



NEWSLETTER

'Let us be shining lamps, giving light to all around us.'



December 2025

SPOTLIGHT: SHINING LAMPS

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come to the end of a very busy term, I want to thank you for your continued support for your daughter's education at St Anthony's. We hope our students can rest and re-charge over the Christmas period.

We have had some amazing events in the last few weeks showcasing the outstanding talents of our young people, with all monies raised going to our chosen charity, the Great North Air Ambulance Service. I must congratulate our hardworking staff, who have given a lot of time and effort organising and supporting these events, including the spectacular Christmas Concert and Senior Choir Carol Service, Gabriel House's 'Jingle Bell Ball' and our hilarious staff pantomime, 'Snow White and the Seven Behaviour Points'. These joyous events really bring our community together. Thanks must also go to our talented Catering Team who have served up over a thousand Christmas Lunches this week, always with a smile.

In our prayers and liturgies this week we have focused on the coming of Christ into our troubled world and prayed for peace in our homes and our communities.

All the staff at St Anthony's wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, we hope you have a peaceful holiday.

Best wishes,
Marie Lanaghan
Headteacher

OUR SCHOOL PRAYER

Loving God,
Bless our school community here at St Anthony's.
Let us follow in the footsteps of Catherine McAuley.
May we be inspired by her determination to educate, empower and serve the poor.
Let us work together to create a just world in the true spirit of our Mercy tradition,
And as she said, '...to resolve to be good today, but better tomorrow'
We ask this through Christ our Lord,
Amen.



THORNHILL TERRACE

A plea to all parents who drop off or pick up their children on the Terrace outside school: please be mindful of other road users and pedestrians. There have been complaints about parents parking illegally and some erratic driving. Please be aware that we have a lot of children on the Terrace, particularly at 3pm, and their safety is paramount. Also, parents should not be parking, dropping off or picking up in Beresford Park or Abbotsford Grove. This is a private road and parents should use alternative roads to collect their children.

For more on what is happening in school daily, please follow us on social media or visit our school website:
www.st-anthonys-academy.com



PURSUING EXCELLENCE AND BUILDING COMMUNITIES AT CHRISTMAS



A MUSICAL MONTH OF CELEBRATIONS

In December, we were treated to a range of performances from our fantastic music department, including our spectacular Christmas concert, the Senior Choir's carol services at St Mary's RC Church and Oaklea convent, and a joint concert along with Sunderland Symphony Orchestra. Some of you may have even spotted some of our choir members singing at Sainsbury's in Silksworth whilst doing your Christmas shopping!

Olivia, member of the choir, said 'Christmas is always our busiest but most rewarding time of year, and we love performing and showcasing all our talented students. Thanks to Miss Lockey and the music department for everything that they do'





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PURSUING EXCELLENCE: STUDENT SUCCESS

OUR KARATE KIDS!

Well done to Azhin Rafie and Sofia Zarifi, both from Year 10, who recently travelled to Portugal to take part in the European Karate Championships. Azhin placed second overall (and is pictured with her well-deserved silver medal) and Sofia made it to the quarter finals.

Mrs Tomlin, Head of De Sales House, said "I am so proud to have Azhin and Sofia in my house - they are both so talented!"

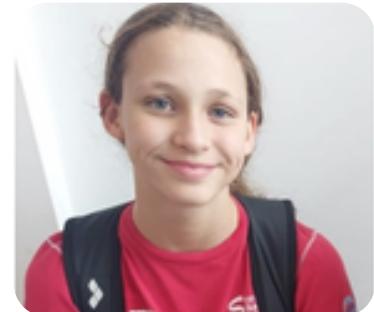
We look forward to seeing what's next for you both!



MIA TAKES BRONZE!

Congratulations to Mia Elliott in Year 12, who competed in the Disability British Championships in the open senior category and came away with Bronze all around, bars and floor and came 4th on vault and beam.

We are so proud of your achievements!



STAR SWIMMING SISTERS!

Congratulations to Molly Bowe, Year 7, who has been selected for Northumbria and Durham performance camp this season in swimming. Her older sister, Macey in Year 9, also qualified for the North East Regionals held in Sheffield in November!



GCSE ART STUDENTS

Our wonderful Year 10 Art students went along to St Mary's RC Church to refresh their nativity scene earlier this month. We received some lovely feedback about this: "Father Chris was really taken aback at what you achieved. He is well pleased! And I have had a lot of positive comments from the parish too". Well done to all involved!



If you would like to share your child's extra-curricular achievements and to feature them in our newsletter, please get in touch!



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BUILDING COMMUNITIES: CAREERS



CAREERS FAIR

Thank you to everyone who attended our annual careers fair in November; an opportunity for students to network and engage with providers from higher and further education, apprenticeship and training providers, and employers.

As always, we got some lovely feedback about our students: 'It was an absolute pleasure to meet so many students who had clearly put a lot of thought into their future and potential career paths. The level of preparation was impressive, many students asked insightful and well-considered questions'.

Well done to all involved!

STEM IN ACTION!



Our Year 9 and 10 STEM cohorts had an amazing opportunity to construct a steel bridge with the help of representatives from Sir Robert McAlpine in November. Students learned the importance of teamwork and communication skills, as well as getting a valuable insight into the construction sector.

Amelia said 'It was such a fun activity to do, and it makes you realise just how many skills you need to use in a job like this. I'm pleased we managed to do it and we all walked over it safely - even Woody, our school dog!'



YEAR 9 VISIT SUNDERLAND UNIVERSITY

Some of our Year 9 students had a lovely day at Sunderland University in December, considering what GCSE option choices would benefit them with their future goals and aspirations, and what a successful career means to them. Students also had a campus tour, spoke to ambassadors about their courses and experience of university life, and took part in activities to build confidence and resilience.

Emma said 'I really enjoyed my day at Sunderland Uni - it was interesting to speak to so many different people and see all of the facilities at university. It's made me really want to go there in the future!'





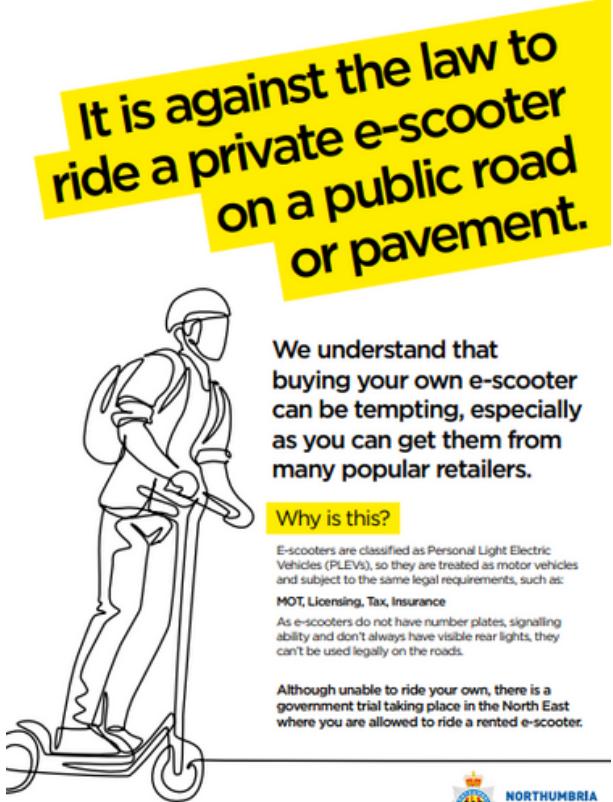
SIXTH FORM HELP AT NORAH'S NORTH POLE

In December, some of our wonderful sixth form students gave their time to volunteer at Norah's North Pole, packing gifts for children and families most in need in the North East this Christmas.

Mrs Hoey organises this event each year, and is always so proud of the selfless and generosity of our students.

Thank you to everyone - students and staff - who gave up their time.

SAFEGUARDING UPDATES



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: NEXT HALF TERM

- 08.01.26 Year 11 mock exams begin
- 12.01.26 Year 13 mock exams begin
- 13.01.26 Year 9 Parents Evening (online)
- 10.02.26 Year 9 Parents Information evening (in school)
- 12.02.26 Year 11 Parents Evening (online)
- 17.02.26 Year 13 Parents Evening (online)

*All parents evenings run from 2.30-6.00pm. All students will be dismissed at 2.05pm on those days.



Proud to be St. Anthony's Girls' Catholic Academy

Sixth form applications for September 2026 open on 9 January- to find out more visit: <https://aaasixthform.com>

