



St Augustine's RC High School

Newsletter April '23

Dear families,

As we approach Easter, we have been reflecting on the sacrifice that Jesus made for us on the cross and his resurrection, which brings new life and hope. We hope that this Easter season will bring joy, peace, and renewal to each of you. Throughout Lent, our school community has engaged in various activities and events to deepen our faith and understanding of the significance of this season. We have observed Lenten practices, such as fasting, prayer, and almsgiving, and reflected on how we can better serve others and live out our Catholic faith. Our pupils have collected money for Mary's Meals with over 1300 meals provided for people in the poorest parts of the world. We are incredibly proud of our pupils for their participation and enthusiasm during these activities. From attending Mass, undertaking charity projects and leading prayer services, our pupils have demonstrated a commitment to living out the values of our faith. We are especially grateful to Father Tim and Father David for celebrating Mass with us in Holy Week.

On behalf of all at St Augustine's, we wish you a blessed and joyful Easter.

Mr. M. Wright



Key Dates

Monday 24th April – Return to school (**Week 2**) - Work Experience Forms to be completed

Monday 1st May – Bank Holiday

Monday 8th May – Extra Bank Holiday

Tuesday 2nd – 12th May - Year 10 Summer Exams

Monday, 15th May – GCSE's begin

Monday 29th May - Friday 2nd June – Half Term

Wednesday 21st June – Year 9 Paris Trip

Monday 26th – Friday 30th June – Year 10 Work Experience

Thursday 29th June – Year 7 Le Touquet Trip

Monday 3rd July – Year 10 Taster Morning, Nelson and Colne College

Sunday 2nd July – Friday 7th July – Year 10 Isle of Arran Trip

Wednesday 5th July – Blackpool Pleasure Beach Rewards Trip

Thursday 6th July – Leavers Ball

Tuesday 11th – Thursday 13th July – Sister Act Show

Monday 17th – Tuesday 18th July – DofE Final Expedition

Friday 21st July – Early Closure at 12.15pm



Our 2023 – 2024 Prefect Team!

Miss Newton & Mrs Hodgeon spent a full school day with our newly appointed Year 10 Prefects and Senior Prefects. The morning was spent discussing and developing leadership skills and the afternoon focused on developing the roles of Senior Prefects.

Congratulations to our new Prefects!

Year 10 Work Experience

Work Experience takes place, Monday 26th - Friday 30th June. We are hoping that pupils have secured their placements by now. If so, all forms need be returned to Mrs Eatough in the Rewards Office. An email was sent to parents / carers with a health questionnaire attached. Please complete this and return it at your earliest convenience.



Children's Mental Health Week – 6th – 12th February 2023

This year's national theme was 'Connection'. School used the week to promote mental health awareness and the importance of making healthy connections with each other. It was an opportunity to promote the vast array of support we already have in school as well as helping pupils gain a better understanding of how they can look after their own mental health and wellbeing.



BAE Systems and Create Education Inspiring Lancashire Celebration Event

A group of pupils have been working on an Engineering Design Challenge Project in school as part of the BAE Inspiring Lancashire programme. This is a unique 3D printing programme which develops STEM skills and has been run with 3000 students across 52 Lancashire Schools. The St Augustine's project was selected as a finalist to receive a special award!

The teams were invited to participate in a celebration event at BAE Systems Academy for Skills and Knowledge (ASK) where they also took part in a tour of the training facility. Well done to our future engineers!



Sporting Success!



Huge congratulations to our ski team who were crowned North West Schools race champions in the Senior Girls category at the weekend. A superb achievement!



A fantastic performance from our Year 7 Boys' basketball team who won 14-9 at Bishop Rawstorne to progress to the U12s Lancashire semi-finals!



An amazing effort from our Year 9/10 Girls' football team who won the Hyndburn & Ribble Valley U15 tournament in icy conditions! Well done girls.



Well done to Oliver T who achieved his first regional time this weekend in the 400m freestyle. He will attend the North West Summer regionals in late April.



Onatti Productions by Amy G, Year 9

On Tuesday 22nd February, Year 9 and 10 Spanish students had the pleasure of seeing Onatti Production's play about Fernando starting university and finding his identity, where all the dialogue was in Spanish! We were also glad to welcome pupils from Oakhill Academy and QEGS to join us. Performed by actors Javier and Paula, the story followed Fernando being helped by a peculiar new acquaintance who helped him drastically reinvent himself and try out new personalities in an attempt to make friends. During the play, all pupils were engaged and had an exciting time laughing and interacting with the cast. It was fascinating to see how the Spanish skills we learn in school can be directly translated into real-life scenarios and how much the students could understand. Overall, the play was a hit in everyone's book and each student left with more motivation to continue their language journey and decipher even more.



The Scholastic Book Fair

Pupils were invited to visit the school library each lunch and break to browse the exciting titles on offer. There was also a 'design a bookmark' competition, the winners received a voucher to spend at the fair! Well done to; Isla - 7C, Amir - 7S, Matilda - 7C, Taylor - 7F, Ella - 11O.

Tilly, Year 8, competes at the World Icelandic Ballroom Competition in Reykjavik.

In March, Tilly was invited to represent England and compete in Iceland at the first World Icelandic Ball Competition in Reykjavik. Over the three days of her being in Iceland she was trained one to one by one of the world's top coaches for an afternoon and then competed for a further two days. Throughout the competition, Tilly competed in 12 separate categories in Ballroom and Latin and won all 12 titles - she was just amazing. The most significant being the Under 16 Open Ballroom Championship and Under 16 Latin Open Championship - not a bad achievement at 13 years old when you are competing against very talented 15 year olds! Understandably, her school, family and coaches are very proud of her.



Parking

Please do not drive onto the school turning circle at the end of the school day when the buses are picking the children up. If you are dropping children off in the morning, be aware that the buses will require the full extent of the turning circle and the area needs to be kept clear to allow the buses to operate safely.

We have been informed by the residents of the housing block on Elker Meadows (opposite school), that this is a private road and therefore request that families do not use the area for dropping off or collecting children. This is also true for Elker Mews on Whalley Road and the access road to the new house near the roundabout. Please be considerate to the needs of our neighbours.

Sophia – Paving the Way for Girls' Football

Sophia Burton has won the 'Girls can play football as well as boys' competition hosted by the 1851 Trust. The 'Change the Game' competition in association with the FA, encouraged children to use technology to create a media product that helped to break down gender barriers within football. The video is a freestyle journey that ends at the Sir Tom Finney stadium in Preston. There is a plaque dedicated to the most famous women's football team in history, the Dick-Kerr Ladies. The team was in existence for over 48 years, from 1917 to 1965. During its early years, matches played for charity attracted anywhere from 4,000 to over 50,000 spectators per game. In 1920, Dick-Kerr Ladies defeated a French side 2–0 in front of 25,000 people, a match that went down in history as the first international women's association football game. The team faced strong opposition by The Football Association (FA), who banned the women from using fields and stadiums controlled by FA affiliated clubs for 50 years. With the Lionesses success in last year's Euros, women's football continues to develop and Sophia's video is an example of why football is for everyone.



The video can be viewed on the school's Facebook page, Twitter account or by following this link <https://youtu.be/PZp-dxDURC8>.



Oliver, Y10, Superstar Cross Country Athlete!

Well done to Oliver G who came 51st in the Year 10 & 11 category for the country at the ESAA National Cross-Country Championship! This event is the most eagerly anticipated event of the winter for young athletes, bringing together the best athletes in each of the 46 Counties in England to compete for the honour of being the best in the country.

GRAB 2023

We held auditions in school to take part in the GRAB talent contest organised by the Grand in Clitheroe. Four acts went through to the semi-finals at the Grand against Bowland High School. Congratulations to Honey who made it through to the final!

Well done to pupils; Lydia, Braden, Amelia, Honey B, Isla, Alyce and Carolyne who got to the semi-finals!





An Inspector Calls by Chloe L

Our drama group and Year 11 English pupils set off together to Liverpool to watch An Inspector Calls. In my experience it was one of the most enjoyable trips I have ever been on.

We arrived at the Empire Theatre where we were greeted by the staff. Once we found our seats and collected our food and drinks, the curtains opened. The theatre was lit up by what looked like a large dolls house on stage. From the start the dull background visually drew me to the Birling household. The costumes and design of the house were old fashioned and highlighted what we had learned in class about the context and time period in which the play was set. As the play continued we learned about each character and their story as they were interrogated.

I loved watching what I had read in class being brought to life on stage and I think each actor gave a very realistic and fascinating performance. Overall, I think it was a very fun and memorable trip.

London 2023, by Cora, Y8

On the Science Trip to London, 2023, we went to the London Eye soon after we arrived. We then had Pizza Hut for our evening meal followed by the West End Production of Frozen.

The next day, we explored the Tower of London and took part in The Tower Bridge experience. We had a guided coach tour and river cruise and we even managed to spend time at Covent Gardens before eating dinner at The Honest Burger restaurant.

On the last day we went to a Palm Sunday Mass and the Science Museum before departing London.

It was an amazing weekend, spending time with friends; we all really enjoyed it!



Assembly on Expectations

Our end of term rewards assemblies were complemented by expectations assemblies for next term. In these assemblies pupils were reminded of the importance of being respectful and responsible citizens as well as setting clear targets for good attendance and punctuality. A new scheme to encourage good attendance is being introduced with rewards for good attendance and punctuality and "late slips" issued for pupils who are late to class. Families can keep track of this through Insight.

Pupils were also reminded of the dangers of vaping and the consequences of bringing any banned items into school.

FREE STRESS BUSTING SESSIONS AT WHALLEY LIBRARY

Calling all GCSE and A Level students.....

If you're sitting your GCSE or A Level exams this year and feeling the pressure, look no further than Whalley Library.

FREE stress busting sessions, to help relieve those pre-exam tensions, are being staged at the library on Wednesdays from 4:30pm.

During these 25-minute sessions, our expert Stress Buster Heather will guide you through a range of relaxation techniques and provide you with further exercises to practise at home.

As already stated, the sessions are completely FREE, but you must book your place in advance by emailing the library at whalley.library@lancashire.gov.uk

The sessions will be held on the following Wednesdays - April 19th, April 26th, May 3rd, May 10th, May 17th, May 24th, June 7th and June 14th.

The library is also a great place in which to do any revision and students are welcome to come to the library after school to revise prior to the stress busting sessions.

So what are you waiting for? Book on to a session now!!
Places are limited and pre-booking is essential.

Useful Resources and Support

Useful Online Safety Websites

National Online Safety – safety guides on ALL aspects of internet use
<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/>

Internet Matters – wide range of online safety advice for parents to keep their children safe on-line.
<https://www.internetmatters.org/>

Useful contacts to report a concern

If you are worried and need help, then please contact one of the following:

Tel: 0800 1111

www.ceop.police.uk

Web:

www.childline.co.uk

childline



**Lancashire
Children's Services**
0300 123 6720



Kooth is a free, safe and anonymous online mental wellbeing community which includes a live chat with the team feature, discussion boards, magazines and helpful articles and a daily journal.



Papyrus provide confidential support and advice to young people struggling with thoughts of suicide, and anyone worried about a young person. Call 0800 068 4141 or text 07860 039967 (opening hours: 9.00am – 12.00am, 365 days a year)



Samaritans are here to listen 24/7, 365 days a year. Call 116 123 for support

Online Resources

There are apps available, such as 'Calm Harm' and 'Clear Fear' that you can download to your mobile, or if you have a tablet. These can provide useful distraction techniques for managing anxiety and thoughts of self-harm.

Useful Contacts

- The Mental Health Crisis Line in Lancashire are available 24/7 over the phone and can be contacted on 0800 953 0110
- The Well-Being Helpline is available Monday – Friday, 7.00pm – 11.00pm plus Saturday & Sunday 12.00pm – 12.00am, it is staffed by volunteers who can offer emotional support or if you would like to chat about your mental health. This helpline can be reached on 0800 915 4640 or by texting the word 'Hello@' to 07860 022846
- Hopeline UK is a young person's suicide prevention charity. They can be called on 0800 068 4141 or text 07860 039967
- www.youngminds.org.uk Information for children and young people about mental health and wellbeing. Free 24/7 crisis messenger – text YM to 85258
- <https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/> advice and practical tips to help look after your mental health and wellbeing.
- www.itsgoodtotalk.org.uk Listings of local counsellors
- www.themix.org.uk The Mix's Crisis Messenger text service is available 24/7 and open to anyone aged 25 or under living in the UK. If you're in crisis and need to talk, text THEMIX to 85258 Helpline: 0800 808 4994
- www.thecalmzone.net Support for young men who are down or in a crisis. Helpline 0800585858
- <http://www.centreplace.org.uk/talkzone.htm> counselling, live chat on-line or telephone
- www.the-lookout.org.uk Support around domestic abuse for young people and families, run by Children & Family Wellbeing service.
- www.mind.org.uk/information-support/for-young-people Information and support for mental health and wellbeing issues.
- <https://mermaidsuk.org.uk> - Helping gender-diverse kids, young people and their families