

September 2022

Welcome to the September newsletter. It has been a real busy, but successful, first month for our community. I hope that you enjoy reading our inaugural parent's newsletter of this academic year.

Catholicity update`

It has been a busy start to the year in the RE Department and from a whole school Catholicity perspective. Miss Rocca took the **GIFT Team** to see the relics of St Bernadette at Salford Cathedral and took part in a service for Catholic schools from around the diocese. The pupils also brought prayer intentions from pupils and staff who could not visit the relics in person. Some pupils have now expressed an interest going to experience Lourdes as part of the Salford Diocese pilgrimage next summer. Mrs Hanley-Parchment led a group of pupils from the **Caritas Team** to the Wellspring centre in Stockport to volunteer and learn more about putting Christ's message of love of our neighbour into practice. Last term we delivered more than 30 boxes of donations that we collected to the Wellspring centre! In addition to this, weekly Friday meditation began this term giving forms and form tutors a chance to visit the school chapel, reflect, pray, and mediate in a calm and peaceful environment. Pupils are enjoying having this opportunity to meditate and centre themselves at the beginning of the day. Finally, planning for the **Year 7 Welcome Mass** which will be celebrated on the Friday 14th of October at 2.15pm by Fr John from St Joseph's Reddish, is well underway. Parents and carers of Year 7 will be invited to join us this celebration.

Strengthening the Leadership

As part of our drive to raise standards it is important that we have a committed, competent, and ambitious Leadership. The Governors have recognised that there is great potential to develop and expand the leadership internally and last July appointed an Extended Leadership Team. This team will work closely with the core Senior Leadership Team in key areas of school improvement. I ask that you read a short synopsis of each member of the team on the web site. This can be found on the website under the 'About Us' navigation pane. I believe that you will be impressed! St Anne's is not short of talent.

Results

As mentioned in my August letter, our 2022 GCSE results showed improvements in all the key measures compared to 2019 [the last exam published exams due to Covid]. The percentage achieving a standard pass in English & Maths increased from 56% to 68% and a strong pass from 35% to 48%. Both progress and attainment key measures improved and there was a total of 41 grade 9s across a range of subject areas, showing that pupils can achieve the best grades in the country. One of the strategic objectives of St Anne's this year is to make the 2023 GCSE outcomes the **BEST** in the history of St Anne's. Watch this space!

Think you know St Anne's...Think again!

We had our open evening on Tuesday 20th September, and I was delighted with the turn-out from the local community. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and it was great to 'show-off' the school, most notably its' pupils. As a follow up to this I will be hosting several Open Mornings in October which is an excellent opportunity for parents and carers to see St Anne's during the school day. If you would like to tour the school the dates are **Friday 7th Oct** 9.20-10.am and **Tuesday 18th Oct** from 10.20am to 11am. If you would like to book on one of these open mornings, please contact my PA, Mrs Bentley, at fiona.bentley@stannesrcvoluntaryacademy.com. I welcome the chance to tour the school with you.

Primary school visits

Following on from our Open Evening St Joseph's RC Catholic primary school and St Mary's RC Catholic Primary school visited on 22nd and 29th September respectively. Pupils took part in a variety of exciting lessons including breaking food down into components in Science, experimenting with taste in Food Technology and printing with food and foil in Art. A brilliant day was had by all, and it was a pleasure to have these children with us and see smiles on their faces. I hope that many of them will choose St Anne's as their secondary school.

New Staff September 2022

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to new staff who have started St Anne's in September. I am sure that you will give them all a very warm St Anne's welcome and that they will quickly become part of our team. Our new teachers are Mrs Lee [Head of History], Miss Waghorn [History], Mrs Pearson [English], Miss Perolls and Mr Jackson [Science] and Mrs Simmons [Leader of PHSE]. These new staff are great additions to a stabilising and much improved teaching staff. These teachers, alongside vastly improved capacity at Leadership, are committed to ensuring your child gets a great education!

Staff Profile: Miss Rachel Turner – Intervention Tutor

As an ex-pupil of St Anne's in the 1980s, coming back to work here in 2022 was like stepping back in time. Yes, the pupils and teachers have changed but the buildings are the same. It is still a very caring, friendly, and warm environment and I remember my time here as a pupil with great fondness. The teachers at St Anne's made me feel like I could succeed; they encouraged and inspired me. After I left St Anne's I went to college, then University to study English and finally, in 2001, I did my PGCE. Today, there is a real determination to improve and give all the pupils of St Anne's the opportunity to achieve their best so they can fulfil their dreams and ambitions. I feel privileged to be part of that journey.

Year 11 update

- *Yr11 Parental Information Evening.* On **Thursday 6th October** we will be hosting an **additional** parents evening which will focus on supporting you to maximise your child's progress. This evening will run from 6.30 – 7.15. The evening will consist of a presentation from key staff on pertinent issues such as expectations, key dates, importance of attendance, homework, revision, and Careers Advice. This will be followed by a Q&A session. I hope that as many parents as possible can attend this evening. Working together is the best way to maximise your child's attainment. Please bring your child with you if you can, as they will get access to additional resources during the evening. There will also be an opportunity to pick up revision guides for each subject [if they arrive in school] which you can pay for on Parent Pay.
- *General Information.* Yr11 have settled into their intervention form time groups. Pupils have been placed in either Maths, Science or English intervention classes each morning. Most, but not all, pupils have also embraced the additional lesson 6 with positivity. This is for **all** Yr11 and runs on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays with each subject having a session over the fortnight. I ask that parents support the school in this new endeavour.
- *Prom.* This is one of the highlights of the year and is about celebrating 5 years education at St Anne's. However, it is by invite only. If your child gets suspended from school, they will receive a letter stating that if they get suspended again, then I have the right to remove the invite. High standards of work

and behaviour are the expectation in all years, more so in Yr11 where pupils show high levels of maturity and understand the expectations of St Anne's.

Attendance is the KEY to success

Excellent school attendance is fundamental to your child fulfilling their potential. Our whole school attendance goal is 98%. Poor attendance results in missed learning and other opportunities provided by school. As a school we promote and reward good attendance in assemblies and through Class Charts announcements. If attendance is deemed poor, the pastoral team will invite you in for meetings to provide support. If there is not significant improvement in attendance, reluctantly we will follow through with enforcement action.

Parental Information Evenings

We are committed to working with parents and pupils to ultimately get the best outcomes for our children. As a result, St Anne's are scheduling 5 additional information evenings for parents which would be great if you could attend to support your child. Working together is the best way forward. The dates are as follows and each evening will be a Thursday at 6.30 to 7.15.

Year 11: 6th October

Year 10: 20th October

Year 9: 17th November

Year 8: 24th November

Year 7: 1st December

I ask that parents make effort to attend the appropriate evening as important information will be imparted.

'Heads up' for an exciting trip

The PE Department is excited to offer a Sports Tour to Amsterdam at the end of the Spring Term for the current Yr10. This will include a tour of Ajax's stadium, a match against local opposition and a chance to take in the culture that Amsterdam has on offer. Expression of interest forms will be distributed in the next 2 weeks. Your child will only be allowed to go on this trip if they show a great attitude to both their work and their behaviour.

SEND update

It has been wonderful to watch our new Yr7s settle into our St Anne's family. The extra support for transition, through Breakfast/Lunch clubs and our 1-1 check-ins with our Learning Support Assistants has been really beneficial. The team have already spoken to many parents/carers about effectively meeting their needs. The SENDCo has conducted a Learning Walk to quality assure that the curriculum is challenging but accessible for our SEND pupils and was delighted honour to witness high levels of pupil engagement and to observe the quality of work being produced. Long may this continue!

Brief reminder of our school rules

Our rules, alongside our SACRED Values, ensures that our community is a safe thriving place to both learn and work. Our rules are simple and transparent and are as follows:

1. **Engage** in learning in lessons
2. Correct **uniform** which includes appropriate hair style and no jewellery/piercing
3. No phones out in school at any time: if **seen/heard** they will be confiscated
4. No **eating/drinking** on corridor or classrooms other than water

5. **Basic Kit:** every item, every lesson, every day
6. Be **punctual** to school and to lessons
7. **Underpinned by our SACRED values**

Since September, the atmosphere throughout the school has been much calmer. However, as a school we are not complacent and will continue to enforce our standards and expectations, both inside and outside of lesson, are being met. The majority of our pupils are ambassadors for St Anne's and wear their uniform with pride. However, I refer all parents to rule number 2. For avoidance of doubt, extreme haircuts, shaved-in lines, coloured/dyed hair is not accepted, and no jewellery should be worn. Can I thank parents in advance for your continued support.

Literacy updates

This term we have plans in place to develop and promote literacy. I am excited about the new '*St Anne's Chronicle*', written and produced by our very own pupils. Look out for our first edition of our school newspaper at the end of term! The *Journalism club* is busy researching and writing about exciting activities around school. Highlights include sporting events, book reviews, pupil and staff interviews and showcasing our pupils' wonderful talents. We also have a **poetry competition** running until half term and all pupils are invited to enter the competition and write a piece of poetry about a topic that they are passionate about. There will be more creative writing competitions running throughout the year for all our budding writers.

Subject updates

- *English:* We have introduced 2 exciting new texts and we are really impressed with the flying start of Yr8 & Yr11 as they are fluently using challenging vocabulary and coming up with ambitious and thoughtful interpretations. As a department we want to reflect our diverse community by embracing a wide range of multicultural authors and writers in our lessons, and year 8 are studying lots of diverse short stories from all four corners of the Globe.
- *Maths:* We are excited with our new homework provider called Sparx Maths. This has been introduced to pupils and further information sent on Class Charts. Pupils will receive a weekly homework based on what they have been learning in lessons. If parents have provided an email address to school, then they should also receive a weekly email to update them on their child's progress with the homework for that week.
- *History:* We are a brand-new Department and are passionate about History. Our goal for pupils is to ensure a knowledge rich curriculum so that pupils understand people and events from the past. As an example, Yr9 pupils are meeting the challenge to conduct an enquiry into how free the enslaved people of Africa really were in 1950's America. We have exciting new enrichment activities planned and high expectations of all our pupils. We very much look forward to the year ahead!

A Cashless School

A massive thanks for your support in our transition to becoming a cashless school. This means pupils are not queuing to pay for lunches, that you as parents and carers know that your child is accessing a hot school meal, and you can track what they are eating by using ParentPay. We continue to encourage parents and carers to send their child to school with a refillable bottle, rather than spend money on bottled water in school.

A quote...

Whilst writing the letter I received an email from Mrs Aroyewun, Head of English who said that a Yr7 student said the following to her unprompted, *"I'm so happy at St Anne's. All the teachers are really good at helping me and supporting me. You can tell they care about me"*. As Executive Headteacher it is always great to hear that pupils are being cared for by the staff here at St Anne's. It brightened up my day!

Finally...

I look forward to the year ahead and all the challenges that no doubt it will bring. However, the St Annes staff [Leaders, Teachers, and Support Staff] look forward with great optimism and hope and are focused on ensuring your child gets what they deserve: at least a good quality education.

Yours

Mr Logue

Executive Headteacher