

To All Parents and Carers

22 September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a successful start to the new academic year and I would like to thank all our parents, carers, staff and students for your support in achieving this as a community. This year, we took our new Year 7 students on a team-building day to the Anderton Centre in Chorley on their first full day at school. The trip was a huge success with excellent feedback from students, staff and the Anderton Centre itself and will now become an annual event to help our new Year 7 students make friends, try new adventurous activities, overcome their fears and enjoy themselves.

### **Year 11 GCSE Results**

We had the best ever GCSE results this summer, which is testament to our former Year 11 students who endured a long period of Covid related challenges throughout their GCSE studies. Everyone here at St Anne's is immensely proud of our students' achievements and look forward to building on this success to improve year on year.

Our Year 11 students this year, Class of 2023, have made a positive start to their crucial and final year at St Anne's. They are working hard towards their GCSE examinations, with daily Period 6 lessons for all students from 2.45pm to 3.15pm. Additional tutor sessions and Saturday school sessions are also already taking place again this year for targeted students. It is great to see so many students working with integrity and aspiration for their futures.

With the continued support of parents, carers and Academy staff and the hard work and determination of our students, we are confident that our Year 11 students will succeed in their GCSE examinations next year.

### **Open Evening: Thursday 29 September 2022 – 5.30pm to 8.00pm**

We will be holding our annual Open Evening event to prospective families of children currently in Years 5 and 6 on Thursday 29 September 2022 from 5.30pm to 8.00pm.

As you are aware, we have embarked upon a journey of school improvement and, as such, there is much to celebrate about the progress St Anne's Church of England Academy has, and continues, to make. We are committed to supporting children in the transition from primary to secondary education and this support begins long before their first day at secondary school. We will get to know all of our new Year 7 students in the months leading up to them starting in September 2022 to ensure we can support their individual needs.

If your family, friends or colleagues are looking for a Year 7 place for their child in September 2023 or 2024, please tell them about the Open Evening here at St Anne's. Families can book places at our Open Evening and find out more about how we support children in their transition from primary to secondary education by visiting [Open Evening - St Anne's Academy \(stannesacademy.org.uk\)](http://www.stannesacademy.org.uk).

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## Attendance and Punctuality

Attendance is one of our key priorities and we have been impressed with the high level of attendance that all year groups have achieved at the start of the new school year. Given the link between good attendance and achievement, we will really value the support of all parents and carers in ensuring that this high level of attendance is maintained throughout the year. Please see our website for further attendance information including top tips to help students attend regularly as well as our updated Attendance Policy.

Students should attend school every day and we ask that parents/carers discuss attendance regularly at home, and with school, and that you work with us as we celebrate positive attendance and support where extra help is needed to overcome any barriers. Working together means each student can maximise their potential.

Punctuality is also important and we would like to remind parents and carers that the formal start of the school day is 08.30. We expect that students arrive on site no later than 08.25 to ensure they can have a positive experience each morning without any worry about being late or rushing. Students are recorded as late if they arrive after 08.30 and we continue to operate a policy of break time and after school detentions to help students reflect and overcome any punctuality issues.

## Literacy

This term, we will be focussing on how we can develop the use of vocabulary in our classrooms. We know that a key to success in exams and beyond is students being able to use the correct Subject Specific vocabulary (Tier 3) which also links closely with their ability to access academic texts. Vocabulary lists for both students and parents/carers will soon be available on the Literacy page of the Academy website. Please support your child's learning by testing them on their knowledge of key words.

Our redesigned Library space is now open to all students. The area includes clear sections to challenge students with their reading, ordered sections to help them with their work in lessons/homework, and has a new 'comfortable read' space. Students can use this great space at break, lunch and after school each day. Please support your child with their reading by ensuring that they read for at least 20 minutes a day. Encouraging your child to discuss the texts they are reading with you will help to ensure they are comprehending their reading.

All Year 7-10 students will be partaking in a Reading Age Test in the two weeks following 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2022. This will be completed in English lesson time and the results of the test, plus any support that we may need to implement for your child, will be communicated with you in a follow-up letter.

## Autumn Term Parent Focus Group Meeting

This term's Parent Focus Group meeting will take place on **Thursday 13 October 2022 from 5.30pm to 6.30pm** and the focus will be as follows:

- Parent Engagement and Information

All parents and carers are invited to participate in Parent Focus Group meetings which take place three times per academic year to share information and seek your views. If you are interested in doing so, please scan the QR code below to access the booking form so that you can book your place at the meeting. Refreshments are provided.



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## Personal Development

There is a lot going on this term to support our students' wider personal development, a few examples of which are as follows:

- Our Harvest theme this year is 'We Can' whereby students are being encouraged to donate canned food for use by local food banks. Further information will follow about this initiative;
- All students are participating in the Archbishop of York Young Leaders Award at either KS3 or KS4 level. This involves can be found at [Faith - St Anne's Academy \(stannesacademy.org.uk\);](http://Faith-StAnne'sAcademy(stannesacademy.org.uk);)
- This year, Year 9 students will be organising the weekly Luncheon Club for elderly members of the community as part of their Archbishop of York Award activities;
- Our wide-ranging extra-curricular activities programme is up and running and we encourage every student to participate in at least one weekly extra-curricular activity;
- Our recently appointed Year 11 Student Leadership Team are busy planning initiatives which support the areas in which they wish to develop and impact positively, including diversity, extra-curricular activities, mental health, mindset, culture and literacy.

## ParentPay

As a reminder, ParentPay is the system we use for the online payment of school lunches and other refreshments, e.g. snacks at morning break. All parents and carers should have previously received login details including activation codes by email and will probably be familiar with using this system.

We intend to use ParentPay for the administration and payment of school trips in future as this is a convenient and efficient system to use. To this end, we would like to encourage any parents and carers who have not yet activated their ParentPay account to do so, even if your child is entitled to free school meals, in order to access ParentPay for school trips in future.

For further information about using ParentPay for school trips, please visit [School Trip Management - ParentPay](#).

## Student Data Collection Forms

In order to ensure that we have up to date contact details, personal information and consents for your child on an annual basis, there is an online form to complete. Please go to <https://forms.office.com/r/SmJmdRk6tY> or scan the following QR code on your smartphone to take you straight to the form:



Thank you to the parents and carers who have already completed this form and we request that all parents and carers complete this form online if you have not already done so. It is important that we hold up to date and accurate information for our families so we would appreciate your support in taking a few minutes to update the details on this form.

If you don't have access to the internet or a device on which to complete this form or access electronic communications from us, please contact us by phone on 0161 643 2643 so that we can make alternative arrangements for you and ensure that you don't miss out on important information from school in future.

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## Building Investment

We continue to invest in our students' future by improving our building and facilities. During the summer holidays, we refurbished a block of 12 classrooms by replacing heating and lighting systems and redecorating all the rooms. Earlier in the summer, a brand new air-conditioning system was installed in the catering classroom to make the working environment more comfortable for our students and staff.

Yours sincerely,



Mr C Heyes

Headteacher

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