



St. Augustine's RC High School

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of St. Augustine's



Happy New Year! I hope you all enjoyed a peaceful Christmas.

I would like to thank parents and carers for your support in ensuring that your children got to school last week in what were undoubtedly challenging conditions – your persistence is appreciated.

We have successfully started our busy Spring Term with the launch of our Year 9 Options program and look forward to inviting parents and carers into school on the 21st for Options Evening. We have also recently had our Year 11 Progress Evening, which went very well, with high levels of attendance. We hope you found this useful in this busy final few months for our Year 11 pupils.

The Holy Year of Jubilee began when Pope Francis opened the Holy Door of St. Peter's on Christmas Eve. The theme for the Jubilee is "Pilgrims of Hope", an invitation to showcase the hope of our faith to others. St. Augustine's participation in the school launch of the Jubilee year takes place on 24th January and we will keep you informed on how we will celebrate this Jubilee Year.

The newsletter provides an insight into the many achievements and celebrations that take place within our school community; I do hope you enjoy the read.

God Bless and I wish you a restful weekend,

Mrs Hunt

Important Dates

Monday 20th – Friday 24th January – Whole School Careers Week

Tuesday 21st January – Year 9 Options Information Evening

Thursday 23rd January – Lunchtime Careers Fair

W/C 27th January – Food Exams Commence

Monday 3rd February – Year 9 and 10 BRAG Event

Thursday 6th February – Year 9 Progress Evening



Wicked!

Last week saw over 40 pupils and staff make their way through the bad weather to see Wicked at the Palace Theatre Manchester. All the pupils really enjoyed the show and the special effects that have made this a must watch show in the West End.

Based on the acclaimed novel by Gregory Maguire, Wicked imagines a beguiling backstory to the lives of L. Frank Baum's beloved characters, and reveals the magic that shaped the destinies of two unlikely friends on their remarkable journey to becoming Glinda The Good Witch and Elphaba The Wicked Witch of the West.

Pupils loved the musical score and found the story really interesting. 5-star reviews from everyone!



Elker Meadows Parking Request

Please be mindful when parking around school. Avoid parking on Elker Meadows as this is a private road. School and residents politely ask that you refrain from using this when visiting us.

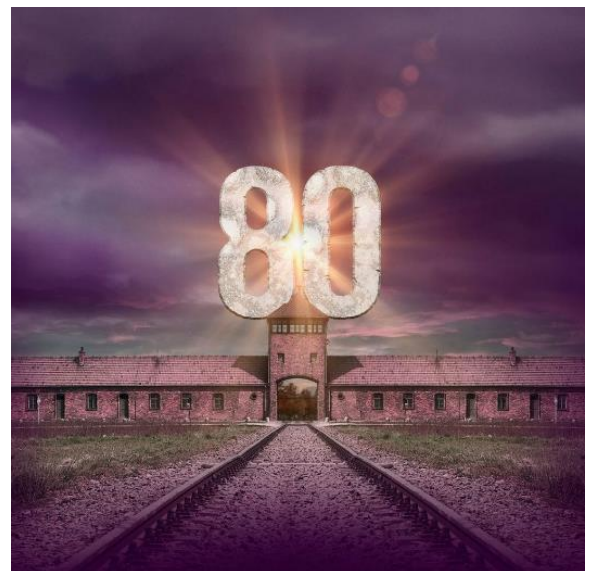
Also, we understand that around school can be heavily congested during drop off and pick up times, always park responsibly, and think of the safety of our pupils and staff.

Holocaust Memorial Day 2025: For a better future.

On Monday 27th January year 11 will lead an assembly Holocaust Memorial Day which marks the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi concentration camp complex, and the 30th anniversary of the genocide in Bosnia.

We will mark the occasion with readings, and prayers.

As in previous years, we will be lighting a candle and place it in a window at 8pm as a sign of solidarity. If you wish to mark Holocaust Memorial Day in this way, please would you take a photograph and email it to Anita: cobba@sarchs.com We will incorporate your candle photos, that you share as prayer slides in school.





Progress Evening Dates

- Year 11 – Thursday 16th January, 4.00 -7.00pm
- Year 9 Options Evening Tuesday 21st January - 6.30pm
- Year 9 – Thursday 6th February, 4.00 – 7.00pm
- Year 7 – Thursday 6th March, 4.00 – 7.00pm
- Year 10 – Thursday 20th March, 4.00 – 7.00pm
- Year 8 – Wednesday 30th April, 4.00 – 7.00pm



Talaxy

TALAXY is a valuable tool for you and your child as it allows you to view their live timetable, look at their achievements, general conduct and attendance. This helps families to be fully prepared for the academic week ahead, knowing exactly what equipment pupils need to bring for the school day. If you are struggling to access Talaxy, please email: info@sarchs.com



Jubilee of Hope 2025

On Friday 24th January we will participate in the Schools launch for the Jubilee Year of Hope.

Each year group will be invited to the Hall for a celebration of Hope incorporating music, prayer and testimonies. We look forward to welcoming Joe Wells, Director of the One Hope Project as our guest presenter. Fr David and Fr Tim will be available at lunchtimes to administer the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

We look forward to sharing our experiences of our day.



Rewards Update



It has been great to see so many pupils collecting their prizes as part of our whole school rewards programme. This week also saw all of Southworth gather together as the house with the most reward points for half term 2.

In total we have given out 90,969 last term and we are hoping that our pupils will exceed this this term.

Those pupils with over 100 reward points will have also been treated to a pizza lunch.



Adverse Weather

Many thanks to our site staff and other members of our school who ensured that the school was able to open last week. For future reference if we have snow/ice again, any updates will be posted on our school website and social media pages.



Careers Week 2024

Next week our annual careers week takes place, and what a week it is shaping up to be. The week is always very insightful for both pupils and staff and is jam packed with industry visitors and post-16 providers. Pupils will have lots of activities and talks presented to them and we thank those that have given up their time to support such a worthwhile endeavour.



GRAB

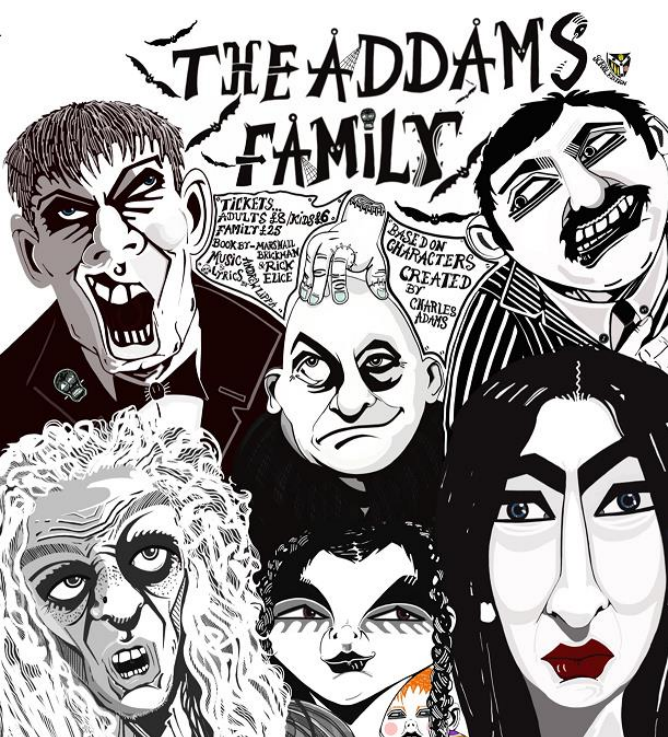
The event takes place in March but prior to the semi-finals and final there is an awful lot of work that takes place behind the scenes. We have 4 pupils who are involved in organising ticket sales, the promotion and running of the event and they will be involved over the next 4 weeks in ensuring it all runs like clockwork.



Pupil Council

The Pupil Council meeting takes place on Tuesday 11th February 3.30-4.40pm in the school library.

Pupils are encouraged to approach a member of the Pupil Council with any ideas that they may have for school, this will then be passed on and discussed at the meeting.



The Addams Family

The Addams Family rehearsals have started ready for the show to open in July in school. It was great to see so many pupils audition and certainly made it very hard for staff to allocate the parts. Pupils have been given a timetable of the rehearsals.



Peace Sunday 2025

This week we have been praying for Peace in preparation for Peace Sunday on the 19th January. We listened to John's Gospel telling us of the gift of Peace from Jesus. We talked about Pope Francis' theme for Peace Sunday "Forgive us our trespasses: grant us you peace" sharing the words from the Our Father. We discussed where we need Peace...in our homes, in school and in our world. We shared the sign of peace and lit candles for peace.

"Today we prayed for Peace and kindness in the World. I felt that if I am kind, others will be kind as well, and then there will be Peace". Ciaran Y8



Accrington Stanley Girls!

Well done to the St. Augustine's girls who represented Accrington Stanley brilliantly! The girls who are in years 7 and 8, previously won the ASFC football tournament and represented ASFC in the next round hosted by Fleetwood FC.

Despite the freezing conditions the girls played some excellent football. The highlight being a fantastic goal scored by Islay against Bolton Wanderers.



@sarchsPEDEPT

SARCHS PE Extra-Curricular Timetable – Autumn Term



Day	Lunch (GYM)	After School
Monday	Girls Badminton: 12:25-12:45pm Boys Badminton: 12:50-1:10pm	Football (Boys & Girls): 3:20-4:30pm
Tuesday	Y7 & 8 Netball: 12:25-12:45pm Boys Basketball: 12:50-1:10pm	Inter-school sports fixtures
Wednesday	Y9 & 10 Netball: 12:25-12:45pm Dodgeball: 12:50-1:10pm	Inter-school sports fixtures
Thursday	Dance: 12:25-12:45pm Table Tennis: 12:50-1:10pm	Girls Basketball: 3:20- 4:30pm
Friday	Badminton (Boys and Girls): 12:45-1:15pm	Rugby (Boys and Girls): 2:35-3:45pm

Club News 2025

DAY	YEAR	CLUB	TIME	PLACE
MONDAY	Yr 10&11	GCSE Art, Graphic Photography (if staff available)	12.30-13.00	Art Rooms
	All years	Safeguarding/wellbeing drop in	12.45-13.10	Drama
	Yr 9	BAE Systems/Create Education project	12.30-13.00	Tech 2
	Yr 10	Yr 10&11 Systems (support)	12.30-13.00	Tech 2
	Yr 11	Yr 11 GCSE/ Engineering	12.30-13.00	Tech 1
	All years	Winning Words	12.25-12.55	Room 9
	All years	SARCHS singers	15:15-16:15	Music Room
	All years	After School Study Club	15:15-15:45	Room 20

DAY	YEAR	CLUB	TIME	PLACE
TUESDAY	All years	Show Choir	12.20-12.45	Music 1
	Yr 10&11	GCSE Art, Graphic Photography (if staff available)	12.30-13.00	Art Rooms
	All Years	Chess Club	12.45-13.10	Room 19
	All years	Safeguarding/wellbeing drop in	12.45-13.10	Drama
	Yr 7&8	CAD Club	12.35-13.00	Tech 2
	All years	Quiet Space	12.20-13.05	Room 31
	All years	After School Study Club	15:15-15:45	Room 20

DAY	YEAR	CLUB	TIME	PLACE
WEDNESDAY	All years	Book Club	12.20-13.10	Library
	Yr 9	Create STEM Team	12.30-13.00	Tech 2
	Year 7,8&9	Art Club	12.30-13.00	Art 1
	Yr 10&11	GCSE Art, Graphic Photography (if staff available)	12.20-13.00	Art Rooms
	yr 10/11	GCSE/Engineering	12.20-13.00	Tech 2
	All years	Duo Lingo	12.20-12.50	Room 15
	Year 7&8	workshop skills	12.35-13.00	Tech 1
	Year 7	Netball Club	15.15-16.15	PE
	All years	After School Study Club	15:15-15:45	Room 20
All Years	D&T& Engineering	15.15-16.15	Tech 2	

DAY	YEAR	CLUB	TIME	PLACE
THURSDAY	All Years	Band	12.20-12.45	Music 1
	Yr 10&11	GCSE Art, Graphic Photography (if staff available)	12.30-13.00	Art Rooms
	All years	Safeguarding/wellbeing drop in	12.45-13.10	Drama
	Yr 7&8	CAD Club	12.30-13.00	Tech 2
	yr 10/11	GCSE/Engineering	12.20-13.00	Tech 2
	All years	After School Study Club	15.15-16.00	Room 20

DAY	YEAR	CLUB	TIME	PLACE
FRIDAY	Yr 10&11	GCSE Art, Graphic Photography (if staff available)	12.50-13.20	Art Rooms
	All years	Safeguarding/wellbeing drop in	12.55-13.20	Drama
	Yr 9	Create STEM (TEAM)	12.50-13.15	Tech 2
	All years	Board games	12.40-13.15	Room 31

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION
13+
(Certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Adults tend to associate online videos with YouTube – but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a stream of short clips tailored to users' interests, based on what they've already watched. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while much of the content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where youngsters "were most likely to encounter a potential harm".

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's Following feed only displays videos from familiar creators, For You is a collection based on a user's previously watched clips. Most of these videos will probably be inoffensive, but the app *could* potentially show something unsuitable. If children then engage with this content, more like it will follow. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the huge number of uploads means that a small amount inevitably slips through.

BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

According to Ofcom, most online harms for teens are body image related for girls (promoting unhealthy eating, body shaming and so on) and dangerous stunts for boys. Both are prevalent on TikTok. One extreme example of the latter was the 'blackout' trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. This led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase gifts for content creators. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £99; while that may not sound appealing, the app still generated £7.9 billion in user spending in 2023. TikTok's policy is that under-18s can't make in-app purchases, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birth date.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With more than 1.5 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-16s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are set to public by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and enables *anyone* to download or comment on them.

MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

Although the short videos on TikTok tend to be more frivolous than the longer ones on YouTube, clips can still influence impressionable minds in a negative way. Not only is there plenty of dangerous misinformation on TikTok, but Ofcom reports that nearly a third of 12 to 15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source – so you should be wary of misogynistic, racist or conspiracy-themed material shaping how they see the world.

ADDICTIVE DESIGN

With its constant stream of eye-catching videos, TikTok can be addictive to young brains. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 127 minutes per day on the app: that's twice as much as in 2020. Excessive use can interfere with young people's sleep patterns – often leading to irritability – and distract them from other, healthier activities. The instantly skippable nature of bite-size videos may also impact children's ability to maintain focus.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's, and control settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen-time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure that they don't share any identifying personal information, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's also worth talking about misinformation and propaganda, and how to identify it.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

If a child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter their settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend enabling this feature, as it can be quite easy for a young person to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins to unlock more features of the app – sometimes without even realising.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is failing to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.

#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

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

Web:

www.childline.co.uk

childline

www.ceop.police.uk



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

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