

St. Aidan's Catholic Academy

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Upcoming Events

April 27

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,

We continue to work under very challenging circumstances but with a common purpose and shared belief that we are doing the best for our students, staff and wider community. The media is full of stories at the moment of potential school re-opening dates. I take all of my advice and information directly from the government not from other forums or commentators. What our children need right now is secure and factual information not conjecture. The work which they are completing at home demonstrates perfectly how our young people and their families respond positively in the face of adversity and for this I thank you all. I am a firm believer that if we maintain our steadfastness then we will see light on the horizon very soon. Thank you and stay safe.

Glenn Sanderson

Well Being



Phone: 0191 516 6080
Mobile: 07585 138 779
Email: support@breakfreecounselling.co.uk
Website: breakfreecounselling.co.uk

Family Activities

1. Make an obstacle course.

Use objects from around the house like skipping ropes, boxes and hula-hoops, and an egg and spoon to create a course. Building the course will be a fun project in itself.

2. Star Gazing

Young people are naturally curious about the world, so getting into astronomy could be an easy sell. One way to make the sky more engaging is to use a star chart or app, there are plenty of free ones.

Prayer

Dear Lord,

I pray for my family and loved ones that You, God Almighty safeguard us. Do not leave our side Father, and make provisions for all of our needs. We shall not want because You'll always be guiding on our actions and protecting us. In Jesus Name I pray. Amen.

Future Skills Programme

It is not every day that an exciting academic opportunity arises but one has presented itself to Year 11 and 12 students this week. We are all writers, and the written word is more powerful than ever in today's technology-driven world, thanks to online news and social media. On a basic level, learning to write well means learning to convince people of your arguments in a clear and engaging way. To hone in on these skills, our students have been provided with access to the world-renowned Eton School's 'Future Skills Programme'.

The remote course run by Eton provides 7-10 hours of self-study content. We are lucky enough to have Jo Rainey guiding us through the 'Writing Skills' module: Jo is a History Master at Eton College. The course is designed to help our Year 11 and 12 students to help plan and write great essays on any topic, and these activities help them go beyond the main essay they will write as part of the course and ensure they apply the same systematic approach in a range of contexts. The course aims to assist students in planning and writing great essays on any topics they study at A Level or University. The skills our students will learn will serve them well for the rest of their lives, not just in formal school essays, and using those skills outside of the course is the vital first step.

Being a good writer means developing skills that are more vital than ever and that will set our students up for their future lives and careers, from giving effective presentations to becoming inspiring leaders. As well as allowing students to achieve academic success, these skills make them more thoughtful, critical and well-informed individuals, ready to take on a rapidly changing world. I'm sure you will agree that this is an opportunity which can't be missed. Our hope is that all students currently studying at St Aidan's and St Anthony's Sixth Form or applying to Sixth Form will complete this course, and we strongly urge parents/carers to support our students on the further development of their talents. Further details will be provided shortly for all students concerned.



**Domestic abuse –
Where to
get help
during the
Covid-19
pandemic**

For 2 million victims of domestic abuse, home may not be the safe place it should be.

We can help and support you if you are experiencing domestic abuse, you can contact Northumbria Police by telephone on 101, or online via www.northumbria.police.uk

However in an emergency, always call 999. If you dial 999 and are unable to speak, the emergency operator will ask you to dial 55 and to follow their instruction to quickly put you in touch with Police.

Northumberland
DASN – Domestic Abuse Service Northumberland
01670 820199

North Tyneside
Hatfield
0191 2513305

Gateshead
Domestic Abuse Team Gateshead
0191 43 33333

Newcastle
NIDAS – Newcastle Integrated DA Services
0191 2146501

South Tyneside
Impact Family Services
0737578835

Sunderland
Wearside Woman In Need
0800 0665555

Angelou Centre
(support for BME/refugees)
0191 2260394

National Domestic Abuse Helpline
0808 2000247

Men's Advice Line
0808 8010327

National LGBT+ Domestic Abuse Helpline
0800 9995428

www.northumbria.police.uk
northumbriapolice
northumbripol

NORTHUMBRIA POLICE

Students

If you feel anxious are down and have no one to talk to during this time then remember that you can always use Kooth - <https://www.kooth.com/>

Don't forget a great online resource has been opened up for all during this period. Visit www.thenationalacademy.co.uk to access online tutorials and activities.

MFL Competition:

<https://linguacuisine.com/linguachef/>

Deadline June 15th

'Once you learn to read, you will be forever free' – Frederick Douglass

Before 'school closure' library staff were busy testing students, and compiling reading data to measure the impact of all the reading strategies we employ at St Aidan's.

Our Year 7s have read voraciously over the course of the year. On arrival at St Aidan's, 74% were above the benchmark for their chronological reading age which is an achievement in itself. We are pleased to report that this has been sustained, and in our last testing 78% had achieved the benchmark score. As a year group they have also done extremely well across the board, and have grown by an average of 18 months in reading age since September! Well done to all our Year 7. Keep reading!

Year 8 are strong, experienced readers and are well acquainted with the reading, vocabulary and comprehension strategies employed at St Aidan's. A very healthy 78% achieved above the national reading age benchmark and to this date have gained 8 months since arrival in Year 8. Year 8 students who are classed as 'disadvantaged' thrive in our reading environment, and have gained an astounding 26 months gain in reading age since September. Remember, it is vital to remember that reading is the **master skill** of school for students and being an able reader secures the unlocking of the curriculum.

Year 9 are old hands with reading. 83% have achieved at least the national benchmark for reading and have gained a phenomenal 20 months on average in reading age since September.

The hard work and vigilance from form tutors and teachers across the Academy is much appreciated in establishing the excellent conditions for reading with 100% silence and students remaining on task. We ask all parents to continue to encourage their children to read at home during this difficult time. 20 minutes a day makes all the difference! A link to our reading lists can be found [here](#). Another resource to use is [Audible](#) which is currently offering free audio books. The [National Literacy Trust](#) has produced a guide you may find useful to support your son if he is in Year 7 or 8.

In addition to this, and to help support our students even further in their reading journeys new funding has been obtained from Raintree Match Funding to supplement our well-stocked library. An even wider selection of authors and titles will therefore be on offer to our avid readers when normality resumes! That's definitely something to celebrate.

Remote CPD

Opportunities to continue climbing our

T&L articles - Memory (FAQ's):

What on earth is working memory?

Why do students forget things?

Do students remember what they learn in school?

What will improve student memory?

What is a schema?

Educational Podcast Providers:

Naylor's Natters

TES Podcasts

The Learning Curve

Education Research Reading Room

The Learning Scientists

Evidence Based Education

Rebel Education

From Page to Practice

We are in Beta

Longer reads:

Educational:

1. ***Make every lesson count*** – Shaun Allison & Andy Tharby
2. ***Why don't students like school?*** – Daniel Willingham
3. ***The learning rainforest*** – Tom Sherrington
4. ***The Advantage*** - Patrick Lencioni
5. ***The Curriculum: Gallimaufry to Coherence*** – Mary Myatt

Online CPD opportunities

Research ED webinars:

Every weekday of the Summer term, the best and brightest in education will be delivering live webinars. The webinars can be viewed live at 11am each day or viewed in your own time on YouTube. Key speakers include:

Dan Willingham

Dylan William

Adam Boxer

Tom Sherrington

Click here for: [Full timetable and links to webinar videos](#)

Chartered College

A great resource for keeping up to date with recent developments in education. Check your email for login details.

[Impact publications](#)

Eventbrite

[Leadership development](#)

Staff picks:

1. ***Kes*** – Barry Hines
2. ***War Doctor*** – David Nott
3. ***The Bees*** – Laline Paull
4. ***Battle Scars: A story of war and all that follows*** – Jason Fox
5. ***The Secret Garden*** – Frances Hodgson Burnett