

# St. Aidan's Catholic Academy

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To all in our community,

As the school term comes to an end, we find ourselves deep into the exam season. This can be a very difficult time for our young people with many conflicting emotions to juggle. From my position I have seen mature young men and women who have come into the examination hall fully prepared and brimming with confidence. The collegiate feel is palpable and the sense of achievement is already etched across their faces. Never has an exam season run so smoothly and I pray that each and every pupil will achieve what they need to progress onto that high-quality career or next step on their educational journey. Each morning, in our morning meeting, staff and pupils all go through the spiritual process known as Examen. This challenges us all to speak directly to God and self-reflect on what has gone before or what is still to come. Today, I have dwelt on this morning's 'Ask Where' section – where have we experienced God in our daily lives or where do we need him in the near future. It occurred to me that these pupils who are facing end of course examinations have support from home; support from school and everlasting support through Jesus Christ. The serenity that has been shown so far clearly has its root in faith. As a passionate Catholic educator, the sight of faith and dedication working in harmony is a powerful combination and one, I believe, where great things happen.

Glenn Sanderson



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## Upcoming Events

**Friday, May 26, 2023**

End of Term – 2:50pm



Father,

I have to thank you for looking beyond my faults and for loving me unconditionally. Forgive me when I fail to love others in the same way. Give me eyes to see the needs of the difficult people in my life, and show me how to meet those needs in a way that pleases You. In Jesus' name,

Amen.

## Chaplaincy

### Gospel reading this Sunday

Gospel

John 20:19-23

As the Father sent me, so am I sending you: receive the Holy Spirit

In the evening of the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you', and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.

'As the Father sent me,  
so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive,  
they are forgiven;  
for those whose sins you retain,  
they are retained.

Our Food Bank is open to all members of our community who need extra help. You can email [kszczepanska@staca.co.uk](mailto:kszczepanska@staca.co.uk) to arrange collection time.

Currently the Food Bank is receiving little makeover. I will be posting new pictures for you soon.

We have families coming to us regularly and we are currently short of:

Milk,

Cereals,



Porridge,

Tinned meat,

Bread, bread rolls, crumpets etc, (we have freezers to put them in)

## Pastoral

### 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.



## Attendance Stars

**Week 31 – WB 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023**



8M – 99.6%



**Weeks attendance – 94.8%**

**Whole school attendance from Sept – 93.1%**



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.

### Important Dates

All pupils break up for half term at normal time on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May and return on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

## House Competition

The current standings of the years house competition are:



# Annual House Competition



## Week 31 – WB 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023

House	Overall Points	Points awarded this week
Ashbrooke	<b>8350</b>	200
Corby	<b>7325</b>	275
Brookfield	<b>7425</b>	500



### Celebrating success

You may have noticed that you have been receiving lots of notifications about your child's achievements at St Aidan's. On average our staff award over 1500 achievement points every week to our pupils. That's over 1500 occasions in a week when we stop and acknowledge the successes of our pupils. We'd like to share these successes with you. You will now receive a live notification from Class Charts when your child receives an achievement point from a member of staff.



## Cost of living

In this current challenging economic climate, we all need a little help to balance the books. With this in mind, the Sunderland City Council cost of living support hub may be useful. Please follow the link for more details [Cost of living support hub - Sunderland City Council](#)



## **Social Media**

Follow all things pastoral via our twitter account, @saca\_pastoral We post a lot of material and are keen to share all the fantastic things that go on across our academy.



Our pastoral team can be connected on the following emails.

Ashbrooke House – Mrs McKenna – [kmckenna@staca.co.uk](mailto:kmckenna@staca.co.uk) – Ext: 201

Corby House – Mr Gray – [agray@staca.co.uk](mailto:agray@staca.co.uk) – Ext: 223

Brookfield House – Mrs Halliday – [mhalliday@staca.co.uk](mailto:mhalliday@staca.co.uk) - Ext: 216

## Careers

### Schools Alumni Week

This week we have celebrated 'school's alumni week', a campaign ran by future first (the platform we use for our alumni). Future First is a UK education charity helping young people in state schools and colleges broaden their horizons by connecting them with former pupils.

We used this as a launchpad for our own alumni campaign **#friendsofstaidans**

We have thousands of former pupils we need to reach out to, from the early days of St Aidan's RC Grammar School to St Aidan's Catholic Academy and St Aidan's and St Anthony's Girls' Catholic Sixth Form (and everything in between). We want to strengthen our alumni network with relatable role models that can show pupils a world beyond their current experience and expectations: a future that could be theirs. Thank you to our alumni members that have been in school this week to share their journey with pupils during assembly:

- Callum Hodgson
- Graham Burnett
- Peter Oliver
- Nathan Thompson
- Sir Roy Sandbach

ST AIDAN'S CATHOLIC ACADEMY

*You can't be what you can't see.*

Did you go to St Aidan's Catholic Academy or St Anthony's and St Aidan's Catholic Sixth Form?

Do you want to join our thriving and engaged alumni community?

Alumni volunteers can prove to students that **'someone like me'** can succeed and prosper

[SIGN UP HERE](#)

www.staidanscatholicacademy.co.uk

@SACA\_CareersEd | @SACA\_Careers

## Work Experience

**DEADLINE: Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2023.**

As an academy we value employer and work place engagement as we believe that all pupils should have first-hand experiences of the workplace through work visits, work shadowing and/or work experience to help explore career opportunities, and expand their networks in preparation for their post-16 journey. We encourage all pupils to participate in this week and to find their own work place placements and complete the work experience placement form on Unifrog. Watch the video [here](#).

Unifrog instructions:

- [sign into Unifrog](#)
- Scroll down to the placement tool
- Add placement
- Complete online form

The business name, contact name and contact email address will be needed to complete the online form. An email will automatically be sent to the employer, parent/carer and myself to be signed off. It is imperative that placements are sought as soon as possible to secure a work experience placement and allow for Health and Safety checks to be completed. There is expected to be a high demand within the Sunderland area during this week. All placement forms are to be completed using the placement tool on Unifrog by **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2023**.

Yr10 work experience 10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Yr12 work experience 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> July 2023

**Late applications will be accepted up until Monday 5<sup>th</sup> of June.**



St Aidan's Catholic Academy

# WORK EXPERIENCE

Work placements needed

**10TH - 14TH JULY**  
Year 10 pupils

**CAN YOU HOST ANY OF OUR PUPILS FOR WORK EXPERIENCE?**

Work experience helps young people to develop the essential skills needed for employment in an ever changing world. Can you support us to build the talent pipeline?

**Email: [contactus@staca.co.uk](mailto:contactus@staca.co.uk)**

CAREERS EDUCATION PROGRAMME  
OPPORTUNITY - ADVICE - SUPPORT

## Yr11 and Yr12 NCS Assembly and drop in

The NCS have been into school to share information about their programme with Yr12 during assembly and Yr11 during a lunch time drop in session. The NCS programme offers young people, aged 15-17, a once in a lifetime opportunity to do something meaningful, as well as a chance to develop skills and take on new challenges that will set them up for adult life.

Further information can be found by scanning the bar code below!

A promotional poster for NCS (National Citizen Service) featuring a group of diverse young people smiling. The poster is divided into colored sections: orange, purple, yellow, green, and pink. The NCS logo is in the top left, and the text 'Experiences away from home' is in the top middle. The bottom left contains a QR code and the website 'WEARENCS.COM'. The right side lists three experience options: 'LIVE IT', 'BOSS IT', and 'CHANGE IT', each with a brief description.

**NCS**  
**Experiences away from home**

**All the info you need to grab your spot is on our website, just scan the QR code.**

**Here's a quick run down in case you can't wait:**

**WHEN?**  
There is a choice of dates across the year during school holidays.

**HOW MUCH?**  
The most you'll pay is £95. Depending on your circumstances, your place could even be free!

**WHAT'S NEXT?**  
Head to our website, choose your dates, choose your experience, and make a payment if you need to. Simple!

**YOUR CHOICE OF EXPERIENCE...**

**LIVE IT**  
Live it up on this five-day adventure away from home. Get life hacks you didn't know you needed, learn survival skills, and test your limits by getting stuck into adrenaline-filled outdoor activities!

**BOSS IT**  
Unlock your potential in just five days. If you want to be your own boss or smash your careers goals, this is for you – get the tools, know-how and inspiration you need to take control of your career and be successful!

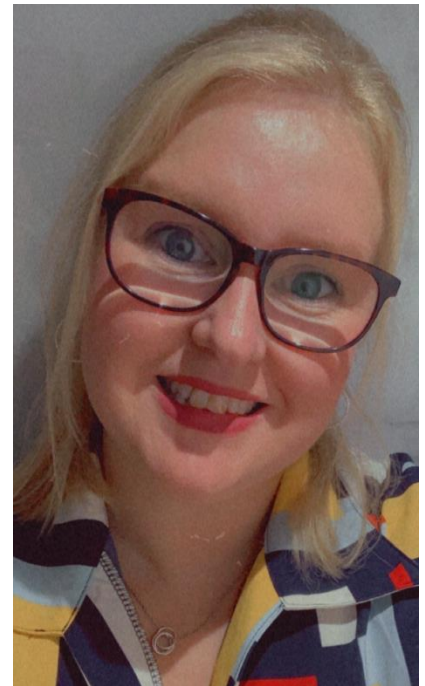
**CHANGE IT**  
Change your community, or even the world, for the better on this five-day trip. Explore the issues facing society today, discover your purpose, and turn your passions into projects that make a difference – all rounded off with some outdoor adventure!

**WEARENCS.COM**



## Meet the 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. Being the initial point of contact for our community is a critical role in this goal and Emma, our receptionist, is excellent at making all visitors to the academy feel welcomed and at ease with their surroundings. Her friendly and approachable personality means that whatever, the situation, the visitor knows they are being dealt with in a professional manner. This calm entrance to our academy filters through to every member of the community. Conversations are thoughtful and compassionate but purposeful in nature – that all stems from warm initial interactions. The pupils always comment on how Emma is firm but fair in her attitude which follows the core values of the school. Emma has been a great addition to the staff at St Aidan's. Our corporate face is now established and the positive lift it has given the whole academy is tangible.



## Community News

### Community Allotment

This week we picked out produce ready to be distributed to our community. Rocket, lettuce and pak choi grew beautifully over the past months, and our boys took a lot of care in looking after everything in the allotment. We still have many other vegetables growing which will be ready in July. Our staff are very excited to cook meals with their families using the produce so please remember to check our twitter for pictures of delicious dishes.

### St. Aidan's Stewards

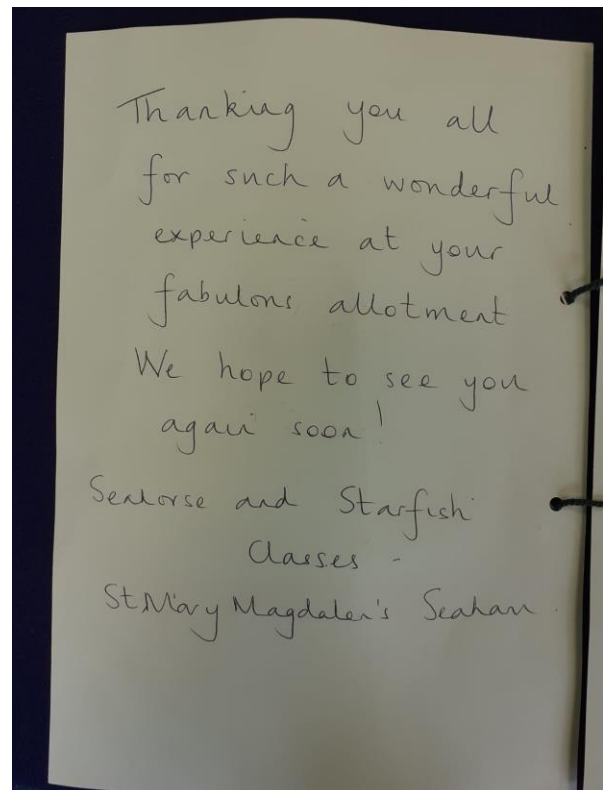
Last week, our Stewards attended an environmental meeting at the Sunderland City Council to discuss sustainability with pupils from other schools across Sunderland. Over the past few weeks primary and secondary schools were encouraged to take part in a challenge which was to create an environmental poster for our beaches, and our Stewards played a role in voting for the best one. They also discussed the importance of our beaches, specifically the Roker beach which they often visit with their family and friends. It is wonderful to see our pupils take on an active role in care for creation and develop leadership skills that can build their self-confidence.

## Amazing Feedback!

In our last edition of the St Aidan's Newsletter, we shared footage of some local primary schools who came and worked in and around our community allotment. They were so pleased to be involved



and all of the children and staff couldn't speak highly enough of the project. This week, out of the blue, we received a homemade card from the school signed by all of the children who came to visit. This is exactly what this project set out to achieve and we are delighted how it is flourishing.



## Science Dept News

### Self-Set Educake Science:

As part of filling knowledge gaps pupils in years 7-11 have an Educake login to access a plethora of Science questions. One of the strategies to fill knowledge gaps is to use educake and self-set questions from specific areas of the curriculum pupils are finding challenging.

E Dobson in Year 11 has self-set a massive 850 questions this week in preparation for his GCSE exams. E Pugh in Y10 over 400 questions and M Ahmed in Y9 100 questions. Excellent effort boys, going above and beyond the expectations inside the classroom- keep up the great work and a huge well done from the Science Dept.

12th May to 19th May	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
1	C Okoye	C Weaver	M Ahmed	E Pugh	E Dobson
2	J Dicker	J Joseph	Z Taylor	C Benett	B Gayares
3	T Morris	S Rahman	L Bowden	M Carroll	J McKitterick
4	S Monwar		H Walton	E Imeri	H Toor
5	H Khan		J Edwards	A Alonzo	H Singh
6	J Pearson		M Echeta	J Short	T Pearson
7	I Cutter		E Louis	J Dunn	D Kerr
8	G De Gennaro		L Newby	K Mayamaya	L Young
9	AReyes		W George	J Ogunbode	A Belton
10	RAhmed		M Hussain	A Qureshi	L Trulli

## Personal Development Education

This cycle some of the boys are learning about personal finance and the difference between good and bad debt. Looking at ways to save, interest rates and loans. We feel this is very important to support them when they are older and learning about the different types of loans and debts. This will hopefully help them understand and make the correct choices with their finances in the future.

With the current cost of living crisis and bills being so high. Here is an interesting article about how to solve problems with debt.

[How do you solve a problem like debt? Your questions answered - BBC News](#)

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

ChildLine: [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk) Phone: 0800 1111

Young Minds: [www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)

Samaritans: [www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org) Phone: 116 123

MIND: [www.mind.org.uk/](http://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))

## Food and Cooking

### **Tuna and Sweetcorn pasta recipe (4 portions)**

Are you currently feeling the pinch? Try making this delicious meal for the whole family with this budget-friendly recipe.

#### **Ingredients:**

300g/10½oz dried pasta shells, or other pasta shapes, 200g/7oz frozen sweetcorn, 200g tub full-fat cream cheese (also known as soft cheese), 145g tin tuna chunks, any kind, drained, 200g/7oz cherry tomatoes, halved, ground black pepper

#### **Method:**

1. Half-fill a large saucepan with water, cover with a lid and bring to a boil over high heat. Stir in the pasta and cook uncovered for about 10 minutes, or until the pasta is tender but retains just a little 'bite'. Stir occasionally as the pasta cooks, so it doesn't stick.
2. Add the sweetcorn to the saucepan, cover and return to the boil. Cook for 2 minutes more. Take out a couple of ladles of the water (around 150ml/¼ pint) and put to one side in a bowl.
3. Drain the pasta and sweetcorn in a colander then return to the pan. Add the tomatoes and the drained tuna and toss together over medium heat for 1–2 minutes or until the tomatoes are beginning to warm.
4. Pour the reserved water over the pasta, add the soft cheese and stir well over low heat until the cheese melts and coats the pasta. Season with freshly ground black pepper and serve immediately.

## Sporting Success

Elliot has been doing karate for two years now, and he attends training five times a week, totaling 9 hours of training.

Over the past two years he has been involved in several competitions. On Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup> May, Elliot competed in the GB Open Championships in Birmingham, where there were over 700 competitors. Elliot performed brilliantly and got 2x Gold Medals, 2x Silver Medals and one Bronze medal. This is a fantastic achievement, as several categories had as many as 30 entries. His next big competition is the World Championships, which take place in Dundee in July. Fingers crossed for a good competition! Well done Elliot!



## Cricket

This term our Y8 and Y10 cricket teams have been in action. Our Y10s lost to Belmont school by 5 wickets in a very close game at Ashbrook CC last week. F Cole & O Miller starred with the bat and F. Cole & O Harding were standout performers with the ball. At the start of the week the Y8 team beat Whickham school by 2 runs in very closely contested game. J Rajapaksa was in exceptional

form, scoring 52 runs not out of 10 overs, which included 5x4s and 3x6! An incredible effort. A quarterfinal tie awaits next term. The boys demonstrated excellent

sportsmanship in both games and were a real credit to the school. Well done lads.



## Music

### The Bunker:

St Aidan's are continuing to forge links with The Bunker with a donation of old, broken guitars to be repaired and used in the community.

### Work Experience:

We have a Y12 student doing his work experience at The Bunker and are trying to get a Y10 placement fixed up with a place at another fantastic Sunderland music venue – The Peacock.



### Instrumental lessons:

All lessons are continuing as below. NB We now have a new drum teacher starting on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May

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](mailto: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 is continuing this half term - it's an excellent opportunity to practise your live performing skills in front of a low pressure and friendly audience. Please see Mr Payne for further details.

# Enrichment

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
BEFORE SCHOOL	<b>BREAKFAST</b> Canteen	<b>BREAKFAST</b> Canteen	<b>BREAKFAST</b> Canteen	<b>BREAKFAST</b> Canteen	<b>BREAKFAST</b> Canteen
	<b>READING CLUB</b> Reading Room with Mrs Naile	<b>READING CLUB</b> Reading Room with Mrs Naile	<b>READING CLUB</b> Reading Room with Mrs Naile	<b>READING CLUB</b> Reading Room with Mrs Naile	<b>READING CLUB</b> Reading Room with Mrs Naile
AFTER SCHOOL	<b>BRONNZE iDEA Award DIGITAL ENTERPRISE (ICT)</b> 311 with Miss Cain	<b>ARCHAEOLOGY CLUB</b> 110 with Mrs Jopling/ Miss Dawson	<b>BOOK TO FILM CLUB</b> English Department—Mrs Wheeler	<b>DODGE BALL</b> Sports hall with Mr Adey	<b>BTEC MUSIC</b> Music Room with Mr Payne
	<b>FOOTBALL (Year 9&amp;10)</b> Ashbrooke 3G with Mr Watts	<b>BOARD GAMES</b> 209 with Mrs Cooper	<b>DRUM FUN</b> Music Room with Mr Wallace	<b>FITNESS / Circuit Training</b> Sports Hall or Ashbrooke with Mr Hutton	<b>FOOTBALL (Year 7&amp;8)</b> Sports Hall with Mo *£5 per session
	<b>FURTHER MATHS (Year 11)</b> 210 with Mrs Hudson	<b>CREST—SCIENCE (Year 7,8&amp;9)</b> With Mr Hamilton	<b>DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS</b> Reading Room—Mr Richardson	<b>HOMEWORK CLUB</b> Room 313, 314	<b>HOMEWORK CLUB</b> Room 313, 314
	<b>HOMEWORK CLUB,</b> Room 313, 314	<b>Enterprise Company Programme</b> Mrs Osmialowski	<b>EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY GROUP</b> Room 160 (Art) with Mrs Gill	<b>SCIENCE CLUB</b> with Mr Wallace	
	<b>CRICKET</b> Ashbrooke Outfield with Mr Watts	<b>RUGBY TRAINING, ASHBROOKE CC</b> Ashbrooke with Mr Adey	<b>FOOTBALL (Year 7)</b> Ashbrooke 3G with Mr Gray		
	<b>LEGO FUN CLUB</b> 201 with Mr Whitten	<b>WELLBEING GROUP</b> 202 with R.E Department	<b>HOMEWORK CLUB</b> Room 313, 314		
	<b>SPANISH GCSE CLUB</b> With Mr Jones & Miss Land	<b>CRICKET (NET SESSION)</b> Ashbrooke CC with Mr Hutton	<b>Young Report (BBC)</b> 103 with Mrs. Osmialowski		
	<b>DEBATE SOCIETY</b> Upper Room with Mr Morris/Nunn	<b>Softball</b> Ashbrooke CC with Mr Flounders	<b>SPANISH CLUB</b> With Mr Jones & Mrs Alonso		
	<b>DofE VOLUNTEERING CLUB</b> Room 111 with Mrs Kilminster		<b>ST AIDAN'S SINGERS</b> Music Room with Mr Payne		

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