



We are very pleased to announce that the final contracts have been signed for our new building! Over half term we will see the first real changes to our site, starting on the yard preparing for the temporary blocks. As we move into the building works we will keep you updated via this newsletter. Please see some images at the end of the newsletter of our new building!

**Mrs Whitten, Headteacher**



»» **PUPILS OF THE WEEK**

**Week 8: Our Year 8 football team - Cameron Talyor (8R), Dolan Forest (8C), Dominic Purvis (8F), Toby Osahon (8M), Ben Pearce (8R), Harrison Kilner (8R), Finley Waterson (8B), Flynn Taylor (8R), Quinn Herron (8M), Lennon Richardson (8M), Rowan Welsh (8R), Peighton Leonard (8B).**

All played their part in an excellent 6-0 win against castle view , last Thursday, extending their unbeaten run in the league. Special mention to Ben Pearce who scored 5 goals! Well, done lads.

**Week 9: 7A** - Nominated by Mrs Duxbury. 7A are engaged and enthusiastic with our reading canon books. When reading during the week they are focussed, ask insightful questions and are great at providing a synopsis of the story so far. The boys are proficient with Fluency Friday. Demonstrating great skills with choral reading and paired practising and enthusiastically reading as a pair in front of the class. You have all excelled boys well done.

**Harry Deighan (8M)** - Nominated by Mrs Gill who celebrated Mass with her form this week and had the pleasure of hearing Harry play during Mass, he was wonderful and it added another element to our worship. Harry also plays on a Friday breaktime in the main hall and again his musical talents are excellent.

**Camron Baldwin (8R)** Excellent achievement from Camron for completing Bronze and Silver inspirational Digital enterprise award (iDea). His commitment and passion for digital skills really shines through.

**Luke Johnson (8A)** - Luke is polite and hardworking, his attention to detail in RE lessons is second to none and his work is a perfect example of the St Aidan's standard. Luke's assessments are excellent and show his ability but also his hard work.

**9M** - Nominated by Mrs Gill for their participation and leadership in Mass, Fr Christopher noted that they were 'exemplary'.

»» **ACHIEVEMENT POINTS TO DATE: 29303 (AV. 34.47)**

»» **WORD OF THE WEEK**

**Cycle 2 Week 8: Pre/ju/dice**

Definition: An unfair and unreasonable opinion or feeling, especially when formed without enough thought or knowledge. In *To Kill a Mockingbird*, prejudice is evident in the unfair treatment of Tom Robinson, as he is judged guilty simply because of his race, despite the lack of evidence against him.

**Cycle 2 Week 9: To/ta/li/ta/ri/an**

Definition: Describing a system of government that is centralised and dictatorial, with little or no freedom for individual opposition. In 1984, the Party is a totalitarian regime that controls every aspect of life, from thoughts to actions.





Looking back on my time at St. Aidan's, I've experienced so much, from making lasting friendships to achieving the grades I aimed for. Here's a snapshot of my journey at what I believe is the best secondary school in Sunderland!

### The Beginning

When I first arrived at St. Aidan's, I had just left St. Mary's and was eager to embrace the newfound independence. The transition was a bit overwhelming at first—going from simple arithmetic to tackling advanced algebra felt like a bit of a shock. But I quickly found my feet and kept pushing forward, learning to adapt to the new challenges.

### The Homework

I'll admit, at the start of my academic journey, I was pretty stressed out. The homework sometimes felt like it was piling up into mountains, but looking back, I wouldn't change it. Teachers were always there to help, and I learned that hard work makes you a stronger person. It might have been tough at times, but it was all part of the process that helped shape who I am today.

### Lockdown

We all look back on the 2020 lockdown in different ways, but for me, it was a strange mix of routine and resilience. Even though we were stuck indoors, we didn't stop working hard. I remember joining Zoom calls during the day for lessons, then connecting with friends later in the evening. While it was a repetitive cycle, it was one I wouldn't change, and it taught me the value of perseverance during challenging times.

### Friends

St. Aidan's wasn't just about schoolwork—it was also about the friendships I formed. I was fortunate to meet some incredible people with great senses of humour and ambition. Having friends alongside me made even the most difficult classes feel a little bit easier. There were also plenty of activities to get involved in after school. My personal favourite was the fishing club, where I bonded with a group of like-minded friends who shared my passion. It was the perfect way to look forward to Friday nights.

### Year 11

As time passed, my school years seemed to fly by, and before I knew it, I was preparing for my GCSEs. Strangely, I wasn't overly anxious. Instead, I felt ready and determined. My final terms were a race to soak up as much knowledge as possible, and by the end, I was proud to see how my hard work paid off.

### Conclusion

The school has always emphasized values like hard work, trust, and fairness, and as I reflect on my time here, I can see how those principles have shaped my experience. Although I might not have fully appreciated the significance of those words at the time, they truly sum up my journey in just a few short phrases.

I feel incredibly fortunate to have been a part of such a welcoming school community. As I move on to Sixth Form, I realize that every step we take—no matter how small or challenging—is part of a bigger journey. Life is full of mountains to climb, and while the path can be tough, we're never alone in the process. We're all working towards being the best versions of ourselves, and it's our responsibility to support each other along the way.

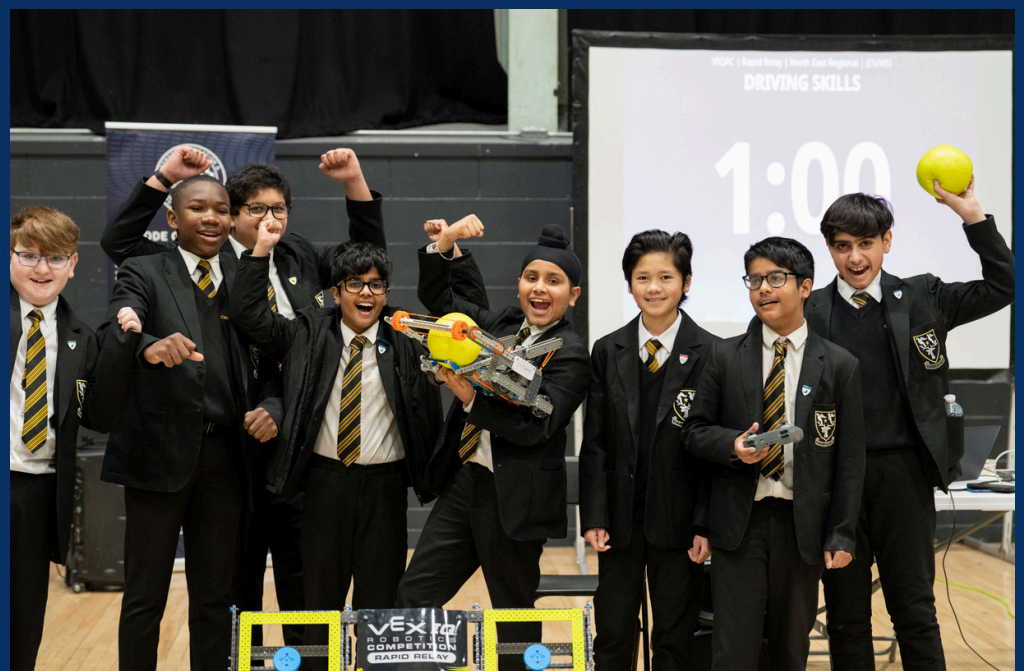
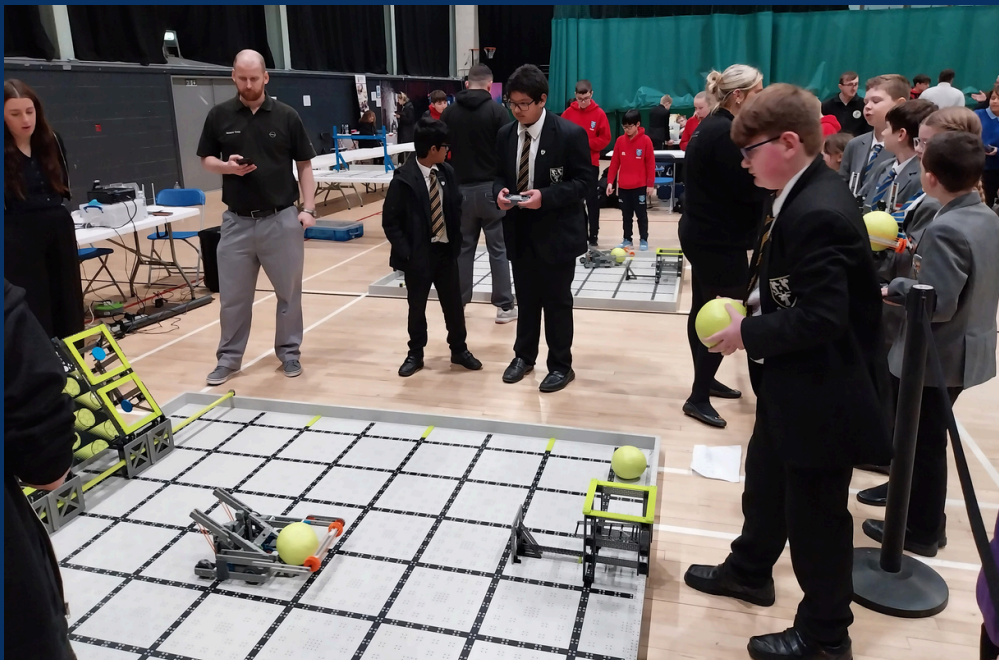
Thank you for taking the time to read my story, and I wish you all the best on your own journeys!

# >>> ROBOTICS CLUB



ENRICHMENT

The St Aidans Robotics team had a great day out competing in the Prestigious Vex IQ Regional robotics qualifiers on the 30th January at Nissan. The competition judging was split into three strands, drivers, programmers and engineers. After a few initial nerves the boys did really well and achieved 1st place out of 19 schools. They won two trophies for robot skills and team work. They also secured a place at the Nationals held in Telford at the end of the month!



# »» INSPIRING DIGITAL ENTERPRISE AWARD



Congratulations to Camron Baldwin and John-Paul Atkinson!

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 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 Camron Baldwin and John-Paul Atkinson who complete not only their Bronze Award but also their Silver Inspirational Digital Enterprise Award. This is a great achievement and the students put in a lot of hard work to complete a series of online challenges and, ultimately, gain industry-recognised Awards that help the students stand out from the crowd. Their commitment, enthusiasm and independent learning is nothing but excellent.

Camron and John-Paul achieved various badges to contribute towards their BRONZE and SILVER award including, Entrepreneur badges covering advertising, Social selling and innovation. Maker badges covering animation, making websites, and video development, Worker badges covering Problem solving with AI, User interfaces and Image specialist as well as Citizen badges covering cyber security, ethics, ESafety, GDPR and many more. Well done! For the silver award they achieved badges in Problem solving, resilience, Image design, as well as Gamer badges in Design, Coding, production, gameplay and many more.

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



# »» ENRICHMENT



## Monday

## Tuesday Wednesday

## Thursday

## Friday

Piano Lessons MU1- Mr Shepherd (£72 per term)	Dodgeball Sports Hall Mr Hutton -
Bronze IDEA Award Digital Enterprise (ICT) 312 - Miss Cain	Badminton Sports Hall Mr Hutton
Chess Club Reading Room - Mr Herbertson	First Aid Club 113 – Miss Reid and Miss Livingston
Camp Craft 111- Mrs Kilminster	Year 10 Football Ashbrooke - Mr Flounders
Football (Year 7 Football) The Limes - Mr Watts & Mr Dunn	GCSE Spanish Club Year 10 & 11 104 – Mrs McKenna
Further Maths (Y11) 210 - Mrs Hudson	Spark Maths Club 312 – Mrs Smith
History Club 109 - Mr Nunn	Creative Writing 306 Miss Sansom
Homework Club 311, 314	Book to film club 301 Mrs Gardner
Art Club 162 - Mrs Nipper	Handwriting Club 123 - Miss Hodgson
Board Games 207 – Mrs Cooper	Orienteering Ashbrooke Mr Flounders

6th Form Badminton Sports Hall P.E Staff
Violin Lessons Music room Mr Nyberg (£72 per term)
Homework Club Room 311, 314
Football with Mo Year 7&8 (£4 per session) Sports Hall
Archive Club Mr Evans in 313
6th Form Fitness Sessions School Gym P.E Staff

Guitar Lessons Music room Mr Smith (£72 per term)
Robotics Club 164 - Mr Wallace
Drum Lessons Music room Mr Wake (£72 per term)
Dungeons and Dragons Reading Room Mr Richardson
Equality and diversity group 160
Volleyball Club Sports Hall- Mr Flounders
Football (Year 9) Ashbrooke 3G Mr Gray
Homework Club 311, 314
Crisp Packet Appeal 205 - Mrs Priest
Bass Guitar Lessons MU1 Mr Harland (£72 per term)
Gardening Club Briery Mrs Armstrong
MOOC Mr Morris in 225
Spanish Club 106 - Mrs Alonso
Warhammer Mr Evans

Basketball Sports Hall Mr Adey & Coach (£1)	Guitar Lessons Music room Mr Smith (£72 per term)
Maths Enrichment 212 - Mr Mann	Homework Club 311, 314
St Aidan Singers 104 – Mr Payne	Running Club P.E Mobiles - Mr Coon
Careers Champion 103 - Mrs Osmialowski	NEA Master Class Room 401- Mr Morris Year 13
Gym Club School Gym Mr Watts	Science Club 121 – Science Staff
Football (Year 8) The Limes with Mr Hutton	Table Tennis Mobiles Mr Hamilton
1st Lego League – Super Power 166 - Mrs Swales	Rock Band @ The Bunker 4-6pm Mr Payne

BTEC Music Mr Payne
Cello Lessons Music room Mrs Pearson (£72 per term)
Woodwind Lessons Music Room Mr Toomey (£72 per term)
Football (Y7&8) Sports Hall Mo *£5 a session
Homework Club 311, 314
Rugby Ashbrooke 3G Mr Adey

## Daily before school:

Breakfast Canteen
Reading Club Reading Room Mrs Naile

Here at **St. Aidan's Catholic Academy** we believe in a curriculum that 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**

## ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES ACROSS OUR CITY...

### Youth Almighty Project

Silksworth Youth and  
Community Centre  
Mon, Thurs, Fri, Sun

[joanne@youthalmighty.co.uk](mailto:joanne@youthalmighty.co.uk)

### Sunderland Community Action Group

Dame Dorothy Youth  
Hub  
Mon, Wed

[sunderlandcommunity  
actiongroup@hotmail.com](mailto:sunderlandcommunityactiongroup@hotmail.com)

### Sendai Kushiro Karate

Raich Carter Sports  
Centre  
Tues, Thurs

[sendaikushiro@gmail.com](mailto:sendaikushiro@gmail.com)

### SK Dance School of Performing Arts:

Tap, Jazz, Ballet  
Pennywell Community  
College  
Mon- Sat

[shameen\\_azel1@hotmail.com](mailto:shameen_azel1@hotmail.com)

### Archery Marine Walk

[mike@sunmac.org.uk](mailto:mike@sunmac.org.uk)

### Beginners Boxing

25 Falkland Road,  
Sunderland  
Mon, Wed

[marie.mould@lpsych.com](mailto:marie.mould@lpsych.com)

### COSTS

Please contact the  
provider directly to  
inquire about the cost  
of the activity.

### Basketball

25 Falkland Road,  
Sunderland  
Wed

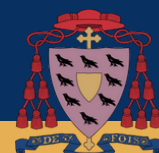
[marie.mould@lpsych.com](mailto:marie.mould@lpsych.com)

### Hockey Club

Raich Carter  
Sports Centre  
Tues, Sat

[cox.rosalind@gmail.com](mailto:cox.rosalind@gmail.com)

Click the box to go to their website for further information





# »» BUILDING DEVELOPMENTS

Over the next couple of weeks the building team will be preparing the front yard for the delivery of our temporary blocks. The blocks will be two floors and will host the dining halls, toilets, visitor reception, music practice rooms and PE changing (should it be required). Whilst the temporary blocks will take up a large area of the yard, the vast majority of space within the blocks will be for social time and therefore we know the pupils will be able to relax and reset over their breaks and lunches once we move into them. The blocks are brand new, bespoke to our community and to a high specification. We intend to welcome parents into the blocks once they are fully open for our community coffee mornings.

Below are some images of the proposed final build:

