

# St. Aidan's Catholic Academy

Willowbank Road, Sunderland, SR2 7HJ

W: contactus@staca.co.uk T: 0191 5200333

Twitter: St\_Aidans\_RC

Instagram: sacatholicacademy

To all in our community,

I arrive in school during these strange times unaware of what will land in my inbox by the time I leave in the evening. This uncertainty is not great for anyone, and although the Prime Minister mentioned some dates yesterday evening, I am sure that between now and the 8<sup>th</sup> March plenty will change. What has not changed however is the outstanding level of online provision my colleagues are delivering to all of our pupils. We still have a tremendously high uptake up by all year groups, and the feedback we have had from parents and the pupils themselves is fantastic. We, of course, are keen to constantly evolve and improve our provision so I would ask that parents and staff please complete the surveys which have been distributed, so that we can continue to give our pupils the best experience possible. My team and I are working hard to ensure we keep our community a breath of any governmental updates, especially those parents of pupils in examination years. Monday evening saw us come together, with lots of our community, to engage in a GCSE focused information evening so that everyone could understand the expectations both for the pupils and the school when it comes to assessing pupils at the end of the academic year. This will not be easy, but we always strive for the best possible outcomes for all of our pupils. We are grateful for the love and support you give them while they are studying at home and as they continue this part of their journey up their mountain. Take care, stay safe and God bless.

Glenn Sanderson



## Upcoming Events

**Monday, February 1, 2021**

Y10 Virtual Parent's Evening

**Monday, 08 February 2021**

Y8 Virtual Parent's Evening

**PLEASE NOTE: Online teaching will finish at 2:45pm on both these dates.**



Lord God of all creation,  
We are grateful for what you  
have given us.  
Help us to take what is given,  
and with patience and love,  
attempt to construct it  
according to your pattern.

Amen

## Chaplaincy

**Welcome FR EMMANUEL N. MBEH,**

**(Assistant priest, Our Lady of Mercy, Sunderland, from Cameroon, a Mill Hill Missionary, who studied and worked in Uganda, Kenya, South Africa and England)**

Hello everyone,

I am 46, the first of seven (one brother and five sisters) from St Gabriel's parish, Bafmeng in the North West/Anglophone Region of Cameroon. After my A Levels and a gap year, I joined the Mill Hill missionaries training program from 1997 to 2007, in Cameroon, Uganda, London and Kenya.

After my priestly Ordination in 2007, I was appointed to South Africa where I worked in the Diocese of Kroonstad for seven years in parish and youth ministry, visiting, praying, singing, teaching, accompanying and suffering with the people. My motivation from Scripture was always, *"you receive without charge, give without charge"* (Matthew 10:8). And *"you did not choose me, no, I chose you and I commission you to go out and bear fruit that will last."* (John 15:16).

I have been in the UK for the past seven years; after studying Human Development, Leadership and psychospiritual Growth Facilitation in Margate/Kent, I assisted in a retirement Home in Liverpool while doing Mission Appeals in various dioceses in the country.

I am passionate about working with other colleagues doing Mission Appeals, thanking and encouraging people in different parishes and dioceses to be missionaries with us through prayer, charity, voluntary services or making sacrifices and offering up their suffering, or in family and school context, that is, *Mission Together for children with children* (see our Missio/Redbox website).

I pray every day in gratitude for my life, and pray particularly for the sick, the poor, the dead, the underprivileged and those who suffer violence, hurt, diseases or lack of security or resources from my own home, family, village, country, continent and the world at large. I feel fulfilled praying for others' needs or helping them in any affordable means.

My role models who inspire me to listen to and learn from their life stories are: St Anthony of Padua, Francis Xavier, Padre Pio, John Paul II, Therese of the Child Jesus, Mother Teresa, Mother Angelica, Sr Bridge McKenna, Dr Scott Hahn, Bishop Robert Barron, Fr Len Kofler, Pope Francis, pope emeritus Benedict



---

### Dates for your Diary

This Sunday 31st of January is Racial Justice Sunday.

Please see this link for more information.

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/racial-justice-sunday-2021/>



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.

XVI and my late grandfather. They all shine like light whether painstakingly or enthusiastically, to make the world a better place by their lives, services and prayers, that is, the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

I love listening to all kinds of meaningful and melodious music like Congolese music, South African Music and religious music. I play drums, xylophones and a bit of the guitar; and love writing reflections or composing religious music, the fruit of my meditations.

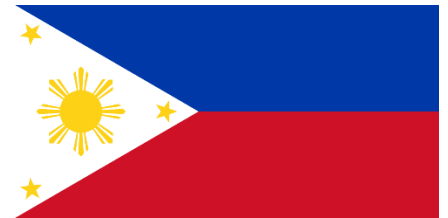
God bless you all.

### **Fundraising.**

We have created a section in parent pay to enable you to donate money to the Youth Team Ministry at Consett. It is under Youth Formation (YMT) heading. You can also visit the website and make donations directly to them. <http://www.ymt.org/>

We also raised money for Filipino community to support Victims of Typhoon Ulysses/Vamco . We feel very strongly about helping our brothers and sister suffering devastating effects of climate crisis. Here is a copy with their letter including Bank details if you wish to make donations.

'We, the Filipino Community in Sunderland, would like to ask for your support to help us reach our fellow countrymen in Philippines, who have been steadfast through experiencing five consecutive destructive Typhoons since the beginning of October 2020. Our hearts have been touched by how they have shown constant resilience through different calamities, including the recent eruption of Taal Volcano, the rampaging of Super Typhoon Goni last month, and the most recent Typhoon Vamco, which enkindled a desire for us to provide as much help as we can to those who have been left without a home, food, and clothing; especially those who have lost their loved ones, including the families of our Filipino friends and neighbours here in Sunderland and the whole United Kingdom.



Despite their strong will and optimism, which enabled them to survive these difficult times, it is apparent how they have been badly affected physically and financially, so, we have decided to undertake to gather as much help as we can through accepting both cash and/or in-kind donations (canned goods, toiletries, blankets, towels, and anything you can give will much appreciated.) We can collect donations from houses on Wearside and Tyneside, which can be left by the door. As for cash donations BACS contributions can be made through the following account;

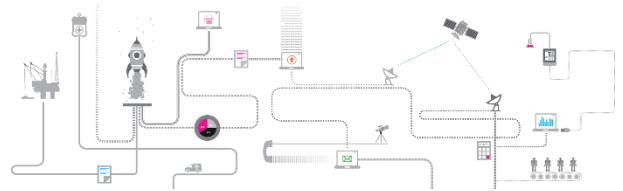
Mrs Jubilin Macalalad sort code 774042 acct 39464563 Lloyds bank

Thank you for your kind participation in this fruitful event.'

## Enrichment

### NISSAN Electric Vehicle Challenge

Nissan are setting a challenge for St Aidan's pupils to design an all-electric car that will use new technology to enhance and improve people's lives. You can present your design anyway you want – but alongside your design you need to write no more than 250 words explaining how your new vehicle meets the objectives.



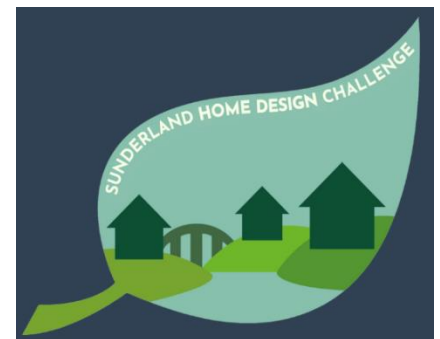
All entries will receive a certificate for entering. Prizes are on offer for the best entry in each year group in addition to an overall prize for best in school!

For more information around the objectives of this challenge, [click here](#). Entries should be sent to Mrs Osmialowski by no later than 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021: [emma.osmialowski@staca.co.uk](mailto:emma.osmialowski@staca.co.uk) Winners will be announced end of March 2021.

### Sunderland Home Design Challenge

Sunderland City Council, together with MOBIE and the Riverside Sunderland team are inviting the young people of Sunderland to collaborate with their households, families, relations and friends to design homes that could be built on the city's riverside.

We are all having to live much more of our lives at home than usual. We are sharing spaces of different sizes, layouts and styles and different facilities with our family groups, large or small, differing ages, genders and generations. What better time for you to think about the design of the future homes and community in Sunderland.



For more information about the site of the new houses and to get involved with this challenge, [click here](#).

### Edmund Rice Connecting Classrooms

This year we are looking for a group of pupils to take part in the Edmund Rice connecting classrooms project. This is a fantastic opportunity to work collaboratively with pupils from schools around the world in a fight against waste. To get involved with this exciting project, please speak to Mr. Stephenson or Mrs. Kilminster via TEAMS.



## Young Leaders Digital Summit - A summit that will blow your mind!

### (An opportunity for 14-18 year olds)

The mission is simple – to assemble the world's most creative and ambitious young minds to work together for sustainable global impact. We believe that building a community of Gen Z changemakers from diverse backgrounds is central to this.

Spread across three weekends (27-28 February, 6-7 March, 13-14 March), there will be a prestigious list of 90+ subject experts delivering talks around a theme of creativity, sustainability and the methods of innovative thinking. There will be 50 essential career mentors and tutors for you to discuss your options with.



Applications to be a part of this fantastic event, delivered to over 6000 pupils from 40 different countries, close on February 21<sup>st</sup> 2021.

For more information or to apply for your place, [click here](#).

## Mental and Physical Health

1st - 7th February 2021 is Children's Mental Health Awareness Week. Watch out for daily updates and advice on how to have a healthy mind.

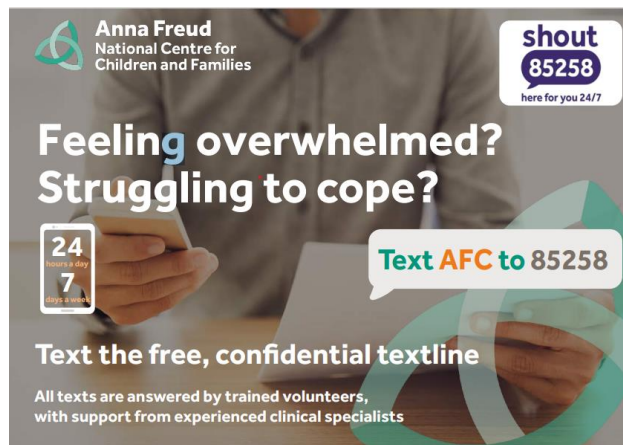
Keep up to date on County Lines through this leaflet shared from Northumbria Police.

[County-Lines-Parent-and-Carer-Leaflet.pdf \(staidanscatholicacademy.co.uk\)](#)



### Mental Health Support for all Educational Professionals

The AFC Crisis Messenger text service is a free, confidential, 24/7 text message support service for any education professional who is feeling overwhelmed or is struggling to cope. The service is staffed by trained volunteers who will work with you to take your next steps towards feeling better. We can help with issues such as anxiety, worry, panic attacks, bullying and depression and are here to talk at any time of the day or night.



## Careers

We also work closely with our Alumni to share their journey with all pupils and inspire them to reach the top of their mountain. We encourage Yr11 and Yr13 pupils to sign up to future first so that we can keep in touch. We would also love to hear from any parents that attended St Aidan's to let you know how you can give back to your school, as well as sharing news and updates, and hopefully you can return to share your story and inspire the younger generation! Please follow this link to sign up: <https://networks.futurefirst.org.uk/signup/staidans>

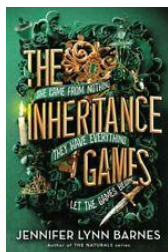


### Career Guidance Meetings - Year 11

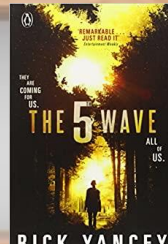
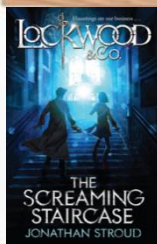
Careers Guidance meetings offer independent and impartial Career Guidance in preparation for your son's 'next steps'. Due to the current situation all career guidance meetings are now taking place via TEAMS. Pupils will be notified of their appointment time and date the day before their meeting. Staff and parents will also be notified the day before via email/text. Please follow us on twitter @SACA\_CareersEd and Instagram @staca\_careers for any information regarding open days and local vacancies.

## Book Recommendations

Y9/10



Y8



Y7

