

To All Parents and Carers

11 October 2023

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 ongoing support. Our new Year 7 students had a fantastic time on their team-building day trip to the Anderton Centre in Chorley on their first full day at school in September. The trip was a success with excellent feedback from students, staff and the Anderton Centre itself and is now part of our annual offer to help our new Year 7 students make friends, try new adventurous activities, overcome their fears, and enjoy themselves.

We held our Open Evening on 28 September 2023 with more families in attendance than ever before and I would like to extend a massive thank you to our staff for their efforts in delivering an enjoyable, activity-filled event for our prospective Year 7 students and their families.

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 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 08.25. We expect that students arrive on site by this time 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 follow our policy of break time and after school detentions to help students reflect and overcome any punctuality issues.

Year 11 Maximise Event: Thursday 19 October 2023 [5pm to 7pm]

Our annual event to support Year 11 students and their families with revision techniques during this most important GCSE year takes place next Thursday, 19 October 2023, from 5pm to 7pm. Students will be able to sign up for their free revision books and can talk to many post-16 providers who will be attending the event.

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Year 11 college application examinations will then take place from Wednesday 8 to Thursday 30 November 2023 inclusive. Further details have been sent separately to Year 11 families regarding this event.

Love Thy Neighbour Projects

For Harvest this month, we have been collecting food donations to donate to Middleton Food Bank. If you still wish to support our Harvest appeal, please send in your donation by tomorrow, Friday 13 October 2023.

After the October half term break, we will be collecting gifts as part of our Operation Christmas Child project. Shoeboxes can be filled with a selection of toys, hygiene items and stationery. If possible, we try to include one or two special items that we know children will love such as a small doll, cuddly toy, ball, etc. If you'd like to support us with any of our Love Thy Neighbour projects, then please contact our Chaplain, Mr Elan McQuaid, at emcquaid@stannesacademy.org.uk.

Autumn Term Parent Focus Group Meeting

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. We are always looking for ways to involve parents and carers as much as possible in the life of St Anne's and in the decision-making processes.

The main aims of the Parents' Focus Group are:

- Gather parents' views and allow us to take these into consideration when developing policy;
- Give parents greater opportunity to become involved in shaping learning;
- Develop strong relationships;
- Feedback on key strategies and how we can get better for all students.

What we would like from you as a member of the Parent Focus Group:

- A willingness to participate in an open dialogue with us;
- To be able to work with us objectively and help improve our offer;
- A desire to share your views about the school and how it operates;
- A willingness to attend a meeting once per term at St Anne's Academy;
- A desire to continue to improve the experience of St Anne's for all students, parents and carers.

This term's Parent Focus Group meeting will take place on **Thursday 16 November 2023 from 5.30pm to 6.30pm** and the themes to be discussed at this meeting will be as follows:

- Student Literacy
- The Academy Personal Development Curriculum
- Safeguarding issues

If you are interested in being part of this venture and attending the meeting next month, please scan the QR code overleaf using a smartphone to access the booking form and book your place at the meeting, or visit <https://forms.office.com/e/OiYZW1n5wZ>. Light refreshments are provided.

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Finally, a reminder that the last day of this half term is Friday 20 October 2023. I would like to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable October break and look forward to seeing all our students safely back in school and ready to learn on Monday 30 October 2023 at 08:25.

Yours sincerely,

Mr C Heyes

Headteacher

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