



It has been a busy time in the academy over the last two weeks. Our Year 11 and Year 13 pupils have completed their final examinations, and our Year 10 and Year 12 pupils have undertaken their mock examinations. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our pupils for their conduct during such a stressful time.

As a community, we regularly talk about our core values of Hard Work, Trust, and Fairness. I believe the exam season is an excellent example of how we live out these values. Every member of our community comes together to support our pupils—from the kitchen staff delivering breakfast, to staff waiting anxiously in the yard for pupils to come out, to younger pupils reducing noise during break times, and pupils themselves encouraging one another as they go in.

Of course, supporting all of this behind the scenes is your commitment as parents and carers. Thank you for getting them organised, getting them out of bed, supporting them through their anxious moments, and for responding when we have needed to contact you. We are all very excited to see the results of this hard work in August.

Mrs Whitten Headteacher.

>>> **PUPILS OF THE WEEK****Cycle 3 Week 8****Grayson (7C), Frankie (7A), Louis (7M), James (7R)**

Nominated for helping a friend in need following an accident. His family are very grateful. Well done boys.

**Dylan (8D), Seb (9B), Milo (8F) and Ryan (9A)**

All winners of Live Simply photography competition through CAFOD. Well done to you all

**Cycle 3 Week 9****Akintoye (10B)**

Akintoye has for over two years looked after 10Bs canon reading. Always ensuring the correct number book is with the pupil it was allocated to, placeholders given and he does this seamlessly and without being asked. He is always a pleasure to have in form being helpful, kind and considerate. Well done!

**7MO**

Nominated for truly embodying the St Aidan's culture and standard. Outstanding group of young men.

**ACHIEVEMENT POINTS TO DATE: 66414 (AV: 72.1 PER PUPIL )**





## >>> WORD OF THE WEEK

### Cycle 3 Week 9:

**Steadfast - stead/fast**

**Word Class:** adjective

**Etymology:** from Old English *stedefæst*, "firmly fixed in place"

**Definition:** firmly loyal or constant; not easily changed or shaken

**Example sentence:** In *War Horse*, Joey's and Albert's steadfast devotion to one another gives them strength during the war.

### Cycle 3 Week 10 :

**Manipulate - ma/ni/pu/late**

**Word Class:** verb

**Etymology:** from Latin *manipulare*, originally meaning "to handle with the hands"

**Definition:** to control or influence someone or something, often unfairly or cleverly

**Example sentence:** In *Animal Farm*, the pigs manipulate language and rules to keep control over the other animals.

## >>> WELLBEING STATEMENTS

### Cycle 3 Week 9

You don't need to be perfect to be proud of yourself. Aim for improvement, not perfection.

### Cycle 3 Week 10

Try out a new way to be physically active.

## >>> LIBRARY BOOK DONATIONS

With an amazing number of donated books from the Hartliss family this takes our total up to 902 books.

It is very much appreciated. Thank you.

This is just a small selection.



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## >>> BUILDING OUR NEW SCHOOL LIBRARY



We are delighted to share an exciting update on our journey to create a vibrant and inspiring new school library for our students. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our school community, we have now reached an amazing milestone of 857 books! This is a fantastic achievement, and we are so grateful for the support we have received so far.

Our vision is to develop a library space that nurtures a love of reading, sparks curiosity, and supports learning across all year groups. A well-stocked and engaging library plays such an important role in helping children develop imagination, confidence, and a lifelong passion for books.

While we've made excellent progress, we still have some way to go to reach our target and ensure our new library is as rich and diverse as possible. To help us continue building our collection, we have created an Amazon Wishlist filled with books that will inspire, challenge, and excite our students.

If you would like to support this initiative, we would be incredibly grateful if you could take a look at our wishlist: <https://amzn.eu/fZlXWLw>

Every single contribution, no matter how big or small, truly makes a difference. Each book added to our shelves brings us one step closer to creating a welcoming, inclusive space where all children can explore, discover, and grow.

Thank you once again for your continued support and generosity. Together, we are creating something very special for our students—an environment where imaginations can flourish and a love of reading can thrive for years to come.





## >>> DONATION APPEAL

### Football Boot Donation Appeal

Do you have any old football boots that are no longer needed? We would be very grateful for any donations of football boots in good, usable condition.

As part of a local charity trip for Manzini Youth Care UK, these boots will be collected and donated to children who may not otherwise have access to suitable sports footwear. Your donation could make a real difference and help encourage participation in sport and physical activity.

Please bring any donated boots to school reception,

Thank you for your support and generosity!



## >>> YOUNG PERSON'S LISTENING EAR SERVICE

The Young People's Listening Ear Service offers a safe, confidential space where young people can talk, be heard, and feel supported.

Sometimes having someone listen without judgement can make all the difference.

If you're finding things tough, reach out and take that first step. They are available to listen. 

 Sunderland Mind Wellbeing Hub  
 0191 565 7218  
 [Sarah.hindley@sunderlandmind.co.uk](mailto:Sarah.hindley@sunderlandmind.co.uk)



### Young People's Listening Ear Service

Hey!  
How are you doing?

Do you know...  
If you're struggling, you don't have to do it alone

Sometimes a confidential chat with our trained staff is all you need.

You can book an appointment by contacting Sarah  
[Sarah.hindley@sunderlandmind.co.uk](mailto:Sarah.hindley@sunderlandmind.co.uk)  
0191 565 7218

Please note, this is not a counselling service but an opportunity for you to be heard.

scan here for more details 

Sunderland Mind Wellbeing Hub  
Church Street East  
Sunderland  
SR1 2BB



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In May 2026, CAFOD Young Leaders launched a photography competition entitled 'Celebrating the awe and wonder of God's creation.' This inspiring competition invited young people who are passionate about our world—so beautifully created and entrusted to our care—to step outside, appreciate creation, and capture its beauty through photography.

We were delighted to receive a wide range of truly stunning entries from pupils, each reflecting creativity, care, and a deep sense of wonder. After much consideration, four winners were selected: Dylan, Milo, Seb, and Ryan. Their photographs beautifully capture the richness and diversity of God's creation.

We are pleased to share their winning images with you, accompanied by thoughtful reflections from Dylan, Milo, and Seb, which express their personal connection to the natural world.



"Take a break from busy everyday life, go out and discover different parts of nature, and see just how amazing it really is."  
Seb



"I took this photo because it shows that even after a long walk, nature rewards you with amazing views. I wanted to show that even though it takes time and effort to get there, climbing to the top of a mountain can lead to something really beautiful." Milo



"I entered the competition because I really like taking photos and thought it would be fun to try. It gave me a good chance to go outside and see nature in a different way. I didn't think I would win, so I was really happy when my photo was chosen."  
Dylan





## MISS GORDON

A plaque has been installed at the Edmund Rice Office in memory of Miss Gordon, a much-loved member of our school community and the Edmund Rice Schools Trust.

It stands as a lasting tribute to her generosity of spirit and the remarkable impact she had on so many. Miss Gordon touched the lives of countless pupils, families and colleagues, leaving behind a legacy of warmth, compassion and service.



## QUINTENARY CELEBRATIONS AT RGS

We were incredibly proud to be invited to the Quintenary celebrations at RGS, thanks to our partnership with the school supported by the Reece Foundation.

Our Year 10 pupils were especially fortunate to meet the Duke of Edinburgh, making it a truly memorable and inspiring occasion.

Our sincere thanks to RGS for including us in such a special event.



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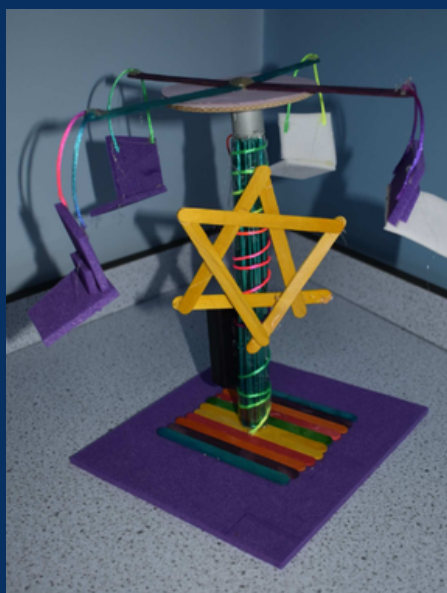
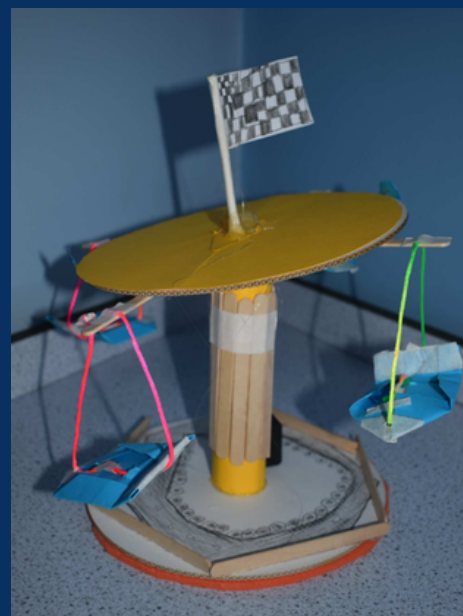
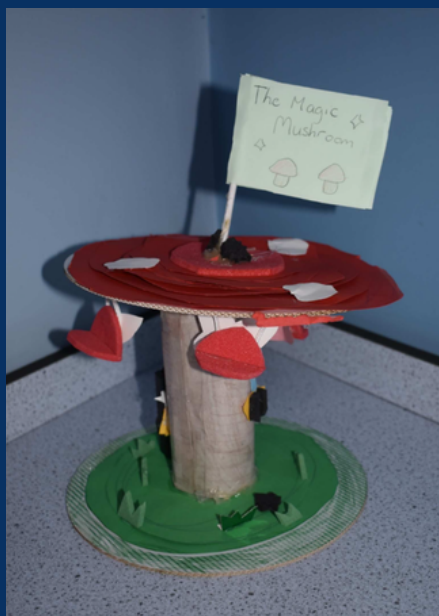




## ST JOSEPH'S YEAR 5 PUPILS VISIT

The Y5 students from St Josephs primary visited our DT department to bring their fairground ride designs to life.

Working with Mrs Swales they used our specialist equipment and constructed 3D models from their original design drawings, adding motors to automate them. They produced some brilliant outcomes and worked fantastically together. They were a credit to St Josephs, and we hope that some of the boys chose to join us at St Aidan's in the future.



## >>> SPORTING SUCCESS

### >>> VELOCITY FOOTBALL CLUB



Over the weekend, Patrick (7M) has attended the Velocity football club presentation evening where each player is recognised for their position within the team. The club is made of 25 teams and whilst every player receives an award, there are also three designated awards given for each team:

- Players player of the season
- Parents player of the season
- Coaches player of the season

Patrick was awarded with Coaches player of the season and has received an additional trophy for this recognition. This is a huge achievement for him and really highlights the efforts Patrick has made and how valuable he is to the team for his consistent positive attitude, his friendly behaviour and his willingness to succeed.

This is Patrick's second year with Velocity and we feel that this is such a huge achievement within such a short space of time. We are all extremely proud of him and his achievement.

Well done Patrick!!

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## >>> GENERAL REMINDERS

### ABSENCE REPORTING

Parents are required to call the student absence line each day to report any absence. Please dial the main school number and select Option 1.

Please ensure that you provide your child's full name, form group and a reason for the absence.

### PASS OUT REQUESTS

Pass Out requests should be emailed to [contactus@staca.co.uk](mailto:contactus@staca.co.uk). Please include your child's full name, form, date, reason for the Pass Out and collection/leaving time.

Parents will receive an email to confirm that the Pass Out has been completed.

Students need to collect their Pass Out slips from the Student Support office prior to their appointment. They should present the slip to their class teacher at the time stated on the Pass Out and make their way to the Main Reception.





## >>> DATES FOR THE DIARY



**Tuesday 30th June - Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2026**

Year 6 Transition

**Friday 3rd July 2026**

Inset Day - school closed to pupils

**Wednesday 15th July 2026**

Sports Day

**Friday 17th July 2026**

School closes for summer holidays

**Thursday 13th August 2026**

A-Level Results Day

**Thursday 20th August 2026**

GCSE Results Day



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