



St Antony's  
Roman Catholic School

Respect + Love + Integrity + Service + Resilience

# St Antony's Spring Term Newsletter

## April 2025

### French/History Trip to St Omer, France

This term we took a group of 40 year 9 pupils to St.Omer, France on a tour of the Battlefield sites of World War 1. Pupils gained a deeper insight into trench warfare and the impact on the landscape and lives of those people during the war visiting important sites such as; Vimy Ridge, the Musée Somme, Thiepval Memorial & visitor centre as well as the Lochnagar crater.

We were immensely proud of our pupils who represented St Antony's beautifully and really embodied the STA way.



### French/History Trip to St Omer, France



## Looking Ahead - Key Dates

- Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May – May Bank Holiday
- Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May – Y7 Gateways Trip
- Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May – Y11 Exams begin
- Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May – Break up for half term
- Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June – Return to school
- Monday 9<sup>th</sup> – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June - KS3 Assessments
- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June – St Anthony of Padua Feast Day
- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June – CCF Trip to Portsmouth
- Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June - Y6 SEND/Pastoral Day
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June - Y10 Exams
- Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June - Y6 SEND/Pastoral Day
- Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June – Parent Forum 4-5pm
- Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June – INSET Day
- Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July – Y6 Parent Transition Evening
- Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July – Y8 Geography Trip
- Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July – Y6 Pupil Transition Day
- Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July – SEND Coffee morning 9.15-10.15am
- Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July – Y10 Xavarian Taster Day
- Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July – CCF Southport Trip
- Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July – Rewards Trip
- Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July – Y10 Geography Trip
- Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July – Y11 Prom
- Monday 14<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July – School Production
- Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July – Sports Day
- Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July – Break up for summer

## PTA



The PTA Easter activities certainly went down a treat!

Thank you to all those who kindly sent in your donations to make up the Easter hampers. A total of £150.50 was raised for the PTA.

The lucky winners were:

Name the Gonk - Kornelius B 7B

Guess the number of eggs in the jar - Mrs West

Hamper 1 - Anais E-M 7W Hamper 2 - Alfie L 9A

Hamper 3 - Millie H 10A Hamper 4 - Jackson H 8C

Hamper 5 - Evan D 9A Hamper 6 - Sean R 7C

Hamper 7 - Mrs West Hamper 8 - Marni BB 9M



The PTA have recently spent thousands of pounds of the funds raised to purchase some much needed seating for the students to use during break and lunch time. Thankfully the weather is glorious and hopefully will continue to be for the foreseeable future, so that the students will be able to make the most out of this additional furniture.



## Year 11



Year 11 are working so hard in the final push towards their summer exams - we know how hard this time can be, but it's also a relatively short period over a lifetime and worth the hours of revision in the long run, with the reward of well-earned grades on results day.

In the meantime, Year 11 have a fantastic reward before then - The Prom! To make sure that they have a chance to attend, Year 11 are putting effort into every lesson, doing that bit extra with homework, P0 and P6, and of course living our values with their conduct. So

many students are already in receipt of their Passport to Prom, and we are confident this number will continue to grow as more students raise the bar.



## Careers

There's been so much happening this term: Year 11 interviews for post-16 places, 1-1 Connexion meetings for Year 11 and now Year 10s are underway with this, the usual drop-ins every Monday lunchtime, dedicated Careers sessions in PD lessons over National Careers Week and National Enterprise Week, access to lots of support and resources for Careers on the school website and visits to explore Higher Education at the University of Manchester or industries relating to motorsport at Team Karting in Trafford or to the Manchester Convention Centre for *JD Up* and job prospects with that employer.



2 whole-year group Careers events we have had this term have included Work Experience for Year 10, the first week in over a decade that this has been in place for students at St Antony's. We are so proud of those who ventured out into the world of work for a week in March and we have had such positive feedback from so many employers, who – quite rightly – recognised what brilliant young people we have attending our school.

Some examples of the feedback from our welfare checks are here:

*"has built some lovely relationships with the children and is really taking initiative in her duties"*

*"BRILLIANT, part of the team, communication with staff"*

*"Doing great. Even mastered the till! They are considering weekend work when it is busy"*

*"Unbelievable, above and beyond every day, staying till 5.45 one evening to run the football team. Given up every lunch time. We would happily keep him and we've had emails from parents about him!"*

*"Pretty exceptional, very inquisitive and placement really pleased - offered summer time job!"*



The other year-group event was a Careers Fair for Year 8 organised in conjunction with *Salford Foundation*. In groups, students were able to learn about different industries, the speaker's pathway into employment and the skills and attributes needed to be successful in that line of work. Good to hear that our school values were cropping up – respect, resilience, integrity. We hope that the experience got Year 8 thinking a little more about their future and the world of work than they

would have done otherwise. They were certainly very attentive and asked some brilliant questions of the visitors, who were incredibly complimentary about our students.



## Personal Development and Assemblies



A new style assembly was introduced in the Spring term – a bit like *Question Time*! We wanted to give students more of a voice and so all form classes were given the chance to prepare a question for the school's Senior Leadership Team. A nomination from each form class asked the question – very bravely in front of the whole year group of peers – and SLT responded to the query. We were so impressed with those who served their form by acting as their voice when asking the form's chosen question, but also with the attentiveness and respect all students gave to the new style assembly. Feedback from students is very positive too, so we will

be repeating this again in the summer term.

In response to stakeholder voice, we had another 'new' assembly this term. We invited external experts, Trafford *Thrive*, into school to deliver an assembly on mental health and wellbeing. It was entitled *5 Ways to Wellbeing* and was shared with all students in KS3. Some of the themes and coping mechanisms for anxiety and stress which *Thrive* shared will be included in sessions in school in *Me and You* sessions with form tutors over the summer term. These can be helpful for coping with stressful or anxious feelings or situations, either in school or elsewhere.



## Homework

You may notice some small changes to homework booklets going forward. Each homework booklet will contain a Delve Deeper page, which includes suggested reading, websites and apps for pupils with a keen interest in that particular area of study. Additionally, subject leaders are reviewing their homework booklets to improve accessibility for all by simplifying instructions and improving knowledge organisers (including making text bigger!). You will also see, in addition to the quick recall questions, additional challenge/application questions to stretch pupils further and really make them think. Homework is an important part of the 5-year achievement journey in school, designed to help pupils know more, remember more and do more. Thank you for your support with homework.

## Curriculum

All students received their written reports during Spring. We are greatly heartened to see the continual improvement in our school. Assessment scores, Attitude to Learning scores and Homework scores all continue to rise and there was great positivity in the written comments. In the final term of the year, we can look forward to further progress as all students undertake final assessments and exams for the year.

On Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March, Year 9 started the day with Football coach and linguist Pierce Kiembi, speaking to them about how being multi-lingual has been massively beneficial for all those involved in international football. Whilst lots of pupils were already aware that many of their favourite players spoke various different languages, many were surprised to learn that the players entourages and staff including Personal Assistants, drivers, physiotherapists are also required to speak various languages also...and the generous salaries that those jobs can command! Pierce explained "The more you learn, the more you earn". Pierce spoke about many well-known names, most notably one of the greats, Cristiano Ronaldo, who is referred to as a polyglot, and the fact that he is fully conversant in 8 languages! This means that he can talk in almost any country in the world and make himself understood.

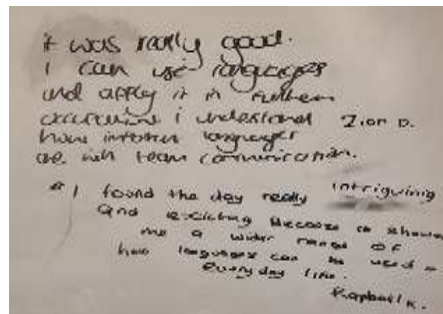
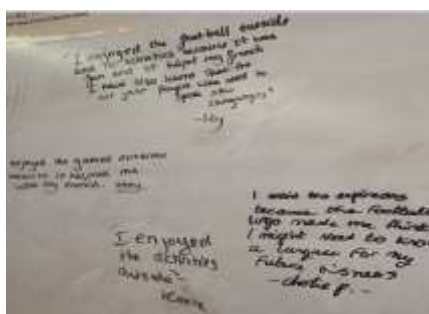


The day continued with 30 pupils taking part in a classroom-based session wherein their language skills were tested and later a sports session saw the Year 9s practising their dribbling and tackling skills whilst being challenged to recall football related terminology including "un but" meaning "a goal", "carton rouge" meaning "red card" and "le temps additionnel" meaning "extra time".



The pupils were extremely engaged throughout the session and loved hearing Pierce's stories including whilst playing professional football in America, he narrowly escaped being sold to a Mexican cartel thanks to one of his friends' quick-thinking and the fact that it was a beautiful woman who eventually made him want to learn languages, other than his native German, more fluently.

The pupils were hugely complimentary of the sessions and made comments including "I can't believe how much more you earn speaking a language" and "the sessions really showed me how languages can be used in a career", "The sessions were really interactive and helped me improve my football language" Everyone thoroughly enjoyed all of the activities undertaken and many are considering whether they could incorporate a language GCSE into their options.



## Geography



Cody N was a winner in the UK Polar Antarctic Flag competition. His flag has made it all the way to Antarctica! It really has been on quite the journey, it has been photographed at Penguin River, South Georgia and in the photograph is Huw James a PHD student at Newcastle University. He was studying groundfish such as mackerel icefish and Patagonian toothfish and carrying out surveys.



## Sports



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, sitting mock exams and completing their final GCSE PE practical performances. These performances were held at Fred Longworth High School in Wigan and all pupils performed at their highest level and were a credit to themselves, their parents and the school.

We have played a range of extra-curricular sports fixtures against other schools in Football and Netball with some good results noticeably the Year 9 Football team as they made it to the semi-finals of the Trafford schools cup but were unfortunately knocked out by Altrincham Grammar School for

Boys. Hopefully better luck next year.

The department is looking forward to the summer term activities and the annual school Sports day to conclude the academic year.



## Reading and Literacy



In the Spring term we held our first St Antony's Readathon and raised £524 for Trafford charity Little Green Sock Project. A brilliant effort by our pupils.

Back in March we celebrated World Book Day by bringing in our favourite books from home and sharing why we love them so much. Staff and pupils took part and the library buzzed with book chat.

St Antony's Shadowers - We have started reading our way through the Carnegie Medal shortlist - the UK's oldest and most prestigious book award for children's writing. St Antony's Shadowers read the books and then meet in the library to discuss our thoughts on the shortlist. When all the books have been read and debated, we vote for our winner and submit to The Carnegies. Our vote is counted along with votes from other schools around the country and The Shadowers Choice Award is presented alongside the official Carnegie Award at the awards ceremony.

Finally, we have launched our new [library website](#) where all pupils can access the library from school or home to plan their reading, write reviews and reserve books.

The library is open every break and lunch and every Tuesday we host the after-school Library Club where pupils can read, write, play chess and board games and socialise.

## Catholic Life

This term, Year 8 students have been focusing on the school value of charity, and their efforts came to fruition with a fantastic cake sale organized by 8W and 8B. The sale, held on Friday 28th March, was a huge success, raising over £60 for the Caritas charity, which supports vital causes.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the parents and carers who supported the children in making this event possible. Your help ensured that the cake sale was successful.

Well done to 8W and 8B – your teamwork and dedication to supporting such a meaningful cause is truly commendable! Excellent work, everyone!

Lent was a busy time for St Antony's. Each morning our pupils were encouraged to meditate on the last moments in the life of Jesus through the Stations of the Cross. This powerful devotion led us to the final Mass of the Term on the last day. During the Mass we gave recognition to those people who go through the world as 'unsung heroes'. We wanted to acknowledge the work and effort that often goes unnoticed. This included the charity work that was undertaken during Lent. Our Gift Team have been at the heart of this, leading the school in the collection of money for Caritas and the Easter egg appeal for Cornerstone. We are very proud of the kindness shown by our student body.



## School Production



### Students Bring 'Oliver Twist' to Life!

Our brilliant students are hard at work as rehearsals for the summer production of 'Oliver Twist' are in full swing! With energy and enthusiasm, they are bringing this classic tale to life, preparing for what promises to be a spectacular extravaganza.

From mastering their lines to perfecting their stage presence, their dedication is truly commendable. Excitement is building, and their hard work is sure to pay off in a memorable performance. This is set to be a show to remember! Tickets on sale soon.....

Show Dates:           Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July  
                              Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July  
                              Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July  
                              Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July

## Attendance

Before the Easter break, students took part in our exciting *10-Day Easter Egg-stravaganza*! Each morning during form time, they were surprised with a special Easter treat — the twist being they didn't know what the treat would be until they arrived. The excitement built each day, and those who attended all ten sessions were entered into a prize draw to win a giant Easter chocolate hamper. Prizes included Trafford Centre vouchers, achievement points, and even more delicious chocolate goodies. It was a fantastic way to celebrate the run-up to Easter and reward great attendance!



To top it all off, we also held a *Fantastic Friday* celebration, where all pupils who attended school that day were automatically entered into a special draw to win an Easter egg. It was a brilliant way to reward commitment to attendance to the lead up to Easter.

## GIFT Team

### GIFT Team: Pilgrims of Hope in Action

This Lent, our GIFT Team has been leading the school community in living out Christian values of charity, kindness, and hope. Inspired by Pope Francis' *Year of the Jubilee*, we are called to be *Pilgrims of Hope*—taking action to make a difference in the lives of those in need.

Throughout Lent, each form has been collecting donations for **St Joseph's Penny**, supporting Caritas' work with vulnerable children and families. This vital charity provides food, shelter, and support to those facing hardship, living out Jesus' teaching to care for "the least of these" (Matthew 25:40). A total of £270.35 was raised – thank you!

In addition, we have been gathering **Easter eggs for Cornerstone**, a charity supporting the homeless and those in crisis. A simple gift can bring joy to someone who might otherwise go without. These were delivered to Cornerstone over the Easter holidays. The service users each received an Easter egg with their meal on Maundy Thursday and were absolutely delighted.

To further our fundraising efforts, the GIFT Team have taken part in the **Big Lent Walk for Caritas**. Walking together as a community, we follow in the footsteps of Christ, showing our solidarity with those in need and demonstrating our faith through action.

Lent is a time of reflection, renewal, and giving. Through these acts of charity, we strengthen our commitment to social justice and embody the Gospel message of love and compassion. Thank you to everyone who has supported our mission—your generosity truly makes a difference!



## Rewards

Every half term we look at ways to reward students for living our values, on the path to being the best version of themselves. We have seen such a brilliant response from students in lessons and outside of lessons in the spring term, illustrating what wonderful young people they are and the increasing realisation students have of the importance of building 'soft' skills which will help them through life - in employment, in relationships, in their communities. Well done to all those who received recognition in some way in the spring for their achievements.





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## Closing Prayer

In memory of Pope Francis, let us take note of his words:

"MAY THE LORD GIVE US ALL  
LIGHT AND COURAGE  
LIGHT TO KNOW WHAT'S  
HAPPENING WITHIN US,  
AND COURAGE TO CONVERT.  
TO DRAW CLOSER TO THE LORD.  
IT IS BEAUTIFUL TO BE CLOSE  
TO THE LORD."  
-POPE FRANCIS

