

St. Aidan's Catholic Academy

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To all in our community,

I have worked at St Aidan's for over twenty years and every single day of that has been an immense privilege. However, a new and exciting opportunity has opened up in our trust and therefore this will be my final year at St Aidan's. I agonised over this decision as St Aidan's is in my blood, but feel now is the right time to move on. After a rigorous process, I am delighted to announce that Mrs Whitten has been appointed as the new Headteacher of St Aidan's. I am delighted that the school will be in very safe and capable hands. I will still be closely involved with the community through the trust and will be taking a leading role in the new school build, so I will still be an active member of our community. We are now in the final push with Y11 and Y13 before the summer exam season begins. I have been delighted to see the conscientious approach to revision and study by both year groups over the past few months. My staff are pushing them hard in order for them to achieve the best possible outcomes and enable them to progress to the next stage in their journeys. Good luck to everyone! We now have some finalised drawings for the new school build and I will soon be able to share those with you. The design looks incredible and will make a huge difference to the lives of our young people as well as the wider community. Outstanding education in an outstanding venue is exactly what our young people deserve and very soon we embark on that journey together.

Take care and God bless

Glenn Sanderson



Upcoming Events

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Y10 Parents Information Evening



Father, I ask for your forgiveness for all the ways that I have fallen short in my thoughts, in my words and in my actions. Search my heart O God. Expose the darkness and bring my sin into the light. Help me turn away from my wicked ways that separates me from you, Lord. Create in me a pure heart Father God and help me become more like your son, Jesus.

Amen.

Chaplaincy

Sunday the 5th week of Easter

John 15:1-8

I am the vine, you are the branches Jesus said to his disciples:

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.

Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more.

You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you.

Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me.

I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing.

Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away – he withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt.

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it. It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples.'

Please pray for our pupils who are currently preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation at St Joseph's Church. May the Holy Spirit fill them and inspire them to action.

The Confirmation Mass will take place at St Joseph's on the 7th of June at 6pm.



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

Food Bank Friday.

We welcome donations of long life food. We are in need of tinned potatoes and tinned meat.

Thank you very much to everyone donating to Food Bank.



Pastoral News

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 27 – WB 15th April 2024



10M – 100%



Weeks attendance – 95.3%

Whole school attendance from Sept – 93.5%



Do you know the signs and symptoms of Melanoma?

Educate yourself by using the website below:

[Awareness - Melanoma-Me](#)

House Competition



Annual House Competition



Week 27 – WB 15th April 2024

House	Overall Points	Points awarded this week
Ashbrooke	10925	775
Corby	10250	375
Brookfield	10275	400



Safeguarding

Northumbria Police's Prevention Through Education Team visited school this week to deliver sessions to Year 7 and 8 on the risks and consequences associated with the sharing of inappropriate images via text message and social media.

The purpose of the sessions was to equip children with the knowledge and skills to protect themselves, and to make them aware of how these images can be used to exploit young people. This includes:

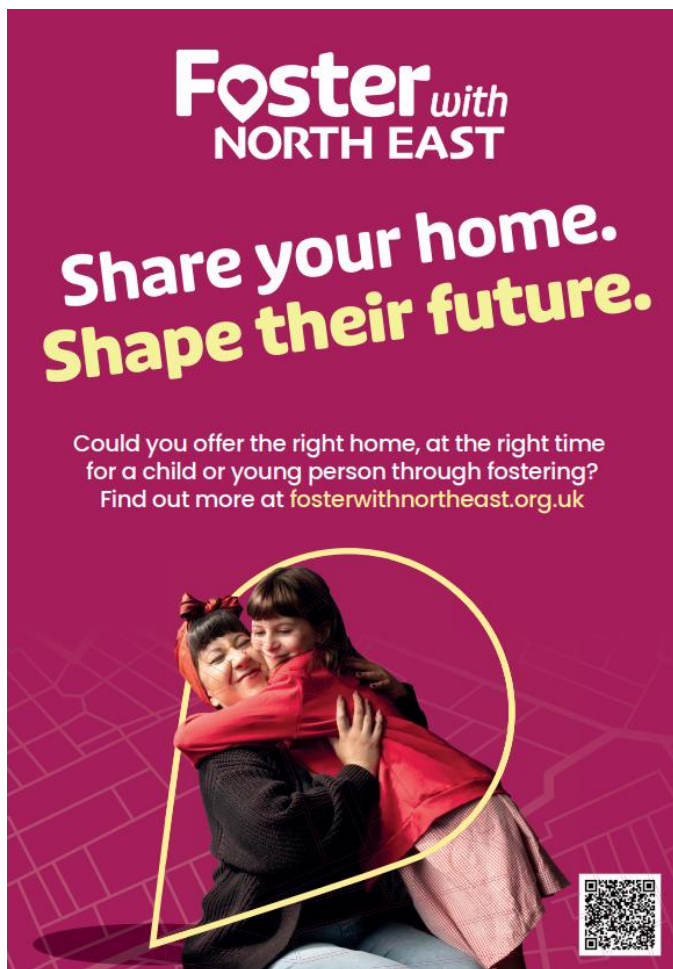
- * what is an inappropriate image?
- * why young people send inappropriate images
- * consequences
- * the law
- * where to find help and support when images have been shared

We hope you will support this important messaging at home. To help you to do that, please visit the following weblinks:

[Megan's Story](#) - a teenager's experience of sharing an inappropriate image of herself

[Nude selfies: a parents' guide \(thinkuknow.co.uk\)](http://thinkuknow.co.uk)



It's important that young people know that there is a way to get their image removed as this may encourage them to seek help if it has happened or does happen to them: Visit [Report Remove | Childline](#) for more information.



Foster with
NORTH EAST

**Share your home.
Shape their future.**

Could you offer the right home, at the right time
for a child or young person through fostering?
Find out more at fosterwithnortheast.org.uk



Foster with North East is England's first regional support hub for foster carers, combining 12 Local Authorities from all over the North East of England.

We are looking for people with different experiences and backgrounds to care for babies, children and young people who are just as individual as our carers.

Whether it's fostering for a night, a week, a month a year or more, by sharing your heart and your home, you can shape a child's life and future for the better.



We're here to support you as you apply to be a foster carer and we look forward to working together to build better futures for children and young people in the region.

If you think you could share your home to shape the future of children and young people in the North East, we'd love to hear from you.

Phone: 0800 917 7771
Email: contact@fosterwithnortheast.org.uk
Website: fosterwithnortheast.org.uk

Foster with
NORTH EAST

Important Dates:

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

Tuesday 30th April 2024

Monday 6th May 2024 - this is a bank holiday - school is closed to pupils and staff.

May Half Term: We break up at normal time on Friday 24th May and return to school on Monday 3rd June 2024.

Community News

Students from Years 7-10 went to Sunderland City Hall on Wednesday 17th April to take part in a lively debate on topics voted on by all schools in Sunderland and led by the Sunderland Youth Council. Topics were Health & Wellbeing, Crime and Safety and Culture Media and Sport. Our students displayed exceptional leadership skills and contributed willingly and positively to the debates.



The 6th form organised a Charity Football match with year 12 and year 13 playing and had a tuck shop after school on Tuesday 26th March at the Limes.

The money raised was halved between funds for the 6th form ball and The Rainbow Trust Charity. Year 13 won 6 – 1.



8QU and 7QU Maths classes took part in the UK Maths challenge this morning. We have been involved for over 25 years. We wish them all the best and will look forward to sharing their success when we get the results.



Sporting Success

Congratulations to Ben P who took part in the Mina Cup tournament in Dubai with Newcastle Academy U12/13s. It was such an amazing experience for him and they ended up winning the U13s tournament which really topped off a fantastic week for them all. Well done Ben!



Congratulations to Elliot N who, with the Dokan England Squad, had a brilliant competition for the WKA World Championships in Malta. Elliot was in three sections and got three gold medals. Gold individual kata, gold pairs kata and gold team kata. This makes him a WUKF world champion and now a WKA world champion.



The final round of rugby union fixtures took place just before Easter with the year 7s, 8s and 9s all taking part. The year 7s competed against Park View, a closely contested game which unfortunately saw a serious injury to student Ronan Naughton. Thankfully he is recovering well and is keen to play again as soon as possible. We wish him a speedy recovery.



The year 8 side travelled to Park View in another close game. St Aidan's finally coming away with the victory 35-28 with all St. Aidan's tries scored by Will Snowball. It is also the 1st time we have fielded a team entirely of year 8 students, showing how much the sport is developing.

The year 9s finished with 2 wins from their final round of games to continue their impressive record since year 7. Again, thank you to the students who have ensured that participation has never been higher and thank you to Constellia for sponsoring St Aidan's Rugby.

Once again it has been a spectacular year for St Aidan's basketball with multiple successes across the year groups. After qualifying for the Jr.NBA playoffs both the year 7 and 8 sides faced off against Framwellgate and Boldon in their respective quarter final games. In a back and forth game, which was locked at 10-10 the year 7 side managed to close out the game 18-10. While the year 8s had to hold off a spirited fight back from Boldon to emerge 36-28 winners, both teams advancing to the semi-finals.



The year 11 side travelled to the Vertu Arena to participate in the Tyne and Wear finals, after winning the Sunderland competition. The boys played some extremely good basketball to finish 2nd in the group and qualify for the semi-final. After a close game against Marden High, St Aidan's managed to win and qualify for the final against Jesmond Park. It was a fantastic game against the team who beat them in the group with St Aidan's having many chances to take the lead. Unfortunately, Jesmond ended up victorious 13-9. It is still a massive achievement for the boys to come away with a silver medal and recognised as the 2nd best year 11 side in Tyne and Wear. Well Done to all of the students involved.

Finally the year 9 team also travelled to the Vertu Arena for their Tyne and Wear final. With only 1 team in each group advancing to the final it was going to be tough with Dame Allen's in the same group and having beat St Aidan's in the Jr. NBA final the year before. In the end, with 4 wins each it came down to St. Aidan's and Dame Allen's. In a tremendous game, St. Aidan's were never behind and controlled the time well to come away 18-12 winners and qualify for the final where they would face Boldon. The final was a lot closer with the lead changing hands a few times but as the time ticked on St Aidan's held their composure in front of the net more, hitting more baskets and coming away victorious by 13 - 9. What a fantastic achievement for the year 9 students here at St. Aidan's. Since year 7 they have only been defeated twice and are now officially the best side in Tyne and Wear. It is testament to their hard work and dedication and also to the efforts of both Arnel and Mark from Lambton Raptores, who have supported the school all the way through this process.



If anyone is interested in continuing the sport outside of school or wants to start, then please contact the club at raptorebe@hotmail.com.

Careers

Yr10 Work Experience

Yr10 work experience deadline has been extended to June 3rd 2024 to allow all pupils to source and secure a work placement. All placements must be uploaded to the Unifrog placement tool so that placements can be vetted.

Mrs. Osmialowski and form tutors will continue to support all pupils with the above.

Mrs Osmialowski will be available for drop in sessions St. Aidan's Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday breaks and lunch time for Yr10 pupils. Yr12 drop in sessions will be at St Anthony's on a Wednesday 10.40am-11.30am.

Apprenticeship Opportunities

Gentoo

This [link](#) will take you directly to their apprenticeship page.


This year they have apprenticeships in the following areas:

- Bricklaying
- Engineering Technician (Building Services)
- Business Administration
- Electrical
- Fire Alarm Engineer
- Gas
- Housing and Property Management
- Joinery
- Paralegal
- Multi-Maintenance
- Plastering
- Plumbing
- Roofing
- Construction Support Technician (Surveying - Damp Inspection)

The logo for Gentoo, featuring the word "gentoo" in a bold, lowercase, orange sans-serif font.

Internship Opportunities


NHS Finance



How to apply

Application process

- Submit application form online <https://forms.office.com/e/N6QPeA6cfm> by 5pm 24th May



- Shortlisted applicants will be invited to an informal 30-minute interview in June / July 2024
- Successful applicants will begin in September 2024

If you have any questions or need help with an application email
Finance.academy@nhs.net

Waterstones

A great opportunity to complete a 6 week internship (3 days a week). Paid work experience before Uni starts!



Music

Live music Fridays continuing to rock the main school hall at breaktimes. Well done to Nathan and Harry for keeping up the performances and quality for our younger pupils.



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

Instrumental lessons:

Monday	Bass	Mr Harland
Tuesday	Violin, Piano	Mr Nyberg, Mr Shepherd
Wednesday	Drums, Guitar, Brass	Mr Wake, Mr Smith, Miss Brierley
Thursday	Guitar	Mr Smith
Friday	Woodwind, Cello	Mr Toomey, Miss Pearson

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 is 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 3 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	Bass Guitar Lessons Music Room Mr Harland (£72 per term)	Piano Lessons Music room Mr Shepherd (£72 per term)	Table Tennis Mobiles - Mr Jones	1st Lego League – Super Power 166 - Mrs Swales	Basketball Sports Hall - Mr Adey & Lampton Coach (£1)	Cello Lessons Music room Mrs Pearson (£72 per term)
	Bronze iDEA Award Digital Enterprise (ICT) 312 - Miss Cain	DoE Volunteering Club 112- Mrs Kilminster and Mr Lannon	Violin Lessons Music room Mr Nyberg (£72 per term)	Crisp Packet Appeal 205 - Mrs Priest	Brass Lessons Music room (£72 per term)	Careers Champion 103 - Mrs Osmialowski	Football with Mo Year 7,8&9 (£4) Ashbrooke 3G Pitch
	Creative Writing 306 - Miss Sansom	Chess Club 209 - Mr Herbertson	Homework Club Room 313, 314	Dungeons and Dragons Reading Room Mr Richardson	Football (Year 7) Ashbrooke 3G with Mr Watts	Softball Ashbrooke Outfield Mr Flounders	Homework Club 313, 314
	Debate Club 108 - Mrs Jopling	Year 9 Football Ashbrooke 3G Mr Gray	Football with Mo Year 7,8&9 (£4 per session) Ashbrooke 3G Pitch	Drum Lessons Music Room –Mr Wake (£72 per term)	Kwik Cricket Session Ashbrooke Outfield Mr Flounders	Guitar Lessons Music room Mr Smith (£72 per term)	Rugby Ashbrooke 3G Mr Adey
	Cricket Net Sessions Ashbrooke Nets Mr Hutton	Softball Ashbrooke Outfield Mr Watts	Drum Fun Music Room – Mr Wallace	Football (Year 8) Ashbrooke 3G Mr Gray	GCSE History booster 108 - Mr Nunn	Homework Club 313, 314	Woodwind Lessons Music Room Mr Tooney (£72 per term)
	Book to film club 304 - Mrs Gardner	Further Maths (Y11) 210 - Mrs Hudson	Archive Club 313 - Mr Evans	Gardening Club Briery Mrs Armstrong	Lego Fun Club Mrs Whitten 165	Maths Enrichment 212 - Mr Mann	Year 10 &11 Music Club Mr Payne
	GCSE Spanish Club Year 10 & 11 104 – Mrs McKenna	Homework Club 313, 314		Guitar Lessons Music room Mr Smith (£72 per term)	Performing Arts Mrs Moorhead/Mr Payne	Rock Band @ The Bunker 4-6pm Mr Payne	
	Keyboard Ninja Club (ICT) 312 - Mrs Cain	Justice and Peace (KSS) Briery Miss Gordon/ Mrs Priest		Homework Club 313, 314	Robotics Club 164 - Mr Wallace	STEM Activities 121 – Science Staff	
	Running Club Mobile Changing Rooms- Mr Coon	Kwik Cricket Session Ashbrooke Outfield Mr Watts		St. Aidan's Singers Music room Mr Payne		Cricket Net Sessions Ashbrooke Nets Mr Hutton	
	Table Tennis Mobiles Mr Hamilton	Sparx Maths Club 312 – Mrs Smith		Spanish Club 106 - Mrs Alonso/ Miss Donkin			

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!"