



St Antony's Roman Catholic School

ASPIRE + BELIEVE + ACHIEVE

St Antony's Spring Term Newsletter March 2023

Thank you so much to Mrs Rowley for emailing in the photograph of the wonderful rainbow over St Antony's last weekend.

It is very much appreciated and looks amazing!



Headteacher's Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

I cannot quite believe we have already reached the end of the Spring Term! It only seems like yesterday that we returned after Christmas on 3rd January. This school year certainly seems to be flying by! Our newsletter summarises for you a lot of what has been going on here at St Antony's over the last term. As you will see, it has been a busy time!

As I mentioned in my last newsletter, teachers have been continuing to work really hard over the past term on developing our curriculum. This work continues to review what is taught and in what order so that pupils are building up knowledge day by day, week by week and year by year. We have also spent a lot of time this term with staff continuing to develop their teaching skills, with particular focus on behaviour management, questioning and effective feedback. The work to support teaching staff will continue to be prioritised as this will only enhance further the learning experiences of children in all lessons moving forward.

We are delighted with the impact of our new rewards strategy this term and it is wonderful to see so many pupils wearing their achievement badges with such pride. It is important to us all that we do not take for granted the large majority of pupils who consistently do the right things and we feel our new approach gives pupils the acknowledgements they deserve. I look forward to seeing more pupils gain various awards, badges and prizes as the summer term unfolds.

Unfortunately, we still encounter some pupils who struggle to meet our very high expectations in regards to their uniform and behaviour and we have worked very hard to support them as well as putting in place consequences for their unacceptable choices. A school that wants to prioritise learning, has to build this on a solid culture of manners, good choices, excellent behaviour and respect – and we will not condone or ignore pupil choices that potentially would undermine this culture. I want to thank you for your support as we put in place boundaries and consequences for your child. It really does make a difference when children know adults at home are working together, in partnership, with adults in school.

As I mentioned at the Parents' Forum in January, it has been important for us to address the unkind behaviour of a small number of children towards other children. Over the last term, we have done this via various assemblies, our personal development curriculum and training for our staff on types of bullying, the impact of bullying and how to deal with it effectively. We have challenged all our pupils and our staff to proactively call out unkind behaviour between pupils via our #nobystanders campaign and this has really helped us to know far more about what is happening in our school between pupils so we can take steps to stop it happening. Whilst we still have some way to go, we are proud at the positive impact this has had in addressing issues around things like misogyny, homophobia, racism and disability discrimination.

February was an extremely busy month for our year 11 pupils as they sat mock exams in all of their subject areas. The pupils worked tirelessly in preparation for these exams; attending interventions after school, completing online learning and even mentoring each other at break and lunchtimes. Our teachers were massively impressed with the focus, determination, resilience and maturity of the vast majority of pupils and commented that 'the pupils really rose to the challenge'. Well done year 11!

In other news, after many weeks of training during cold, dark, wet evenings myself and Mr Harris (our Head of History) will be running in the Manchester Marathon on Sunday April 16th. The 26.2-mile route passes through Manchester city centre, Old Trafford, Stretford, Sale, Timperley and heads down into Altrincham before returning back via Chorlton to the Old Trafford cricket ground. If you are spectating on the day, look out for us both and give us a wave – I'm sure the encouragement would be really appreciated, especially if we are getting close to the finish!

Finally, we say goodbye to Dr Moore, our science teacher, who is leaving us at Easter. We thank Dr Moore for her service and wish her all the very best for the future.

School reopens to all pupils on Monday 17th April 2023 and we look forward to hearing about all their adventures over the Easter holiday.

May I take this opportunity to wish all pupils and parents a very happy and holy Easter.



Mr A Campbell
Headteacher

Looking Ahead: Key Dates for Your Diary

- Thursday 20th April – Y9 options evening
- Friday 28th April – Y8 HPV dose 2
- Monday 1st May – May Day Bank Holiday – school closure
- Thursday 4th & Fri 5th May – GCSE Art & Design exams
- Friday 5th May – 7th May – Y7 Trip PGL Newby Hall
- Monday 8th May – Bank Holiday for the coronation of King Charles – school closure
- Thursday 11th May (7pm-8pm) – Parent workshop for all parents and carers to help you access support for keeping your child safe in this digital age (run by Dignify charity)
- Monday 15th May – Start of the main Y11 GCSE written examinations (lasts approx. 4 school weeks)
- Monday 15th – 21st May – Mental Health Awareness Week
- Friday 26th May – Break up for May Half Term holiday
- Monday 5th June – Return from May Half Term holiday
- Tuesday 6th June – Parent Forum (4 – 5.30)
- Monday 26th June – INSET for staff – school closure
- Thursday 29th June – Y7 parents' evening
- Monday 3rd July – Transition information evening for Y6 parents (6pm-7.30pm)
- Thursday 6th July – Main transition day where all incoming Y7's are invited for the day (9am-2pm)
- Friday 7th July – Y11 prom
- Tuesday 11th July – End of term rewards trip to Alton Towers** (date TBC)
- Tuesday 18th July – Sports day at Longford Park
- Friday 21st July – Break up for summer holiday
- Thursday 24th August – GCSE exam results for pupils in Y11

Changes to Timings of the School Day for 2023-24

After a period of consultation with senior leaders, staff, trade union reps, some pupils, parents (via the parent forum), governors and the local primary school it has been decided that the school day for 2023-24 will be amended slightly.

The main changes will commence in September 2023 and will involve us starting at 8.45am (10 minutes earlier than we currently do) in order to ensure all lessons last for a full 60 minutes (they currently do not) and to provide pupils and staff with an additional 5 minutes at lunchtime.

Time	Activity	Duration
8.45	Registration with either assembly x1 or reading x4	30 mins
9.15	Period 1	60 mins
10.15	Period 2	60 mins
11.15	Break	15 mins
11.30	Period 3	60 mins
12.30	Period 4	60 mins
1.30	Lunch	45 mins
2.15	Period 5	60 mins
3.15	End of the Day	

Pupil Rewards Update

Pupils have been awarded a total of 86,000 Achievement Points since this year's launch in November. Celebrating pupils' positive choices, effort in lessons, helping others, attending extra-curricular activities, as well as many other achievements has led to hundreds of students receiving various rewards including bronze, silver, gold and platinum achievement badges and certificates, subject award badges and attendance awards.

Pupils from years 7, 8 and 9 who have consistently demonstrated an excellent attitude to learning have attended a rewards trip to the Playfactore in Trafford.

Year 11s have a weekly reward initiative with a different focus each week including behaviour, e-learning and attendance to period 6 support sessions; rewards include achievement points and canteen vouchers. A further 68 pupils have been invited to spend the afternoon at the Trafford centre to recognise their continued hard work, outstanding behaviour and effort in school.



Anti-Bullying Training



T H E[®] D I A N A A W A R D

Just after February half term, Mr Taylor facilitated for 18 pupils to take part in a one-day anti-bullying training session run by The Diana Award. The programme, a key part of our #nobystanders approach to anti-bullying, had a strong peer-to-peer focus which enabled pupils to acquire vital skills to enable them to change the attitudes and behaviours of bullying in our school by building their confidence to address different situations, both online and off.

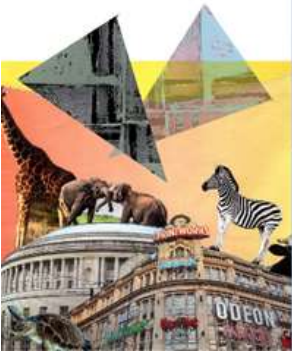
Personal Development Curriculum

We've been keeping you up to date with Personal Development learning at St Antony's through our weekly email to parents and carers, '*St Antony's Stories*'. We hope that these have been informative and afforded you an opportunity to discuss current Personal Development learning with your child, in tandem with school's work on this.

To summarise, over the last term:

- the focus in Personal Development lessons over the spring term has been *Life Cycles* in half term 3 and *Keeping Safe* in half term 4;
- you've received regular communication via email of the weekly lesson content, assembly theme and other activities/events which support learning in this area of school;
- support and signposting relating to Personal Development lessons is now on the **Wellbeing and Support** section of the website should it be needed at any time, including when school is closed;
- there has been social media coverage to highlight some aspects of Personal Development learning; we've been sharing more thorough Personal Development lesson content with you every time a year group have a Parents'/Carers' Evening;
- we've had an internal and external review of Personal Development, and we've consulted with pupil voice about life at school (in Personal Development lessons and more widely), and listened to and actioned suggestions for improvement;
- and we've worked with *Dignify* to survey our KS4 students about online safety and behaviours and have planned a Parent Workshop for all parents and carers from 7-8pm on Thursday 11th May to help you access support for keeping your child safe in this digital age - please save the date and look out for further information early in the summer term.

Art Assessments



During March students in Year 11 took part in a full art day exploring the theme of their exam. Students undertook a 5-hour exam session focusing on their chosen brief.

A visiting artist Victoria Holland visited school to support Year 10 with their Manchester project. Students created work inspired by her work exploring collage and mixed media

Well done to all pupils involved on what was a very successful day.



Attendance

We know the best place for our students is in front of their teachers and the impact of "lost learning" on outcomes for students is hugely significant for their future choices and results.

The more pupils miss out on school the greater the negative impact on their learning and, ultimately, their GCSE outcomes at the end of Year 11.

At St Antony's:

- Overall attendance of pupils is just above the national average – however, we want to improve this further and know we have more work to do
- Every students' attendance target is 98% and over.
- Persistent absence is officially classed as attendance below 90%. This means school is legally obliged to follow a formal process with these students and their families.

We ask our parents and carers that you continue to support us in reinforcing a strong attendance message to your children and encourage them to set themselves targets of being eligible for the fantastic host of rewards that recognise strong attendance such as;

- The End of Year Alton Towers reward trip
- Termly ATL / Attendance reward trips
- Student Bronze, Silver and Gold attendance badges and certificates
- Our Target week 100% attendance draws.

We hope to see as many students as possible achieving and accessing these trips and rewards in the upcoming summer term!

Safeguarding

In March we welcomed the Street Doctors into school. This is a group of medical students who worked with some Year 9 & Year 10 pupils on knife crime, emergency first aid and trauma coping.

It was an extremely positive experience, with many pupils considering it to be very informative.



GIFT Team

A selection of Year 10 students from our GIFT Team visited St Ann's Primary School recently and worked with the children in the school. The 12 students successfully delivered a workshop to Year 6 pupils and all represented our school wonderfully whilst also demonstrating superb leadership skills. Well done everyone!



Primary Liaison

During the Spring term, we invited our feeder primary schools to participate in numerous remote activities. All of our feeder schools were invited to enter two online competitions; our annual D and T competition run by the Technology department and the new Geography 'Flag Design' competition run by Mr Kearney. We also invited in Year 5's from various primary schools to participate in the Junior STEM workshop to celebrate National Science week.

Sport Update

The PE department have had a very busy Spring term. The Basketball league continued after Christmas and all of the teams had a number of victories against other Trafford schools. The Trafford Schools Football League recommenced following the winter break and the Trafford Schools Cup competition started with the Year 9 and Year 10 teams reaching the Quarter finals of the competition.

The behaviour, conduct and sportsmanship of all pupils has been exemplary during each and every fixture.

The department managed the Trafford Cross Country team at the Greater Manchester Cross Country event at Heaton Park with numerous Trafford teams placing first.

The Sports Leaders helped to run their first external sports competition after receiving some external training by Kay Statham, the Trafford schools Games Coordinator. The Sports Leaders received some fabulous feedback regarding their involvement in the competition. The summer term will see the start of the Trafford Athletics competition, the Trafford schools Cricket competition and the Rounders league.



PTA

A massive thank you to all the members of the PTA who have worked tirelessly to raise funds to purchase items that all the students can benefit from.

The next PTA meeting will be held in school on Thursday 27th April at 4.30pm – we would really appreciate some new members who could offer up some fundraising ideas or help in other ways. All welcome!

The second of the outdoor shelters will be installed in the next month or so (weather dependant). One of the current outside seating areas is due to be tarmacked during the Easter holidays. The aim for the PTA is to raise enough funds to be able to purchase a shelter like the one shown here, which will allow some of our students outside access in the wet weather, without getting soaked!



Cadets

Did you know we have a cadets regiment based in school? This is overseen by Mr Katsouris and Miss Romagnoli and they meet every Wednesday after school. This is a wonderful opportunity for pupils to get involved in something else outside of their normal lessons. If you want more information, please see Mr Katsouris or Miss Romagnoli for more information. Key dates for pupils already in the cadets in the next term are below:

- Monday 22nd – Tuesday 23rd May – CCF Southport overnight trip
- Tuesday 6th – Wednesday 7th June - CCF Southport overnight trip
- Wednesday 14th June – CCF Sale Waterpark Trip
- Wednesday 21st June – CCF Sale Waterpark Trip
- Wednesday 28th June – CCF Sale Waterpark Trip
- Wednesday 5th July – CCF Sale Waterpark Trip



Science Trips

Pupils who are studying triple science in Y10 visited Chester Zoo with Mr Ingham, where they took part in a Conservation Workshop. Students investigated the threats to biodiversity; learnt more about the species that are affected and the role a modern zoo in the 21st century takes to help conserve them, through education work, breeding programs and in-situ conservation. Everyone had a very enjoyable time!



Staff Focus – Welcome to Mrs Bolton

As a new member of staff at St Antony's I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Cathryn Bolton and I have worked as a teacher, for over twenty years in a variety of settings in the UK and abroad. Prior to joining St Antony's, I worked at St Gilbert's RC Primary School in Eccles as an Intervention Teacher, supporting children mainly with reading, writing and maths.

The main focus of my role at St Antony's will be to set up and work on a Fresh Start reading/phonics programme with some children in Year 7 & 8. Although we are only a few weeks into the programme, the impact has already been huge and the children are enjoying the work. I am excited to see how this develops over the coming months. I would like to thank the staff and students at St Antony's for making my first six weeks at the school so enjoyable. St Antony's is an incredibly warm and welcoming school and I am excited to be part of the family.

Careers at St Antony's

We have been incredibly busy this term supporting our pupils in their future choices beyond St Antony's. For example, St Antony's welcomed 7 external providers into school on our Working Skills Day to work with our Year 11 students. The day involved a range of activities focused on preparing students for their working life such as a Money Management session, Team building, University Student Life, Personal Branding, Interview Skills and CV Writing. Our Year 9 students also continued their University of Manchester Gateways Programme which gives them a flavour of university life and opportunities to boost their aspirations and ambitions. St Antony's are always eager to allow the students to engage with as many careers encounters as possible to give them a flavour for what opportunities they have access to in their future and to raise their aspirations! Please get in touch with Miss Ruddock or Mr Shaw if you are able to facilitate any workplace visits or talks with our students.



Loreto College Masterclasses



A selection of Year 10 students, aspiring to aim higher, were invited to Loreto Sixth Form College just before we finished for Easter. The students experienced a sixth form environment, had the opportunity to learn about life in Sixth Form and tasted lectures that the college has to offer in various subjects. As usual, the pupils behaved wonderfully and were a credit to St Antony's

Catholic Life

The GIFT team have also taken over the weekly production of Catholic life newsletter. This provides all staff and pupils a short update of what is going on in the Church and in our school so we can stay connected to our faith.



Recently, some of our Year 11 students attended the FLAME conference in London along with 8,000 young Catholics from across England and Wales. This is the largest Catholic gathering of young people in England and Wales and all pupils (along with Mrs Bartlett and Sister Linda) had a wonderful time as they embraced the theme to "rise up" and ensure they lived our faith in all that they do.

Over the last few weeks there have been a number of religious services that students have taken part in. Mr Giblin led the whole school services on Ash Wednesday, pupils have followed the Stations of the Cross in RE lessons and pupils have also had the opportunity to undertake reconciliation. Below is a picture showing Sister Linda preparing pupils for reconciliation with one of our local priests (Father Ged, Father Kieren, Father Gavin and Father Richard). This is the first time we have done this since 2019, with over 250 students choosing to take part and many pupils described the uplifting experience that this sacrament had on them.



We ended the Spring term with a whole school mass at St Hugh of Lincoln church, with Father Ged leading a congregation of nearly 700 pupils, 100 staff and a few local parishioners. The theme of the mass during this season of Lent focused on service and how we should consider using our gifts and talents for the benefit of others, not just ourselves.

Drama Club

Every Monday, Bloom Education and Tuition LTD provides a 90-minute theatre-skills activity for Years 7-10. Thirty of our students took part in their Group Acting exams this February for the Victoria College of Music and Drama, London and all who performed achieved a Distinction! They will be receiving their Grade 1 certificates in assembly soon. The cast is currently working towards a production of Matilda: the Musical which they will perform for a packed crowd at the Fuse Theatre in July. For more information about Bloom's activities, or to sign your child up to their weekly club at St Antony's, visit www.bloomperformingarts.co.uk



Mental Health Champions

We now have 18 fully trained Mental Health Champions who have covered various content on mental health and are ready to disseminate the programme to the rest of the children in school next half term.

In our first few weeks back after Easter, pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 will have the MHC's in their form times for the week to work through information and scenarios whilst also supporting the students to access important strategies to improve their mental health. These scheduled sessions will ensure a whole school approach to mental health and allow other students in other year groups to learn how to become a Mental Health Champion for the school as we ultimately aim to have a small group of MHC's in each year group to support the development of this initiative moving forward.

Application forms will be available for students to apply from Mrs Holmes.



Additionally, Mental Health Awareness Week will be recognised (15th to 21st May), with various well-being activities and charity events led by the MHC's. The MHC's are currently designing 'The Hub' where students can 'drop in' to sessions to support mental health throughout the week. The students have some fantastic ideas for charity events and we will update you via our social media channels.

WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED THIS EDITION OF OUR NEWSLETTER

HAVE A BLESSED EASTER TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING EVERYONE RETURN SAFE AND WELL ON
MONDAY 17th APRIL**