



ST. ANNE'S

R.C. VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

December 2021

Welcome to the latest information regarding all things St Anne's. This has been a very busy term for our community. But I am delighted that we are making progress towards ensuring that St Anne's is a safe learning environment for your children, and I am pleased that it has been another successful term under very challenging conditions. As I have said many times before, I am so proud to be the Executive Headteacher of St Anne's.

Return to school in January

This will be different from previous years as we must test the pupils. The following information, which has already been shared, is an outline of the plans. This is subject to any national or local changes.

- **Thursday 06/1/22:** Years 7,8 and 11 come into school for testing at the time allocated for their form group and go straight home.
- **Friday 07/01/22:** Years 9 & 10 come into school for testing at the time allocated for their form group and go straight home. Years 7,8 & 11 come into school as normal at 8.30 am.
- **Monday 10/01/22:** All pupils in school as normal

INSET day

On Friday 26th November staff gathered to refocus on our mission and calling as teachers and support staff here at St Anne's. The day began with Mass and keynote presentations on 'Our mission in Catholic education'. We then had more practical sessions where we focused on living and embedding our SACRED values, launching of our new mission statement, and putting our vision it into practice across the school. Overall, it was an overwhelmingly positive day. Some staff comments are below for your perusal.

- *'The day helped Confirm our SACRED values and how they look in day to day life'*
- *'We all have a common goal – to lift St Anne's profile by working together and making it an outstanding school'*
- *'It reminded me of our core purpose and refreshed my understanding of the SACRED values and how I can be an example of those values within my classroom and throughout the school'.*

In fact, the staff response was overwhelmingly encouraging. A massive thanks to Mr Regan and all the RE staff for planning and delivering such an important day. From an Executive Headteacher perspective the INSET day was about embracing our mantra, which is simply to **serve the pupils at St Anne's**.

Advent Celebrations

As a Catholic school we are celebrating the season of Advent. Each morning, form tutors are using daily advent reflections as they pray with their forms. The *GIFT Team* are leading advent prayers and lighting the advent candles in assemblies and in the school chapel as we build towards Christmas. The *Caritas Team* are running cake sales and continuing to collect practical donations which we will be



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donating to The Wellspring Centre in Stockport. Finally, each year group will be gathering together for their Christmas liturgy as we approach the end of term. Collectively, we aim to enter into the season of advent, a time of waiting and hoping for the coming of Christ.

Brief update on each Year group

- ✓ *Year 11:* Year 11 have successfully completed their mock exams. This is important preparation for their final GCSE examinations in May/June. Pupils were a credit to the school in the way they conducted themselves through the exam period. All pupils should have received their mock grades and parents will shortly receive their reports. Can I ask that parents again reads the letter with regards to exams next May/June which is on the school website.
- ✓ *Year 10:* Mr. Murphy, Head of Year 10, is thrilled to be guiding and challenging this year group in many ways from raising the standards at St. Anne's and embodying the SACRED values. Key for this Year group is raising their ambitions and believing in their ability. They participated in a successful SACRED day and their conduct was exceptional. All Year 10s should now have received their QR codes for them to be registering and sorting out their 'work experience' for next year.
- ✓ *Year 9:* Mrs Corser has led Year 9 through a 'Careers' program, providing pupils with valuable information they can use in preparation for choosing their options, which will be happening in the new year. A group of girls from Year 9 took part in a debate and a public speaking competition this term against Grammar schools from around Greater Manchester. Well done to those involved!
- ✓ *Year 8:* Mr Byrne has expressed to me how much of an honour it is to lead this year group. He says they have coped maturely and resiliently in a challenging first 18 months of their secondary education. He is "immensely proud" them all. He asks me to remind them of the principles that underpin what we do: attend school every day, be punctual and always do the right thing, even when no one is watching.
- ✓ *Year 7:* Pupils have successfully transitioned to High School and settled into life at St Anne's. They enjoyed their Catholic Retreat at the Maris Centre enormously and fully participated in all the activities, enabling them to form new friendships and bond with their new peers. They have been set assessments in Maths and English and have adapted quickly to their change in timetables showing maturity and resilience. Miss Millward says they should be congratulated for their effort and engagement at the end of their first full term.

Anti-Bullying

The week of the 16th November was National Ant-Bullying week. To mark this occasion, each day pupils Discussed pertinent issues in form time and took part in several activities designed to educate and explore different types of bullying and the devastating effects bullying can have. Mrs Millward, our Anti-Bullying Lead, led assemblies and invited pupils to apply to be an anti-bullying ambassador for St Anne's. These ambassadors will promote anti-bullying messages within our school community and provide support for bullying victims. Our Year 11 Prefects organised a cake sale in aid of the Anti-Bullying Alliance, raising over £150. The week cumulated in the writing and sending of #OneKindWord postcards. All pupils were encouraged to send a message of kindness to someone outside of their



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friendship group. The responses were wonderful and reflected our SACRED Values of service, respect, compassion in action. If your child or anyone they know is the victim of bullying, they can report it to their form tutor or on our online Tell Us portal at [www.bit.ly/ tell us](http://www.bit.ly/tell_us)

Vaping and safeguarding

The use of e-cigarettes or 'vapes' is unsafe for children. They can be disguised as highlighter pens, lip glosses and USB sticks. Most e-cigarettes contain nicotine which is highly addictive and can stunt the normal development of the adolescent brain; some e-cigarette 'pods' even contain as much nicotine as a pack of 20 regular cigarettes. We strongly urge parents to talk to their child about the dangers of 'vaping'. If a child is found to have an e-cigarette in school, they will be sanctioned and in line with our behaviour policy may risk a fixed term exclusion.

Teaching and Learning update

At St Anne's we are committed to continually improving Teaching & Learning across the curriculum. Our Teaching and Learning Group [TLG] continues to be at the forefront of new initiatives and sharing good practice. They have worked tirelessly this half term to improve standards even further, through coaching and collaboration. It is an exciting time for teacher development at St Anne's. Our aim is to ensure *every* lesson, *every* day in *every* subject is at least good. We will continue to ask our pupils about *their* learning and put into practice teaching strategies that work to ensure progress across the whole curriculum.

Sport at St Anne's

It has been a busy sporting term at St. Anne's with our SACRED values of 'Determination' and 'Ambition' evidenced frequently. We have fielded boys and girls football teams across most year groups at several local school fixtures with some closely contested games along the way, but each team has shown sporting grit and drive. We are truly proud of our Year 10 pupil, Si McDonagh and Year 9 pupil, Dan Carling who have been selected to represent the Stockport Boys teams. A huge well done! Sport has also transcended from the classroom to the pitch by our Year 11 Cambridge National pupils, Keely Tevlin and Megan Dyer who have helped referee fixtures as qualified FA referees. An excellent achievement for these girls. Furthermore, St Anne's Basketball teams have had an incredible start to the season with St. Anne's claiming runners-up place in the Stockport Boys U16 Tournament taking them through to the Manchester Games to represent Stockport. They will be joined by our U14 Boys and our U14 girls' squads who will also represent Stockport in the Games. There have been numerous displays of our 'Respect' value and we are thrilled with their achievements.

HT Surgery

As part of St Anne's strategy to ensure good communication with parents I am conducting a Headteachers surgery on **Thursday 13th January**. On this day I will be available from **7am until 3pm** to meet parents on an individual basis. This will be a ten-minute meeting and will provide you the opportunity to raise any issue that you may have. I warmly welcome the opportunity to meet as many parents as possible on the day. To book an appointment please contact Fiona Bentley on 0161 4328162.



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Behaviour and standards

The renewed focus on high standards and expectations launched at the start of this academic year, has shown real impact, throughout this term; allowing our pupils to learn in a respectful and calm environment. Sadly, a small minority seem to believe the accepted rules don't apply to them. This is not the case, and they are putting their place at St Anne's at risk. The following are some updates with regards to this:

- ✓ *Detentions:* We have changed the detention systems in school. These will be communicated to all pupils through assemblies and form tutors. These changes are being made to reduce the number of repeated whole school detentions that some pupils are incurring and to strengthen relationships with class teachers. We ask that parents are proactive in checking Class Charts detentions each day and support the school in trying to reduce pupil behaviours leading to detentions. It is important to note that all communication regarding detentions will remain on Class Charts.
- ✓ *Behaviour panels:* In the Spring term, Mrs Critchlow and I will be meeting the parents/carers of pupils who are continuing to disrupt learning in classes. As I have said previously, it is not fair to disrupt the learning of others. Thankfully, this is a small number of 'repeat offenders' who undermining our SACRED standards. These behaviour panel meetings will make our high expectations clear. Invites will be sent in January.

I would also like to say a massive thanks to the vast majority of pupils who are conforming to our simple rules and responding positively to our SACRED values. I thank parents in supporting the school as we move forward.

- ✓ *Celebration assemblies:* Celebrating our successes is a key aspect of the culture at St Anne's. In recent assemblies we have celebrated pupils' achievements through vouchers. Prizes and vouchers have been awarded to pupils for 100% attendance, achievement points, nominations from form tutors and subject areas and positive engagement in our Accelerated Reader programme. Additionally, my staff and I are especially proud of the 124 pupils who have worked hard to achieve their Silver badges. A massive Well Done! Furthermore, pupils who achieved 100% in their Autumn Effort and Engagement report have been invited to attend a school trip on Friday 17th December to watch a festive screening of Home Alone at the Savoy Cinema in Heaton Moor.
- ✓ *Tours of school:* As I have said before, I am offering tours of the school for any parents who want to see 'St Anne's in action'. This is an excellent opportunity to walk the school and visit some lessons. Please contact school reception to book your place on these tours.

New Parent Governor

I am delighted to announce the appointment of another parent Governor. The new Parent Governor is Mrs Gregory. I would like to welcome Mrs Gregory to the St Anne's Governing Board. I am sure she will make a valuable contribution to our school community. This is yet another example of how we are strengthening leadership at St Anne's with the sole aim that your child gets at 'least a good' catholic education.



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Finally...

After another challenging year, it is important that you spend quality time with your family and loved ones. On behalf of all the staff at St Anne's we all wish you a happy, peaceful, and holy Christmas. We look forward to 2022, as we continue our journey, working together, to ensure that your children get at least a good education.

As always, thank you for your continued support!

Yours faithfully

Mr Logue
Executive Headteacher