



St Antony's  
Roman Catholic School

Respect + Love + Integrity + Service + Resilience

# St Antony's Spring Term Newsletter

## March 2024

This half term, we have introduced all of our KS3 pupils to the new library and the plethora of new books we have added to the shelves!



## Headteacher's Introduction

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we end another term I am again in a reflective mood as I look back on the period since Christmas and consider how much we have done to move our school forward in a relatively short period of time. I want to take this opportunity to thank all the incredibly hard-working staff who remain so committed to supporting all pupils so they can be on the path to become the best version of themselves. It was lovely to read all of the many postcards that pupils have written for the adults in form time this week, thanking them for all they do for them – reflecting the strong sense of togetherness and mutual respect that exists within our school community.

As I have mentioned to you before, I know we do not always get everything right and we may not always communicate as effectively as we could and I am sorry about this. Thanks for being patient and for helping us to improve. I want to reassure you that we do continue to try to learn from our mistakes and we are working hard at improving communication and engagement with all stakeholders so all those who have a vested interest in our school feel that their voices are heard and that we respond promptly to some of the ideas that are put forward.

Over the last term, collectively we have spent a lot of time and effort on ensuring we have the right culture and climate around the school, so that teachers can get on with teaching and pupils can get on with learning. This has resulted in improvements in relation to being late for lessons and disruption to learning within lessons, but recognise we still have more to do given that a small number of pupils can struggle to consistently make good behaviour choices, they can use hurtful words to their peers and they can be defiant to adults who work to try and support them. On our return to school following the Easter holiday I will be speaking to all pupils in assembly about hidden disabilities and the importance of acceptance and inclusivity, whilst also reminding pupils of our golden rule of respect and the impact that disrespect can have on others in our school community.

Our Y11 pupils have been working incredibly hard, with real maturity, as they approach their GCSE exams that will take place this summer. The pupils within this year group have engaged in huge numbers with many of the various additional learning opportunities outside of lessons that have been set up to help them to be as prepared as possible. We wish them all the very best of luck and will be very sad to see them leave when they move on to pastures new later this summer.

Recently we have been working hard to improve facilities at St Antony's. Alongside the installation of a new roof and windows, we have successfully bid for additional funding to improve pupil toilet facilities, and work will take place over the summer holidays in time for our return in September 2024. Furthermore, we have now set up (and will be opening fully soon) our dedicated regulation space within school called The Hive. This will be a quiet, supervised space to support a very small number of pupils for very short periods who may need somewhere to regulate themselves before they go back to lessons.

During this period of Lent, our pupils have been very busy raising money for Caritas so we can support their work in reaching out to the poor, vulnerable and excluded in our country and in other countries around the world. In total we raised nearly £1300 and the engagement from our pupils has been wonderful to witness. Representatives on our Student Council have expressed how pupils are keen to do more of this work in future and we will be asking our pupils in different year groups to decide which charities or organisations they would like to support, so our young people get further opportunities to live out our some of our core values of love and service.

Finally, I want to conclude my remarks for this edition of our newsletter by giving thanks to Miss Elsey for her many years of love and support for our SEND pupils at St Antony's as she moves on from her Assistant SENCO role. We wish her well for the future and hope she remains in touch with us.

I wish you all a very happy, peaceful and holy Easter.

Regards



Mr Campbell - Headteacher

## Looking Ahead - Key Dates

- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April – INSET Day
- Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April – Students return to school
- Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April – Y7 Parents Evening
- Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May – PTA Meeting in school 4pm
- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May – School Closed for Bank Holiday
- Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May – Exam season
- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May – break up for May half term
- Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June – Return to school
- Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June – Parent Forum
- Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June – St Anthony of Padua Feast Day
- Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June – Y10 Art & Design Trip MMU Degree Show
- Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June – CCF Trip, Southport
- Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June – Y10 Geography Fieldtrip, Salford Quays
- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July – Y6 Transition Evening
- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July – CCF Trip, Southport
- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July – Y6 SEN Day
- Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July – Y6 Transition Day
- Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July – Y11 Prom at Hotel Football
- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July – CCF Trip, Portsmouth
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July – Wizard of Oz Production
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July – Break up for the summer holiday

## Year 11 Exams



During the Spring term, our Exams Officer will be working hard to finalise all the logistics for the final Year 11 exams commencing in May. Some of the tasks involved are; submitting entries for each candidate, for each subject, to the exam boards, distributing Statements of Entry and Individual Timetables to every candidate and recruiting and training invigilators. There is some really useful information available on our website about the exams including the general Summer Timetable, an important 'Information for Candidates' document and some guidance and tips for getting the most from revision.

The vacancies page on the website has further details if you are interested in becoming an invigilator.

Everyone at St Antony's wishes all of our Year 11 students the very best of luck in their final exams.

## MFL



**¡VIVA Languages!** - In January we took a select group year 9 students to The University of Manchester for a taster of campus life and studying languages. The day involved a talk about “Why study languages?” followed by a role play activity in French and a taster session in Russian. Привет (privet)

### Mother Tongue Other Tongue Competition

Mother Tongue Other Tongue is a multi-lingual poetry project, created as a Laureate Education Project by Professor Carol Ann Duffy DBE (UK Poet Laureate 2009-2019) to celebrate cultural



diversity and the many languages spoken in schools in the UK.

This Spring St. Antony’s will be entering the competition with entries from our year 7 Spanish and year 8 French pupils. To celebrate the diversity of our pupil population we will also be entering for those pupils who speak another language at home and would like to share a piece of their culture. Any pupils interested should contact their language teacher.



## Geography



**Antarctic Competition** - Our school winner of the Antarctic flag competition was Jayden M in Y7. Jayden’s flag has travelled to Antarctica with Addie Giles, a marine biologist with the British Antarctic Survey. His prize was the excellent Prisoners of Geography book by Tim Marshall. This photograph was taken at Rothera. Rothera is the largest UK research station

in Antarctica. To find out more, and take a virtual tour, visit

<https://www.bas.ac.uk/polar-operations/sites-and-facilities/facility/rothera/>



**Wildhearts COP28 Conference** - On Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November a group of Year 8 and 9 students represented our school in the Wildhearts COP28 Global Climate Change Conference at the Siemens Building in Didsbury. The students worked collaboratively with other schools to come up with sustainable solutions to the threat of climate change in front of big businesses such as Nestle and Siemens. The students presented their ideas superbly in front of other schools and were a credit to St Antony's on the day.

## CCF



This term has been another busy one for the CCF. We have had 10 new Year 8 pupils join us, and our older cadets have been showcasing some excellent leadership skills, helping to teach the new recruits. On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March the cadets went on a trip to Liverpool, where we found out more about the Navy during World War 2, and especially the role of women during the war. Everyone had a great day and learnt a lot. We are looking forward to being able to make the most of the warmer weather next term, with trips to Southport and Sale water park planned!

## Student Success



Well done to Y10 student Jasmine, who had the opportunity to attend a goalkeeping academy GKIKON in Dubai to train in a state-of-the-art football facility.

The coaching was provided by ex-Premier League goalkeepers and Arsenal women's 1st team goal keeper coach. Jasmine currently plays for Urmston Meadow Side and has a trial coming up with Manchester City.

A big shout out to year 8 student Sam W who won his first major cup event in Spain last month. He drove superb all week and excelled in the race !!

P1 in qualifying - P1 in his heats - P1 in the final

The hard work practicing and dedication is certainly showing. Sam's current class in karting is X30 Junior the age for this class is between 12 to 15 , 125cc engine, he races at elite level in the UK and Europe with his team BMR .

The European championship starts next month in Spain then continues around Europe with 5 rounds (Italy, Belgium, Germany ) the UK championship starts in May and has 4 rounds. Around this the team tests / practices at various tracks to keep performance high.

Karting is the platform which all the current F1 drivers start from, racing at all the circuits where Sam competes at.

Hopefully with the support from his parents and dedication from Sam he can achieve his dream of becoming a future professional racing driver and champion!

St Antony's are extremely proud of both students and wish them both all the very best !!!



## PTA

The PTA have some great fundraising ideas in mind for the rest of this academic year and are hoping that lots more parents are able to get on board and get involved. If you are interested in joining then please email: [k.rothwell@st-antony's.com](mailto:k.rothwell@st-antony's.com) with your contact name and mobile telephone number.

The next PTA meeting will be held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May at 4pm and it would be great to see you there.

## Reading and Literacy

St Antony's - we are a school that reads!

It has been another huge term for reading and the library, as we have invested further in more books and needed new shelves to house them! In addition to our own investment, we have been bowled over by the generosity of our families and local community, as Mrs Bolton and Mrs James launched a book sponsorship appeal, leading to nearly 200 new books being gifted to the school! This is still open, so please click on the following link <https://amzn.eu/gUHCvDA> or scan the QR code.



Another wonderful trip took place after we were awarded £650 to spend in a local book shop - you may have noticed some of our reading ambassadors marching into Urmston Book Shop to spend their awards from the Siobhan Dowd trust!

As always, we celebrated World Book Day, with tasty treats in the library and Mr Williams launched a book swap to help pupils borrow more books and to discuss them with friends. Daily celebrations take place through the Bookflix initiative, which leads to more reading and more rewards, with pupils writing reviews and teachers across the school promoting books that link to their subjects as well. The list of events and book-loving initiatives is endless, but keep an eye on our social media feeds for more updates on all of these events!



Our love for books is contagious and we appeal to everyone to celebrate with us, even if that means just asking a child what they read in school. All pupils in Key Stage 3 have now been to our library for an introduction with Mr Williams. We allocate 3 mornings a week where pupils are read to together in their forms, which means that along with their English curriculum, children are getting through up to 25 books in the time that they spend with us at St Antony's. That's why we say St Antony's is a school that reads!

## Sports at St Antony's

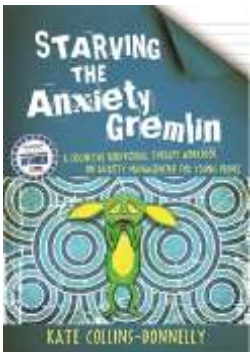
The PE department have had another very busy term delivering activities such as Dance, Gymnastics, Health and Fitness, Badminton and Table Tennis to key stage 3 pupils. Key stage 4 pupils have been working hard on their PE coursework, completing mock exams and preparing to take part in their final GCSE PE practical performances.

The department have now launched its new and improved Instagram page, [st\\_antonys\\_pe](#). The page will showcase some of the fabulous sporting performances displayed in lessons and will promote the extensive range of extra-curricular clubs on offer and sporting fixtures against other schools. Please follow to keep up to date.



## Support for SEND Pupils

Intervention Program - Our SEND department have expanded their intervention program so that we can provide pupils with extra support outside of the classroom, to give them the tools to be able to build independence and access the whole school curriculum. Our current interventions are:



- Phonics
- Anxiety Gremlins
- Mentoring
- Dynamo Maths
- Lexia PowerUp Literacy
- Handwriting
- Touch Typing



If you would like your child to be considered for any of the above interventions, please contact your child's keyworker.

## Safeguarding

Safeguarding leads from St Antony's hosted a 'sharing good practice' session with a group of DSL's from around the Trafford Local Authority. Other schools will be using St Antony's developed tracking and monitoring tools for attendance, behaviour and vulnerable students.

St Antony's are spearheading a project in connection with Public Health to combat vaping in young people. When developed this project will be starting in Trafford initially and then rolled out nationally. The aim of this project is to determine the reasons why young people vape and how best to put future funding in place to create the correct type of support and services to empower them to stop.

St Antony's Deputy DSL Jay Haughton is an active member of Trafford Safeguarding Partnerships sub-boards on both Neglect and Exploitation. These sub-boards guide the direction of the local authority on how they tackle such important issues.

## Careers



We have started to communicate in *St Antony's Stories* with you, information about the Careers offer here at school. Just a reminder that, once every half term, one Personal Development lesson is devoted to Careers education. For example, in Half Term 3, the sessions corresponded with National Apprenticeship Week, so students in all years explored that post-16 pathway, with clarification about what an apprenticeship is, to learning about gender stereotypes around courses and employment,

through to legal protections whilst in work.

Other Careers learning includes the Working Skills morning, with post-16 providers and industry links presenting to Y10 on themes linked to employment, such as what qualities and skills will your boss want to see. Students were excited to receive prizes for their ideas and participation.

And there's been lots of support for students in Y11 in 1-1 meetings or for Y9 as a form class gaining support with the Options process with Emma Towler, our independent Connexions Adviser. Her email is [careers@st-antonys.com](mailto:careers@st-antonys.com) should further support be needed and all students are able to visit her on Monday lunchtimes in a drop-in session from 1.45-2.15pm, if they need some advice or support relating to Careers.



The logo for Connexions, featuring the word 'connexions' in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font. The letter 'o' is stylized with a white outline that forms a shape resembling a house or a network node. The logo is set against a solid purple rectangular background.

The logo for Apprenticeships, featuring a stylized blue sunburst icon to the left of the word 'Apprenticeships' in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Below this, the text 'National Apprenticeship Week' and '5<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> February 2024' is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font.



## Enrichment



You will know that the curriculum teams are now responsible for planning and leading activities linked to learning in their curriculum areas which will afford all students an opportunity to be involved in different and diverse experiences they might not otherwise access. An example of this is the workshops accessed by Y8. The first, led by a visitor from *West End for Schools*, was a workshop on Shakespeare. And the second was an inflatable 'Star Dome' in the gym, where students learned about space and the stars inside a mobile, digital planetarium.

Diverse activities like these examples for Y8 are planned by the curriculum teams for other year groups too as part of their co-curricular offer.

There remains a wide range of optional activities for all students to access through the school day or after it: Lunchtime Club, Samba football, Flight Club, Chess Club, Homework Club, Revision Room for Y11, to name a few. Year 11 Chess Club has been running since we came back in autumn 2023 and has proven to be a popular lunchtime club. We have, however, recently been infiltrated by a rogue Year 7 pupil (Josh H) who has proven himself to be our own Grand Master; beating all who have played him and also teaching Miss Gibson how to play. We will be expanding to include Backgammon and after Easter allowing Year 10 to join as Year 11 focus on their GCSE examinations.



Every Wednesday and Friday at lunch time we run an art club for students who want somewhere to come and be creative, they can take part in an organised activity or do their own thing. Some weeks we down tools and have a games session where we play Dobble, Uno or Grabolo. It's a friendly, calm environment and it's really helped some of our shyer students make friends.

And the big, exciting news as this term develops is the ongoing preparation for the St Antony's production of the Wizard of Oz. Students from Y7-Y10 are involved, either on the stage or in a support role, and we look forward to seeing the creative talents of our students in the production in the summer term. Please look out for more information on this and support us by coming to watch the performance.

### Save the Date:

Show Dates/Times:

Monday 15<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> and  
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024 6pm – 8pm



## Personal Development

This year, we have been thrilled with the roll out of a brand new feature in our students' timetable: Personal Development. Twice per fortnight, students tackle many of the challenges that await them in life beyond school, from staying safe online to how taxes work! The aim of the Personal Development curriculum is to empower our young people to make positive choices both now and in the future based on a strong sense of their own self-worth, and focuses on the core issues of self-concept, relationships, health and wellbeing, and living in the wider world.

You will know from our letters to families and the email communication of *St Antony's Stories* about the content of the learning from this term. In Half Term 3 the theme was *Life Cycles*, covering content such as parenting, loss and bereavement, diverse families and the legal status of marriage, while in Half Term 4, themed *Keeping Safe*, students covered learning such as online safety, sexual harassment, harmful sexual behaviour and reporting relationship abuse. We are conscious that the Personal Development content can, at times, be challenging for students but it is a statutory subject and one we know the students value, so please be assured that teachers manage classroom discussion and reflection opportunities sensitively and sensibly.



## Catholic Life



We are so proud to announce that 75 of our amazing pupils took part in a sponsored walk, helping us to raise an incredible over £1260.62p for St Joseph's Penny this Lent!

Our GIFT team has been working tirelessly to make this fundraising event a huge success, and we couldn't be more grateful for their dedication and hard work. Their determination to make a positive impact in our community is truly inspiring!

On top of this fantastic achievement, our prayer group, along with Sister Linda, have been writing whole school prayers for form time. These prayers have led the whole school to be more prayerful this Lent.

Sister Linda has also been leading the Stations of the Cross for our KS3 pupils in the garden of reflection. This spiritually enriching experience has allowed our students to deepen their understanding and connection to their faith during this holy season.

Thank you to everyone involved in these initiatives – our amazing students, dedicated staff, and supportive parents. Together, we have made a significant difference by showing kindness and compassion to those in need. Thank you!

## Rewards

Over this academic year we have rewarded students for going above and beyond in school whilst showing our school values. Students have been rewarded in a variety of ways such as with achievement points, hot chocolate mornings, reward trips, subject awards, heads of year awards, positive postcards, positive phone calls home, shout outs in assemblies amongst many other things.

This term 375 students took part in rewards activities including a PGL residential, trips to playfactors and rewards afternoons with pizza and ice cream. This is down to students hard work and positive attitude.

We want students to understand that if they act in a positive way, they will be rewarded for this. So far this year, our students have earned a total of **108,552 achievement points**. That works out to an average of **154 per person!**

Next term we have a variety of rewards activities planned. Year 11 have prom to celebrate all of their success at St Antony's. This will be a great opportunity to celebrate all of their hard work and effort over the last 5 years. For years 7 – 10 we have the end of year trip to Blackpool Pleasure Beach. All students will be invited to this, it is down to students to earn their spot! More information will be sent out to parents in the first week back after Easter.

## Attendance

Did you know that if a child has 95% attendance by the end of the school year, then they have missed over 50 hours of learning? What is your child's attendance? How much learning have they lost being off school this year?

Evidence shows that the students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE results. By ensuring your child attends school regularly, you are providing them with the best chance of future success.

If your child is going to be absent you should contact us by either calling the absence line on 0161 911 8025 or you can email [absence@st-antonys.com](mailto:absence@st-antonys.com) detailing the full name of your child, their form, your name and relationship to the child and the reason for your child's absence. We ask that this is done before 8.00am on the first day of your child's absence, this is to ensure the safety of all our students.

We also remind you that you should also contact school each following day that your child is absent. If you have any attendance questions then please do not hesitate to contact our Education Welfare Office, Mrs Kelly on the absence line or email [absence@st-antonys.com](mailto:absence@st-antonys.com)



# St Antony's Roman Catholic School

Respect † Love † Integrity † Service † Resilience

*Easter is God's promise  
which His Son came to fulfill,  
A promise of eternal life  
for all who seek His will—  
Season of the budding trees,  
the lily in its glory,  
The greening hills, the daffodils,  
the holy Easter story.  
Easter is the joy of spring,  
God's gift and triumph, too,  
Reminding us of Jesus' love  
in which we're born anew.*

**MAY GODS BLESSINGS COME TO YOU A THOUSAND FOLD; MAY THE LOVE IN YOUR HEART NEVER GET OLD; AND MAY YOU FIND TREASURES MORE PRECIOUS THAN GOLD.**