

St. Aidan's Catholic Academy

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To all in our community,

With the new year comes new beginnings and boundless opportunities for all in our community. I sincerely hope that everyone had a peaceful Christmas and that 2024 has begun well. What a year we have in front of us! We will soon welcome back a new Ofsted inspection team to continue helping us on our journey to outstanding. Alongside this, we will soon be able to see tangible movement on our new school rebuild project. The new term has started in the same purposeful way that we ended the previous one. I have spent the past week walking around our school site seeing the amazing work that goes on in each and every classroom and for each and every group of pupils. I saw a learning environment that was scholarly and calm and it reminded me how lucky I am to be head of such an amazing school! I also spent some time talking with our older pupils as they left site the other evening. The conversation got onto the 65 or so school days until the first summer examination gets underway – this deadline certainly seemed to focus a few minds and raise a few eyebrows. It is essential that all pupils in the exam years are doing a minimum of three hours revision per night to allow them to acquire the relevant amount of knowledge they require to enable them to summit their own personal mountains.

Take care and God bless.

Glenn Sanderson



Upcoming Events

Saturday, January 27, 2024

Parent Mental Health Day



Heavenly Father,

Lead me in your ways, for I trust in
your wisdom.

May I walk according to your will
and find your purpose for my life

Amen

Chaplaincy

Sunday Gospel

Christmas is over and we are again in Ordinary Time of Liturgical Calendar.

John 1:35-42

'We have found the Messiah'

As John stood with two of his disciples, Jesus passed, and John stared hard at him and said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God.' Hearing this, the two disciples followed Jesus. Jesus turned round, saw them following and said, 'What do you want?' They answered, 'Rabbi,' – which means Teacher – 'where do you live?' 'Come and see' he replied; so they went and saw where he lived, and stayed with him the rest of that day. It was about the tenth hour.



One of these two who became followers of Jesus after hearing what John had said was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. Early next morning, Andrew met his brother and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' – which means the Christ – and he took Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked hard at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John; you are to be called Cephas' – meaning Rock.

The Year of Prayer

The year 2024 is the Year of prayer, as a preparatory year for the Jubilee. This is in preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year 'Pilgrims of Hope'. Please see the link below for the diocesan page about the year of prayer.

<https://diocesehn.org.uk/living-the-faith/the-year-of-prayer-2024/>

To those of you who would want some inspiration with prayer I've found the link for the Pilgrims of Prayer Booklet.

[Pilgrims-of-Prayer-A5-BOOKLET-School-of-Prayer.pdf \(cbcew.org.uk\)](#)

Our Food Bank is open. We have variety of food should you need it. Email kszczepanska@staca.co.uk to arrange a collection time.

Thank you very much to everyone donating to Food Bank.



Pastoral News

Important Dates:

To accommodate our parent evenings this academic year, school will close at 1.55pm for all pupils on the following dates:

Monday 19th February 2024

Wednesday 6th March 2024

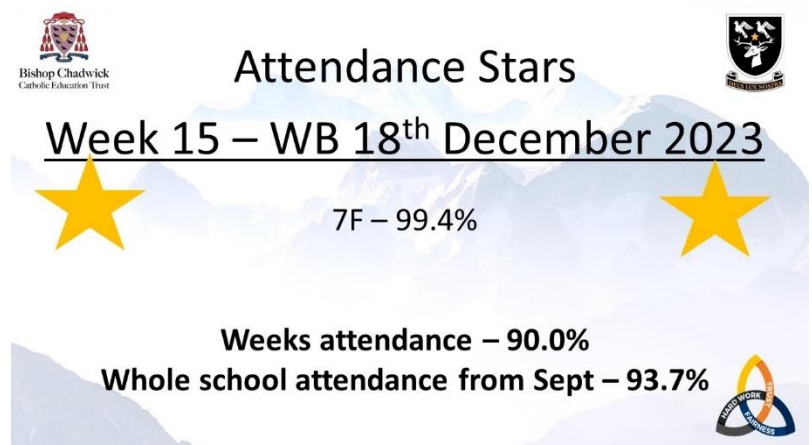
Tuesday 30th April 2024

February Half term is Monday 12th until Friday 16th February 2024. All pupils break up at normal time on Friday 9th February and return to school on Monday 19th February 2024.

Attendance

While we place great importance on the health and wellbeing of all of our pupils we also need to where possible minimise absence to ensure pupils are provided with a first-class education.

The importance of school attendance cannot be overstated – a pupil with attendance of below 91% is statistically likely to drop on average one GCSE grade per subject. If your attendance is between



96% and 100% you are twice as likely to achieve 5 or more GCSE at Grade 5 and above.

The statistics above provide stark evidence as to why we set all of our pupils an attendance target of 97%, as we know this provides them with the greatest possible chance to achieve their best possible outcomes; this is a habit born in lower year groups and embedded in the culture and ethos of our school.

House Competition



Annual House Competition



Week 15 – WB 18th December 2023

House	Overall Points	Points awarded this week
Ashbrooke	5525	500
Corby	4500	150
Brookfield	5125	100



Arbor

A reminder that all communications are now made through Arbor.

The School Gateway continues to be used for payments, including the topping up of lunch accounts.



Safeguarding

Criminal Exploitation

What is Child Criminal Exploitation?

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) is a term used to describe when children and young people (boys and girls) are manipulated or coerced into committing crimes. Criminals are using children all across the UK.

They groom young people to carry out illegal activity on their behalf – such as selling and storing drugs, carrying weapons and committing burglary, robbery or theft. Currently across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland

children and young people aged between seven and 17 being used by criminals.

Some children are also made to feel like they have no choice and will be scared to speak out about what is happening.

It is important to remember children are often preyed on because they are vulnerable.



<https://youtu.be/Fb8COqQOeMo>

What does County Lines mean?

County lines is the name given to drug dealing where organised criminal groups (OCGs) use phone lines to move and supply drugs, usually from cities into smaller towns and rural areas.

They exploit vulnerable people, including children and those with mental health or addiction issues, by recruiting them to distribute the drugs.

The 'county line' refers to the phone used to conduct the drug deals.

Criminals exploit children and vulnerable adults to move and store drugs and money using coercion, intimidation, violence, sexual violence and weapons

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County Lines Terminology

Going county /OT/ Going Crunch: travelling to another town or city to deliver drugs or money

Trapping: can mean either selling drugs or moving them

Trap House: a place where drugs are made or sold, a young person involved in Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) is likely to be made to stay there for days at a time

Trap Line: the phone used to sell drugs

Cuckooing: when a vulnerable person's house is overtaken by drug gangs to use as their base, often via violence or intimidation

Shotter: a drug dealer

G: one gram of drugs

Q: one quarter of drugs ling drugs or moving them

Trap House: a place where drugs are made or sold, a young person involved in Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) is likely to be made to stay there for days at a time

Trap Line: the phone used to sell drugs. If you think a child could be involved in this type of activity, you can contact us on 101 or [online](#). You can also contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via crimestoppers-uk.org.

If you suspect a child is in immediate danger always call 999.

Read more via Northumbria Police: [County lines | Northumbria Police](#)



Children are being exploited by gangs involved in drug crime. Know the signs to spot.

County lines gangs use children and vulnerable people to courier drugs and money. A young person who is involved in county lines activity might exhibit some of these signs:

 <p>Persistently going missing from school or home, or being found out-of-area</p>	 <p>Unexplained acquisition of money, clothes or mobile phones</p>	 <p>Excessive receipt of texts or phone calls</p>	 <p>Relationships with controlling, older individuals or gang association</p>	 <p>Leaving home or care without explanation</p>
 <p>Suspicion of self-harm, physical assault or unexplained injuries</p>	 <p>Parental concerns</p>	 <p>Significant decline in school performance</p>	 <p>Significant changes in emotional well-being</p>	

Further advice - www.talktofrank.com
To give information anonymously - crimestoppers-uk.org, 0800 555 111
Hampshire Constabulary - www.hampshire.police.uk

Home Office

Working in partnership with **CrimeStoppers.**

Other agencies such as the [Children's Society](#), the [NSPCC](#), [Childline](#), [Crimestoppers](#) and [Catch 22](#) also have information and support which can help.

Parent Mental Health Day - 27th January 2024

What is Parent Mental Health Day?

Stem4, a charity that supports young people to build positive mental health, is proud to be the UK founder of Parent Mental Health Day, which started in 2022.

The Cost of Living Crisis, which so closely followed the pandemic, and increased concerns about digital harms, rising rates of mental ill health and the impact of stretched services have further increased parent and carer anxiety and, in some cases, helplessness and hopelessness.

Parent Mental Health Day 2024 is an opportunity for parents and carers to acknowledge and discuss their struggles and share in their achievements of connecting positively with each other and the whole family, and to learn ways to connect positively to maximise young people's mental health.

There are a couple of free webinars for parents of teenagers. [Parent Mental Health Day - 27th January - stem4](#)



Bishop Chadwick
Catholic Education Trust

Parent Engagement Sessions – January 2023



Date	Time	What's On?	More information	Venue
11 th January	2:15pm – 6:15pm	Year 7 Online Parents Evening	An opportunity to speak with your son's subject teachers. A letter will be sent home with a link to the School Cloud booking system.	Virtual – School Cloud System.
16 th January	9:10 am	Walk and Talk	Pilgrims of prayer, take time out to walk and talk about prayer.	St Aidan's Reception
16 th January	5:30pm	RSHE for parents	An information session in which we will share an overview of the taught curriculum and examples of the resources used.	Reading Room
24 th January	Arrive between: 8:50-11:45 and 2 – 2:50	Open Door – for parents	A chance to gain insight into what a typical day in St Aidan's looks like. The opportunity to walk around the school seeing lessons in action and talk about mission values and our aspirations for your son.	School classrooms and corridors.
29 th January	2:15pm	The Year of Prayer	Meeting in the school chapel to learn about The Year of Prayer.	St Aidan's Chapel

A reminder that all pupils finish at 1.50pm on Thursday 11th January to facilitate our Year 7 Parents' Evening.



OPEN DOOR 24th JANUARY

You are invited to join us for our first "Open Door" session of 2024, this is taking place on Wednesday 24th January between 8:50am and 11:45am and also between 2pm and the end of the school day. We hope that this will give you the opportunity to gain an insight into what a typical day in St Aidan's looks like. We will walk around the school seeing lessons in action and talk about our mission values and our aspirations for your son. We truly believe that **every** individual is capable of excellence and we encourage each individual to work hard, fulfilling their potential to pursue their next steps in life, whether it be their choice of University or a high-quality career.

You will be able to see how our 'no excuses', 'no shortcuts' approach provides clarity for all pupils and instils strong lifelong learning habits, supporting every pupil to become better qualified, more successful and happier. We have the highest expectations for all. This means that we will do whatever it takes to ensure that every pupil at St Aidan's Catholic Academy achieves their full potential both academically and personally.

Character Development

The students are currently studying Relationships and Sex Education in their PDE lessons this cycle, up until Easter. Each year group focuses on age-appropriate topics that allow them to know how to be safe and healthy, and how to manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way. Over the next fortnight each year group has been learning:

Year 7	Changing bodies - the physical and emotional changes that occur during puberty.
Year 8	Appreciating differences - looking at stereotypes and gender differences.
Year 9	Love People - understanding the importance of not always acting on our desires.
Year 10	Authentic Freedom - the impact our decisions can have on relationships.
Year 11	Addiction - the impact addiction can have on your life.

We would like to invite all parents to a Relationship and Sex Education information session on Tuesday 16th January, starting at 5.30 p.m. in the Upper Room at St Aidan's Catholic Academy (SR2 7HJ). Please enter school via the main entrance, where you will be greeted and directed to the venue. During this session we will share an overview of the taught RSE curriculum and examples of the resources used. Parents and carers can access the resources for Relationship and Sex Education via the parental portal, using the information below.

Website <https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-portal/>

User Name: st-aidan-sr2

Password: island-458

Teaching about mental wellbeing is central to these subjects, especially as a priority for parents is their children's happiness. We know that children and young people are increasingly experiencing challenges, and that young people are at particular risk of feeling lonely. The new subject content will give them the knowledge and capability to take care of themselves and receive support if problems arise. In school we offer a large amount of support to all students. However not everyone is comfortable discussing their issues with people they know. Below are some contact details for any additional support students or parents if need be.

ChildLine: www.childline.org.uk Phone: 0800 1111

Young Minds: www.youngminds.org.uk

Samaritans: www.samaritans.org Phone: 116 123

MIND: www.mind.org.uk/ or Phone 0300 123 3393

TALK TO FRANK [Honest information about drugs | FRANK \(talktofrank.com\)](https://www.talktofrank.com)

Community News

On the last day of term, fourteen Year 13 pupils entertained the residents by singing, dancing, playing the piano and reading prayers and poems to them. The volunteers organized the visit with little assistance and we even had a compere!

The residents were overwhelmed at how enthusiastic and talented the pupils all were. The talent, kindness and empathy shown that day made me so proud of each of every one of the pupils.

Leading up to this, pupils in years 12 and 13 wrote cards and letters to the residents as part of their character development task and told them all about their lives and what they hope to achieve in the future.

Some of the cards were filled with such love and concern and reading about their future hopes and dreams was so heartwarming. The residents loved receiving the cards as some do not receive any cards at all.



Music

Alongside our outstanding musical curriculum, we provide opportunities for students to further experience music through instrument studies. We have a hugely experienced and talented team of dedicated instrument teachers covering all instruments. Students can take lessons in:

Brass

Bass

Guitar

Piano

Drums

Woodwind

Singing

Violin

Cello

Please keep an eye out for payment of next term's fees, they will be on the system in the next couple of weeks.

Our "Live Music Friday" breaktime slots starting up again. If you want to have a go, it is an excellent opportunity to practice your live performing skills in front of a low pressure and friendly audience.

Music Enrichment:

Drum Fun	Tuesday	Music Room
St Aidan's Singers	Wednesday	Music Room
Rock Band	Thursday	The Bunker (4-6pm)
KS4 Music Club	Friday	Music Room

Enrichment

St. Aidan's Catholic Academy Enrichment Cycle 2 2023-2024

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
MORNING	Breakfast Canteen	Breakfast Canteen	Breakfast Canteen	Breakfast Canteen	Breakfast Canteen
	Reading Club Reading Room Mrs Naile	Reading Club Reading Room Mrs Naile	Reading Club Reading Room Mrs Naile	Reading Club Reading Room Mrs Naile	Reading Club Reading Room Mrs Naile
AFTER SCHOOL	Art Club 162 - Mrs Nipper	Piano Lessons Music room Mr Shepherd (£72 per term)	Badminton Sports Hall - Mr Jones	1st Lego League – Super Power 166 - Mrs Swales	Cello Lessons Music room Mrs Pearson (£72 per term)
	British Sign Language 301 - Mrs Gardner	Violin Lessons Music room Mr Nyberg (£72 per term)	Book to film club 304 Mrs Wheeler	Brass Lessons Music room (£72 per term)	Football (Y7,8 & 9) Sports Hall Mo (*£4 per session)
	Chess Club 209 - Mr Herbertson	Homework Club Room 313, 314	Crisp Packet Appeal 205 - Mrs Priest	Football (Year 7) Ashbrooke with Mr Hutton	Homework Club 313, 314
	Dodgeball Sports Hall Mr Hutton	Football with Mo Year 7&8 (£4 per session) Sports Hall	Dungeons and Dragons Reading Room Mr Richardson	Weight Lifting Club School gym Mr Watts	Rugby Ashbrooke 3G Mr Adey
	Football (Year 10&11) Ashbrooke 3G Mr Watts	Drum Fun Music Room – Mr Wallace	Drum Lessons Music Room –Mr Wake (£72 per term)	GCSE History booster .108 - Mr Nunn	Woodwind Lessons Music Room Mr Tooney (£72 per term)
	GCSE Spanish Club Year 10 & 11 104 – Mrs McKenna	Further Maths (Y11) 210 - Mrs Hudson	Fitness School gym Mr Flounders	Lego Fun Club Mrs Whitten	Year 10 & 11 Music Club Mr Payne
	Indoor Cricket Sports Hall Mr Hutton	Homework Club 313, 314	Football (Year 8) Ashbrooke 3G Mr Gray	Performing Arts Mrs Moorhead/Mr Payne	
	Keyboard Ninja Club (ICT) 312 - Mrs Cain	Justice and Peace (KSS) Briery Miss Gordon/ Mrs Priest	Gardening Club Briery Mrs Armstrong	Robotics Club 164 - Mr Wallace	Rock Band @ The Bunker 4-6pm Mr Payne
	Running Club Mobile Changing Rooms- Mr Coon	Orienteering Ashbrooke Mr Watts	Guitar Lessons Music room Mr Smith (£72 per term)	STEM Activities 121 – Science Staff	Table Tennis Mobiles Mr Hamilton (Week 8 Only)
		Sparx Maths Club 312 – Mrs Smith	Homework Club 313, 314		
			St. Aidan's Singers Music room Mr Payne		
			Spanish Club 106 - Mrs Alonso / Miss Donkin		
		Litter Picking 203 - Mr Brown			
		Geography in the News 113			

Here at **St. Aidan's Catholic Academy** we believe in a curriculum that the mind, enriches the community and advances the future of our students. Our enrichment programme is integral to this broad and rich curriculum. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact:
0191 520 0333

"St. Aidan's Catholic Academy, where excellence is a habit!"