

# St. Aidan's Catholic Academy

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To all in our community,

This week has seen us finalize our preparations in readiness for our partial reopening on the school on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June. This will be for Y10 and 12 students and will be face-to-face contact time. The focus of our time together will be centered around student well-being both physical and mental. We will also spend a good deal of time addressing misconceptions that may have set in from the home learning the students have been doing. I must stress that this will not be anywhere close to “normal” school. Students will be taught in enclosed bubbles and will not have the usual social contact that they are used to. For the students not accessing school, I have instructed my team to overhaul and improve our home learning strategy and I envisage in the medium term a robust home-learning curriculum for all year groups with some amount of interaction between staff and students. This crisis is progressing, but is not yet behind us. Education as we know it will look very different for the foreseeable future. We always keep the student central to our decisions and we will always strive to maintain as much normality as possible within the constraints that we have. My team and I will review progress of the reopening at regular intervals and will make adjustments if necessary to protect all stakeholders.

Thank you for your continued support and God bless.

Glenn Sanderson

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## Upcoming Events

### June 15

From Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June, key worker students will only be housed on the St Aidan's site. This is because our phased reopening for Y10 and Y12 students begins from the 15<sup>th</sup> June for students who have registered that they want to take up a place. Key worker students will remain in their own key worker bubble away from the main student cohort.

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Dear Lord,

Grant me wisdom as I seek  
Your face. My soul cries out  
and I long for You. Hear my  
prayer, Oh Lord. Have mercy  
upon me and answer me, for I  
need You now and always.

Change my heart. If I am  
stubborn, strengthen my will to  
go on. Allow me to embrace  
Your mighty power and let  
Your will be done. In Jesus' holy  
name I pray, Amen!

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## Chaplaincy

### A self-made man

Pope Francis introduced Jacob as “a man who shrewdly developed his best talent,” what we might call a “self-made” man, who obtains what he desires through his own ingenuity. “The biblical account tells us about the difficult relationship Jacob had with his brother Esau” from the very beginning, a rivalry that is never overcome.

But although he is the younger son, Jacob, through trickery, obtains “the blessing and birthright” of the first born from his father Isaac. “It is only the first in a long series of ploys of which this unscrupulous man is capable,” Pope Francis said.

Jacob manages, seemingly through his own devices, to succeed in life. Even when he is forced to flee from his brother, he is able to enrich himself and to enter a promising marriage. “But something is missing,” the Pope said. “And one day he hears the call of home” and sets out for his “ancient homeland” where his brother still lives.

### Wrestling with God

When he reaches the final stage of his journey, Jacob pauses, wondering what awaits him upon his return. It is here, while he is reflecting on the reception he will receive, “suddenly, a stranger grabs him and begins to wrestle with him.”

Pope Francis, quoting from the Catechism explained, “the spiritual tradition of the Church has retained the symbol of prayer as a battle of faith and as the triumph of perseverance.”

After wrestling with the stranger throughout the night, Jacob is finally overcome when his opponent strikes his sciatic nerve. After asking Jacob his name, he tells him, “Your name shall no more be called Jacob, but Israel... for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed.” He refuses to tell Jacob his own name, but blesses him instead — and, the Pope said, “Jacob understands he has encountered God ‘face-to-face’.”

Pope Francis explained, “wrestling with God” is “a metaphor for prayer.”



### Literacy

Get involved with the Virtual Book Club from the National Literacy Trust.

Join on Instagram @ZoneIn\_Skills using the hashtag #BehindtheCoverClub, and send them your book reviews.

They will publish a selection every month. Research shows that listening to audiobooks can support your wellbeing:

<https://literacytrust.org/behind-the-cover/> .

MFL Competition:

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

Deadline June 15th

Jacob, who had always succeeded in life by his own effort, is reminded that he is “a mortal man who trembles and fears. For once Jacob has only his frailty and powerlessness to present to God.” This, said Pope Francis, is when he is finally able to receive “God’s blessing, with which he limps into the Promised Land: vulnerable and wounded, but with a new heart.”

We too, said the Pope, “have an appointment in the night with God: in the night of our life, in the many nights of our life, dark moments, moments of sin, and moments of disorientation.” It is when we are alone, and are able to recognize our own weakness that God comes to us.

“But precisely in that moment, we need not fear,” Pope Francis said, “because God will give us a new name, which contains the meaning of our entire life; and He will offer us the blessing reserved to those who have allowed themselves to be changed by Him.”

I am leaving you with the link for Vatican News, it contains more material you may wish to explore.

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-06/pope-at-audience-wrestling-with-god-a-metaphor-for-prayer.html>



Cafod will hold their first online assembly on Thursday the 18th at 10am for young people.

19<sup>th</sup> of June the diocese is holding Day of Scripture. I would like to invite you to join both events. Please check out SACA\_Catholiclife Twitter

## Work Experience

Work experience this year, has not been possible and so, in partnership with Oak National and Learn Live, Yr10 students have been able to complete their experience of work virtually.

Every day this week the boys have been engaging in lessons which gave an insight into the world of work to help gain some of the key employability skills and knowledge they will need to prepare them for life beyond St Aidan's.

The boys have explored a range of job sectors, understood the importance of work life balance and well-being in the workplace, developed their innovative and creative thinking, tapped into their own entrepreneurship and their own personal brand, and lastly, they have created their own C.V. and reflected on the employment skills that they will need for the future.



Well done to everyone that participated in 'My Week of Work'. It has been a hugely successful week that will prepare you for your 'next steps'. The level of commitment and hard work has been truly inspiring! Well done!

## The Edmund Rice Network

As most of our community know, St Aidan's Catholic Academy is connected to the Edmund Rice Trust. Edmund Rice was a spectacularly successful merchant who in 1802 gave up his wealth, founded a religious order dedicated to teaching, and opened his first schools in New Street and on Mount Sion in Waterford, Ireland. By 1825 Edmund had built eleven schools in Ireland, with 4,000 pupils. In that year he crossed to Liverpool and founded the first Christian Brother school in England, in Fox Street, Preston. Between 1825 and 1880 a total of 22 Christian Brother schools were established in England, pioneering education for the children of the poor in the major industrial towns. During the same period Edmund's network became global, and soon there were Edmund Rice schools in every continent. There are currently 12 schools in the Edmund Rice family in England. We continue to be connected with the world-wide family of Edmund Rice communities and schools throughout Africa, and in Australia, New Zealand, Oceania, India, and South and North America.



It goes without saying that Edmund Rice would have taken particular interest in the current events going on in the world around inequality, wellbeing and disadvantage. He would have been interested in how the education system was planning to bridge the next steps, both in terms of disadvantage and inequality.

I'm also sure that Edmund Rice would have been interested in how we looked after our own mental health. In times of change, challenge or uncertainty, one of the most powerful gifts we can give to ourselves is time to reflect. As we move forward into Phase 2 of education's response to Covid19 self-reflection is a possible way of coping with new demands put upon us. So to begin with you might wish to start with thinking about the following: when was the last time you sat quietly by yourself, with no distractions, for an extended period of time? When was the last time you gave yourself the space to consider who you really are, what you truly want and how you feel about the life that you are living now?

You may have already had some realisations and thoughts around this during the last few months. Within the school's [One Drive](#) shared area you'll find a series of activities, provided by the Edmund Rice Trust, designed to give you a chance to work through where you are in life, what you have experienced in recent weeks and what you want from your future. I am sure that Edmund Rice would have approved.

# Opportunities to continue climbing our personal mountain.

## Book Recommendations

### Year 7

#### Wonderscape by Jennifer Bell

An exciting and playful mashup of video game and history. Lost in the year 2473 in the Wonderscape, an epic in-reality adventure game, the friends must call on the help of some unlikely historic heroes to play their way home before time runs out.

### Year 8

#### I, Cosmo by Charlie Sorosiak

It is about family, friends and love. The writing is intelligent and the story is funny and moving, real and honest. The book does not also shy away from hard truths but at the same time manages to lead you to the light at the end of the tunnel.

### Year 9

#### The Wolf Wilder by Katherine Rundell

A truly compelling read, beautifully written and totally original and yet has the familiar feel of an established classic.

### Year 10

#### The Night Manager by John Le Carre

In a chilling tale of corrupt intelligence John Le Carre creates a claustrophobic world in which no one can be trusted.

### Year 11

#### Eve of Man by Tom and Giovanna Fletcher

This book casts a wide web of intrigue, deception and hope. Set in a dystopian future that has seen no girls born for 50 years.

## Resources

A wide range of activities to support in setting work for our students during phase-2 of home learning can be found [here](#).

Activities are available for years 7-13 in the following subject areas:

English  
Geography  
History  
Mathematics  
Modern Languages  
PE  
Religious Education  
Science

## Upcoming ResearchEd Webinars:

### **15/06/20 – Pritesh Raichura**

Planning effective teacher-led lessons

### **16/06/20 – Ruth Ashbee**

Dos and don'ts of curriculum leadership

### **17/06/20 – Greg Ashman**

Explicit teaching, critical thinking and creativity

### **18/06/20 – Efrat Furst**

Prediction and learning – from research to practice

Live at 11am or catch up on missed sessions [here](#)

“The difference between ordinary and extra ordinary is just that little word – extra.”

**Bear Grylls.**