





St Antony's
Roman Catholic School

Respect † Love † Integrity † Service † Resilience

St Antony's Stories – information about learning, activities, events at school which form part of **students' Personal Development – December 2024**

Who?	What's the story?
Assemblies	
Y7-Y11	<p>As December got under way, we shared with students again the purpose of Advent and the symbolism of the Advent Wreath and its candles – for hope, preparation, joy and love. This acted as a reminder of one of our core school values and a prompt to take the opportunity to live this value.</p>  <p>Service was the focus of another December assembly – by our contributions to ourselves and our community. There was lots of work all through December to support the Diocesan Caritas Charity, but students also learnt about the importance of service to self as a school student – through hard work and resilience, through living our values, though our golden rule of respect and through being the best version of ourselves.</p>  <p>And the final in-school assembly of the year was a celebration for each year group. A chance to say well done to all those who are embracing being part</p>

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of the school community and who live the mission statement - to **Let the Light and Splendour of Christ Shone Within Us All** - consistently in their time at school. We are loving seeing the achievement points really notching up for our students for improvements, class effort, very good attendance, subject awards, the focused value of respect etc.



And finally, our collective, **end-of-term Mass**, held at St Hugh's Catholic Church. It was brilliant to have the church brimming with St Antony's students and for them to receive accolades for **living our mission via our values**. Pictures here show some of the students receiving justly deserved rewards from their respective Head of Year.




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Personal Development Lessons (with <i>Citizenship in Italics</i>)	
Y7-Y11	Life Cycles
Y7	Healthy Inside and Out, <i>Equal Opportunities in Health</i> , and Friends & Family
Y8	Feelings, <i>Human Rights</i> , and Before I was Born
Y9	In Control of My Choices, <i>Managing Challenging Content</i> , and Marriage
Y10	Beliefs, Values & Attitudes, <i>What is a Political Party and What do I Stand For?</i> , and Pregnancy & Abortion
Y11	Thought Bias and SEMH Toolkit, <i>How do Different Countries Govern</i> , and <i>How Can We Hold Our Leaders to Account?</i>
Careers	
Y11	<p>Mock interviews were available for all of Y11, with the interviewers coming from diverse industries and post-16 colleges. Our visitors were highly impressed with the calibre of our students and they were a credit to the school, themselves and their families. Well done Y11!</p> <p>They could choose to wear smart dress or uniforms and were given feedback on first impressions, the quality of communication skills, responses to questions and offered constructive feedback and advice, which should help students when they have interviews for real jobs and courses in the coming months.</p> <p>Most students in Y11 have now completed applications for September 2025, since Loreto and Xaverian application deadline is imminent.</p>
	

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Y10

5 of our Y10 Students attended the **Green Summit** in the Lowry that was hosted by the **Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham**. At the event, delegates could 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.



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While a variety of employers and post-16 providers were here on site, **Y9 students** were able to attend a **Careers Fair**, rotating round to talk to the visitors about their work, the things expected of them at work, how they started in that line of employment etc. This is the first time that this event has been run for Y9 and we were thrilled at how engaged the students were, asking some great questions and ensuring that they found out a little bit more about the world of work.



Other St Antony's Stories

The Big Sing is now something we have been involved with for a couple of years – this year was even bigger and better than last. Our **Y8-10** students were involved in *The Big Sing* service at Audacious Church in Manchester, with scores of other students, in order to share and celebrate the season with song.



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And as part of our work for this, we were also blessed to be joined by some of **our partner primary schools** in a festive celebration here at school, this time with **students from Y7**. What a joy!



11th December was our **Autumn term rewards trip**, this time to the cinema at the Trafford Centre in a privately hired screening. We have responded to student and parent/carer voice and tried to make this as inclusive as possible whilst still ensuring that it is **a reward for living the school values**, which we know the vast majority of our students do for the vast majority of the time.



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The Languages team have had another busy month enhancing the **cultural experiences of our students**. Here you can see the **Festival of Light – *la Fête des lumières*** – being marked by **students in Y7**, who created lanterns as per the event, which is aimed at expressing gratitude to Mary, the mother of Jesus.



And over 11th-13th December, **KS4 students** enjoyed a trip to **France for the Lille markets**, as well as a chance to practise their French, of course! The visit incorporated some skiing, Christmas dinner and plenty of market stall shopping.



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And in the last week The GIFT (Growing in Faith Together) team were very busy. There was **Christmas Jumper Day** at the same time as Christmas Dinner on Tuesday 17th December, with half of the **proceeds raised going to Caritas**. What a sea of jumpers we had! **The GIFT team** also organised the **collection of goods for Caritas**, our Diocesan charity, so that they could be distributed locally, for example to Cornerstones.



They'd also shed some joy and festive spirit by **visiting a local care home**, understanding the value of this type of **service**, especially at this time of year.

Phew, what a month! What will 2025 have in store?

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