



St. Anthony's Girls' Catholic Academy NEWSLETTER

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



May 2026

SPOTLIGHT: SHINING LAMPS

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our May newsletter. We come to the end of a short but very busy half term. Our Year 11 and Year 13 students are to be commended on their hard work and resilience. We are incredibly proud of them as they navigate their way through this difficult period of examinations. Year 13 begin their study leave at the end of this week, we send them every good wish as they move onto their next, exciting steps. Year 11 will begin their study leave a little later, to ensure they receive the best possible support from their teachers in school. We look forward to welcoming both year groups back to school for their leavers' presentations in June and joining them in their leavers' celebrations later in the term.

It is wonderful to share the successes of our school community with you. There is so much to celebrate and we are incredibly proud of our girls' achievements in the wider community. Have a lovely half term holiday and we look forward to welcoming our students back to school on 1st June.

Best wishes,
Mrs Lanaghan
Headteacher

QUALITY IN CAREERS STANDARD

We are so proud to announce that we have successfully achieved the nationally recognised Quality in Careers Standard, highlighting our continued commitment to delivering high-quality careers education, information, advice and guidance for all of our students.

The assessment praised our careers curriculum and inclusive and aspirational culture, where all learners are actively encouraged to explore a wide range of future pathways. Through personalised guidance and targeted interventions, we support every student to achieve their ambitions while challenging stereotypes and raising aspirations. Well done to all involved!



QUALITY IN CAREERS
STANDARD



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



www.st-anthonys-academy.com



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[@StAnthonysGirlsCatholicAcademy](https://www.facebook.com/StAnthonysGirlsCatholicAcademy)



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PURSuing EXCELLENCE: STUDENT SUCCESS



MATILDA JR!

St Anthony's was transformed into Crunchem Hall for four sell-out shows in March, as almost 150 students put on a production of Matilda Jr. The cast brought remarkable energy to the beloved musical, with lively choreography, polished vocals, and plenty of humour. Pupils showcased both talent and teamwork, earning enthusiastic applause from families, staff and our wider community. Staff involved in the production praised the dedication shown by everyone involved. Weeks of rehearsals paid off, resulting in a polished and memorable show that celebrated creativity, courage and the joy of performing.



INTRODUCING OUR SUNDERLAND YOUNG ACHIEVERS!

We are so proud to announce that two of our students were winners at the Sunderland Young Achievers Awards this year. Congratulations to Millie (Year 11) and Monica (Year 8) who were winners in the Sport and Physical Activity and Arts and Culture respectively. Emili (Year 8) was also highly commended in the Young Environmental Champion category, and Isabella (Year 7) performed at the event. A huge well done to you all!



ARTS CENTRE EXHIBITION

This spring saw the eighth consecutive public exhibition of our amazing students' artwork. The Bright Lights: Youth Arts Exhibition is an annual opportunity for students to have their work exhibited in the main gallery of the Washington Arts Centre, should it be successful in the selection process of the exhibit by the Celebrate Difference Collective, a group of young people aged 13-25 from across Sunderland who co-produce and run their own cultural events. Well done to our Year 12 students Maiya, Francesa, Fern and Elva for having their work exhibited!





PURSuing EXCELLENCE: STUDENT SUCCESS

ALICJA & LILLIE TRAVEL TO EUROPE!

Well done to Alicja and Lillie (both Year 7), who represented Herrington Girls football team at an international football tournament in Croatia. There were 65 teams from seven countries involved, and the girls said it was "non-stop from start to finish!" Football, friendships, and memories made.

A brilliant experience for the girls - we are all very proud of you!



SIBLING SUCCESS!

Congratulations to sisters Isabel (Year 10) and Jessica (Year 7) who have both been selected to play hockey for Durham County!

Isabel is part of the U15 squad and Jessica is goalkeeper for the U12 squad. An amazing achievement!

NANCY OUR BRITISH CHAMPION!

Huge congratulations are in order for Nancy (Year 10) who competed in the Blackpool Junior Dance Festival, held at the Winter Gardens in Blackpool.

She and her partner competed against couples from all over Britain and became British Champions in the All Girl Sequence dance section! This is the second time they have achieved this title. Nancy also had the honour of being the captain of the team.

We are all very proud of you!



SWIMMING SUCCESS!

Well done to Phoebe (Year 7) who has qualified for 13 events at the county championships this year, making it to the finals in most events. She won her silver medal in the girls 12years 800m freestyle and took part in the Regional Championships in May where she competed in the 100m and 200m free style and placed 6th place in the region!

Well done Phoebe!

QUINN AND QUINN!

Quinn L and Quinn D from Year 8 both entered the Newcastle University Maths Challenge. Both students were awarded a prize for their entry and were invited to a prize giving at Newcastle University. There were over 200 entrants and only around 20 were awarded a prize so this is an amazing achievement! Well don to you both!





BUILDING COMMUNITIES

LENTEN FUNDRAISING

We ended last term with a wonderful Easter market to raise money for our Lentrn charities, including St Cuthbert's Care and the Great North Air Ambulance Service. We had over 50 different stalls, all ran by our students, ranging from bake sales to tombolas, our Eco-committee's 'grow your own fruit and veg' to 'hook a duck!'

Every student in Year 7-12 had the opportunity to visit and spend some pocket money on a good cause.

The market raised over £2500, which is a phenomenal amount!

We welcomed Nicola Milne from St Cuthbert's Care into school to present the cheque to her.

Well done to all involved on such an achievement.



PARENT/CARER ANTI-BULLYING FORUM

Thank you to the response to our email to parents about forming an anti-bullying parent and carer forum. We kicked this off this month with a meeting with senior staff and our anti-bullying student leadership group.

Thank you to the parents and carers who joined us, and we hope you were impressed with the work our anti-bullying group are doing. We look forward to working in partnership with you!

STEM ON TRACK

Our Year 10 STEM cohort are progressing well with the go-kart build! It is now fully complete, so we headed to Whilton Mill circuit in May to the official STEM on Track Test Day, where an engineer looks over the go-kart and checks it is in a safe race condition.

We're happy to report that it passed with flying colours, and our student drivers had an opportunity to put it to the test in some flying laps on the circuit ahead of the national finals in June!





PURSuing EXCELLENCE: STUDENT SUCCESS



CRAFTS ON DISPLAY!

Students in Year 7 took part in a vibrant and thought-provoking workshop delivered by Theatre Space North East. The Creative Community Cohesion workshop used a blend of movement, discussion, and hands-on creative activities to help pupils explore important themes including inclusivity, racism, privilege, and belonging in an engaging and age-appropriate way.

They also created individual crafts that formed part of a collaborative artwork displayed at an exhibition at 24NE on Fawcett Street, Sunderland.

Well done girls!



FOOTBALL SUPERSTARS!

Congratulations are in order for Amelia and Erin (both Year 8).

Both girls played in the ESF Skegness Football Tournament, which is the biggest of its kind in the UK where the tournament winners are then put forward to play a final at St George's Park (England's training ground).

The girls faced some serious competition, taking on teams like Nottingham County Academy, Coventry City and Mansfield Town Women along with many other top sides from across the country and they won! They now are going to St George's Park in June where they will compete to be crowned the best girls team in the country!

Good luck girls - we're all rooting for you!



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

