St. Anthony's Girls' Catholic Academy

NEWSLETTER

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

October 2026

SPOTLIGHT: SHINING LAMPS

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our first newsletter of the new academic year! This first half term has been just eight weeks long but there has been so much happening here at St Anthony's. We have held our Open Evenings for prospective students in Year 6 and Year 11 who are interested in choosing St Anthony's in 2027 for the next steps in their education. Both evenings were a huge success and would not have run so smoothly without our student ambassadors who stayed after school to support these events! I really do believe our students are our greatest asset when showing off our school, we are very proud of them.

Just a reminder that we have a huge extra-curricular offer here at St Anthony's. We try and encourage all students to attend at least one club, either at lunchtime or after school, which will broaden their horizons and allow them to make new friends. Please see our website for further details of this term's extra-curricular offer.

We recently celebrated our annual Culture and Inclusion Week. One of the highlights was the fashion show, where students from different cultures showcased their national dress. It was a wonderful way to come together as one community, celebrating our unique cultural heritage through fashion and music. Well done to all those who took part.

We are circulating a QR code to our parent survey in this newsletter. We would be grateful if you could take a few minutes to give some feedback. As always, if you have any concerns you would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to get in touch via enquiries@staga.co.uk.

Thank you for all your support so far this term. We hope our students have a well earned rest and we look forward to welcoming them back on Monday 2nd November.

Mrs 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/carers 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 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/carers should not be parking, dropping off or picking up in Beresford Park or Abbotsford Grove. This is a private road and parents/carers 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

BUILDING COMMUNITIES



CULTURE AND INCLUSION WEEK

In October, we enjoyed a fantastic week of celebration and learning as we recognised the rich diversity within the St Anthony's community. Students and staff embraced a wide range of activities, including taster sessions in languages and BSL, cultural artefacts brought in by staff and students, and dance workshops.

The highlight of the week was our hugely popular Cultural Dress Fashion Show. This vibrant event showcased 19 different cultures from across Europe, Asia, South America, Australasia and Africa, with students proudly representing their heritage against a backdrop of national flags and a soundtrack of traditional and contemporary cultural music.

Reflecting on the experience, Yuxi in Year 11 said "It brought us together as a community", and Sanjeeda in Year 11 said "I had the time of my life! It expressed how much diversity we have in school." As a school, we are grateful for all the participants and the support teachers, parents/carers and students gave to make it happen.

We also raised awareness of Show Racism the Red Card by having a students vs staff penalty shootout on the field! Huge thank you to our resident goalkeepers Mr Dugdale and Mr Le Roy who between them had hundreds of footballs kicked at them!

The week was a wonderful example of our commitment to the British values of respect, tolerance and understanding. We are incredibly proud of all the students who took part and commend them for their exemplary behaviour and enthusiastic participation throughout the celebrations.











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PURSUING EXCELLENCE



WE ARE GOLD!

Congratulations to our outstanding Sport and PE department, who have achieved the Gold Active Sunderland award for last academic year.

This enhanced recognition is awarded to schools that have successfully achieved the gold standard for three or more consecutive years, demonstrating a sustained committment to promoting physical activity, health and wellbeing across the school community. Well done to everyone involved!

GOLD
Active Sunderland
School 2025–26

EXPLORING CAREERS AT STEMFEST









Our Year 8 STEM ambassadors recently enjoyed an exciting and inspiring visit to STEMFest at the Vertu Motors Arena, where they had the opportunity to discover the wide range of careers available in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Throughout the day, students took part in a variety of interactive activities and hands-on challenges, meeting employers, industry professionals and education providers from across the region. The event provided valuable insight into the skills and qualifications needed for future careers, while also showcasing the innovative work being carried out in sectors such as engineering, digital technology, healthcare and renewable energy.

We are incredibly proud of our Year 8 students and hope that the experience has inspired many of them to continue developing their interests and ambitions in STEM subjects.

BCCET MUSICAL TRIUMPH!









Pupils from across Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust recently took to the stage at Newcastle's O2 City Hall for a spectacular performance of No More Sleeping, a bold new folk opera combining storytelling, music, technology and community spirit.

Created through a unique collaboration between author Richard O'Neill MBE, musician Mike McGrother, illustrator Michelle Russell, Seven Stories and pupils from the Trust's 31 schools, the production tells the story of Dot, a teenager coming to terms with the loss of her grandmother.

The lead role of Dot was played by Freya in Year 9. Reflecting on the experience, she said "When I got the role, I was over the moon. It's been such a rewarding experience and I've gained so much confidence. Working with pupils from other schools and alongside professionals has been amazing".

No More Sleeping was a powerful celebration of young talent, collaboration and North East pride, leaving a lasting impression on performers and audiences alike.

You can read more about it by clicking here.

PURSUING EXCELLENCE

CAREERS IN CSI AND MAJOR INCIDENT PLANNING



Year 10 students recently took part in an exciting and interactive CSI and Major Incident Planning workshop delivered by Sunderland College.

During the session, students explored how investigators gather and analyse evidence, while also learning about the complex planning and teamwork required to manage major incidents.

The hands-on activities challenged students to think critically, solve problems and work collaboratively, giving them a fascinating insight into careers in forensic science, emergency planning and public services.

A huge thank you to Katie and Heidi from Sunderland College for delivering such an engaging and informative experience that inspired our students and broadened their understanding of future career opportunities.



SUNFEST SPARKS CAREER ASPIRATIONS FOR SIXTH FORM STUDENTS



Our Sixth Form Business and Economics students recently attended SunFest as part of Sunderland Business Week, gaining valuable insight into the exciting opportunities and developments across the region.

The event brought together employers, entrepreneurs and industry and sporting experts, allowing students to explore a wide range of career pathways, hear inspiring success stories and develop their understanding of the need for resilience and other skills needed for the modern workplace.

Students engaged enthusiastically with exhibitors and workshops, building connections and broadening their aspirations for the future. The visit was an excellent opportunity to learn about local industries and the diverse opportunities available in the North East.

STUDENT SAFEGUARDING AND WELLBEING UPDATE

At St Anthony's, the safety and wellbeing of our students remain our highest priorities. This term, all students in Years 7 to 11 have attended safeguarding assemblies designed to reinforce key messages about staying safe and seeking support when needed. Our aim is to ensure that every young person feels confident identifying a trusted adult in school with whom they can share any worries or concerns.
Students can also report safeguarding concerns directly through our dedicated email address, reportit@staga.co.uk, providing another safe and accessible route to seek help and support.

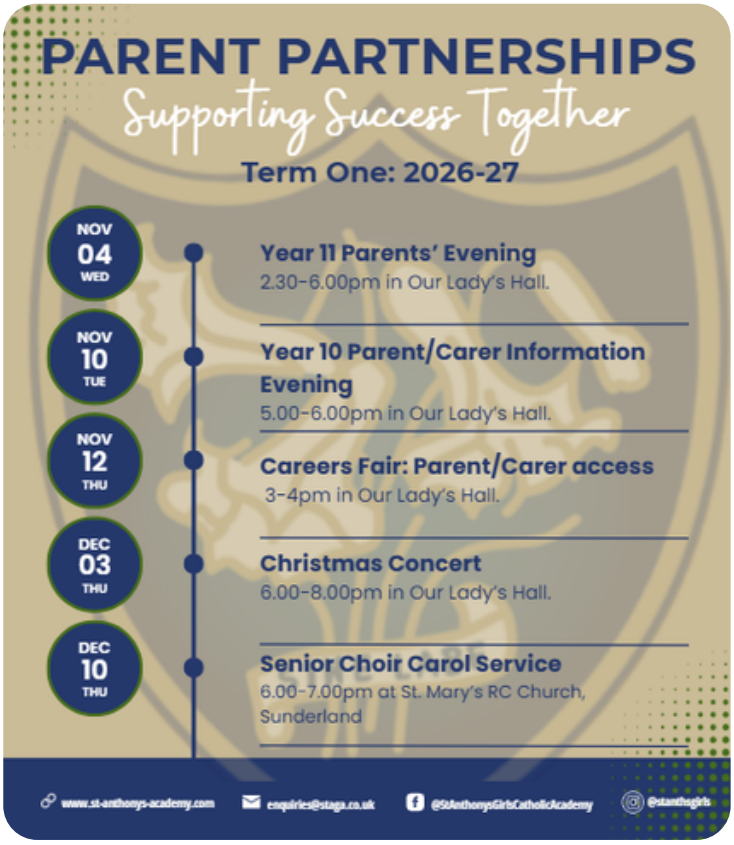
We would also like to remind families of the excellent resources available through Sunderland Information Point, which offers information, advice and guidance on a wide range of subjects. This includes support services for children and young people, advice for families of children with special educational needs and disabilities through the Sunderland Local Offer, and services available to adults and older people. In addition, Sunderland's network of Family Hubs provides valuable support by connecting families with local services and professionals.

Online safety continues to be an important focus. Since returning to school in September, we have addressed several issues linked to safe and responsible online behaviour. To support families, we will be offering parent webinars later this year. In the meantime, we encourage parents and carers to make use of the practical guidance available through the BBC's online safety resources.

Supporting students' mental health is equally important. Our partnership with the Healthy Heads Team, a school-based service provided by South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust, enables students to access specialist support for emotional wellbeing and mental health needs. Last year alone, the service worked individually with 33 of our students and delivered targeted group sessions, including support for managing exam stress.

To mark World Mental Health Day, representatives from Healthy Heads recently delivered assemblies to all year groups, encouraging students to talk openly about their wellbeing and seek support from friends, family members, teachers or other trusted adults whenever they need it. Together, we continue to foster a safe, supportive and caring school community where every student can thrive.

BUILDING COMMUNITIES



WORKING TOGETHER FOR EVERY STUDENT'S SUCCESS

At St Anthony's, we believe that the strongest outcomes are achieved when school and home work in partnership. Parents and carers play a vital role in supporting attendance, wellbeing, personal development and academic achievement, and we value the trust and collaboration that help our young people thrive.

Throughout the year, we provide opportunities for families to engage with school life, celebrate achievements and access important information to support their child's journey.

Next half term, we look forward to welcoming parents and carers to a number of key events, including our Year 11 Parents' Evening on 4 November and Year 10 Information Evening on 10 November, where families can work alongside staff to support students through important stages of their education.

We are also delighted to open our Careers Fair to parents and carers on 12 November, providing an opportunity to explore pathways, opportunities and future destinations together. Look out for an email after half term allowing you to sign up to this.

Later in the term, our Christmas Concert and Senior Choir Carol Service will offer wonderful occasions to celebrate the talents of our students and strengthen our community spirit. Ticket details will follow very soon.

By working together, we can ensure that every student is fully supported to achieve their potential and make the most of the opportunities available to them.

YOUR FEEDBACK MATTERS!

Parent Survey

Pupil Survey

Parent Survey

Pupil Survey

As part of our ongoing commitment to providing the highest quality education and support for every child, we are gathering feedback from all parents and carers. Your views are essential in helping us understand what is working well and where further improvements can be made.

The information collected through this survey will be used to inform school improvement planning, enhance provision for pupils, and strengthen communication and partnership between home and school.

By sharing your experience, you are directly contributing to the continued development and success of our schools.



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