

**Leading learning  
for  
students and staff**

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Head Teacher St. Anthony's Girls'  
Catholic Academy

**University  
of  
Linnaeus**

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# Monica Shepherd Head Teacher

- Head Teacher for 12 years 2005 to present
- Outstanding OfSTED 2013
- Outstanding Diocesan Inspection 2013
- National Leader of Education
- Leader of a National Support School
- Staff Governor (Secondary), Foundation Governor (Primary) and Head Teacher Governor (Secondary), Foundation Governors (Primary)
- Director Of Beacon Teaching Alliance
- Trustee of Hexham and Newcastle RC Partnership
- Trustee of Schools North East



# St. Anthony's Girls' Catholic Academy

- 11-18 years old
- comprehensive
- all girls
- faith school – within the Roman Catholic Faith tradition  
– children of all faiths and none
- 1300 students (300 post-16) plus boys from our partner school, St. Aidan's
- 30+ A levels
- Strength – English Baccalaureate subjects
- Strength – Partnership working
- Strength – Achievement and Progress over time

# The English Baccalaureate

- English Language and/or English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science (two or more)
- A Modern Foreign Language
- History and/or Geography and/or Classics

# 1904 to the present – alumni links

- St. Anthony's has been part of the community with Sunderland for well over a century.
- We have educated countless generations within the city and beyond.
- We work in partnership with all our local schools and universities.
- We have educated mothers and all kinds of professionals from Lady Justice Thirlwall DBE to Lauren Laverne (BBC).



# Alumni

- We keep in touch with them via Future First networks (a national alumni network)
- Annual Governors' presentation to Leavers Y11 and Y13 – alumni speakers
- Connect with them via twitter @St\_Anthonys3 (school) and @BeaconSch (teaching school)
- Find future teaching staff and raise aspiration

# Our ethos – underpins all learning

- Christ centred
- Faith enlightened
- Pursuit of excellence
- High quality education for young women
- Opportunity and education for those who are disadvantaged
- Building communities



# A faith school



The world would have peace if  
only men of politics would  
follow the Gospels.

~ Bridget of Sweden

Who is this?



# Moral purpose

Our work for peace must begin within the private world of each of us. To build for man a world without fear, we must be without fear. To build a world of justice, we must be just.

— *Dag Hammarskjöld* —

# Moral purpose



# There is no democracy without “education for all”

The rights of democracy are not reserved for a select group within society, they are the rights of all the people.

— *Abij Palmer* —

# **Connecting to all learning communities via Beacon Teaching Alliance (since 2014)**

- Initial Teacher Education
- Research and Development
- Continuing Professional Development
- School to School Support
- Talent Spotting
- Leadership Development for students and staff
- Partnership working – local, regional, national and international

# Teaching – celebrating an important profession

- If you join a profession you:
  - require special training
  - need a high level of education
  - are undertaking a role that is more than a job
  - have a professional responsibility
  - are in a position of trust
  - have clear professional standards

# Leading learning effectively is important

- To you as a professional
- Individual students
- Parents and families
- Department /year group
- School
- Local communities
- City/county
- Region
- Country
- Internationally
- Global level



# **We are fortunate to be in the position to be leaders of learning in the west**

In many states across the globe: lack of money to invest?

- limited education? lack of money to invest?
- education restricted to elites?
- a knowledge is power culture?
- lack of opportunity for minorities?
- insularity?
- ignorance?
- fear?
- censorship?
- limited quality of life?
- life may be tough, hard and short?

# Leading learning in the U.K. – the tradition

- An established system
- First government grants to state schools date from the 1840's
- Educational opportunity closely linked with democratic change eg. 1870 Education Act and Representation of the People Acts
- An education system based upon democratic principles
- “Education for all” but a substantial private sector
- So fortunate compared to many nations in our education system at all levels

# Learning learning in the UK – the political culture

- Everyone has been to school and knows what it is all about!
- Many may feel fit to advise?
- Many feel the task is easy yet may not manage their own child/family effectively?
- Constant change?
- Political change?
- High stakes regarding achievement and progress?
- Expectation that schools will provide society with more than just education?

# If you are leading learning appreciate and celebrate your school's unique ethos

All schools are different .....

- Independent
- Academy
- Voluntary Aided
- Voluntary Controlled
- Maintained

and we all have something to offer

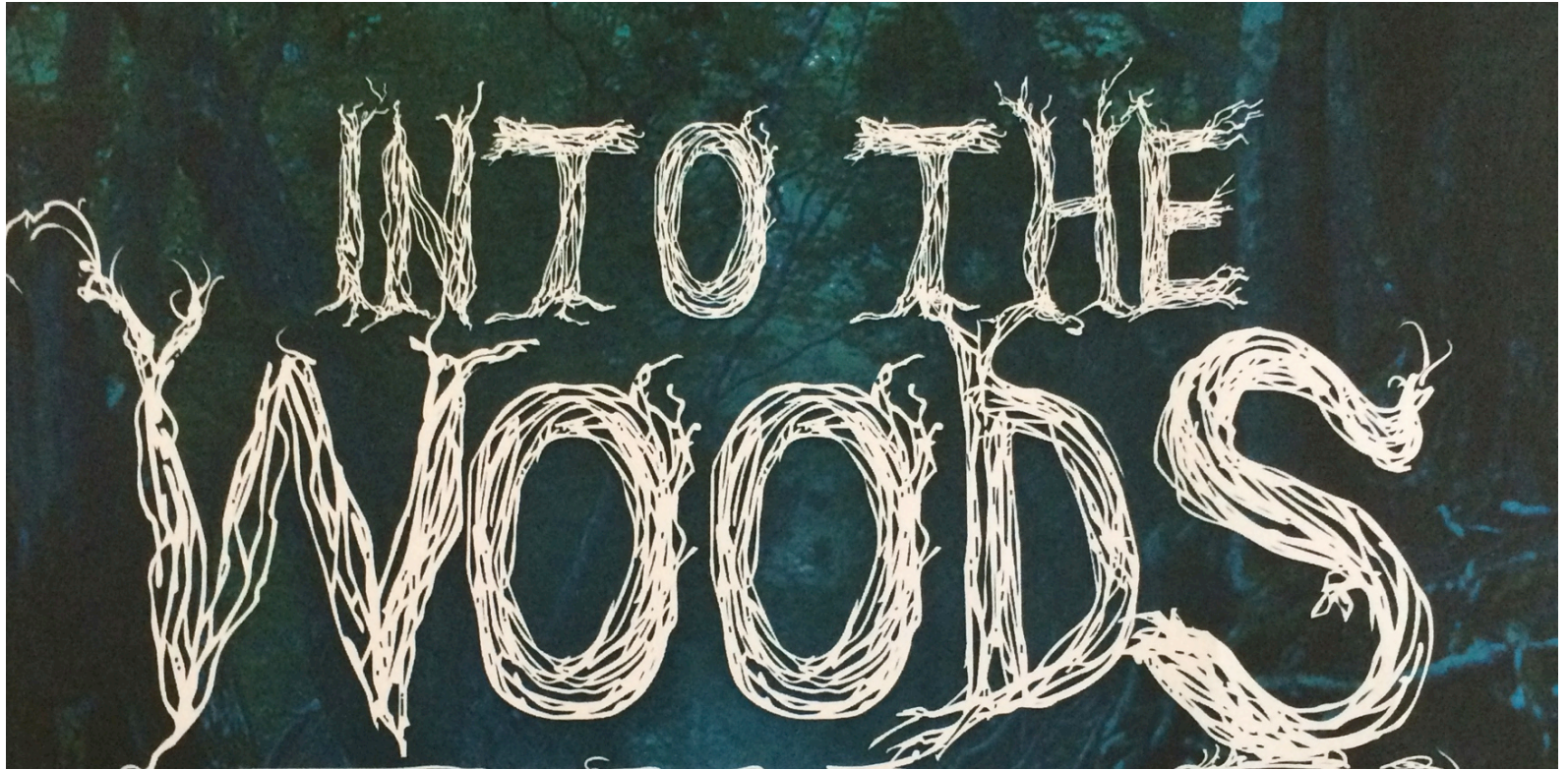




# Those leading learning need to achieve quality outcomes



**If you want to be a leader at any level  
- – join in - drama?**



# Join in with the wider life of the learning community - Music?

## Music tours at St. Anthony's:

Prague (2007)

Dublin (2008)

Cracow (2009)

Rome (2010)

Paris (2011)

Oxford, Blenheim, Highclere and  
Magdalen College (2012)

Venice and Verona (2013)

Salzburg (2014)

Paris (2015)

London (2016)

Paris (2017)





# Help with activities beyond your subject area– dance?



# Lead your learners – in your community

- Schools (all key stages)
- Parishes – 11 in Sunderland area
- Diocese – Hexham and Newcastle
- City – we sponsor events, we join in, we are ambassadors for our city
- North East – active at regional level with Teaching School work and Schools NE
- National – SSAT, DfE etc.
- International – partnerships with the University of Linnaeus, one in France, two schools in India and several in China.



**"My greatest point is my persistence. I never give up in a match," Bjorn Borg**



# **An outward facing school– educational visits for staff and students?**



# Help with activities - charitable and voluntary work?

Some years we raised over £30,000 in charitable fund raising

We have many volunteering opportunities:

- Youth SVP (the St. Vincent de Paul Society)
- The John Paul II Award
- The Care Home Choir – “Songbirds”
- Visiting the elderly

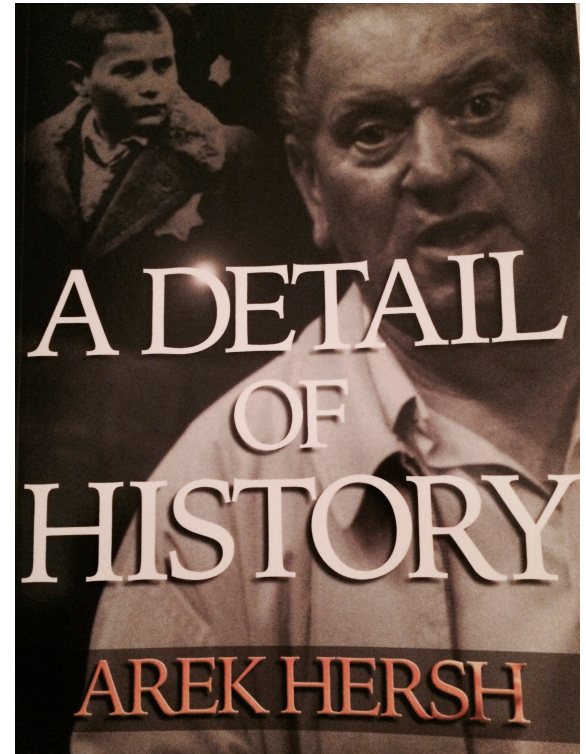


# Help with activities – outdoor activities?



# Help with activities – visiting speakers?

- Educational Visits
- Competitions
- Lectures
- Museums
- Galleries



**“Give the children love, more love  
and still more love”, Astrid Lindgren**





**Thank those you work with – staff  
and students – we all like to feel  
appreciated!**



# "By attempting the impossible one can attain the highest level of the possible," August Strindberg

## Hard data:

- Key Stage results
- Reading Ages
- Examination Results
- Durham University CEM Centre test results

## Soft data:

- Tutor knowledge
- Class teacher knowledge
- Student information
- Parent information
- Agency information

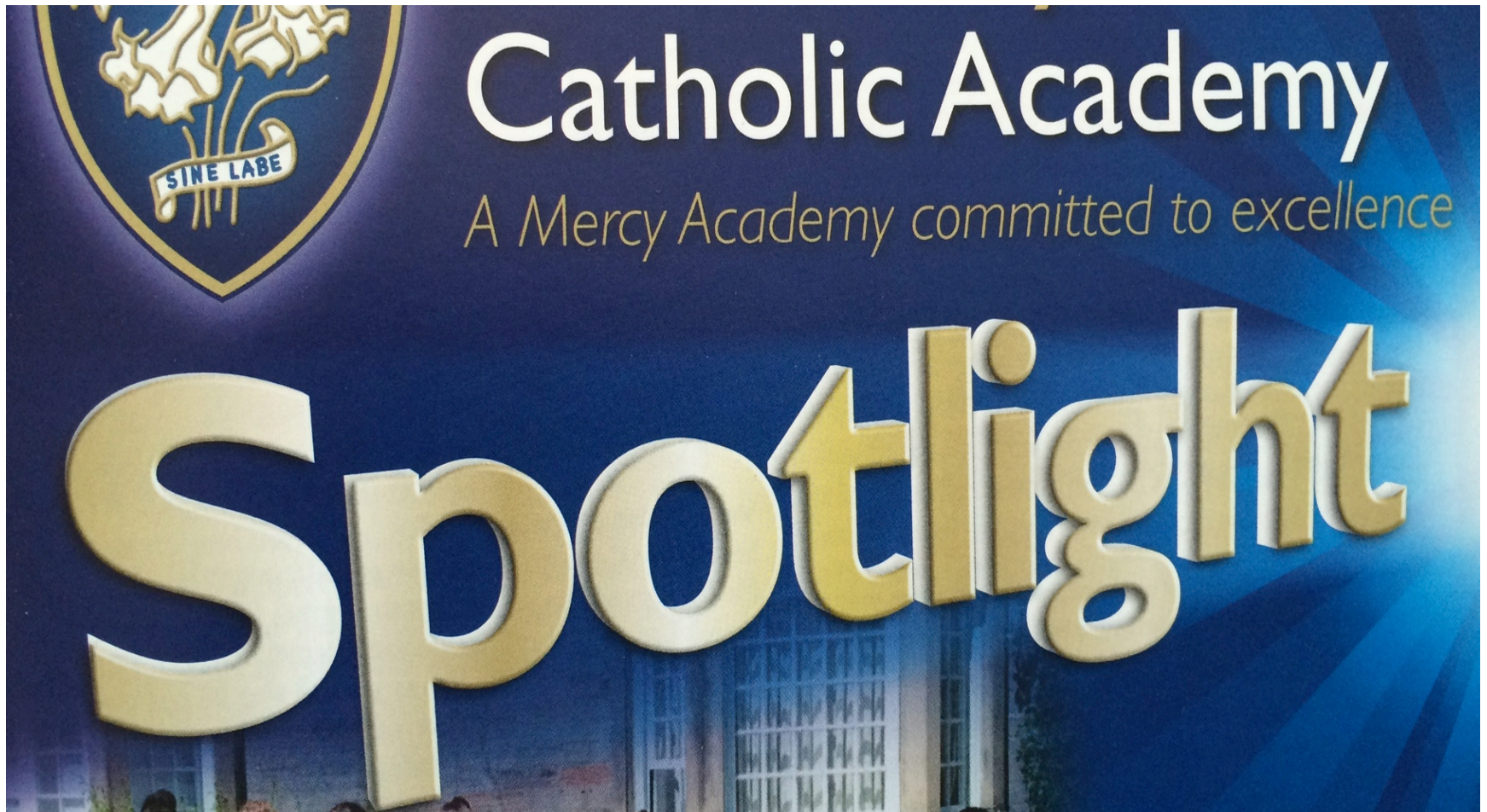


**“A professor can never better distinguish himself in his work than by encouraging a clever pupil, for the true discovers are among them, as comets amongst the stars,” Carl Linnaeus**



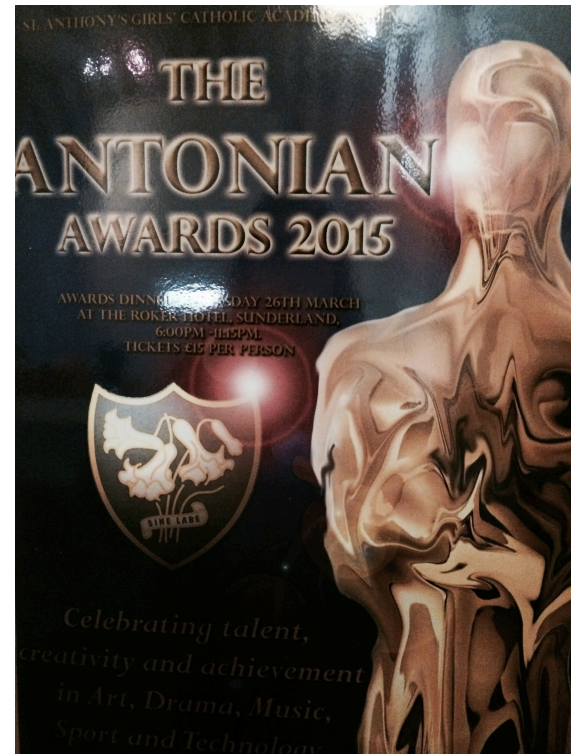
**Celebrate success - academy  
magazine**

**[www.st-anthonys-academy.com](http://www.st-anthonys-academy.com)**



# Reward progress and achievement formally as well as informally

- Awards evenings
- Presentations
- Leavers' events
- Sports awards events
- Assembly presentations
- Rewards systems



# Lead learning by embracing technology which can help staff and students to work more effectively



**Be part of the team.....**

**“ I always work with eighteen friends”**

**Ingmar Bergman**



# Reflect upon practice – staff and students





# Another famous Swede!

**I can't help  
but laugh at  
how perfect  
I am**



# Avoid rushing to judge others

- Children
- Parents
- Staff
- Other agencies
- Other schools

**Feedback strengths and areas for development to each other – be open to challenge and reflective.**

**Be outward facing – it's a small world!**



# Love your neighbour!

Even the Danes?

“The only reason you guys are not Swedes too is because we didn't even want your country back in 1658.”

# Be a life long learner

- Be aware of news and current events
- Improve your general knowledge
- Keep up to date with your subject knowledge
- Undertake academic study
- Read academic journals
- Keep aware of technology which may be useful
- Concentrate on the elements of the role you are less effective at
- Reflect upon practice
- Learn to listen well
- Be confident in your decision making but not unafraid to change

**Keep on learning**

*“We grow old  
more through indolence  
than through age”  
**Queen Christina.***

**Do not under-estimate the impact  
you have every day in every  
interaction with staff and students as  
a leader of learning**



**You can lead change**

**“One person**

**can**

**make a difference,”**

**Raoul Wallenberg**



**You are writing the history of your school when you lead aspects**



**Make sure you, “walk the walk”.**



# Nothing in life is achieved easily

- Work hard
- Play hard
- Join in
- Commit
- Listen
- Observe
- Try your best
- Reflect upon practice
- Never stop learning

**Be resilient!**



# Let your light shine!

Everyone of you in this room has talents  
All teams need a variety of skills  
We are all different  
Be selfless

Empower those in your care  
Have high expectations but be realistic  
Choose your words carefully  
Be kind



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