



St. Anthony's Girls' Catholic Academy

A Mercy Academy committed to excellence

St. Anthony's Girls' Catholic Academy, Thornhill Terrace, Sunderland SR2 7JN.
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Mr M. McDonagh
Deputy Head Teacher
B.Sc (Hons), M.Sc

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

7th July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

End of summer term 2021.

As we approach the end of a very hectic academic year, with much covid-adaptation, we would like to thank you for your continued support for our young people and our school. We will be forwarding you a copy of, "Spotlight" magazine. It contains lots of positive stories linked to all the work, and activities, the pupil/students and staff have been involved in.

School will close at 2pm on Friday 16th July 2021.

The government announced yesterday changes to arrangements within schools from 19th July 2021, which you will have seen in the news. In summary, there will be an end to bubble arrangements and masks in school from Monday 19th July 2021. Hand washing/sanitisation, ventilation etc. will still be a priority going forward.

We will be issuing a second letter containing detailed start of term arrangements for September 2021, linked to the government announcement. Please watch out for this correspondence.

The vast majority of our pupils/students are making very good progress with their studies and have excellent standards of behaviour, punctuality and attendance. As in any large community there are a few issues which we would like to draw your attention to, in preparation for the new academic year.

- **Literacy.**

One of the greatest gifts we can give our young people is a love of books. The role of the home, from an early age until adulthood and beyond, is absolutely crucial. Please take every opportunity during the summer break to support your young person's reading, writing and oracy by encouraging quality reading.

7 top tips:

1. Reading and academic attainment, and progress, go hand in hand and must be actively encouraged at home as well as school.
2. Make reading part of daily life.





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3. Integrate reading with interests e.g. sport, history, science or similar.
4. Create a quiet, distraction-free, reading space.
5. Consider the number, and quality, of books your young person has access to.
6. Talk about the books that you have read with friends and family.
7. Visit book shops, second-hand book shops and choose books as gifts.

- **Social Media.**

The inappropriate use of social media continues to cause problems in all schools and an inordinate amount of time is wasted managing issues linked to social media and excessive use is impacting upon the well-being of many young people. **No child under the age of 13 should be using social media.** Create social media free periods of time and days within the family.

7 Top Tips:

1. Keep phones out of sight so that they are out of mind.
2. Use apps/settings to help you limit time on social media.
3. Spend 30 minutes a day with one screen-free hobby.
4. Enjoy screen-free meal-times.
5. Avoid phones/screens in bedrooms to discourage late night use by young people, which then impacts upon their sleep and well-being.
6. Swap your phone/screen for a novel for the day.
7. Set an example to the young people in the house with regard to phone/screen use.

Issues which arise as a result of the inappropriate use of social media by our pupils/students outside of school are the responsibility of parents, who should report extremely serious concerns to the police.

- **Uniform.**

Our uniform policy is unchanged in decades. A reminder, that if your daughter is having her ears pierced during the school holidays then please ensure that this is undertaken early during the holiday period, so that earrings can be removed before she returns to school in September. No jewellery other than a wristwatch is permitted.





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- **Attendance/Punctuality.**

The academy attendance target is 96% (one week of absence equates to 3%). Holidays will not be authorised during term time unless there are very extenuating circumstances. Students are required to be in school for 8.30am. Any student arriving after this time will be given a "same day" detention. Persistent absence or lateness will be referred to the Local Authority Attendance Team.

We are welcoming a bumper number of Y7 and Y12 students in September and will be undertaking summer school during the summer break. This will be followed by the publication of examination results on August 10th (Advanced level) and associated work supporting university entrance, employment etc. On August 12th our Y11 students receive examination results and we will be finalising arrangements for progression to St. Anthony's and St. Aidan's Catholic Sixth Form. We send our good wishes to any Y11 students, who are leaving us, and to all our Y13 students.

We do hope that our pupils/students, staff and parents manage to get some "down time" before we all start preparing for the start of a happy, and hopefully healthy, new term. Term starts on Tuesday 7th September 2021, and as mentioned, we will be sending a second letter with the start of term arrangements linked to the recent government announcement once these plans have been finalised.

Yours sincerely,

M. Shepherd.

Mrs. M. Shepherd
Head Teacher

