

St. Aidan's Catholic Academy

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Upcoming Events

Tuesday, January 18, 2022

Relationship and Sex Education
Parent Information Session
(online)

Tuesday, January 25, 2022

Y11 Parent's Evening (online)



Lord,

Inspire me to live in such a way that my choices each day and my commitment to live in a positive way may transform the negative into something positive, and the ordinariness of daily life into something extraordinary.

Amen.

A Happy New Year to all in our community!

I sincerely hope you had a peaceful Christmas. I certainly have returned to school with a renewed sense of purpose, determined to see each and every one of our young men reach the top of their own, individual mountains. Despite the unprecedented numbers of COVID cases since Christmas, I am delighted that none of our delivery to the pupils has been adversely affected and we continue to deliver the very best education that we can for all of our boys. We have received clarity from the DfE as to examination protocols for the summer examination series, and each subject knows what their specific changes are for this year. The political narrative seems to point towards examinations going ahead, but the science changes on almost a daily basis therefore the contingency examinations that Y11 are currently undertaking and class assessments for Y13 pupils, are still vital moving forward. In fact, across all year groups, our core value of Hard Work has never been more pertinent. Gaps in knowledge caused by COVID permeates each and every class in our school – but I am confident that our procedures are robust for helping pupils close these gaps. Excellence is a habit at St Aidan's – and I truly believe that our young men embrace this, sharing our vision and ethos, trusting that their journey with us will be a fruitful one.

Take care, stay safe and God bless.

Glenn Sanderson

Chaplaincy

With Christmas season over, we now entered the Ordinary Time. Ordinary Time refers to all of those parts of the Catholic Church's liturgical year that aren't included in the major seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. Sunday the 16th will be the second Sunday of the Ordinary time and the Gospel reading is as follows.



Sunday's Gospel

John 2:1-11

The Wedding at Cana

2 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ² Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³ When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴ And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." ⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." ⁶ Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷ Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸ He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. ⁹ When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom ¹⁰ and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." ¹¹ Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.



Christmas food hampers were huge success again this year. We made 55 hampers with your most generous donations of food and money. We raised £600. Thank you! We estimate every hamper costs at around £35 to make which means that the value of all the hampers was just under £2000. This is a huge achievement.

We also donated 100 selection boxes worth of £100 to St Mary's Parish for Christmas Lunch for people in need. We have also joined our efforts fundraising for Christmas gifts for children for Norah's North Pole. Thank you very much to all of you for your kind donations which made all these initiatives huge success.



Anti-Bullying

We would like to re-introduce you to our definition of bullying:

Bullying may be defined as the deliberate abuse of power by an individual or group intended to cause distress to another individual or group, whether adult or children. It may happen frequently or occasionally and can take many different forms:

Bullying can be:

- Emotional. Being unfriendly, excluding, and tormenting (e.g., hiding books, threatening gestures, damaging property, theft).
- Physical. Pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence.
- Racist. Racial taunts, graffiti, gestures.
- Sexual. Unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments.
- Homophobic. Because of, or focusing on the issue of sexuality.
- Verbal. Name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing.
- Cyber. All areas of the internet, such as email, social media platforms such as Facebook, internet chat room misuse.
- Mobile threats by text messaging & calls.
- Misuse of associated technology, i.e., camera & video facilities.
- Social/familial. Because of socio-economic background.
- Educational. Because of educational ability (G&T, SEN)



Since returning in January we have been, as usual, maintaining the highest expectations for the pupil's behaviour.

It is extremely important for every pupil at St Aidan's Academy to move around the school premises in an orderly manner. We expect every pupil to walk on the left side of the corridor and walk up and down the stairs sensibly.

Running, pushing and intimidation of other pupils are not acceptable and sit outside of our core values of hard work, trust and fairness.

We are very proud of all the pupils who already display outstanding behaviour in and around the school and encourage all parents and carers to continue having conversations in this matter at home.

Personal Development Education

Assemblies have focused on the 9 Protected Characteristics as set out in the Equality Act 2010. These assemblies link and support the teaching of PDE and have a direct connection with the new content being delivered.

Cycle 2 Spring term see's years 7,8,10 & 11 learning about Relationship, Sex and Health Education – resources are age appropriate using the faith-based resources provided by Ten:Ten.

Year 9 have completed their Drugs and Alcohol lessons and will begin discussing Careers education.

There is a Parents/Carers Information evening via TEAMS on Tuesday 18th January 2022 at 5.30pm where you can learn more about the teaching and resources used if you are interested or have any questions.

As a subject there are times when discussion can be sensitive, and pupils are encouraged to open up and ask questions. However, there may be times when a pupil does not wish to do so and at the end of each lesson there is a slide with links and phone numbers of organisations pupils may want to access, as well as a reminder of who they can speak to in school.

If you have any concerns please contact the Safeguarding team in school or wish to know more about the PDE curriculum contact Mrs. Kilminster – kerry.kilminster@staca.co.uk

Local MP – <https://members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP>

ChildLine: www.childline.org.uk Phone: 0800 1111

Young Minds: www.youngminds.org.uk

Samaritans: www.samaritans.org Phone: 116 123

MIND: www.mind.org.uk/ or Phone **0300 123 3393**

TALK TO FRANK [Honest information about drugs | FRANK \(talktofrank.com\)](http://Honest information about drugs | FRANK (talktofrank.com))

Careers

At the end of last year, we received the intent stage, working towards meeting the quality in careers standard incorporating the Gatsby Benchmarks with the Educational Development Trust. The National Award for Careers, Education, Information, Advice and Guidance provision. We will continue to work hard to complete the implementation part of the award this year, ensuring your son receives the best possible careers offer to meet their individual needs. Mrs Osmialowski, careers lead, can be contacted via email for any information, advice or guidance with careers. We also have a dedicated careers page on our [school website](#).



Work Experience

Yr10 work experience was launched in November in partnership with FutureMe. All pupils were given information on why work experience was beneficial to their personal development and career learning.

Top tips for finding a work experience placement:

- Log on to the work experience team on Microsoft teams
- Explore the recourses in the files section of the work experience team
- Use the templates to create emails to send to potential employers
- Use google to search for local companies in a sector that you have an interest in
- Contact the companies directly using the resources listed above
- Drop in to see Mrs Osmialowski at lunch time
- Send Mrs Osmialowski a message on teams to request support



Many pupils have worked pro-actively to find a placement that best suits their interests, however we do recognise that due to the ever-changing guidance relating to COVID-19 that this has been difficult for some. We have now extended the deadline to the **18th of February 2022**. Pupils will be given additional support to help secure their placement, however it is still very much expected that pupils work hard to find their own placements.

Year 11 Career Guidance

Year 11 1:1 career guidance meeting will recommence the week beginning the 17th of January 2022. Additional information to support pupils and parents around making informed post-16 decisions can be found on the careers section of our [website](#). Mrs Osmialowski has sent a letter to all Yr.11 parents and carers highlighting open events and vacancies available locally, a copy can also be found on the [careers section of the school website](#) and will be shared with all pupils via Microsoft TEAMS.

Jesus College Cambridge

This week selected pupils from Yr9 and Yr10 participated in an interactive guidance session with Jesus College Cambridge as part of their North East school tour. The aim of the session was to introduce pupils to university life, and to inspire our young men to strive for Russell Group universities, including Oxford and Cambridge. During the session we heard about the range of courses available, how learning is delivered at university, the societies and communities they could belong to and, amongst other things, tuition fees.



Pastoral

Safeguarding Update

Join us on Tuesday 5:30pm on the 18th January 2022 via Zoom to learn more about our Relationship and Sex Education Curriculum. It is now mandatory for schools to deliver RSE, - why not join us on zoom to see how we approach this with your son.

Topic: RSE Parent Session - Time: Jan 18, 2022 05:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84107149055>

Meeting ID: 841 0714 9055



Year 11 Parents Evening - 25th January 2022

Sign up as soon as possible. Our new school cloud system makes it easy to sign up for your son's parents evening. All you need is his name, your name and your email address! The system will do the rest for you. We look forward to seeing you all very soon.

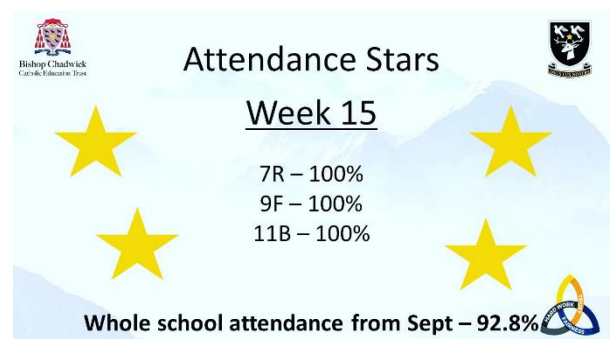


Year 10 Parents Evening - 31st January 2022

Parents can sign up from 4pm on Monday 17th January 2022. Sign up as soon as possible. Our new school cloud system makes it easy to sign up for your son's parents evening. All you need is his name, your name and your email address! The system will do the rest for you. We look forward to seeing you all soon.

Attendance

As a reminder to all parents, attendance at school is mandatory, your son should attend every day. Current COVID rules state that only pupils who are positive should isolate. If those under the age of 18 years and 6 months have been in close contact with a positive COVID case, they should continue to go about their daily activities but do an LFT test each day. From Monday, if positive, pupils must test on Day 5 and Day 6, if both LFT tests are negative they can return on Day 6. If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative



results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.

We work hard with pupils and families to ensure that attendance continues to be good. If your son's attendance does fall below what is expected he will be spoken to by a member of staff and parents contacted by letter in the first instance. Where pupil's attendance continues to be a concern a meeting will be arranged to discuss what support can be put in place.

If your son is ill and needs to be absent from school, please contact us on each day of his absence with an estimated date of his return. Leave a message on the absence line (Ext 222).

Information for ALL Parents

School will close to pupils at 1.50pm on the following dates to allow staff to conduct parents evening. No enrichment will run on these days.

Tuesday 25th January 2022

Monday 31st January 2022

Monday 8th February 2022

Face masks continue to be mandatory for all pupils unless exempt.

Don't Forget! - please sign your son's planner every weekend. Thank you.

Keep your child warm by sending him to school in an outdoor coat. Tracksuit and hooded tops are not acceptable, and pupils will be asked to remove these.

ONS - For those not signed up.

Please refer to an email sent you on 13th January 2022 for information on how to sign your son up to be involved in this national research.

Year 8 Mountain Visit - March 2022

A reminder to parents that our mountain visit is fast approaching. We would like all pupils to attend to live out our school analogy of climbing their very own mountain.

COVID vaccinations

The school-based immunisation team have been asked to offer the second dose for COVID in schools for all children aged 12-15 years; inclusive of all 12-year old's and 15-year old's who may have not had first dose or require a second. This requires a further consent form to be completed, this has been given to your son in school. If you would like your son to have his first or second dose, please return the consent form by Wednesday 19th January 2022. Unfortunately, late returns cannot be accepted.

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

Instagram - staca_pastoral

Twitter - saca_pastoral

Parent Information Sessions



Parent Engagement Sessions January 2022



Date	Time	What's On?	More information	Venue
11 th January	9.30am – 11.00am	Let's talk about mental health.	Group walk, where we talk about mental health and beyond.	Meet at Main School reception at 9.30am.
12 th January	5.00pm – 6.00pm	Parent and teacher book club	Join Miss Sansom to discuss sensitive issues in Literature Noughts and Crosses Malorie Blackman.	TEAMS. Please contact kayleigh.sansom@staca.co.uk
18 th January	5.30pm – 6.00pm	Relationship, Sex and Health Education.	Mrs Kilminster will give parents an overview of the RSHE curriculum.	Zoom. Link will be shared via email.
25 th January	2.15pm – 6.15pm	Year 11 Parents Evening	An opportunity to speak with your son's subject teachers. A letter will be sent home with a link to the School Cloud booking system.	Virtual – School Cloud System.
26 th January	2.00pm - 2.50pm	Reflections on the Eucharist.	Opportunity to discuss and deepen your understanding of the Eucharist	Zoom. Link will be shared via email.
31 st January	2.15pm – 6.15pm	Year 10 Parents Evening	An opportunity to speak with your son's subject teachers. A letter will be sent home with a link to the School Cloud booking system.	Virtual – School Cloud System.

We will also email opportunities for Parent and Carers to connect with Anna Freud Parenting Workshops. These start in January and run for 4 weeks.



Literacy

'A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies. The man who never reads lives only once' – George R. R Martin

Our focus on literacy continues unabated with our Reading Canon, Reading for pleasure and the launching of our online library. The latter allows for all generations to come together to share in the joy of reading aloud as a family or a wider group. Our belief in the power of the written word is infectious and our pupils have had their eyes opened to a plethora of literary texts throughout this year and we intend to further develop a deep love of reading in our pupils, staff and wider school community. For more information and to access the online library visit the link below.

[St Aidan's Bookshelf - St. Aidan's Catholic Academy St. Aidan's Catholic Academy \(staidanscatholicacademy.co.uk\)](http://staidanscatholicacademy.co.uk)

ENRICHMENT—CYCLE 2

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
BEFORE SCHOOL BREAK	BREAKFAST Canteen	BREAKFAST Canteen	BREAKFAST Canteen	BREAKFAST Canteen	BREAKFAST Canteen
	READING CLUB Reading Room with Mrs Naile	READING CLUB Reading Room with Mrs Naile	READING CLUB Reading Room with Mrs Naile	READING CLUB Reading Room with Mrs Naile	READING CLUB Reading Room with Mrs Naile
AFTER SCHOOL		CAREERS CHAMPIONS Room 103			
		SIGN LANGUAGE Room 108			
	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) Ashbrooke	WELLBEING/ENVIRONMENT Room 202	DRUM FUN Music Room	BOARD GAMES (Yr 7, 8, 9) Room 207	FOOTBALL SKILLS WITH MO! (Yr 7) Sports Hall (£5 per session)
	INDOOR CRICKET Sports Hall	CHOIR Music Room	A DAY IN THE LIFE OF... Room 103	SKIING Silksworth (£5 per session)	FISHING Roker (£5 per session)
	FITNESS (Year 7&8) Sports Hall	FIRST LEGO Room 166	FOOTBALL (Yr 9) Ashbrooke	BASKETBALL (7/8 week A; 9/10/11 week B) Sports Hall	RUGBY Ashbrooke
		ARCHAEOLOGY Room 110	BADMINTON (Yr 9, 10, 11) Sports Hall	FITNESS (Yr 9, 10 & 11) Gym	<p style="text-align: center;">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 style="text-align: center;">0191 520 0333 "Where excellence is habit."</p>
		FOOTBALL (Yr 8) Ashbrooke	FISHING Roker (£5 per session)	FOOTBALL (Yr 10/11) The Limes	
		BADMINTON (Yr 7 & 8) Sports Hall	FITNESS Gym	SCIENCE CLUB Room 221	
		Weight training (Year 9, 10 and 11) Gym	MUSIC (Yr 7) Upper room	FRIENDS GROUP Room 209	
		FILMS & THEIR BOOKS (Yr 7 & 8) Room 304			