



Here at St Aidan's, we believe that every aspect of the school day is an opportunity to grow as a community. Our lunchtimes are a great example of this.

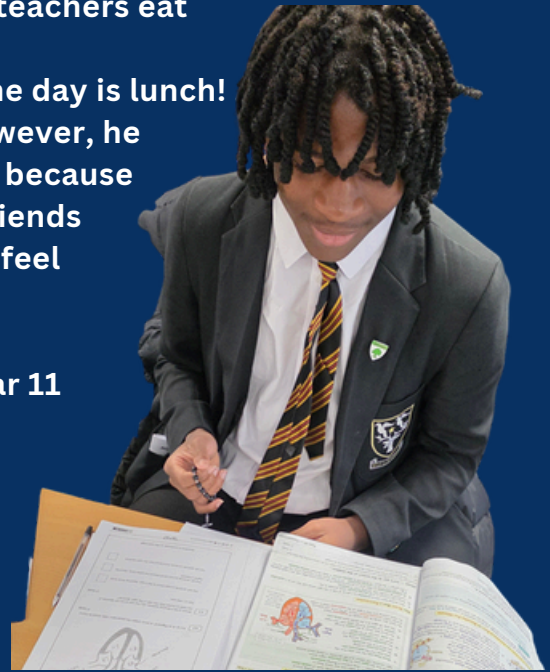
We focus on creating a family dining experience for pupils by limiting table sizes to four, which supports conversation, and by having teachers eat alongside our pupils.

One of our pupils recently said that his favourite part of the day is lunch! We initially thought this was due to our excellent food; however, he went on to explain that he loves the lunchtime experience because he has learnt so much from sitting with his teachers and friends and chatting. It is these experiences that have helped him feel that he truly belongs at St Aidan's after transitioning from primary school.

Alongside family dining, our dining hall is also used for Year 11 revision. It has been heartening to see the dedication and resilience of our boys as they work towards their exams.

They have been exceptional in their preparation and approach, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents for their continued support.

Mrs Whitten Headteacher



»» PUPILS OF THE WEEK

Cycle 3 Week 5

Archie (8R)

Archie demonstrated absolute kindness and compassion whilst helping a friend out. Archie demonstrated how our core values apply not only inside, but outside the classroom.

Will (10B) and Louis (10R)

Excellent level of commitment and dedication to GCSE History. The boys demonstrate our three core values and strive to expand their knowledge. Well done boys, keep this up as we approach Y11.

Ethan (10F)

Nominated for your consistent hard work and effort in RE lessons. Well done Ethan.

ACHIEVEMENT POINTS TO DATE: 61613 (AV:66.90 PER PUPIL)





>>> WORD OF THE WEEK

Cycle 3 Week 5:

Seclusion - se/clu/sion

Word Class: noun

Etymology: from Latin *secludere*, "to shut apart"

Definition: the state of being kept away from others; isolation

Example sentence: *The Woman in Black* illustrates how the house's seclusion adds to the story's eerie atmosphere.

Cycle 3 Week 6:

Intrusion - in/tru/sion

Word Class: noun

Etymology: from Latin *intrudere*, "to insert".

Definition: an unwelcome or forceful entry into someone's space or privacy

Example sentence: In *The Knife of Never Letting Go*, the constant Noise feels like an intrusion into every character's thoughts.

>>> YEAR 13 LEAVERS

Good luck to our Year 13 Leavers!!

We wish you all the very best of luck for the future.

>>> GCSE EXAMINATIONS

GCSE examinations continue after half term for our Year 11 pupils.

Please ensure that you continue to work hard with your revision during the holiday.





WELLBEING STATEMENTS

Cycle 3 Week 5

Your feelings matter. It's okay to ask for help when things feel heavy.

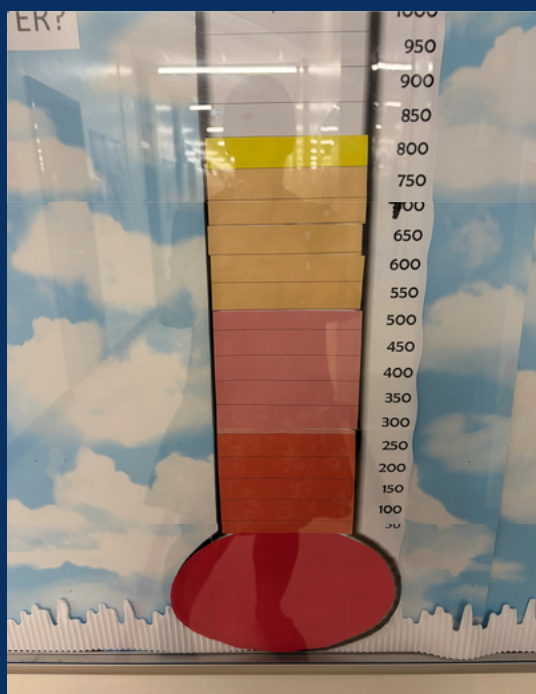
Cycle 3 Week 6

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

LIBRARY BOOK DONATIONS

We have now hit a total of 800 books for our new library!!

Once again thank you so much to everyone that has contributed. It really is appreciated by students.



HEAD BOY AND DEPUTY HEAD BOY

We are pleased to announce the successful appointment of student leaders across both Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4.

In KS3, Leslie has been appointed as Deputy Head Boy, alongside Sion, who has taken on the role of Head Boy.

In KS4, Ryan has been selected as Deputy Head Boy, while Chimdi has been appointed as Head Boy.

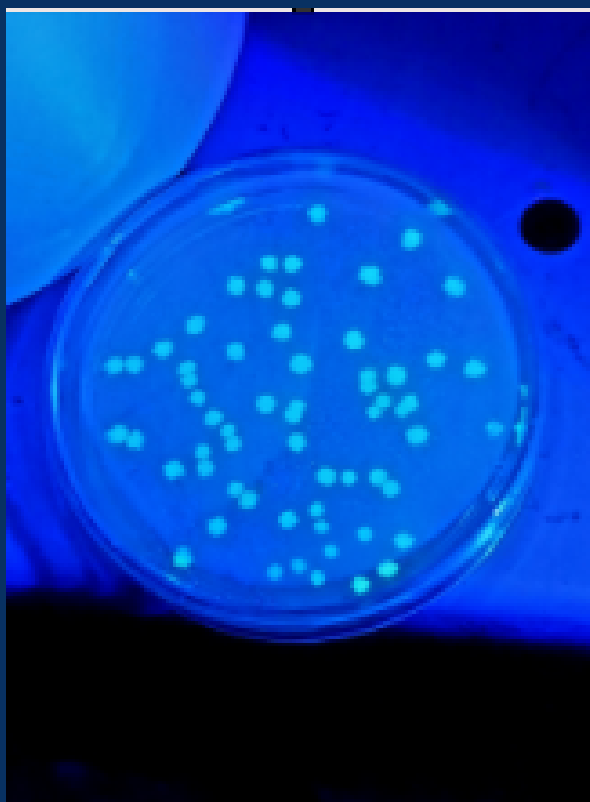
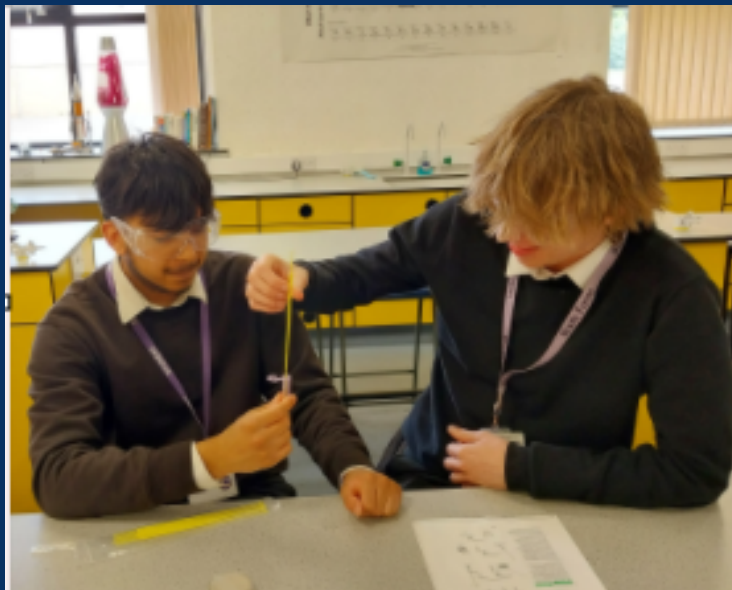
These appointments reflect the students' dedication, leadership qualities, and commitment to representing their peers, and we look forward to the positive impact they will have within the school community.



>>> YEAR 13 SCIENCE

Our Year 13 biology students recently carried out an exciting bacterial transformation experiment using the pGLO plasmid. Through heat shock transformation, students introduced jellyfish genes into *E. coli* bacteria, allowing the cells to become antibiotic resistant and glow bright green under ultraviolet light.

This advanced practical gave students hands-on experience of genetic engineering techniques used in modern biotechnology, medicine, and scientific research."



Community Coffee Morning with Space North East

We were delighted to welcome members of our school community to a recent coffee morning hosted in partnership with Space North East. Parents, carers and grandparents joined us for a relaxed and welcoming morning, where conversations flowed just as easily as the hot drinks served from Space North East's coffee van.

At the heart of the event was connection, bringing people together in a relaxed and supportive environment that strengthened the sense of community so important to our academy. Families and pupils also took away a few simple, practical ideas from the Mental Maintenance Toolkit to support wellbeing and maintain positive mental health. It was fantastic to see some of our Year 13 pupils drop in during a break from their exams, taking the opportunity to pause, recharge and enjoy a calm moment during what can often be a busy and pressured time.

James and Liam were superb, as always. Alongside serving drinks and creating a warm, relaxed atmosphere, they took time to support our pupils, offering guidance, reassurance and a listening ear when it was most needed. Their ability to build genuine connections with both young people and adults is truly special. What made their contribution even more powerful was the sense of legacy they represent. As former pupils of our school, their return to support our families and their children was a real full-circle moment, one that beautifully reflects the lasting impact of our community and the values we strive to instil in every pupil.

We look forward to continuing our work with Space North East as we support the wellbeing of our whole school community.





Green Energy Careers Roadshow: Inspiring the Next Generation

Some of our Yr9 pupils recently had the opportunity to explore the future of sustainable careers at the Green Energy Careers Roadshow, hosted by The North East Combined Authority at the Stadium of Light, Sunderland on Wednesday 13 May.

The event brought together a diverse range of employers from across the North East's growing green energy sector, including organisations specialising in heating engineering, civil engineering, housing development, consultancy, and sector-focused training providers. Through a combination of interactive sessions and networking opportunities, pupils gained valuable insight into an industry that is rapidly expanding both locally and nationally.

The afternoon began with an introduction to the green energy sector, helping pupils to understand its importance and the role it plays in shaping a more sustainable future. This was followed by employer rotation sessions, where small groups met directly with professionals to learn about their organisations, the roles they offer, and the skills required to succeed. Pupils also benefitted from a marketplace-style environment, giving them the chance to engage with additional employers and ask more personalised questions.

One of the key strengths of the event was the opportunity for pupils to hear directly from employers, including insights into apprenticeships, technical education routes, and career progression pathways. These real-world conversations helped to bring career pathways to life and supported pupils in making more informed decisions about their next steps.

The roadshow was particularly valuable for those interested in engineering, construction, and sustainability, but also opened the eyes of many pupils who may not have previously considered a career in the green energy sector.

Overall, the event provided a series of meaningful encounters that not only increased pupils' awareness of the opportunities available but also boosted their confidence in navigating future career choices. As the demand for green skills continues to grow, experiences like this play a vital role in connecting young people with the industries shaping their future.





Inspiring Futures: STEM Event at the University of Sunderland

On Tuesday 12th May, a group of our Year 10 pupils had the exciting opportunity to take part in a dynamic, on-campus STEM event at the University of Sunderland's St Peter's Campus, delivered in collaboration with the North East STEM Foundation.

From the moment they arrived, pupils were immersed in a university environment, beginning their day with a warm welcome in the Tom Cowie Lecture Theatre before embarking on a packed schedule of interactive sessions and employer encounters.

Throughout the day, pupils rotated through a carousel of engaging workshops led by both academics and industry professionals. These included sessions linked to areas such as artificial intelligence and engineering, alongside valuable insights from employers including NG Bailey and Steel Benders.

Pupils experienced a wide range of STEM pathways, helping them to connect classroom learning with real-world applications. The opportunity to hear directly from professionals gave pupils a deeper understanding of the skills, qualifications and mindsets required in these fast-growing industries.

This was complemented by guided campus tours, giving pupils a true sense of what studying at university could feel like and helping to raise aspirations for their future pathways.

Experiences like this are invaluable in helping young people to broaden their understanding of STEM careers, build confidence in unfamiliar environments, and make more informed decisions about their next steps.

We are incredibly grateful to the University of Sunderland and the North East STEM Foundation for an inspiring day.



Inspiring Futures: STEM Event at the University of Sunderland



One Big Summer is coming to Sunderland

One Big Summer, our free, city-wide celebration taking place across Sunderland city centre from Friday 22 to Sunday 24 May.

This event marks the official launch of Sunderland Stages, kicking off a wider summer programme of music, performance, and community events across the city. Together, we're celebrating local talent, supporting the city centre and giving people a great start to half term.

Join us for a free weekend of live music, performances and activities in Sunderland city centre (Keel Square & High Street West)

Perfect for a half term day out!

<https://mysunderland.co.uk/onebigsummer>





»»» THANK YOU AND GOODBYE TO MR SMITH

This summer, we say a heartfelt farewell to Mr Smith as he retires after 36 years of dedicated service to our school community.

For over three decades, Mr Smith has been a constant presence in the life of the school, teaching mathematics to thousands of boys and helping to shape not only their academic success, but their character, resilience and confidence. Generations of students will remember his unwavering commitment, his high standards, and his belief in every young person's ability to succeed.

Mr Smith's contribution goes far beyond the classroom. He has been a true example of servant leadership giving generously of his time, placing others first, and quietly supporting both pupils and colleagues alike. His patience, wisdom and humility have made a lasting impact on our community, and his influence will continue to be felt for many years to come.

It is no exaggeration to say that Mr Smith leaves a remarkable legacy. Thousands of lessons taught, countless exercise books marked, and an extraordinary number of pupils inspired each one a testament to his vocation as a teacher.

As he begins this new chapter, we offer our sincere thanks for his years of faithful service, his dedication to our school's values, and the difference he has made to so many lives.

We wish Mr Smith a long, healthy and fulfilling retirement, filled with the time and opportunities he so richly deserves.





»» IN LOVING MEMORY OF MISS GORDON

Last week, we paused to remember Miss Gordon on the anniversary of her death, giving thanks for her life and the lasting impact she made on our school community.

As Head of Religious Education and a dedicated form tutor, Miss Gordon was at the heart of school life. She was deeply committed to her vocation, nurturing the faith, confidence and character of so many young people. Her care for her students, her passion for Religious Education, and her ability to make every individual feel valued are qualities that continue to be remembered with great fondness.

Miss Gordon's commitment to service extended beyond the classroom. During her time with us, she spent a summer working in South Africa with the Edmund Rice network an experience that reflected her generosity, compassion and desire to put her faith into action in the service of others.

She is greatly missed by colleagues, students and all who had the privilege of knowing her. Yet, her legacy lives on in the values she instilled, the young people she inspired, and the strength of community she helped to build.

We continue to keep Miss Gordon and her loved ones in our prayers.



>>> SPORTING SUCCESS

>>> BOXING

Celebrating sporting success, Charlie in Year 10 won his kick boxing fight over the weekend where he claimed a unanimous points victory over his opponent.

Charlie will now have the opportunity to train with Team England over the summer as a result of his hard work and dedication.



>>> YEAR 7 RUGBY

Big congratulations to our year 7 Rugby team who came out undefeated in the year 7 finals held at Sunderland College.

This meant that they won the league overall, beating the likes of Sandhill, Southmoor and Castle View. Special mention to Aaron (7R) who was the player of the season and Hayden (7A) who won coach's player of the season.





➤➤➤ SUNDERLAND SCHOOLS ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Congratulations to those students who competed in the SS Athletics Championships held at Silksworth Track on Wednesday. All students demonstrated determination and resilience throughout.

8 students came top 2 in their event and therefore qualified to compete in the Tyne and Wear Durham County Athletic Championships at Monkton Stadium. These students are:

Sebastian (800m)
Oliver (800m)
Seth (1500m)
Theo (High Jump)
Gideon (100m)
Aryan (Javelin)
Zygi (Javelin)
Prosper (Discus)



➤➤➤ RUNNING CLUB

A huge well done to the many members of our school community, (both pupils and staff) who took part in the Sunderland running events on Sunday. It was fantastic to see such enthusiasm, effort and community spirit on display.

A special mention goes to some of our Running Club members, who achieved outstanding results in the 3K event. From a huge field of 737 participants, our pupils secured four of the top seven places:

- **3rd place: Theo**
- **5th place: Ryan**
- **6th place: Oliver**
- **7th place: Sebastian**

This term, Running Club members have been working hard on hill repetitions, interval training, and improving leg speed, and it is wonderful to see their efforts paying off.





➤➤➤ RUNNING CLUB (CONTINUED)

Running Club Reminder

Running Club takes place every Thursday after school, and we are always delighted to welcome new members of all abilities. We usually train in the beautiful surroundings of Backhouse Park, making it a fantastic way to stay active and enjoy the outdoors.

For those interested in running outside of school, Mowbray Park hosts a weekly 2K junior parkrun every Sunday at 9am. For those seeking a bigger challenge, Silksworth, Herrington Country Park and Fulwell Quarry all host 5K parkruns every Saturday at 9am, open to both juniors and adults.

Please see Mr Coon for more information. Well done again to everyone involved!

➤➤➤ EXTRA-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITY: 86TH SUNDERLAND SCOUT GROUP

Thomas in Year 12, would like to highlight a great extra-curricular opportunity available through the 86th Sunderland Scout Group.

The group has been running for over 25 years and is really welcoming. It's also great to be part of something in Sunderland, where one of the first-ever Scout groups started back in 1907. Being part of Sunderland District and County Durham Scouts means there are lots of additional events and opportunities to get involved in beyond weekly sessions.

Scouts is a brilliant way to build confidence, develop life skills, and meet new people. Activities include things like first aid, cooking, games and practical skills, as well as outdoor experiences and camps with activities such as climbing, canoeing, raft building and campfires.

It's a really enjoyable way to get involved outside of school and try something different.

👉 If you're interested, take a look at the flyer below for more details on how to join.

86th Sunderland Scouts 

Scouts	10 ½ – 14 Years 6 pm Thursday
cubs	8 – 10 ½ Years 6 pm Thursday
BEAVERS	6 – 8 Years 5 pm Thursday
Squirrels	4 – 6 Years 5 pm Thursday

Location – St Mary's Parish Centre, SR1 1TQ

If you are interested, or would like more info, please contact 86thsunderland@gmail.com






»» 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. 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 25th May 2026 to 29th May 2026

Half Term Holiday - school closed

Monday 1st June 2026

Return to school at normal time

Tuesday 30th June - Thursday 2nd July 2026

Year 6 Transition

Friday 3rd July 2026

Inset Day - school closed to pupils

Friday 17th July 2026

School closes for summer holidays

