

St. Aidan's Catholic Academy

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Upcoming Events

April 13

Next Week, school for students of Key Workers will take place at St Anthony's. Students are to access the school via the Thornhill Terrace entrance.

To all in our community,

Our third week of shutdown has now passed without incident. I am truly thankful to all of the students, staff and parents who have made this difficult time as positive as possible. Students are now well underway with their educational tasks which they are completing, and my teaching staff tell me the quality of the work is excellent. As a community, I felt it was important to offer support to families over the coming bank holiday weekend, however we are not required to open the school on this occasion as our key workers have made their own arrangements. As we are presently in Holy Week, can I take this opportunity to wish you a peaceful Easter. Stay safe.

Glenn Sanderson

Well Being



Prayer

Father God, my heart is filled with chaos and confusion. I feel as if I am drowning in my circumstances and my heart is filled with fear and confusion. I really need the strength and peace that only You can give. Right now, I choose to rest in You. Amen.

Current Government Educational Information

- Those who work in and with our schools rightly take their place next to our NHS staff and other critical workers as central to our efforts in battling this virus.
- COVID-19 is at present an unprecedented challenge for schools, trusts, and local authorities, as well as the communities they serve.
- Clean and disinfect regularly touched objects and surfaces more often than usual using your standard cleaning products.
- Exams including GCSE's and A levels, will not go ahead this summer. The exam regulator, Ofqual, and exam boards, will work with teachers to provide grades to students whose exams for GCSEs, AS and A levels have been cancelled.

Student Testimony

I didn't get a chance to see you on the last few days and I just wanted to say that you've been a great teacher and thank you for being an inspiration to me, I can genuinely say that I am a better person after sitting in your class, you've given me a love for your subject that will never leave me. All the best for the next few months and I hope I see you again in sixth form.

Holy Week

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." **Phil 4:6-7**

As we enter the Easter Triduum we take a moment to reflect on Jesus' sacrifice and on our own lives today in these unusual circumstances. This year more than most, we will have time away from our daily lives to stop and consider the depth of Jesus' salvation. It feels in some ways, that the whole world has stopped to reflect with us. Pope Francis addressed the universal Church with a speech last week for Easter. In it he acknowledged that Christians will celebrate Holy Week "in a truly unusual way" and added that this season sums up the message of the Gospel: "God's boundless love."

"And in the silence of our cities, the Easter Gospel will resound," he said. "In the risen Jesus, life conquered death."

So as we stop to remember the actions of Jesus, the servant king, let us remember that we are the church today. The one body of Christ acting out of his love, bringing the joy of the Gospel to others.

"Let us try, if we can, to make the best use of this time: let us be generous. Let us help those in need in our neighborhood. Let us look out for the loneliest people, perhaps by telephone or social networks. Let us pray to the Lord for those who are in difficulty in Italy and in the world."

Just like Pope Francis, we hope that you have a prayerful Easter, filled with love, hope and kindness.



Quiz Time

All answers are Northeast towns or villages

1. Cyclist
2. Multi coloured clothing
3. Oliver's partner
4. Musical show
5. Cut finely
6. Not an old fortress
7. Horse on open land
8. What the dentist says
9. Work of lumberjack
10. Heavy metal opening to field
11. Not an old small one
12. Heavy laundry
13. Polished and in line
14. Person on foot
15. How American's like eggs
16. Stroll along
17. A thief
18. Stop and blow a tune
19. Coloured form of transport
20. To view properties

Competition Time

St Aidan's and St Anthony's writing competition. Create either a short story or a book review to have a chance of winning fabulous prizes. Send your entry to:

philippa.clafton@staca.co.uk by 20th April 2020. Good Luck!

Learning from Home

Exciting news was released by the BBC this week for all parents, carers and students. From 20 April, we'll be able to access regular daily lessons in English and Maths, as well as other subjects such as Science, History, Geography, Music and Art. The Bitesize website, which St Aidan's advises all our students and parents to visit, has been expanded to offer additional support. BBC iPlayer and the Red Button service will host Bitesize Daily. These are six different 20 minute shows, each designed to target a specific age group, from ages 11 to 14. Experts and teachers will be involved, covering what should be learned that day for the different year groups. Find out more about the resources [here](#).

Don't worry, our older students have not been left out. They should be keeping a close eye on the schedule for BBC Four. BBC4 are joining forces with the Red Button for evening programmes to support the GCSE and A Level curriculum. In addition, BBC Sounds is also launching separate podcasts, aimed at secondary pupils, to support everyone learning at home. This will be providing daily lessons for 14 and 15 year olds. Find out more about the app [here](#). St Aidan's older students will soon have access to the world-renowned EtonX programme designed by Eton School. More to follow on this exciting opportunity shortly.

Another opportunity our older (and younger) students should take up is an offer from the National Theatre. They have announced a new initiative: ['National Theatre at Home'](#) which is providing access to content online. Coming up on Thursday nights in the next few weeks are Treasure Island and Twelfth Night.

St Aidan's students also have unique access to a wealth of other resources to motivate in this period of uncertainty. We advise all parents and students to visit our resource ['The Day'](#) where you'll find up-to-date stimulating articles (with probing questions) on topics related to all subjects. It really is worth a visit – please try!

Another excellent opportunity comes from the DfE this week. We'd like to guide parents towards their newly brought together list of [free online educational resources](#). These resources are designed to help students to learn at home and have been put together by some of the country's leading educationalists. You may wish to use them to complement the existing provision we have put in place for your son on Teams.

Community

This week saw the staff coming together on Sunday night via the Zoom APP to touch base with each other. It was great to see everyone and it showed that even in adversity our community spirit remains strong. Mrs. Gill took the responsibility to organize a general knowledge quiz which we were all grateful for. In the end Miss Dawson pipped Mr. Mann to the win. This is going to become a regular fixture for staff over the coming weeks and it would be great to get as many staff logged on at 7pm this coming Sunday. Mrs. Hogg is setting the questions this time. Follow Mr. Naughton's e-mailed links to gain access.

Remote CPD

Opportunities to continue climbing our personal mountain.

Online CPD Mini-modules:

- [Mary Myatt - Curriculum questions](#)
- [Linking careers to curriculum](#)
- [Metacognition for teachers](#)
- [How do we learn?](#)
- [An evidence based approach to curriculum design](#)

T&L Articles:

- [Closing the reading gap](#)
- [A powerful way to improve learning](#)
- [Making sense of metacognition](#)
- [The Gatsby benchmark toolkit](#)
- [How knowledge helps](#)

Educational bloggers:

- [Mary Myatt - Curriculum](#)
- [Christine Counsell - Curriculum](#)
- [Alex Quigley - Literacy](#)
- [Tom Sherrington - T&L strategies](#)
- [Adam Boxer - Cognitive science](#)

All Subjects – top ten websites:

1. [Support for all subjects whilst working from home](#)
2. [STEM Learning inc. webchat](#)
3. [Headspace/meditation](#)
4. [Kerboodle – free access until Sept 2020](#)
5. [Brunel University – Maths tests for bored GCSE & A Level students – Dylan William](#)
6. [Interleaving in Practice](#)
7. [The Ten Deadly sins of Education - Kirschner](#)
8. [Chartered College of Teaching –various themed](#)
9. [Consequences of missing a term of school](#)
10. [A Powerful Way to Improve Working Memory – Dylan William recommends...](#)

“Education is not the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think” – Albert Einstein.

Longer reads:

Educational:

1. *The Curriculum* – *Gallimaufry to coherence* – Mary Myatt
2. *Closing the Vocabulary Gap* – Alex Quigley
3. *Why Knowledge Matters* – E.D. Hirsch
4. *The Advantage* - Patrick Lencioni
5. *Drive* – Dan Pink

Staff picks:

1. *Kes* – Barry Hines
2. *The Pelican Brief* – John Grisham
3. *The Island* – Victoria Hislop
4. *Kings in the North* – Alexander Rose
5. *Notes from a small island* – Bill Bryson