



# St Augustine's RC High School

Newsletter 2023/24 – Issue 11



Dear families,

It is an honour to join the wonderful community that is St. Augustine's and I am looking forward to working with our dedicated colleagues, parents and carers to build upon the many strengths and successes of our school.

Throughout the last two weeks, I have had the privilege of visiting lessons, observing some excellent teaching and witnessing our students engaged in their learning. It is inspiring to see their hard work and enthusiasm for knowledge. We keep our Year 10 and Year 11 pupils in our prayers as they sit their summer assessments and prepare for their forthcoming examinations.

It was a pleasure to be in the audience for our production of "The Conversion Job." It was a wonderful way to celebrate St. Augustine's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary and I was so very impressed with the talent, dedication and commitment of all involved. It was a joy to meet pupils, parents and colleagues from St. Johns Primary, Padiham, St. Michael's and St. John's, Clitheroe and St. Mary's, Langho primary schools. I look forward to meeting, and working with, more of our partner primary schools in the coming months.

The chocolate eggs may be long gone but our Catholic community is still very much celebrating Easter. This is a time for joy and hope as we celebrate the risen Jesus and wait in hope for Jesus to come again. During assemblies last week, I shared with all our pupils my wish for everyone in our school community to begin this summer term filled with the hope of Eastertide. I extend this wish to our parents, carers and families as we work together to deliver an outstanding Catholic education to all of our pupils.

At St. Augustine's, we take pride in our strong sense of family. I have personally witnessed this over the last two weeks and I am delighted to be a part of this family. The newsletter gives an insight into the many accomplishments and celebrations that our St. Augustine's family have celebrated recently; I do hope you enjoy the read.

God Bless,

Mrs Hunt



## Key Dates

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April – Selected Year 9 Pupils Enterprise Reward Trip

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May – May Bank Holiday

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May – GCSE Exams Commence

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May – Leavers Mass (12.15pm early finish for years 7-10)

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May – Half Term



## The Conversion Job

On Friday night, St Augustine's, alongside St Mary's, Langho; St John's, Padiham and Ss Michael and John, Clitheroe, presented a gala performance of 'The Conversion Job' composed by former head of music, Peter Rose and lyricist, Anne Conlon. The evening was a tremendous success with an audience of over 300! Thank you to everyone who came along to this performance to celebrate 60 years of our school community.





## Aid to the Church in Need

On Wednesday, Year 7 were delighted to be visited by Rachel from Aid to the Church in Need. Rachel spoke about the horrific situations that Christians across the world find themselves in and the pain caused through being separated from the Eucharist. Pupils will now follow this up in their RE lessons as they complete the 'Desert to Garden' unit of the new Religious Education Directory. We look forward to developing our relationship with Aid to the Church in Need in the future. Thank you, Rachel, for offering such inspirational words.



## Blackburn College Creative Industry Day

A group of year 9 pupils took part in a creative industry day organised by Blackburn College. We had a wonderful day visiting the Haworth Art Gallery, seeing the exhibitions and finding out about their Tiffany glass collection. Then we visited Community Clothing in Blackburn, where we got to follow the production route of their factory and look at how clothing is designed and manufactured. We then spent the afternoon at Blackburn College taking part in several workshops - creating printing and even making doodle robots! We had a wonderful day and our pupils behaved impeccably.



## Beat Exam Stress

With year 10 mock exams and year 11 GCSE's on the horizon, we are conscious that families may be feeling some pressure. We have put together some online resources, full of hints and tips on how to beat exam stress! (click on the hyperlinks below to access the resources)

- [Anna Freud: How to identify the signs of academic stress, and ways to help](#)
- [Student Minds – resources, tips and blogs about exam stress](#)
- [Ofqual: Coping with exam pressure – a guide for students](#)

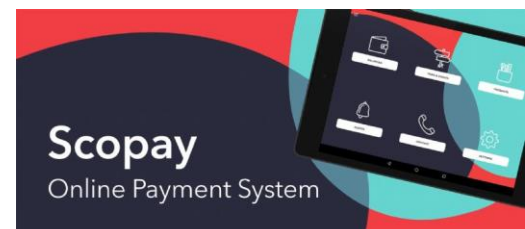
We wish all of our pupils the best of luck!



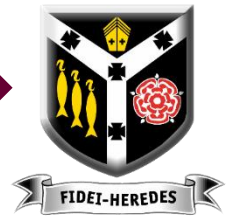
## School Meal Payments

Please be mindful that our catering areas are now cashless. Dinner money can be pre-loaded to your child's account via the online system, Scopay. You can also set up an alert that will inform you if your child's account money is running low:

- Log onto Scopay
- Click Alerts
- Click here to configure the alerts for you
- Choose dinner account
- Add an alert limit
- Choose either a text reminder or email.



If you are experiencing any issues with Scopay, please contact the school and we will help to get you set up.



## 100% Attendance

In school there is a clear link between attendance and success. Excellent attendance and punctuality are essential for thorough exam and assessment preparation. Pupils with excellent attendance and punctuality are more likely to achieve or beat their targets at GCSE than those whose attendance is a cause for concern. Our best results correspond with our highest attendance levels. This is why our attendance target of 100% is so important.

To encourage our pupils, and create some healthy competition, we now have an attendance competition each week. Every pupil that has 100% attendance for the week will be put into their year group draw, with a voucher up for grabs, but you will need to be in the following week to collect your prize during your year group assembly. Pupils are absolutely loving this incentive and attendance has been great so far this academic year, we thank parents and carers for their support with such an important matter.

## Lateness

Pupils who arrive persistently late to lessons will be given an Amber detention. Further incidents of being late will result in pupils being placed on a weekly punctuality card and making the time up on a Monday, during an after-school detention.

## Traffic on Elker Lane

Please be aware that the entrance to Lower Elker Farm (over the bridge on Elker Lane) is the entrance to a working farm and should not be used for parking. Farm vehicles require access to the track and if cars are parked in this area it presents a hazard as tractors and trailers are not able to pull in off Elker Lane. Please be mindful of our neighbours' needs when dropping off / collecting pupils by car.



## Every School Day Counts



## Thomas's Fundraising for Crisis!

For the past four years, Thomas has taken part in raising funds for Crisis each March.

“As lots of you will know, I started my first challenge after talking with Dean a man experiencing homelessness who we used to talk to every week outside our local supermarket in 2020, just before lockdown. He told us how he became homeless after his Mum died and he no longer had anywhere to live. His story really affected me and made me want to help other people like him and make a difference. We didn't see him again after lockdown and I still wonder how he is doing and hope he's found a home.”

Over the past four challenges people have been really generous and Thomas has been able to raise £3,403. This year, Thomas had a target of £600, this would take him over the £4,000 mark. Thomas completely smashed this target and raised a total of £900!

Well done Thomas, what an amazing achievement!



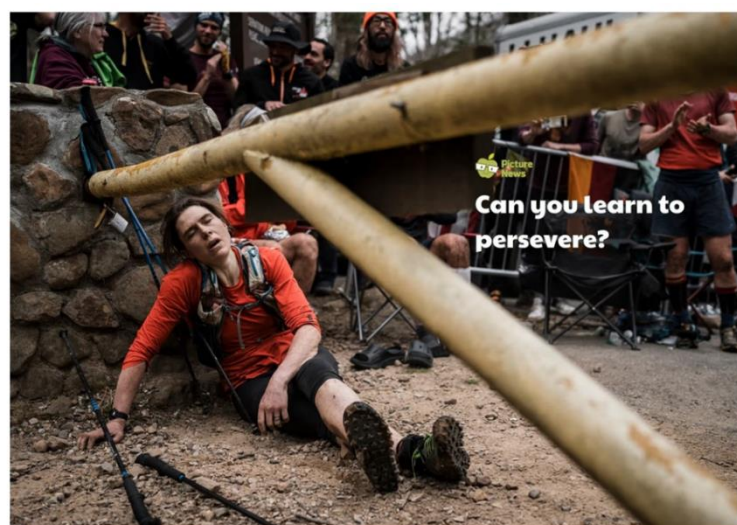
## Picture News this Fortnight

**Story:** Scottish runner, Jasmin Paris, has become the first female runner and one of only twenty to complete what is thought to be the world's toughest race; the Barkley Marathons in Tennessee, USA.

**Question:** Can you learn to persevere?

**British Values focus:** Individual Liberty

**Protected Characteristics:** Sex



## Macbeth Performance

On Shakespeare's birthday (23rd April) pupils in Year 11 were treated to a fantastic performance of one of the bard's greatest tragedies, Macbeth by the Manchester Actor's Company. Only three actors took on the key roles in the play and portrayed various characters with incredible creativity and originality. They followed up their performance with a useful Q&A session where pupils asked some really insightful questions about the text. The performance gave Year 11 pupils a brilliant opportunity to recap the plot and revisit key scenes only twenty days before their first literature paper.





# kooth

Over the coming weeks your child may mention they have been made aware of a service called Kooth. At Kooth, we provide a safe, secure means of accessing online emotional health support from a professional team of qualified counsellors and emotional wellbeing practitioners.

Kooth offers wellbeing support 365 days a year via a range of self-help materials and peer to peer support which young people are able to contribute to. Everything is pre-moderated and age appropriate, in order to safeguard our users, so you know that what your child is accessing is safe.

Kooth work alongside schools and colleges across the UK and regularly present webinars to promote Kooth as an accessible, trusted service to offer wellbeing support. Kooth is also offering free virtual sessions for parents on the 22nd & 25th April that provide tips on how you can support your child manage anxiety about their upcoming exams - please use [this link](#) to sign up.

There's also resources designed especially for parents available on our website including advice on how to talk to your teen about their feelings: [Parents/Carers resources](#). If you have any questions or would like to discuss what Kooth.com can offer you can email us on [parents@kooth.com](mailto:parents@kooth.com).



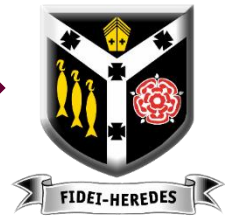
Information on how to purchase will be emailed to families and posted on social media very soon!



To celebrate this monumental milestone at St Augustine's we are selling a yearbook of memories from across the six decades.

As well as celebrating the past, we are also looking towards the future, and to celebrate this, we have created our one of a kind sustainable SARCHS plantable pen.





## Modern Languages Speaking Exams

Last week saw our Year 11 linguists sit their GCSE speaking exams in French, Spanish and Italian. Each candidate has to respond to an unseen role play, describe a photo and have a conversation covering topics from holidays, health and the environment to school, family and career choices... and all in the foreign language! The Modern Languages teaching staff have been very pleased with Year 11's positive attitude, work ethic and calm and confident approach to this first part of their exam. They have risen to the challenge and should feel real satisfaction, knowing they can communicate spontaneously and use their skills in many situations. Well done Year 11 for a great start to this year's exam period. 'Bonne chance' and 'Buena Suerte' for the Reading, Listening and Writing exams!



## Prefects

This week, our year 11 prefects stood down as they prepare for their last few weeks here at St. Augustine's and commencing their GCSE exams.

Year 10 prefects have now stepped up and are already doing a superb job of keeping school in order! Well done to all of you for your hard work so far.



## Max Wheeler, Charanga

The Music Department had a visit from Max Wheeler from Charanga who listened to the work that year 9 had been working on and gave some excellent advice about using our sequencer software and the music business in general. He was very impressed with their work! Thank you to Max and well done year 9.



## Degree Apprenticeship for Oliver P, Year 11

Well done to Oliver in year 11, who has been recognised for his skills within the product design arena and has been offered a Level 6 Degree Apprenticeship by Burnley College!

*"It involves learning about mechanical engineering and general product design. I was offered it as a result of companies noticing my abilities and learning that I wouldn't fit in at a standard level. As it is a degree apprenticeship, I will be learning at level 6 and also working at a company that the college will reach out to for me. This thankfully means I will have no debt by the end and already be in a job position. As well as this, I will be skipping taking A - levels entirely."*

We are very proud of you Oliver!



# 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](http://www.ceop.police.uk)

Web:

[www.childline.co.uk](http://www.childline.co.uk)

**childline**



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](http://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](http://www.itsgoodtotalk.org.uk) Listings of local counsellors
- [www.themix.org.uk](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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



# St. Augustine's RC High School



To commemorate 60 years of our wonderful school, we will be holding an

## Anniversary Mass

celebrated by

# The Right Reverend Bishop Arnold

on

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024

6.30pm

in the school hall

**All are welcome, we look forward to you joining us.**

To help with planning, please confirm your intention to attend via the link on the QR code, or by calling the school office. This is an anonymous form, no names will be collated/held by school.



**St. Augustine's RCHS, Elker Lance, Billington BB7 9JA Tel: 01254 823362**