



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 – March & April 2025**

Who?	What's the story?
Assemblies	
Y7-Y11	<p>March assemblies were dominated by Lenten themes. For our students there was time to remember the significance of the 40 days of Lent, an opportunity to receive the Ashes on Ash Wednesday, be involved in service through charity work and to further an understanding about the importance of Lent in the Catholic calendar, all in the lead up to Holy Week.</p> <div data-bbox="683 887 1110 1084" data-label="Image"> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">Holy Week</p> <p>Mid-March the focus turned to the importance of change. Just like in the Transfiguration story, change is necessary for us to grow, to live our mission. Transformation does not happen in an instant, but through reflection and action – so students were asked to consider changes they might need to make to and be the best version of themselves.</p> <div data-bbox="616 1352 1177 1671" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>The penultimate week of the school term, was a very different assembly – Pupil Voice in the style of Question Time! This is the first time we have had an assembly like this at St Antony's, a chance for each form class to decide a question they would like heard and responded to by the school's Senior Leadership Team. Some great questions were prepared and asked in the hall by a brave, form-class nominee. This was undertaken in a very mature fashion and be very valuable, such much so it is to be repeated!</p>

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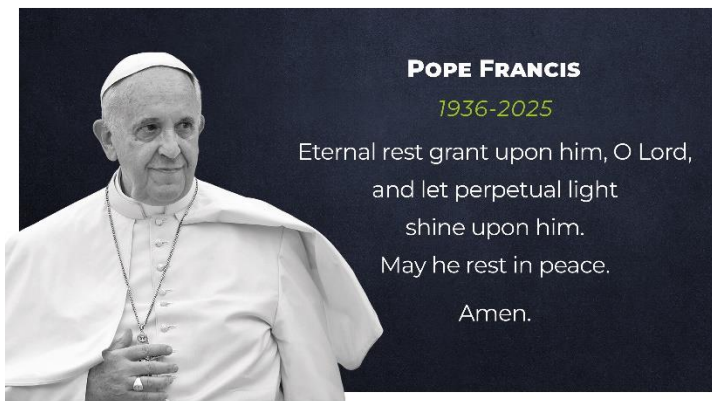
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The final week of March and the Spring term saw the usual reward assemblies lead by the Heads of Year, where students are recognised for their achievements in living our school values in lessons, via excellent attendance to school and – this last half term's focus – being of **service or leading** on something. It's always so impressive to hear the accolades being shared with so many students.

Since our return, the **mission** of the school was due to be the assembly theme but, of course, the passing of **Pope Francis** meant that there was a shift in the focus. Known as the '*People's Pope*' his mission was to make the Catholic Church a **church for everyone**, especially the poor. He made **hope 2025's Jubilee Year theme**, knowing that - in a world which can feel scary and unjust - God's love and hope is more important than ever.

Remembering Pope Francis afforded opportunity to reflect on when we might fall short, to challenge ourselves to strive to do the right thing as consistently as we can, to act in accordance with our values, and to **live in hope**.



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Personal Development Lessons, with Citizenship in Italics	
Y7-Y11	Keeping Safe and Living in the Wider World
Y7	PD Assessment, Internet Citizens – Understanding the Internet and its Content, <i>Rules, Laws and the Role of the Police</i> , Pets and Wild Animals
Y8	PD Assessment, E-Safety, Nudes, <i>How Can We Make a Difference?</i> , Stereotyping and Prejudice
Y9	PD Assessment, Sexual Harassment, Harmful Sexual Behaviour, <i>What Happens in a Youth Court?</i> , Laws and the Rights of Children
Y10	PD Assessment, Relationship Abuse (Disrespect No Body), Something's not Right (Reporting Abuse), <i>Do Prisons Work?</i> , Caring for the Environment
Y11	PD Assessment, Responsibilities and Consequences, Communicating Wants and Needs, Gender Performativity and the Male Gaze, <i>Unwanted, Inappropriate and Illegal Behaviours</i> , <i>How can I Get Involved in Politics?</i>
Careers	
	<p>The biggest news for Careers has been the very successful week of Work Experience for Year 10, who ventured out into the world of work for the week in the middle of March. This was the first running of a Work Experience week at St Antony's for over a decade and we were so impressed with the outcomes. Year 10 had sourced placements for the most part, and been given some preparation sessions and online support ahead of the week away from school, including checking in with work before arrival, planning the travel route and timings, and even working out how to get lunch! Completing welfare checks, our staff were incredibly impressed with the feedback we were getting from employers, and the emails which busy staff at workplaces took the time to send over to us. Some of the excellent employer feedback you can see here:</p> <p>"pretty exceptional offered summer time job!"</p> <p>"been absolutely fantastic Offered to go back if he wanted"</p> <p>"done a lot of online training modules and gained certificates"</p> <p>"really involved and using her emotional intelligence"</p> <p>"Doing fantastic ... very engaged, asking lots of questions"</p> <p>"Credit to the school, outstanding, just gets stuck in"</p> <p>Not only this, but Year 10 completed a survey on their return to school about their experience for the week. What we hoped would be the case came to fruition – that there were several 'soft' skills any employer would look for in an employee which they felt they had developed</p>

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(communication, working with others, time-management, creativity, problem-solving) but also their **personal confidence in 100% of cases** had increased. We are so very proud of all of the students who put themselves out of their comfort zone, spent a week in a new environment and – in the end – found the experience to be very positive, helpful for **Career skills and decision-making** and something to put them a step ahead of other applicants for college, apprenticeship and other post-16 pathways application forms. You can see a few of our Year 10s in their workplace here:



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Thursday 20th March was our **Options Evening for Year 9** – all students were invited to attend with their families to find out more about the process, the option subjects offered (including some new choices for September 2025) and to help guide students into making the right choices for them. More advice and information is shared as the options process unravels.

Connexions meetings on a 1-1 basis for Year 10 are underway – over the coming terms, all of the cohort will have tailored support from our expert officer, Emma Towler, who we employ to work on site from Connexions. Any student in any year group can also see Emma over a **Monday lunchtime** for the **Careers drop-in** in Room 14, should they have any questions or need for Careers advice or guidance. She can also be reached on careers@st-antony's.com

Additionally, we'd like to draw the attention of all families and students to **the Careers section of our website**, where support and information is available relating to Careers – post-16 open events, local market information (LMI) about employment prospects locally, signposting to Careers support materials for all stakeholders etc. Use this route on the website:



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Other St Antony's Stories

Trafford Music Service offered all students an opportunity to have instrumental taster lessons in March, getting a chance to try to learn a new instrument with external, expert tuition. The choices for instrumental tasters were trumpet, piano, vocal, drumming and guitar and it's been great to have more students accessing this offer. Opportunities to access learning in the Arts was further seen in the **Year 7 Halle for Youth session** held at the **Bridgewater Hall**. Hearing a professional orchestra play instruments they had learned about in lessons really brought learning to life.

On Tuesday, 11th March, our **Year 9 pupils** had an amazing trip to the **Manchester Museum's British Science Week** event. Students had the chance to see the latest scientific research, interact with exciting experiments, and ask questions directly to **professionals in the field**. They also received valuable advice on science careers, helping to open their eyes to future possibilities. The trip also allowed students to explore the museum's exhibits. We look forward to seeing how it motivates our students to pursue their scientific interests further.



Early in March was **World Book Day**. This was a chance for staff and students to **share their love of literature and the arts** by popping into the library with their favourite book. It was a lovely session for adults and students to share their special reads with each other.

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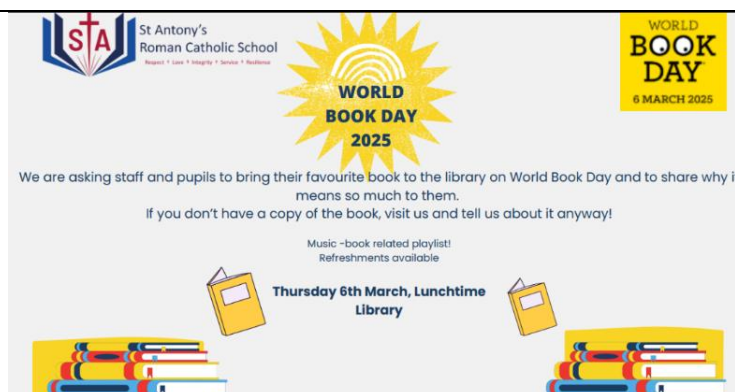
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We welcomed **ManACTco** to school to perform '**Macbeth**' for our **Year 10 and Year 11 students** to enrich their knowledge of the play. It was a great experience to see the play performed live and to be able to have a **Q&A with the producer and actors**, which afforded an opportunity to ask about **work in this industry** too.



Another opportunity to enhance the curriculum and learn about Careers at the same time came for **all of Year 9** on 24th March. They started the day with **Football coach and linguist** Pierce Kiambi, speaking to them about how being multi-lingual is so massively beneficial for all those involved in **international football**. Pupils were unaware that staff supporting international stars (from Personal Assistants, drivers, physiotherapists) are also required to speak various languages also ... and unaware of the generous salaries that go with this work! After this, some Year 9s attended a classroom-based session for language skills and later a sports session, being tasked to use **football terminology in French** as they played. A fun and enlightening morning for all.

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With **Lent** as a central focus over March, there was plenty of work going on to support the **Diocese charity, Caritas**. This last half term, all students have been focusing on the school value of charity, work which was illustrated by a fantastic **cake sale** organised by 8W and 8B. A heartfelt thank you to parents and carers who supported in making this event possible. Your help ensured that the cake sale was successful. A special **thank you to 8W and 8B** whose teamwork and dedication to support such a meaningful cause is truly commendable!



The **GIFT team** (Growing in Faith Together) were very active too through Lent, leading the school community and taking action to make a difference in the lives of those in need. Throughout Lent, **each form collected donations for St Joseph's Penny**, supporting Caritas' work with vulnerable children and families, providing food, shelter, and support to those facing hardship, living out Jesus' teaching. The GIFT team also completed a **charity walk** on the final Friday of the term, walking together as a community, to follow in the footsteps of Christ. Finally, **Easter eggs for Cornerstone** (a charity supporting the homeless and those in crisis) were **collected by the school community**. A simple gift can bring joy to someone who might otherwise go without. Well done to all for **being of service** to others during this **Lenten period**!

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