



Friday 24 September 2021

Headteacher's Update

I would like to begin by thanking our wonderful student helpers who made Open Evening such a special event for so many prospective parents and students of St Cuthbert's. There were hundreds of them assisting all over the school in every possible way and in every possible department. We had guides who took families around on a tour of the building and the different subject areas, we had helpers in each subject area and students involved in performing an act from our upcoming show – Joseph. We also had our Head Boy and Head Girl speaking to all parents alongside myself. Not an easy thing for a young person to do, but they did it brilliantly. The number of parents who felt it necessary to tell staff how amazing our students had been was overwhelming and indeed an absolute credit to our school and community. We are indeed blessed to have such wonderful students and ambassadors for our school.

If you would like to know more and see more about our Open Evening, please look on our website and our social media sites to see how the evening went and what was involved. As usual, everyone involved including students and staff lived up to our mission of being the best that they can be.

At the moment here at St Cuthbert's we have been very fortunate with the return to school and no positive COVID cases. I am fully aware however that this is not the case everywhere and many schools in various Local Authorities have had to bring back some of the old restrictions such as masks in communal areas. Hopefully this will not be the case for us but we must continue to be vigilant if we are to avoid this. The best thing we can do is to continue with the Lateral Flow Tests at home and ensure that if anyone has COVID or symptoms of COVID, they do not come to school. We are currently discussing with Public Health England what the vaccination programme for 12-15 year olds will be and we will keep you fully informed of developments and plans once we know. Please rest assured this is a voluntary action and requires consent and is not a school decision.

Next week we will be having our first liturgies of the new academic year for the students. This is an essential part of our school and community. This will obviously be the first time for many students and the first in a long time for all of the others. It is one of the key characteristics which define us as a school and a community however. We will of course be explaining this to the students but it would be great if you could discuss the importance of this with them at home too.

Some key dates for your diaries are Year 7 parents on October 5th when we will be giving you an opportunity to speak to your son /daughter's new form tutor and check on how things are going so far. Year 11 parents will have a parents evening to speak to subject teachers on October 13th. This will be a good opportunity to check on progress so far and what they need to do to maximise their chances of exam success next summer. We will soon communicate specific details of how these evenings work and what will be happening.

All the best

Mr Shields

Notices

Catholic Life of the School

- We are supporting the annual Macmillan Coffee morning on Tuesday 28th September and would be grateful for donations to Mrs Battaglia by Monday 27th September. Students are asked to bring a minimum 50p on Tuesday 28th so they can come and enjoy the coffee morning and help raise funds for this very worthy cause.



Weekly Collective Worship

Next week's Collective Worship is led by Mrs Maloney on our core value "Respect" and we will be reflecting on Sunday's Gospel passage from **Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48**

"Do not stop anyone from working a miracle in my name."

Curriculum Notices

Year 11 Study Hub

Study hub is now up and running and in full flow. This allows students a quiet space for independent study. Teaching staff are timetabled into this room to support students with their learning. This is a great opportunity for our Year 11 students to start to get into good habits in preparation for their GCSE exams. After school homework clubs for other year groups are coming soon!

New homework policy launch (4th October)

Our approach to homework is changing to help all of our students to know and remember more in the long term. The changes we have made are based on extensive research into what works best in helping your child to make the best possible progress, to be *'the best that they can be'*. Research conducted by the EEF in 2020 concluded that homework can result in five months' additional progress. Our aim is for every child to achieve more and maximise their learning. We have simplified the process so that you will know which homework your child will be expected to complete on each night, and can help school to ensure this is completed on time. Students' homework timetables can be found on the school website.

'Need to Know' Homework

Students in Years 7, 8 and 9, students will be expected to complete 60 minutes of homework per day (see timetable at the bottom of the bulletin). The main aim of this homework is to ensure students remember what they *'Need to Know'* about a specific topic. This will include 25 minutes of self-quizzing using their knowledge organiser (further information about how to do this can be found on the website) followed by a quick Microsoft Forms test to check they have understood and remembered what they have learnt. Students who complete their quiz will be rewarded with a positive point on the system. Students who don't complete the quiz will be given a negative point. Four negative points will

result in a homework catch up detention. At this detention students will be supported to complete all their outstanding homework and catch up. There will also be an opportunity for students to opt to use school facilities to complete their homework at school, if they struggle to complete this at home. They can attend KS3 Homework Club on the Science floor where laptops and support will be provided.

'Getting Ready' Homework

Students in Years 10 and 11 will be expected to complete at least 90 minutes of homework per day. They will complete some *'Need to Know'* homework as described above, but in addition to this they will complete a *'Getting Ready'* homework that prepares them for their GCSE exams. This might be completing a past paper, or creating revision materials. Please see the homework timetable at the bottom of this bulletin. As with the *'Need to Know'* homework, students will be rewarded by their teachers for completing homework. If it is not done they will be supported to complete it in a homework detention. There is no option for students to fall behind with homework. We have the highest expectations of what your child can achieve. If we work in partnership then all St Cuthbert's students will truly *'be the best that they can be'*.

Tips to help your child successfully complete homework:

- Monitor ClassCharts and engage with any messages home
- Set a regular time every day for homework
- Ensuring that your child has the resources needed
- Reminding your child of deadlines
- Making it clear to your child that you value the importance of homework, explain to them how it can help them to progress.
- Praise them for working hard

Please contact school promptly if you encounter any technical issues at home.

Careers Day 2021

We are hosting our annual Careers Day for Year 11 in person on Thursday 21st October and are looking for some support from our past pupils, parents and friends of the school.

Our Year 11's will need support with two different parts of the day to include:

Part 1 - Mock interviews - This would be interviewing students to give them experience of an interview with an adult that they don't know. This would take place from 8.20am - 1.15pm. You would be provided with some sample questions to interview the student for approximately 5-10 minutes.

Part 2 - Speed dating on different careers - This would be talking to small groups of students about your career for a few minutes and then getting a few more students to do the same with (you would repeat this throughout the session). This would take place from approx. 1.15pm - 2.50pm.

If you would be able to help out with either or both of these sessions, please contact Miss Holt via email at stjh03@scrchs.com

Year 11 Careers update:

A separate newsletter for Year 11 oparents/carers relating to post 16 pathways is attached to this email containing all of the upcoming college open days and information regarding the application process. Please read this information carefully and discuss it with your child if they are in Year 11.

Pastoral Notices

Uniform for All

A uniform recycling project – “Uniform for All” has been established in Rochdale with the Co-op and local Churches. Please see <https://m.facebook.com/Uniform4A/> for further information.

The School Day

Please ensure your son/daughter is in school for 8.20am as lessons start at 8.25am. Students should not be catching the 409 bus any later than 8.10am and those who live close to the school should ensure they set off with sufficient time.

Thank you for your understanding with this as students who are late will be loosing learning time that may form part of any assessments that take place.

School Buses

Thank you to all those parents who have been in touch with school to notify us of issues with the buses; in particular in the morning. We have been collating these calls & sharing both yours and our concerns with TfGM and directly with operational managers.

With regards to the **894/890/891 services** – can we kindly ask that your child catches the service nearest your home address. Thank you to everyone who has done this.

*Children from Featherstall Road and New Road to use the **891** while those on Kingsway (south of Sir Isaac Newton Way) and Albert Royds Street to use the **890**.*

862

We have been working with the bus company regarding this service and following feedback they have amended their timings and the route. This comes into force on Monday 27TH September. An email was sent to parents regarding this on Wednesday 22nd September.

Please find the link attached for bus timetable [Transport | St Cuthbert's RC High School \(scrchs.net\)](https://www.scrchs.net/transport)

Wellbeing

- Please see the wellbeing area on our website (<https://www.scrchs.net/wellbeing>) which contains information on how to support you and your child’s wellbeing.

Twitter

- Please follow us on @RcCuthberts to keep up to date on all that is going on at St Cuthbert's.



KS3 subject homework timetable

Students complete MS Forms quiz after period of self-quizzing (SQ) from their 'Need to Know' booklet

Year	Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7 / 8 / 9	30 mins	SQ Maths	SQ English	SQ Science	SQ RE	SQ MFL
Week 1	30 mins	SQ Drama	SQ History	SQ Art	SQ Geography	SQ Music
Year	Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7 / 8 / 9	30 mins	SQ Maths	SQ English	SQ Geography	SQ History	SQ RE
Week 2	30 mins	SQ D&T	SQ Science	SQ Food	SQ MFL	SQ Computer Science

KS4 subject homework timetable

'Need to Know': Students complete MS Forms quiz after period of self-quizzing (SQ).

'Getting Ready': Subject specific exam preparation

Year	Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10/11 Week 1	30 mins	SQ Maths	SQ English Lit	SQ Science	SQ Humanities	SQ RE
	60 mins	<i>Getting Ready Homework</i>				
Year	Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10/11 Week 2	30 mins	SQ Maths	SQ English Lit	SQ Science	SQ MFL	SQ Option
	60 mins	<i>Getting Ready Homework</i>				