

St. Aidan's Catholic Academy

Willowbank Road, Sunderland, SR2 7HJ
W: contactus@staca.co.uk T: 0191 5200333

Twitter: [St_Aidans_RC](#) Instagram: [sacatholicacademy](#)

To all in our community,

I speak quite often of my pleasure of doing this job and the great privilege I feel it is to be entrusted with helping shape the futures of our young people. Throughout the mock examinations, which were completed last week, I saw great determination and hard work everywhere I turned. I truly hope the experience has been a useful one. This week we came together to remember the fallen. Through a virtual assembly where we spent time focusing on some of the brave men who were convicted of cowardice during World War One and examined the irreparable damage the stigma did to their families who were left behind. We are now two weeks into our new MIS system, Arbor. It is essential that all parents and carers download and install the Parent APP as this is the only way we will be communicating information about your son in the coming weeks. The system has lots of great features in it and it will allow us to streamline a lot of the systems we use onto one manageable platform. We are also constantly quality assuring every aspect of our offer and have just completed an in-depth look at the work our pupils produce. My team has been very pleased with the quality of teaching and learning that evidently goes on across all areas of the school and how our boys have risen to every challenge they have been given by my staff.

Take care and God bless.

Glenn Sanderson



Upcoming Events

**Wednesday, November 29,
2023**

Y13 Parents' Evening.



Dear 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 25:14-15,19-21

You have been faithful in small things: come and join in your master's happiness

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of Heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out.

'Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made."'



The month of November always brings us closer to all the people who lived before us or during our lifetime, but have died. We treasure our memories of them and their legacies. Everyone is welcome to write down the names of their deceased family members, friends, or anyone they wish into the Book of Remembrance situated outside of the Chapel.

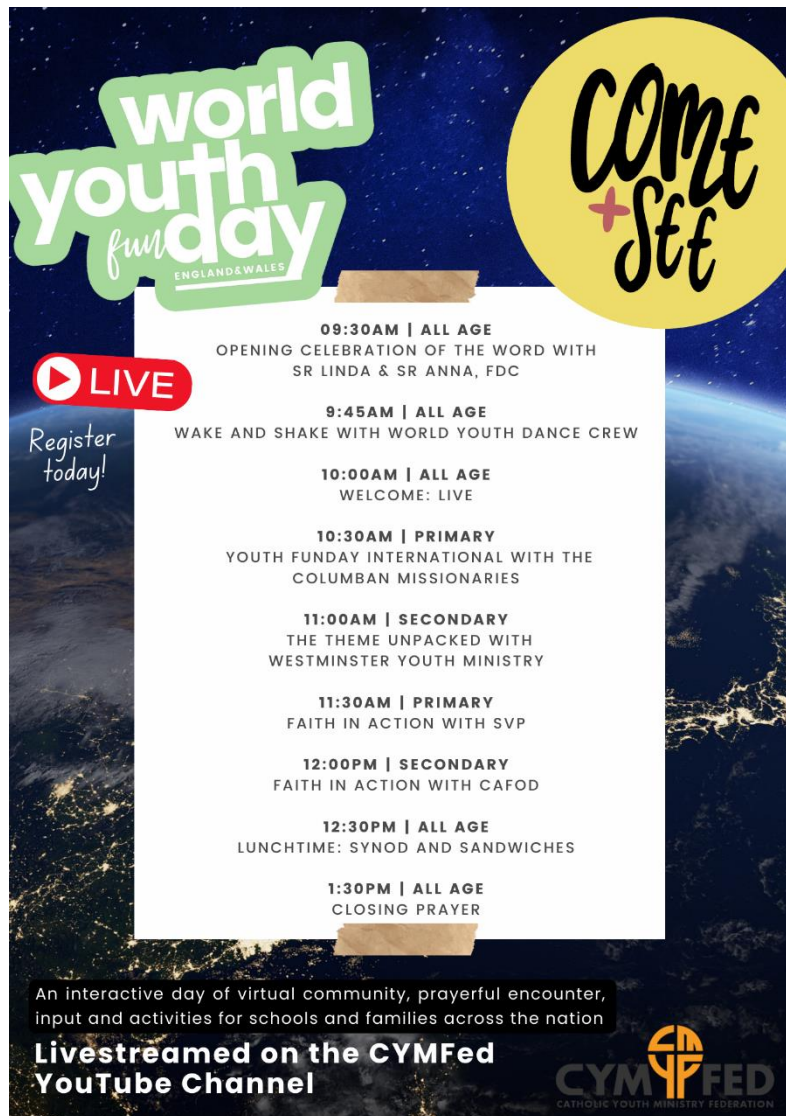
We will celebrate the lives of all those departed during Mass for the deceased on the 23rd of November at 6:30pm at St Mary's Church, Sunderland. Everyone is welcome.



**“Jesus never closes the door,
never, but invites you to enter:
Come and See.”**

Pope Francis, WYD Lisbon 2023

World Youth Sunday is coming up on Sunday 26th November, Feast of Christ the King, a day on which Pope Francis invites the global Church to celebrate and pray for young people. In Lisbon this year, Pope Francis told young people that “Jesus door is always open: Come and See!” You are very welcome to Livestream the activities via CYMFed YouTube channel.



The poster features a dark blue background with a view of Earth from space. In the top left, the text 'world youth day' is written in a green, bubbly font, with 'full day' and 'ENGLAND & WALES' below it. In the top right, a yellow circle contains the words 'COME + SEE' in a black, handwritten-style font. A white rectangular box in the center contains the event schedule. To the left of this box is a red 'LIVE' button with a play icon and the text 'Register today!' written vertically. At the bottom left, there is a line of text: 'An interactive day of virtual community, prayerful encounter, input and activities for schools and families across the nation'. At the bottom center, it says 'Livestreamed on the CYMFed YouTube Channel'. At the bottom right is the CYMFED logo, which consists of the letters 'CYMFED' in a stylized font with 'CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY FEDERATION' written below it.

09:30AM | ALL AGE
OPENING CELEBRATION OF THE WORD WITH
SR LINDA & SR ANNA, FDC

9:45AM | ALL AGE
WAKE AND SHAKE WITH WORLD YOUTH DANCE CREW

10:00AM | ALL AGE
WELCOME: LIVE

10:30AM | PRIMARY
YOUTH FUNDAY INTERNATIONAL WITH THE
COLUMBAN MISSIONARIES

11:00AM | SECONDARY
THE THEME UNPACKED WITH
WESTMINSTER YOUTH MINISTRY

11:30AM | PRIMARY
FAITH IN ACTION WITH SVP

12:00PM | SECONDARY
FAITH IN ACTION WITH CAFOD

12:30PM | ALL AGE
LUNCHTIME: SYNOD AND SANDWICHES

1:30PM | ALL AGE
CLOSING PRAYER

An interactive day of virtual community, prayerful encounter,
input and activities for schools and families across the nation

**Livestreamed on the CYMFed
YouTube Channel**

CYMFED
CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY FEDERATION

Our Food Bank is still going strong. We ask the boys to make donations on a Friday. The Food Bank door is open from 8am giving them the opportunity to put the food away by themselves.



Pastoral News

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

Wednesday 29th November 2023
Monday 11th December 2023
Thursday 11th January 2024
Monday 19th February 2024
Wednesday 6th March 2024
Tuesday 30th April 2024

Arbor

We have now made our move to Arbor for communication and to log, track and monitor achievements, behaviour, corrections and homework.

It is essential that all parents are signed up and have access to the system. If you are having issues with this please contact 0191 5200333 Ext 222.

Year 11 Parents - save the date for Parents Evening 11th December 2023 - more information to follow.

Year 8 Survey Parents

Please take two minutes (if you have no done so already) to complete the following Parent / Carer Survey following your son's Parents' Evening on 30th October 2023.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/7GZZWGQ>

Week 9 – WB 6th November 2023

House	Overall Points	Points awarded this week
Ashbrooke	3200	1200
Corby	3225	1150
Brookfield	3625	1525



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.



Attendance Stars



Week 9 – WB 6th November 2023



11B – 100%



Weeks attendance – 94.5%

Whole school attendance from Sept – 94.6%



Anti-bullying Week 2023

This week we are supporting the national Anti-Bullying initiative by raising awareness of bullying throughout all houses. The theme this year is 'Make a noise about bullying', with a laser sharp focus on miscommunication.

School values of hard work, trust and fairness encourage positive behaviour from all pupils at all times. The focus on miscommunication is therefore a very welcome opportunity to discuss how pupils communicate with others and how comments can be misinterpreted just by how they are said. We want our pupils to be best they can be in all areas of their development, giving them opportunities to reach own potential and purpose. With this in mind, all pupils will participate in assembly followed by activities which will be carried out by their form tutor. Our School website has information uploaded in the Anti-bullying section, which we invite you to read. A parent guide is also attached for your information.

We are also taking this opportunity to inform you about how we deal with bullying and bullying type behaviour and to give you some helpful hints in the event that you feel that your son is being bullied or has participated in forms of bullying.

Take a look here for more information: [Anti Bullying Week 2023 - St. Aidan's Catholic Academy St. Aidan's Catholic Academy \(staidanscatholicacademy.co.uk\)](https://staidanscatholicacademy.co.uk)

Private E-Scooters - A message from Northumbria Police

With the festive season fast approaching a reminder to all parents **DO NOT** buy Electric Scooters for children as Christmas presents. E-Scooters have not yet been legalised, are still considered illegal and must not be used on our roads and footpaths. If caught riding on our roads and footpaths the e-scooter could be confiscated by Police.



NORTHUMBRIA POLICE - WARNING TO PARENTS – DO NOT BUY E-SCOOTERS AS CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

It is against the law to ride a private e-scooter on a public road or pavement.



We understand that buying your own e-scooter can be tempting, especially as you can get them from many popular retailers.

Why is this?

E-scooters are classified as Personal Light Electric Vehicles (PLEVs), so they are treated as motor vehicles and subject to the same legal requirements, such as:

MOT, Licensing, Tax, Insurance

As e-scooters do not have number plates, signalling ability and don't always have visible rear lights, they can't be used legally on the roads.

Although unable to ride your own, there is a government trial taking place in the North East where you are allowed to ride a rented e-scooter.



Measles awareness and the importance of children having two doses of MMR vaccine

Measles is an infection that spreads very easily and can cause serious problems in some people. Having the MMR vaccine is the best way to prevent it. Two doses are needed to be fully protected. The uptake of MMR in Sunderland at age 5 years has reduced recently, putting some children at risk.

Information for parents:

- Complete routine schedule for UK [Complete routine immunisation schedule - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/complete-routine-immunisation-schedule)
- Measles: Don't let your child catch it leaflet [MEASLES - Don't let your child catch it \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/444444/measles-leaflet.pdf)
- What do I need to know about the MMR vaccine? [What do I need to know about the MMR vaccine? - UK Health Security Agency \(blog.gov.uk\)](https://www.blog.gov.uk/2016/02/18/what-do-i-need-to-know-about-the-mmr-vaccine/)

Our pastoral team can be connected on the following emails.

Ashbrooke House – Miss Land – kland@staca.co.uk – Ext: 201

Corby House – Mr Gray – agray@staca.co.uk – Ext: 223

Brookfield House – Mrs Halliday – mhalliday@staca.co.uk - Ext: 216

PDE

Useful links shared with pupils

Careers: speak to Mrs. Osmialowski

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 \(talktofrank.com\)](http://talktofrank.com)

Community News

Character Development

For the last 2 weeks, pupils have been strengthening their virtues through a specific CLIMB task. The strengthening of these virtues will allow St Aidan's pupils to stand out in the crowd and live a sustained well-rounded life. Every year group has had their own focus, for example Year 7s have been focusing on the skills and attributes they have learned since joining an enrichment activity. It has been great to read these reflections, in particular how chess has helped individuals in skills such as memory, planning and problem solving.

Remembrance 2022

On Friday 10th November 2023 the school fell silent for two minutes at 11am to remember the fallen from all the conflicts that Britain and her allies have been involved in throughout the centuries. As always, we came together in collective worship, and this year our focus was the families and loved ones of both fallen and returned service personnel. It was a very moving experience and the video will soon be uploaded to our You tube Channel for everyone to watch.



Sporting Success

William and Jevin have been selected to represent Durham County in cricket. This is an outstanding achievement and is a testament to their hard work and dedication over the past few years. They have both been identified as having an exceptional talent and potential in cricket. Well done lads.

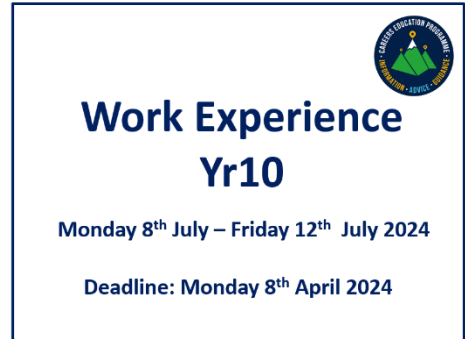



Careers

Careers Fair

This week we launched Yr10 work experience. This is an opportunity for pupils to gain first hand experience of the work place and to develop the employability skills needed for the future. Pupils have been asked to source and secure a work placement of their choice and complete the placement tool on Unifrog. All information and resources can be found on the Character Development team – work experience channel for pupils. A letter has been sent home to all parents/carers and additional information can be found on the academy website.


Any local businesses interested in hosting any of pupils for work experience can make contact with Mrs. Osmialowski contactus@staca.co.uk




Work Experience
Yr10
Monday 8th July – Friday 12th July 2024
Deadline: Monday 8th April 2024

Sunderland City Provider Network


Sunderland City Provider Network are hosting a careers event this month for KS4 & KS5 pupils. All young people in Sunderland will receive a personalised invite through their door. Information can be found on this poster – an ideal event to help you consider your next steps!



Don't miss this opportunity!
CAREERS LIVE!
Saturday
18th November 2023
10.30 – 2.00
The Beacon of Light, Stadium Park
Sunderland SR5 1SN

In years 10,11,12 or 13 and not sure what to do next?
Come and talk to the local experts about your next steps.
Find out about Apprenticeships, Skills for Work
and careers in the Health Service.

Parents and Carers welcome too!
Enter the draw to win Sunderland match tickets



Open Events

Sunderland College, Gateshead College and SETA are hosting open events to prepare you for your next steps!



Open Events 2023/4

Tuesday 10 October: Bede Campus 4:30-6pm
 Thursday 12 October: City Campus 4:30-6pm
 Tuesday 14 November: City Campus 4:30-6pm
 Thursday 16 November: Bede Campus 4:30-6pm
 Tuesday 16 January: Bede Campus 4:30-6pm
 Thursday 18 January: City Campus 4:30-6pm



Engineering Careers Event Thursday 7th December 2023



Seta offers apprenticeships in:

- Electrical and/or Mechanical Fitting
- Mechatronics Maintenance (Multi-skilled)
- Machining, Toolmaking and CNC
- Technical (e.g. CAD, Design)
- Welding and Fabrication



Interested in a career in engineering starting in September 2024 or before?

Want to know more about the apprenticeships available, look around the training centre and meet employers recruiting apprentices? Then our Engineering Careers Event will be perfect for you.



Book now to secure your place using the QR code on this leaflet.
 Early applications are essential to ensure your best chance of getting an apprenticeship.
 Apply at www.seta.co.uk

Seta, 17 Sedling Road, Wear Estate, Washington, NE38 9BZ
 T: 0191 416 2860 W: www.seta.co.uk E: enquiries@seta.co.uk

 SetaTrain
  SetaTrain
  SetaTrain
  [sunderland engineering training association limited](https://www.linkedin.com/company/sunderland-engineering-training-association-limited)



CAREER CHOICE ENROLMENT EVENT.

Deciding what to do after your GCSEs can be confusing, there's lots of different options and it's important to make a choice that's right for you.

Come along to our Career Choice Enrolment Event to find out more about your options as well as what life's like at Gateshead College.

When: Wednesday 8th November 5pm - 8pm

Where: All campuses - [click here](#) to find out which campus to attend depending on your interests.

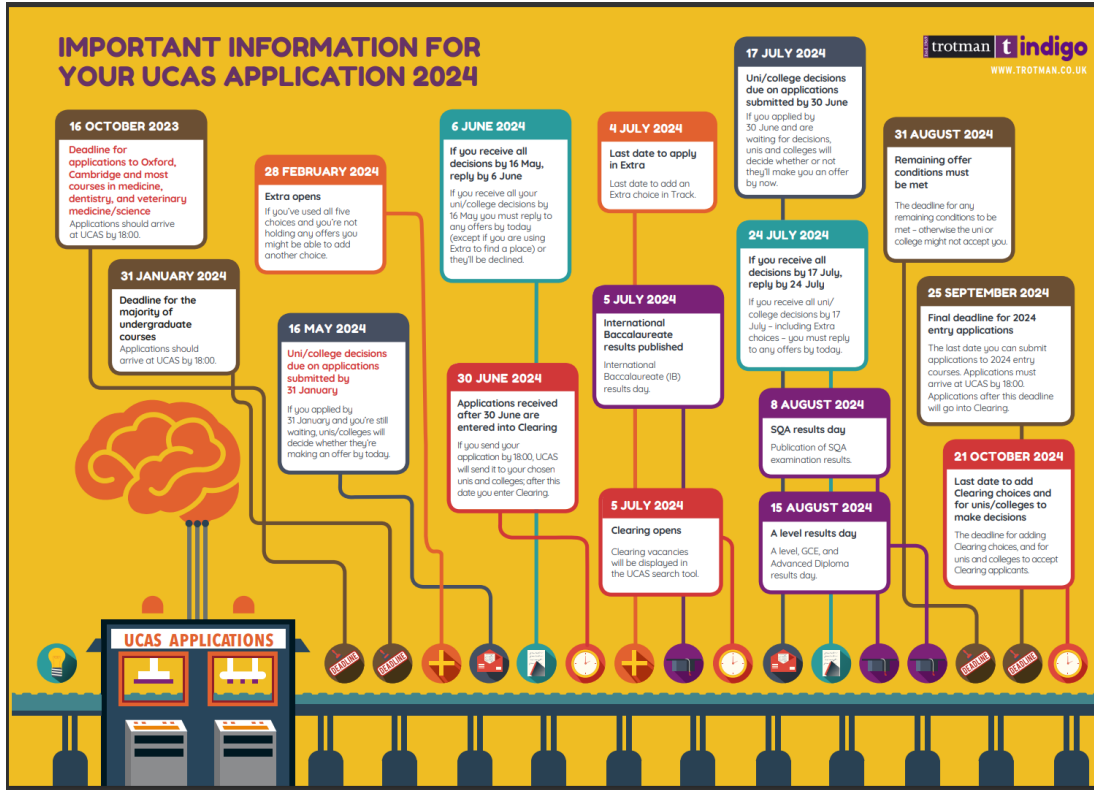
Book your place now
 Scan the QR code or visit www.gateshead.ac.uk/events/career-choice-enrolment-event



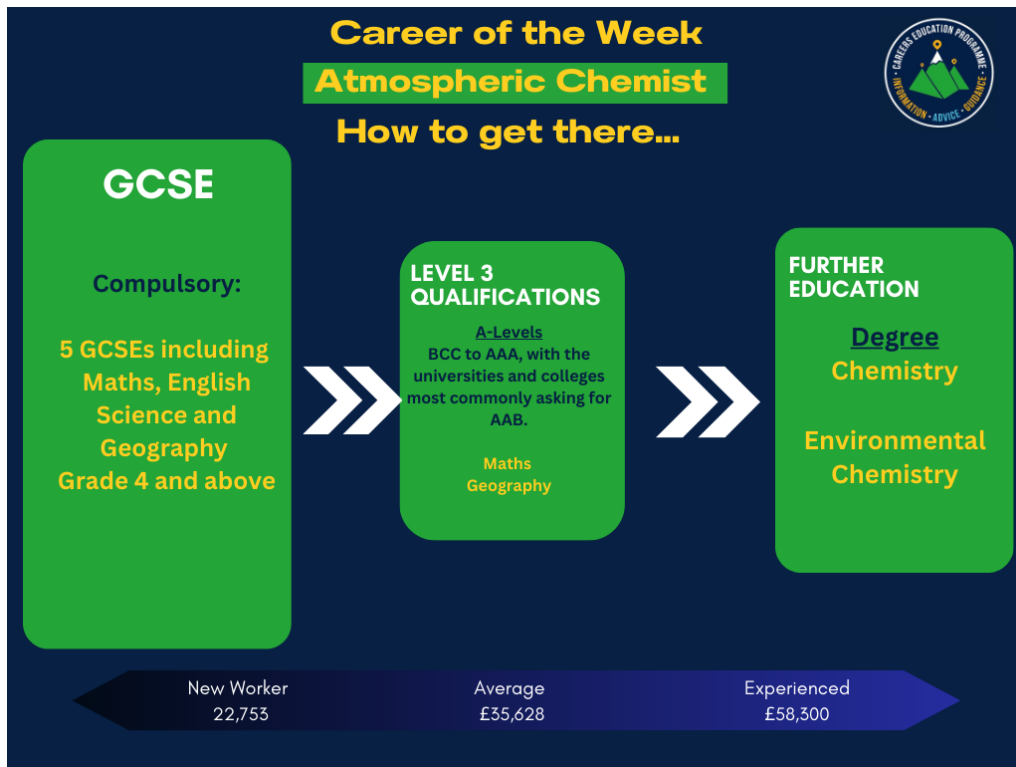
At the event you can:

- Join a talk to find out more about A Levels, T Levels, Apprenticeships and Vocational courses.
- Chat with our expert teachers and careers advisers
- Find out more about our courses
- Learn about the financial support you may be entitled to
- Secure your place for September 2024

UCAS Applications



Career of the Week



Music

Clergy Leaders Mass

St Aidan's Singers had an incredibly successful performance at St Mary's Cathedral Newcastle 10th November singing for the congregation and Catholic leaders including Bishop Stephen. The singers performed the premiere of the specially commissioned Mass "Gaudete" written by Will Todd for the Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust. Well done to all the boys taking part, you were a credit to St Aidan's.



Up coming events:

Joy in My Heart at Rainton Arena 23rd November
Tickets available soon!

St Aidan's Singers and instrumentalists –

Christmas Fair at the Main School Hall on Monday 4th December

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

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 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 starting up again. If you want to have a go, it is an excellent opportunity to practise your live performing skills in front of a low pressure and friendly audience.

Music Enrichment:

St Aidan's Singers Tuesday Chapel
 Drum Fun Wednesday Music Room
 BTEC Music Friday Music Room

Enrichment


	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
BEFORE SCHOOL	BREAKFAST Canteen	BREAKFAST Canteen	BREAKFAST Canteen	BREAKFAST Canteen	BREAKFAST Canteen
	READING CLUB Reading Room with Mrs Nalle	READING CLUB Reading Room with Mrs Nalle	READING CLUB Reading Room with Mrs Nalle	READING CLUB Reading Room with Mrs Nalle	READING CLUB Reading Room with Mrs Nalle
	MATHS CHALLENGE 206 with Mr Smith	WELLBEING GROUP 202 with R.E Department	ENTERPRISE CLUB 211 with Mrs Duxberry & Dimmick	SCIENCE CLUB with Mr Wallace	BTEC MUSIC Music Room with Mr Payne
	YEAR 11 FURTHER MATHS 210 with Mrs Hudson	ST AIDAN'S SINGERS Music Room with Mr Payne	DRUM FUN Music Room with Mr Wallace	HOMEWORK CLUB Room 313, 314	HOMEWORK CLUB Room 313, 314
	YEAR 7&8 SPACE & BEYOND Science Lab with Mrs Hutchinson	YEAR 7,8&9 CREST—SCIENCE With Mr Hamilton	YEAR 10 & 11 CREST—SCIENCE With Mr Hamilton	FITNESS School Gym with Mr Watts	FISHING Offsite with Mr Moon
	TASTE OF INDIA—COOKERY CLASS With Miss Thomas	1st LEGO LEAGUE - SUPER POWER 165 with Mrs Nilper	BADMINTON Sports Hall with a Coach	BASKETBALL Sports Hall with Mr Adey	YEAR 7&8 FOOTBALL Sports Hall with Mo
	GCSE SPANISH CLUB With Mr Jones & Miss Land	LEGO FUN CLUB 166 with Mrs Whitten	YEAR 10 & 11 FOOTBALL Limes with Mr Watts		
	HOMEWORK CLUB, Room 313, 314	10X CHALLENGE 201 with Mrs Osmlalowski	FITNESS School Gym with Mr Flounders		
	INDOOR CRICKET Sports Hall with Mr Hutton	DEBATE SOCIETY Upper Room with Mr Morris/Nunn	YEAR 7 FOOTBALL Limes with Mr Gray		
	YEAR 8 FOOTBALL Limes with Mr Flounders	ARCHAEOLOGY CLUB 110 with Mrs Jopling/ Miss Dawson	TABLE TENNIS Sports Mobile with Mr Adey		
AFTER SCHOOL	FITNESS CLUB, Gym with Mr Flounders	SPANISH CLUB With Mr Jones & Mr Cuevas			
	BRONNZE IDEA Award DIGITAL ENTERPRISE (ICT) 311 with Miss Cain	YEAR 7&8 FOOTBALL Sports Hall with Mo			
		RUGBY TRAINING, ASHBROOKE CC The Limes with Mr Adey			

Here at
St. Aidan's Catholic Academy
 we believe in a curriculum that broadens 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



The government have now published every school's data from the 2023 summer examination series on the Compare Schools Website. The data is summarized below, but as you can see, our outcomes are outstanding across all areas. We add significant value to our pupils in every single measure that the government looks at. It substantiates our belief that if you want your son to achieve then St. Aidan's is the place for him to be. **Glenn Sanderson, Headteacher.**

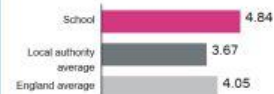
Attainment 8 [?](#)

Schools get a score based on how well pupils have performed in up to 8 qualifications.



EBacc average point score [?](#)

The EBacc average points score calculates a pupil's average point scores across the 5 pillars of the English Baccalaureate.



Staying in education or entering employment [?](#)

This shows the number of pupils who either stayed in education or went into employment after finishing key stage 4 (after year 11, usually aged 16).



Grade 5 or above in English & maths GCSEs [?](#)

This tells you the percentage of pupils who achieved grade 5 or above in English and maths GCSEs.



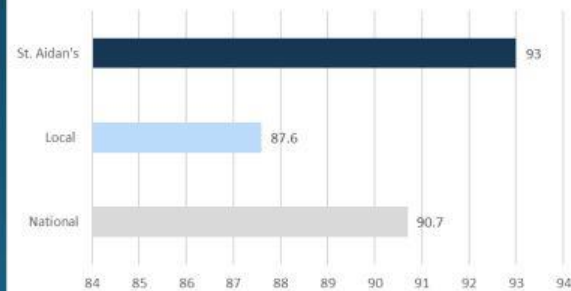
St. Aidan's Catholic Academy Outcomes 2023



Overall performance compared to national

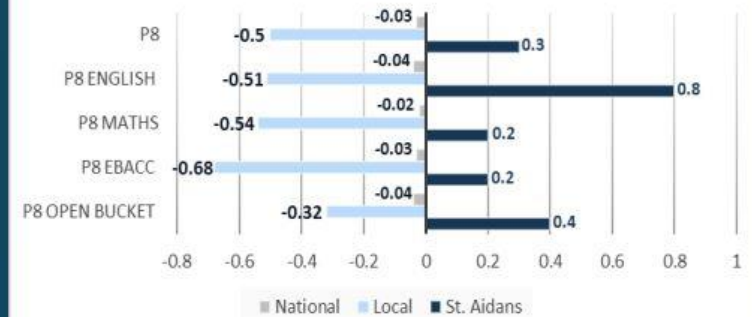
Overall P8	Significantly above national
Open P8	Significantly above national
Overall A8	Significantly above national
English A8	Significantly above national
Maths A8	Significantly above national
Ebacc A8	Significantly above national
Open A8	Significantly above national
Science % 4+	Significantly above national
Languages % 4+	Significantly above national
Humanities % 4+	Significantly above national

2022-2023 Attendance



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

Progress



Attainment

