



As we approach the exam season of 2026 we think of on our pupils in years 11 and 13 who are reaching for the top of their mountains. We are working hard to ensure they are supported academically, spiritually, physically and emotionally during this time.

I ask that as a community we prayer for them all:

*God our father,
You have a plan for each of us,
You hold out to us a future full of hope.
Give us wisdom of your Spirit,
so that we can see the shape of your plan in our gifts.
Give us the understanding of your Spirit,
so that we can excel in our work.
Give us the courage of your Spirit,
so that we may seek out support when we need it.*

Amen

Mrs Whitten, Headteacher

>>> PUPILS OF THE WEEK

Cycle 3 Week 1

Evan Delaney (7B), Efan Oakley (7B), Desire Omodara (7B), Thomas Barron (7B), Rory Hodgson (7B), Elijah Poulton (7B)

Nominated for leading fluency Friday. Excellent effort boys!

Zakwan Shahid (8D) and Leslie De Cruz (8C)

Nominated for their outstanding verbal contributions in English.

Flynn Taylor (9R) and Ronan Naughton (9F)

Nominated for significantly improved attitude to learning and effort in English

Cycle 3 Week 2

Jacob Stephenson (9C)

Nominated for his big improvement in knowledge and skills for ICT/Computing this cycle – Jacob has worked very hard to improve his academic potential. Well Done!

ACHIEVEMENT POINTS TO DATE: 55417 (AV: 60.17) PER PUPIL)





>>> WORD OF THE WEEK

Cycle 3 Week 1:

Courageous (adjective). Cour/age/ous

Etymology: From Latin cor, "heart", + English suffix -ous, "full of"

Definition: Showing bravery; willing to face danger, difficulty or pain.

Example: In *I Am Malala*, Malala is courageous when she continues to campaign for girls' education despite threats to her safety.

Cycle 3 Week 2:

Companion (noun). Com/pa/nion

Etymology: From Latin *companio*, meaning "one who shares bread."

Definition: A person or creature who keeps someone company and offers support.

Example: In *Northern Lights*, Lyra's companion Pan demonstrates how close and important their bond is.

>>> YEAR 11 GCSE EXAMINATIONS COUNTDOWN

14

SCHOOL DAYS
UNTIL

GCSE EXAMS
BEGIN



>>> WELLBEING STATEMENTS



CATHOLIC LIFE

Cycle 3 Week 1

Look at an issue through someone else's perspective, work on developing your empathy and think about why it's important.

Cycle 3 Week 2

Kindness to yourself is just as important as kindness to others. Speak to yourself the way you would to a good friend.

>>> RHSE CHARTER MARK

Congratulations to St Aidan's Catholic Academy on achieving the RSHE Charter Mark. This is a fantastic accomplishment and a clear reflection of the school's commitment to nurturing pupils' personal development, wellbeing and respect for others. The award recognises the hard work of staff and the positive, supportive ethos that underpins RSHE at St Aidan's—well done to everyone involved in reaching this well-deserved milestone.

The Relationships and Sex Health Education (RSHE) Charter Mark in Sunderland is a local quality award that recognises schools for delivering high-quality, inclusive and age-appropriate RSHE. It highlights effective practice in supporting pupils' wellbeing, promoting healthy relationships, safeguarding, and ensuring strong engagement with parents, carers and the wider community.



➤➤➤ ART BYTES COMPETITION SUCCESS



CATHOLIC LIFE

Congratulations to our year 9 finalists from this years Art Bytes competition, we had some amazing entries.

Well done to Joseph, Charlie and Prince whose work was awarded with 1st , 2nd and 3rd place by an independent panel of judges.

You should be very proud!

Please take some time to look at our online school gallery to view the shortlisted entries from St Aidan's for 2026 by visiting www.artbytes.co.uk/schools and selecting St Aidan's Academy.



>>> GENERAL REMINDERS



CATHOLIC LIFE

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. 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.

>>> DATES FOR THE DIARY

Monday 4th May 2026

Bank Holiday Monday - school closed

Tuesday 5th May 2026

Year 10 Parents Evening - school closes early at 1.55pm for all pupils to accommodate Y10 Parents Evening. Please note that no enrichment activities will take place on this date, however, peripatetic lessons (individual music or other instrumental lessons) will continue as scheduled for those pupils attending.

Monday 25th May 2026 to 29th May 2026

Half Term Holiday - school closed

Monday 1st June 2026

Return to school at normal time

