

May 2022

A massive welcome to this month's newsletter. This is the penultimate newsletter of the year. Since the return from Easter there has been no let-up in how busy life at St Anne's is. I hope the following gives a flavour of our community.

Yr7-Yr10 Parents' Information Evening

I have been in the school for almost a year now and although there are many challenges to be overcome, I am delighted to report that there have been many positive changes. I would like to share these positive changes and key messages with you on **Thursday 9th June at 6.30 pm**. I ask that you make every effort to attend so that I can show-off the many positives of St Anne's.

Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

At St Anne's we believe that all pupils should come to school and feel safe. This basic requirement is at the heart of our catholic ethos. Last week our newly recruited Anti-Bullying ambassadors travelled to Leeds to take part in the National Diana Award Training Programme. Our ambassadors are now trained to support vulnerable pupils and to create an environment where we all work together and create a culture of kindness and inclusivity for all. I was delighted to hear how the bus driver was incredibly impressed with the conduct of our pupils, praising their maturity, kindness, and respect for each other. I look forward to seeing how our ambassadors are using the training to improve the experiences of all at St Anne's.

Safeguarding, Social Media and Depression

Recent studies have concluded that teenagers who spend more time on social media tend to report higher rates of depression and anxiety than their peers. Several explanations may explain this connection: Online interactions may lead to feelings of missing out (FOMO) or they may spend lots of time comparing their looks and lives with those of their peers. Additionally, too much time on social media may interfere with your teen's sleep routine, indirectly affecting their mood. The obvious solution to this is to limit the amount of time your teen spends on social media. This can be done by

- ✓ Turning the wi-fi off or resetting the password for the wifi at certain times of the day
- ✓ Organising family activities that do not require a mobile device
- ✓ Making sure your teen hands their mobile to you at bedtime

There are also Apps you can install on your child's phone which restrict which websites and apps they can access during certain hours. For example, <https://screentimelabs.com> or <https://www.netnanny.com>

Attendance

Attendance is fundamental to both safeguarding and pupils' academic achievements. Last term some pupils were placed on an attendance report and given specific attendance related targets. This led to a significant number improving their attendance. Good attendance was celebrated and rewarded. This term, we are continuing to work with our EWO to issue enforcement notices and fines to families who are taking holidays in term time and or have a disproportionate number of days off due to illness. I ask that you ensure that your child attends school on a regular basis.

Governor's Update

The Governors at St Anne's are committed to ensuring that your child gets at least a good education. The role of Governors in improving the quality of St Anne's is vital and we are lucky to have such experienced Governors. On the school website there is a brief overview of who they are, their

experience in education and how they are passionate about leading St Anne's into the future with pupils at the centre of all we do. Please read the brief synopsis on the St Anne's website.

Update on Building Work

The roof work is progressing well and this ensures that the building is able to withstand the weather makes us more energy efficient and looks great too. The window replacement scheme starts at the end of June which will also make a huge difference to the efficiency and appearance of the building. Furthermore, we have just been informed that our bids for further improvement works, costing over £1.3M, have been approved. This will focus on our heating system and ensuring appropriate fire doors. This is a huge boost for pupils here at St Anne's as we are committed to continuously improving the quality of education, the school building, and facilities. I am very proud to say how well our pupils have responded and how respectful they have been towards the scaffolding and the builders who are on site daily.

Year 11 Update

- *GCSE exams:* As I write our pupils are approaching mid-way in their exams. Up to now, I have been very impressed with their mature attitude towards their exams. It is vital that they continue to work hard as there are still a significant number of exams in the weeks ahead. As I have always said, there is **no substitute for hard work**. The rewards for hard work are great GCSE outcomes that open up so many doors for their futures.
- *Leavers Mass:* Fr John Daly, from St Joseph's Reddish celebrated our pre-exam Mass with Year 11 pupils last week. The pupils were impeccably behaved and there was a real spirit of prayer during the celebration. Fr John encouraged the pupils to keep calm, trust in God and in the work they have done to prepare for their GCSEs.
- *Leavers Prom:* I am looking forward to celebrating with the class of 2022 on Wednesday 29th June. Further details will follow in due course.

Please continue to support your child over the next few weeks through support, praise and encouragement as there is still a long way to go in the GCSE exams.

Book and Writing

A massive congratulations to all our published authors. Twisted Tales was a competition to write a 100-word story from the perspective of the villain. Fifteen of our pupils rose to the challenge and have had their work published by Young Writers. We are so proud of each of them, and we look forward to seeing more creative writing from our pupils in the future!

Head Boy Head Girl

Mr Murphy and I were pleased with the quality of applications for the prestigious positions of Head Boy and Head Girl. The process to appoint was robust and after much deliberation, Mr Murphy and I are delighted to have interviewed and appointed our new Head Boy and new Head Girl and we will announce these successful people in a Yr10 assembly on Thursday 9th June. I look forward to working with them and I have no doubt that they will be excellent ambassadors for the St Annes' community.

SEND update

The SEND team continue to embrace the school mission of being an 'outstanding Catholic school in all that we do'. Part of that mission is to ensure SEND provision is the best. Recently, Ms Morgan and Mrs Sutcliffe invited SEND specialists into St Anne's to showcase the ongoing work taking place to improve provision while also welcoming advice, support and guidance on how to develop our offer further.

Their visit consisted of lesson drop-ins, speaking to pupils with SEND and discussions with the SENDCo. The feedback following the visit was very positive and highlighted the following strengths:

- ✓ Good levels of pupil engagement
- ✓ Positive relationships with staff
- ✓ Pupil Passports being used with detailed strategies
- ✓ Evidence of higher order questioning, which encouraged pupils to widen their thinking
- ✓ Evidence of thorough planning and scaffolded resources to enable pupils to access the curriculum

Moving forwards, the focus now is to further develop and embed SEND provision consistently throughout school so that all pupils have access to an ambitious curriculum, quality first teaching and appropriate support.

Year 7 and 8 Curriculum Showcase Evening

This was held on Thursday 5th May and provided an opportunity for parents to come and see pupils' work. Each subject presented work that displayed the content of the year 7 and 8 curriculum. Pupil work in Music and Modern Foreign languages was presented 'live' during the evening via musical performances and short pupil presentations delivered in Spanish. Refreshments were provided in the form of scones, cakes and pastries that pupils made as part of their Food Technology curriculum. Parents who attended the event fed back to staff how proud the pupils were to share their learning and how ambitious the curriculum content was for their children.

Personal Development Updates

- Yr10 work experience: Preparations are underway for our very first Work Experience week 11th-15th July. This is a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to gain vital skills and experience of the world of work. Time is running out to find your placements-don't delay!
- SACRED Day: Tuesday 12th July will be our final SACRED day of the year. Another great day that provides an opportunity to nurture and educate our pupils beyond the academic curriculum

Sporting Success

Our Yr8-Yr10 Athletics Team represented St Anne's at several Stockport Schools Athletic meets over the last few weeks. I am delighted with the achievements of our pupils and their fantastic performances. The following pupils had outstanding individual performances listed below which sees them crowned as Stockport champions and several of them now move forward to represent Greater Manchester. A brilliant achievement. Well done. Please pass on our congratulations. And a BIG well done to our PE Department.

- Jack McCormick 1st discus (24m)
- Callum Dakin 1st long jump (4.70m)
- David Abraham 1st 200m (26.4s)
- Jesse Ofeinmu 1st 100m (11.1s)
- Manny Salt 1st shot put (11.36m)
- Ruby Moore 2nd long jump
- Chevelle Brown 3rd 100m
- Jude Lindsey, James Barrow, David Abraham, Jesse Ofeinmu Year 9 Boys Relay Team 1st

Supporting the local Community

As part of our mission to ensure we are responding to the Pope Francis' call to *care for our common home* and be good stewards of the earth we have created an Eco Club. Before the Easter break, our Eco club instigated a litter pick in the streets close to our school. Mr Nash, Mrs Bentley, and I thought

that this cause was so noble we joined the team. I was so proud of our Eco Club. They have taken the initiative and decided to do something positive. They are a credit to our school and its ethos. The pupils were rewarded with Pizza from Dominoes which they thoroughly enjoyed and deserved!

Important Forthcoming Dates

- ✓ *Transition Parent Information Evening:* This will start promptly at **5.30pm on 6th July** and will offer an opportunity for you as parents to hear short presentations from myself and key staff ahead of the Transition Day for pupils joining St Anne's in September.
- ✓ *Transition Day on 7th July.* An excellent opportunity for pupils to visit St Anne's and meet their teachers. Yr6 pupils will be in school for the full day with break time snacks and lunches being provided. This experience seeks to reassure your child as they may be nervous about starting secondary school.
- ✓ *Sports Day on 29th June.* It is great to reintroduce sports day post-Covid. Our PE department are excited to be hosting field events throughout the morning and in the afternoon, all pupils will either participate or support their form representative in the track events. Pupils are already beginning to discuss Sports Day and momentum is building around the inter-form competitions and a sense of pride in 'Team St Anne's'. Should the weather be against us, we have a reserve date for the following week.
- ✓ *Rewards Trip.* Staff are currently looking into rewarding our fantastic pupils with an end of year rewards trip. This will take place on **Monday 4th July**. As it is a rewards trip, pupils must have excellent attendance and achievement points to qualify for this. If a pupil is placed in our Romero Centre or suspended from school between now and the date of the rewards trip, it is unlikely that they will be allowed to go. Letters regarding the cost of this trip and more specific details will be given to those pupils who are invited after the half term break.
- ✓ *Celebration Evening.* This is one of the highlights of the academic year where, as a community, we celebrate the achievements, efforts, and attendance of our pupils. Additionally, trophies will celebrate those pupils who have achieved in line with our SACRED Values. This evening will take place on **Thursday 14th July**. We look forward to seeing a full house so that we can recognise all the positives at St Anne's.

As always, thanks for your continued support and I look forward to seeing you all on **Thursday 9th June at 6.30pm**. I hope that the sun shines over the half term break!

Mr Logue

Executive Headteacher