

St. Aidan's Catholic Academy

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Upcoming Events

July 6

On Monday the Y10 bubbles will continue to welcome our students back in a controlled and safe way. Key worker students will continue in their own key worker bubble away from the main student cohort. Keyworker children must bring their own headphones to school to engage with the new Home Learning Timetable.

To all in our community,

As another week passes by, the great work going on at St Aidan's shows no signs of diminishing. The Y10 bubbles are progressing well and the whole school has come alive since we've had young people back filling our classrooms and corridors. Y12 have been relishing the face-to-face online tutorials they have been having, and my staff have commented on how welcome and uplifting it has been to finally return to what they love doing - which is teaching our students. Government guidance was finally published this week with regards education in England from September. My team and I are finalizing our next steps but we have been scenario planning for several weeks now, and are confident that our model will allow all students to recommence their education with us in September in a safe way. I will communicate our final procedures in the next week or so in order for all our stakeholders to be as fully prepared as they can be for a restart in the new academic year.

Thank you for your continued support and God bless

Glenn Sanderson

Free School Meal Vouchers

You will now have received your food voucher up until Week Beginning 13th July. The Government have announced that they will be providing food vouchers for children in receipt of free school meals over the summer holidays.



Be to us at all times, O Lord, our ending joy, our eternal bliss and our enduring comfort. Be to us light in the darkness, strength in temptation and refreshment in the desert. Being penitent for our sins may we never be separated from you and longing for your face may we behold you in heaven. Amen.

Chaplaincy

We celebrated the feast of St Peter and Paul on Monday 29th of June.

"I do so love St Peter," says a friend of mine. "Whenever he opens his mouth, he puts his foot in it".

She is right, of course. Whatever else St Peter may be, he is not the model of a wise and noble hero. He walks on the water – but then panics and starts to sink. He makes the first profession of faith – and moments later blunders into error and is called Satan by the Lord. He refuses to be washed, and then, when the purpose is explained to him, demands to be washed all over. And, of course, he betrays his master soon after having been warned that he will and having sworn not to. If Peter is the rock on which the Church is built, what a fissured and friable rock it is! How much better, we think, to have chosen the Sons of Thunder, for their energy; or Judas Iscariot, for his financial acumen; or John, because he was loved the best.

The choosing of Peter teaches us a lesson. The Church's foundation-stone and its first leader is not all-wise, all-knowing, good, heroic, and beautiful. He is a very ordinary man who makes about as many mistakes as we would in his place, and kicks himself for them just as thoroughly afterwards. If St Peter had been a hero, we could easily have despaired of ever becoming like him. If St Peter had been great, and noble, and good, we could have told ourselves that the Church is for the saints, despaired, sat down, and not bothered. But the Church is not just for saints: it is for confused, impetuous, cowardly people like us – or St Peter. The rock crumbles, the ropes are frayed, the wood is rotten – but, although that improbable building, the Church, is made of such inferior materials, it grows (on the whole) faster than it collapses, and it is grace that holds it together.

In the end, it was grace that gave the coward the courage to bear witness when it counted, grace that gave the fool the wisdom he needed to set the infant Church on her way, grace that taught the impetuous man patience and forbearance.



Year 10 Students

A reminder to those attending school in Year 10 - you are expected to complete the days home learning task on your return home that day. It is also **compulsory** for all Year 10's not attending school to take part in their mentoring session with their HOH.

Wellbeing

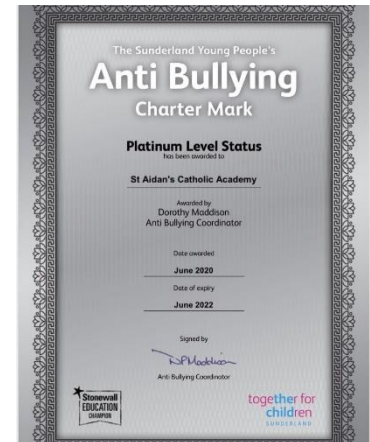
There are some common ways in which different age groups may react to a situation like the coronavirus pandemic. The common reactions to distress will fade over time for most children and young people however some preteens and teenagers respond to worrying situations by acting out. They may become afraid to leave the home. They may cut back on how much time they connect with their friends. They can feel overwhelmed by their intense emotions and feel unable to talk about them. They may have concerns about how the school closures and exam cancellations will affect them. Please contact your son's Head of House if you require support.

None of us admire ourselves, however much we would like to; let us not try to admire St Peter either, but admire instead the grace he was given, and pray that, weak as we are, we may be given it too, and may use it.

See the article in the Catholic Encyclopedia. <https://www.newadvent.org/cathen/11744a.htm>

Anti-Bullying Charter Mark

Congratulations to all Anti-bullying team members, all students and staff, parents, and carers. Their hard work secured the Platinum Charter Mark Award. It takes me back to 2013 when we got Gold Charter Mark for the first time. We knew the students and staff were passionate to promote good behaviour and a safe environment and wanted to have recognition for our efforts. Our passion and enthusiasm bonds us together and make our community stronger. Charter Mark is a working document that we refer to every day. The school's policies are supportive of outstanding behaviour and staff have a passionate approach in providing a safe environment for students to learn and holistically develop. We held community events; for example, we had Elderly parishioners' event at Christmas time which was a great success. We also enjoy attending Anti-bullying conferences organised by Dorothy Maddison from our Local Authority. We are very proud that those conferences are held in our school every year. We also attend Anti-bullying awards at Sunderland Council Chamber every year. We received awards presented by the Mayor in the past and delivered presentations about our work. This year we won the award for 'Links with the community'. Our students care for each other and want to attend our school where our Core Values of hard work, trust, and fairness help to inspire them to be best they can be.



Home Learning

What an amazing and inspiring launch week we have had for our Home Learning. Students and staff have been online from 8.50 in the morning starting their days with reflection, and have followed with a diet of English, Maths, Science, Languages, History and Geography. That's not to forget the PE sessions that have challenged us all! This is obviously a new system, but it has been inspirational to see the way that St Aidan's staff have transformed their classroom practice to online. Students have joined us in their droves. Thank you for all the positive comments from parents and students alike. We hope you find the lessons helpful and informative. They should make you think! In these difficult times, we will continue to offer the very best education to our students.



Opportunities to continue climbing our personal mountain.

Book Recommendations

Year 7 - The Secret Lake by Karen Inglis

It has been described as a modern Tom's Midnight Garden and the atmosphere compared to The Secret Garden. The adventure side is similar to the Enid Blyton mysteries.

Year 8 - The Explorer by Katherine Rundell

A thrilling story of adventure, friendship and survival in the Amazon.

Year 9 - The Teenage Defender by Emma Jayne Taylor

Kyle, a teenager, who is bullied and lacking self-confidence – finds a better way of life through the teachings of Zane, a Martial Arts instructor. Join Kyle on this adventure of twists, turns, action and mystery.

Year 10 - Half A World Away by Mike Gayle

This story is raw, beautiful and sad. It puts a lot of things into perspective and makes you think what is important in life.

Year 11 - They Both Die In The End by Adam Silvera

This takes place in an alternative futuristic fantasy world and reads like a thriller. You think you know what is going to happen but you don't.

