



# St Aidan's Catholic Academy

'We believe that God has created each person to celebrate life to the full'



18<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Dear Parent / Carer,

Another academic year comes to a close, it has been a year of many achievements for our students and we continue to be proud of all their successes both academic and pastoral. The atmosphere around the academy has been magnificent this year and the many visitors that have walked our corridors have been astounded at the mature, positive and studious climate that is now the 'norm' at St Aidan's. The Mayor was our guest of honour at our first ever CLIMB award presentation ceremony and he spoke about our academic achievements, praising the school for its many successes. He then focussed on our desire to shape our students to become citizens of tomorrow who will 'make a difference'. The CLIMB project will be rolled out to Year 8 next year. As part of the award next year, all Year 7 students will visit Boroughdale and Year 8 will tackle Scafell Pike.

This year has once again shown our commitment to supporting the wider community. Almost thirty different staff members have volunteered their time and energy to work in the St Mary's open house project. Our appeals for donations for local foodbanks have been astounding. As the summer break is often a time of hardship for families, we have managed to create an in-house foodbank which will be open for families that need assistance on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July and Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> August from 9am until 11am.

Over the summer break, our buildings are undergoing over £400,000 of roof replacement work and many classrooms will be decorated and carpeted. All of this work is scheduled to be completed by the start of next term.

Kevin Siby (Headboy 2018), Chaplain, leaves us to begin his training as a Commercial Airline Pilot. Father Michael McCoy will be celebrating his last mass at St Aidan's this week before taking up his new position as Dean of St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle. Mrs MacChesny, Mrs Davison, Mr Hodgson and Mrs Johnson will be leaving us at the end of the academic year. I would like to thank them all for their commitment to developing our students both spiritually and academically.

Term ends on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July at mid-day. Incoming Year 7 & 12 students will return to school on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September and Years 8,9,10, 11 & 13 will return on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September. Students should be on the yard in full school uniform and equipped to learn by 8.20am. As of September, all students will be able to receive a free breakfast (cereal, toast & hot chocolate) from the school canteen, served from 7.50am to 8.20am.

I would like to remind you that only plain black shoes (no trainers, canvas or boots) and formal school trousers (no denim) should be worn. Extreme haircuts (tramlines, coloured dyes) are not permitted and any 'holiday' hairstyles should be planned so that they have 'grown out' by the time term starts. It is often commented upon how smart our boys appear and your support is greatly appreciated.

As you know, I am leaving St Aidan's this term and would like to thank you for all the support I have received over the course of the last four years. I am immensely proud to have had the opportunity to lead our school on a journey of improvement. St Aidan's will continue to build on the strengths that are already cemented into the fabric of the school and with Mr Sanderson as the new Headteacher of the academy, I can leave with the confidence of knowing the upwards journey will continue.

Yours sincerely,

*K. Shepherd.*

Kevin Shepherd