



# St. Anthony's Girls' Catholic Academy

*A Mercy Academy committed to excellence*

St. Anthony's Girls' Catholic Academy, Thornhill Terrace, Sunderland SR2 7JN.  
Telephone 0191 565 8904 Email [enquiries@st-anthonys-academy.com](mailto:enquiries@st-anthonys-academy.com)  
[www.st-anthonys-academy.com](http://www.st-anthonys-academy.com) Twitter [@st\\_anthonys3](https://twitter.com/st_anthonys3)



Mrs M. Shepherd  
Head Teacher  
B.Sc (Hons), M.A. (Ed), NPQH

Mrs M. Lanaghan  
Deputy Head Teacher  
B.Sc (Hons), NPQSL

Mr M. McDonagh  
Deputy Head Teacher  
B.Sc (Hons), M.Sc

Mrs F. Collins  
Senior Assistant Head Teacher  
B.Sc (Hons), NPQSL

27<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Hello from St. Anthony's.**

I hope that you and your family are well. Our pupils and staff have settled into some slightly new ways of working linked to the latest lockdown arrangements, which began on the 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

## **Challenge.**

It is a challenge, at times, for everyone concerned: the pupils/students, the staff and our families. The adults ie. the staff and parents may be working at home, working in the workplace or a mix of the two. It may be a difficult to find separate places to work, or to differentiate between the working day and home life to name just a couple of other challenges facing everyone. There may be issues of ICT connectivity or some girls trying to do too much and perhaps others avoiding work. Many families are coping with unemployment, uncertainty linked to employment and/or illness of all types. Very sadly, some of our families are suffering the huge sadness of bereavement.

Staff, and girls, are trying to get the balance right with regard to work. Please do bear in mind that the numbers that staff are dealing with are huge. Staff in a secondary school may teach several hundred children/students each week.

## **Concerns.**

Please continue to link with your daughter's tutor, if there are any substantial concerns that are unresolved. Thank you very much for your assistance as parents with the arrangements for this latest stage of the pandemic.

A reminder to a tiny number of parents. The "chat" function within "live lessons" is for the teacher to communicate with your daughter and her class. It is not for parents to communicate with teachers. This is a Safeguarding issue. If you have any issues, then please communicate with school through the usual channels.

## **Taking breaks during the day.**

Please encourage your daughter to take her morning break and her lunch break at the assigned time on her timetable. This is very important.

Please also encourage a break at the end of the school day at 3.30pm.

Even ten minutes of fresh air and breaks for refreshments at these points during the day will be really helpful, for all concerned.





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## February half-term 2021.

At present we have no official information regarding "return to school" other than schools will not be open during the February half-term break. The half-term break for St. Anthony's is Monday 15<sup>th</sup> - Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

## Examinations summer 2021?

There is no official information for examination year groups giving the detail of summer assessments, as yet. Ofqual are out to consultation regarding this matter at present. We may not have firm news for some time. Please just keep asking your daughter/son to keep working both steadily, and systematically, to the best of their ability until we return to school. That is all we ask, as both parents and teachers.

## Information specifically for Y7, Y8 and Y9 parents.

From Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021 we will introduce a two week rota for formal taught live lessons for Key Stage 3. The introduction of this change is to try and reduce the amount of pressure on students to watch "live lessons" continually, which is proving a real challenge for everyone. We are going to reduce the amount of "live lesson" teaching in Key Stage 3.

- Formal live lessons will take place for half the subjects one week and then the other half the week after according to the timetables below. Week A and Week B already exist in your daughter's timetable.
- During the second week students in Key Stage 3 (Y7, Y8 and Y9) will be given other types of teaching and learning eg. pre-prepared presentations and other tasks, which they can work on independently.
- When students are working independently staff will introduce the lesson and be available during the lesson to answer questions received from students.

We will continue to monitor feedback from teachers, parents and students to see if these changes have an impact on teaching and learning and staff and pupil well-being. Your thoughts and feedback are always valued.





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## Live lesson Rotations

### Year 8 & 9

WEEK A	WEEK A	Week B	Week B
Live Lesson	Pre-prepared power points and materials under supervision	Live Lesson	Pre-prepared power points and materials under supervision
Maths	English	English	Maths
Science	RE	RE	Science
Geography	History	History	Geography
Technology	Food	Food	Technology
Music	Art	Art	Music
Computing	MFL	MFL	Computing
CIAG	CIAG	CIAG	CIAG

### Year 7

WEEK A	WEEK A	Week B	Week B
Live Lesson	Pre-prepared power points and materials under supervision	Live Lesson	Pre-prepared power points and materials under supervision
English	Maths	Maths	English
RE	Science	Science	RE
History	Geography	Geography	History
Food	Technology	Technology	Food
Art	Music	Music	Art
MFL	Computing	Computing	MFL
CIAG	CIAG	CIAG	CIAG

## **Information specifically for Y9 parents – Year 9 Options Evening 2021.**

This will now take place after February half-term. It will be hosted on our school website rather than in school and further information will be sent about the process after half term.







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## Information specifically for Y11 parents - Sixth Form Virtual Open Evening 2021.

Please go to [www.AAAsixthform.com](http://www.AAAsixthform.com) Application information was posted on the website on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021. All applications, which are on-line via the website, are open until 14<sup>th</sup> February 2021 for admission to St. Anthony's and St. Aidan's Catholic Sixth Form September 2021.

All of us, at times, may find coping with all of the above difficult alongside all the other elements of the pandemic that have caused so much difficulty for families eg. bereavement, illness of all types, employment or lack of employment etc. We have signposted girls and families to the help that is available to anyone who needs extra support via our website, twitter accounts, messaging etc.

Please bear in mind that you are not alone, if this is proving a really difficult time for you. A lot of people are finding this hard. We will get through this latest phase of the pandemic with kindness and support from family, friends, colleagues, parish and our various communities within, and beyond, the City of Sunderland.

You may see social media comments and new headlines, as we do, but the detail often is not available at that point. As soon as we have any definite, detailed information about arrangements for March onwards we will let you know via the usual methods of communication.

Yours sincerely,

*M. Shepherd.*

Mrs M. Shepherd  
Head Teacher

