



## St. Anthony's Girl's Catholic Academy Newsletter – 16 December 2022



### **Ethos**

Theme of the week = Advent: Love

Foodbank week beginning 19<sup>th</sup> December =  
St. Angela Merici  
Bl. Thomas Percy

Foodbank week beginning 9<sup>th</sup> January =  
St. Clare  
St. Anne Line



### **Prayer**

Lord,

We await with joy the birth of your son, Jesus.

As our Advent journey nears its end,  
may we develop thankful heart, and,  
like Mary, give thanks for all that you do  
for us each day of our lives

### **Christmas Mass times in our local parishes**

#### **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December**

–

4:00pm Mass at St Benet's church (with carols at 3.30pm)  
4:30pm Mass at St. Patrick's (with carols at 4:00pm)  
5:00pm Mass at Holy Rosary church  
6:00pm Mass at St. Anne & Holy Family church (with carols at 5.30pm)  
6:00pm Mass at St Hilda's church (with carols at 5.30pm)  
6:00pm Mass at St. Joseph's church (with carols at 5.30pm)  
6:30pm Mass at St. Leonard's church  
7:00pm Mass at St. Mary's church  
7:00pm Mass at St. Cecilia's church  
8:00pm Mass at Sacred Heart church (with carols at 7.30pm)

#### **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December:**

9:30am Mass at St. Joseph's  
10:00am Mass at Immaculate Heart  
10.00am Mass at St Benet's church  
10.30am Mass at St. Mary's church

### **Health – Strep A infection**

Schools in Sunderland have been provided with a link that provides information and guidance regarding Strep A infection. Please follow this link which includes guidance as to what symptoms parents should look out for in their child:

<https://ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2022/12/05/group-a-strep-what-you-need-to-know/>

## Attendance

We are aware of high incidences of ‘winter bugs’ which have affected attendance levels over the last week. If your child is feeling ‘under the weather’ i.e., cold, cough etc. we encourage them to still attend where possible; if they should continue to feel unwell rest assured that they will be seen by school staff. We have first aid trained staff in school who, when a pupil is feeling unwell, can assess them and seek parental opinion as to whether they should remain in school. Of course, there may be times when pupils are too unwell to attend; where this is the case, please try to minimise the length of absence to reduce the impact on learning. Next week we will be sending out another Traffic Light Attendance letter- letters are sent out regardless of the reason for absence and even when it has been authorised by the school, as it is important for parents to be aware of how much learning their child has missed.

## St. Anthony’s is one of the Top Performing Secondary Schools in the North East

St. Anthony’s is delighted to be recognised as one of the top performing secondary schools in the North East by the Sunday Times Schools’ Guide 2023. This recognises the great amount of hard work, commitment and effort from all our students and staff, along with the fantastic support of our parents and carers, to achieve so highly in our first set of post-pandemic results at GCSE and A level.

### [Top Performing Secondary Schools in the North East](#)

#### List of Key Dates this term

Date	Event
22 December 6 pm	Christmas Music Concert
23 December	Last day of the Autumn Term – school closes for Christmas.
19 January	Year 12 Parents’ evening (early finish for students 2:20 pm)
9 February	Sixth Form Open Evening 6:00 -8:00

## Year 13 Parents’ Evening

Thank you to all Year 13 parents, carers and families who joined us virtually for Parents Evening last night.

## Christmas Lunch



Christmas lunch will be served over 2 days: 20 December for Key Stages 4 and 5, and 21 December for Key Stage 3. On these days the only hot food option will be the Christmas lunch. Students who do not want a Christmas meal and those who are not in the designated Key Stage can buy a sandwich from school or bring a packed lunch.

## Christmas Market

As you are aware, when students do something of significant merit, they are awarded a ‘Credit’. This year, to celebrate their achievements, they will be able to ‘cash-in’ their credits and use them to buy small treats and gifts at our Christmas Market. The market will take place on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December during the school day, and there will be an opportunity for students to spend their credits and money on treats and Christmas gifts. This market is part of a week-long celebration of different faiths and cultures which will be happening in school. We will give more information to students nearer the time and suggest students bring a maximum of £5 that day for any purchases they would like to make.

## Faith Festival 19<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> December

Next week is our annual Faith Festival. We will have visitors from different faiths coming into school to talk to our students about the importance of faith and creating dialogue between different religions. We will be welcoming representatives from faith communities across the North East including from the Jewish, Sikh and Buddhist communities. Students will have an opportunity to ask questions and share stories, and find out what it means to belong to a faith community. There will also be lots of opportunities to take part in lunchtime activities including mindfulness, meditation and arts and crafts. Our Christmas Market takes place on Wednesday and students will have the opportunity to purchase lots of goodies. Students and staff will also be able to have a henna tattoo painted on their hands by some of our Sixth Form students. Parent /carer consent must be gained for this activity. Students must collect a letter from reception and return the consent form on the day. Only natural henna will be used which usually fades after a few days. More information can be found in the letter.



## Christmas Concert - Thursday 22 December

A reminder that our Christmas Concert is being held on Thursday 22 December, 6pm in the hall. The evening will feature performances from our Senior and Junior choirs, wind band and string orchestra, as well as many talented soloists and smaller ensembles.



**Please note this event is now sold out.** Tickets will not be available to purchase on the door. If anyone has bought tickets but is unable to attend, please contact school as we have a waiting list. Thank you.

## Last Day of Term

We will end the term at 12.30pm on Friday 23 December after a special morning of reflection and celebration. Students and staff are invited to wear a Christmas Jumper or accessory and we will be sharing photographs throughout the day on our Twitter account @St\_Anthony's3 so families can share in the day.

Students are to wear school uniform but can:

- Wear a Christmas Jumper instead of their school jumper.
- Wear Christmas socks, tights, hair accessories etc.

This year, we break up very late for Christmas, bearing this in mind, on Friday 23 December only, students are permitted to wear Christmas nails/nail varnish. Any students with nail varnish/gel/fake nails **before** 23 December will need to rectify the situation or they will spend time in isolation and may miss our Christmas activities.

**NB**

- No hair dye- long hair must be tied up.

- For Health and Safety reasons our policy regards no jewellery remains in place.

## Winter Reading

There are lots of festive and winter-themed books available in the library for our students to choose from, including ice cold mysteries, spellbinding stories and feel-good fiction. Winter is the perfect time to cosy up with a good book



## St. Anthony's ski club at Silksworth: Important information to parents

Payments for ski club from January 2023 will now only be available on parent pay. The next half term, ski lessons costs £33 per person. The dates are from Friday 13 January-Friday 17 February. The half term must be paid in full by no later than Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023. We regretfully cannot carry forward or refund money for missed sessions as the instructors must be paid for in advance. Students will not be able to join ski club part way through a half term and for the foreseeable future we are unable to accept new starters.

Please email Mrs Roddam [amy.roddam@st-anthonys-academy.com](mailto:amy.roddam@st-anthonys-academy.com) to inform her if your child intends on continuing skiing in January and if they want to attend 4.15-5.15 (1<sup>st</sup> hour) or 5.15-6.15 (2<sup>nd</sup> hour) so we can allocate the instructors accordingly. Younger siblings and relatives can be paid for via the parent pay account in the option in the menu to buy multiple items.

As we move to the new system there may be teething problems. Please bear with us.





## Sunderland Cross-Country



After the individual successes at the Sunderland Cross-Country last Friday we are delighted to be able to announce that the team results are in and St. Anthony's won all three team events; Y7, Junior (Y8&9) and Intermediate (Y10 & 11). This is an amazing achievement, we are beaming with pride!

## Inter-House Football

Well done to all of the students involved in the Inter-house Football Competition. The Year 10 sports leaders organised a successful competition and all of the participants were a credit to their form class.

### Overall Results

**1<sup>st</sup> – St. Margaret of Clitheroe, Red Team:32 Points**

**2<sup>nd</sup> – St. Rita, Orange Team:31 Points**

**3<sup>rd</sup> – St. Angela, Purple Team:28 Points**

**4<sup>th</sup> – St. Hilda Merici, Yellow Team:26 Points**

**5<sup>th</sup> – St. Joan of Arc, Green Team:16 Points**

**6<sup>th</sup> – St. Theresa, Blue Team:10 Points**

**7<sup>th</sup> – St. Clare, White Team:9 Points**



## Tennis Success

A huge congratulations to Laura Cheal in year 9, a really talented tennis player who attends our school. She has been winning a variety of impressive tournaments at county and club level, competing in the under 16s at the age of 13.