



Friday 3rd December

Headteacher's Update

We have now entered the Advent period. This is an extremely important time in our school calendar. We celebrate advent with a series of events and activities. These include liturgies, reward assemblies, Christmas jumper day and of course our charity collections. A great number of students engage in some or even all of these activities as we celebrate the coming of Christ.

Another welcome returning feature of our Advent season is the school show. Unfortunately we were not able to have one last year and so it is with great delight we are able to proceed this year. The show is Joseph and performances are on December 9 & 10. There are only a few tickets remaining and it is a fantastic opportunity to watch our wonderful students perform.

There are of course only 10 days to go now until the term ends. While we are celebrating Advent, the focus remains on teaching and learning. Students have already missed enough time at school and therefore attendance and punctuality are essential at this time. We will continue teaching as normal up until the last day. Students need to be at school to ensure they don't miss any more of their learning.

In order to ensure everyone has a safe and unrestricted Christmas we are doing everything possible to reduce the risk of COVID infection. This includes wearing masks in communal areas. None of us want to have our Christmas spoiled with a positive test result so the wearing of masks and regular testing are a key part of the strategy to achieve this.

I wish all of our students the very best with their assessments and ask that you ensure they are revising at home – they all need to and have plenty to be revising.

All the best

Mr Shields

Notices

Catholic Life of the School

Next week's Collective Worship will be led by Mrs Hunt and we will be reflecting on Sunday's Gospel passage from Luke 3:1-6.

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!

Homework

Thank you for continuing to support our homework policy. There have been over 10,000 pieces of homework completed this term and this is helping our students to know and remember much more.

Year 11 – College application deadlines:

Below is a reminder of the upcoming deadlines for Year 11 college applications. The ones highlighted in Yellow are within the coming weeks/days. Please make sure your child has made the applications that they would like to.

| College or Sixth Form | Application Method | Closing Date |
|---|---|--|
| Access Creative College Manchester | Apply online at https://www.accesscreative.ac.uk/apply/further-education/ | No deadline date but earlier the application, earlier the course interview |
| Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar Sixth Form | Apply online at www.brgs.org.uk | Tbc Friday 14th January 2022 |
| British and Irish Modern Music Institute (BIMM - Manchester) | Apply online at www.bimm.ac.uk/manchester/ | No deadline date but earlier the application, earlier the course interview. |
| Burnley College | Apply online at www.burnley.ac.uk | No deadline date but earlier the application, earlier the course interview |
| Bury College | Apply online at www.burycollege.ac.uk | Priority deadline date is Friday 26th November 2021 |
| Calderdale College (Halifax) | Apply online at www.calderdale.ac.uk | The deadline date is February 2022 but the earlier the application, earlier the course interview |
| Cardinal Langley Sixth Form | Apply online at www.clrchs.co.uk | January 2022. No closing date at the moment. |
| Crompton House Sixth Form | Apply online at www.chs-sixthform.org | Friday 19th November 2021 |
| Holy Cross Sixth Form College (Bury) | Apply online at www.holycross.ac.uk | Applications open Monday 4th Oct 2021- close - Friday 3rd December 2021 |
| Hopwood Hall College (Middleton and Rochdale) | Apply online at www.hopwood.ac.uk | No deadline date but earlier the application, earlier the course interview |
| Loreto Sixth Form College (Manchester) | Paper application download at www.loreto.ac.uk | Friday 7th January 2022 |
| The Manchester College | Apply at www.tmc.ac.uk | Applications accepted throughout the academic year but advised to submit by December 2021 |
| Myerscough College (Preston, Blackburn and Liverpool) Agricultural courses etc. | Apply online at www.myerscough.ac.uk | Applications accepted throughout the academic year but advised to submit by March 2022 |
| Oldham College | Apply online at www.oldham.ac.uk | Applications accepted throughout the academic year but advised to submit by December 2021 |
| Oldham Sixth Form College | Apply online at www.osfc.ac.uk | Friday 3rd December 2021 |

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| Rochdale Sixth Form College | Apply online at www.rochdalesfc.ac.uk | 12pm Thursday 9 th December 2021 |
| Salford City College | Apply online at www.salfordcc.ac.uk | Applications accepted throughout the academic year but advised to submit by December 2021 |
| Tameside College | Apply online at www.tameside.ac.uk | Applications accepted throughout the academic year but advised to submit by December 2021. |
| University Technical College Media City (Salford) | Apply online at www.utcmidiacity.org.uk | No deadline date but earlier the application, earlier the course interview. |
| Xaverian College | Paper application download at www.xaverian.ac.uk | Friday 14 th January 2022 |

The above information was correct at the time of completion. However due to the Covid 19 situation you are advised to check the college/sixth form websites for any changes/updates prior to any open day attendance and applications.

Supporting our Advent Charities:

‘Feed the hungry and give water to the thirsty!’ Jesus, Matthew 25

We now have over 1000 tins collected for Rochdale Foodbank as a part of our Advent charity work. 11.5 have now made the most donations.

Please encourage your child to get involved in our charity work this advent. We are collecting food items for Rochdale Foodbank and money for Springhill Hospice.

COVID Update

As you will be aware, COVID cases are increasing across the country and there are concerns about the new Omicron variant. The cases in school remain low and we are grateful for your continued support in following the guidelines to help reduce transmission. This has helped to ensure minimal disruption to learning.

As we approach the last few weeks of term we are keen to ensure that our school community can continue to enjoy the season of Advent in preparation for Christmas. Please see the reminders and updates below.

- If your child has symptoms of COVID please do not send them to school – you must get a PCR test immediately and isolate until a negative result is received.
- Please ensure your child is testing twice weekly, ideally on a Sunday and Wednesday evening. If the result is positive, they *must* isolate and take a PCR test. All positive tests must be reported via the green bar on our homepage on the school website (www.scrchs.net)
- Please record the lateral flow results (negative and positive) on the reporting website: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>
- If your child is a contact of a confirmed case they do not need to isolate, but they should be taking daily lateral flow test and are also encouraged to take a PCR test.

- To protect all in our school and reduce the need for further absence, all students **must** wear a mask in communal areas. This include the Cuisine (remove to eat / drink), corridors, toilets and PE changing areas. Please ensure your child has an appropriate face covering.
- Face coverings **must** be worn on all public transport and school buses.
- Following the emergence of the Omicron variant, including confirmed cases in the UK, the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has urgently reviewed vaccine response measures. JCVI now advises that young people aged 12 to 15 years should receive a second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, no sooner than twelve weeks after the first dose.
- The DfE announced on Friday 26th November that they would like secondary schools to offer an on site test to students ,who have parental consent, on their return to school following the Christmas break. We will write with further information once we have put these plans in place.

Pastoral Notices

Arrangements for the end of the Autumn Term on Friday 17th December 2021

School will close to all students at 12 noon on Friday 17th December 2021.

This will also be our Christmas Jumper Day. We will celebrate their success this term through remote year group rewards assemblies and a remote whole school collective worship.

The following buses will run at 12 noon from the school bus bay:

890 Birch Hill

891 Shore

894 Littleborough

887 Lane Head

Services that will not be running at 12 noon, are:

862 Syke

867 Falinge

880 Norden

There will be two 409 buses in our school bus bay for any child who needs to use this service but please could you ensure you have made suitable travel arrangements for your son/daughter.

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.

