

# St. Aidan's Catholic Academy

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To all in our community,

Despite the nights drawing in and the weather taking a decidedly autumnal turn, our school community continues to flourish. All of our pupils have arrived back in a well-rested and eager state and the pace of academic success has seamlessly restarted. This week has seen the beginning of the mock exam period for Years 11 and 13. Despite the natural anxiety and nervousness that comes with a set of examinations such as this, the resilience and fortitude has shone through from both the boys and the girls this past week. It makes me proud to think that this confidence has been fostered due to the environment and culture that we have built up at St Aidan's. Over the past few days we have been able to examine the government's Compare Schools website which publishes all of the data for each school, in the country. I am delighted that once again the evidence is clear cut. As an academy, government data clearly shows that we add considerable value to our boys from when they come to us right through to when they leave us. We open doors for them and enable them to live their lives to the full. We are not yet the finished article, but I am proud that our school gives the young men from across this city a great education with which to take out into the wider world. Recently, we hosted an extensive careers fair which gave our young people opportunities to talk to employers and training providers to ensure that they have diverse and wide-ranging information with which to make informed decisions from. Another important aspect of the offer given to all St Aidan's pupils and one which will inspire many.

Take care and God bless.

Glenn Sanderson

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## Upcoming Events

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My God, I am sorry for my sins  
with all my heart.  
In choosing to do wrong and  
failing to do good,  
I have sinned against you whom  
I should love above all things.  
I firmly intend, with your help, to  
do penance, to sin no more,  
and to avoid whatever leads me  
to sin.  
Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered  
and died for us.  
In His name. My God have  
mercy.

## Chaplaincy

Matthew 23:1-12

They do not practise what they preach

Addressing the people and his disciples Jesus said, 'The scribes and the Pharisees occupy the chair of Moses. You must therefore do what they tell you and listen to what they say; but do not be guided by what they do: since they do not practise what they preach. They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders, but will they lift a finger to move them? Not they! Everything they do is done to attract attention, like wearing broader phylacteries and longer tassels, like wanting to take the place of honour at banquets and the front seats in the synagogues, being greeted obsequiously in the market squares and having people call them Rabbi.



'You, however, must not allow yourselves to be called Rabbi, since you have only one master, and you are all brothers. You must call no one on earth your father, since you have only one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor must you allow yourselves to be called teachers, for you have only one Teacher, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant. Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted.'

All Saints' Day is a holy day of the Catholic Church celebrated annually on November 1<sup>st</sup>. The day is dedicated to the saints of the Church, that is, all those who have attained heaven.

The following day we celebrate the Day of All of the Faithful Departed, or "All Souls". On this day, we pray that all those who have died— our loved ones, and those people around the world who we will never meet— through the mercy of God, will rest in peace.

Join us in prayer by saying the words below.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,

and let Your perpetual light shine upon them.

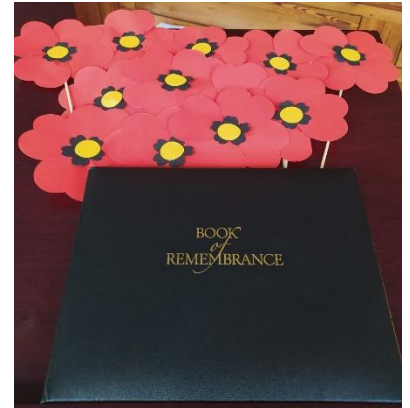
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

Amen.



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 23<sup>rd</sup> of November at 6:30pm at St Mary's Church, Sunderland. Everyone is welcome.



Our 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.

A promotional poster for the YouTube Originals film 'THE LETTER: A MESSAGE FOR OUR EARTH'. The poster features a central image of Pope Francis in a white cassock, looking towards the camera. In the background, there is a scene of a city street with people walking, and a factory with smokestacks emitting smoke. The text 'YouTube Originals' is in the top left, and 'THE LETTER' is in large, bold, black letters in the center. Below it, 'A MESSAGE FOR OUR EARTH' is written in smaller black letters. At the bottom, there is a paragraph of text: 'St Anthony's Girls Catholic Academy invites every local community member to join us and watch The Letter. The film will be shown at St Anthony's, in Our Lady's Hall on the 15th of November 2023 at 3:30 pm. Refreshments will be provided. For more information and the reserve a place email [kszczepanska@staca.co.uk](mailto:kszczepanska@staca.co.uk)'

## 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:

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024



# Annual House Competition



## Week 7 – WB 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023

House	Overall Points	Points awarded this week
Ashbrooke	<b>1650</b>	525
Corby	<b>1875</b>	100
Brookfield	<b>1775</b>	325



## 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.

## Arbor

We have now made our move to Arbor. Staff are now using this each day to take registers and to complete daily tasks. You should have now received your welcome email. If you have not yet received this please check your Junk mail. Please follow the instructions included within it to complete the set up. This must be done on a web browser, following this you can use your username and password to log in via the Arbor App.



Signing up to the Parent Portal and App allows improved communication between school and parents / carers. We will no longer use The School Gateway to send emails and texts, this will now all be through Arbor. The School Gateway will still be used for school payments and we will give you plenty of notice when this will be moved over to Arbor.

Once signed into the App, please ensure you **switch on notifications**.

As of 13<sup>th</sup> November, we will no longer use Classcharts to log and communicate achievements, behaviours and corrections with you. This will all be through Arbor.



## Attendance Stars

**Week 7 – WB 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023**



7R and 9R – 99.6%



**Weeks attendance – 94.1%**  
**Whole school attendance from Sept – 94.5%**



## School Lunches

As of Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023 the school canteen will be no longer be serving plain pasta. Pasta must be purchased with a sauce or topping.

Note to Parents and Carers. Please ensure that you do not park on the double yellow lines and chevrons. Please also be mindful of our local residents, making sure you do not park in their allocated bays or block their driveways.

## Sporting Success

Before half term, the Yr7 A and B football team both beat Farringdon on a very wet and muddy night at The Limes. The A-Team won 2-0 in their fixture and the B-Team won 4-1 in theirs. A special mention to J Mckinney for scoring a hat-trick for the B-Team - a fantastic effort - well done. A big well done also to all boys who played, demonstrating great resilience in tricky weather conditions.



## PDE

Our Year 8 students have been recently learning about democracy and how the UK government is formed. We have also covered Guy Fawkes' attempted plot to kill King James, and explained why we celebrate the 5<sup>th</sup> November with fireworks. Fireworks can be exciting to watch but please stay safe. The best way to enjoy the fireworks is at an organised event. Here are some top tips on how to stay safe: [Staying safe with fireworks - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/staying-safe-with-fireworks)

Office for Product Safety & Standards

**Check it before you light it**

Using fireworks this year?

✓ Read all the safety instructions before you get started.

2021

**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))

## Community News

To our staff and parents- a message from Grace House, a charity based in Southwick in Sunderland that enriches the lives of disabled children, young people, and their families:



We are coming up to Christmas and are starting to plan our festive fundraising. We would like to promote to you our upcoming activities.

**Simon Mark as Peter Kay** – We will be hosting a night with the UK's most authentic Peter Kay tribute act, Simon Mark. This will be held at Washington Westwood Club on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November. Tickets are £20 and can be bought

here <https://register.enthuse.com/ps/event/SimonMarkasPeterKaywithSupport>

**Christmas Fayre** – Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November from 11am-2pm at City Hall in Sunderland. We will be joined by over 30 different stallholders, and we will have some other festive activities on the day such as an opportunity to meet Santa. Entry is just £1 for adults and under 16's go free.

**Christmas Jumper Day (this does not apply to pupils)** – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December. Wear a Christmas jumper for a day and donate £1. You can sign up for free here and you will be assigned a fundraising page. <https://register.enthuse.com/ps/event/ChristmasJumperDay202323>

**Christmas Tree Collections** – We are running our annual Christmas TreeCycling campaign where we will collect Christmas Trees from homes in the North-East in exchange for a donation. This year, all trees will be taken to Animals About Town and Birkhead's Wild where they will be used by the animals there. We are running an early bird offer where all collections are half price until 20<sup>th</sup> November. This is the link to book a collection. <https://register.enthuse.com/ps/event/ChristmasTreeCollections2023>

Thank you kindly for your support.

## Careers

Our annual careers fair took place on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023** for all Yr11 and Yr13 pupils. Following on from our successful 6<sup>th</sup> Form Open Evening, pupils had the opportunity to engage with a range of further and higher education providers and employers. Pupils had the chance to discuss their career ambitions, entry and progression routes; as well as finding out about new and exciting post-16 and post-18 options. The feedback from providers was overwhelmingly positive and we hope this event made making those difficult life choices a little easier!



## Green Careers Week

Next week we will be celebrating green careers week to raise awareness about the importance of green careers; encouraging pupils to explore and contribute to a more sustainable future by choosing environmentally friendly professions. Information will be shared across social media channels and with pupils in school. This parent friendly [booklet](#) delves into the world of green careers for parents so that you can carry on the conversation at home.




## 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!



## Open Events

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



### 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](http://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



### 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](http://www.seta.co.uk)

Seta, 17 Sedling Road, Wear Estate, Washington, NE38 9BZ  
T: 0191 416 2860 W: [www.seta.co.uk](http://www.seta.co.uk) E: [enquiries@seta.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@seta.co.uk)

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

## Upcoming events

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

Further Career information will be shared in due course.

## Work Experience

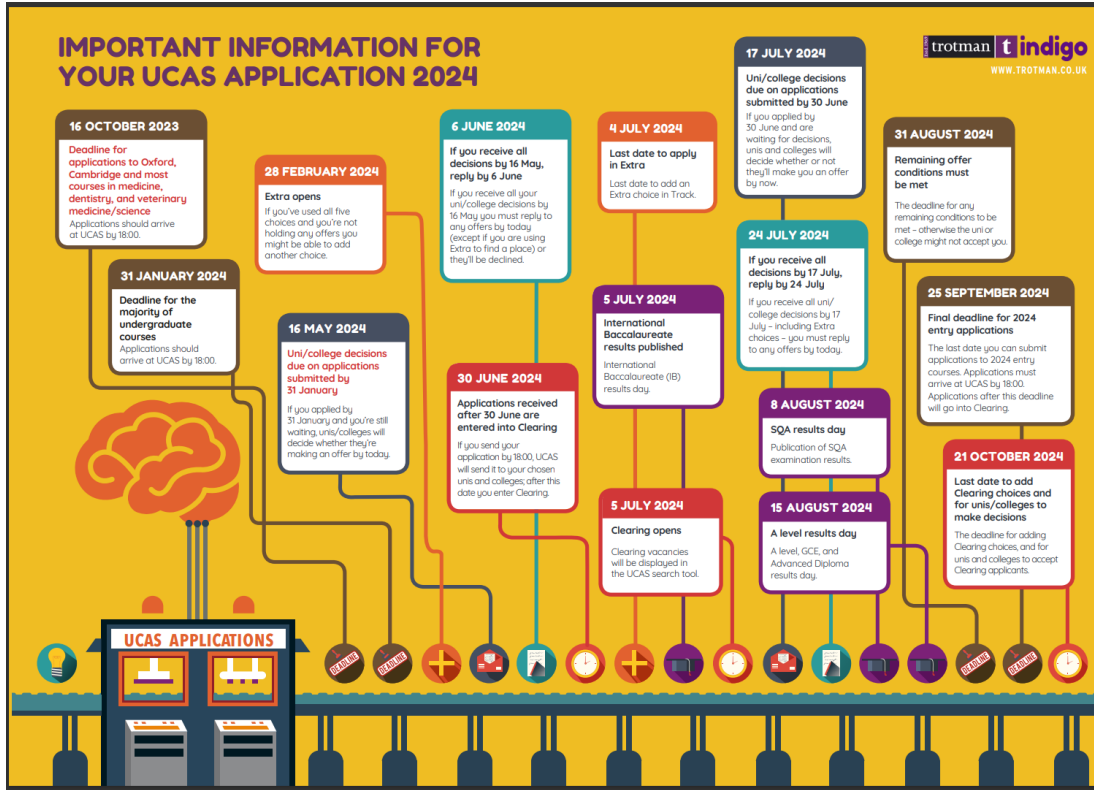
Yr10 work experience Monday 8th<sup>th</sup> – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024

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.**

## Careers information

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



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## Career of the Week

### Pharmacist

### How to get there...



#### GCSE

Compulsory:

5 GCSEs including  
Maths and English  
Science  
Grade 4 and  
above



LEVEL 3  
QUALIFICATIONS

A-Levels  
ABBto BBB



FURTHER  
EDUCATION

Degree  
Master of  
Pharmacy  
(with honours)  
MPharm

New Worker  
£14,966

Average  
£36,443

Experienced  
£80,320

## Music

### Rock Band

The rehearsals at The Bunker are really paying off for the rock band. Playing today at the Live Music Fridays in the Main School Hall at breaktime.

### Up coming events:

Clergy Leaders Mass at St Mary's Cathedral Newcastle 10<sup>th</sup> November  
St Aidan's Singers

Joy in My Heart at Rainton Arena 23<sup>rd</sup> November - St Aidan's Singers and instrumentalists

Christmas Fair at the Main School Hall on 5<sup>th</sup> December



### 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:







<b>Monday</b>	<b>Bass</b>	<b>Mr Harland</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Violin, Piano</b>	<b>Mr Nyberg, Mr Shepherd</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Drums, Guitar</b>	<b>Mr Wake, Mr Smith</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Guitar</b>	<b>Mr Smith</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Woodwind, Cello</b>	<b>Mr Toomey, Miss Pearson</b>

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	Sparx 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 223 - 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!"*