

St. Aidan's Catholic Academy

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Instagram: [sacatholicacademy](#)

To all in our community,

Soon, the second planned round of mock exams will begin and the diligence and positive mental attitude of our young people does them immense credit. I wish them all the luck in the world. This week we have been exploring the variety of apprenticeships which are open to our young people post-16. As a school, we have always committed ourselves to ensuring our pupils gain access to higher education, a high-quality apprenticeship or a fulfilling career. The opportunities that have been laid before the pupils this week has given lots of them food for thought. In a similar vein, we had a very successful 6th Form Open Evening this week where, alongside St Anthony's, we showcased the vast array of courses we offer and explained how our dual school approach gives our pupils a unique and fulfilling experience throughout their post-16 studies. Earlier in the week, the government published the validated data of all schools across the country from the 2022 exam series. Our progress 8 score is +0.45 which compares very favourably to the city-wide average which is -0.44. In reality this means that, on average, pupils at our school make about one whole grade's more progress than other pupils across the city. I am immensely proud that the young men who come through our doors at the start of their journey, leave with outcomes which allow an almost limitless choice of post-16 choices allowing them to start climbing their next mountain whatever that may be.

Take care and God bless

Glenn Sanderson



Upcoming Events

Monday, February 27, 2023

Y9 Parent's Evening



Lord God, you are my strength.

Hold my hand in my weakness and teach my heart to fly. With you, there's nothing to fear, nothing to worry about.

Hold me tight in your embrace, so that I can be stronger than the challenges in my life.

Amen.

Chaplaincy

Sunday the 12th February, is the sixth Sunday of Ordinary time in Church's liturgical calendar. We will read the Gospel below during the Sunday Mass.

Matthew 5:17-37

New Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition

The Law and the Prophets

¹⁷ "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Concerning Anger

²¹ "You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not murder'; and 'whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.' ²² But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³ So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵ Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. ²⁶ Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

Concerning Adultery

²⁷ "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' ²⁸ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

Concerning Divorce

³¹ "It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' ³² But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Concerning Oaths

³³ "Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.' ³⁴ But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵ or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶ And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷ Let your word be 'Yes, Yes' or 'No, No'; anything more than this comes from the evil one.

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

Save the date:

Monday 27th February 2023 - Year 9 Parents' Evening. A reminder that this date has been changed from 28th February 2023.

Advance notice of early finish to the school day.

School will close at 1.50pm on the following dates to allow staff to attend Parents Evenings. No enrichment will take place on these dates. Music lessons will still go ahead.

Tuesday 27th February 2023

Safer Internet Day - 7th February 2023

This year's theme is '**Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online**'.

We will be spending time in school early next week with all pupils exploring their online use. Online safety is something that we take very seriously, it is embedded within our personal development curriculum throughout all year groups. Please take some time to explore the parent and carers resources: [Parents and carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

The resources will give you helpful advice and guidance on conversation starters, dealing with difficult topics and useful links to support you if your son has an issue online.

Attendance

While we place great importance on the health and wellbeing of all of our pupils we also need to, where possible, minimise absence to ensure pupils are provided with a first-class education.

The importance of school attendance cannot be overstated – a pupil with attendance of below 91% is statistically likely to drop on average one GCSE grade per subject. If your attendance is between 96% and 100% you are twice as likely to achieve 5 or more GCSE at Grade 5 and above.

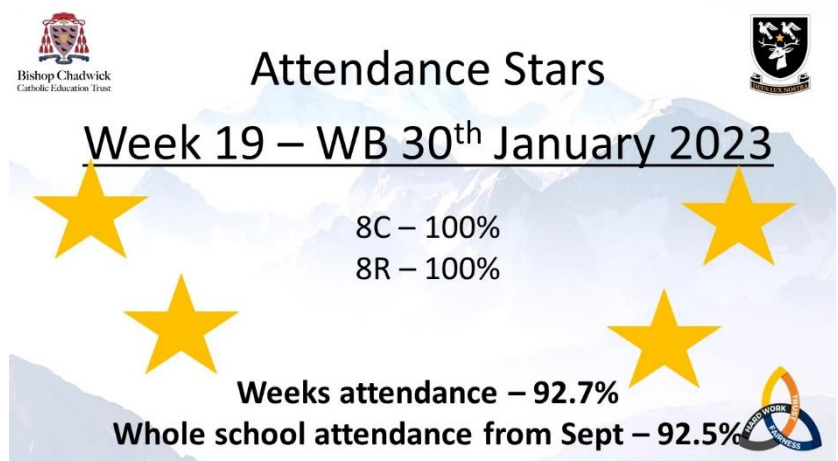
The statistics above provide stark evidence as to why we set all of our pupils an attendance target of 97%, as we know this provides them with the greatest possible chance to achieve their best possible outcomes; this is a habit born in lower year groups and embedded in the culture and ethos of our school.

Uniform

As the cost-of-living crisis starts to have more of an impact within our community, we would like all parents to be aware that we have good stock of nearly new uniform. You can access this by popping into reception or by contacting your son's Head of House.

School lunch accounts

Please make sure that your son has enough money on his account to pay for any food he would like to buy from our canteen. We have some pupils who are in debit, if this is the case you will be



contacted. If you believe your son may be eligible for free school meals you can check your eligibility here [Citizen Portal - Sign in \(sunderland.gov.uk\)](http://Citizen Portal - Sign in (sunderland.gov.uk))



Parent Engagement Sessions – February 2023



Date	Time	What's On?	More information	Venue
6 th February	9.30am – 10.00am	Anti-bullying drop in.	You are welcome to come and ask any questions that you may have.	Main School
7 th February	2.15pm – 6.15pm	Year 8 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.
27 th February	9.20am – 2.45pm	Lets talk about Lent	Spend time with our school Chaplain talking about Lent.	Main school.
27 th February	2.15pm – 6.15pm	Year 9 Parents' Evening (note change of date from 28 th February)	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.

School will break up for half term on Friday 17th February 2023 and return on Monday 27th February.

A reminder that all pupils finish at 1.50pm on Tuesday 7th February and Monday 27th February to facilitate our Year 8 and year 9 Parents' Evening.



Extra money for your child's school...



29.1% pupils in the North East qualify for free school meals (DfE, 2021/22).

Across England and Wales, children can receive free lunches if they are in reception to Year 2 and also if their parents or guardians meet certain criteria (see list below).

It is really important that you register for Free School Meals if you are entitled as the school receives an additional grant payment from government which makes a big difference to the school, providing additional funding to help support the children's education. If you are registered you may also be able to access school holiday meal vouchers.

To apply contact your council: www.durham.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals, www.togetherforchildren.org.uk/free-school-meals (Sunderland), <https://bit.ly/3NtgBtzSouthTynesideFreeSchoolMeals>

- Income support
- Income-based jobseeker's allowance
- State pension guarantee credit
- Income-related employment and support allowance
- Child tax credit, as long as they don't also receive working tax credit and earn no more than £16,190 (£16,105 in Scotland)
- Working tax credit four week 'run-on' after stopping work
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Universal credit, if someone applied since April 2018 and their income is less than £7,400 a year after tax and not including benefits. (This threshold is different in Scotland and Northern Ireland.) If someone applied for UC before then, there is no income threshold
- Children who receive any of these benefits themselves are also eligible for free school meals.

Contextualised Safeguarding

St Aidan's are in close proximity to the coast and the River Wear. Our pupils' demographic results in many travelling on public transport including buses and metros. Our pupils are well connected to the internet at home and regularly use gaming devices to engage in online games with their friends.

Knife crime in the North East is on the up and is an emerging concern. To support our pupils with our local concerns we embed education around it through our Personal Development offer. This may be in PDE, assembly or within curriculum areas.

Water Safety - The RNLI joined us earlier in the academic year to discuss with all pupils the dangers of water, identifying those dangers and supporting yourself and others in the water.

Rail Safety - Pupils in Year 7 - 11 received information about the dangers of the railway and metro system on 9th February 2023.

Knife Crime Awareness - The Connor Brown Trust visited school on 20th January 2023 to spend time with our Year 8 – 11's raising awareness of the topic.

Road Safety - We are lucky to have a visit after Easter to educate all pupils on travelling safely on the roads.

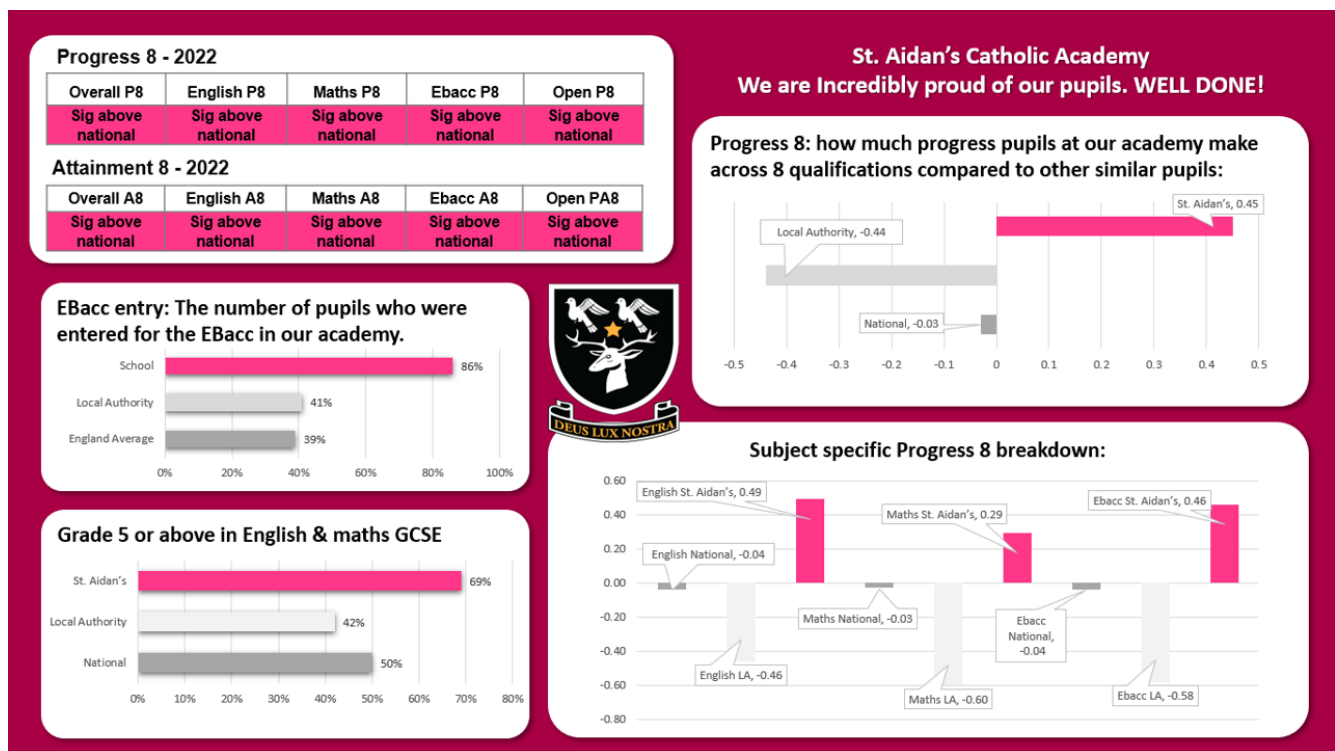
Our pastoral team can be connected on the following emails.

Ashbrooke House – Mrs McKenna – kmckenna@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

Our School – The Hard Facts



Community News

We are very grateful to Deborah who came from Nexus to speak to our young men about rail safety. The content was very powerful and Deborah's advice about how to stay safe around the railway was invaluable.



The World Education Summit

Welcome to the World Education Summit 2023

The best headliners, leaders and practitioners from across the world.

"Through the World Education Summit and Summit Central, you have the power to create sustainable and impactful improvements in your school."

World Headliners The most famous and published world academics hit the headliner stage.	Global Amphitheatre Amplifying educational voice on this global stage, hear from thought leaders and gurus.
Paradigm Shifters Great thinkers who have approached education differently, leading to innovation and improvement.	Brave Leaders Passionate leaders who have taken risks, embraced change and made a difference in our schools.
Cool Schools Schools and practitioners from around the world, showcasing insights, impact and learning.	Passionate Practitioners High-impact strategies and stories from around the world – translated straight to your classrooms.
The Training Stage Practical training sessions for leaders and teachers – from the best in their field.	The Legacy Stage Energetic themed days featuring "Elephants in the School Room" and "Standing on the Shoulder of Giants".

Highly suitable for all phases of education:
✓ System Leaders ✓ School Leaders ✓ Teachers ✓ Administrators

WorldEdSummit.com #WorldEdSummit

Cool Schools

- Green School**
How to Thrive with Purpose
- Agora Lledó International School**
Inquiry through Self-Organized Learning
- St Aidan's Catholic Academy**
Curriculum Design and Continuity
- Thomas's Putney Vale**
Teach Like a Champion vs Enquiry Approach
- Dixons City Academy**
Practice makes Permanent: Leading deliberate practice in your schools
- Sherborne Area Schools Trust**
The Future Classroom
- Lyons Hall Primary School**
Visible Learning in the Early Years

Meet our Team

The staff team at St Aidan's all have one collective goal and that is to ensure that every young person summits their own personal mountain. We firmly believe that every member of our team is vital in making this happen. Nowhere is this more explicit than in the revolution we have seen in our literacy and reading programmes. Our core success is built on a firm and research driven belief that when pupils can access complex and challenging texts, they are much more able to cope with the rigorous demands of examinations and achieve their full potential. Emma Naile has been at the forefront of this literary revolution. From running our extensive library space, she has been a tremendous influence in embedding a love of all types of literature into our young men. This professional relationship has been further developed by Emma taking a leading role in our innovative literacy intervention programme. The role she plays at St Aidan's cannot be overstated. She is the epitome of what we stand for. She facilitates the pupils' immersion in the joy of the written word. A joy which will stay with them throughout their adult lives.



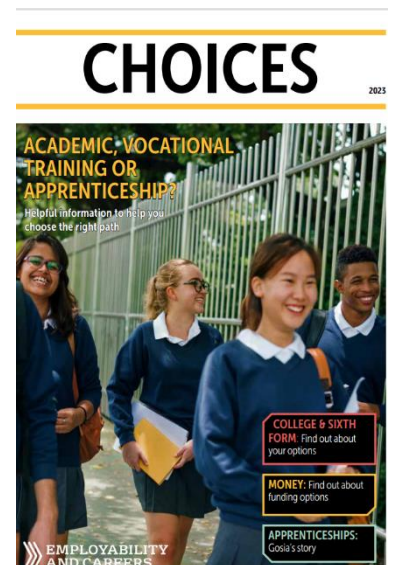
Careers

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.staidanscatholicacademy.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 son's post 16 choices [here](#) or watch this [video](#) that explains the range of post-16 pathways available to our young men.



Work Experience

Work experience has now been launched with Yr10 pupils. All pupils are expected to source their own placement and complete the placement tool form on Unifrog before the 17th of February 2023. Pupils have access to the work experience team where they can find templates and information to support them in finding their placement.

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 logo is displayed in a large, green, lowercase sans-serif font.

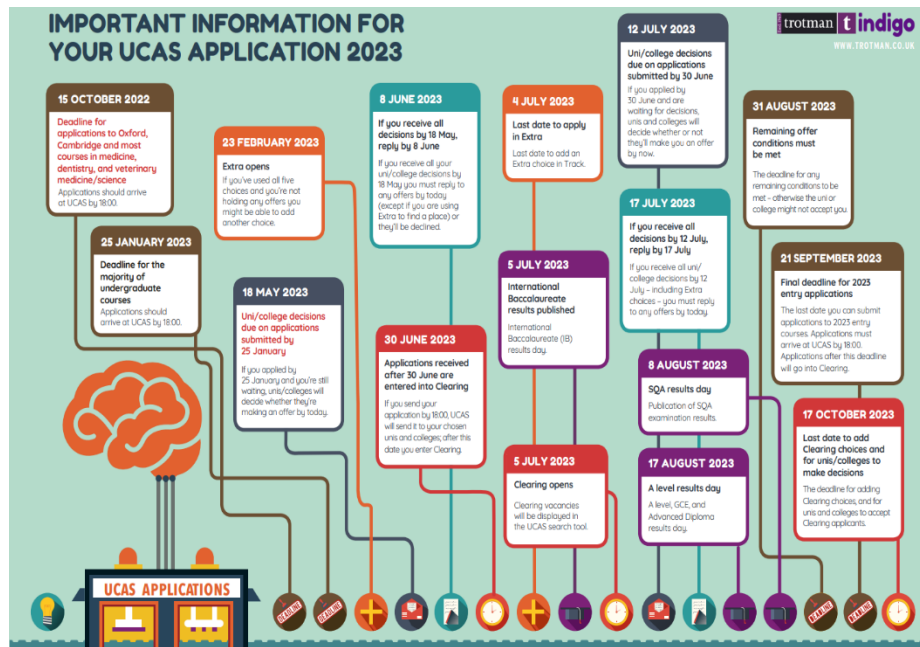
The Unifrog platform is designed to support learners in making the most informed decisions about their futures and has a range of tools that are suitable for all year groups. Each pupil has their own personal account that provides a wide range of information related to their interests and aspirations.

Careers Live!

All Yr11 pupils will have received a personal invite to the careers live event at the Beacon of Light to their home address. This is a fantastic opportunity for pupils to meet local colleges, training providers and apprenticeship providers in one space! Yr11 pupils should now be really thinking about their options, researching what is on offer and visiting local providers.

A promotional poster for a 'CAREERS LIVE!' event. The poster has a dark, starry background. At the top, it says 'Leaving school in the summer? Come along to'. Below that, 'CAREERS LIVE!' is written in large, bold, white letters. Underneath, it says 'Talk to the experts about your next steps including apprenticeships and skills for work'. Further down, it lists 'Meet our special guests' and 'Sunderland & South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust to find out about careers in the Health Service'. The event is scheduled for 'Saturday 28th January 2023' at 'The Beacon of Light, Stadium Park, Sunderland, SR5 1SN' from '10.30 - 2.30'. At the bottom, it says '*Enter the free draw to win Sunderland Match Tickets*'. To the right of the poster is a vertical column of logos for various partner organizations, including City Provider Network, Renne BL, Learning Concepts, Springboard, Petal, Learning Curve Group, PV seta, and Foundation of Light.

UCAS Applications



Personal Development Education

The students are currently studying Relationships and Sex Education in their PDE lessons this cycle, up until Easter. Each year group focuses on age-appropriate topics that allow them to know how to be safe and healthy, and how to manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way. Over the past fortnight each year group has been learning:

Year 7	Changing bodies - the physical and emotional changes that occur during puberty.
Year 8	Appreciating differences - looking at stereotypes and gender differences.
Year 9	Love People - understanding the importance of not always acting on our desires.
Year 10	Authentic Freedom - the impact our decisions can have on relationships.
Year 11	Addiction - the impact addiction can have on your life.

Just a reminder that parents and carers can access the resources for Relationship and Sex Education via the parental portal, using the information below.

Website <https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-portal/>

User Name: st-aidan-sr2

Password: island-458

Teaching about mental wellbeing is central to these subjects, especially as a priority for parents is their children's happiness. We know that children and young people are increasingly experiencing challenges, and that young people are at particular risk of feeling lonely. The new subject content will give them the knowledge and capability to take care of themselves and receive support if problems arise. In school we offer a large amount of support to all students. However not everyone is comfortable discussing their issues with people they know. Below are some contact details for any additional support students or parents if need be.

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://talktofrank.com)

Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award (iDEA)

The iDEA curriculum helps to inspire pupils 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.

Pupils take on a series of challenges that earn them points which aggregate towards their Bronze, Silver or Gold Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award. They 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.



Massive congratulations to Corey R, Alexander E and Gabriel A who, not only completed their Bronze Award last term, but have now achieved their iDEa SILVER award. This is a great achievement and the pupils put in a lot of hard work to complete the online challenges to gain an industry-recognised Award.

Many different badges contributed towards the SILVER award including, gamer badges which covered design, production and coding.



Entrepreneur badges covering teamwork, collaboration, pitching, innovation etc. Maker badges covering coding, engineering, robotics and web development as well as Citizen badges covering cyber security, ethics, ESafety, citizenship and many more. Well done!



If this is something you are interested in see Miss Cain after school in Room 312.

Music

Lord Mayor of Seaham

Joseph played at Seaham Town Hall for the Lord Mayor as part of the Seaham Music Academy performance. He was praised as being the best performer.



Brass

Bass

Guitar

Piano

Drums

Woodwind

Singing

Violin

Cello

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

Music Enrichment:

St Aidan's Singers Tuesday Chapel

Drum Fun Wednesday Music Room

BTEC Music Friday Music Room

Enrichment

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
BEFORE SCHOOL	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
	1 st LEGO LEAGUE - SUPER POWER 165 with Mrs Nipper	ARCHAEOLOGY CLUB 110 with Mrs Jopling/ Miss Dawson	BADMINTON Sports Hall with a Coach *£1.50 pw	BASKETBALL Sports Hall with Coach Mark from Lambton BB Club *£1 per session	BTECMUSIC Music Room with Mr Payne
	BRONZE IDEA Award DIGITAL ENTERPRISE (ICT) 311 with Miss Cain	BOARD GAMES 209 with Mrs Cooper	BOOK TO FILM CLUB English Department—Mrs Wheeler	FITNESS School Gym with Mr Watts/ Mr Hutton	FISHING £5 per session Offsite with Mr Moon
	FITNESS School Gym with Mr Watts	CREST—SCIENCE (Year 7,8&9) With Mr Hamilton	CREST—SCIENCE (Year 10&11) With Mr Hamilton	HOMEWORK CLUB Room 313, 314	FOOTBALL (Year 7&8) Sports Hall with Mo *£5 per session
	FOOTBALL (Year 8) Limes with Mr Flounders	Enterprise Company Programme Mrs Osmialowski	DODGE BALL Sports Hall with Mr Adey	SCIENCE CLUB with Mr Wallace	HOMEWORK CLUB Room 313, 314
	FURTHER MATHS (Year 11) 210 with Mrs Hudson	FOOTBALL (Year 7&8) Sports Hall with Mo *£5 per session	DRUM FUN Music Room with Mr Wallace	SKIING CLUB Silksworth Ski Centre *£5 per session	
	HOMEWORK CLUB, Room 313, 314	RUGBY TRAINING, ASHBROOKE CC The Limes with Mr Adey	DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS Reading Room—Mr Richardson		
	INDOOR CRICKET Sports Hall with Mr Hutton	ST AIDAN'S SINGERS Music Room with Mr Payne	FITNESS School Gym with Mr Flounders		
	LEGO FUN CLUB 201 with Mr Whitten	WELLBEING GROUP 202 with R.E Department	FOOTBALL (Year 7) Ashbrooke 3G with Mr Gray		
	SPANISH GCSE CLUB With Mr Jones & Miss Land	HOMEWORK CLUB Room 313, 314	HOMEWORK CLUB Room 313, 314		
	DEBATE SOCIETY Upper Room with Mr Morris/Nunn		Young Report (BBC) 103 with Mrs. Osmialowski		
			SPANISH CLUB With Mr Jones & Mr Cuevas		

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 stu-
dents.

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

If you have any questions please do not hesitate

