St Antony's
Roman Catholic School

Respect † Love † Integrity † Service † Resilience

St Antony's Autumn Term Newsletter December 2025

Ski Trip to Italy December 2025

And they're off…….



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.

School reopens to all pupils on Monday 5th January 2026 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 5th January 2025 – School opens
- Thursday 8th January – GCSE French Y11 Support Coaching
- Monday 12th January – Y11 Maths Trip to UoM
- Thursday 15th January – Y10 Parents Evening
- Monday 26th – Friday 6th February – KS3 Assessments
- Thursday 29th January – Mary Poppins Theatre Trip
- Thursday 29th January – Y7 Parents Evening
- Friday 30th January – Y11 Photos
- Friday 6th February – Extra INSET Day – school closed to pupils (staff only)
- Monday 9th – Friday 27th February – Y11 Mocks
- Tuesday 10th February – Parent Forum 4-5pm
- Mon 16th – Fri 20th February – Half Term
- Tuesday 24th February – Y10 JD Up Careers Event
- Tuesday 3rd March – SEN Coffee Afternoon 2.15pm
- Thursday 5th March – Y7 Bridgewater Hall Trip
- Monday 9th – Friday 13th March – Work experience week for all Year 10 pupils
- Thursday 19th March – Options Evening
- Thursday 26th March – Y11 Parents (Invite only) Evening
- Friday 27th March – 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 Christmas Big Sing event, which was a fabulous evening enjoyed by all those who attended. Hot drinks and Christmas shortbread all went down a treat on this festive occasion!



The annual Christmas chocolate hamper raffle was a big hit with the students, and very well done to Aaron, Sean, Will, James and Demi who were the lucky winners.

Look out for the next meeting - 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!!!

Teaching and Learning

At St Antony's, we take teacher development very seriously and over the past two years we have undertaken a range of different Professional Development programmes. We have spent two years working on embedding formative assessment via the SSAT, to ensure that your children receive evidence-informed training and pedagogical support. We know that quality-first teaching is what will impact most significantly on your child's outcomes. This year, we are introducing Steplab | Professional development, as the next layer of teachers' ongoing development. It means that every single teacher will have a coach, and every single step of lessons will be reviewed and refined. This granular approach to teaching and learning aims to make good teachers even better.

Check in with your children and ask them about their learning: ask them if they have 'Do Now' retrieval tasks; if teachers 'cold-call' when asking questions; if teachers use choral responses to check understanding; if teachers instruct them to 'Turn and Talk' when learning; if teachers use 'I say-you say' to help reinforce key learning. We move into the next phase of this in January and are eager to get your views to inform our next steps. Please take the time to fill out this very short survey (about 1 minute): Parent Voice - thank you for helping to develop your child's experience in school. – Fill out form

Student Leadership

We are delighted with the Student Council elected members for 2025-26. All student reps have met this term and tasked with some key questions to help prompt them to collect student voice from their form groups on improving school life for their year group and for the school more broadly.

Each year group has also elected 2 reps to sit on the whole school council, meeting adults who lead the school – the Senior Leadership Team, the Governors and the Trust. Some year groups had to vote twice, so close was the initial vote. Well done to those elected by their peers, both on the whole school council and for each year team council. We are so pleased that you are being of service to your year group and the school, and are confident that you will make a positive difference.

We've also had some great successes from the Peer Mentors, as they assist Y7 over this transition term. They hold weekly meetings and are supported in their work by our Pupil Wellbeing Mentor, Nas Harris. We know from feedback from Y7 that they feel supported and like having a young person to turn to if they have an issue or a problem, or just for a chat. They will continue being of support to students who need this positive, older role model in school.

In addition, the Student Leadership Team has completed over this term a series of development sessions, delivered in form time by the school's Senior Leadership Team. They have valued this input, covering topics such as Leading a Meeting, or Effective Communication. We hope that they'll be able to use this learning over the remainder of this year and into their future lives as they find other roles in which they are expected to lead.

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/4oXcsPy



Finally, we were thrilled to welcome back our Class of 2025 students and their families to celebrate their remarkable achievements at the recent certificate evening!

This year, our GCSE results have shown another year of improvement and success at St Antony's, with this cohort achieving the highest number of grades 7-9 in our recent history! We are incredibly proud of their hard work and dedication.

Wishing all our students the very best of luck for the future!

Attendance

Celebrating Attendance



We are delighted to share that our school has been recognised as a higher performer for pupil attendance compared to similar schools nationally! This reflects the progress we have been striving for this academic year, building on improvements from last year. Strong attendance is helping our pupils make excellent overall progress, and other schools may now reach out to learn from the approaches we use.

This achievement is truly a whole-community effort. We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to all parents and carers for your continued support in ensuring your children attend school regularly. Your encouragement, routines, and commitment make a real difference every day. Together, we are helping our children thrive!

Personal Development

Remember to ensure that you benefit from the free app we have secured in partnership with Peerscroller. As one of their initial partners, our students and families have free access to the app and its resources – all approved by Childline and the Home Office. As well as covering topics related to relationships, the law, developing bodies, mental health and a diverse range of topics important for young people to understand as they navigate teenage life, the Peerscroller app also has other useful resources for young people, such as revision tips.

The app is free for our children but also for parents/carers and so we'd encourage families to use it too, perhaps to help you in discussions with your child or for you to direct your child to a reliable, safe source of information. The codes are:

- Students – 737024
- Parents/Carers – 367158

Peerscroller BY yipiyap

Geography



As part of our Geography programme, Mr Kearney and Mrs Williams ran *The Trade Game* with our Year 11 Geography students. The Trade Game is a hands-on simulation where students take on the role of different countries, trading resources and negotiating deals to understand global inequalities, development, and economic power.



The result? NIC countries dominated, with Nigeria and India emerging as the winners. Students were highly engaged, focused, and committed throughout, making the session a real success.



A special thank you to Lucas Q and Tayo L for expertly overseeing the World Bank and helping the game run so smoothly. An excellent and impactful learning experience all round!

We were absolutely thrilled to announce that the winner of our Antarctica Flag Competition was Theo H who's flag has made its way to Antarctica!

Well done also to the joint second place winners, Ray L and Aarush N! Your creativity and enthusiasm were truly commendable!

Catholic Life



Passing on the Anchor of Hope – Jubilee Year



This half term, we were honoured to be invited to St Hugh of Lincoln to pass on the *Anchor of Hope* as part of the Jubilee Year. The Jubilee Year is a special time in the Church, focused on hope, renewal, and living out our faith through action, reminding us to stand firm in hope and to be a source of light for others.

Advent

Our GIFT Team have also been working incredibly hard this Advent to collect donations for Cornerstone. Thank you to everyone who has donated so generously – your kindness and support will make a real difference to those in need.



Gather and Grow

Finally, our Gather and Grow form sessions this half term have supported pupils in being supportive, reflective, and compassionate, helping them to grow together in faith and community during form times.

Reading and Literacy



We've had a bumper autumn term in the library with a record number of books borrowed. All year 7 pupils visited the library on their first day at St Antony's with many returning over and over throughout the term.

We opened up applications to become St Antony's Reading Ambassadors, and we now have pupils helping to run the library every day.

In October we celebrated Harry Potter Book Day with books, activities and a film showing. December saw record sales at our Scholastic Book Fair with lots of pupils heading home with an exciting new read.

This term we have also been taking part in the Trafford Young Readers' Award with Year 7 and 8 pupils reading and discussing the three shortlisted books. In March we will be part of the celebration event at Waterside Theatre where the winning author will be presented with their prize.



Looking forward, next year is the National Year of Reading which aims to tear us away from our screens and reignite our love for books and reading. With this in mind we will be kicking off the new year with our very own St Antonys' Readathon. Parents/carers are encouraged to take part! Details of the readathon will follow.

Have a very merry book-filled Christmas from St Antony's Library.

Careers





There have been some really exciting opportunities this term for our students via our work with businesses and employers. For example, the Head of Performance from Stockport County FC came to talk to girls in years 8-11 about her journey to that prestigious role.

We've also been engaging with the AO Arena to create artwork celebrating 30 years of the Arena (this is now all over their water fountains), and we've competed once again in an eco-summit – *Wildhearts* – at Siemens in Manchester.

And then there's been the whole year group activities - meet the Careers Connexions officer for Y7, Understanding Finance morning for Y10, Careers Fair for Y9, Mock interview day for Y11, as well as application support for Y11 to meet the December deadline.











Sports

As we come to the end of a very busy and rewarding autumn term in the PE Department, we want to take a moment to celebrate the hard work, commitment and achievements of our pupils across a wide range of sports and activities. It has been fantastic to see so many students representing the school with pride, supporting their teammates, and demonstrating outstanding sportsmanship.

This term saw the return of full competitive seasons in both football and netball, and every team has risen to the challenge brilliantly. Across all year groups, our teams have enjoyed successful fixtures against other Trafford schools, showcasing improving skills, teamwork and determination. Our pupils have been a credit to the school both on and off the court and pitch, and we are extremely proud of their efforts. Basketball season is now in full swing, and all teams are performing exceptionally well in their early fixtures.

A huge well done to everyone who took part in the Trafford Cross Country Championships. It was fantastic to see so many pupils step up to compete against strong runners from across the borough.



A special mention goes to Zack M in Year 7, who delivered an outstanding performance to finish 3rd overall, securing his place on the Trafford Cross Country Team. An incredible achievement—well done, Zack!





One of the most anticipated events of the academic year is almost here—the school ski trip to Italy! We are thrilled to be taking 60 pupils on what promises to be a memorable adventure packed with new experiences, physical challenge, and plenty of fun. Final preparations are underway, and we can't wait to hit the slopes together.



We look forward to building on this momentum as we move into the spring term.

The BIG Sing

On Tuesday 2nd December 2025, St Antony's proudly hosted its second annual "Big Sing" — a joyful collaboration featuring children from St Hugh of Lincoln, English Martyrs, St Monica's, Our Lady of the Rosary RC Primary Schools, and of course, our own Year 7 cohort. Together, they formed a mega-choir of more than 200 voices to launch the festive season in spectacular style!



Rewards



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 busiest Open Evening for years back in September, through to a series of events in the last few weeks. 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.

The majority of our pupils have achieved excellent academic points and demonstrated outstanding attendance. Their hard work, commitment, and positive attitudes to learning have truly paid off and were celebrated through a range of well-deserved rewards and incentives.

Year 7 and Year 8 students were rewarded for their excellent behaviour and positive attitudes to learning with a special trip to the Odeon cinema, where 250 students enjoyed watching *Home Alone* as a festive treat. Year 9 students took part in an energetic rewards afternoon featuring dodgeball and board games, while Year 10 celebrated their success with a Christmas party complete with karaoke. Year 11 students were recognised with a rewards event, enjoying board games alongside a Christmas dinner in acknowledgement of their continued dedication during an important year.

In addition, all students participated in the attendance leagues this half term, encouraging consistency and commitment to learning. Congratulations to the winning forms, who earned prizes for their excellent attendance.



Well done to all our students for an impressive half term — we look forward to seeing this success continue into the next one.

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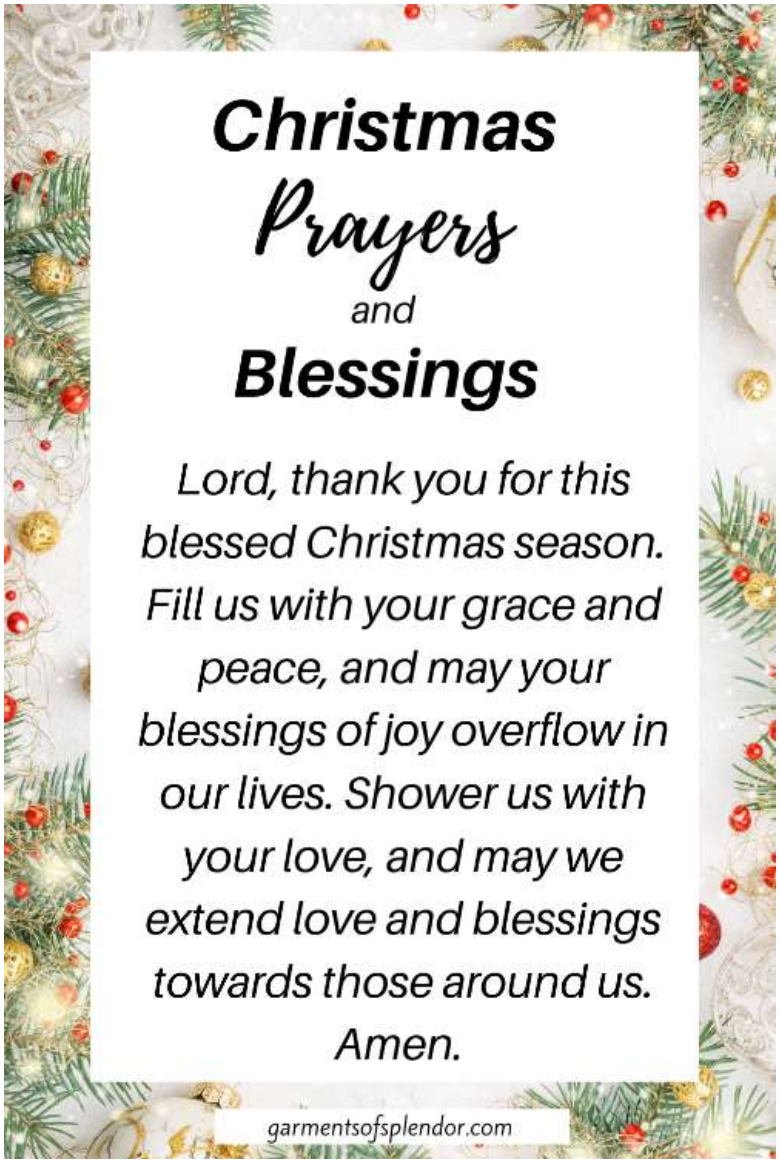

MAY GOD'S BLESSINGS COME TO YOU A THOUSAND FOLD; MAY THE LOVE IN YOUR HEART NEVER GET OLD; AND MAY YOU FIND TREASURES MORE PRECIOUS THAN GOLD.