

September 10th

Dear parents/carers

Welcome to the first school letter of the year. It is great to be back under much more normal times and I would just like to state that it has been a fabulous start to the year so far. I am especially pleased that the vast majority pupils are embracing the new expectations and standards in school. This letter outlines some important information for your perusal.

Year 7 Parents Evening

Sadly, last academic year we could not hold a formal face to face induction evening where we could outline our expectations and formally answer any questions regarding St Anne's. Therefore, we postponed this meeting and held it last night. It was a real positive evening, and I am delighted that, without exception, the parents that spoke to me said that they would support the rules, expectations and values at St Anne's. My response is simply, thank you!

Whole school parental meeting of pupils in Year 8 – Year 11

As promised, I intend to hold a meeting on **Thursday 30th September from 6.30pm** in the main hall and **all** parents are invited to attend. The purpose of this meeting is simple. It will give you a chance to meet the new Leadership Team and myself, the new vision for St Anne's will be outlined and importantly, will be an ideal opportunity to give a general update on the school's direction. Finally, it will be an excellent opportunity for all parents to ask any questions. Transparency, building trust and real engagement with parents is a major strategic objective for St Anne's.

SACRED standards and expectations

Since the pupils have returned from the holiday break, I have been impressed with the behaviour and general attitude of the vast majority of our pupils. Last week I delivered assemblies to all year groups and part of the messages that I conveyed to the pupils was our Sacred Standards. I outline these below for your perusal.

- ✓ **Stay safe.** Safety is the number one priority of all staff at St Annes. In practice this means that we have a zero-tolerance towards bullying, have strong pastoral systems in place and an environment that is based on respect.
- ✓ **Arrive on Time.** This applies to lessons as well as arriving on time to school. Punctuality shows a positive attitude towards school which is a pre-requisite for effective learning.
- ✓ **Come prepared.** This means pupils attend lessons with the correct equipment and their basic kit of stationery. Doing this ensures a productive and efficient learning environment for everyone.
- ✓ **Remain respectful.** This is St Anne's core value and underpins our ethos. Respect for our peers, staff and the environment will ensure we are a caring Catholic community.

- ✓ **Engage in Learning.** Learning is our core purpose and I have made it clear that no pupil has the right to be disruptive in class and stop the learning of others. Pupils who are continuously disruptive in class will put their place at St Anne's at risk.
- ✓ **Dress appropriately.** Pupils should wear the St Anne's uniform with pride. It is pleasing to see that the pupils have returned looking very smart. Remember that piercing is not allowed.

The above standards form the basis of our expectations. I have made it clear that high standards, good behaviour and high expectations are at the heart of St Anne's and will ensure that your children get at least a good quality of education. A calm and purposeful environment is what they deserve. In order for you to keep up to date with your child's achievements, behaviour and homework, we are working with Class Charts. This app has a pupil and parent log in so as you are able to see first-hand how your child is getting on throughout each day. Log in details for the Class Charts app are being sent home this week.

Meeting Year 11 parents

This half term, Senior Leaders and I will be meeting parents to ensure that there are no misunderstandings about the expectations regarding work in Year 11. I am very conscious that your children have missed out a lot on their education due to Covid and lack of face to face teaching. However, this alone is a prime reason why your child must be working very hard right from the beginning of Year 11. From experience, those pupils who start working hard and revising early, usually do best in their exams. It is important that we work together to get this key message across.

Enhancing the school environment

I am delighted to announce that St Anne's has been successful in a £1.6 Million premises bid. This will be used to replace roofs and windows around the school which will transform the interior and exterior of the building. This may cause slight disruption during the works process, but the end result will only enhance the learning environment for our pupils. Furthermore, over the summer break many of our classrooms, including all the English and Maths classrooms have been painted, have new carpets and furniture which will create a fresh and vibrant learning environment. Also, there has been a complete refurbishment of the Year 10 and 11 girls and boys toilets. Collectively, this investment demonstrates our longer-term commitment in ensuring that your child gets a great education that is conducive to learning.

Safeguarding update: Inappropriate Use of Social Media/Cyber Bullying

As we begin a new year, it is only right that I remind parents of the dangers of social media. Following extended break, it is not uncommon for schools to experience an increase in social media disputes spilling over into school. Snapchat, Facebook Messenger and WhatsApp can provide an easy opportunity for pupils to communicate with others. However, it can also be used to 'bully' others. Behind the safety of a screen, young people can feel more confident in 'getting away' with name calling, cruel accusations and threats of violence, without ever considering the impact on their victim and the unthinkable consequences they may have. For the avoidance of doubt, there is a zero-tolerance of bullying, and this equally applies to use of Social Media.

I ask that, as parents, you talk to pupils about the acceptable use of social media and monitor your child's usage of it. Pupils can report bullying to any adult at St Anne's or use our 'Tell Us' website to report. Further information on Cyber Bullying can be found here: [Safeguarding the St. Anne's Community \(padlet.com\)](https://www.padlet.com).

Attendance

This year we have introduced enhanced monitoring systems to support and challenge parents who regularly do not send their child into school. This system was communicated to parents last week in a letter sent by Mrs Hibbert which can be found on the website. Every pupil should have attendance of at least 96%. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact your child's Head of Year. If your child is unable to attend school, parents/carers must contact school prior to 8:30am on **each day** of absence by ringing **0161 432 8162** and selecting option 1. **You must also provide a letter explaining the absence**, to your child's form tutor when they return to school. More information and advice on attendance can be found on the St Anne's Safeguarding Padlet - http://bit.ly/stannes_safeguarding. Thanks for supporting the school in this vital matter.

Two important dates for this half term

Below are some important dates for your perusal. Please take a note of these, especially the information evenings as they are designed to convey important and pertinent information.

- Open Evening 22nd September 4.00-7.00. This is a great evening where the St Anne's community gets a chance to 'show-off' the school. As we prepare for the evening the school will shut at 12.30pm. Pupils entitled to free school meals can pick up a grab bag of food as they leave site. Those pupils staying at school to support Open Evening will have food provided for them.
- Open Invitation to all parents Years 8-11 Thursday 30th September 2021. See information above but I ask that you make every effort to attend. NB. I had originally planned this 'meeting' for last July but had to be postponed due to Covid. I am hoping, and praying, that this meeting can go ahead as planned on this date.

Finally...

My staff and I are looking forward to ensuring that the pupils of St Anne's, your children, are receiving a great education. Having spoken to 100's of pupils this week, it is obvious that this school community has so much potential. By working together, let's make the academic year 2021-2022 a year to remember for the whole St Anne's community, especially our wonderful pupils!

S Logue

Mr Logue
Executive Headteacher