



# St. Anthony's Girls' Catholic Academy

# NEWSLETTER



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

February 2026

## SPOTLIGHT: SHINING LAMPS

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you and your families are well. I hope you have had the opportunity to read our fabulous Catholic School Inspection Report which has been released this week and is available on our website. We are delighted to have been graded 'Outstanding' across all areas, a true credit to our entire school community!

We come to the end of another very busy half term. Well done to our Year 11 and 13 students who completed their mock exams, they conducted themselves in an excellent manner, showing great resilience and determination. We are now weeks away from the final exams, this next half term will be crucial for that final period of preparation. Please encourage your daughter to attend every school day so no opportunity for learning is missed. Regular revision should be well underway. There are numerous lunchtime and after school interventions for students to attend should they require additional support with revision.

There has been lots in the news regarding mobile phones and social media. While technology offers many educational and social benefits, it also presents risks that require careful supervision and guidance. Our pastoral staff spend an inordinate amount of time dealing with friendship issues, inappropriate content and online bullying associated with online activities outside of school, especially Years 7 - 9. This is not an effective use of staff time. Please monitor your child's online activity and social media accounts, and ensure they are not engaging with inappropriate content. Our priority is to keep all students safe online. Thank you for your support.

Have a lovely half term holiday and we look forward to our students returning on Monday 2nd March.

Best wishes,  
Marie Lanaghan  
Headteacher

## WE ARE OUTSTANDING!

It's official: St Anthony's has been judged '**Outstanding**' across all areas of our recent Catholic Schools Inspection in January 2026!

The report is a credit to the whole school community; our pupils, staff, governors, families and parishes. The inspection team spent time in classrooms, joined us in prayer and worship, met with pupils, staff and governors, and looked closely at how we live out our mission each day. The report recognises not only the high quality of education provided, but the distinctive Catholic life of our school and the strength of our Mercy identity.

[View the full report here!](#)



## 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.

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](http://www.st-anthonys-academy.com)



## SHOW CONCERN FOR THE POOR: FUNDRAISING

### STUDENTS RAISE A PHENOMENAL £4700 FOR GNAAS

We couldn't be prouder of our entire school community for coming together and raising a phenomenal £4700 for the Great North Air Ambulance last term, in memory of our beloved Maggie. Students ran bake sales, raffles, and a Christmas market supported by local businesses. Our Senior Choir performed concerts and made £1000 of the total!

Sophie Snowdon, fundraising lead at GNAAS, said 'We are deeply grateful to everyone involved in the fundraising efforts at St Anthony's Girls' Catholic Academy. The generosity and hard work shown by the entire school community is truly appreciated and the funds raised will help our critical care team continue to respond to those in need'.



### GREAT NORTH RUN FOR RED SKY!

We are incredibly proud of our students who took part in the Great North Run in support of Red Sky Foundation, raising £665 for this fantastic cause. We welcomed in a representative in January to hand over the cheque in January.

Well done to all involved!

### MATILDA

Make sure to secure your tickets for our whole school production of Matilda Jr! Tickets are selling fast, and you don't want to miss it!

ST ANTHONY'S GIRLS' CATHOLIC ACADEMY PRESENTS...



10, 11 AND 12 MARCH | 6PM | OUR LADY'S HALL

TICKETS: £5  
AVAILABLE VIA PARENT PAY OR CONTACT ENQUIRIES@STAGA.CO.UK



### YEAR 12 AIMING HIGH!

In January, a group of our Year 12 students participated in a higher education conference at Newcastle University. They received lots of support and guidance on super curricular activities to stretch them academically and enable them to make competitive applications at highly selective universities



## PURSuing EXCELLENCE

### GYMNASTICS STARS!

Congratulations to Martha Miller, Edith Masey, Anna Davis and Rose Roberts, who all competed in the North Region Schools Milano Gymnastics Championships and placed 1st! They are now through to the Team Milano National finals in Stoke on Trent in March.

The girls also won the North of England regional floor and vault championships, so now they have have another British Schools competition in May 2026!

We are so proud of you girls, well done!



### OUR SCHOOL COUNCIL DESIGNS THE MENU!

Our school council and sixth form ambassadors met with our executive chef this term, to discuss ideas and provide feedback from their peers to improve our school menu. Mr Bullock talked the students through the Government's School Food Standards, as well as the complexities of mass-producing food for over 1000 students each day!

We are so grateful to our fantastic catering team for keeping us so well fed every day!

### INTERNET SAFETY DAY

Thank you to PCSOs Allan and Ollie who visited school on Safer Internet Day and led important discussions with all of our Year 8 students about staying safe online and making positive, informed choices in the digital world.

Students made intelligent contributions to the discussions, and Ava said 'I now will think twice before I post or send any images to anyone', with Evie adding 'I won't accept any friend requests from someone I don't know'.



### 'MEET THE SIXTH FORMER!'

In February, our Year 11 students visited the Sixth Form centre at Gabriel and got the opportunity to meet our Head boy, Head girl and year 12 students. They were able to ask lots of questions about all our Sixth Form courses and find out about what life is like in Sixth Form.

We look forward to welcoming our Y11 students into our Sixth Form next year!

### STEM ON TRACK

Our Year 10 STEM cohort are currently taking part in STEM on Track; a national initiative where you build a go kart from scratch, and then race 100 other schools at Whilton Mill in Northampton in June. Students (and staff!) have been learning how to fit and bleed brake lines, how stub axles work, and how to use a drill! We are very grateful to our sponsor, Paul from Netgenium, who popped in to help us!

We will keep you posted on our progress!





## BUILDING COMMUNITIES: PARENT PARTNERSHIPS

### HOME AND SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Communication between home and school is essential to supporting student success and wellbeing. We want to ensure that any questions or concerns are addressed promptly and effectively. To help guide communication, please see the appropriate points of contact below:

- 1. First point of contact - Form Tutor or Pastoral Liaison Officer** (Mrs Kershaw). For simple enquiries or day to day concerns the school planner can be used to communicate with your daughter's form tutor. For anything more complicated Mrs Kershaw can help or direct you to the appropriate member of the Pastoral Team. Our enquiries email address ([enquiries@staga.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@staga.co.uk)) or the Arbor App can also be used to communicate with staff directly.
- 2. Head of House If your concern remains unresolved** after speaking with the form tutor or if the matter relates to broader year level or subject issues, please contact your daughter's Head of House.
- 3. Senior Leadership Team** - For matters of a serious nature eg safeguarding, or issues that have not been resolved through earlier steps, a member of SLT will be allocated to contact you to discuss your concerns and/or meet with you as required.

Although we aim to respond to all queries within 48 hours, please be aware, it can take significantly more time than this to investigate and resolve issues. All of our Pastoral Team and Senior Leaders are also teachers. As such, we are unable to guarantee that you will be seen by the most appropriate person if you arrive on site without an appointment.

We always endeavour to handle situations with the best interests of the child at heart. If you believe that we have not done this then please follow the Complaints Policy available on our Academy Website.

Many of the incidents we deal with in school are a result of issues arising outside of school; usually on social media. Please monitor your child's use of social media. Any malicious communications should be reported to the police.

Thank you for your ongoing support.



### PARENT/CARER CPR SESSIONS

A huge thank you to our parents and carers who joined us for an evening of learning how to perform CPR and how to use an AED Defib, ran by Sergio from Red Sky Foundation, in February.

We were shown how to spot the signs of a heart attack or cardiac arrest, and the steps that should be followed. Some parents and carers even helped act out some scenarios, which we were extremely grateful for.

One parent commented 'The session was really enjoyable and informative - it will stay with me!'

Thank you Sergio and Red Sky Foundation!

### RESPONSE TO PARENT SURVEY

Thank you to all parents/carers who responded to our parent survey earlier this term. We are working our way through all of your feedback.

We would like to address two common themes that emerged, to aid understanding.

#### Why are parents evenings online, and why are appointments only 4 minutes long?

We moved to our online system 'Schoolcloud' during the pandemic, and following overwhelmingly positive feedback from parents and staff, decided to keep this. Online appointments allow parents and families to join us from anywhere in the world, making it a much more convenient option. Privacy is also much improved through the online appointments, as there aren't queues of parents listening to other students' feedback. Appointments are four minutes long to allow staff to talk to as many parents as possible in the allocated three and a half hours.

#### Why can't students wear coats?

This is a misunderstanding - students are able to wear coats, but we ask that they remove them when they enter a building and/or a classroom. This helps us to identify them, if needed, as their year and house braids are visible. This is part of our high uniform expectations.

We are always evaluating systems and processes in school, so please do let us know if you have any constructive feedback for us to consider.



## Nominate staff from your school for our Inspirational Staff Award

One of Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trusts values is **Celebration** and we want to celebrate all our staff across the Trust who go that extra mile. There are fourteen categories in our awards and only pupils can nominate in the **Inspirational Staff Award** category.

We would like you to think about all the staff at your school the Headteacher and teachers, the teaching assistants, the office staff, the kitchen staff, caretaking team etc. If there is someone that you think has done a really good job then you can nominate them for this award.

For younger pupils you may need to ask an adult for some help to make your nomination. Nominations need to be a minimum of 50 words and a maximum of 200 words, you can use the link below to access the nomination form. **Nominations will close on Friday 20 March 2026.**

This award is to celebrate someone who is positive and full of enthusiasm, who has gone above and beyond to support pupils.

Your nomination should include what the person's role or roles are in your school. It should give some examples of what they have done, how that impacted on pupils, and why they deserve to receive this award. This could be by providing additional support, a consistent friendly face, leading on new opportunities or championing student causes in school.

*Previous Winners*



2025 Inspirational Staff Award Winner  
Mr Johnson, Librarian  
St. Joseph's Catholic Academy, Hebburn



2024 Inspirational Staff Award winner  
Mrs Peart, Headteacher  
St. John Bosco Catholic Primary, Sunderland

Link to nominate: [bccet.org.uk/pupil2026](https://bccet.org.uk/pupil2026)



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

