

St. Aidan's Catholic Academy

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To all in our community,

After a school holiday I always feel a bounce in our community as both staff and pupils have been able to refresh and rejuvenate. However, this week I have had directives from Public Health England that we must reintroduce certain measures to help prevent the further spread of COVID-19. I thank you all for your understanding in this matter and trust you appreciate that this is not my decision, I am simply following the advice we receive from the scientists. What I am delighted with, although not surprised, is the mature way our pupils have responded to these new restrictions. This week we have had a visit from the BBC Bitesize Roadshow where all of our pupils took part in a presentation and had the chance to visit the 'Prevention Bus' which was parked on the main yard. I have said before, but it is worth reinforcing, at St Aidan's we passionately believe in educating the whole child. Events like this are critical to give our pupils a well rounded and balanced education so they can live their life to the full once they leave us. We have also been taking time out to evaluate some of our new initiatives. The one I am most proud of is our Reading Canon which has been a great success. Pupils have noticeably grown in confidence when reading aloud and this skill will stand all of them in good stead when it comes to accessing challenging texts in the coming years.

Take care, stay safe and God bless.

Glenn Sanderson



Upcoming Events

Tuesday, November 23, 2021

Y7 Parent's Evening

Tuesday, November 9, 2021

Y10 Revision Day followed by
Online Parental Meeting



Lord,

You are my pillar of strength and shield. You are also my Shepherd—the One who always guides me. Father, as we head out for the day today be with us, and guide our thoughts and actions. With Your help, good and new things will happen to us and any environment we might be in. Amen.

Chaplaincy

Gospel

Matthew 5:1-12a

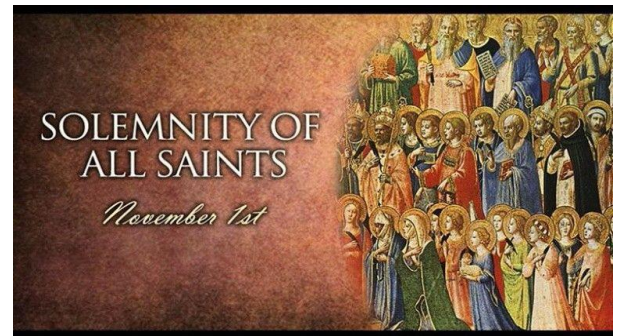
How happy are the poor in spirit. Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them: 'How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage. Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted. Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied.

Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them. Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God. Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God. Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

On the 1st of November we celebrate the Feast of All Saints. It has always been very special time of reflection and prayer for many people. The Sunday Gospel reading by St Matthew has made the day even more thought provoking.



All Saints is closely followed by All Souls Day on the 2nd of November. On that day we pray and remember all of our deceased students, staff, family members and friends.

**Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
Amen**



We are currently busy preparing for Christmas. Every year we join Connect Network and make food hampers for our families in need. We enjoy this time because you are generous with donations and we love sharing and spreading love through giving at Christmas time. We always feel so lucky and proud of our community efforts.



We are again collecting all festive treats that we know will be in short supply with many struggling families in our community. We welcome donations of Christmas cakes, puddings, biscuits, chocolates, selection boxes, crackers, ham as well as everyday food. Thank you very much to all of you and we will keep posting the fruits of our work on social media.



Duke of Edinburgh Award

A huge congratulations to the 15 year 11 students who completed their Bronze DofE expedition before half term. All worked incredibly hard in planning, training for and completing their two-day expedition. During which they walked over 40km, all while carrying their food, water, tents and sleeping bags on their backs. They cooked their own food, navigated themselves and were responsible for each other's safety; putting absolute faith and trust in one another. They have demonstrated the power of our core values and we are very proud of them.



Sporting Success

The 6th form football team beat St Roberts last night 3-1, to make it through to the 4th round of the FA National Cup. They are the only team left in the cup from the Northeast of England, and down to the final 64 schools in the country. This is an excellent achievement as they have beaten schools who train twice a week and employ football coaches.



Helping Stop the Spread

Lateral Flow Testing

It is important that pupils and staff continue to test every 2 - 3 days or at least twice per week to support identification of asymptomatic cases. Pupils who are part of the testing programme will be issued with more testing kits Week Beginning 1st November 2021.

If at any point a pupil shows signs of COVID they should stay at home and book a PCR test.

ONS - COVID Research

On Monday 1st November you received an email asking for your consent for your son to be part of the Governments ongoing research around COVID. If you consent, then your son would be asked to provide a saliva sample through a sponge swab from the gums three times over the next academic year. Parents and pupils will receive results.

For more information and to sign up please refer to your email. Deadline for signup is Monday 8th November 2021.



Careers

On Wednesday 20th October we welcomed a host of post 16 providers, employers and impartial organisations into St Aidan's for our first Yr11 careers fair. All pupils had the opportunity to share meaningful interactions with external providers, along with their form group. There was a real buzz in the upper room, it was fantastic to see pupils really coming into their own and showing ambition towards their future. We had everything from engineering to travel and further education to Oxford University. The feedback from providers was phenomenal, many have been in touch since the event to share their thanks and we have had pupils apply for placements that they didn't know existed until the careers fair!

For those that could not attend the event, I have shared information regarding open events and opportunities on the [careers section](#) of the academy website. I have also put together a reel of promotional videos from some of our providers that you can access. Hopefully this has given our pupils food for thought and a chance to encounter the range of opportunities that awaits them. If you would like any further information please get in touch with Mrs Osmialowski via email.



On Monday the 1st of November we welcome back the BBC bitesize tour to St Aidan's, the focus was on careers in **Innovation and STEAM**. There is an increasing skills gap appearing in the science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics sectors (STEAM), which is costing UK businesses an estimated £1.5 billion a year and thousands of jobs to fill. The aim of the Bitesize Schools Tour is to raise awareness of the opportunities available in these sectors to secondary pupils and give them practical advice on how they could pursue a career in this area. The session was presented by Nick Bright, BBC radio and television presenter and we were fortunate to have panellists from North East companies including,



Wordnerd, Power roll and the BBC to share information about their job roles, sectors and personal career journeys to help support our future workforce. For more information on careers and careers in STEAM head to the [BBC Bitesize careers website](#).



Career guidance meetings with year 11 are well underway. The meetings will continue into cycle 2 in preparation for your son's 'next steps'. Further information for parents can be found on the [careers page](#) of the academy website, along with information regarding [open events and opportunities](#). If you need any further information of advice please contact our careers lead, Mrs Osmialowski via email.

Community Work

Anna Freud - Parent Engagement Sessions

Are you struggling with your teenage son? Anna Freud can help with their programme of engagement sessions for Parents ranging from.... Check out our website to see how to sign up...



[Anna Freud Parent Sessions - St. Aidan's Catholic Academy St. Aidan's Catholic Academy \(staidanscatholicacademy.co.uk\)](#)

St Aidan's Parent Engagement Sessions - November 2021. We are proud to be launching a new programme of sessions for parents.

Take a look at what is on offer in November 2021. Due to the changes in place for visitors in school, sessions may need to take place outside, bring a coat to keep warm.



Parent Engagement Sessions November 2021



Date	Time	What's On?	More information	Venue
9 th November	5.30pm - 6.00pm	Year 10 Parent Information Session	Join Zoom for a short overview of your son's revision day. You will be updated on current plans for your son's GCSE journey.	Zoom. Link will be shared via email.
9 th November	9.15am - 10.30am	Laudato Si, Caring for our common home.	Group walk, where we can explore our role within creation.	Meet at Main School reception at 9.15am.
10 th November	5.00pm – 6.00pm	Parent and teacher book club	Join Miss Sansom to discuss sensitive issues in Literature with focus on <i>The Kite Runner</i> .	TEAMS. Please contact kayleigh.sansom@staca.co.uk
16 th November	10.00am - 10.45am	Anti Bullying Awareness	Come along to chat about what we have in place for Anti bullying over a cup of tea or coffee. We are interested in having parents work alongside our Anti Bullying Ambassadors.	Meet at Main School reception at 10.00am.
23 rd November	3.15pm - 6.15pm	Year 7 Parents Evening	An opportunity to speak with your son's subject teachers. A letter will be sent home with a link to a booking system. Five minute slots will be allocated.	TEAMS. Details to be sent to Year 7 parents
30 th November	2.00pm - 2.50pm	Mental health the Catholic way.	Opportunity to explore the positive impact our faith has upon our wellbeing.	Meet at Main School reception at 2.00pm.



Pastoral Instagram and Twitter

Our pastoral team have recently set up their own Instagram and Facebook pages. Give them a follow to keep up to date with everything pastoral!

Instagram - [staca_pastoral](#)

Twitter - [saca_pastoral](#)

Enrichment

		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
BEFORE SCHOOL		BREAKFAST Canteen	BREAKFAST Canteen	BREAKFAST Canteen	BREAKFAST Canteen	BREAKFAST Canteen
		READING CLUB Reading Room with Mrs (S) (E)	READING CLUB Reading Room with Mrs (S) (E)	READING CLUB Reading Room with Mrs (S) (E)	READING CLUB Reading Room with Mrs (S) (E)	READING CLUB Reading Room with Mrs (S) (E)
AFTER SCHOOL		HOMEWORK CLUB, Room 313, 314	HOMEWORK CLUB, Room 313, 314	HOMEWORK CLUB, Room 313, 314	HOMEWORK CLUB, Room 313, 314	HOMEWORK CLUB, Room 313, 314
		FOOTBALL (Yr 7) The Limes	WELLBEING/ENVIRONMENT Room 202	DRUM FUN Music Room	BOARD GAMES (Yr 7, 8, 9) Room 207	FOOTBALL SKILLS WITH M.O! (Yr 7) Sports Hall (£5 per session)
		INDOOR CRICKET Sports Hall	CHOIR Music Room	A DAY IN THE LIFE OF... Room 103	SKIING Skiing (£5 per session)	FISHING Roker (£5 per session)
		SCIENCE CLUB Room 221	FIRST LEGO Room 166	FOOTBALL (Yr 9) The Limes	FOOTBALL (Yr 10 & 11) The Limes	<p>Here at St. Aidan's Catholic Academy we believe in a curriculum that broadens the mind, enriches the community and advances the future of our students.</p> <p>Our enrichment programme is integral to this broad and rich curriculum.</p> <p>If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact:</p> <p>0191 520 0333 "Where excellence is habit."</p>
		FITNESS Gym	FILMS & THEIR BOOKS (Yr 7 & 8) Room 304	RUGBY The Limes	BASKETBALL Sports Hall	
		BOXING Sports Hall	ARCHAEOLOGY Room 110	BADMINTON (Yr 9, 10, 11) Sports Hall	FITNESS Gym	
			FOOTBALL (Yr 8) The Limes	FITNESS Gym		
			BADMINTON (Yr 7 & 8) Sports Hall	RUNNING Sports Hall		
			FITNESS Gym			