

# St. Aidan's Catholic Academy

Willowbank Road, Sunderland, SR2 7HJ

W: [contactus@staca.co.uk](mailto:contactus@staca.co.uk) T: 0191 5200333

Twitter: [St\\_Aidans\\_RC](https://twitter.com/St_Aidans_RC)



## Upcoming Events

### November 23

A reminder that the WB: 23rd November is our Y7 virtual Parent's Evening

Communication has already been sent out, if you still require clarification on this, please contact your son's Head of House.



Lord of all power, give me strength. As I feel tossed around by life's storms, may I know that you are my rock, the solid ground on which I can stand and catch my breath. You are my fortress, Lord. You protect me from harm. You are my deliverer, my shield and my stronghold. If you are for me, who can be against me? May I find my strength in you right now. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

To all in our community,

Reenergized and ready to go, our school has once again opened its doors and the students have returned with a keen sense of purpose. Impatient to continue with their own educational journey's, our lads have been giving their undivided attention to their studies and have been achieving great things in low stake quizzes and more formal assessed work. I am proud of them for many reasons, but the reliance they have shown this year makes me especially so. When I combine that with the amount of shoe boxes we have filled; the amount of food in our food bank and the volunteers lining up to help with these, I know that I am truly blessed to be Headteacher of St. Aidan's. On Wednesday we marked Remembrance Day and once again, the students did us proud. The respectful attitudes and the engagement with the challenging subject matter meant that every single student took a personal message away with them that day and will have a better understanding of his position in the world. As you may have seen in the media, Wales has decided not to run GCSE and A-Level exams this summer but replace them with internally taken, externally set assessments. As it stands at the moment, the government is saying that summer examinations will run for students in England, if this changes at any point I will of course contact all stakeholders as a matter of urgency.

Thank you for your continued support and God bless.

Glenn Sanderson

## Chaplaincy

We have already begun making Christmas hampers for members of our community who are struggling this year. You can donate food for hampers via the food bank. Ms Szczepanska will keep you posted of things we need via the school comms system.

Antibullying Week 16-20<sup>th</sup> of November. The theme is "United against bullying." Please watch out for information and advice on Twitter.

Sunday Mass. You are welcome to tune in to Fr Marc Lyden-Smith's Parish Page on Facebook. He streams Mass every Sunday.



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### Youth Fun Day

Please join in and celebrate

Youth Fun Day on Friday the 20<sup>th</sup> of November.

<https://nationalyouthsunday.com/nyfd/>

## Operation Christmas Child



We are delighted to announce that the school and the wider community managed to fill 59 shoeboxes and via parent pay we raised over £130 in donations.

It is an amazing effort for us all during this time of hardship. We are very proud of ourselves because our joint efforts have produced a hugely successful outcome and many young people across the world will have a moment of joy this Christmas in what has been a depressing year.

### Letters to Heroes

Check out Letter to Heroes PowerPoint in Teams. Get involved if you can.



We accept donations to our food bank every Friday morning. We have a box in the reception and at the back of school where you can place all food items.  
Thank you.

## Remembrance 2020

On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November, our community marked Remembrance Day. Even though this was done virtually, the emotional and powerful words of men such as Harry Patch and Siegfried Sassoon resonated throughout the building. The reaction of the students to their words and the importance of their stories was heart felt and many students have stopped me since to discuss the message they heard and how they have been affected by it. We ended our reflective session by standing, within our classrooms, to listen to the Last Post and observing a moment of silence. Let's we Forget.



*They shall not grow old,  
As we that are left grow old,  
Age shall not weary them,  
Nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun,  
And in the morning,  
We will remember them.*

## Y10 Revision Day

We understand the need, especially in these uncertain times, for students to be as fully prepared as possible for what might come their way. With this in mind, we designed a bespoke revision day for Y10 which ran on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November. From mind maps to active retrieval. Condensing of notes to organization of time. Five helpful sessions gave the students a good introduction to what is expected off them over the rest of their GCSE course. This culminated in a virtual parent's information session in the evening which was very well attended, where the staff reiterated the message to the parents to ensure that home-school partnership remains strong.



## Remote Learning and Engagement

Despite the challenging times we are facing at present, we strive to ensure that our students' education continues to be delivered to the highest standards. This week, in our Religious Education lessons we delivered numerous LIVE lessons, which presented the opportunity to our absent students to engage in live learning, acquire knowledge and skills they otherwise would miss out on, and feel a great sense of belonging despite being away from the classroom. Their engagement and effort really reflected the core values of hard work, trust and fairness we all practice here at St. Aidan's.



## Social Media

Despite the current situation it is amazing how much is going on in and around St Aidan's on a weekly basis. The best way to stay in touch with all these things is through our whole school accounts – see below.



@St\_Aidans\_RC



sacatholicacademy

However, each department also has a twitter account which gives subject specific advice and guidance as well as handy hints and interesting articles. On Twitter simply start you search with @SACA\_ and you should find all the departments listed.

On Instagram the handles are slightly different but based around the same basic formula using saca or staca. Please follow us and join the conversation.

Our CPD Virtual Room is up and Running. Staff can follow the link from their desktop - [CPD ROOM](#)

