



St Antony's Roman Catholic School

Respect + Love + Integrity + Service + Resilience

St Antony's Autumn Term Newsletter December 2024

French GCSE students had a fabulous time on the residential trip to the Moulin Christmas Special, Opal Coast last week. They were extremely busy whilst there, as the trip included a chocolate factory visit, Christmas activity with bi-lingual animateur, morning indoor skiing at Ice Mountain in Belgium (including a 2-hour ski lesson), a visit to the Christmas markets in Lille, a Christmas party, a boulangerie visit plus hypermarket visit to buy souvenirs.

Phew! No wonder 'ils étaient si fatigués' when they returned!!!!



Headteacher's Introduction

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our termly newsletter that provides you with an update of all the things that have been happening at St Antony's during our Autumn Term.

As usual, it has been an incredibly busy term and I cannot quite believe we are finishing for the Christmas break in a matter of days!

I want to say a big thank you to you all on behalf of all of the staff who work at St Antony's for your support over the last term. This is never taken for granted and makes such a big difference to us in helping to educate your child.

During this term we said goodbye to Miss Jackson, our Learning Support Assistant and Mr Lau, our Technician in the Art, Design and Technology department. We thank both Miss Jackson and Mr Lau for their service to our school and wish them both all the very best for the future.

School reopens to all pupils on Monday 6th January 2025 and we look forward to hearing about all their adventures over the Christmas holiday.

May I take this opportunity to wish all pupils, parents and carers a very happy and holy Christmas



Mr Campbell

Headteacher

Looking Ahead - Key Dates

- Monday 6th January 2025 – School opens
- Wednesday 8th January – Y8 Salford Foundation Careers Fair
- Monday 13th- Wednesday 15th January - GCSE Music Performance
- Thursday 16th January – Y10 Parents Evening
- Thursday 23rd January – HPV Catch up
- Monday 27th – Thursday 30th January – Food practical exams
- Monday 27th – Friday 7th February – KS3 Assessments
- Tuesday 28th January – Y9 Gateways Trip
- Wednesday 29th January – PTA AGM 5pm
- Thursday 30th January – Y7 Parents Evening
- Friday 31st January – Y11 Photos
- Monday 10th – Friday 28th February – Y11 Mocks
- Tuesday 11th February – Parent Forum 4-5pm
- Thursday 6th March – Y7 Halle for Youth at Bridgewater Hall
- Wednesday 12th March – Y8 Gateways Trip
- Friday 14th March – INSET Day – school closed to pupils (staff only)
- Monday 17th – Friday 21st March – Work experience week for all Year 10 pupils
- Thursday 20th March – Options Evening
- Thursday 27th March – Rewards Trip
- Thursday 27th March – Y11 Invite Evening
- Friday 28th February – Y10 Careers Trip
- Thursday 3rd April – Y8 Parents Evening
- Friday 4th April – Break up for Easter

PTA

The PTA have been extremely busy raising funds recently. Some great money raising events that have been successful were the pre-loved uniform sale, which has really helped some families who may normally struggle to afford full price uniform items. There is still stock available and if anybody is interested in purchasing anything, then please email: PTA@st-antonys.com. We would also like to remind parents to please think of this fantastic, recycling opportunity when replacing your son/daughter's uniform. If it is still in reasonably good condition, then rather than bin it, please drop it off at the school reception and we can add it to the stock.

Refreshments were sold at the Big Sing event, which was a fabulous evening enjoyed by all those who attended. Hot drinks, mince pies and Christmas stocking shortbread all went down a treat on this festive occasion!



The annual Christmas chocolate hamper raffle is always a hit with the students, and tickets are being sold up until the draw on Friday 20th December – so get yours now if you haven't already purchased any.

The next meeting is the AGM and is scheduled for Wednesday 29th January at 5pm. It would be great to welcome some new recruits, even if you are unable to attend regularly, it would still be helpful if you could do some work behind the scenes – every little helps!!!

The BIG Sing

This Christmas, over 60 St Antony's students took part in The Big Sing. The first leg saw 25 students from Year 8 to 10 travel to Audacious Church to join over 400 pupils from other schools around Greater Manchester to perform for a total audience of more than 2,500 congregants over the course of the day. Then, two days later, it was our Year 7 children's turn as they played host to school choirs from three of our local Catholic primary schools, with children joining them on stage from St Monica's, St Hugh of Lincoln and English Martyrs to form a mega choir of over 100 children in our very own school hall. Snow machines, confetti canons and the smiling faces of 280 audience members of family and friends capped off a fantastically festive and deeply moving week of beautiful singing and worshipful celebration. In the new calendar year, this dynamic group of young performers are already asking for more as they will turn their attention to the spectacular summer production of "Oliver!" based on the Dickens classic.



Student Leadership

The Student Leadership Team have been working really hard this term, supporting the school in various ways. They have been a welcoming face for parent/carer events, tour guides during Open Evening, participants in student voice panels, and have now planned a lunchtime offer for students in Y7 and Y8. It's been so positive to see this group of students develop and work together in service – we knew that each individual's appointment to this role was a good one. We are sure that post-16 education providers and employers will be impressed by their work in this capacity on their CVs and in interviews, and we hope they continue to build on their character throughout life, just like they have as a valued Student Leadership Team member.

Meanwhile, Heads of Year have been meeting with year group Student Council representatives, discussing what students feel are the improvements of note in school over the last year, but also offering suggestions about what the priorities should be in school over the next 12 months. Again, we are very grateful to these students and we know that they will represent each form's student voice well.

Year 11

Year 11 have been working hard this term; in lessons, in period 6/0, completing lots of homework and tackling their first round of mock exams. As with every year, those with the highest attendance, showing excellent attitude to learning, attending P6/0 and completing their homework on time to a good standard, are predicted to achieve significantly higher than those who are not.

After Christmas, there are only 5 school weeks until the final mock exams and only 8 school weeks after that until the GCSE exams. Every day, every lesson, every minute counts.

The timetable for the February assessments can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3Dn5EZt>



Finally, it was great to welcome back our 2024 Year 11 cohort for the annual certificate evening.

It was an evening of celebration for all of their hard work during their time at St Antony's.

We wish them all the very best for the future!

MFL



Recently, a group of Year 9 pupils were selected to compete against schools across the country in the GCHQ National Languages Competition. The pupils worked hard to decipher messages and crack codes so that they could gain points and work their way up the leader board.

Pupils James said "It was really good fun, I never thought about languages as a code before, but I guess it is...you work out the meaning of the word and that's your

translation". We are currently awaiting the final results but no matter the outcome, we're really proud of Team STA 2024!



Meanwhile, Y7 have been learning about "la Fête des lumières" in French classes and made their own lanterns or 'lumignons'. Great work!



Homework

Homework is an integral part of pupils knowing and remembering more. There is a consistent link between those who complete homework on time, and to a good standard, and those who achieve well. This has been shown in our recent Key Stage 3 knowledge organiser assessments and Year 11 mocks. We see the same pattern each year in GCSE results. Thank you for all of your support with helping your child complete their homework, and as families please pass on a 'well done' to all pupils who complete their homework on time and to a good standard. All the work will pay off!

Geography



A group of Y10 Geography students to the COP29 Youth Summit at Siemens head office in Disbury. They had workshops with a number of organisations such as Siemens, Wesleyan and Nestle to work to consider sustainability and environmental impact in different employment sectors. They worked brilliantly on projects to solve and presenting their ideas and one of their pitches was described by Nestle as brilliant when they created their own TikTok sound to market their product.



5 of our Y10 Students attended the Green Summit in the Lowry that was hosted by the Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham. The event saw delegates meet and network with others determined to drive change and help the city-region meet its ambitious



goals for the environment, with panels, workshops networking and exhibition stands showcasing challenges, solutions and opportunities. Our students got to have a one-to-one session with Mr Burnham to discuss green issues, including Green Industries and his plans for the future of Greater Manchester.

CCF



The cadets training this term ended with a visit to Liverpool to see and tour HMS Prince of Wales which was docked there for a week. The cadets loved it and were given a private tour including the flight deck which resembled a motorway given the vast length of it as well, as seeing where the crew, sleep, eat and relax. The cadets had the opportunity to meet some of the crew and ask numerous questions. The tour ended with the cadets being given talks and access to weapons, drones and general ship engineering as well as some competitive racing and climbing!

Reading and Literacy



We are deep into the coldest months and if ever there was a good time for a book, this is it! St Antony's continues to support children with their reading, aiming to read

over 25 full books with each child over their time in school, and encourage them to read hundreds more in their own time! Our Bookflix rewards have been of the scale, with children reading more than ever before. Our new library software is up and running, after Mr Williams spent many hours, tirelessly recording every book on the shelves so that our pupils have the best library experience. Look out for the launch in school and on our website in January 2025! More children than ever before visit our library and our Scholastic Book fair this month sold three times as many books as last year! We have another cohort of pupils graduating from Fresh Start, with more pupils on our Reading Development Course this term. Finally, watch out for our sponsored Readathon next term!



Catholic Life

It has been a busy half-term at St Antony's with many events taking place:

- A Y7 retreat day in Our Lady's parish including the Y7 welcome Mass
- Chaplaincy and Pastoral work undertaken by Sister Linda including Rosary theme in October
- Reflection time for Remembrance Day and opportunities to remember lost loved ones in November
- Assemblies using the Salford diocesan themes
- The Big Sleep Out – in October over 30 students spent the night in school raising money for the homeless
- A memorial Mass took place in late November for former headteacher, Bill Byford
- Whole school Mass and the launching of this year's Confirmation programme

Christmas Masses and Services

Christmas Vigils at St Ann's 4pm & St Hugh's: 6.00pm.

There will be Midnight Masses will be at 11pm at St Hugh's and Midnight at St Ann's (Carol Service starting at 11.30pm); Christmas Day St Ann's 9.30am, St Hugh's 11.00am.

St Stephen's (26th Dec.) Day St Ann's 12pm.



Careers

Aside from the Careers lessons in PD time, the Connexions lunchtime drop-ins and the newly launched Careers weekly newsletter, there has been something for everyone this term in every year group. To summarise:

- Y7 – introduction to Connexions officer and how to start thinking about choosing suitable Careers
- Y8 - introduction to Connexions officer and how to start thinking about choosing suitable Careers, as well as vocational qualification options via Trafford College assemblies
- Y9 - vocational qualification options via Trafford College assemblies
- Y10 – Work Experience launch, with placement sourcing and verifying
- Y11 – 1-1 interviews with Connexions and Mock Interview day (the pictures here show some highlights)



Our Year 9 students recently took part in a careers fair, aimed at building skills, raising aspirations, and encouraging forward thinking as they begin considering their KS4 options. They had the chance to speak with volunteers from a variety of leading companies including HSBC, Soreen, Octopus Energy, Trafford College, Regatta, HP Enterprise, Job Centre, GMP and The Carbon Literacy Project. This experience allowed students to explore different career paths, ask questions, and gain valuable insights into the skills and qualifications needed for success. The feedback from both students and volunteers has been incredibly positive, and we're excited to see how this event helps shape our students' future choices!

Our Year 11 students had the amazing opportunity to participate in mock interviews with volunteers from top companies including HSBC, Soreen, Octopus Energy, Trafford College, Regatta, HP Enterprise, Job Centre, and The Carbon Literacy Project. These mock interviews are part of our efforts to help students build essential skills and develop confidence in preparation for future careers and college interviews. The experience has been incredibly valuable, with positive feedback from both volunteers and students alike. We're proud to support our students in their journey toward success!



Sports



We wanted to take a moment to celebrate the fantastic achievements of our PE department and the enthusiasm our students have shown in their sports activities over the recent weeks.

Firstly, our football and netball teams have done remarkably well, competing against other schools within Trafford. We are particularly proud of our Year 7 girls' team, who have been nothing short of outstanding this season, remaining unbeaten in all their matches. Their dedication and teamwork have truly shone through, and we cannot wait to see how they continue to progress.

Furthermore, we are excited to announce that the basketball league has just gotten underway. This is an excellent opportunity for our students to develop their skills and engage in healthy competition. We encourage everyone to get involved, whether as players or supportive fans!

10 pupils had the chance to participate in the world's fastest growing sport of Padel recently with Jason Manford. They had some introduction lessons and got to play with the man himself. These students are the first out of a million young people in the UK Jason wants to introduce to Padel.

We've also seen an increase in participation in our extracurricular lunch clubs, including badminton and Samba football. It is wonderful to see so many young people embracing these activities and making new friends whilst getting active. If your child hasn't yet joined a club, I strongly recommend they give it a try.



Moreover, we had a fantastic turnout at the Trafford cross country event, with several of our pupils excelling to the point of being selected to represent Trafford at the Greater Manchester cross country event. This is an incredible achievement, and we are immensely proud of their hard work and dedication.

As we look ahead to the new year, please keep an eye on our school social media platforms after Christmas. We will provide updates on the various sports clubs running throughout the term, and we would love to see even more students getting involved!

Thank you for your continued support and encouragement. Together, we can foster a love of sport and physical activity in our children that lasts a lifetime.

Rewards

This academic year, achievement points have seen an impressive 85% improvement, reflecting the success of the rewards strategies in place. A total of 16 different rewards strategies have been implemented, offering a diverse range of incentives to motivate students. One notable example of this approach was a recent rewards trip, where 350 students were treated to a special screening of *Elf* at the Odeon in the Trafford Centre. This trip not only celebrated student achievements but also served as a fun and memorable incentive, reinforcing the positive impact of the rewards program.



During our final Mass of 2025, students from each year group were recognised for the positive contributions they have made to our school community this Autumn Term. There have been so many highlights since September, ranging from our Open Evening in September through to a series of events in the last two weeks (rewards trip, Christmas Dinner, The Big Sing). Our students have been at the forefront of all of these activities and we are so proud of the way our pupils have embraced these opportunities and the values that we place at the heart of the school. We look forward to more of the same in 2026.....

Attendance

This year, our school have been celebrating the 12 Days of Christmas with a fun and festive surprise for all our students! Each day, during form time, students received a special gift just for being in school. The gifts varied daily, and students did not know what they would receive until they arrived in form that morning. Some days, they found a delicious Christmas tree biscuit waiting for them, while other days, they earned achievement points or had their name entered into a raffle for a chance to win a voucher for Amazon or The Trafford Centre. It's our way of spreading holiday cheer and rewarding students for their commitment to being present and engaged during this festive time of year!

Any pupils that were present during the full 12 Days have also been entered into the giant chocolate hamper draw which will be pulled on the final day of term. #attencematters





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Christmas *Prayers* and **Blessings**

Lord, thank you for this blessed Christmas season. Fill us with your grace and peace, and may your blessings of joy overflow in our lives. Shower us with your love, and may we extend love and blessings towards those around us.

Amen.

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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.