



May 5th is the Feast Day of Edmund Rice. Edmund Rice founded the first free school for boys in Waterford in 1802. From one small school over 200 years ago, came a global network of schools. Today there are over 280 Edmund Rice schools spanning England, Ireland, Australia, North and South America, India and Africa.

In 1948, St. Aidan's became an Edmund Rice school and we are proud to be part of this global network ever since.

Edmund's vision was for education which focused on education for justice, compassion for the marginalized, concern for the whole person and striving for excellence. Here at St. Aidan's we live out this vision.

We pray:

"O God, we thank you for the life of Edmund Rice. He opened his heart to Christ present in those oppressed by poverty and injustices.

May we follow his example of faith and generosity.

Grant us the courage and compassion of Edmund as we seek to live lives of love and service.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen"

Mrs Whitten, Headteacher

»» PUPILS OF THE WEEK

Cycle 3 Week 3

Mihael Vucak (7R)

Mihael's Revision Clock was exemplary. The effort applied proves to be an example to his peers. Multiple staff have commented on how outstanding Mihael's continued effort is in class, this extends to his homework.

JJ Akinode (8F)

Your work ethic and exemplary manners are infectious and set the bar in lessons. You are working so hard. Well done and thank you!

Cycle 3 Week 4

Gabriel McBain (10C) Cole Foster (10C)

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.

ACHIEVEMENT POINTS TO DATE: (AV: 58320) 63.3 PER PUPIL





>>> WORD OF THE WEEK

Cycle 3 Week 3:

Logical - Lo/gi/cal

Word Class: Adjective

Etymology: From Greek logos, "reason".

Definition: Using clear, ordered thinking based on facts and reason rather than feelings.

Example: In *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, Christopher is logical, relying on facts and patterns to understand the mystery.

Cycle 3 Week 4:

Guilt - guilt

Word Class: Noun

Etymology: From Old English gylt, "offence, sin"

Definition: The feeling you get when you believe you have done something wrong

Example: In *The Kite Runner*, Amir carries a deep sense of guilt that drives his attempts to make amends.

>>> YEAR 11 GCSE EXAMINATIONS

As GCSE exams begin for Year 11 pupils this Monday, we want to wish them all the very best of luck.

This is a moment they have been working towards for a long time, and all their hard work, revision, and determination will now pay off.

Remember to stay calm, believe in yourself, and do your best. Good luck!





WELLBEING STATEMENTS

Cycle 3 Week 3

Every day is a fresh start. What happened yesterday doesn't define what you can achieve today.

Cycle 3 Week 4

Challenges help you grow stronger. Don't be afraid to try, even if you're unsure.

LIBRARY DONATION - A BIG THANK YOU!

We recently received a very generous donation from Finley Structures, who donated over 60 books to our new library! We truly appreciate your generosity and can't wait to get them on the shelves in the new building!

This donation takes our current total of new books up to an incredible 793. A big thank you to Finley Structures and everyone who has already donated, let's keep the momentum going!



ANTI-BULLYING TEAM AT ST AIDAN'S CATHOLIC ACADEMY

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. If you would like to be 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

FAO: Anti-Bullying Team



WELLBEING COFFEE MORNING



CATHOLIC LIFE

You are warmly invited to our Wellbeing Coffee Morning on Friday 15th May at 9am - 10am in our Briery building.

As part of Mental Health Awareness week, we will be joined by James, a former pupil, from SPACE North East, a local men's mental health and wellbeing organisation offering vital support across our community.



James will be available for an informal chat about mental health support and signposting for families, as well as how our school community can help support the work of Space North East.

Coffee will be available on the morning from the Space coffee van.

This event is for everyone in our school community. You don't need to be experiencing any concerns to come along – it's simply a friendly opportunity to enjoy a hot drink, some sweet treats, and good company.

All parents, carers and grandparents are very welcome. We hope to see you there.

The Briery
Friday 15th May 2026
9.00am



HISTORY DEPARTMENT SUMMER TRIP TO BELGIUM

St Aidan's History Department is excited to announce that we are launching our 2027 Summer Trip to Belgium (8th-11th July).

This trip will be open to all current Y9, to be next years Y10s. 44 places are available and will be allocated randomly.

This visit will give your son the opportunity to visit such places as: Essex Farm Cemetery, In Flanders Fields Museum, Langemark Cemetery, Menin Gate, Newfoundland Park and Vimy Ridge.

This visit will serve as an extremely positive experience and be very useful for our GCSE history students.



Please refer to teams for further details. All boys will also receive a letter from their form tutors.





LIVING JOYFULLY: A WONDERFUL ENCOUNTER WITH RELIGIOUS LIFE



CATHOLIC LIFE

8CL and the rest of Y8 thoroughly enjoyed the Living Joyfully experience, which was a lesson consisting of a Zoom call with members of The Religious Life such as Catholic Nuns, Monks & Priests. Students asked thoughtful, engaging questions and learned so much about what life is really like within different religious orders.

8CL were joined first by Sr Caroline from the Little Sisters of the Poor. She invited students to speak with their families to discover whether any older relatives may have been cared for by the Sisters at Holy Cross, Sunderland, many years ago. This personal connection made the experience especially meaningful.

Next, Sr Elvie from the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ) helped students challenge the common misconception that religious life is “boring”. She shared stories of her active and joyful ministry, showing just how varied and exciting religious life can be.

We were also delighted to welcome Sr Susan from the Presentation Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary (PBVM). She knew all about our school’s heritage and its links with Edmund Rice, and even recognised one of our former Headteachers. Students enjoyed hearing how our school’s story connects to wider Catholic traditions.

Finally, Sr Paget, a Benedictine Sister, offered a fascinating contrast. She described life in a Closed order. Students were intrigued by how different her daily routine was compared to the other Sisters they met.

Overall, it was an enriching and inspiring experience. Students learned about the rich variety of religious life and the many ways in which different orders serve both God and others through their missionary work. 8CL, and all of our Year 8 boys, left the session with a deeper understanding and great appreciation for the religious life.





»»» GENTOO APPRENTICESHIPS

Applications for this year's apprenticeship programme are open to pupils currently in Year 11 and Year 13 who meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Gentoo customers
- Gentoo Trade Academy students
- People with lived experience of care
- Relatives of Gentoo colleagues

This is designed to help support people and create meaningful opportunities to people in our communities. We have apprenticeships in the following roles:

- Electrical
- Plumbing
- Joinery
- Estate Operative
- Multi Maintenance
- Cyber security
- Housing
- Surveying
- Asset data

If you qualify to apply, please use the following link to find out more about the positions offered including job descriptions, and submit an online application [Apprenticeships 2026 - Gentoo Group](#)

»»» SPORTING SUCCESS

»»» YR 8 BOYS FOOTBALL TEAM

Our Y8 Boys Football team continued their excellent Town Cup run by beating Seaham High School in a close Semi-final.

Our boys led 20 courtesy of an own goal and a great Sam Ayeyemi finish but were pegged back to lead 2-1 at the break.

St Aidan's increased their lead to reach a commanding 4-1 scoreline thanks to goals from Lucas O' Brien and Tom Davis but let two late goals in to make it a tense finish but the lads held on to progress to the Town Cup final with the date and opponents still currently unknown.

A huge thank you goes to Mrs Allcroft who drove us there and back!

Our Year 8 Football Team also recorded another impressive home victory in the league against a strong Venerable Bede side. After a tight first half at 1-1 St Aidan's scored 4 goals in the second half to win 5-1. Goal scorers were Sam Ayeyemi (2), Lucas O' Brien, Bright Chigozie and Skipper Evan Hasso.

Well done boys!



»»» NUFC CUP FINAL SUCCESS FOR BEN



CATHOLIC LIFE

Congratulations to Ben Pearce (9R) who has been selected for an international football tournament in Germany from Friday 15th May - Sunday 17th May.

Ben's team also played away in Liverpool last weekend in the Premier league Albert Phelan cup final, winning 3-2 in extra time at Goodison Park - the first time ever that NUFC have won it.

Earlier this year, Ben was able to visit Philadelphia and play as part of the NUFC team. It was a fantastic experience but sadly on this occasion the team didn't get far in the competition. They got to climb the 'Rocky steps', see the Liberty Bell and attend a big basketball game.

Over the Easter bank holiday, the team played in Rotterdam where they won the Orange Veins U15 Cup, beating PSG in the final on penalties which was a huge achievement. They then returned to the UK and won the Rams Cup tournament at Derby.





MOTORSPORT STAR CHARLIE SEALS SILVERWARE



CATHOLIC LIFE

Rapidly rising Sunderland motorsport sensation Charlie Benson made an impressive car racing debut, showing superb pace and securing silverware in the GT Cup Championship at Donington Park (11/12 April). The 16-year-old north east racer carried momentum from his SuperOne Karting title victory—previously won by Formula 1 champion Lando Norris—into his first outing in car racing.

Competing with 24-7 Motorsport in a Ginetta G56 GT4, Charlie shared driving duties with Ben Taylor across two endurance races of 50 and 100 minutes. Racing in the highly competitive GTH class against experienced drivers, he quickly demonstrated his speed, even outperforming a GT3-spec Mercedes-AMG during testing. In qualifying, he narrowly missed out on pole position by just 0.031 seconds, showing there was still more pace to unlock.

Saturday’s race proved frustrating, as Charlie produced an excellent drive to move into third place, including a bold move around the outside at Coppice, only for a fuel issue to force the car into the pits and deny him a podium finish. However, he bounced back strongly in Sunday’s longer race, overcoming early setbacks including a misted windscreen during the opening stint.

Once behind the wheel, Charlie set the fastest times in his class and made a decisive switch to slick tyres as conditions improved. A late safety car allowed him to close the gap, and he ultimately secured third place—earning a podium finish on just his second-ever car race. Looking ahead, Charlie aims to build on this success at Snetterton, with his sights firmly set on future race wins.



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

Friday 15th May 2026

Wellbeing Coffee Morning - The Briery 9am - 10am

Friday 22nd May 2026

School closes for holidays at normal time

Monday 25th May 2026 to 29th May 2026

Half Term Holiday - school closed

Monday 1st June 2026

Return to school at normal time

