

St. Aidan's Catholic Academy

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To all in our community,

It seems at the moment that we are constantly being overtaken by dynamic global events that test us every day. Speaking for myself, there have been times over the past few weeks where I wondered what was around the next corner – but I am lucky. Not only do I have my faith that sustains me and those closest to me, but the positive energy that has been coursing through our academy since the beginning of September has been a source of immense pride and comfort. We are now a month into the academic year and I have been delighted once again with how our pupils have responded to the daily challenge of being the best versions of themselves that they can be. From Y7, right through to Y13, I see young people eager, engaged and champing at the bit to experience everything St Aidan's has to offer. To this end, on Monday we rolled out our extensive Enrichment programme where, it is expected, all Y7 and Y8 students will partake in at least one weekly activity. Our focus has never simply been about results, although we are justifiably proud of those, we have always endeavoured to educate the whole child and opening up new and exciting opportunities for our young men is something we are passionate about. Similarly, next week our new Y7 pupils climb their first mountain, living and breathing our core values in a real-world scenario. I wish them all the luck in the world on their adventures and am sure they will come back full of stories but more importantly having a better understanding as to what it takes to surmount challenges and face obstacles that may seem daunting.

Take care and God bless.

Glenn Sanderson

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, October 18, 2022

Y10 Information Evening –
5:30pm

Tuesday, October 11, 2022

Y7 Parental Induction Evening –
Literacy and Numeracy – 5:30pm



Father,

I ask for your forgiveness for all the errors and wrongs I've made yesterday. All the negativity and doubts I've had. Lord, help my thoughts. May my tongue speak life, love and hope. Let my attitude reflect Christ in all I do today. In Jesus' name.

Amen

Chaplaincy

This Sunday Gospel is from Luke 17:5-10

The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith.' The Lord replied, 'Were your faith the size of a mustard seed you could say to this mulberry tree, "Be uprooted and planted in the sea," and it would obey you.

'Which of you, with a servant ploughing or minding sheep, would say to him when he returned from the fields, "Come and have your meal immediately"? Would he not be more likely to say, "Get my supper laid; make yourself tidy and wait on me while I eat and drink. You can eat and drink yourself afterwards"? Must he be grateful to the servant for doing what he was told? So with you: when you have done all you have been told to do, say, "We are merely servants: we have done no more than our duty."'"

The Gospel seems to be about faith and service. Jesus is the greatest example of service and also very thought provoking. Spend some time in prayer with this reading and allow the Holy Spirit to guide you.

St Mary's Church welcomes everyone to join them in 40 Hours of Devotion from 29th of September to 1st of October 2022.

This is a wonderful opportunity to spend time in prayer and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Please see the timetable below or use the link for the parish newsletter.



<https://d2y1pz2y630308.cloudfront.net/27947/bulletins/20220925.pdf>

TIMETABLE FOR THE 40 HOURS

Thursday, 29 September

8pm Opening Mass *with Canon Alec*

9.30pm Night Prayer *led by the University Chaplaincy*

Friday, 30 September

8am Morning Prayer *the Prayer of the Church*

9am Praying with our calling *led by Deacon Eddy Barker*

11am School Prayer *led by St Mary's Catholic Primary*

12.05pm 40 Hours Mass *led by Fr Christopher Hancock*

1pm School Prayer *led by St Aidan's Catholic Academy*

2pm School Prayer *led by St Anthony's Girls' Catholic Academy*

4pm Praying with our bereavement *led by Daniel Ackerley*

5pm Evening Prayer *the Prayer of the Church*

6pm Praying with Movement *led by Deacon Kevin Atkinson*

8pm Praying with our sickness *led by Linda Longstaff*

9.30pm Night Prayer *led by University Chaplaincy*

Saturday, 1 October

8am Morning Prayer *the Prayer of the Church*

10am Closing Mass *with Bishop Séamus*

We understand that members of our community also have needs during such harsh economic circumstances, which we aim to support you with. But we are always very grateful for all your help and support.

Our Food Bank is still going strong. We ask the boys to make donations on a Friday. The Food Bank door is open from 8am giving them the opportunity to put the food away by themselves.



Pastoral News

The last day at school this half term is Thursday 20th October. Friday 21st October is a staff training day. We return to school on Monday 31st October 2022

Save the date:

Year 10 Parents. We will be hosting an information evening for all year 10s and parents on Tuesday 18th October. 5.30pm start in the Main School.

Year 7 Parents. The second of our Induction evenings will be held on Tuesday 11th October 2022. 5.30pm start in the Main School. This will focus on Supporting your son in Literacy and Numeracy.



Parent Engagement Sessions October 2022



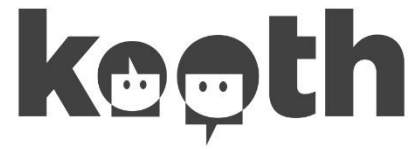
Date	Time	What's On?	More information	Venue
4 th October	9.15am - 10.30am	Walk and Talk	Enjoying nature in the footsteps of Francis of Assisi.	Meet at Main School reception at 9.15am
10 th October	2.00pm – 2.45pm	The Rosary	Rosary time in the chapel.	Meet at Main School reception at 2.00pm
11 th October	5.30pm – 6.15pm	Year 7 Information Evening.	Find out more about supporting your son in Maths and English.	Main school
18 th October	5.30pm – 6.15pm	Year 11 Information evening.	Find out what your son has covered in his revision session today. Top tips for parents to support the GCSE journey.	Main school.

A reminder that school is closed on Friday 21st October 2022 as this is a staff training day. School will reopen on Monday 31st October 2022.



Safeguarding

Kooth visited school on Thursday 29th September to speak to Year 7, 8 and 11 about Mental Wellbeing. Pupils were given top tips about keeping themselves well and were signposted to a range of Kooth resources for if the ever-needed support. For more information you can visit their website: [Home - Kooth](#)



If you are concerned about your son's mental health and wellbeing we have a range of strategies that we can access to support. Please contact your sons Head of House if you need to discuss anything.

Ashbrooke House – Miss Land – kland@staca.co.uk – Ext: 201
Corby House – Mr Gray – agray@staca.co.uk – Ext: 223
Brookfield House – Mrs Halliday – mhalliday@staca.co.uk - Ext: 216

Attendance

Attendance has improved in the last week and our whole school overall is currently at 95% since September, whilst this is an improving trend this is not good enough and our aim is for 97% attendance. Pupils were reminded of the importance of attendance and punctuality in our assemblies this week which were led by our attendance officer Mr Hodgson.

A reminder that if your child is absent you must contact

school and give a reason for absence, this must be repeated for every day your child is absent. A reminder also, that where possible, medical or dental appointments should be arranged for after school.



Attendance Stars

Week 3 – WB 19th September 22

8F – 100%

Weeks attendance – 95.4%

Whole school attendance from Sept – 95.0%



As well as our attendance assemblies our pupils were also given an informative talk from our careers leader around what we offer in St Aidan's to support our pupils to fulfil their potential and climb their careers mountains.



Macmillan Coffee morning success

A big thank you to everyone who supported our Macmillan coffee morning. It was a fantastic success and was very well attended. This success is down to the support the different members of our community have given to this fantastic cause. Final fundraising totals to be confirmed.



PDE

Personal Development Education is taught fortnightly to all pupils. This is a non-academic subject which covers topics from Citizenship Education, Relationship, Sex and Health Education as well as Careers Education.

This term year 7 will be learning about careers. In these lessons the pupils have been given an opportunity to reflect on their strengths and to think about their future journey.

Year 8 are learning about physical well-being and year 9 are continuing learning about emotional, mental health and well-being.

Year 10 and 11 continue to prepare for their next step of their journey with Careers education lessons. They are using the Unifrog platform to research career opportunities and what the next step will involve. This is accessible at home should the pupils wish to do some extra research.

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 Safeguarding team in school or wish to know more about the PDE curriculum contact Mrs. Kilminster – kkilminster@staca.co.uk

Useful links shared with pupils

Careers: speak to Mrs. Osmialowski

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 \(talktofrank.com\)](https://www.talktofrank.com)

Community News

Community Allotment

We are pleased to announce that we now have had two large polytunnels installed on site. This means that we can begin growing more produce. With the current economic climate, we are striving to support as many families as possible who might be experiencing difficulties because of rise in cost of living. We will also continue to support St. Mary's Open House. Our Well-Being Group are working really hard to prepare raised beds and planters and will be making a compost bin from left over fencing.

Pupil Achievement

We are proud to announce that our last year's Head Boy, Callum, St. Aidan's Well-Being Goup, and St. Aidan's Stewards have all been nominated for Sunderland Young Achievers Award 2022 for their outstanding contribution to the community and promoting environmentalism. They will be attending the Stadium of Light on Friday 30th September where they will be informed if they were successful in achieving the award. We are incredibly proud of their nominations and that their hard work has been recognised.

Duke of Edinburgh

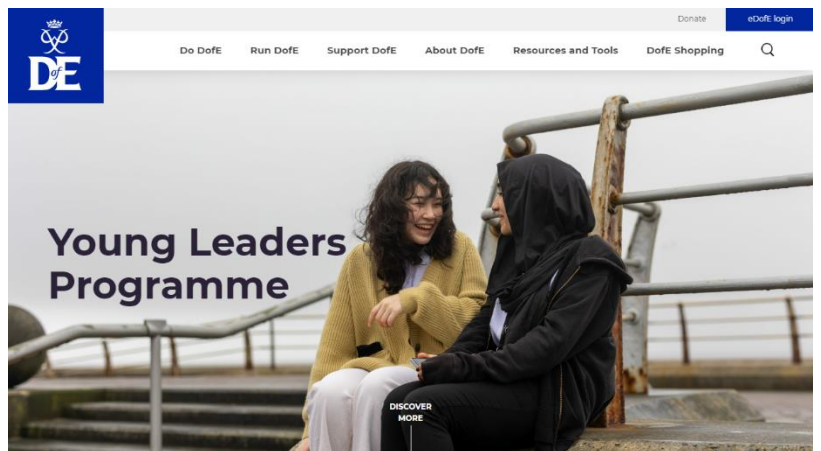
We will shortly be launching this year's DofE award to all students in Years 9 and 10. The Award is a fantastic opportunity to have new experiences, boost life skills and employability and celebrate life to the full. Last year we had a record number of students taking part with over 100 participants signing up. We hope to see many year 9 and 10 students taking up the opportunity this year.

If you're interested in finding out more about the Award, please head to: www.dofe.org/do or email dofe@staca.co.uk.

DofE Young Leaders Programme

We're especially excited to announce that we have been selected to take part in a national trial of a new opportunity which is designed to support young people's development into leadership roles, developing additional skills for work and life. The DofE Young Leaders programme is open to past or present DofE participants but space is limited to

only two young people from our school. Any student who is interested in talking part should send an email to dofe@staca.co.uk. Your email should contain your name, year group and the reason you would like to be a Young Leader, you will then be contacted with more information about the role. We are looking for a kind, hardworking and dedicated young man and, as a Young Leader, students will work alongside staff to assist with the delivery of the Award. This opportunity will also count towards student's DofE volunteering



Careers

Career Guidance Meetings

Career Guidance meetings have now commenced with Mrs Osmialowski, for all year 11 pupils. This is an opportunity for pupils to meet with a qualified guidance advisor to explore their next steps and receive impartial advice, information and guidance. A letter has been emailed to all parents this week that can be viewed on the parents section on the careers page of the school website <https://www.staidancatholicacademy.co.uk/our-school/careers-education/information-for-parents/>. Additional information booklets and links can be found here to help support and guide your son with making choices.

Read more about your sons post 16 choices [here](#) or watch this [video](#) that explains the range of post 16 pathways available to our young men.

Careers Fair - Save the date

We are holding a **careers fair** in school on the **19th October 2021** for all Yr11 and Yr13 pupils. They will have the opportunity to meet with a range of education providers and employers.

Any businesses wishing to attend the careers fair and share valuable information with our pupils can contact Mrs Osmialowski, Careers Leader.

Further information will be shared in due course.

Work Experience – Save the date

Yr10 work experience 10th – 14th July 2023

Yr12 work experience 17th – 21st July

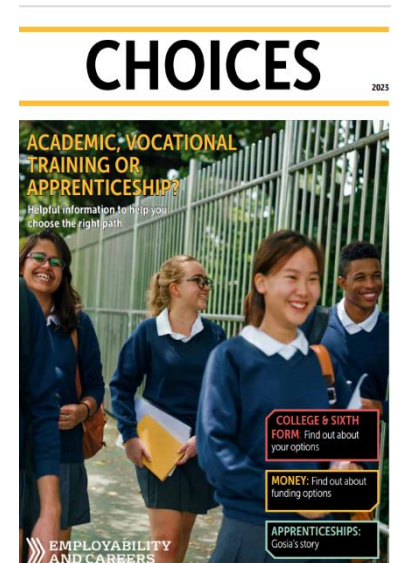
Yr10 will be introduced to their work experience opportunity over the coming weeks in their PDE/Careers lessons. Additional correspondence will be sent to Yr10 parents/carers in due course.

Any businesses wishing to willing to host pupils for one week of work experience can contact Mrs Osmialowski, Careers Leader.

Unifrog

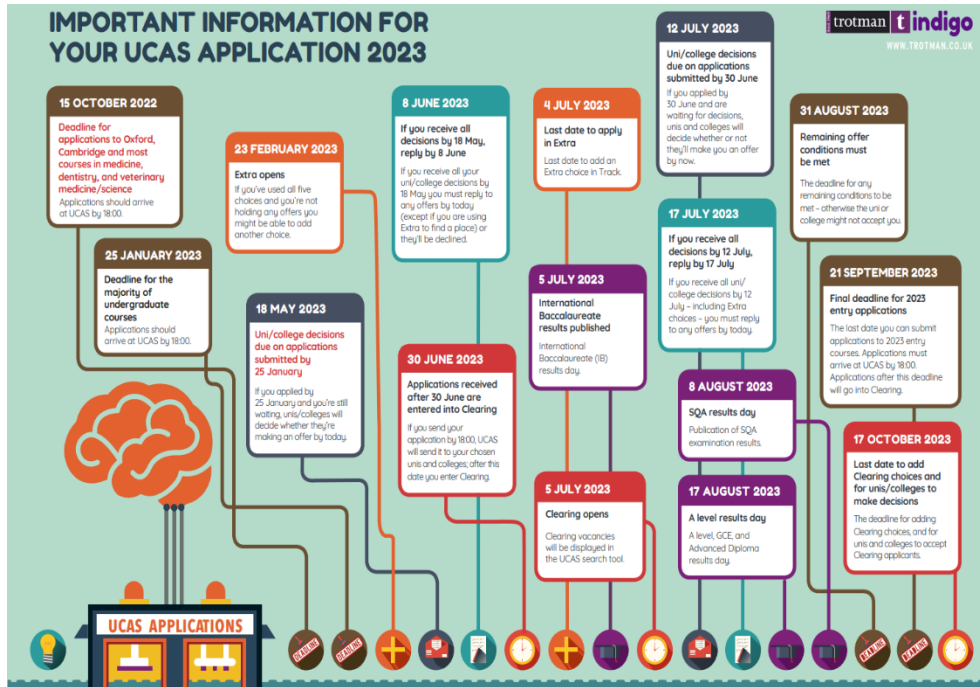
In keeping with our commitment to provide pupils with outstanding careers guidance and tailored support when choosing their next step after school, we will now be using Unifrog; an award-winning, online careers platform. All students in Years 11 and 10 now have access to this excellent website. They will be introduced to the platform during their PDE/Careers lessons over the coming weeks.

The Unifrog platform is designed to support learners in making the most informed decisions about their futures and has a range of tools that are suitable for all year groups. Each pupil has their own personal account that provides a wide range of information related to their interests and aspirations.



We have also set up a parent login so that you can use Unifrog as if you were a pupil yourself, allowing you to support your child throughout the process. The sign-up code you need is: **STAIParents** and you can sign up here: www.unifrog.org/code A letter has been sent home to all Yr11 & Yr10 parents/carers.

UCAS Applications



House Assembly

This week Ashbrooke, Brookfield and Corby were introduced to this year's careers programme. It is an exciting part of what the academy offers for all our pupils. We work with pupils from Yr7 to Yr11 or Yr13, depending on their leaving age. During the assembly we focused on taking opportunities and creating the best version of themselves so that everyone is fully prepared to make informed choices at key transition stages and moving onto post 16 and post 18 pathways. We also looked at Labour Market Information (LMI); there is a wealth of opportunity and investment both in Sunderland and the North East. To find out more about the careers programme and LMI visit the [careers page](#) of our website.

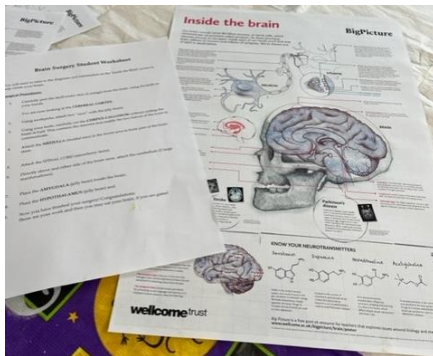
'STEM celebration day'

This week 30 of our Yr.10 pupils attended the STEM celebration day at Sunderland College. It was a jammed packed afternoon full of fun, inspirational and educational activities around the world of STEM. Pupils enjoyed a theatre style science show with Big Science before heading off to different STEM areas



around the college to engage in some interactive workshops, including Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Sport Science.

Links to career information and advice for both parents/carers and pupils can be found on our school website. Please follow us on twitter to follow our careers journey! @SACA_CareersEd



Music

What a fantastic uptake we've had for instrumental lessons! Over 50 students already playing and practising. One of students already performed on the school yard at the end of the minutes silence for HRH Queen Elizabeth II.

We've also began our enrichment programme of: St Aidan's Singers on a Tuesday after school in the Chapel. We have already received some dates for singing in other schools so come along and join in; Drum Fun is growing in size and is on a Wednesday in the music department.

Alongside our outstanding musical curriculum, we provide opportunities for students to further experience music through instrument studies. We have a hugely experienced and talented team of dedicated instrument teachers covering all instruments. Students can take lessons in:



Brass

Bass

Guitar

Piano

Drums

Woodwind

Singing

Violin

Cello

All lessons are now after school between 3-6pm. If you wish your child to sign up to/continue instrument lessons please email me at musiclessons@staca.co.uk stating your son's name, form and desired instrument. For further information please see our [Instrumental Music Policy here.](#)

Our "Live Music Friday" breaktime slots starting up again. If you want to have a go, it is an excellent opportunity to practise your live performing skills in front of a low pressure and friendly audience.

Enrichment

Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award (iDEA) - Bronze and Silver award

Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award (iDEA) is an international programme that helps learners develop their digital, enterprise and employability skills. During IT & Computing lessons where students completed a series of **online challenges** to win **career-enhancing** badges, unlock new opportunities and gain industry recognised awards.

The iDEA curriculum helps to inspire students to become Digital Citizens, Workers, Makers, Entrepreneurs and Gamers to enhance their employability; and to help them become economically active. iDEA is a blended learning approach that aspires to be a digital and enterprise equivalent of The Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Students take on a series of challenges that earn them points which aggregate towards their Bronze, Silver or Gold Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award. Students will earn various badges in the different learning categories (Citizen, Worker, Maker, covering topics as diverse as cybersecurity, cloud computing and e-safety; and animation, growth hacking, programming, customer relationship management and web development.

If this is something you are interested in see Miss Cain after school 2.50pm on a Monday night Room 312.

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
BEFORE SCHOOL	BREAKFAST Canteen	BREAKFAST Canteen	BREAKFAST Canteen	BREAKFAST Canteen	BREAKFAST Canteen
	READING CLUB Reading Room with Mrs Nalle	READING CLUB Reading Room with Mrs Nalle	READING CLUB Reading Room with Mrs Nalle	READING CLUB Reading Room with Mrs Nalle	READING CLUB Reading Room with Mrs Nalle
	MATHS CHALLENGE 206 with Mr Smith	WELLBEING GROUP 202 with R.E Department	ENTERPRISE CLUB 211 with Mrs Duxberry & Dimmick	SCIENCE CLUB with Mr Wallace	BTEC MUSIC Music Room with Mr Payne
	YEAR 11 FURTHER MATHS 210 with Mrs Hudson	ST AIDAN'S SINGERS Music Room with Mr Payne	DRUM FUN Music Room with Mr Wallace	HOMEWORK CLUB Room 313, 314	HOMEWORK CLUB Room 313, 314
	YEAR 7&8 SPACE & BEYOND Science Lab with Mrs Hutchinson	YEAR 7,8&9 CREST—SCIENCE With Mr Hamilton	YEAR 10 & 11 CREST—SCIENCE With Mr Hamilton	FITNESS School Gym with Mr Watts	FISHING Offsite with Mr Moon
	TASTE OF INDIA—COOKERY CLASS With Miss Thomas	1st LEGO LEAGUE - SUPER POWER 165 with Mrs Nipper	BADMINTON Sports Hall with a Coach	BASKETBALL Sports Hall with Mr Adey	YEAR 7&8 FOOTBALL Sports Hall with Mo
	GCSE SPANISH CLUB With Mr Jones & Miss Land	LEGO FUN CLUB 166 with Mrs Whitten	YEAR 10 & 11 FOOTBALL Limes with Mr Watts		
	HOMEWORK CLUB, Room 313, 314	10X CHALLENGE 201 with Mrs Osmialowski	FITNESS School Gym with Mr Flounders		
	INDOOR CRICKET Sports Hall with Mr Hutton	DEBATE SOCIETY Upper Room with Mr Morris/Nunn	YEAR 7 FOOTBALL Limes with Mr Gray		
	YEAR 8 FOOTBALL Limes with Mr Flounders	ARCHAEOLOGY CLUB 110 with Mrs Jopling/ Miss Dawson	TABLE TENNIS Sports Mobile with Mr Adey		
AFTER SCHOOL	FITNESS CLUB, Gym with Mr Flounders	SPANISH CLUB With Mr Jones & Mr Cuevas			
	BRONNZE IDEA Award DIGITAL ENTERPRISE (ICT) 311 with Miss Cain	YEAR 7&8 FOOTBALL Sports Hall with Mo			
		RUGBY TRAINING, ASHBROOKE CC The Limes with Mr Adey			

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.

Our enrichment programme is integral to this broad and rich curriculum.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact:

0191 520 0333

