming interviews.

Our first SACRED Day of the year was a fantastic opportunity for students across all year groups to develop new skills, deepen their understanding of themselves and others, and prepare confidently for their futures.

From exploring faith and wellbeing to preparing for future careers, students across all year groups embraced the opportunities on offer throughout the day. The wide range of activities ensured that every student was able to learn, reflect and grow, making our first SACRED Day of the academic year a truly rewarding experience.

We were impressed by the enthusiasm and positive attitude shown by our students, who engaged thoughtfully with each activity and made the most of the chance to try something new.

SACRED Day provided valuable opportunities to build confidence, strengthen relationships and reflect on the values that guide our school community. We look forward to building on this positive start as the year progresses.



INSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Year 8 Subject Stars

Each week, students are celebrated in class for the amazing work they do, and certificates are given in assemblies for these Subject Stars of the Week. This month, we are featuring our **Year 8 Subject Stars**. Well done to them – keep up the good work.

RE	ENGLISH	MATHS	
Janice Florence	Harley Ivanka	Leo Marcel	
SCIENCE	GEOGRAPHY	HISTORY	SPANISH
Kayden Isla	Jack Maya	Sofia Jack	Jack Sofia
CREATIVES	TECHNOLOGY	COMPUTING	PE
Amilie Archie	Ryan Annabel	Nanda Jack	

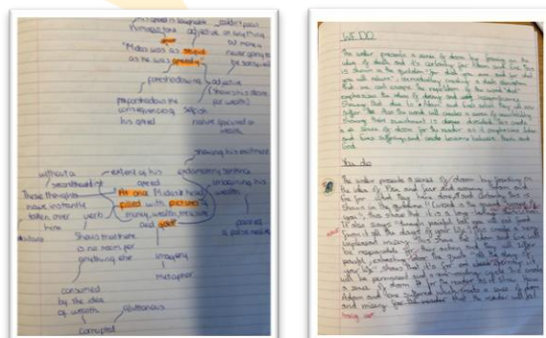
Throughout October, subject areas across the school have been celebrating **Black History Month** in a variety of engaging and meaningful ways. Through lessons, activities and discussions, students have explored the contributions, achievements and experiences of Black individuals throughout history, deepening their understanding and appreciation of Black heritage and culture.

English

We are incredibly proud of the fantastic progress our Year 7 students have made in English this term! Their books are filled with examples of beautifully presented work, thoughtful ideas, detailed written responses and growing confidence in their writing skills. It has been wonderful to see students taking such pride in their learning, demonstrating creativity and responding positively to feedback.

Their enthusiasm is also reflected in our recent Pupil Voice, with students sharing how much they are enjoying English, particularly the opportunities to develop their writing, explore new vocabulary and improve their skills. Many have recognised the progress they are making and expressed pride in the quality of their work.

A huge well done to all our Year 7 students for their hard work, positive attitudes and commitment to excellence. Keep up the brilliant work!



Maths

It has been a productive first half term in Mathematics, with students across all year groups developing their knowledge and tackling new challenges through the White Rose Maths scheme of work.

Year 7 have been exploring sequences, algebraic notation and expressions, building on their primary school learning and embracing the exciting new concepts of secondary mathematics.

Year 8 have been developing their understanding of angles, ratio and proportion, while Year 9 have been strengthening their skills in sequences, percentages, area and volume.

Year 10 have been deepening their understanding of algebra, equations and quadratics, laying important foundations for their GCSE studies. Meanwhile, Year 11 have been focusing on GCSE preparation, covering topics such as vectors, surds and trigonometry, alongside targeted intervention sessions and *Get Me 30* GCSE exam paper practice to build confidence and improve exam technique fortnightly.

Across all year groups, to support independent learning and revision, students have been given flashcards to create their own revision cards for homework. This encourages regular retrieval practice, helping students consolidate key knowledge and build confidence in recalling important mathematical facts and more. This is an excellent opportunity to reinforce classroom learning, practise recalling key facts and develop effective revision habits in preparation for future assessments.

To celebrate **Black History Month**, students across year groups researched famous Black mathematicians and recorded their findings in their exercise books, recognising the achievements and contributions of inspirational figures in Mathematics.

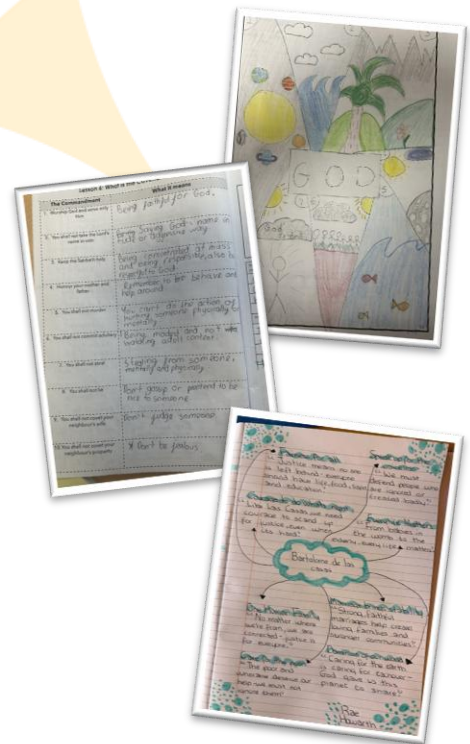
We are proud of the hard work and commitment shown by our students this half term and look forward to building on this progress in the months ahead!

RE

This half-term, Year 7 students have been exploring Creation and Covenant, focusing on the biblical accounts of Creation and the belief that God created the world out of love. Students have reflected on humanity's responsibility to care for God's creation and the importance of stewardship.

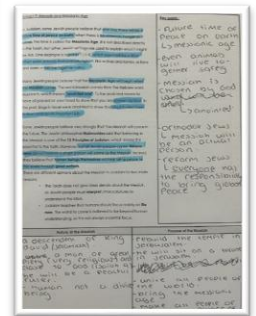
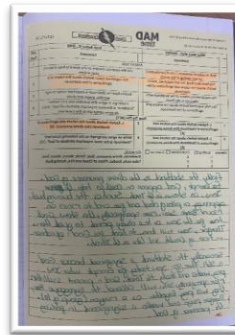
Meanwhile, Year 8 students have been studying Creation and Covenant, exploring God's relationship with humanity through the covenants found in Scripture. Students have considered the importance of these promises and how they continue to shape Catholic beliefs and practices today.

Year 9 students have been exploring the concept of Human Dignity, focusing on the Catholic belief that every person is created in the image and likeness of God. Students have considered how this belief influences the way we treat others, particularly through the importance of respecting every person's dignity.

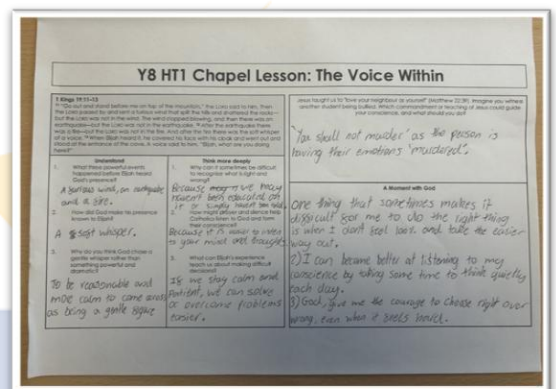


Year 10 students have been exploring Jewish beliefs as part of their GCSE Religious Studies course this half term. Students have studied key beliefs about the nature of God, the importance of the covenant and the role of the Messiah in Judaism. Through this topic, students are developing a deeper understanding of the Jewish faith and its traditions, while recognising the importance of religious dialogue and respect for others.

Year 11 students have been exploring the theme of Life and Death as part of their GCSE Religious Studies course. Students have considered important ethical questions surrounding euthanasia, including the Catholic belief in the sanctity of life, alongside Christian teachings about death, judgement and the afterlife. These lessons have encouraged students to think critically about complex moral issues and develop a deeper understanding of Catholic beliefs.



Chapel Lessons: This half-term, students in Years 7, 8 and 9 have taken part in special RE lessons in St Joachim's Chapel, providing opportunities to explore their faith beyond the classroom. Year 7 reflected on Caring for Our Common Home, considering their responsibility to protect God's creation. Year 8 explored the importance of conscience and making moral decisions, while Year 9 focused on the dignity of every human person and our responsibility to treat others with compassion and respect. These lessons combined Scripture, reflection and creative activities to deepen students' understanding of Catholic teaching. Pictured is an excellent example of work completed by one of our Year 8 students.



Science

Students in Science have continued their fantastic start the last few weeks with most KS3 classes having completed summative assessments and now moving onto their next units – Forces in Year 7, Body Systems in Year 8 and Biological Processes in Year 9. Students in Years 10 and 11 continued to work on their GCSE course, with most classes sitting assessments either just before or after half term.

Science staff continue to be amazed by the students they teach and would like to celebrate the efforts of some standout individuals over the last few weeks; Mr Johnston would like to celebrate Joe for being enthusiastic, sensible and helpful during 7YD's first practical in a Science lab this year. Mr Flynn would like to celebrate 10XC for their Maths in Science lesson where they were consolidating learning on surface area, volume and ratio and applying it to exchange surfaces in Biology. All 10XC students showed great resilience and worked hard to complete their calculations – well done all! Miss Poscha would like to celebrate 9YC for producing a great feedback lesson after their formative assessment where they were reflective and considerate in their written work.



Miss Poscha would like to give a special shout out to Naima who got 6/6 on how to test a leaf for starch method in the practical section of the assessment and Henry who also took to the task brilliantly. Miss Allan would like to celebrate 10XA in Biology who worked hard on their microbiology practical with Luke and Dominik getting some great E. coli growth!



Finally, once again the Science labs were a hive of activity on Open Evening with a range of activities from heart dissections and flame tests to the ever-popular methane bubbles as Mr Flynn and Mr Khan are demonstrating (*right*). Mrs Rogerson would like to say a massive thank you to all our Science staff for their efforts during this evening, but especially to the wonderful students who gave up their evening to help out in Science, doing an absolutely amazing job of supervising the practical work and sharing their positive experiences in Science with the upcoming Year 5 and 6 cohorts. They were truly fantastic – thanks and well-done Harry, Stella, Jerelyn and Ammar.



Humanities

It has been a busy half term in **Geography**! Year 7 have been developing their map skills and learning about the UK, exploring its locations and physical features. Year 8 have investigated climate change, considering how we can mitigate its causes and adapt to its effects. This topical subject has helped students connect their classroom learning with geography in the news.

Year 9 have explored the world of fast fashion, including the role of brands such as Shein and Temu. Through classroom debates, students have represented different stakeholders, including consumers, factory workers and business owners. They have considered the social, economic and environmental impacts of cheap clothing, developing their ability to weigh up different viewpoints and make informed arguments.



In **History**, Year 7 have been investigating the Titanic, exploring its tragic sinking and what it reveals about society at the time. Year 8 have studied the Reformation, examining religious change and its impact on people's lives. Year 9 have explored the Suffragettes and their campaign for women's voting rights, considering their methods and the significance of their fight for equality.

At GCSE, students have been studying Health and the People, exploring how medicine and public health have changed over time. They have also investigated Weimar Germany, examining the challenges facing Germany after the First World War. Across these topics, students have developed their historical enquiry skills, while analysing evidence and explaining the causes and consequences of change.

Creative Arts

Food Technology

Year 10 GCSE Food students were tasked with making a delicious treat suitable for people with coeliac disease; they undertook some amazing research and modification of recipes, as well as displaying great practical skills. Our learning focus has been food intolerances and allergies.



Art

To celebrate **Black History Month**, students in 7YCD have been exploring the rich history and artistic traditions of the Gee's Bend quilters by creating their own collaborative paper quilt.

Inspired by the extraordinary quilts produced by generations of African American women from Gee's Bend, Alabama, the class discovered how art can tell stories, celebrate cultural heritage and bring communities together. The quilts of Gee's Bend are renowned for their bold colours, striking patterns and creative use of fabric, demonstrating how everyday materials can be transformed into remarkable works of art.



Taking inspiration from these unique designs, 7YCD worked together to create a paper quilt, carefully selecting colours, arranging shapes and experimenting with patterns to produce a vibrant, collaborative piece. Each student contributed their own ideas and creativity, helping to create a final artwork that celebrates individuality while highlighting the importance of teamwork.

The project provided a wonderful opportunity for students to learn about an important aspect of Black history and culture while developing their artistic skills. It also encouraged them to reflect on how creativity can preserve traditions, express identity and connect people across generations.



The class worked incredibly hard throughout the project, showing enthusiasm, imagination and commitment to producing their finished piece. Their paper quilt is a fantastic example of what can be achieved when individual contributions come together to create something meaningful.

Well done to everyone in 7YCD for their hard work and for creating such a thoughtful and colourful celebration of **Black History Month**!

SPORT AT ST ANNE'S

Basketball

Inspired by the new Olympic event, we took two 3v3 basketball teams to a tournament this month, and both teams played magnificently, topping their groups and making it through to the semi-finals. Unfortunately, this meant we narrowly missed out on an all-St Anne's final!

However, Nero, Luke and Harrison went one step further and won the whole event! In the final, the boys found themselves 8–2 down with just two minutes remaining. Luke then stepped up and scored two 3-pointers to bring the game level, before Harrison scored the winning basket to secure a fantastic 10–8 victory. A brilliant comeback and a great achievement for the boys!

All seven students were excellent throughout the event and represented St Anne's brilliantly. Well done to both teams – Nero, Luke, Harrison, Wezi, Giles, Nathan and Dom – we are so proud of you.



Football

Year 8 won their first game of the season against Harrytown this month. It was fantastic to have Ruben back with the team after his injury, taking on the role of assistant manager. The boys worked hard throughout the game and it was a great way to get their first win of the season.



Golf

Shapes came in and hosted an event for our students, giving them the opportunity to take part in golf. It was great to see students trying something different and getting involved in a new sport. A big thank you to Shapes for coming in and supporting our students.



Dodgeball

Our Year 7, 8 and 9 boys and girls recently represented St Anne's at a dodgeball competition at Stockport School. All teams showed fantastic teamwork, determination and sportsmanship throughout the event, representing the school brilliantly.

A special congratulations goes to our Year 7 boys, who won the competition, and our Year 8 and Year 9 boys, who both finished in second place. These are fantastic achievements and a credit to all the students involved.

Well done to everyone who took part and proudly represented St Anne's!



SPORTS TOUR 2026: Cologne, Germany

As this month's newsletter is published, our PE staff and students are embarking on an exciting Sports Tour to Cologne, Germany, combining their passion for the beautiful game of football with the opportunity to experience a new culture and explore one of Europe's most vibrant cities.

The tour will offer students the chance to take their football skills onto an international stage, competing against local German teams and experiencing the excitement of playing football abroad. There will be the opportunity for students to participate in a professional training session with FC Cologne coaches, giving them an insight into elite-level coaching and the chance to develop their skills. Students will also enjoy an exclusive stadium tour of the club's impressive home ground, bringing them closer to the professional game.

Beyond football, the trip will provide a valuable opportunity for students to discover Cologne's rich history, culture and famous landmarks. With sightseeing and team activities planned throughout the visit, the tour promises to create lasting memories, strengthen friendships and develop teamwork, independence and confidence.

Experiences such as this are an important part of school life, allowing students to learn beyond the classroom while representing St Anne's and building connections through their shared love of sport.

We look forward to hearing about the students' experiences and the memories they make during this exciting European adventure and will share their story with you in our next newsletter.

PARENTS' EVENING: Year 11

Our Year 11 Parents' Evening on Thursday 22nd October provided a valuable opportunity for parents and carers to meet with teachers, discuss students' progress and consider the next steps towards success in their GCSE examinations.

The evening offered an opportunity to celebrate achievements, recognise areas for improvement and discuss how students can make the most of the important months ahead. Teachers shared feedback on progress, highlighted strengths and provided advice on how students can continue to develop their knowledge, skills and confidence in each subject.

With GCSE examinations approaching, the importance of effective revision, good organisation and a positive attitude to learning was a key focus. Parents and carers were encouraged to support students in establishing regular revision routines, completing homework to a high standard and seeking help whenever they encounter difficulties. The evening also highlighted the importance of home and school working in partnership. By maintaining open communication and providing consistent encouragement, we can help our Year 11 students stay motivated, manage the demands of their studies and feel prepared for the challenges ahead.

We would like to thank all the parents and carers who attended, as well as our dedicated staff for their continued commitment to supporting our students. Your involvement plays an important role in helping every student reach their potential. As our Year 11 students continue their journey towards their GCSEs, we encourage them to remain focused, make the most of the support available to them and approach the coming months with determination and confidence. Together, we can help them achieve their best and take their next steps towards a successful future.

FORMER STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

From the English classroom to award-winning storyteller and inspirational workshop facilitator! We were lucky enough to have **Griot Gabriel** return to St Anne's as a part of our community inspiring our students with every interaction with the journey beginning on Sacred Day this month.

We are incredibly proud to celebrate the achievements of former student **Griot Gabriel**, who has gone on to build an exciting and inspiring career as an award-winning spoken word artist, storyteller and workshop facilitator.



Gabriel, who is based in Manchester, has established himself as a talented performer and educator, using the power of language to inspire young people, celebrate identity and bring communities together.

His impressive achievements include being a **Forward Prize winner for Best Performed Poem**, a **UNESCO Global Slam finalist** and a **Slam-o-Vision Championship winner**. These prestigious accomplishments highlight his exceptional creativity, confidence and ability to connect with audiences through the spoken word.

Gabriel's success is a wonderful example of how the skills developed through studying **English Language and Literature** can open doors to exciting and rewarding careers. His work demonstrates the importance of creative writing, poetry, public speaking and storytelling, showing how words can be used to express emotions, challenge perspectives and give people a voice.

Drawing inspiration from the West African Griot oral storytelling tradition, Gabriel places voice, memory and identity at the heart of his work. Through his performances and workshops, he encourages young people to explore their own experiences, develop their confidence and recognise that everyone has a story worth telling.

Alongside his performance career, Gabriel has worked with a range of respected cultural organisations, including the National Poetry Library, the Black Curriculum, Warner Bros and CHANEL. He also plays an important role in supporting young people through the Griot Gang Collective and community-based creative projects in Manchester.

Gabriel's journey is a fantastic reminder to our current English students that poetry is not simply something we study in the classroom — it is a powerful art form that can inspire change, create opportunities and shape careers.

We hope his achievements encourage our students to embrace their creativity, develop their own voices and recognise the possibilities that studying English can offer.

Congratulations, Gabriel! We are incredibly proud of your achievements and look forward to seeing where your talent, passion and creativity take you next.

READING GROUPS

After half term, 35 Year 9 students will join members of SLT in reading groups. The weekly reading groups will run during Thursday form time.

During the last week of this half term, groups were given a choice of texts and asked to explore the front cover, the blurb and the first page. Students were then asked to choose which book they would like to read. Each group will now spend every Thursday form time reading with their member of SLT. Given that 2026 is the National Year of Reading, this is a fabulous opportunity for students to develop their enjoyment of reading!



JESSICA'S CHARITY WALK

You may remember reading in last month's newsletter about Jessica having 22 inches of her hair cut off for charity. Well, she has continued her amazing fundraising efforts this month by taking part in the Alzheimer's Society Memory Walk at Heaton Park, Manchester!

Jessica completed the 5km walk alongside her mum and older sister earlier this month, with the team crossing the finish line in approximately 1 hour and 20 minutes. Their efforts helped raise an incredible **£140** for the Alzheimer's Society, which supports people living with dementia and their families through some of the most challenging times of their lives.

We are so proud of Jessica's kindness, determination and generosity in supporting such an important charity. We're sure our whole school community will join us in congratulating her on this wonderful achievement. Well done, Jessica!



STAFF WELLBEING

We held a special Staff Wellbeing Breakfast to thank and recognise our wonderful staff for their continued hard work, dedication and commitment to our school community. It was a lovely opportunity to come together, enjoy breakfast and show our appreciation for everything our staff do each and every day. In particular, we wanted to recognise the tremendous effort that went into our recent Open Evening, which was a huge success and a fantastic reflection of the pride, teamwork and enthusiasm shown by everyone involved.

Thank you to all our staff for the difference you make to our school and for helping to make St Anne's such a special place to be!



ADDITIONAL STAFF

Following on from last month's introduction to our new staff, this month the spotlight is on **Mrs Armstead**, Geography Teacher; **Miss Wright**, Safeguarding Officer; **Mr Johnston**, Maths/Transition Teacher; **Ms Law**, Data and Exams Office and **Mr Flynn**, Science Teacher.

Mrs Armstead – Geography Teacher

I am delighted to have joined St Anne's and the Geography team. I am looking forward to getting to know the students and becoming part of such a welcoming school community. I have taught Geography for 15 years and have always loved how the subject allows students to explore and understand the world around them. From the places we live in to the people, cultures and environments that shape them, there is always something new to discover.

I studied Geography at the University of Birmingham before completing my teacher training there too. I then began my teaching career in Birmingham, where I taught for a number of years before making the move to Manchester.

One of the things I enjoy most about teaching Geography is seeing students become curious about the world and developing their own ideas about the issues that affect it. Whether we are discussing climate change, global development or simply why places look the way they do, there is always plenty to question and explore. I hope to share that enthusiasm with the students at St Anne's, just as I love to do with my own children, encouraging them to notice and question the geography around them when we are on days out and exploring new places on holiday!

I feel fortunate to have joined St Anne's and I am looking forward to getting to know the students, colleagues and the wider school community. I am excited for the year ahead and to being part of the St Anne's journey.



Miss Wright – Safeguarding Officer

I have worked in youth pastoral care and safeguarding for over 10 years, with more than 20 years' experience across education and social care. Supporting young people and their families is something I take great pride in, and I feel that my empathetic and compassionate nature allows me to build positive, trusting relationships and offer meaningful support.

I am passionate about helping young people feel heard, valued and supported, and I am really looking forward to bringing my experience and supportive approach to St Anne's. I hope to build positive relationships with students, families and staff and contribute to creating a nurturing and supportive environment for everyone.

Over the past year, I have also completed a postgraduate certificate in Children, Adolescents and Mental Health, with a particular focus on bereavement and the impact of loss on children and families.

When I'm not working, you're likely to find me outdoors, come rain or shine! I love the natural world and enjoy travelling around the UK and beyond. Some of the favourite places I've visited include Lake Baikal in Siberia and Transylvania in Romania. However, I love nothing more than exploring new places, walking my daft Bull Terrier, or enjoying an outdoor swim somewhere in the UK.

I'm really excited to be starting my journey at St Anne's and getting to know the students, families and wider school community.



Mr Johnston – Maths/Transition Teacher

I'm really excited to be joining St Anne's as a Transition Teacher. From my first visit, I was struck by how welcoming the school community felt and by its commitment to ensuring that every student has the opportunity to succeed. The Transition role particularly appealed to me because it allows me to work with students across different subjects while helping them build confidence as they move from primary to secondary school.



My route into teaching wasn't necessarily the most obvious one! I studied Film and Television at the University of Nottingham before working as a Teaching Assistant in a Pupil Referral Unit in Newcastle (my home city). That experience showed me how much I enjoyed working with young people, especially those who benefit from additional support and encouragement to recognise their potential. It eventually led me to Manchester, where I completed my PGCE at Manchester Metropolitan University.

At St Anne's, I'll be teaching Maths, Science and Music. I particularly value helping students develop confidence through the small successes that gradually lead to greater achievements. I'm looking forward to getting to know my students, discovering what motivates them and supporting their development both inside and outside the classroom.

Away from school, I enjoy running, cooking, reading and going to gigs whenever I get the chance. I'm also a big Liverpool fan, which I'm quickly discovering can be a brave thing to admit while working in Greater Manchester! I'm looking forward to becoming part of the St Anne's community and making a positive contribution to school life in the years ahead.

Ms Law, Data and Exams Officer

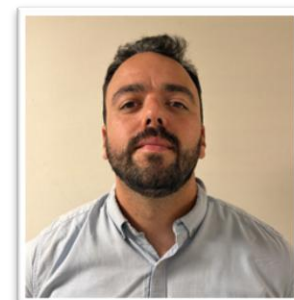
When talking about exams, everyone seems to feel scared. However, I believe they are just one of the many challenges in our lives. It is a bit like joining a game show such as The Chase or Pointless (well, Pointless is really pointless to me!). The questions may seem impossible, but there is a huge sense of satisfaction when you realise that you actually know the answer!



I was born and raised in Hong Kong, where I went through plenty of exams; looking back, they were just small pieces of my life. Over the past three years, I have worked in a different role at another school, supporting GCSE students, so I understand how stressful and overwhelming exams can sometimes be. I am very happy and excited to take on another new 'exam' at St Anne's. Let's work through our exams together!

Mr Flynn – Science Teacher

I am very excited to be joining St Anne's as an ECT following ITT at the University of Manchester. I have previously studied Marine Biology at Bangor University and have spent the last 10 years in various pastoral roles at a secondary school in Stockport. I was drawn to St Anne's as a small, community-focused secondary school and want to develop my practice in the classroom amongst supportive staff and wonderful students. You may see me cycling to school, something I'm challenging myself to do throughout winter whilst I save up for a new bike!



TEACHING AND LEARNING

SLT Book Look

During the last week of this half term, SLT conducted a KS3 Book Look and we were delighted to see outstanding examples of learning across all core subjects. Students demonstrated great pride in their work through well-presented books, thoughtful responses, and consistent effort over time. Many books showcased excellent organisation, high standards of presentation, and evidence of students acting on feedback to improve their learning. It was particularly encouraging to see the care students take in recording their work and celebrating their progress. The Book Look highlighted a culture of high expectations and commitment, reflecting the positive attitudes and dedication that our KS3 students bring to their learning every day.



Learning Walks Showcase Excellent Practice

Each week, a member of staff conducts a Learning Walk and shares examples of best practice during our Monday morning briefing. Over recent weeks, our STAR literacy strategy has emerged as a particular strength across a range of subjects, with teachers creating more opportunities for students to develop their reading, writing and speaking skills.

In English, students demonstrated excellent oracy, exploring complex vocabulary, investigating word etymology and confidently practising pronunciation aloud. In History, recent curriculum redesign has increased opportunities for extended writing, contributing to improved outcomes in summative assessments. In Maths, skilled questioning encouraged critical thinking and helped to address misconceptions.

Visiting classrooms and seeing high-quality teaching and learning in action is both informative and inspiring. The commitment and expertise of our staff are helping students to grow in confidence, develop resilience and achieve success every day.

ECT BREAKFAST

Our ECT (Early Career Teachers) breakfast meeting was held on the last week of the half term, and it was a wonderful opportunity for colleagues to come together in a relaxed and welcoming environment. Over breakfast, teachers shared experiences, exchanged ideas and discussed strategies to support their professional development and enhance classroom practice. The meeting provided a valuable space to ask questions, celebrate successes and learn from one another, helping to build confidence and strengthen our supportive teaching community. It was a positive start to the day, and we look forward to continuing these opportunities for collaboration and shared learning.

The ECT breakfast meeting also provided a valuable opportunity for teachers to reflect on their progress, discuss the challenges they may encounter in their early years of teaching, and share practical approaches to overcome them. The informal setting encouraged open conversations, peer support and the sharing of effective teaching strategies that can be taken back into the classroom. It was particularly beneficial to hear different perspectives, celebrate achievements and recognise the importance of wellbeing, collaboration and ongoing professional learning. These meetings play an important role in helping our Early Career Teachers feel supported, connected and confident as they continue to develop their skills and grow in their teaching careers.

KEY TO SUCCESS EVENING: Year 9

Miss Ormerod delivered a presentation to families focusing on forming good routines in Year 9 to set themselves up well for future years. This includes good attendance (97% or better), completing homework to the best of their ability, and engagement in available opportunities across the year. Miss Ormerod also spoke about the importance of following simple rules to uphold our high standards and expectations. Key dates were shared, including the dates for the options process.



KEY TO SUCCESS EVENING: Year 7

On Wednesday 21st October, we were delighted to welcome our Year 7 students and their families to our Key to Success Evening. The evening provided an opportunity to share important information and key messages about how we can work together to support our students as they continue their journey through Year 7. We also used the questionnaires completed by parents and carers to address common questions and provide further guidance and reassurance. Following the presentation, families enjoyed refreshments before being treated to our fantastic PROUD concert, where students had the opportunity to showcase their talents. It was a lovely evening celebrating our Year 7 community, and we would like to thank all the families who attended for their continued support.

PROUD EVENING

Following our Year 7 Key to Success Evening, our Year 7 students took to the stage for PROUD, our annual showcase, delivering a fantastic evening that celebrated their outstanding talent, creativity and ambition.

The evening opened with a wonderful year-group rendition of *Sing It in the Valleys*, setting the tone for a memorable celebration of the students' achievements. Each Year 7 class then performed a song of their choice, showcasing their enthusiasm, confidence and musical talent.

Alongside the performances, a range of curriculum work from across different subjects was displayed, highlighting the dedication, hard work and progress our students have made since joining St Anne's. It was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the breadth of learning taking place across the year group.

The evening also featured six solo performances of a truly professional standard, delivered by Eliza, Brandon, Pearl, Roisin and Olivia. Daniel brought the house down with an outstanding drumming performance that would have given the legendary John Bonham a run for his money!

It was an incredible evening and a testament to the talent, determination and spirit of our Year 7 students. Everyone involved should be immensely proud of what they have achieved.

From everyone at St Anne's, we are incredibly **PROUD** of our Year 7s. Well done to everyone who took part!



YEAR 11 VISIT TO THE NIGHTINGALE CENTRE

Six of our Year 11 students recently had the fantastic opportunity to visit **The Nightingale Centre at Wythenshawe Hospital**, where they gained a valuable insight into the work carried out to support patients, advance medical research and improve lives.

During the visit, students were given a tour of the centre's facilities and learned more about the vital work it does. They discovered the importance of fundraising in supporting the organisation and heard about the research being conducted to help improve understanding, treatment and care.

A particular highlight was the opportunity to speak directly with consultants, doctors and specialists. Students learned about the different roles within the medical field, the responsibilities involved and the qualifications and career pathways needed to enter these professions. This provided an inspiring insight into the wide range of opportunities available within healthcare and medical research.

The students also discussed creative fundraising ideas and explored ways they could help support the Nightingale Centre in its important work. The visit encouraged them to think about how they could make a positive difference within their community and contribute to an organisation that supports so many people.

We are incredibly proud of our Year 11 students for their enthusiasm, curiosity and thoughtful contributions throughout the visit. This experience has inspired them to consider future career opportunities and recognise the difference that fundraising, research and community support can make.

The visit gave students the opportunity to reflect on the importance of compassion, teamwork and innovation in healthcare. They gained a greater appreciation of how medical professionals work together to support patients and how research can lead to improvements in diagnosis, treatment and patient care. The experience highlighted the value of combining scientific knowledge with empathy and a commitment to helping others, leaving students with plenty to think about as they begin to consider their own future pathways. It was a valuable opportunity to connect classroom learning with real-world experiences and to see first-hand how dedication, collaboration and community involvement can have a lasting impact on people's lives.

A huge thank you to everyone at The Nightingale Centre for welcoming our students and providing such an informative and inspiring experience.



SAFEGUARDING

Halloween and Bonfire Safety

At this time of year, it is important that children and young people across Greater Manchester understand the risks linked to bonfire night, fireworks, anti-social behaviour and Halloween. We want to support you and your children by sharing key safety advice.

The following link is useful when understanding how to prevent, tackle and protect against criminal damage and other harm during the Halloween and bonfire period.

[BangOutOfOrder - Greater Manchester Fire Rescue Service](#)

Bonfire night and Halloween should be fun, but they can also bring serious fire risks. Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service is encouraging families to attend organised firework and bonfire events wherever possible, but if you are planning your own firework event you should follow the advice in this link:

[Firework safety - Greater Manchester Fire Rescue Service](#)

If children are dressing up for Halloween, please check costumes are UKCA or CE marked so they meet the required safety standards. Keep all costumes away from naked flames, including candles, and consider using LED candles instead.

Young Carers

Following half term, Miss Rees would like to meet regularly with our Young Carers to offer a safe place for them to catch up and socialise.

We recognise many students at school as Young Carers and we are sure there are many more. Is your child helping to care for anyone at home?

A carer is anyone providing help to a friend, neighbour or relative who could not manage without them because of frailty, illness, addiction or disability. Carers often don't recognise themselves as 'carers'; they just think of themselves as 'helping out' somebody they care about.

If you feel your child may benefit from such support, please get in touch with our DDSL - Miss Rees.

Miss Rees invites all young carers to the safeguarding office every Wednesday Week A at lunch time. She looks forward to seeing you.



SignPost
STOCKPORT FOR CARERS

ST. ANNE'S
R.C. VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

Are you a Young Carer?

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!

Our Young Carer Lead in school is Miss Rees

Come along on a Wednesday Week A lunch for a catch-up chat in the Safeguarding Office.

This is not compulsory, only if you want to.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU

Social Media

We have seen a sharp increase in concerns relating to social media, online safety and the impact these issues can have on our students.

Even with the best safety measures and parental controls in place, young people may still encounter content that is inappropriate for their age. Sometimes this happens accidentally; at other times, curiosity or encouragement from peers may lead them to seek out content that could be harmful or upsetting.

We encourage all parents and carers to check that appropriate parental controls and privacy settings are enabled on their child's phone and other devices. Just as importantly, we encourage open, honest and age-appropriate conversations about what young people may encounter online. Rather than relying on shame or fear, help your child understand the potential risks, recognise harmful content and feel confident talking to a trusted adult if something worries them.

It is also important to remember that many online platforms, including games, livestreaming services and social media apps, allow users to communicate with people they do not know. Young people may not always recognise when an interaction becomes inappropriate, manipulative or unsafe.

By combining appropriate safety settings with regular, supportive conversations, we can help our young people develop the knowledge, confidence and skills they need to navigate the online world safely. **Please continue to talk with your child about their online experiences and reassure them that they can always turn to a trusted adult for help, without fear of being judged.**

Risks include:

- Being contacted by adults pretending to be younger
- Being asked to share personal photos or information
- Grooming via trust-building or gift-giving
- Age impersonation – for example, AI-generated profiles
- Scams, phishing, or requests for money or passwords.

Talk to your child about the importance of online privacy and the personal information they should never share online. Remind them that even seemingly harmless posts, such as a photograph of themselves wearing their school uniform, can reveal more information than they realise.

If you have any concerns or would like further advice on keeping your child safe online, please don't hesitate to contact our safeguarding team, who will be happy to offer guidance and support.

Here is a link for some parental advice:

[Social Media | Mental Health Advice for Parents | Young Minds](#)

If your child is at risk online, please contact 101, or 999 for immediate risk. Remind your child that it is never their fault if someone else behaves inappropriately online.

STUDENT CAREERS BREAKFAST

Year 9 and Year 10 students recently had the opportunity to take part in a special careers breakfast during form time, welcoming a visiting judge to St Anne's to learn more about a career in the legal profession.

The informal session provided students with a valuable insight into the world of law and the important role judges play within the justice system. It was an opportunity to hear first-hand about the responsibilities of the role, the skills and qualities needed to succeed, and the different pathways available to those considering a future in the legal profession. Students were able to learn more about the realities of working in the legal system, gaining a greater understanding of the importance of fairness, impartiality, critical thinking and effective communication. Meeting a professional working in the field also gave students the chance to explore their interests, broaden their horizons and consider career possibilities they may not previously have thought about.

Our careers breakfasts are designed to connect students with professionals from a range of industries, helping them make informed decisions about their future and understand how the skills they develop in school can be applied in the workplace.

We plan to have more of these events in the near future to help our students have high aspirations for their futures.

AND FINALLY...

What a wonderful week it has been at St Anne's. On Wednesday evening, we celebrated our annual Year 7 PROUD Evening, an event that has become a valued part of our school calendar and a fantastic opportunity to showcase the talents, achievements and character of our outstanding Year 7 students.

One of my personal highlights since joining St Anne's has been listening to our young people read during both the Year 7 Welcome Liturgy and the PROUD Evening. Their confidence, enthusiasm and maturity have been truly inspiring, and I could not have been prouder of them. They are a credit to themselves, their families and our school community.

As we reach the end of a busy and successful first half term, I would like to thank all our students, staff and families for their continued support and commitment. I wish everyone a restful and well-deserved October half-term break, and I look forward to welcoming our students back refreshed and ready for the exciting half term ahead.



Mrs J Sutcliffe
Headteacher

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