



# ST. AIDAN'S CATHOLIC ACADEMY

**"The poorer population must be specially cared for." Pope Leo XIII, Rerum Novarum**

The preferential option for the poor is a central principle of Catholic social teaching. It means that in personal morality, social policy, and the life of the Church, the needs of the poor and vulnerable must be given special priority.

As a Catholic academy we uphold this principle in as many aspects as we can.

We offer free breakfast to all pupils each day, our uniform is carefully chosen to be as affordable as possible and we have extra uniform items for any parents who need support. We run a food bank within the school that is open to all families. We make careful decisions about trips, we run excursions which every child can attend rather than just the minority that can afford it.

Sunderland is ranked the 20<sup>th</sup> (out of 296) most deprived local authority in the country, so we know that a large majority of our families are struggling with the cost of living. If there is something else we can do to support your family please get in touch: [contactus@staca.co.uk](mailto:contactus@staca.co.uk)

***Mrs Whitten Headteacher***

## **>>> PUPILS OF THE WEEK**

### **Cycle 2 Week 6**

#### **Alexander Cruickshank (8D)**

Nominated for his continued efforts and perseverance over the last year. Well done Alex.

### **Cycle 2 Week 7**

#### **Lucas Eley (10A)**

We would like to commend Lucas on his behaviour and attitude recently. Lucas has really lived up to our core values of hard work, trust and fairness. Lucas has made his schoolwork his focus and has made a conscious effort to make positive behaviour choices.

Lucas contributes positively to our school community, both in lessons and during sport and enrichment.

Lucas is an excellent example to others of how you can achieve success if you really put your mind to it. Well done, we are very proud.

**ACHIEVEMENT POINTS TO DATE: 40677 (AV: 44.47 PER PERSON )**



## >>> WORD OF THE WEEK



## CATHOLIC LIFE

### Cycle 2 Week 6:

**Liberation (noun).** **Li/be/ra/tion**

**Etymology:** From Latin *liberare* meaning “to set free.”

**Definition:** The act of setting someone free from imprisonment or oppression.

**Example:** In ‘*My Name is Why*’, Lemn Sissay’s story is a powerful testament to the need for liberation from systemic injustice.

### Cycle 2 Week 7:

**Fragility (noun).** **Fra/gi/li/ty**

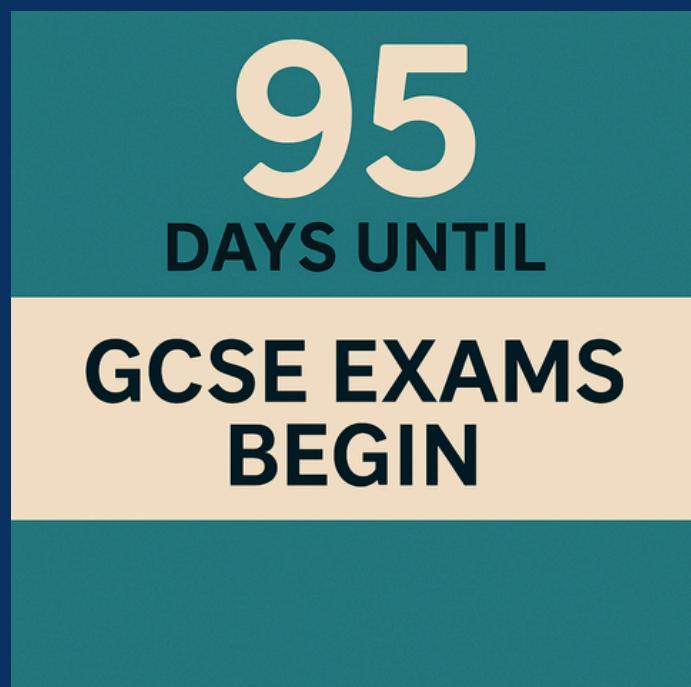
**Etymology:** From Latin *fragilis* meaning “easily broken.”

**Definition:** The quality of being easily broken or damaged.

**Example:** The fragility of hope in ‘*Boys Don’t Cry*’ underscores the vulnerability of human relationships.

## >>> YEAR 11 GCSE EXAMINATION COUNTDOWN

With only 95 days until GCSE exams begin, now is the time to stay focused, revise effectively, and make every day count.



## >>> WELLBEING STATEMENTS



CATHOLIC LIFE

### Cycle 2 Week 6

Look for reasons to be hopeful, even in tough times.

### Cycle 2 Week 7

When you feel like you can't do something, add the word 'yet'.

## >>> MORNING READING CLUB

### Start Your Day with Reading! Join Our Morning Reading Club

There's no better way to begin the day than by diving into a great book! It starts your day off in a much more relaxed way. Our Morning Reading Club invites students to enjoy a calm space where imagination takes the lead and curiosity wakes up before morning meeting.

When: Every weekday morning

Time: 7.30–8:20 AM

Where: Cold Dining Hall

Who: All students are welcome!

## >>> LORD LIEUTENANTS CADET 2026

### Pupil Success

We're thrilled to share the good news that we received about one of our year 11 pupils, Charlie Redmond of 11M.

Charlie attends Durham ACF cadets at Seaburn detachment and was put forward by his detachment commander to become the Lord Lieutenants Cadet, a very prestigious role.

He recently had a final interview and was successful - he will officially begin his new role in March across the Tyne & Wear area.

We are very proud of Charlie and wish him all the best in this new and exciting role.



## >>> SEARCH FOR A STAR



CATHOLIC LIFE

We are delighted to present St Aidan's entry into the City of Sunderland's 'Search for a Star' competition!

The KS3 'Rock School' band will be taking to the stage at Bede Campus on the evening of Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March, competing against other secondary schools from Sunderland and surrounding areas.

The band members are:

Henry Little

Theo Bruce

Oliver Campbell

Seyshan Ragulan

Jayden Tumwijkjye

Isaac Knowles

They will be judged by a panel of professional musicians from across the country.

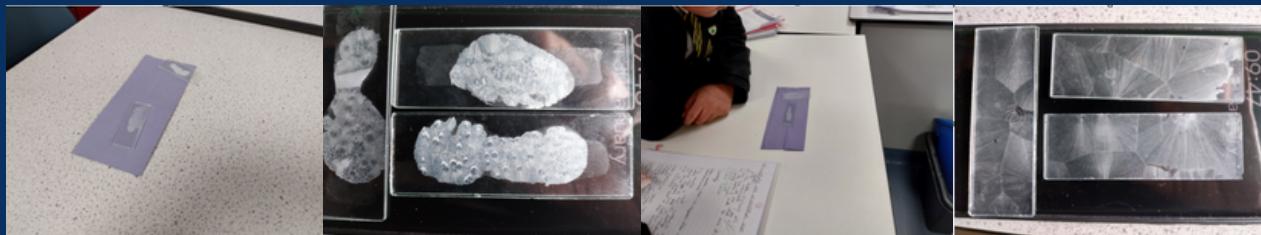
Good luck, boys!

(Ticket information to follow soon)



## >>> YR 7 SCIENCE

Our YR 7 pupils have been conducting experiments to explore the effect of slow and fast cooling on the formation of crystals in igneous rocks.





Our Trust magazine “Chadwick Chats” is now live and available for parents and communities to access.

Please follow the link to access:  
[Chadwick Chats](#)



## >>> ANTI-BULLYING TEAM COFFEE MORNING - FRIDAY 6TH MARCH 2026

At St Aidan's Catholic Academy, we are committed to creating a safe, supportive environment where every pupil feels valued and respected. Our Anti-Bullying Team works hard to promote kindness, tackle bullying, and ensure that all pupils can thrive.

We believe that working together with parents is key to making a real difference. With this in mind our Anti-Bullying Team would like to invite you to a coffee morning. The coffee morning will take place on Friday 6th March 2026 from 9-10am. There will be plenty of coffee, tea and sweet treats and during this time our Anti-Bullying Team would like to tell you about the work they are doing. Key staff will also be on hand to answer any St Aidan's related questions.

If you cannot attend on the 6th of March but would like to be a part of this important team and help us continue building a positive school community, we'd love to hear from you!  
Interested?

Please email [contactus@staca.co.uk](mailto:contactus@staca.co.uk)  
FAO: Anti-Bullying Team



## >>> NEXTGEN EXPLORERS STEP INTO POLICING AND FORENSICS



CATHOLIC LIFE

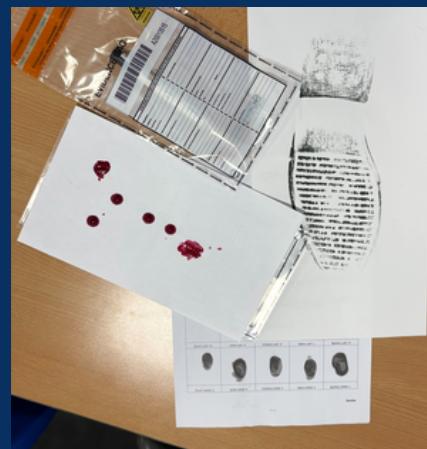
Over the past few weeks, our NextGen Explorers have taken part in an exciting journey into the world of policing with PC Rooks. They began by investigating simulated neighbourhood crimes, developing teamwork, communication and problem-solving skills while learning about the wide range of career paths within modern policing.

This week, the experience stepped up a level as pupils entered the world of forensic science. Dressed in full protective suits, they worked through a crime scene using authentic investigative methods. Pupils tested blood samples, examined shoe prints and analysed fingerprints as they pieced together evidence to solve a neighbourhood crime scenario.

The boys showed excellent engagement, curiosity and maturity throughout the sessions. This partnership with PC Rooks continues to broaden their understanding of policing, forensics and STEM pathways, while building confidence and transferable skills for the future.

Opportunities like these help pupils explore the jobs of tomorrow through hands-on activities delivered with our community partners, giving them real insights into future careers.

Come and see what's next by joining us for NextGen Explorers, every Thursday at 2:50pm in Room 309.



## >>> VACANCY - EXAM INVIGILATORS



CATHOLIC LIFE

We have an opening for Casual Exam Invigilators. We are seeking reliable, calm and professional individuals to join our team of Exam Invigilators.

This role is essential to ensure that examinations are conducted in accordance with school and awarding body regulations, helping to create a supportive and fair environment for all candidates.

To apply please complete the application form and accompanying forms which are available from the school or trust website.

<https://bccet.org.uk/job-vacancies/exam-invigilator>

Closing date: 30th March 2026

## >>> GENERAL REMINDERS

### ABSENCE REPORTING

Parents are required to call the student absence line each day to report any absence. Please dial the main school number and select Option 1.

Please ensure that you provide your child's full name, form group and a reason for the absence.

### PASS OUT REQUESTS

Pass Out requests should be emailed to [contactus@staca.co.uk](mailto:contactus@staca.co.uk). Please include your child's full name, form, date, reason for the Pass Out and collection/leaving time.

Parents will receive an email to confirm that the Pass Out has been completed.

Students need to collect their Pass Out slips from the Student Support office prior to their appointment. They should present the slip to their class teacher at the time stated on the Pass Out and make their way to the Main Reception.





**Tuesday, 10th February 2026**

Yr 11 and Yr 13 Mock Exam Results

**Thursday, 12th February 2026 and Tuesday, 17th February 2026**

School closes early at 1.55pm to accommodate YR 11 and YR 13 Parent's Evening.

Please note that no enrichment activities will take place on these dates. However, peripatetic lessons (individual music or other instrumental lessons) will continue as scheduled for those pupils attending.

**Friday, 20th February 2026**

School closes for half term holiday.

**Monday 23rd February 2026 to Friday 27th February 2026**

Half term holiday.

**Monday 2nd March 2026**

School re opens at usual time.

**Friday 6th March 2026**

Anti-Bullying Team Coffee Morning (9-10am)

**Tuesday, 17th March 2026**

Yr 9 Options Evening

