St Anthony's Girls' Catholic Academy

Personal Development Bulletin

Edition 1: September – October 2022

Welcome to our half-termly celebration of students' Personal Development in St Anthony's Girls' Catholic Academy. Rooted in our core mercy values, here is a flavour of what our students have been up to this half term!

Personal Development Curriculum

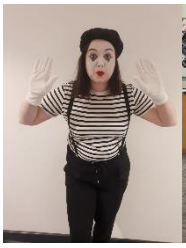
This half term saw the launch of our new Personal Development curriculum, with students in Year 7-11 enjoying their first set of topic rotations, including:

- Key Stage 3: Healthy lifestyles, body image, recognising signs of cancer, self esteem, stress and anxiety, protected characteristics, democracy, identity and culture, first aid and online safety.
- Key Stage 4: Addiction, peer pressure, immigration, the role of parliament, performing CPR, spotting signs of abusive relationships, debts and mortgages.

All students benefitted from an adaptive lesson following the change of monarchy and the transfer of power from Queen Elizabeth II to King Charles III and our change of Prime Minister, and students discussed our British Values. Students also had a reminder about PREVENT: spotting signs of radicalisation and how to report it.

Thank you to Sarah from the Violence Reduction unit at Northumbria Police who delivered a very informative session on County Lines and exploitation to Year 10.

Events



This half term we celebrated **European Day of Languages** with the MFL department, with students learning different European languages across the curriculum. Students got involved by taking part in quizzes and a bake-off, and staff dressed up to celebrate their chosen country. We even had Mr Leroy playing bagpipes to represent his chosen country!

We observed our inaugural '**Good Cup of Tea week**' where students learned about the life and works of Blessed Catherine McAuley and built communities with their teachers by sharing afternoon tea prepared by our catering team. The Sisters of Mercy joined us too!

Year 11 students enjoyed their first ever **Aspirations Day** where they took part in conference-style teacher led sessions on study skills, mental health wellbeing, career plan and teambuilding activities in form classes.

As a school community, we also took part in a range of activities to raise awareness of **Show Racism the Red Card** to affirm our zero tolerance approach to racism. Students took part in football themed activities in PE lessons, an adaptive PD lesson discussing the consequences of racism, and then we had a staff vs students penalty shootout at lunchtime refereed by Fr. Emmanuel, where the students won 7-5!

We also formally welcomed our Year 7 students with a **Welcome Mass** led by Fr. Chris, and held our postponed Year 11 and Year 13 **awards evenings**, celebrating their achievements together with their families.

Trips and Visits

Students have been out in the local community this half term. Here are some examples planned by staff:

- Volunteering at the Great North Run by handing out goody bags and cheering on the participants
- Year 12 visited Sunderland University to celebrate World Anatomy Day and to take part in activities
- The PE department took a range of students to compete in the Tyne & Wear schools Cross Country event.

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Achievements

Huge congratulations to our students for their amazing achievements this half term:

- Bronze Arts Award: 6 students
- Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award: 30 students
- Together for Children's Young Achievers' Awards: 7 nominees
- Y10 Netball team – City of Sunderland netball tournament (unbeaten since Year 7!)
- Y11 Netball team – City of Sunderland champions
- School Interhouse netball competition – St Hilda winners

- St Anthony's 'International School Status' confirmed for a further three years, led by the MFL department.
- Art students' work being displayed at the Bright Lights exhibition at Sunderland Museum
- Music ABRSM Exams: Grade 4 Singing and Grade 3 Piano

Careers

Our CEIAG programme kicked off this half term with Years 7-9 creating or refining their Careers action plans. Year 10 were told about their work experience placement in July and many have begun to secure placements. In PD lessons, Year 11 began looking at options for Post-16 study or training, and began creating their CVs. Year 13 took part in our annual Careers fair hosted by St Aidan's, where they had the opportunity to speak to a range of universities, training providers and employers.

Year 11 also welcomed Sgt Gemma Kimble from the RAF who gave an aspirational talk about her career in the Royal Air Force.

Enrichment

Students are enjoying our amazing offer of **50 enrichment activities** from a range of different school areas. All activities help to develop students' spiritual, moral, social or cultural education as well as improving their confidence, resilience and teambuilding skills amongst many others. Enrichment Timetable

Assemblies

Students have enjoyed a range of assemblies this half term:

- Recycle Week led by our student Eco-committee team
- 'Good Cup of Tea' and the life and works of Catherine McAuley
- Black History month
- World Mental Health Week
- Enrichment opportunities
- Sexual Harrassment and how to report any unwanted activity.