



St Augustine's RC High School

Dear families and friends of St. Augustine's,

Welcome to issue 13 of our school newsletter. As we reach the end of half term five, I would like to express my gratitude for the warm welcome that I have received. The support of parents, carers, and families enables our committed and talented staff to deliver the best possible quality of education to our pupils.

We are very much looking forward to our Year 11 leavers Mass, celebrated by Father David Yates. Our Year 11 pupils have made an excellent start to their GCSE examinations and we continue to keep them, and their families, in our thoughts and prayers.

Our production of Shrek takes place from the 9th – 11th of July and rehearsals are well underway. Our talented pupils and dedicated colleagues have been working hard on this for several months. I have been fortunate to hear some of the rehearsals and I can assure you that we are in for a treat! Any individuals or local businesses who would like to support this year's production and purchase a sponsorship package are asked to contact the school for more information.

We have celebrated many successes this half term across the curriculum and our talented pupils have excelled in various sporting fixtures including football, athletics, rounders, and cricket. Our pupils continue to make us proud and I am grateful to all families who support our young people in their many achievements.

As we prepare to celebrate Trinity Sunday, we reflect on Matthew's Gospel where Jesus sent his disciples to spread His word and tells them that He will always be with them. As Jesus' disciples, we too know that wherever we go in Jesus' name, He is with us.

With every blessing for a restful half-term break,

Mrs Hunt



Key Dates

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

Monday 27th – Friday 31st May – Half Term

Friday 14th – Saturday 15th June – Duke of Edinburgh Practice Expedition



Celebrating SARCHS!

Our 'Celebrating SARCHS' Young Enterprise team are now selling the anniversary edition, sustainable wildflower pens. These pens will raise funds so that we can produce our 60th anniversary Ephemera! Just £2.00 each and available during lunch and break in school.

Some of our wonderful feeder primaries are also selling the pens on our behalf. If you would like to know how you can purchase a pen or two (or three!), please email celebratingsarchs@sarchs.com



The JJ Effect

Last week, our year 9's took part in an extended assembly. The assembly was called, The JJ Effect and the police secured partial funding to be able to present this to our school.

The JJ Effect was established by Byron, following the murder of his brother Jon-Jo in 2014. Byron draws on his personal experience to educate young people to steer them away from knife crime, county lines, grooming, criminal exploitation, among many others.

This was a hard-hitting presentation, and this is the second time Byron has been invited into school to speak as we believe it is such an important message and our pupils take something extremely meaningful and important away from it.



The Duke of Edinburgh Award

Last weekend, year 10 pupils took part in their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award practice walk.

Pupils enjoyed some fantastic weather over the ten mile walk and got to put into practice some of the skills they have been learning in class; practising their navigation skills using maps and a compass to prepare for their expeditions taking place in June and July.



Shrek Sponsorship

School are looking for individuals and local businesses who would like to sponsor the school performance of Shrek the Musical! Sponsorship allows us to provide a professional standard show with elaborate costumes, high quality lighting, sound, special effects and set design, offering the pupils an incredible opportunity each year. If you, or any local businesses that you may know have an interest in sponsoring the show, please see the sponsorship packages below and contact Mr Williams for more information.

Bronze Sponsorship. [Patron of 'Shrek the Musical'] - £25.00

- This is an opportunity for individuals who would like to contribute to our show
- We will print your name in our programme with our heartfelt thanks

Silver Sponsorship - £100.00

- Your company name and logo in our programme
- Social media promotion in thanks for your sponsorship in the run up to the production
- A pair of VIP tickets to our production on a night of your choice

Gold Sponsorship. - £250

- A half-page, full colour OR full page, black and white advert in our programme including your company logo
- Social media promotion in thanks for your sponsorship in the run up to the production
- Four VIP tickets to our production on performances of your choice

Platinum Sponsorship. - £500+

- A full page, full colour advert in our programme including your company logo
- Social media promotion in thanks for your sponsorship in the run up to the production
- Your company name and logo in the waiting area for our show
- Six VIP tickets to our production on performances of your choice





Year 7 Champions!

A huge congratulations to our year 7 super 8's athletics team. They were crowned the Hyndburn and Ribble Valley champions this week. Fantastic team work and a solid performance. They did St. Augustine's so proud and we are so pleased for you.



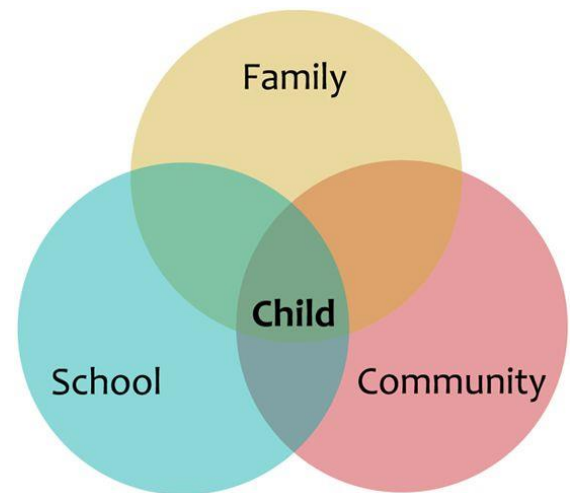
21st Century Parent

We are fortunate enough to have secured a number of external agencies to come into school on the evening of Wednesday 19th June at 6.00pm to offer advice, help and support to our parents in an ever-changing world!

Being a parent in the 21st century comes with a whole host of challenges. We would like to help you address some of these by offering information from some of our partners.

We will have colleagues from the Child and Family Wellbeing Service, We Are with You (vaping/smoking/substance abuse support), Police and NEST, to name just a few. We are hoping we will have representatives to also discuss support for Mental Health and on-line safety.

We hope you can see the benefits this information will offer and the great opportunity this will bring for you to know what support is available in and out of school. **An email has been sent to families with instructions on how to sign up for the event.**



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.



Every School Day Counts

0 days off school	100%	Perfection
Equates to 2 days off school each year	99%	Excellent
Equates to 5 days off school each year	97%	Good
Equates to 10 days off school each year	95%	Slight Concern
Equates to 20 days off school each year	90%	Concerned
Equates to 30 days off school each year	85%	Very Concerned

5 days absence over the whole year 97% - 100% Good chance of success and progress	20 days absence over the whole year 90% Less chance of success. Harder to make progress	20+ days absence over the whole year Under 90% Detrimental to success and progress
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Every Minute Counts

LATENESS = LOST LEARNING

(figures below are calculated over a school year)

5 minutes late each day = 3 days lost!

10 minutes late each day = 6.5 days lost!

15 minutes late each day = 10 days lost!

20 minutes late each day = 13 days lost!

30 minutes late each day = 19 days lost!

Be at the classroom on time and ready to learn!





Year 8 Visit to the Shakespeare North Playhouse

This week, year 8 pupils and the drama department took part in a tour and careers workshop at the Shakespeare North Playhouse. Pupils were able to spend some time in the octagonal Cockpit Theatre which was crafted using the same materials and methods as in Shakespeare's time and even got to sample a Drama workshop being delivered by Liverpool Hope University! Pupils then had time to explore the different careers that make up the structure and running of the Playhouse before having the opportunity to question a Digital Content Design Coordinator on her career and how she got into this role. The morning ended by learning about the Discover Creative Careers website and thinking about how our hobbies, interests, and talents can translate into a job that we may not have already considered or even heard of. A fantastic day was had by all!

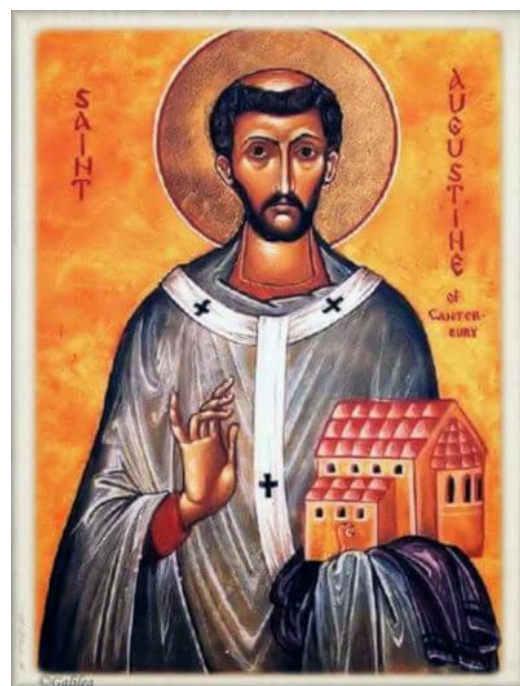


Golf Pro in the making!

Please join us in congratulating George W (year 9) who, at the weekend, became the youngest ever person to have won the Lancashire County U18 Boy's Championship! George played against 63 other golfers at Morecambe Golf Club and played 36 holes over the course of the day. Another fantastic achievement so early on in the season George - well done!

Feast of St. Augustine of Canterbury – Monday 27th May

Born in Italy in the 6th century, St Augustine died at Canterbury on 26th May around 604/5. As prior of a Roman monastery, he was sent by Pope Gregory the Great with thirty monks to preach the gospel to the English. After being ordained bishop in Gaul, he arrived in Kent in 597. Under Gregory's guidance, he adapted rites and practices to local conditions, and successfully evangelised the kingdom of Kent, establishing bishoprics at Canterbury, Rochester and London. He is venerated by Catholics and Anglicans alike as founder of the metropolitan see of Canterbury.



*Breathe in me O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy.
 Act in me O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy.
 Draw my heart O Holy Spirit, that I love but what is holy.
 Strengthen me O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy.
 Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy. Amen.*

(Prayer of St. Augustine of Canterbury)



SAY NO TO VAPING

Vaping on the School Buses

LCC have contacted all schools, as they are becoming increasingly concerned with the number of pupils who are vaping on the school bus services run by Lancashire County Council.

There is a strict no smoking/no vaping policy on our school bus services and together with LCC we will be imposing immediate sanctions to anyone caught smoking/vaping. Please note bus bans will be given.

In some areas of Lancashire, there have been reports of pupils losing consciousness and inappropriate behaviours due to vaping. LCC have now deployed our Travel Safety Officers and have advised their Public Health Team of their findings to make them aware of the rising use of vapes by school children across Lancashire.

Important information from the National Crime Agency

All schools in the UK have recently been sent information from the National Crime Agency, raising awareness of the recent rise in reporting of financially motivated sexual extortion (a type of online blackmail often known in the media as 'sextortion'). Children and young people worldwide are being targeted.

This type of crime involves an adult offender (often from an organised crime group based overseas) threatening to release nude or semi-nude images and/or videos of a child or young person, unless they pay money, or meet another financial demand, such as purchasing a pre-paid gift card.

Victims of any age and gender can be targets, however a large proportion of cases have involved male victims aged 14-18. A child or young person is never to blame if they have been a victim. Offenders will have tricked, groomed and/or manipulated them into sharing an image.

Find out more about online blackmail on CEOP Education's parents and carers website.



Talking to your child

It's important to have frequent, open and non-judgemental conversations with your child about relationships, sex and being online to build trust and support them if something goes wrong. Financially motivated sexual extortion should be included in those conversations. Here are some tips about how to approach this:

- Chat regularly about their life online: have ongoing conversations with them about their life and time online. Continue to take an interest as they grow, explore new apps and sites together and talk in a balanced way, considering the benefits and the potential harms.
- Talk about where to find information about relationships and sex: organisations like CEOP Education, Childline and Brook have age-appropriate advice topics such as sexual communication and image sharing.
- This will help your child to understand what unhealthy relationships look like, such as applying pressure and blackmail; and give them trusted sources of information to explore these topics.
- Review privacy settings: talk to your child about the importance of using privacy settings on their accounts to restrict who can contact them. Read CEOP Education's advice on how to talk your child about their privacy settings.
- Make sure they know where to go for support: let them know that they can come to you with any concerns and won't be judged. It's also important to make them aware of other trusted adults or sources of support, if they feel they can't talk to you, such as Childline.



Laudato Si' Week, with the theme "Seeds of Hope", will be marked across the UK on 19th – 26th May.

Pope Francis has written a letter addressed to every person on this planet, urging us all to protect the Earth, our common home. In the letter, he says:

The Earth is God's gift to us, full of beauty and wonder, where the fruits of the Earth belong to everyone. But what we see today is that our common home has never been so hurt and mistreated as it has been in the last 200 years.

We have developed at a greater speed than we could have ever imagined. We have treated the Earth like it has an unlimited supply of resources, taking more than our fair share from most people on the planet, as well as future generations to come. We have stripped the Earth of its natural forests, contaminated the Earth's waters, its land and its air. Plants and species are becoming extinct at an alarming rate. The Earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth.

Our increasing use of polluting fossil fuels, especially coal, oil and gas, is helping to drive climate change which is one of the biggest challenges we face today. Climate change affects us all, but it is the poorest communities who suffer the most. We are now at crisis point, where the future of our common home is under threat and, despite this crisis, there seems to be no slowdown in the lifestyles of the rich nations. Enormous gaps between the rich and the poor continue to rise; between those who are trapped in poverty with few or no resources and those who are consuming and wasting at an ever-increasing rate, leaving a trail of waste and destruction.

Our digital world is also polluting us with noise and distractions, stopping us from learning how to live wisely, to think deeply and to love generously. Real relationships are replaced with virtual friendships, which we can choose to accept or reject, making us dissatisfied with true deep relationships, or can give rise to a new sense of isolation.

Yet, despite all of this, all is not lost. Young people demand change. Young people want to build a better future, which takes seriously the environmental crisis and the sufferings of the poor.

So, we *can* change, we *can* make a new start.

To protect our common home, we need a common plan. The whole human family needs to work together, so that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Our use of polluting fossil fuels also needs to be replaced without delay. And we need to stop treating the world's resources as an object for profit, with no thought on how our actions might affect the environment or future generations.

So, let's put love for the world and love for our neighbour into action, by living together in harmony, listening to one another, caring for nature and getting involved with society and politics.

Let's undergo an 'eco-conversion'; in which we listen to the cry of the earth, and the cry of the poor. This means taking seriously things like avoiding the use of plastic and paper, reducing water waste, separating rubbish and using public transport as a part of our calling to protect creation.

But more urgently we can slow down on how much we consume and throw away. We can find great joy and freedom in living simply, rather than being always on the look-out for what we do not have.

We are capable of these changes and making a new start.

So, let us make that start today!

Signed,

Pope Francis



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 13th 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.



SCAN ME

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



Sporting Success

- Congratulations to our under 13's cricket team who have progressed into the third round of the Lancashire cricket cup with an excellent win over a very strong Bowland side.
- Amazing achievement from Charlie P in year 11, who last weekend won the 100m and 200m in times of 11.3 and 22.9 seconds at the Lancashire Athletics Track and Field Championships.
- Our year 7 boy's and girl's football teams took part in the Rotary tournament at Preston's UCLAN arena. They were a credit to the school and played some great football. The boy's team narrowly lost out in the quarter finals after some great results in the league.
- Well done to our year 7 and 8 boys who represented school at a football festival held at ASFC sports hub. They played 4; won 2 and lost 2 and gave 100% effort.
- Two pupils; Will and Sophia are now National Football Champions! They both played at Stoke City FC's Stadium for Lancashire Boy's and Girl's teams. William's team beat Sussex 3-2, while Sophia's team beat Gloucestershire 2-1.
- Congratulations to our year 7 football team who were also crowned District Cup Winners last week. They beat Bowland HS 2-1.



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



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