

# St. Aidan's Catholic Academy

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Instagram: [sacatholicacademy](#)



To all in our community,

I would like to welcome everyone back to the start of a new academic year. It is always fantastic to reconvene as a community and it is clear that our young people have had a wonderful summer break. I have been extremely pleased with the start to St Aidan's made by our new Y7 intake. They have quickly understood our core values and arrive at school every morning wearing their uniform with pride. I know they will be a credit to the school and their families and I look forward to working with them over the coming years. Once again, our strong focus on culture for learning has made us one of the top performing schools in the North East. This is not by accident – this is research led education which, over a sustained period of time, provides our young men with the best possible outcomes when they leave us. If you want your son to achieve, he must come to St Aidan's! That success however would not have been possible without the support from you, our parent's and carers. I truly believe that success is gained when the triumvirate of school, child and home is strong. But our vocation never stops. This coming week we throw our doors open once again to welcome prospective new pupils. I have never been more delighted to demonstrate to the wider community how we work and how we change people's lives. Our reputation around the city and the wider North-East is now rightly celebrated and I feel sure that our prospective parents who come to visit us on Tuesday evening will feel that palpable sense of achievement; togetherness and professionalism.

Take care and God bless.

Glenn Sanderson

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## Upcoming Events

**Tuesday, September 19, 2023**

Y5+6 Open Evening – 6pm

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Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the gift of joy. I pray I will show your love and joy in all my words and actions.

Help me to bring comfort and peace through the sharing of Your Word.

Amen.

## Chaplaincy

Matthew 18:21-35

To be forgiven, you must forgive

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.'

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet.



"Give me time" he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me" he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison until he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers until he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

We invite year 7 parents/carers to Year 7 Welcome Mass, which will be held at St Aidan's Catholic Academy, The Upper Room, on the 26<sup>th</sup> of September at 2pm.

Food Bank is open, we have variety of food should you need it. Email [kszczepanska@staca.co.uk](mailto:kszczepanska@staca.co.uk) to arrange collection time.

Thank you very much to everyone donating to Food Bank.



## Pastoral News

### Open evening;

Calling all parents of Year 5 and 6 boys. Come along to our Open Day / Evening on **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023.**

### Save the date:

We will be running our annual mountain trip for Y7 throughout September. The dates are set out below:

Year 7 Ashbrooke Mountain Visit - 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Year 7 Corby Mountain Visit - 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Year 7 Brookfield Mountain Visit - 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023

We will also be hosting a MacMillan Coffee Morning on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023.



## Annual House Competition



### Week 1 – WB 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023

House	Overall Points	Points awarded this week
Ashbrooke	<b>50</b>	50
Corby	<b>400</b>	400
Brookfield	<b>500</b>	500



## 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.

The graphic features a light blue background with a mountain range. At the top left is the Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust logo. At the top right is the school crest. In the center, the text reads 'Attendance Stars' in a large, bold font, followed by 'Week 1 – WB 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023' in a slightly smaller bold font. Below this, two large yellow stars are positioned on either side of the text '7F, 7M, 7R, 9M and 11F – 100%'. At the bottom center, it says 'Weeks attendance – 96.1%' and 'Whole school attendance from Sept – 96.1%'. In the bottom right corner, there is a circular logo with the words 'GOOD WORK' and 'BUSINESS'.

## Safeguarding

Parents are only able to access the school via the Main School Reception. This is located through our Main School gates, on the left-hand side. Parents are not to access the school yard or attempt to access the building using any other entrance.

Calling all Dad's, Step-Dad's, Grandad's, Uncles, Brothers..... Have you heard of Andy's Man Club?

ANDYSMANCLUB are a men's suicide prevention charity, offering free-to-attend peer-to-peer support groups across the United Kingdom and online. We want to end the stigma surrounding men's mental health and help men through the power of conversation. #ITSOKAYTOTALK.

Sessions run at The Beacon of Light, Souter Lighthouse, Washington, Horden and further afield. Do not suffer in silence, check out their website below:

[Andy's Man Club](https://www.andysmanclub.co.uk) | [#ITSOKAYTOTALK](https://www.andysmanclub.co.uk) | [Andy's Man Club](https://www.andysmanclub.co.uk)  
([andysmanclub.co.uk](https://www.andysmanclub.co.uk))



## Suicide Prevention

Suicide may be linked to many factors, including: poor mental health; self-harm; academic pressures or worries; bullying; social isolation; family environment and bereavement; relationship problems; substance misuse; or neglect. Risk factors are cumulative over the life course, and adverse childhood experiences, deprivation, and poor physical health also contribute to the risk.

Suicide represents the extreme endpoint of mental ill-health in children and young people. Many more young people either have suicidal ideation, attempt suicide, and a greater number still self-harm.

In England, a quarter of 11-16 year olds, and nearly half of 17-19 year olds (46.8%), with a mental disorder reported that they have self-harmed or attempted suicide at some point in their lives.

### In the news this week:

The Government has launched a suicide prevention strategy, pledging more than 100 actions intended to bring down rates within two and a half years.

The strategy comes amid concern for children and young people as deaths and self-harm are on the rise. In 2022, there were 5,275 suicides in England, equating to 10.6 suicides per 100,000 people, according to the Office for National Statistics. The initiatives include teaching suicide prevention in schools, better support for middle-aged men and a national alert system to highlight new methods of suicide.

### My child is having suicidal thoughts:

If you're worried that your child is having thoughts of ending their life, there are things you can do to help with their safety and wellbeing. The following websites give useful advice:

[My child is having suicidal thoughts - Support for Parents from Action For Children](#)

[Supporting someone who feels suicidal - Mind](#)

Your son can speak to any one of our Mental Health First Aiders in school: Mrs. Hogg, Ms. Jackson, Mrs. Gill, Mrs. McKenna, Mrs. Halliday, Mr. Gray and Mr. Lannon.

### Suicide | 15-24 years old



## Sporting Success

A huge congratulations to Thomas who was crowned U15 Ping Northern Golf Junior Champion 2023. To qualify for the competition, Thomas had taken part in the Junior Golf Tour which consisted of 17 games all around the North of England. This fantastic achievement meant that Thomas qualified for the Champions of Champions World Championship competition in Ireland, where 250 players from all over the world took part in the competitions. Thomas finished 15<sup>th</sup> overall. This is an outstanding achievement. Well done!

If your son plays golf and has a handicap, then please contact Mr Watts, as we are looking to organise a St Aidan's Golf Competition at a local golf club during the October half term holidays. Please email Mr. Watts [nwatts@staca.co.uk](mailto:nwatts@staca.co.uk)



We are really proud of Charlie B who has seen fantastic success over the past few months in his Karting. He became Shennington Superprix vice champion 2023 – which was quite an achievement as it was his first Motorsport UK race, and he was on novice plates and came 2<sup>nd</sup> racing against the best in the country.

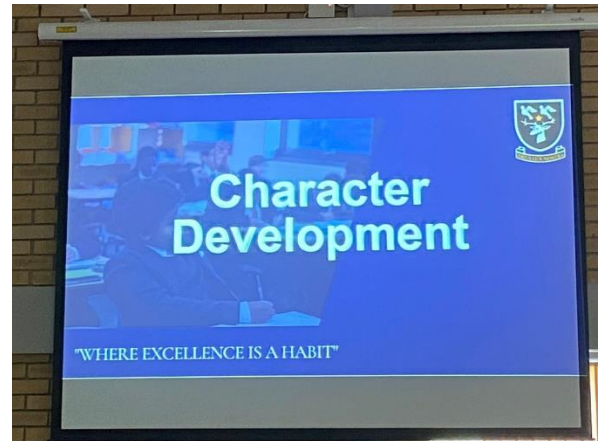
By the end of the season, at his main championship, he became Superone vice champion of the rotax interclass – a massive achievement as Charlie only had had 6 months in this class. All of this success means that Charlie has now moved onto the junior class – which has meant a new bigger Kart along with a bigger Rotax engine. Well Done Charlie!



## PDE

Personal Development Education is taught fortnightly to all pupils. This is a non-academic subject which covers topics from Citizenship Education, Relationship, Sex and Health Education as well as Careers Education.

The focus of our assembly this week was centred around Character Development which is interwoven through the pastoral, academic and enrichment opportunities that we have on offer for our young people. One aspect of the Character Development programme that was launched was CLIMB (Challenge, Leadership, Integrity, Motivation, Belong). CLIMB encapsulates the skills needed for our pupils to succeed and live a fulfilling life no matter the career pathway they choose.



**ChildLine:** [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk) Phone: 0800 1111

**Young Minds:** [www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)

**Samaritans:** [www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org) Phone: 116 123

**MIND:** [www.mind.org.uk/](http://www.mind.org.uk/) or Phone **0300 123 3393**

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

## Careers

### Careers Programme

This week we have launched the careers programme for all year groups during house assemblies. The career programme sits within the personal development offer at St Aidan's and has been carefully developed to reflect the needs and development of each year group, ensuring that every pupil can fulfill our mission statement by moving onto a good university or high-quality career when leaving us in year 11 or year 13. Details of the careers programme for each year group can be found in the [careers section](#) of the website, along with additional resources and information to help you support your son with their career journey.

### Career Guidance Meetings

Career Guidance meetings will commence the week beginning the 19<sup>th</sup> September with Mrs Osmialowski, for all year 11 pupils. This is an opportunity for pupils to meet with a qualified guidance advisor to explore their next steps and receive impartial advice, information and guidance. A letter

has been emailed to all parents this week that can also be viewed on the parents section on the [careers page](#) of the school website.

### **Careers Fair - Save the date**

We are holding a **careers fair** in school on the **18<sup>th</sup> October 2021** for all Yr11 and Yr13 pupils. They will have the opportunity to meet with a range of education providers and employers.

**Any businesses wishing to attend the careers fair and share valuable information with our pupils can contact Mrs Osmialowski, Careers Leader.**

### **Work Experience – Save the date**

Yr10 work experience Monday 8<sup>th</sup> – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Yr12 work experience Monday 15<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2024

**Any businesses able to host pupils for one week of work experience can contact Mrs Osmialowski, Careers Leader.**

### **Unifrog**

In keeping with our commitment to provide pupils with outstanding careers guidance and tailored support when choosing their next step after school, we will now be using Unifrog; an award-winning, online careers platform. All pupils now have access to this excellent website and will be introduced to the platform during their PDE/Careers lessons over the coming weeks.



The Unifrog platform is designed to support learners in making the most informed decisions about their futures and has a range of tools that are suitable for all year groups. Each pupil has their own personal account that provides a wide range of information related to their interests and aspirations.

We have also set up a parent login so that you can use Unifrog as if you were a pupil yourself, allowing you to support your child throughout the process. The sign-up code you need is:

**STAIParents** and you can sign up here: [www.unifrog.org/code](http://www.unifrog.org/code)

### **University Admission Tests**

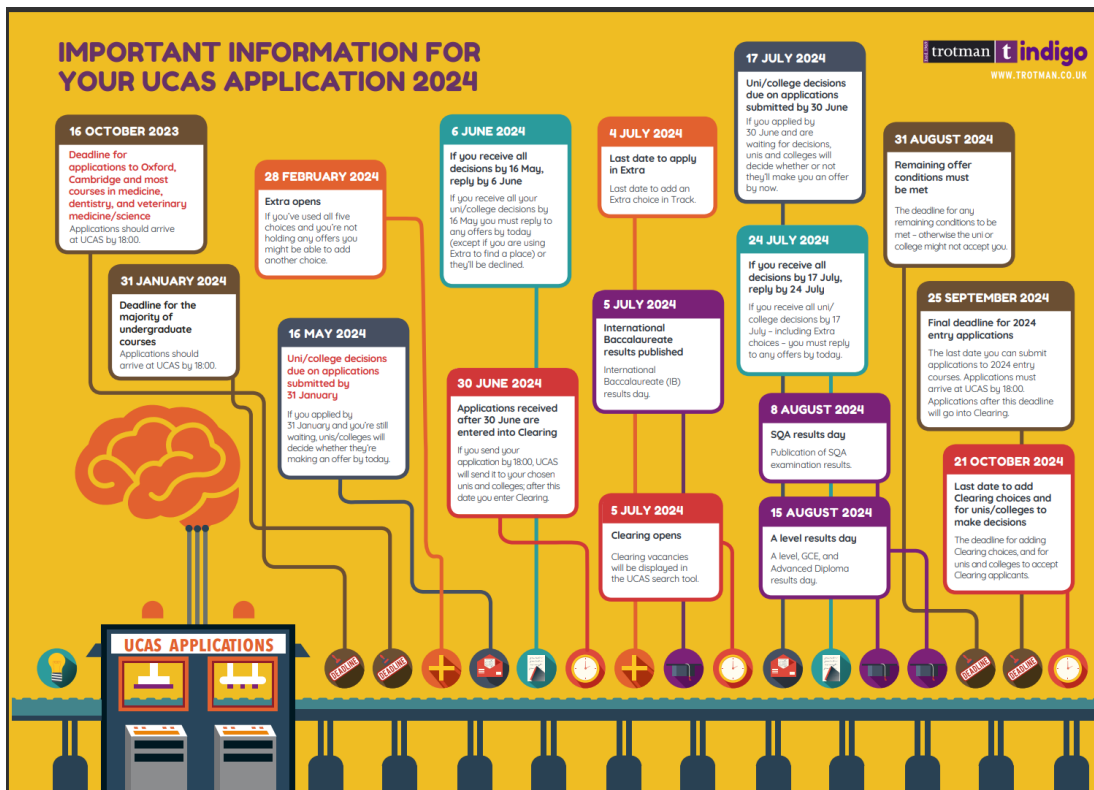
If you apply for a course that requires an [admissions test](#), you'll need to check the registration deadline for the test, when you will sit it and what it includes, as well as the deadline for your UCAS application.

Many courses that require you to sit a test have a 16<sup>th</sup> October UCAS application deadline, but your course may be different, so it's important you check key dates and deadlines. To see if your course requires you to sit an admissions test, check the course description in the search tool.

Most admissions tests happen between August and November the year before you're due to start your studies – some even earlier, before you've sent your UCAS application!

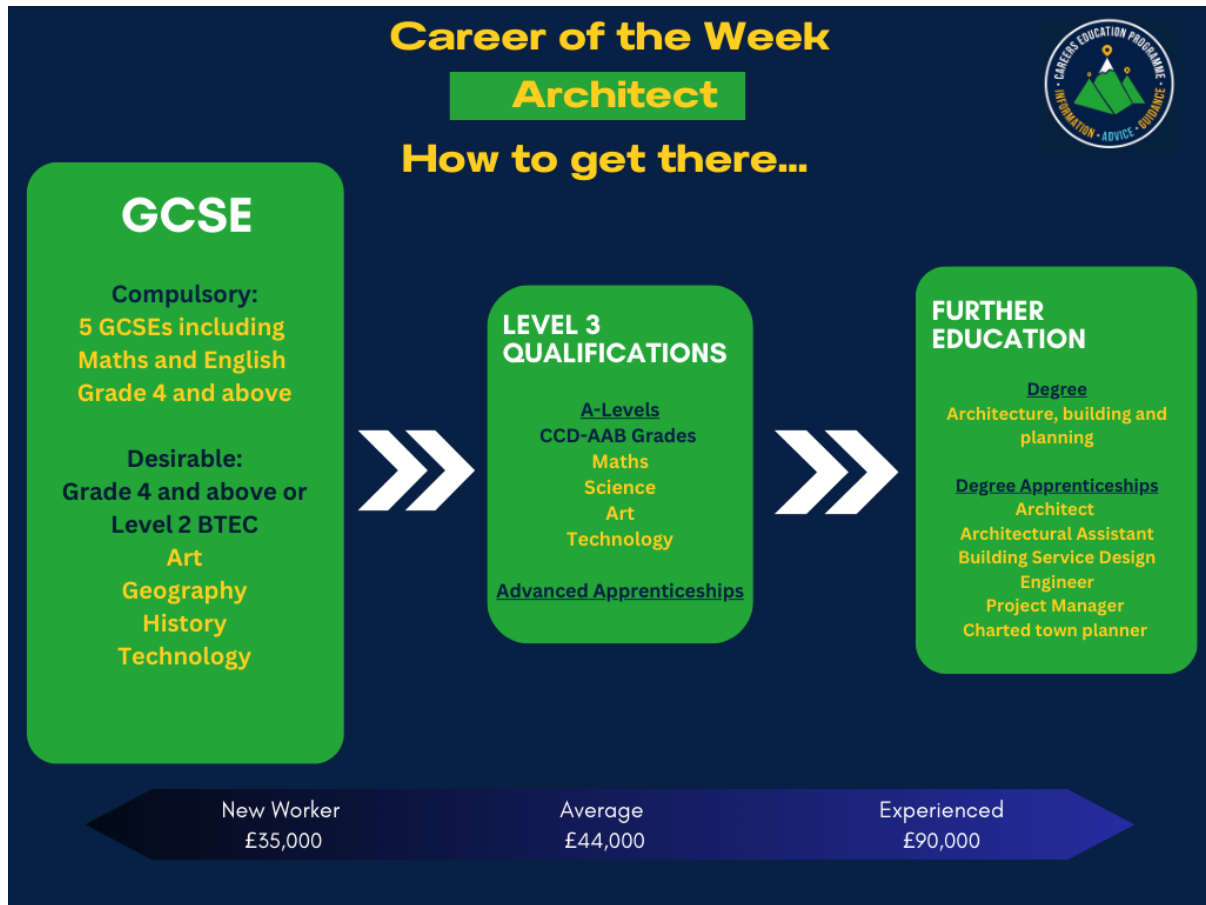
Remember to check the date of your admissions test – some take place before the UCAS application deadline.

## UCAS Applications



Links to career information and advice for both parents/carers and pupils can be found on our school website. Please follow us on twitter to follow our careers journey! @SACA\_CareersEd

## Career of the Week



## Community Links

This year, together with National Trust, Wildlife Trusts, WWF, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust and the Woodland Trust, the RSPB are collectively recognizing schools that have acted to protect and restore nature. Over the last academic year, St. Aidan's pupils have done amazing things to protect and restore nature. Our Community Allotment is thriving and we continue to build our relationships with the local community. We are proud to share our latest certificate awarded by RSPB, which demonstrates our incredible effort! We will continue to be inspired to learn through nature and feel empowered to take action to help save it.



## Music

### Successful Summer School

During the summer Jude took part in the summer residential course with the National Children's Band of Great Britain after successfully passing his audition.

He took part in group and solo sessions taught by the best tutors and has learned so much.

Jude was one of the oldest in the band and was a brilliant role model to the younger children. When he played in the final concert in Norwich the organisers said what a thoughtful young man he is and have asked if he will attend next year as a mentor.

Well done Jude! A fantastic ambassador for Music and St Aidan's Catholic Academy



### Music Enrichment:

St Aidan's Singers    Wednesday    Music Department

Drum Fun                Wednesday    Music Room

Year 8 Rock Band    Thursday        The Bunker (4-6pm)

### Instrumental lessons:

#### START Week Beginning 18.9.23

All lessons are continuing as below. NB We now have a new drum teacher starting on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May

Brass	Bass	Guitar	Piano	Drums
Woodwind	Singing	Violin	Cello	

All lessons are now after school between 3-6pm.

If you wish your child to sign up to/continue instrument lessons please email me at [musiclessons@staca.co.uk](mailto:musiclessons@staca.co.uk) stating your son's name, form and desired instrument. For further information please see our [Instrumental Music Policy here](#).

Our "Live Music Friday" breaktime slots are continuing this half term - it's an excellent opportunity to practise your live performing skills in front of a low pressure and friendly audience. Please see Mr Payne for further details.

# Enrichment

## St. Aidan's Catholic Academy Enrichment Cycle 1 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	Bass Guitar Lessons Music Room Mr Harland (£72 per term)	Dodgeball Sports Hall Mr Hutton -	Piano Lessons Music room Mr Shepherd (£72 per term)	Guitar Lessons Music room Mr Smith (£72 per term)	Basketball Sports Hall Mr Adey & Coach (£1)	Guitar Lessons Music room Mr Smith (£72 per term)	Drum Lessons Music room Mr Wake (£72 per term)
	Bronze iDEA Award Digital Enterprise (ICT) 312 - Miss Cain	Indoor Cricket Sports Hall Mr Hutton	Violin Lessons Music room Mr Nyberg (£72 per term)	Badminton Sports Hall - Mr Jones	Maths Enrichment 212 - Mr Mann	Lego Fun Club Mrs Whitten	Cello Lessons Music room Mrs Pearson (£72 per term)
	Chess Club 209 - Mr Herbertson	Volleyball Club Sports Hall Mr Hutton	Homework Club Room 313, 314	Book to film club 303 Mrs Wheeler	Brass Lessons Music room (£72 per term)	Performing Arts Mrs Moorhead/Mr Payne	Woodwind Lessons Music Room Mr Tooney (£72 per term)
	Camp Craft 111- Mrs Kilminster	Fitness School Gym - Mr Gray	Football with Mo Year 7&8 (£4 per session) Sports Hall	Dungeons and Dragons Reading Room Mr Richardson	Careers Champion 103 - Mrs Osmialowski	Robotics Club 164 - Mr Wallace	Football (Y7&8) Sports Hall Mo *£5 a session
	Football (Year 10&11) Ashbrooke 3G Mr Watts	Board Games 206 - Mrs Cooper	Drum Fun Music Room - Mr Wallace	Equality and diversity group 160 Mrs Gill	Fitness School gym Mr Watts	Science Club 121 - Science Staff	Homework Club 313, 314
	Further Maths (Y11) 210 - Mrs Hudson	GCSE Spanish Club Year 10 & 11 104 - Mrs McKenna		Fitness School gym Mr Flounders	Football (Year 9) The Limes with Mr Flounders	Table Tennis Mobiles Mr Hamilton	Rugby Ashbrooke 3G Mr Adey
	Archaeology Club 110 - Mrs Jopling	Spaxx Maths Club 312 - Mrs Smith		Football (Year 8) Ashbrooke 3G Mr Gray	1st Lego League - Super Power 166 - Mrs Swales	Rock Band @ The Bunker 4-6pm Mr Payne	BTEC Music Mr Payne
	Homework Club 313, 314	British Sign Language 301 - Mrs Gardner		Homework Club 313, 314	Homework Club 313, 314	GCSE History booster 108 - Mr Nunn	
	Keyboard Ninja Club (ICT) 312 - Mrs Cain	Justice and Peace (KS5) Briery Miss Gordon/ Mrs Preist		Science STEM Award 125- Science Staff	NEA Master Class Room 401- Mr Morris	Educake Support 225 - Mr Stephenson	
	Orienteering Ashbrooke Mr Watts	Handwriting Club 123 - Miss Hodgson		St. Aidan's Singers Music room Mr Payne	Football (Year 7) The Limes with Mr Hutton		
	Art Club 162 - Mrs Nipper			Gardening Club Briery Mrs Armstrong			
				Running Club Sports Hall - Mr Coon			
			Spanish Club 106 - Mrs Alonso/Miss Donkin				
			Crisp Packet Appeal 205 - Mrs Priest				
			Litter Picking 203 - Mr Brown				

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!"*